









Oregon Coast & California Redwoods Photo Tour Trip Notes

<u>June 1-8, 2019</u>

#### Headlines

- Short report because my computer died and I missed writing and lost collecting notes and pictures. Sad.
- Pictures available on my iCloud shared drive if anyone is interested.
- Easy week, if not downright lazy.
- Simple hotels but in good locations, especially the Bandon hotel on the water.
- Interesting guests: accomplished photographers and some with ages 80, 90 and 92 but nothing like what you'd think those over 65 are like.

Above panorama headline pictures are from Cathy and Gordon's website <a href="www.advenphoto.com">www.advenphoto.com</a>. They have quite the following and had just returned from Tanzania with a group. They are likely more successful than most at getting the Aurora Borealis on their northern trips. I've considered going, its just that there's so many places, so little time. Also to their Animal Babies trips.

"Bandon" article by Cathy and Gordon – my photographer leaders, past hiking leaders, and now graciously taking me along even though I only use an iPhone as a camera. They wrote about Bandon, so that means I don't need to do so!

https://www.rd.com/advice/travel/bandon-oregon-beaches/

From Cathy and Gordon -- Oregon Coast/Redwoods:

Thanks so much for joining us on the coast, Diana. It's always a pleasure traveling with you. We didn't manage to get any photos of you in the redwoods, but we did get some shots of you on the beach to help you remember your time with us. Enjoy the rest of your travels, and give our best to Nola and Steve. All the best, Gordon & Cathy









### June 1-2 to Oregon first

Who would go to Medford especially since it is 90° plus? Those who are supposed to be going to Crescent City, California, where it is in the 50° range, but United stopped that service, now requiring a 3 hour drive to start this 6-day photo tour / hike.

Who would go on a photo tour with just their iPhone camera? Those who ha7ve been with these leaders on a hike before and whose leaders said there would be plenty of hiking while others are setting up their cameras.

For that matter, who in their 70s and 80s would keep on constant GO-Mode? We just paid for Las Vegas in January, Paris in February, Montreal in March, Venice to Athens in April, working on Zermat in May for Tom's 85th birthday, Stockholm, Tallinn, Helsinki, St Petersburg, Bergen and Oslo in June, and there's more. Will we make it? Sure as hell gonna keep trying!

This tour with <a href="www.advenphoto.com">www.advenphoto.com</a>. A combination that's hard to beat for landscape photography—the magnificence of the giant redwoods and a wide-open beach with some of the most impressive sea stacks anywhere. All of your lenses will get a workout here—wide angle to macro. Elk are also a possibility for your telephoto.

Combination of California's redwood groves and one of Oregon's most scenic beaches. Because of the timing, we'll have extreme tides at Bandon and blooming rhododendrons among the redwoods.

It's only a couple of hours from Medford to the beaches of Bandon where a new moon will give us extreme tides, exposing landscapes that are only visible a few times each month. In addition to the expected sea stacks, crashing waves, running water and tide pools, colorful sea stars and anemones will make interesting elements in our images. We'll have a couple of sunrises and sunsets there, giving the sky a chance to do something exceptional.

Then we change gears, leaving the wide-open spaces of the coast for the redwood forest. Stepping into the groves of tall trees is like entering a cathedral. The air is still, and it's so quiet you can hear dew drops condensing out of the misty air. Human egos take a beating in such a place, for we are dwarfed by the immensity of the beings around us— beings that have watched the sun rise and the sun set since the days when the world was flat.

The last three days of the tour will be spent exploring this enormous, green world, and with a little patience, places like Fern Canyon, the Ladybird Johnson Grove and Jedediah Smith Groves will yield their secrets to our cameras. With even a little luck, the rhododendrons will be in full bloom, adding warm colors to these green sanctuaries. Roosevelt elk are also a good possibility for anyone wanting

to include wildlife in their compositions. Instruction will focus on composing strong scenic images in the dark world of the redwoods and the wide-open expanses or the Oregon coast.

