



VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS

ITINERARY

MINNESOTA'S NORTHWOODS

MAY 29–JUNE 3, 2025

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Connecticut Warbler, Minnesota © Erik Bruhnke

The vast expanses of northeastern Minnesota are rich in unique ecosystems and memorable birds. This region, sometimes referred to as the “Northwoods,” will be the focus of our activities for the entire tour. The deepest reaches of Minnesota’s bogs and boreal forest are noteworthy breeding grounds for many northern specialty birds. Ruffed Grouse, Great Gray Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Canada Jay, and Boreal Chickadee are characteristic and enticing permanent residents of the region. Also nesting here are Yellow-bellied and Alder flycatchers; Philadelphia Vireo; over 20 species of warblers including Connecticut, Mourning, Cape May, Golden-winged, and Canada; and many other passerines singing on territory. With a bit of luck, there is also the possibility of finding a Northern Goshawk, Barred or Northern Saw-whet owl, or Red or White-winged crossbills. The exceptionally scenic North Shore of Lake Superior offers stunning ocean-like vistas where other birds can be found.

May 29, Day 1: Arrival in Duluth, Minnesota.

Participants should plan to arrive into Duluth this afternoon and make their way to our hotel where a room will be reserved in each person's name. At the time of this writing the complementary hotel shuttle has been suspended and participants should plan on taking a taxi/Uber/Lyft to the hote..

We will gather in the hotel lobby at **4:30pm** for a welcome and orientation, followed by some local birding. After birding we will make our way to dinner.

NIGHT: Hampton Inn Duluth Canal Park,
Duluth



Black-backed Woodpecker © Erik Bruhnke

May 30 - June 2, Days 2-5: Boreal Forest and Great Lakes Birding.

Throughout Duluth and within an hour's drive of the city are seemingly-endless birding hotspots. We'll experience different avian treasures every day. One of the most well-known birding hotspots in northeastern Minnesota is Sax-Zim Bog. We'll spend ample time birding throughout alder thickets, sedge meadows, aspen forests, and Black Spruce/tamarack bogs which provide ample habitat for many nesting birds like, Black-billed Cuckoo, Alder Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, and the magnificent Great Gray Owl. The wet meadow-favoring LeConte's Sparrows and Sedge Wrens make their nests in Sax-Zim Bog every summer, as well as the more upland Northern Harriers and Sandhill Cranes. The highly-sought Connecticut Warbler is one of the elusive warbler species we'll scan for as we enter the boggy regions of Sax-Zim Bog.

Lake County of northeastern Minnesota is a renowned part of the state where many boreal specialties can be found, and the scenic hotspots within Lake County are sure to impress. Some of the birds on which we'll set our sights include Ruffed Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Canada Jay, Boreal Chickadee, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. The chattering Winter Wren, as well as the melodious Hermit Thrush and Swainson's Thrush breed throughout these forests. Blue-headed and Red-eyed vireos make this region their summer home as well. One of the special highlights of this tour is experiencing the sights and sounds of northern warbler species, which as previously stated can approach 20 plus species over the course of this birding adventure! Blackburnian Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler all breed throughout this part of Minnesota. The elusive Northern Goshawk is an uncommon but year-round resident throughout the Superior National Forest where we'll spend part of our time. Moose, Wolves, Porcupine, and Ermine (Short-tailed Weasel) are rare but possible throughout the area as well.



Blackburnian Warbler © Erik Bruhnke

The renowned fall hawkwatching site in Duluth, Hawk Ridge, offers extensive trails and bluffs packed with scenic views and great opportunities to observe breeding birds of the northern brushlands and forests. Along Duluth's perimeter and throughout quaint nearby towns are expanses of Great Lakes shoreline. These locations provide opportunities for viewing waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, and terns. Several of these water-residing species are local nesters, while others are still migrating north.

We'll dine at uniquely local establishments that offer a special taste of the area. Many of these restaurants focus on locally-sourced ingredients. Wild rice, Walleye, pasties, maple syrup-complimented dishes, and homemade pies are just a few of the local flavors.

NIGHTS: Hampton Inn Duluth Canal Park, Duluth

June 3, Day 6: Departures. Transfers will be provided to the Duluth International Airport in time for flights departing this morning.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two months prior to your departure date. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

TOUR LIMIT: This tour will be limited to 12 participants.

TOUR LEADERS: This tour will be led by **Erik Bruhnke**. A second leader will be added if tour size warrants.



