

2025 Classes

Melanie Phelps – Instructor – Colorado School of Mines Graduate Credit

melaniephe@aol.com

Phone 719-252-1789

www.coloradorivertrip.com

Whale Sharks, Humpbacks & Grey Whales of Baja Mexico, February 15-23, 2025 4 graduate credit hours. \$3400. With credit. \$3225. Without credit. Does not include airfare. It is possible to see Humpback Whales, Gray Whales with calves and Whale Sharks gathered in Baja Mexico during only a few months of the year. Snorkel with whale sharks, the largest plankton eating fish in the world. Travel to a birthing bay for Gray Whales and stare in awe as the mother whales bring their babies right to the edge of the boats. They often are close enough to be touched and seem to be just as curious about humans as we are delighted about them. Snorkel or dive the beautiful coast near Cabo San Lucas and view breaching and spy hopping of the Humpbacks with their calves.

Sandhill Crane and Water Bird Alamosa Fiesta March 1-2, 2025 1 graduate credit. \$225. With credit. \$160. Without credit. View flocks of the 20,000 majestic Sandhill Cranes as they migrate through the wetlands near Alamosa. Hear their bugling mating call and watch their graceful mating dance. Gaze through binoculars, photograph, and learn behaviors and mating rituals of hundreds of wetland birds. Tour the Sand Dunes National Monument, the San Luis Valley Alligator Farm and bask in a local Hot Spring resort.

African Safari – The Greatest Wildlife Adventure. May 29-June 19, 2025 \$10,065. 6 graduate credit hours. Without credit. \$8800. You have always dreamed of an African Safari – the Maasai Mara, the Serengeti, the Ngorongoro Crater. You have imagined seeing elephants, giraffes, hippos, rhinos. Cheetahs, and lions in the wild. You envision the great migrations of zebras and wildebeests. You want to contribute to African villages and know that sustainable ecotourism is lifting many people out of poverty as well as saving the lives of ivory tusked elephants and the rhinos who need their horns. You want to see the glaciers on Kilimanjaro before they melt away into oblivion. Your lifelong dream – make it happen. Samburu, Maasai Mara, Serengeti, Olduvai Gorge Ngorongoro Crater, Amboseli, Arusha, Tsavo West, and Tsavo East.

Bonaire – Coral Reef Biodiversity Extraordinaire. July 14-22, 2025 4 hours graduate credit. \$2600 without credit. \$2785 with credit. The coral reef ecosystem is dying off around the world at alarming rates, and yet here on Bonaire, a tiny Caribbean island north of Venezuela, the coral is stunning. Bonaire is by far the most healthy and best reef I've ever seen. Bonaire's 86 shore dive sites are home to 57 species of soft and hard coral and 350 recorded fish species. Dance in a sparkling bioluminescence on a night snorkel or dive. Canoe through a mangrove forest and then hop in to see what's beneath the surface. Let the magic of the reefs enchant you and learn for yourself the excitement of this incredible ecosystem. This world class snorkel and diving site is less expensive, since we can walk into the crystal seas from the shore.

Ecuador – Amazon Rainforest and Galapagos Islands. July 29- Aug 8, 2025 5 hours graduate credit. \$7200 without credit. \$7445 with credit. Explore the World Heritage City of Quito, Ecuador. Gaze at unique cloud forest birds, soar over the Andes Mountains, then depart into the Amazon Rainforest where we will explore by riverboat on the Napo River, a large tributary. Highlights include touring a native village to see how indigenous people have lived for centuries in the Amazon, taking night tours to see nocturnal species, viewing a salt lick cliff where hundreds of parrots and parakeets come to find much needed minerals. Then

soar once again over the spectacular Andes Mountains and out to sea. Snorkel and hike your way around Galapagos Islands, home of those diverse finches, tortoises, penguins and hundreds of other species from the comfort of a live aboard small yacht.