

ITINERARY  
**COLORADO GROUSE**

*I. April 5-15, 2018*  
*II. April 13-23, 2018*



*One of our primary goals on this tour is to observe lekking grouse close-up. Here, a male Greater Sage-grouse stretches his wings. Greater Sage-grouse are the largest grouse in North America, and they put on quite a show as they display. We get very good views, as can be seen here! Photograph by guide Tom Johnson.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2018 Field Guides Colorado Grouse tour:*

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

*Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:*

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

**T**here is no better place in North America for gallinaceous birds than the state of Colorado and no better time of year to find them than in April. Our goal on this tour is to seek out the prairie-chickens (Lesser and Greater) of the eastern plains, the Sharp-tailed Grouse and sage-grouse (Gunnison and Greater) of intermountain parks, and the sometimes-difficult Dusky Grouse of the mountains and ridges. Sprinkled in there will be Wild Turkey, Scaled and Gambel's quails, Ring-necked Pheasant, and the harder to find Northern Bobwhite. We'll also make a try for the very difficult White-tailed Ptarmigan and Chukar, both long shots to be sure due to their secretiveness, cryptic coloration, and terrain.

This trip might best be described as a "compare and contrast" tour (that is to say: we'll be visiting different North American biomes, making it possible to encounter related forms within the boundaries of the state of Colorado—some of

these are East-West differences, but others are more complicated): Gunnison vs. Greater sage-grouse; Lesser and Greater prairie-chickens; Say's vs. Eastern phoebes; Eastern, Mountain, and Western bluebirds; Clark's vs. Western grebes—and the list goes on.

In addition, we'll take the opportunity to compare and contrast the birds of the various regions of the state, the Rockies, the eastern plains, and the intermountain basins or broad valleys known as "parks." But most importantly we'll see Colorado grouse and prairie chickens in their elaborate, noisy, and colorful breeding displays, usually on "leks" but sometimes on small territories. By the end of the tour we expect to have seen about 140 bird species and another 20 species of mammals and to have gained a better understanding of Colorado's birds and wildlife, mountains and plains. Join us on this wonderful action-packed tour in search of Colorado grouse.

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** Because of the distances involved, this tour will be somewhat fast-paced. On average we cover over 2000 miles of Colorado, which equates to over 200 miles per day. On most mornings we will be up **very early** to be at a lek or other birding hotspot; the afternoons are usually spent covering miles in the van to be in place for the next morning's outing. We break up the day with a restaurant lunch or picnic along the way. Our goal is to have fun as we see more of Colorado's birds and landscape than most Coloradoans see in their lifetime. Our driving distances and days afield will be fairly long, so keeping on schedule will be important. This tour might not be a good fit if you require a lot of sleep at night. We will be traveling over six mountain passes ranging from 8000-12,000 feet in elevation. The highest point at which we'll be spending a night is Walden, located at 8099 feet. At these elevations, we'll take our time and pace ourselves. In order to help acclimate to the challenges of being at elevation, we begin the tour on the eastern plains for several days before climbing up into the Rockies. Anyone with health problems (heart, breathing), or difficulty walking/hiking, should consult the Field Guides office before registering for this tour. At high elevations, shortness of breath and fatigue are common issues to consider.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with one of the guides.

## About the Birding Areas



**Colorado** is one of the great birding areas in the American West and the best place for gallinaceous birds in North America, particularly in April. But there are many other species of birdlife and wildlife to observe as well this time of year and we'll be seeing them against a stunning landscape.

**Eastern Plains**—Spring bird migration will be starting up and most apparent on the eastern plains of Colorado, an area that includes the riparian foothill country of the Pueblo area, the vast riparian habitat of the lower Arkansas River, numerous reservoirs in eastern Colorado, and the short-grass prairie habitat of the Pawnee Grasslands. We'll visit leks of both Lesser and Greater prairie-chickens to observe their elaborate displays as the sun rises over the

plains. Other birds we'll hope to see in this section of Colorado include Scaled Quail, Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Sage Thrasher, and Loggerhead Shrike.

**Foothills, Mountains, and Intermountain Parks**—The foothills of the Front Range will, we hope, be thawed out for our trip, but there will still be plenty of snow in the mountains so the scenery will be spectacular and the birding exciting. Weather (and permit) permitting, we'll cross a mountain pass in search of the elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan. In addition, we will stop in the mountains and foothills for Dusky Grouse (never a given) and other mountain specialties. In the intermountain parks we'll experience Greater and Gunnison sage-grouse as well as Sharp-tailed Grouse displaying on their respective leks, and in addition, we'll see a variety of other birds. Our travels will take us over the Front Range and to the birding hotspots of the area such as Yampa and Gunnison basins and North, Middle, and South parks.

