

DAY TRIPS

APRIL 22, 2010 THURSDAY

ELKHORN SLOUGH SAFARI CRUISE

You don't have to travel to a foreign land to go on a Safari. Right here in California, we will take Capt. Yohn Gideon's Elkhorn Slough Safari out of Moss Landing just 25 minutes north of Monterey. Relax and enjoy a roomy stable ride and refreshments on a 27 foot pontoon boat. ELKHORN SLOUGH is one of California's largest wetlands and part of a National Estuarine Reserve. This precious wildlife rich reserve winds in-land seven miles and provides an important feeding and resting place for a large variety of wildlife such as playful otters, curious harbor seals and hundreds of species of water-fowl and migratory shorebirds. Each season is unique and spring is special as you may see many se otter and seal pups, nesting birds and the glory of a beautiful blooming spring day.

These cruises include an in-depth look at various aspects of slough ecology and fascinating history stories in the company of a naturalist guide and will provide excellent opportunities to view and photograph wildlife close to hand. Because of the capacity of the boat, we will take sign ups for two groups at 21 passengers each. Group #1 must be full before we sign up for Group #2. If we have enough for two Groups, Group #1 will take the Safari boat first, while the end group will tour the Elkhorn Slough Reserve Visitor's Center.

The Visitor Center lies at the heart of the Reserve's Programs. It features out-standing educational exhibits that invite visitors to take a closer look at the unseen world of the slough. The Center is staffed by knowledgeable naturalists who are happy to answer our questions. Among the interesting and creative exhibits is a nine-times larger than life sized model of life in the mud, complete with a four-foot fat innkeeper worm.

We will switch groups about mid-morning. Group #1 goes to the Visitor Center while Group #2 goes on the Safari boat. A little after Noon, we will reunite the groups and have a hosted lunch at Phil's Fish Market at Moss Landing. Menu choices are :

1. Halibut and Chips with coleslaw,
2. Caesar Salad with Chicken or shrimp,
3. Stir fry Calamari served with rice & green salad.

Leave: 7:30 A.M.

Return 3:30 P.M

Cost \$69.00

MAY 20, 2010 THURSDAY

THE HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA

Our travels today take us to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art where we will view the History of California through Photographs. The Museum has a 16,000 image collection that surveys the states' photographic tradition from the 1840's to the present and examines what has become of its once pristine wilderness. The state's own evolution paralleled the development of the use of the photographic medium from a nickelodeon-style entertainment to a full-blown art form. We will have an included lunch on Treasure Island at the Job Corps Culinary Academy.

We will tour the Oakland Museum of California which has a floor of Natural Science, a floor for California History and a floor for Art of the Golden State. The museum has been closed for the past six months undergoing extensive renovations. It is scheduled to reopen in early May. The Museum provides unique collections, exhibitions and educational opportunities designed to generate a broader and deeper understanding of California. It also has a tempting array in its gift shop and wonderful books!

Leave: 9:45 A.M.

Return 5:00 P.M.

Cost: \$66

JUNE 18, 2010 FRIDAY

THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM

The man behind the Mouse, Walt Disney, now has his own Museum at the Presidio National Park in San Francisco. The museum focuses solely on the life and work of the father of animated film. It's a \$110 Million Dollar Museum filled with the technology and artifacts chronicling the ups-and-a few downs-of Disney's much examined life. Building this showcase required renovating three historic old Army barracks, while keeping the exteriors intact. The visitor will move through ten permanent galleries, arranged in chronological order, recounting the history of Walt Disney's life and career. We will have lunch (on your own) in the cafeteria of the museum operated by Wolfgang Puck Catering.

Prior to attending the Disney Museum, we will visit a hidden gem, **The Bay Model, in Sausalito**: a huge three dimensional model of the San Francisco Bay and Delta river system. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the Bay Model in the mid-1950's to test a plan that would have created two fresh water lakes by damming up the north and south bays. Tests scuttled the dams by proving the lakes would evaporate faster than they would fill. For the next 40 years, scientists and engineers used the model to learn what would happen if man or nature made other changes to the San Francisco Bay Estuaries.

Leave: 8:30 A.M.

Return: 4:30 P.M.

Cost: TBA