Erik Bruhnke has loved birds since he was a child looking at chickadees. In 2008 he graduated from Northland College in Wisconsin with a Natural Resources degree. Erik taught field ornithology at Northland College for three semesters. Between 2009 and 2014, he spent his summers conducting field research focused on breeding bird transects in Upper Michigan, point counts for a breeding bird atlas in Minnesota and Wisconsin's Northwoods, vegetation and breeding bird surveys throughout wind farms in North Dakota's prairie potholes, and cavity-nesting surveys in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. A devoted raptor nerd, he is drawn to hawkwatches. He worked as an interpreter for six seasons at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, Minnesota; counted migrating raptors at the Corpus Christi HawkWatch in Texas in 2015; and was the 2016 and 2017 hawk counter at the Cape May Hawkwatch in New Jersey.

Erik's wildlife photography has won national awards, and he's written for the American Birding Association's *Birder's Guide*, *BirdWatching* magazine, and *Bird Watcher's Digest*. When not leading birding tours, Erik often leads field trips and speaks at birding festivals. He also enjoys hiking, kayaking, cross-country skiing, and just being out in the snow. In his free time he loves to cook and bake.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for this tour is **\$3,395** per person in double occupancy from Duluth. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 6, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Duluth and return, arrival transfer to the hotel, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$775**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$500** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, the deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. If you would like to pay your deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at <https://ventbird.com>) should be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

PAYMENTS: All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard or Visa), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 150 days (December 30, 2024) prior to the tour departure date.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:

Cancellation by Participant:

Refunds, if any, for any cancellation by a participant are made according to the following schedule: If participant cancels 180 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of **\$250** per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months from the date of participant tour cancellation, in which case the cancellation fee will be **\$100** per person. If cancellation is made between 179 and 151 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the tour fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 150 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre- and post-tour extensions. **For participants' protection, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance that covers trip cancellation/interruption.**

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| <u>If participant cancels:</u> | <u>Participant's refund will be:</u> |
| 180 days or more before departure date | Participant's deposit minus \$250* |
| 179 to 151 days before departure date | No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance of the tour fee will be refunded |
| 150 days or less before departure date | No refund available |

*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months from the date of participant tour cancellation, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person. To qualify, cancellation must occur 180 days or more before departure date; deposit transfers must be made at the time of cancellation; and one transfer per deposit.

Cancellation by VENT:

If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant.

If VENT cancels or delays a tour or any portion of a tour as a result of any Force Majeure event, VENT will use its reasonable best efforts to refund any payments on the balance of the tour fee to participant; provided that, VENT will have no obligation to provide a participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to a participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement. A "**Force Majeure**" event means any act beyond VENT's control, including, without limitation, the following: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage

of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

This VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy does not apply to air tickets purchased through VENT or to any special arrangements, such as additional hotel nights, that fall outside of the services described in the tour itinerary.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with Redpoint Travel Protection as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend its **Ripcord** plan. Designed for all types of travelers, Ripcord is among the most comprehensive travel protection programs available.

Critical benefits of Ripcord include a completely integrated program with a single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims; **medical evacuation from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice**; comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, medical expense coverage, death of pet, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or political or security reasons, waiver for pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” benefit. Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.*

For a price quote, or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: <https://ripcordtravelprotection.com/ventbird>; or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help and Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

*To be eligible for the pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver and the optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) upgrade, you must purchase your policy within 15 days of making your first trip payment. The CFAR benefit provides reimbursement for 75% of covered costs, and increases the policy premium by approximately 50%. Policies may be purchased either for the full value of the tour fee at the time of deposit or in segments as individual tour payments are made (deposit, mid-payment, final balance, additional arrangements, etc.). The “pay as you go” approach reduces up-front expense and ensures that the amount paid toward your full policy premium is in proportion to the amount paid toward the full tour fee. If you choose to “pay as you go,” you must cover each deposit or payment within 15 days, and insure all non-refundable trip cost in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Coronavirus (COVID-19):

In line with the decision made by the federal government (including the CDC), Redpoint considers COVID-19 illness as any other seasonal respiratory illness. Providing only a positive Covid-19 test result will likely not be considered a covered event per the terms and conditions of the company's policy. Redpoint maintains a **Coronavirus FAQ** page on its website that addresses questions and concerns travelers may have regarding COVID-19 and Redpoint's policy. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of relevant topics.