As with all of our tours, we include all transportation (except airfare to Medford), lodging, breakfasts and dinners, all entry fees, instruction & critiques. End.

Cathy and Gordon are the owners of Adventure Photography. Coincidently I met them on a Capitol Reef and Grand Escalante hiking trip in 2014. My same or similar hiking trip as just last month with <a href="www.ParksPlusHiking.com">www.ParksPlusHiking.com</a> (PPH). I was with Adventure Photography also a couple years ago for their tour called "beauty and the beasts" where we photographed elephant seals, monarch butterflies, sea otters, and hummingbirds. Both the upcoming trip and "beauty and the beasts" were said to allow for a lot of beach walking and hiking.

The need for a camera has an amusing if not sweet story: In 2014 Gordon and Cathy brought me one of their spare cameras so I could photograph the beauties and the beasts. Gordon set the camera up for me and with the change of light or different distances, he would scurry over and reset it. Basically I had a big fat heavyweight camera that worked like an automatic thanks to Gordon. I thought of him as Flash Gordon. I had declined a tripod but at various times had second thoughts. Then when the trip is over, they sent me a thumb drive of all my pictures. This time I decided I didn't need more weightlifting, I didn't need more photographs, I didn't need Flash Gordon, so I will use my iPhone camera.

I do need the hiking; walking on the sand at our first stop and walking thru the woods on our second destination will be a delight. I've never been to Bandon Oregon on the seaside but I have spent time hiking in the same redwoods during my Crater Lake and Redwoods hike with PPH 2 years ago.

Traveling is generally easy for me but I pay up to make it so. Good food, both in lounges and on board, nice Saks blanket and pillow in a lie-flat seat, with increased rest by going thru San Francisco instead of Denver. San Francisco! Was just there and find it a near perfect tourist destination but it sure has its troubles now with maybe the most homeless in the country. What a view on landing! Yet. Am I a reason for travel stress? Income inequality upsets folks? Then would they stop boarding everyone through first class! I've heard the cabin looks like there were a bunch of slobs after the flight.

#### TRAVEL STRESS = UNRULY BEHAVIOR?

Several researchers <u>are arguing</u> that the stresses of flying (and they say income inequality is among them) contribute to an increase in unruly behavior on planes.

Rise in Unruly Behavior on Planes Is Tied to Stress of Flying <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/27/business/unruly-behavior-planes-inequality.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/27/business/unruly-behavior-planes-inequality.html</a>

I could have stressed. My connection time was short the legal time as it was, but a huge Lufthansa 380 was parked next to our SFO gate making too small of an opening for us to park. We fortunately were arriving early — we ended up deplaning late. But the distance to my Medford gate wasn't far. Nothing like Tom had to run in Denver last week.

Boarding to Medford - some of the biggest people I've ever seen boarded. I can't imagine how they fit in even TWO seats. One 350-pounder well into retirement age announced it was his first flight. He must have been nervous because he continued to loudly talk about it through the flight. And through the 20 minutes we sat out the water and n the ground in Medford waiting for ground crew.

The first hotel: <a href="https://www.sunsetmotel.com/">https://www.sunsetmotel.com/</a> - Family owned and operated for four generations, Sunset Oceanfront Lodging is beautifully situated on high ground overlooking a sandy beach, majestic sea stacks, and the Pacific Ocean. We offer beach access and a variety of accommodations; large and small, rustic and modern. Units West of Beach Loop Drive are considered "Oceanfront;" units to the East are considered "Ocean View" or "Economy." Most of our units have private ocean-viewing decks or patios.

History: Family Owned and Operated for 4 Generations - Sunset Motel, established by Herbert and Clara Brown with their son and daughter-in-law, Vern and Mabel Brown, has remained an independent, family-run business for four generations. The motel has grown from a modest pair of duplexes to a 70-unit complex.

It all started with the Great Bandon Fire of 1936 which destroyed most of the town, including both Brown residences. After the fire, the Browns relocated to a parcel they acquired on the bluff above Bandon Beach that boasted a spectacular view of the legendary Face Rock and several other sea stacks. Herbert Brown and his son Vern were experienced contractors who helped rebuild the town before erecting two small duplexes side by side on their new property. Herbert and Clara lived in one unit, Vern and Mabel lived in another, and the other two units were rented.

