February 12-18, 2025

Tour Leader: Jamie Cunningham

California: Ladies Only
West Coast Getaway

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Experience a new Ladies Only trip to sunny Southern California in February! California offers an incredible number of species and amazing diverse habitats. From surf and sand to mountains and grasslands, we will be birding in one of the birdiest areas of the country. Our trip will begin in and around the Los Angeles area and move into the lovely Santa Barbara region. Our group will enjoy top-notch accommodations, wonderful dining opportunities, and as always, our ladies-only itineraries are all-inclusive, including wine or beer at each meal. We will enjoy a botanical garden, a sparkling brunch, and spend an evening making a unique take-home souvenir at a glass-blowing studio! With a relaxed pace, we will enjoy the sights and sounds of the area, all while getting tons of amazing bird species.

**Itinerary Overview:**

February 12: Arrival and Transfer to Hotel
February 13: Botanical Garden and Los Angeles
February 14: Angeles National Forest and Santa Barbara
February 15: Santa Barbara
February 16: Santa Barbara and Solvang
February 17: Birding a Private Ranch
February 18: Morning Birding and Departure

**Detailed Itinerary:**

**February 12: Arrival and Transfer to Hotel**

Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel for the evening. We will enjoy a wonderful welcome dinner and get ready for our adventures.
- **Overnight: Los Angeles – Hampton Inn or similar**

**February 13: Botanical Garden and Los Angeles**

We will spend our first full day birding around the Los Angeles area. Even though it’s a big city, there are plenty of marshes, parks, and natural areas to find interesting species like Violet-Green Swallow, Ridgeway’s Rail, Cinnamon Teal, Allen's Hummingbird, and California Scrub-Jay. We will finish our evening at a parrot roost to see hundreds of birds come in to rest for the night. It is an incredible (and noisy!) experience.
- **Overnight: Pasadena – Hampton Inn or similar**
February 14: Angeles National Forest and Santa Barbara

Today, we’ll head to Angeles National Forest, which seems worlds away from the busy city below. We look for birds like White-headed Woodpecker, Band-tailed Pigeon, Bushtit, and Bewick’s Wren, we may even get lucky with Lawrence’s Goldfinch. After a morning on the mountain, we will head to a local reservoir that hosts hundreds of Western Grebes, which may be performing their courtship behavior. The amazing rushing dance is something not to be missed! We will make our way towards Santa Barbara with stops to check the piers for Black Turnstone, Black Oystercatcher, Surfbird, and Wandering Tattler. Look forward to an oceanside dinner this evening!
- Overnight: Santa Barbara - Hampton Inn or Similar

February 15: Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara is a great spot to bird and our main target will be the endangered Snowy Plover. Other shorebirds we may run across include Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, Black-billed Plover, and Long-billed Curlew. There will be plenty of western gull and tern species like Short-billed Gull, Royal Tern, and the handsome Heerman’s Gull. We will explore along the shoreline looking for other seaside species like California Thrasher, Surf Scoter, and Brown Pelican.
- Overnight: Santa Barbara - Hampton Inn or Similar

February 16: Santa Barbara and Solvang

Today we’ll enjoy a nice brunch before heading to the rolling hills north of Santa Barbara. This area hosts a number of interesting birds like Lewis’s Woodpecker, Lark Sparrow, Say’s Phoebe, and Western Bluebird. The group will have a chance to explore the charming Dutch-themed town of Solvang and do some sightseeing and shopping in the afternoon. We will round out our evening with dinner at a top-notch restaurant in the area.
- Overnight: Solvang - local Dutch-style hotel

California Thrasher
February 17: Birding a Private Ranch

This day will take us to a private ranch in the vineyard area outside of Solvang. The ranch is home to one of California's endemics, Yellow-billed Magpie, which can only be found in select regions of the state. The ranch hosts various feeders which means lots of close views of California Quail, Anna's Hummingbird, California Towhee, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. We will begin our trek back towards the LA area with a stop at a glass-blowing studio for a fun evening making a unique take-home item!

- Overnight: Los Angeles – Hampton Inn or similar

February 18: Morning Birding and Departure

We will have one final breakfast and some light birding before saying our goodbyes. You may choose to depart any time after 2 pm.

Yellow-billed Magpie
**Trip Details:**

**Cost:**
Price per person (double occupancy), from Los Angeles, California: $4,299
Single Supplement: $700
Minimum Participants: 4
Maximum Participants: 6

**Price Includes:**
- Expert Guide
- Ground Transportation in California
- All Lodging
- All Meals
- Park Entrance Fees
- First alcoholic beverage at lunch and dinner ($15 max per drink)
- Welcome Basket
- Sketching Kit

**Price Does Not Include:**
- Airfare to and from Los Angeles, California
- Passport and Visa Fees (if applicable)
- 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 (November 14, 2024).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

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