



SANTA CRUZ STORM-PETRELS & MURRELETS

Welcome aboard! Shearwater Journeys, Inc. is pleased to have you join us on our exciting nature trips to observe some of the most fascinating wildlife found in the Santa Cruz area. Please read the following information carefully, as it will add to your enjoyment of your trip.

CONFIRMATION: This is your receipt for \$_____ and confirmation of ____reservation(s) for the _____boat trip. Please meet at the **Santa Cruz LOWER WEST YACHT HARBOR, F DOCK at 7 a.m.** for boarding and the pretrip briefing. To find the exact location, please see the web site: www.santacruzwhalewatching.com, click on "Directions," and see the map for Winter trips. The boat, **VELOCITY**, will depart at 7:30 a.m. Please be **PROMPT**. The boat will not wait for latecomers who will forfeit their fees. We will return at approximately 3 p.m. Allow for delays of several hours in returning to the dock, if unusual wildlife is encountered.

WARM CLOTHING should be brought in large quantities, including rain gear for protection from spray, headwear, gloves, and non-skid shoes or boots. Persons in open-toed shoes will not be admitted to the boat. A large man's handkerchief is good for wiping spray from glasses. The boat will go out in rain or small craft warnings, at the captain's discretion, so be prepared. Ponchos must be secured about the waist with a belt. Bring sunscreen. It can be cool at any time of the year, including summer, on the ocean.

SNACKS are available, as there is a galley on board which serves hamburgers and such. You may bring a small cooler and day pack with snacks, etc.

CAMERAS and **BINOCULARS** are essential, however, telescopes, tripods, folding chairs or stools, are not permitted on board. Bring plastic bags to protect your equipment from spray. Bring your field guide, if you like. Shearwater Journeys, Inc. cannot be liable for loss or damage to your personal property while on the trip.

SEASICK PILLS are highly recommended, and to be effective, they must be taken one hour **PRIOR** to boarding. If you have never used them before, check with your doctor first. There is no need to be embarrassed about this situation, but it does require your attention. The best cure for seasickness is prevention. Be certain to read the warnings on the label. Eat a non-greasy, high protein breakfast. A full stomach is less likely to betray you. Do not drink alcohol the night prior to your trip. Pretzels and carbonated beverages during the trip can help to settle your stomach. Stand mid-ship, facing the wind, avoiding the bow which gets the most movement. Avoid the use of colognes and perfumes. Go to bed early! The number one cause of seasickness is lack of sleep! Remember, the key to avoiding seasickness is to take preventative measures **PRIOR** to your trip.

WEATHER is rarely a problem inside sheltered Monterey Bay. Because it is raining, do **NOT** assume that the trip will be canceled. Please do not call me, or the skipper, because the weather can change drastically overnight. We do not make a decision regarding cancellation until the morning of the trip, in most cases. Sometimes the winds will kick up in the afternoon, forcing an earlier return. Occasionally, we might have to cancel at the dock, if the weather starts to deteriorate rapidly. You may reschedule your trip within 30 days, should the trip be weathered out. Only one trip in thousands of fall trips (July through October) has been canceled due to weather.

REFUNDS can be made **ONLY** if Shearwater Journeys, Inc. is notified **THIRTY DAYS** in writing prior to your trip, using the postmark of your letter as the date for cancellation. Both email and answering machines are unreliable, and canceling your trip requires written notification by snail mail. **NO REFUND WILL BE MADE FOR ANY REASON SHOULD YOU CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION AFTER THE**

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THIRTY DAY CUT-OFF PERIOD. There are NO exceptions to this policy. If you cancel your reservation thirty days before the scheduled trip, you will receive a refund in 30 days, less a \$20 processing fee for EACH reservation. **RESCHEDULING/SWITCHING TO ANOTHER TRIP:** you may request to reschedule to another trip, but must do so thirty days prior to your originally scheduled trip. There is a \$15 fee to reschedule any trip. Trips may be canceled by Shearwater Journeys, Inc. due to undersubscription, hazardous weather, or acts of God. In no event, however, shall our liability exceed the obligation to refund the amount you paid to Shearwater Journeys, Inc. If you should miss your trip due to airline changes, cancellations, terrorist acts, acts of war, or related incidents, your fee will not be refunded unless Shearwater Journeys, Inc. cancels the entire trip. See your travel agent for trip insurance which is highly recommended.

SAFETY reasons prevent pregnant women from being admitted to the boat. The facilities cannot accommodate wheelchairs. Please consult with Debra Shearwater prior to making reservations for anyone under 12 years of age.

SMOKING is NOT permitted on the boat. This is for everyone's comfort. To improve the quality of your pelagic trip, we request that you please turn off **CELL PHONES** and pagers while on board. Soliciting of any sort is not permitted without the express permission of Debra Shearwater.

MOTELS in the surrounding area can be expensive, and it is wise to book reserve in advance. It is possible to arrive and find all motels are booked. If you are combining a pelagic trip from Santa Cruz and Monterey, the Red Roof Inn (831-740-4520) in Watsonville is a good mid-point place to stay. Ask for the Shearwater discount. Another good resource is the Santa Cruz County Visitors Council, 1211 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; www.santacruzca.org; 800/833-3494. Request their new Birding & Wildlife Viewing Kit and let them know that Debra Shearwater sent you!

PARKING: Please park in metered places marked VISITOR ONLY. DO NOT PARK IN PERMIT PARKING. Park your car, and go to the boat to **buy a \$5 parking permit** to display in your car window. You will get ticketed if you do not do this. (Do not put coins in the meters).

Receipt of this contract acknowledges your acceptance of the above conditions. The leaders and Debra Shearwater assume no responsibility for personal injury. Our trips typically have more leaders than any other pelagic trips in the USA. They are experts at finding and identifying seabirds. Seabirding is one of the most difficult types of birding that there is, given the conditions of boat motion, salt spray, etc. Most folks who come from out-of-state participate in more than one trip, thereby maximizing the outcome for a greater species list. This trip includes all marine life, with a special emphasis on seabirds. Often the best birds show up while we are watching whales, or some other marine life. Come well-rested and be prepared for adventure!

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