**Colorado Plateau: Plateaus, Mesas, and Valleys**—The western portion of the state is the most dramatic and colorful section of Colorado. Our birding travels will take us to reservoirs and canyons such as Curecanti National Recreation Area, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, and Colorado National Monument. We will pass alongside the great rivers of western Colorado including the Uncompahgre, Gunnison, and Colorado, and we will enjoy panoramic views of western Colorado's most spectacular landscape features—the San Juan Mountains, Uncompahgre Plateau, and the granddaddy of them all, the Grand Mesa. Our birding efforts will be rewarded with good views of Gambel's Quail and, if we are extremely lucky, an elusive Chukar.

## Itinerary for Colorado Grouse



A male Greater Prairie-Chicken.  
Photograph by participant Herb Fechter.

**Day 1, Apr 5 or 13. Arrival in Denver; to Pueblo.** Please plan to arrive at the Denver airport on Day 1 no later than 1:30 p.m. You should grab a bite to eat upon arrival as our first meal as a group will be dinner. Your guides will meet you this afternoon at **2:00 p.m.** at the **East Terminal - baggage carousel #4**. After introductions and collecting our luggage, we'll travel south along the Rocky Mountain Front Range to Pueblo. This will be largely a travel day but some afternoon birding will start to fill in our checklists. Dig out your binoculars when you get to Denver. Night in Pueblo.

**Day 2, Apr 6 or 14. Pueblo to Garden City, Kansas.** Our travels today will take us in an easterly direction (roughly following the Arkansas River) as we head towards Kansas to be in place for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken lek the next morning. En route, we will stop at several reservoirs, riparian woodlots, and feedlots. Birds we'll be looking out for include Clark's Grebe, Cinnamon Teal, Franklin's Gull, American White Pelican, Mountain Plover, Snowy Plover, Burrowing Owl, Scaled Quail, Wild Turkey, Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern and

Say's phoebes, Sage and Curve-billed thrashers, Swainson's and Ferruginous hawks, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. By the end of the day our checklists should be loaded with ducks, grebes, raptors, shorebirds, sparrows, and blackbirds. We'll bird most of the day in Colorado, then make a beeline for Kansas in the evening. Night in Garden City, Kansas.

**Day 3, Apr 7 or 15. Garden City, KS to Wray, CO.** This is the day we've all been anticipating, our first experience at a lek. The rare will be displaying as the sun rises. We'll need to be out very early to increase our chances for success. After (we hope) the excitement of seeing the prairie-chickens, we'll enjoy a hearty breakfast and then work our way north and west to Wray, CO. En route we'll make several stops looking for Long-billed Curlew, Eastern and Mountain bluebirds, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and longspurs. Night in Wray.

**Day 4, Apr 8 or 16. Wray to Wheat Ridge.** We'll be up early again today to observe the second of the three members of genus *Tympanuchus*—the Greater Prairie-Chicken. After breakfast we'll head northwest, skirting the famed shortgrass prairie habitat known as the Pawnee Grasslands targeting McCown's Longspur. We will keep an eye for the harder-to-find Chestnut-collared longspurs, Long-billed Curlew, and Prairie Falcon. In the afternoon, we will visit Lower Latham Reservoir for dabbling ducks, shorebirds, and raptors. Night in Wheat Ridge (west side of Denver).

**Day 5, Apr 9 or 17. Wheat Ridge to Gunnison.** Today we'll start early and head from the foothills of the Front Range into the mountains themselves. Weather and road conditions permitting, we should be able to traverse a mountain pass where the elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan can be found. Stops at feeders at elevation will hopefully produce Brown-capped and possibly two more rosy-finches, as well as other seedeaters. We'll gradually work our way in a southwesterly direction through basin/range topography to Gunnison, crossing the Continental Divide three times. Largely a travel day, we will stop periodically to stretch our legs and search for local color such as Golden Eagle, Mountain Bluebird, Cassin's Finch, Pinyon, Gray, and Steller's jays, "Gray-headed" Juncos, American Three-toed Woodpecker, and others. Night in Gunnison.

**Day 6, Apr 10 or 18. Gunnison area.** Our goal today is the rare Gunnison Sage-Grouse displaying on its lek. We'll have an opportunity to observe this recently described species performing, then return for breakfast at our hotel. Afterwards, we'll venture west to the Blue Mesa Reservoir for ducks and grebes, then north toward the Crested Butte area or Taylor Canyon in search of American Dipper, Clark's Nutcracker, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (and its more elusive cousins), Evening Grosbeaks, Cassin's Finches, juncos, towhees, and mammals. Night in Gunnison.

