



# Appalachian Adventure

*Warbler Specialties of Southern Ohio*

Tour Leader: Jamie Cunningham  
April 27 - May 2, 2023

*Southern Ohio's lush rolling hills host a great number of breeding songbirds and there is no better time to visit than when the valleys are in bloom and warblers are singing in their stunning breeding plumage. This trip will focus on capturing stunning images of up to a dozen warbler species that reside here. We will target such gems as Cerulean, Blue-winged, Prairie, Black-and-white, Hooded, Kentucky, and Worm-eating Warblers. Along with the great variation on warblers we will have a chance to photograph several types of vireos and a variety of other songbirds. In the afternoons we will go over some post processing tips and tricks as we sort through the morning's images. Our lodging will be simple but comfortable and put us right near the action, so we spend our time shooting, not driving. Expect top notch photo ops on this fun and all-inclusive itinerary!*

### **General Overview**

The leader will work extremely hard to get you into the right position to make the best images possible. We will photograph a variety of species each day and work in the best light to take your images to the next level. Prior to the trip you will be sent a packing checklist, so you are able to anticipate how to dress for the sometimes-unpredictable spring weather. During the tour you will learn how to get the correct exposure and be mindful of your backgrounds, perches, and how to capture the best body angle of the bird. We will also spend some time learning about post-processing and the techniques used to enhance your images.

We could encounter more than a dozen warbler species on this trip! Likely warbler species include Kentucky, Cerulean, Prairie, Pine, Black-throated Green, Blue-winged, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, and Hooded Warblers, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Ovenbird. There are many species that call Southern Ohio their home and along with warblers will be see several species of vireos, orioles, sparrows, tanagers and more!

Do communicate any specific techniques you would like to learn. No species can be guaranteed but we will do our best to locate the target species through extensive exploration of the area and knowledge of appropriate habitat. Every effort will be made to ensure each participant comes away with many memorable images.

## **Equipment**

Bring your longest telephoto lens and matching teleconverters as well as a tripod for this tour. A flash kit including speed light, bracket, off-shoe cord, Better Beamer, and external battery pack will help you get the most from this trip as we will be learning to use fill flash to enhance our images. Bring a macro lens (or extension tubes) for the flowers and a shorter lens will come in handy for documenting our trip.

## **Environment**

While the calendar says May, participants will still want to plan for some chilly weather. Early mornings can be quite cool while afternoons can warm dramatically. A misty all-day rain can be wonderful for photography but will quickly chill you to the bone without a waterproof outer layer (consider a rain cover for your lens as well). Light hiking boots will suffice for footwear. This is tick and mosquito country. You may wish to wear long sleeves, gloves, and a head net to protect exposed skin from biting mosquitoes. Deet is a well-known mosquito repellent but the chemical contents can melt the plastic parts of your gear. Products with the active ingredient Picardin work just as well without destroying your expensive gear. We recommend tucking pant legs and shirt tails while treating clothing with permethrin as your best defense against ticks.

## **Physical Activity**

Activity levels for this trip are not strenuous but some light off trail hiking for short distances can be expected. The majority of our photography will be done from along lightly traveled roads or adjacent pull offs and parking areas.

## **Daily Schedule**

Each morning we will leave the hotel quite early and grab a quick bite of breakfast arriving at our photo locations at or near sunrise. This will allow us to take advantage of the birds' most active time of day and the best light. A leisurely lunch will provide a needed break to refuel and recharge. On full sun days lunch will be a little earlier while on overcast days we will extend our morning session longer. In the afternoons we will head back out to new locations and work on making more images. Dinner may not be until late but snacks and water in the vehicle will keep us going. Over dinner we will discuss the day's events and plan for the following morning. If the forecast is for heavy overcast or hard rain we may decide on a later start and have a more leisurely breakfast. In the event of an all day downpour we will discuss and demonstrate image editing or share a slide program.

Likely Species on this trip:



- American Redstart
- Black-and-White Warbler
- Black-throated Green
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Cerulean Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Hooded Warbler
- Kentucky Warbler
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Northern Parula
- Ovenbird
- Pine warbler
- Prairie Warbler
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Worm-eating Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler
- Yellow-breasted Chat
- Blue-headed Vireo
- White-eyed Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Summer Tanager
- Scarlet Tanager

## **Trip Details:**

### **Cost:**

Price per person (double occupancy), from Cincinnati, Ohio: \$2,599

Single Supplement: \$500

Minimum Participants: 3

Maximum Participants: 5

### **Price Includes:**

Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Ohio

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

### **Price Does Not Include:**

Airfare to and from Cincinnati, Ohio

Airport Taxes

Passport and Visa Fees (if applicable)

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Travel Insurance

Tips

### **Deposit:**

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (January 27, 2023).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact Rob at [info@sabrewingnaturetours.com](mailto:info@sabrewingnaturetours.com), by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at [sabrewingnaturetours.com](http://sabrewingnaturetours.com).

### Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:

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