

SANDHILL CRANES OF THE PLATTE RIVER



MARCH 22-25, 2012

\$1,595 per person, double occupancy

\$300 single supplement

WHY WE PICKED IT The spectacle of 500,000 anything is pretty awe-inspiring... but the sight of 500,000 majestic Sandhill cranes migrating into Nebraska's Platte River valley is something you'll cherish for the rest of your life. It is truly one of Nature's most impressive shows!

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVENTURE COMPANY Environmental Adventure Company's trips enhance the senses and create an enriched appreciation of our natural world. EAC makes every effort to minimize or eliminate any impact on wildlife and their habitats. They work hard to strengthen and encourage the conservation endeavors of destinations, and sustain local economies by using local guides, naturalists and service providers. EAC treats all cultures with respect and sensitivity for their beliefs and lifestyles, and strives to leave the earth even better than they found it!

THE NWF CONNECTION The sight of hundreds of thousands of Sandhill cranes on the Platte is a testament to one of North America's most comprehensive conservation movements. Despite the progress, North America continues to lose ground every day as wetland and native grassland habitats are destroyed. This expedition underscores the importance of maintaining and enhancing protections provided under laws such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Farm Bill conservation title.

PLEASE SEE THE REVERSE SIDE FOR A COMPLETE DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY.
TO ASK QUESTIONS OR TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR,
PLEASE CALL 800-606-9563 OR EMAIL expeditions@nwf.org.

MARCH 22 Arrive at the Grand Island, Nebraska airport by 2:00 p.m. Gather for our transfer to our hotel. After some time for relaxation, enjoy a back roads drive as an introduction to this unique area. Later, meet for dinner and enjoy a presentation on the migration of Sandhill cranes by the Director of the Nebraska Nature Center. *Overnight: Quality Inn Conference Center, Grand Island (D).*

MARCH 23 Rise early and depart before sunrise. Drive to our morning observation blind, specially designed for Sandhill crane viewing and photography. A professional crane biologist will accompany us as we will learn about crane ecology, migration, food and mating habits, threats and long-term management plans. Enjoy hot drinks and pastries while observing and identifying numerous bird species and other wildlife of the Platte River basin. After lunch, visit the Nebraska Nature Center and observe birds along the trails that border the river before returning to our hotel. An hour before sunset, return to the Nature Center and meet our guide. Later, enter one of the special blinds to watch the evening Sandhill crane migration back to the Platte River roosting areas. Return to our hotel for dinner and review the highlights of the day. *Overnight: Quality Inn Conference Center, Grand Island (B, L, D).*

***Option: For anyone interested, you can spend the night in specially designed photo blind for up-close Sandhill crane photography. The blinds are limited and it's first come-first served. This is a once in a lifetime experience!**

MARCH 24 Rise early for this morning's prairie chicken watch! Joined by an expert prairie chicken ecologist, drive to some prime locations to observe prairie chickens. If the migration location permits, utilize one of the blinds to watch the chickens at close range. As the sun rises, witness thousands of Sandhill cranes flying over us on their way to the corn fields. Later drive through the Rainwater Basin, a diverse waterfowl ecosystem, stopping frequently for viewing opportunities. Joined by a whooping crane ecologist, drive the Whooper-Watch circuit in search of the elusive and endangered whooping crane. After a delicious lunch, and some well deserved rest, travel to our last viewing blind to watch the evening roosting migration. Later, enjoy a farewell dinner and swap stories from our time together. *Overnight: Quality Inn Conference Center, Grand Island (B, L, D).*

MARCH 25 Return to the Grand Island airport for flights home after 10:00 a.m. (B).

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES: All accommodations, all transportation, all meals as listed in the itinerary (b=breakfast, l=lunch, d=dinner), all sites and excursions as specified, entrance fees to all sites, professional tour management throughout the entire program, gratuities for staff at hotels and restaurants included in the itinerary, taxes and service charges throughout, complete pre-departure materials to help you prepare for your tour.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare to and from departure city, optional guide and tour manager gratuities, alcoholic beverages, personal expenses such as laundry, souvenirs, and film.



\$500 DEPOSIT PER PERSON

CANCELLATION POLICY

Full refund minus \$150 per person prior to December 23, 2011

Full refund minus deposit per person from December 23-January 1, 2012

50% of the entire tour cost from January 22, 2012-February 20, 2012

No refunds after February 20, 2012

QUESTIONS AND RESERVATIONS

CALL: 800-606-9563

EMAIL: expeditions@nwf.org

ONLINE: www.nwf.org/expeditions



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

EXPEDITIONS

Wildlife Ahead