Please visit the **Coronavirus FAQ** page at the following link: https://redpointtravelprotection.com/covid_19_faq/.

Additionally, some countries maintain COVID-19 entry requirements, including mandates to purchase travel insurance covering medical expenses due to COVID-19 illness and in case of quarantine. Ripcord's comprehensive travel insurance plans are designed to satisfy the various country-specific travel insurance entry requirements. Those who purchase a Ripcord policy will receive a "letter of confirmation" that affirms that the policy satisfies such requirements.

AIR INFORMATION: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Per-person fees apply for each set of travel arrangements: \$50 domestic; \$75 international.* Many of our travelers choose to make their own air travel arrangements, but we emphasize the benefits to using our services. If you book your air arrangements yourself, Victor Emanuel Travel is unable to provide support in managing any flight delays and/or cancellations that could occur before and during a tour. When you purchase air tickets through Victor Emanuel Travel, our staff has ready access to your air ticket record and can provide assistance as problems arise. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

*An air ticket will be purchased by Victor Emanuel Travel on behalf of the traveler with the traveler's consent. A purchase is considered final upon receipt of payment. If a ticket is subsequently reissued at the behest of the traveler (i.e. voluntary change of plans), the same fee rates apply for the reissue process, in addition to any fees that may be charged by the airline.

BAGGAGE: As a precaution against lost luggage, we suggest that you pack a change of clothes, toiletries, medications, important travel documents, optics, and any other essential items in your carry-on bag.

Due to ever-changing circumstances in the government's attempts to improve airport security we recommend that you check the websites of your airline and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for the most updated information regarding checked baggage and carry-on items: <http://www.tsa.gov/>.

CLOTHING: A couple pairs of pants are essential, and shorts are recommended. Many people prefer synthetic zip-off pant/shorts, as they are functional and breathable for the warm days. Pants made of denim are acceptable, but not as comfortable on the warm days. Should we have an uncommonly cool (but possible) set of days, pants of a heavier consistency will be greatly beneficial. A few t-shirts of long and short-sleeved varieties are great for the conditions in which we'll be birding. Button-up field shirts are breathable and lightweight. Several thin layers go a long way when looking to stay warm. A fleece and/or sweater will also be important to have with you. The mix of sunny days and a possibility of rainy days will warrant bringing a hat. Many folks prefer the wide-brimmed variety, and a standard baseball cap, although the latter offers less sun protection but will suffice.

Rain gear is very important, as rain showers may occur. It is a good idea to have a set of gloves along should a cool front occur. Outdoor stores such as Cabela's and REI carry field clothing that many birders find appealing. Insect-Shield pants and long-sleeved shirts made of lightweight, yet durable materials with multiple pockets and ventilated seams are popular. These provide useful protection from the sun and from mosquitoes and a chance of black flies.

FOOTWEAR: Bring a good fitting, broken-in pair of water-resistant hiking boots or trail shoes for time in the field. Athletic shoes are sufficient when not birding and for evenings. A pair of rubber boots or Neos are critical in walking comfortably through waterlogged bog habitat while in search of the Connecticut Warbler. Although some of these areas may not be accessible every year due to varying rainfall and snowmelt, it is important to have entirely-waterproof footwear available should this bog-walking opportunity present itself.

LAUNDRY SERVICE: The Hampton Inn offers coin-operated laundry facilities.

CLIMATE & WEATHER: The weather this time of year is highly variable. Mornings can start out in the 40s, 50s, or sometimes in the 60s. Cool fronts can limit daytime highs to the 50's but on many days the temperatures can peak into the 60s, 70s, and occasionally in the 80s. Cool fronts can bring a burst of insulation-requiring

conditions, whereas warm fronts can bring exceptionally comfortable conditions. Being right on Lake Superior often results in a cooler sensation than when we're birding even slightly inland. Rain is a regular occurrence this time of year too, with some visits experiencing warm and comfortably dry days and some visits experiencing cooler days with intermittent scattered rain. It is important to come prepared for the varied weather that can occur here.

CONDITIONS: Birding in northeastern Minnesota is easy-going. The landscape is largely flat, but dotted with areas of higher elevation terrain. This tour will concentrate its activities on areas that are level and easily accessed. Gravel roads through large forests, edges of fields, and possibly a sandy beach or two will comprise most of the terrain through which we'll be birding. To see Connecticut Warbler, one of the target birds of the tour, we may have to put on the taller rubber boots to trek through a Black Spruce bog. Annual rainfall and snowmelt can affect accessibility to this particular habitat.