After World War II, Vern connected the two buildings with a row of rooms, forming a U-shape with six apartments and eight rooms. The original incentive for building the U-shaped complex was to provide housing for teachers for the Bandon School District. As a member of the PTA, Mabel was aware of a need for affordable housing for teachers and convinced Vern to help out by building the additional rooms. So for the first years, the Browns rented rooms to teachers from September to June and then to travelers during the summer.

After the teacher shortage resolved in the 1950's, the rooms were renovated and became year round tourist accommodations. On April 14, 1960, a fire of unknown origin claimed two-thirds of the structure. For a while, only two apartments and four sleeping rooms remained. Undaunted, Vern Brown rebuilt and enlarged the motel to honor his wife's memory, creating 12 more tourist accommodations (18 total with one apartment for his family). Vern believed in expanding the motel to allow better access to what he believed was the greatest view of the Pacific Ocean.

To meet the rising demand of tourists who had discovered Bandon, Vern began construction on the Original Oceanfront, creating six more units with the help of his son-in-law, Harold "Butch" Longland, between 1969 and 1971.

In the mid-1980s, Vern's daughter Judy and her husband Carl Densmore took over operations. Later that decade they constructed the Vern H. Brown Addition honoring Vern himself. Each of the 21 units in this three-story building west of the bluff has a private balcony with a spectacular ocean view. Vern's grandsons, Bryan and Jeffrey Longland, grew up helping their grandfather at the beach resort. After finishing college, they returned with their families to help manage the business and design the Ocean View Studios.

The motel's name was changed to "Sunset Oceanfront Lodging" to acknowledge its beachfront location and the wide variety of tourist accommodations in this four block long complex.

In 2000, the 18-unit Ocean View Studios opened. The two-story addition included spacious rooms with fireplaces, private patios or balconies, along with a spacious new lobby and indoor swimming pool and Jacuzzi. In 2002, Bryan and Jeffrey Longland, the fourth generation, took over operation of the motel.

Guests now enjoy free Wi-Fi in their rooms, a light continental breakfast, and beach access via three stairways on the property. But most of all, they enjoy the same stunning view of sea stacks carved by wind and waves, rising from a broad sandy beach that first inspired Vern Brown to share his home with travelers.

End

My last trip was out of Durango in May and I failed to send pictures from the last three days. I just uploaded them on to the iCloud share drive open to anyone who requests. I will here add one of Tom and me boarding the Durango to Silverton railway. A (rough) trip report has been added to www.Libertyladies.weebly.com.

The picture was left over from the Durango to Silverton rail road trip. Aren't we cute?



## Back to Oregon:







First day, first lunch, a few of us saw the "in and out burger" sign and overruled those who had voted for Wendy's.

Frankly I don't totally get it even though I understand it's fresh food. It's also salty. I'm not very discriminating and will admit that I like burger king whopper.

Don't you think this In and Out burger employee might should have taken off her hat before she started doing hair on premise? But we saw a lot of Asians with hair way below their hips.







My room was quite nice with a fireplace, refrigerator and microwave, and plenty of room. Best of all it had a big balcony overlooking their famous rocks or stacks of Bandon. From my balcony. Then the next two pictures are sunsets from our leader's website.











We had one of the more efficient and sweetest waitresses and I forgave her her hair coloring. We also have a few people on tour with some age on them. See this sweet lady with the hat? She is 92 years old. Another is 90 years old and she is one who had this lush chocolate mousse dessert. Guess what I had? I figured you were tired of seeing pictures of fish tacos.









On my way down to the beach walk.









They are meeting at 5:40 AM to see the sunrise. Maybe I will join them.

## Update on Oregon trip.

Yes I am home from my Oregon coast and Northern California redwoods trip.

No I didn't put out any trip notes while I was gone except on the first travel day.

Yes all is well.

