FAQs – 48th Annual WFO Conference

Q: How does the 2024 conference price compare to the Colorado Conference?

A: This year, the registration cost includes all sessions, all field trips (except pelagic and kayak trips) as well as entry to the special Thursday night reception at the San Diego Natural History Museum. In the past, the field trips and workshops each had to be purchased separately.

Q: How is the Thursday reception special?

A: The Western Field Ornithologists have private access to the San Diego Natural History Museum on the evening of Thursday, October 10. All conference passes include access to this special event. Enjoy food and drinks while taking in the beauty of the Museum and celebrating its 150th Anniversary. Phil Unitt, the Dennis and Carol Wilson Endowed Chair of Ornithology and curator of the Department of Birds and Mammals at the San Diego Natural History Museum, will provide a behind the scenes tour and workshop.

Q: How is the conference different this year?

A: WFO is excited to return to San Diego. We last held our conference here in 2014. The Dana on Mission Bay is a waterfront resort enveloped by tropical landscaping. This location is close to many birding opportunities.

With the conference location close to the water, we are able to offer pelagic and kayak field trips at this year’s conference. Our pelagic trips are just an 8-minute walk from the hotel and the kayak trips launch from a location just around the corner from the hotel.

Being in San Diego gives conference attendees access to field trips in the desert, ocean and mountains, all from one central location. You get a taste of it all! You can even go birding at the hotel!

Q: Is transportation provided?

A: Transportation is not provided during the conference. All field trips will be carpool only. Trip leaders will do their best to coordinate carpooling for each trip.
If you require transportation while in San Diego, please check out our travel information on the conference website. Getting around town is very easy through one of the Ride Share apps.

**Q:** How should I prepare for the field trips?

**A:** Review the field trip descriptions on the conference website, which will include important information about driving distances, availability of restrooms, any entrance fees, degree of difficulty and more.

ALL FIELD TRIPS INVOLVE CARPOOLIDING.

We recommend bringing water, comfortable walking shoes, snacks, and any other equipment you might need while on the trip.

Be sure to check the weather a few days leading up to the trip. Bring sun covering (sunscreen, hat, long-sleeve shirt etc.) if the weather will be warm. Alternatively, you may also want to bring a light rain jacket if the forecast calls for storms.

If you will be driving to the field trip, be sure you have plenty of gas in the tank. Riders – Please be considerate and contribute gas money for the drivers.

**Q:** How physical will the kayak trips be?

**A:** The kayak trip is basically seated the whole time, but people who have difficulty getting in and out of a boat may find it challenging. Also, the upper body is used, though it is not vigorous. There will be assistance with boarding and disembarking, and if there is a need for a tow once we are out on the water, it will be provided.

**Q:** What do the difficulty ratings on the field trips mean?

**A:**

- **Easy** - even surfaces and no large inclines
- **Moderate** - some uneven surfaces and some up and down Trail slopes are no steeper than a ratio of 1:20 (5% gradient)
- **Difficult** - uneven terrain and inclines Trail slopes are relatively flat, but steeper than 1:20 (5% gradient)

**Q:** How much of a profit is WFO making on the conference?
A: WFO is aiming to break even on the cost of the conference. We’ve kept prices as low as possible to ensure our members have the best experience while covering the cost of hosting the conference.