We'll have a few early mornings in order to take full advantage of birdsong and prime bird activity (for migrants and resident species alike). Several days will require slightly more driving through national forest lands to locate different birds. On these commuting days, the scenery alone is top-notch, and the birds exciting to say the least. Frequent birding opportunities are available should we venture into the national forests. Varied weather such as windy conditions or rain can influence where we'll bird on different days. Flexibility is key.

This tour is suitable for all travelers. Any amenities beyond birding needs are available moments away from our hotel. The places we'll visit for birding will vary daily, with an overall goal to give participants a special feeling of northern Minnesota's sense of place.

The Hampton Inn is right along Lake Superior in Duluth's Canal Park, a short peninsula where one-of-a-kind stores and restaurants line the streets. Fitness room, indoor pool, hot tub, and walking path are available.

MEALS: Great food compliments fun days of birding. Duluth prides itself with many locally owned and unique dining establishments. Locally sourced ingredients and culinary dishes unique to this northern region will be available. Wild rice, walleye, and maple syrup-focused dishes are just some of the flavors to savor. We will take full advantage of the finer dining options in town. Duluth also has a booming microbrewery scene. Those with an appreciation for craft beer will find the selection pleasing. We will make a point of dining at different establishments to get a taste of what the area offers.

EQUIPMENT: One of the most important aspects of having an enjoyable travel experience is being prepared with proper equipment. The following items will come in handy during your trip to Minnesota:

You should pack a belt pack or day pack (for carrying books, sunscreen, water, etc.). As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars, a change of clothing, toiletry items, medications, and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag. You will need an alarm clock for our early-morning starts and ear plugs if you are a light sleeper. In addition, you will certainly need insect repellent since mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks will be present in a few areas. The city of Duluth has excellent-tasting tap water. Please consider bringing your own water bottle and refilling it, to reduce the consumed resources while on tour. Bottled water (among other beverages) will always be available.

BINOCULARS & SPOTTING SCOPES:

Binoculars – We strongly recommend good binoculars of at least 7x35, 8x42, 10x40, or 10x42 magnification. We recommend that you do NOT bring mini-binoculars of any kind. Some people like "minis" because they are small and lightweight; but they have an extremely small field of view and very poor light gathering power. Trying to find a bird in your binoculars using minis is like trying to read a book through a keyhole. You will be very frustrated, and even if you do manage to get the bird in your binoculars before it flies, you will have a poor view. You will find that 7x35 or 8x42 binoculars are compact and light enough.

Spotting Scopes – Your tour leader will have a scope available for group use throughout the trip, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so. A scope is not often beneficial with woodland birding, but can be an important tool to have when scanning distant waters and shoreline.

INTERNET SERVICE: The Hampton Inn offers free Wi-Fi internet access as well as computer access at the business center.

TIME: Minnesota operates on Central Daylight Time (CDT).

EQUIPMENT: You should pack a pair of binoculars that are in good repair, along with a belt pack or day pack (for carrying books, sunscreen, extra film, etc.). As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars, a change of clothing, toiletry items, medications and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag. Your leader will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

HEALTH: VENT follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for standard travel precautions, which includes vaccination against a variety of preventable diseases. Among these so-called Routine Vaccinations are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult travelers), and Varicella (Chickenpox). You should also be up-to-date with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

If you are taking personal medication, prescription or over-the-counter, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

COVID-19: We continually emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. Although VENT no longer maintains any of its COVID-era prevention protocols, we strongly recommend best practices for protecting yourself and your fellow travelers against COVID-19 illness. These measures include receiving the primary series vaccinations for those eligible, staying “Up to Date” with COVID-19 booster shots, wearing high filtration N-95 or KN-95 masks when in airports and on airplanes, and avoiding risky social settings in the lead-up to your tour. These recommendations are firmly rooted in CDC guidance regarding recommendations for avoiding COVID-19. Please visit the **Coronavirus Travel Update** page of our website <https://ventbird.com/covid-19> for our official statement regarding COVID-19 and the operation of our tours. Please visit the CDC website for the most up to date information about COVID-19 and associated guidance for proper health and hygiene: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

Insect Repellents – There are insect repellents for the skin and an insect repellent used to treat clothing that should not be applied to the skin.