**Day 7, Apr 11 or 19. Gunnison to Grand Junction.** This morning, if weather prevented us from seeing the Gunnison's Sage Grouse yesterday, we have a built-in back-up day to make a second attempt. Otherwise, our day will include a visit to the spectacular Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, where Dusky Grouse can be seen as they perform their nearly inaudible, deep booming song. We hope to find the "Slate-colored" subspecies of Fox Sparrow, White-throated Swifts, and Spotted Towhees at this unheralded gem of a national park. Other stops may get us Lewis's Woodpecker and waterbirds on several reservoirs along the way. Night in Fruita.

**Day 8, Apr 12 or 20. Grand Junction to Steamboat Springs.** This morning we'll leave at daybreak for Colorado National Monument where we'll spend a morning enjoying some of the most spectacular scenery of the tour. The incredible Monument Valley overlook provides awe-inspiring views of the impressive geologic formations of Wingate sandstone cloaked in juniper and pinyon pine woodland. Although this will be a "grouseless" day, we will nevertheless see some fine birds: possibilities include: Chukar, Gambel's Quail, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Rock, Canyon, and Bewick's wrens, Juniper Titmouse, Bushtit, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Pinyon Jay, and Black-throated Sparrow. After lunch, we'll travel north to the town of Steamboat Springs. Night in Steamboat Springs.

**Day 9, Apr 13 or 21. Steamboat Springs to Walden.** Our early morning ventures will lead us to a site where we hope to see strutting Sharp-tailed Grouse. These hills and valleys are largely sagebrush, and are also home to Swainson's Hawk, Red-naped Sapsucker, Vesper Sparrow, and Sandhill Crane. After our morning outing, we'll head east towards our next hotel in Walden. If thawed, Walden Reservoir often hosts the most impressive diversity of waterbirds of the whole tour. Night in Walden.

**Day 10, Apr 14 or 22. Walden to Denver.** Our grand finale this morning will be a visit to a lek of displaying Greater Sage-Grouse. After brunch, we'll head out to Denver making several birding stops en route, looking for anything we may have missed along the way. We'll conclude our grand Colorado Grouse tour with a farewell dinner tonight. Night in Denver.

**Day 11, Apr 15 or 23. Depart Denver.** You may plan your departure from Denver for anytime today. Have a safe trip home.



*White-tailed Ptarmigan. Photograph by guide Eric Hynes.*

# About Your Guides

## Tour I

**Tom Johnson** grew up watching birds in central Pennsylvania. Interested in science and the outdoors from a young age, he became involved in a variety of field projects throughout his school years, including banding migrant landbirds and conducting point counts for the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas. He was fortunate to pursue undergraduate studies in biology at Cornell University, where he became even more excited to learn about systematics and migration while surrounded by the amazing ornithologists and birders of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Since graduating, Tom has spent much of his time studying seabirds off the East Coast of North America, conducting line transect surveys from NOAA ships between Nova Scotia and the Bahamas. When he's not otherwise occupied, he loves to devote time to wandering, taking photos, and searching for vagrants and hybrid birds.

Tom has long been interested in sharing his enthusiasm for exploring bird identification, distribution, and migration dynamics; he is a regional editor for *North American Birds* magazine and writes a regular column on identification for *Birding* magazine. Perhaps most of all, he loves sharing his passion for the natural world with others out in the field, and he's excited to have the opportunity to do this while leading for Field Guides.

*"Tom Johnson [is] everything you would ever want in a birding guide. I have never known anyone who can get the target bird in the scope and ready for viewing faster... He hears the bird, scopes it, and we see it!" G. T., Spring in Cape May*

**Cory Gregory** started learning birds on flashcards at the age of three, but it wasn't until the ripe age of ten that things started to get more serious. Since then he has traveled to Central and South America, Australia, and all 50 states to try to get his fill of birding (and it hasn't worked yet!).

Cory earned a B.S. in zoology in Michigan, where he also worked for Whitefish Point Bird Observatory for several seasons. He then ventured to Iowa State University, where he earned a M.S. studying Long-billed Curlews in Nebraska. As an avid shorebird ecologist, he has handled more than 2000 shorebirds of more than 30 species.

After finishing school, Cory worked for several organizations as a shorebird ecologist and guided on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs of Alaska for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. It was on St. Paul that his dream of stumbling on a first North American record was finally fulfilled. Cory is currently based out of Missouri where, when not on tour, he pursues his interest in birds, butterflies, and dragonflies with abandon.

Cory has co-led Field Guides groups to Arizona, Cape May, Texas, Peru, and Australia and has a busy and wide-ranging schedule coming up for 2017-18 --from the US and Canada to Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, and Peru.

