

ITINERARY

***Great Rivers of the Amazon I:
Exploring the Rio Aripuana***
October 30–November 14, 2017



We'll be aboard the Tumbira for nearly two weeks of birding exploration on the little-known Rio Aripuana, and on the Rio Madeira. Photo copyright guide Bret Whitney.

We include here information for those interested in one of the 2017 Field Guides Great Rivers of the Amazon I 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:

- 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

You may not have heard of the Rio Aripuana. If you have, it was probably in the context of the epic Roosevelt-Rondon Expedition of 1914 that charted a mysterious Amazonian river. You see, the Aripuana is, in her biogeographic-barrier role, the lower "River of Doubt", the upper reaches of which Coronel Rondon famously named for *ex-presidente* Theodore. The Rio Aripuana is a right-bank tributary of the great Rio Madeira, and it was she who carried the expedition back to civilization (such as Manaus uniquely was, back in 1914 Amazonia). One of the remarkable things about the Aripuana is that she has aged so well these 100 years despite being poorly preserved. She continues to be one of the most

hauntingly beautiful rivers in the Amazon basin, her long curves veiled in tall, dark forests few men have come to know. Indeed, she's a rich, old courser whose secrets have just begun to emerge. It is a tremendous privilege to be alive in this day, 2017, while she holds wild and free.

On the grand scale, the Rio Aripuana is one of the most important rivers in the Rio Madeira – Tapajos interfluvium. As such, almost all of the endemic birds of that vast region occur at some point along the Aripuana, including the multiple new species on the Rio Roosevelt that were recently described by Bret and colleagues in the *Special Volume of Handbook of the Birds of the World* (published June, 2013). Some central Amazonian endemics make it east to the upper Tapajos basin around Alta Floresta (e.g., Kawall's Parrot, Black-girdled Barbet, Snow-capped Manakin, Tooth-billed Wren), but others are more restricted, such as Bald Parrot, Hoffmann's Woodcreeper, White-breasted Antbird, Pale-faced Antbird, Black-bellied Gnateater, and Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher (really a tody-tyrant). The Aripuana, we have learned in recent years, is itself a remarkably effective barrier to dispersal of birds and mammals, and there are numerous species that occur on only one side, sometimes being replaced by other, sister-species (or subspecies) across the river. This phenomenon is poorly studied along "second-order" rivers such as the Aripuana (as compared to "major" rivers like the Amazon, Negro, Madeira, and Tapajos), but will be a focus of our birding attention, as we strive to determine whether certain species are indeed limited to one side or the other. Powerful and often widespread paleohistorical events shaped the landscape across the Amazon basin, and these earth forces resulted in the complex contemporary distributions of animals.

Just to whet your whistle, a few of the special missions we'll accept are finding the as-yet-undescribed shrike-vireo Bret discovered several years ago (he has confirmed that it occurs on only the right bank of the Aripuana), and also the ultra-rare Dwarf Marmoset (*Cebuella [Calibella] humilis*), a tiny, highly distinctive primate ancestral to the evolution of most of the Amazonian marmosets. It occurs exclusively on the left bank of the Aripuana, thence a short distance south. And on our 2017 tour, we'll be making a special effort to find – and actually see! – a Dwarf Manatee. This very rare creature was described new to science only in 2015, and remains virtually unknown in life. We will be in that one special place where it is known to live, and November is said (by local people) to be the best month of the year for seeing it, as the water is quite low and especially clear. There will be a great deal more!

Our live-aboard boat is simply fabulous. It has numerous, twin-bedded, air-conditioned rooms, each with private bathroom, a fully stocked bar (delicious, refreshing *caipirinhas* at hand!), and a wonderful cook and friendly, fun staff to take care of us all the way. Many of you have been with us on these boats over 20+ years of our "Rio Negro Paradise" tours, and you know what a dream it is to travel the Amazon in this level of comfort and safety, with your Field Guides guides calling the shots. So, we invite you to return for another run of a very different nature, or jump aboard for your first thrilling Amazon journey.



This satellite image shows a typical section of the lower Rio Aripuana. This beautiful, clearwater river has many narrow blackwater tributaries, and the main course is cluttered with islands that no ornithologist has explored. Image captured from Google Earth.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace: Most days will see us up for breakfast before first light, then back to the *Tumbira* for lunch and a siesta. We'll be back afield in the afternoon, and we will offer spotlighting and owling trips on several evenings or early mornings. Thus, the rhythm of our days will be overall quite relaxing. That said, we will be birding mostly on narrow, freshly opened trails up to about 3 kilometers long (one-way; mostly about half of this) to access particular habitat types, such as isolated *campinas* in from the bank of the river. **PLEASE NOTE** that walking on these trails will be challenging and require heightened attention, as there will be lots of short, sharp stubs, root masses, fallen trees and rotting trunks to scramble over, small streams to wade or cross, perhaps on improvised log "bridges", etc. You should be prepared to confront these kinds of obstacles on a regular basis, and for hundreds of meters of walking, on most of the days of the tour. Of course, we will never be charging along such paths, but always walking slowly, listening for birds and ant swarms, mammals, etc. Although early November is typically a dry period in this part of Amazonia, we are likely to encounter some serious mud and rain here and there. The climate will be very warm, ranging between about 75 and 90 F, with high humidity. To reach *terra firme* terraces for birding, on some days we will have to ascend very steep banks, perhaps for more than 30 meters. We will always plan to have our crew cut steps into the bank to aid in going up and down, but these places can be quite tiring and difficult for some participants to negotiate.