Insect repellents for the skin are commonly available in three forms:

- DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide): A chemical compound that is marketed under various brand names (OFF![®], Cutter[™], Ultrathon[™], etc.) and offered in a variety of formulations including sprays, lotions, time-release preparations, and disposable wipes. The formulations will state a percentage of the active ingredient DEET on the packaging. DEET may be applied to exposed skin directly and/or sprayed on clothing. Please be careful when applying DEET as it can damage plastics and lens coatings.
- Picaridin: A synthetic formulation that is derived from piperine, a substance found in plants that produce black pepper.
- Herbal insect repellents: Various mixtures of organic ingredients such as oils from eucalyptus, citronella, cedar, and other herbs. The herbal repellents are more difficult to categorize because of the difference in ingredients from one brand to another. There is considerable variation in their effectiveness.

An insect repellent for clothing is marketed in one approved formulation:

- Permanone® (Permethrin) is an odorless spray-on repellent that may be used for **pre-treatment** of clothing, gear, and tents. It should not be used directly on the skin or sprayed on clothing while it is being worn. The pre-treatment process requires a number of hours to complete and must be done outdoors, so is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment has to be repeated more often than commercial treatment using Insect Shield® technology. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online.
- Insect Shield® apparel: Clothing pre-treated with Permanone is made by a variety of manufacturers. It is available for purchase from some sporting goods suppliers. The clothing is advertised as retaining its repellency for up to 70 washings.

The US EPA offers a search tool to help choose a repellent that is best for a particular situation. For example, some repellents work for mosquitoes, but not for ticks.

<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/which-insect-repellent-right-you>

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636). You can check the CDC website at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html> (click on Travel Health).

SUGGESTED READING: A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

Field Guides

Birds:

Dunn, Jon L. & Jonathan Alderfer (Editors). *National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. National Geographic, 2017 (seventh edition).

Kaufman, Kenn. *Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

Sibley, David Allen. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. National Audubon Society. Alfred E. Knopf Publishing, 2014 (second edition). For those who prefer the smaller regional Sibley Guides, we also recommend the following title:

Sibley, David Allen. *The Sibley Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America*. National Audubon Society. Alfred A. Knopf, 2016 (second edition).

Other Birding Resources:

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Eckert, Kim. *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota* Duluth: Stone Ridge Press, 2022 (fifth edition)

Mammals:

Kays, Roland W. and Don E. Wilson. *Mammals of North America*. Princeton University Press: Princeton and Oxford, 2009 (second editions).

Butterflies:

Kaufman, Kenn. Et al. *Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin, 2006 (second edition).

TIPPING: Tipping (restaurant staff, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., a Texas corporation, and/or its agents (together, “*VENT*”) act only as agents for the participant in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in airfare or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the participant, as tour rates only provide for arrangements for the time stated.

VENT reserves the right (i) to substitute hotels of similar category, or the best reasonable substitution available under the circumstances, for those indicated and (ii) to make any changes in the itinerary that are deemed necessary by VENT or which are caused by third party transportation schedules (i.e. railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, etc.).

VENT reserves the right to substitute leaders or guides on any tour. Where VENT, in its sole discretion, determines such substitution is necessary, it will notify tour participants.

VENT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure with or without cause or good reason. See the VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy set forth above.

Tour prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on September 13, 2024, and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change thereto.

VENT reserves the right to decline any participant’s Registration Form and/or refuse to allow any participant to participate in a tour as VENT deems reasonably necessary, in its sole discretion. VENT also reserves the right to remove any tour participant from any portion of a tour as VENT deems necessary, in its sole discretion, reasons for such removal include but are not limited to, medical needs, injury, illness, inability to meet physical demands of a tour, personality conflict or situations in which such removal is otherwise in the best interest of the tour, the tour group and/or such participant. A participant may also voluntarily depart from a tour. If a participant is removed from a tour or voluntarily departs from a tour, such participant will be responsible for any expenses associated with such removal or departure, including but not limited to, transportation, lodging, airfare and meals, and VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any such removed or departed participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by such participant.

Baggage is carried at the participant’s risk entirely. No airline company, its employees, agents and/or affiliates (the “*Airline*”) is to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not on board the Airline’s aircraft. The participant ticket in use by any Airline, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the Airline and the purchaser of the tickets and/or the participant. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for VENT tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airlines Reporting Corporation.

MNN:20250529
07/13/24 – EB
09/13/24 - PS