*"Cory was a delight. He is making a fine guide. ... He is very agreeable, made sure that we all saw the bird in the scope, and was just a pleasure to be around. He also knows his birds, and calls." G. G. Costa Rica*

## Tour II

**Eric Hynes** has been fascinated by birds and passionate about birding since he first heard the ghostly wailing of a Common Loon at summer camp in Maine more than 30 years ago. Upon completion of his B.S. at the University of Vermont, where he studied environmental studies and wildlife biology, Eric began a serious endeavor as a bird hobo that lasted more than a decade. His travels ranged across the U.S. with a number of trips to Central America as well. During this quest, Eric did everything from monitoring breeding raptors in the Snake River Canyon, to guiding for two summers in Alaska on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs, to ground squirrel rustling in Montana, to owl banding and hawk counting in Pennsylvania.

Getting married to Christine helped settle Eric into a fulltime position at Maine Audubon but not until after a birding trip to Panama cleverly disguised as their honeymoon. As the staff naturalist and adult education coordinator, Eric taught numerous bird identification workshops and led field trips locally and abroad for Maine Audubon. His positive energy and infectious enthusiasm for all things wild has drawn many a convert to birding and conservation. Eric served several terms on the Maine Bird Records Committee.

*"Eric Hynes is the ultimate professional—he's well organized, disciplined about budgeting time, makes good decisions for the benefit of the group, and is very clear about what he wants to accomplish each day. He's also excellent in the field and fun to be with. Couldn't be better." D.R., Puerto Rico*

Eric and his family recently relocated to Telluride, Colorado where he focuses on tracking down Gunnison Sage-Grouse and rosy-finches as a scout in-residence for the Colorado Grouse tour.

Eric will be guiding departures to Maine, Jamaica, and Iceland, as well as doing some work behind the scenes while he's not on tour.

**Doug Gochfeld** made the jump from a love of trains, planes, and automobiles typical of many 7-year-olds to an avid interest in birds after a close encounter with a Steller's Jay in the Pacific Northwest. This filled his early formative years with scouring the urban landscape of New York City for birds with his father. After a teenage break from all things avian, he returned to it with a vengeance, and he hasn't looked back.

His first birding job was as a migration counter at the legendary Cape May Bird Observatory, where his love of and interest in the dynamics of migration (of anything with wings, insects included!) was cemented. From 2006 to 2016, he worked with birds from New Hampshire to Arizona, and from Suriname to Israel. He has also spent a substantial amount of time guiding in Alaska, the bulk of which was spent on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs.

Doug's strongest interests in birding are migration, vagrancy, and overall patterns of distribution. Shorebirds and seabirds (and any other long-distance migrants, really) hold a special place in his heart, and he has done intensive work studying the breeding and wintering ecology of Hudsonian Godwits in Alaska and Semipalmated Sandpipers in Suriname and Brazil.

In addition to being on the New York State Avian Records Committee, Doug is passionate about spreading the gospel of birding and the outdoors, and to this end he participates in youth and urban birding initiatives and has guided at birding festivals across the country. His writing and photographs have been published in a myriad of venues.

Doug has co-led Field Guides groups to Alaska, Trinidad, Panama, Cape May, Arizona, and Newfoundland/Nova Scotia and has a busy and wide-ranging schedule coming up for late 2016 and all of 2017-- from the US, Puerto Rico, and Mexico to New Guinea, Southeast Asia, and Madagascar.

*Doug is fantastic. His motto is "never stop birding" and he doesn't! Doug is a gem and we are lucky to have him! P. P. Vietnam.*

Visit <http://fieldguides.com/guides> to view complete tour schedules for the guides; just click on their photos.

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$3450 from Denver

**DEPOSIT:** \$345 per person

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** December 6, 2017 (Tour I) or December 14, 2017 (Tour II)

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$700

**LIMIT:** 14

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Sharon Mackie. Sharon will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Accommodations range from elegant to basic, depending on the remoteness of the area. We strive to pick the best hotels/motels, but in some locations there are limited options. Most accommodations on this tour are in comfortable hotel chains; however, those in Wray and Walden are more basic. Regardless, all rooms are very clean, warm, and comfortable.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Please plan to arrive at the Denver airport on Day 1 no later than **1:30 p.m.** Your guides will meet you between 2:00 and 2:30 p.m. at the **Delta Airlines baggage pickup (Carousel 4) terminal**. You may make plans to depart anytime on Day 11.

Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules,

along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

**Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The tour fee is \$3450 for one person in double occupancy from Denver. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 10, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 11, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Denver, airport taxes, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$700. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$345** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by December 6, 2017 (Tour I) or December 14, 2017 (Tour II). We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour fees (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult

with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at [www.fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.htm](http://www.fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.htm) and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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Field Guides Incorporated is an authorized permittee of the Pawnee National Grassland.