2024 SW BRITISH COLUMBIA HOT SPRINGS GEOTOUR:
BAJA BC AND BEYOND

Payment and Cancellation Terms

Please read this entire document carefully before you register for the field trip:

The trip price is $2400 and requires a $500 deposit to hold your space. Marcia will send everyone a registration form – please send this back to Marcia no matter how you register on the AWG website in the Online Store, especially if you have any additional information or wish to request single accommodations or a discount. If you prefer not to register in the online store, you may mail a check with the registration form to the AWG office or email it to the AWG Office and then call them with your credit card information. We’re required to pay some non-refundable hotel deposits in late February, so the trip deposit is not refundable after February 25 unless the trip has met its minimum number of participants (12) and someone takes your place. You must be a member of AWG to register.

The $1900 balance (unless adjusted for any discounts* or extra payment**) will be due on April 1. (We aren’t accepting the full trip fee at this time.) The balance will be refundable (except for the deposit) until May 1. After May 1, if there are at least 12 participants, the trip may be transferrable to another person depending on occupancy restrictions, in which case a refund of all trip fees (minus a $20 service fee) will be made.

You will also be required to sign a liability release, a photo release, and provide medical information.

*Available discounts:

When you register for the trip, please let Marcia know if you would like to apply for one of these discounts:

Student or reduced income member – There are two $800 discounts available to AWG student and/or reduced income members. Many of our reduced income members easily have the means to attend this trip, but not all. Please do not apply for this unless you really would not have the means to attend without the discount.

Food coordinator – We give a food coordinator a $200 discount for helping us manage the food. Mindy and I will purchase the food but we’ll need someone to keep track of what we have and what needs replenishing as we go. The food coordinator will also be responsible for keeping the food organized and making sure we purchase ice as needed and put food in available refrigerators to keep the food safe. We’ll give students and reduced income members priority for this position.

**Extra payment:

When you register for the trip, please let Marcia know if you would like to have single accommodations for an additional fee of $500.
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What’s included in the trip price

**Accommodations** from Victoria (August 30) through Harrison Hot Springs (September 7), which includes access to the hot springs there. Our accommodations range from standard 2 bed hotel rooms to cabins to condos. We may put up to 3 people in a unit but with no more than 2 to a room. There are a limited number of single accommodations available, but we don’t guarantee your own unit, just your own bedroom which we’ll aim to make en suite. Please tell Marcia if you’d like a single.

**Parking** at our accommodations in Whistler.

**Transport and tour guides to and from Hot Springs Cove** from Tofino. The boat takes about 1.5 hours each way and holds a maximum of 12, so 4 people will need to fly one or both ways. The small plane takes about 20 minutes each way. We’ll make sure that those who wish to take the boat get to do that at least one way since there’ll be a good chance of seeing a lot of wildlife, but those especially prone to motion sickness should fly both ways (please let us know). Upon arrival, there’s a half hour level hike each way along a boardwalk to the hot springs, so please let Marcia know if you don’t think you can do that.

**Most food**, including most breakfasts, all lunches, and 2 or 3 dinners we’ll cook as a group. Lunches will be the usual sandwich makings, fruit, veggies, and cookies. Breakfasts will be oatmeal, cold cereal, and perhaps boiled eggs. We plan to have a BBQ and cook at least one salmon/seafood dinner.

**Admission** to Britannia Mine, Sloquet Hot Springs, the Hellgate Airtram (Fraser Canyon), and Harrison Hot Springs.

**Guidebook** materials.

What’s NOT included in the trip price

**Transportation**, either during the trip or transport to Victoria and from Harrison Hot Springs. Those flying to Seattle may be able to join a carpool from there. Flying into Vancouver, BC and renting a vehicle there is another good option. We will facilitate the formation of carpools. We suggest driving or renting a vehicle with good clearance: at least a smaller crossover SUV, full-sized SUV or pickup truck. Carpool drivers will be responsible for making ferry reservations both to and from Vancouver Island (we’ll provide guidance) and paying for the car and driver fares – expect this to be roughly $75 USD each trip. Carpool passengers should plan to pay for all fuel during the trip and their own ferry tickets (roughly $15 USD each trip). We’ll send out additional logistics information in March.

**Most dinners**. We’ll have at least one kitchen available most nights if you prefer not to go to a restaurant.
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Parking, including at our hotel in Victoria (expect to pay $25 CAD / $20 USD)

A Canadian National Park Day Pass unless you have an annual Canadian Parks pass. For seniors this should cost around $9 CAD ($7 USD); for adults, it’s $10.50 CAD ($8 USD). If you have 3 in your car, the family rate of $21 CAD ($16 USD) is a good deal. Pacific Rim National Park is the only one we’ll be visiting.

The gondola at Whistler, because this will be somewhat weather-dependent. Seniors should expect to pay about $60 CAD ($45 USD) and adults $70 CAD ($53 USD).

Travel insurance. You will be required to obtain travel insurance to cover emergency evacuation, medical care, and repatriation in case of illness or injury – we will be walking on slippery rocks in remote areas! We suggest at least $250,000 coverage for this. We also recommend that you obtain trip cancelation insurance. You should obtain this as soon as we are sure the trip has enough people to go, sooner if you have pre-existing conditions you will need covered.

Finally, there will be no Covid protocols for this trip. By now, everyone knows how to protect themselves and others in a field trip group. We advise you to be as current on Covid boosters as possible. Be careful during your trip to join the group, especially in airports and ferry terminals. Mask wearing is encouraged whenever indoors among other people (especially in stores) and in your vehicles unless you can have some windows partway open or are sharing a car with only your roommate. If you eat in restaurants, we encourage you to try to be seated outdoors. If you begin to become ill, especially with a sore throat, please mask up immediately in your vehicle and around the group. Please tell the leaders – we’ll have some tests along and can get more if needed along the way.