Yet I see that I have huge numbers of emails that I'm embarrassed have not been answered so I thought I would give a bit of explanation. Had I not moved into retirement mode, this wouldn't be any explanation at all. We accomplish less and less.

I got home late Saturday night and when I went to clear out my desk computer, it bombed. It got stuck on disk error and in repair mode and by 6 AM the next morning it was still stuck. I turned the computer off and on and it stayed stuck. I wasted a lot of time in "hope" mode. Hope it's not an option.

A new washer and dryer had been delivered that day; it had a learning curve and a few problems. I had lots of laundry.

I wasn't going to miss going up north to see Jeff, having missed a full week. But afterword I started on my errands which included computer shopping. By late afternoon I had chosen a computer but it had to be delivered the next day, today. This was and is nervous-making because I have a lot on the computer that I need for my next Tuesday French Riviera trip.

Driveway repair and paving was to begin on Tuesday morning. After preparation, the rains returned, so paving was after all delayed.

On both Sunday and Monday, my only days, Tom has been a bit excited to plan for his 85th birthday despite it not being until May 2020. (He gave up on the Kentucky derby with our friends for various reasons). I think he's enjoyed the choices which have all been renewals of past superb trips. We worked on going to Zermatt but I think have dropped that idea since it is so off-season. We are now working on the Loire Valley and the Châteaux. It was one of the first trips we took when we lived in Belgium, and it is near to where he was stationed years before, and we been back in a number of times but not for quite a while.

Our good friends Chris and Ouida were having their eighth wedding anniversary and it is Ouida's birthday so gifts had been ordered with more pieces to go with it needed. It rained cats-and-dogs and

flooded but I shopped anyway. Tom is now delivering the big basket with six special wines to the house. For fun he is going to test drive Chris's new Tesla, the new one with Gull Wings.

In between, ha ha ha that's only two days, I found that a birthday gift for one of my Camino pilgrim friends was not delivered. I need new ideas!

I'm chatting on and on because I hardly know what to do with myself with no computer. It should arrive in a couple hours and then I'm back in business. Damn, but there is that "hope" again. (Later, hope was not an option after all. It wasn't until July 5 that I got a working computer again.)

Trust and hope that you are all well and will forgive me for this joint email update, and big congratulations per Nola for finishing her 70 miles of the Colorado Trail. Coming up will be the whole thing. You go girl and do it for the rest of us.

## Later – here is Gordon and Cathy's trip report off their website:

## Greetings,

There's a special part of the Pacific Coast of North America where the tallest trees on the planet are only a short drive from where the surf crashes around picturesque sea stacks. It's one of our favorite places to explore, reveling in the salt air and the fog. As many times as we've visited this area, I'm sure we've taken many of the same photos again and again--who can resist pushing the shutter button with scenes like these--but we also come home with new images. Sometimes we just see things differently, and sometimes the scenes themselves change, flowers in new locations, trees blown over, and the wildlife may play a greater or lesser role in our compositions.

We always plan our days on the beach at Bandon to coincide with the new moon or full moon because of the moon's affect on the tide. The Earth's gravity is so overwhelming we don't notice the gravity of the moon, but it's there, trying to pull us into space. And the oceans of the world notice it, especially when the moon is brightest and when it's darkest. At these times, there are a couple hundred more yards of beach exposed in this part of Oregon, allowing photographers the chance to wander among the sea stacks, playing with reflections in the wet sand and colorful creatures living at the margin of sea and land.



Rhododendron flowers in a redwood grove, Canon EOS 1D Mark IV, 16-35mm @ 22mm, f16, 1/4 sec, ISO 400, -1/3.

This also where wildlife may play a role in your compositions. Sea stars and sea anemones not only make interesting subjects for macro images and intimate landscapes, they also add color and texture to scenic photos. And this year we also had larger animal species to play with. Harbor seals, some with babies, were particularly tolerant this year, a good few of them swimming to our side of a shallow pool to check us out. Now seals lying on the beach are pretty static subjects, although we did have mothers and babies interacting. The movement of the surf however, is a constantly changing picture element, a bit of action in a static image, and a slow shutter speed emphasized this motion nicely.

After the ceaseless noise of the sea wind and the crashing surf, we had to adjust to the quiet of the redwood groves. Here only the occasional bird song <u>disturbed</u> the deep, green silence. Even our footsteps were muffled by a carpet of evergreen needles, and our compositions revolved around brown tree trunks and the green

hues of moss, needles and leaves. Several trails were even decorated with vibrant, pink rhododendron flowers standing out against the greenery, and a prettier picture element would be hard to find.

As for photography, the beach is the easier location to work with. The background is relatively clean and the centers of interest are easily defined. The redwood forest is another story. Finding beautiful subjects is no problem, but isolating them against a messy background can require a lot of experimentation with different camera angles. Many times the answer was narrowing our focus, zeroing in on what attracted the photographer to the scene in the first place. It's not always easy, but the challenge is part of the fun. Both the redwoods and the beach are incredible playgrounds for someone with a camera, and, like most playgrounds, we had a tough time rounding the kids up when it was time to go.



Ferns and sorrel leaves against old stump,
Canon EOS 5D Mark III,
24-105mm @ 65mm, f8, 2.5 sec, ISO 800, 2/3, warming polarizer.

No matter how many times we visit, this area remains one of our favorites. Next year's photo tour is already half full, and if you'd like to see the reasons for its popularity, <u>click here.</u> You can also go to our website, <u>www.advenphoto.com</u>, and click on Tour Highlights.

Sat Jun 1

12:00noon Depart Newark EWR via UA#2080 – 6:21 hour flight

3:21pm Arrive San Francisco SFO for plane change – short 44 minute connection

4:05pm Depart San Francisco SFO via UA#5993 – 1:35 hour flight

5:49pm Arrive Medford MFR

Hotel Courtyard Medford Airport – 1 night

600 Airport Road, Medford, OR 97504 Tele: 541 772 5656

Yes airport shuttle; yes refrig; no shopping but shuttle will transport within 5 miles; restaurant on premises to 10pm; breakfast with a fee.

Host Hotel Unknown - Cathy and Gordon, Office Tele: 303 237 7086 Cell: 720 838 4236

From <a href="www.avenphoto.com">www.avenphoto.com</a>: A combination that's hard to beat for landscape photography—the magnificence of the giant redwoods and a wide open beach with some of the most impressive sea stacks anywhere. All of your lenses will get a workout here—wide angle to macro. Elk are also a possibility for your telephoto.

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The last three days of the tour will be spent exploring this enormous, green world, and with a little patience, places like Fern Canyon, the Ladybird Johnson Grove and Jedediah Smith Groves will yield their secrets to our cameras. With even a little luck, the rhododendrons will be in full bloom, adding warm colors to these green sanctuaries. Roosevelt elk are also a good possibility for anyone wanting to include wildlife in their compositions. Instruction will focus on composing strong scenic images in the dark world of the redwoods and the wide-open expanses or the Oregon coast.

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Airport: Medford, Oregon (MFR) Arrival: Arrive by 10 a.m. on June 2. Departure: Schedule departure after 3 p.m. on June 7.

# Sun Jun 2 - Day 1 of tour.

11:15am Pick up at Courtyard Hotel (along with Bob, Vilma, Inge and Gesa)

Travel to Bandon (about 3 hours) and photograph in the afternoon. Lunch on the way. (Lunches are on your own.)

Hotel Sunset Motel – 2 nights

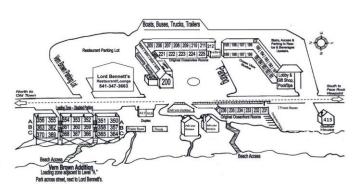
1865 Beach Loop Rd, Bandon, OR 97411 Tele: (541) 347-2453 or 800-842 2407

sunset@sunsetmotel.com

Upgraded to king studio #191 upstairs with view and recently remodeled with refrig and microwave, coffee makings yes; <a href="https://www.sunsetmotel.com/rooms/oceanview-studios">https://www.sunsetmotel.com/rooms/oceanview-studios</a>

Cathy/Gordon agreed; Diana to pay hotel difference upon arrival. No shopping in area but about 1 ½ miles to McKay's or Beverage Barn; restaurant on premises

https://www.sunsetmotel.com/ - Family owned and operated for four generations, Sunset Oceanfront Lodging is beautifully situated on high ground overlooking a sandy beach, majestic sea stacks, and the Pacific Ocean. We offer beach access and a variety of accommodations; large and small, rustic and modern. Units West of Beach Loop Drive are considered "Oceanfront;" units to the East are considered "Ocean View" or "Economy." Most of our units have private ocean-viewing decks or patios.



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In addition to the motel, they began managing rentals for several owners of small beachfront cottages. In the early 1990s, Judy and Carl sold an adjacent lot to the Iverson family, who built Lord Bennett's.

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## Mon Jun 3 - Day 2 of tour.

Photograph the beaches around Bandon and nearby waterfalls.

# Tue Jun 4 - Day 3 of tour.

Photograph beaches in morning, travel to Crescent City, California, photograph redwoods in afternoon.

Hotel Best Western Plus Northwoods Inn – 3 nights

655 US-101 S, Crescent City, CA 95531 Tele: (707) 464-9771

05435@hotel.bestwestern.com

Coffee maker, refrig and microwave in all rooms. Shopping 0.8 mile to Safeway, 0.2 miles to Wayside Liquor Market.

http://www.bwnorthwoodsinn.com/ - Our family friendly hotel is centrally located near the redwood national forest and the wild pacific coast. Relax in contemporary guestrooms and enjoy a comfortable stay with modern conveniences like free Wi-Fi, spacious work areas, flat screen televisions and premium cable channels. Wake up to a complimentary hot buffet breakfast, served daily exclusively for our guests and full of healthy yet delicious options. Dive in to our refreshing indoor pool, work up a sweat in the fitness center, and enjoy a barbecue at our outdoor picnic gazebo.

Dine at the on-site Dining Complex with Oceans675 located on the upper level, a spectacular view of the Marina and serving delectable seafood dishes along with signature cocktails available for our guests, or Northwoods Public House, THE place to go for American comfort foods and over 20 local craft beers to choose from. For business or pleasure, the Best Western PLUS Northwoods Inn offers everything you need for a fabulous stay just steps from the harbor and downtown shops.

#### Wed Jun 5 - Day 4 of tour:

Photograph different redwood groves in morning and afternoon.

#### Thu Jun 6 - Day 5 of tour.

Repeat of Day 4, although with different redwood groves.

#### Fri Jun 7 - Day 6 of tour.

Photograph Redwoods in morning, transportation back to Medford airport or hotel of choice by 3pm

Hotel Courtyard Medford Airport – 1 night

Address and phone above

Sat Jun 8

6:03am Depart Medford MFR via UA#5653 – 2:22 hour flight time

8:25am Arrive Los Angeles LAX for plane change – 1:50 hour connection

10:15am Depart Los Angeles LAX via UA#642 – 5:41 hour flight time

6:56pm Arrive Newark EWR

Uber to home

### Emergency numbers

Gordon and Cathy office 303 237 7086 <a href="www.advenphoto.com">www.advenphoto.com</a> gordon@advenphoto.com

Emergency Assistance Plus Program – 24/7

United Mileage Plus member #0186014 (card in file and in D's Wallet)

Tele: 866 816 2073 or 60 328 1752 collect

<u>Weather:</u> usually cool and damp with temps staying between the 50s and 60s. Windy and wet. Bring hat and rain parks. Expect mud.

### **Participants**

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Vilma Siebers, Santa Cruz, California, <u>vsiebers@gmail.com</u>
Inge Weidmann & Gesa Jurgensen, San Francisco, California, <u>ingelein@gmail.com</u>

## Leaders

Cathy & Gordon ILLG, Adventure Photography gordon@advenphoto.com www.advenphoto.com

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