If you feel that such birding conditions are possibly "too much" for you -- in your own best interest and to help ensure that the rest of the group is not compromised -- please find another tour to participate on.

About the Birding Areas



Field Guides group hiking in primary forest along the Rio Aripuana.
Photo by participant Rick Woodruff.

The Rio Aripuana is a classic clearwater river, born on the Brazilian shield and coursing through hundreds of miles of ancient, highly weathered clays and sands. It is not so dark or tannic (acidic) as blackwater, yet is far more toward that end of the spectrum than is, say the Rio Madeira, which carries a heavy load of silt from Andean snowfields. The basin holds vast areas of uncut primary *terra firme* (never flooded) forest. Most of this grows on ancient, upland terraces, often several hundred meters off the river bank, but there is also a lower terrace of probably "younger" terra firme forest. We will want to explore both of these major biotopes, and also the relatively narrow band of seasonally flooded forest just above the river and on islands in the main river channel. There are differing bird communities in each of these habitats. Another flooded habitat we'll bird to some extent is *igapo*, which is almost permanently flooded woodland. Also of interest are some isolated *campinas* and *campinaranas*, or sandy-soil forests, of varying stature. Some areas are almost like savannas with open ground on deep white sands, while others are shrubby or have taller forest with a high density of thin trunks, and narrow canopies of uniform height. We may be able to access at least one *campina* on our tour.

En route back to Manaus, we will have nearly three days to bird "whitewater" habitats along the Madeira and Amazonas rivers dramatically different from those along the clearwater Aripuana. These habitats are more ephemeral, and the avifauna shows little overlap with that of the Aripuana.



*Looking out over the mouth of the clearwater Rio Aripuana to the whitewater (silt-laden, muddy) Rio Madeira.
Photo by guide Bret Whitney.*

Itinerary for Great Rivers of the Amazon I: Birding the Rio Aripuana

Day 1, Mon, 30 Oct. Arrival in Manaus. As of the writing of this itinerary, flights depart Miami at 5:30 p.m. and arrive in Manaus that evening (the flight is direct, only about 5 hours, same time-zone!). For those who will need to leave home a day early in order to reach Miami in time for the flight to Manaus, we will be happy to help with overnight arrangements in Miami.

You will be met outside customs by your bus driver who will have a Field Guides sign. The drive to the hotel is less than half an hour. Once there, your guides will fill you in on the plan for tomorrow. Night at the Tropical Hotel, Manaus.

Day 2, Tue, 31 Oct. Manaus to Novo Aripuana. We'll depart the hotel early to arrive at the port of Manaus in good time for our 06:00 departure via speedboat to the little town of Novo Aripuana at the mouth of the Rio Aripuana, a right-bank tributary of the great Rio Madeira. When we say "speedboat" we mean a long, slim, sturdy, enclosed-cabin boat with a center aisle and 10+ rows of two seats each (airplane style), a restroom and meals on board, even movies, and powered by twin 200 Hp motors. In other words, it's pretty cushy compared to almost any other water-borne conveyance in the Amazon. Most if not all of the trip will be smooth as glass. We'll arrive at about 3:00 p.m., and settle into our rooms on the *Tumbira*, which will have departed Manaus a couple of days ahead of us. Later this afternoon, we may visit the large island in the Rio Madeira, just off of Novo Aripuana.

River islands in the whitewater Rio Madeira are highly dynamic landforms. At the upstream end of the islands, material is constantly being eroded, the flow of the river eating away at the substrate under what is often tall and mature forest that has stood on larger islands for decades. The downstream end of the islands, by contrast, has a marked

progression of successional plant stages, from last year's silty tip with its emerging grass and shrubbery to progressively older, mixed stands of cane grass, Cecropias, morning-glory tangles, and other fast-growing vegetation farther back. This early successional plant community harbors a specialized avifauna. The island we'll visit has not, to our knowledge, been surveyed for birds (aside from a brief visit by Bret 10+ years ago), so it will be very interesting to see what we turn up there in a couple of hours today. One thing is certain: we will see a good number of species here that we'll not see anywhere on the Rio Aripuana! We may stay out past dusk as well, to try for nightjars and do some spotlighting for other critters. Night aboard the *Tumbira*.

Day 3, Wed, 1 Nov. Novo Aripuana to Nova Olinda. We'll probably start this morning with island birding near the mouth of the Aripuana, then continue upriver to the little community of Nova Olinda, on the left bank. (Note: we refer to "right" and "left" banks of Amazonian rivers because much of their courses are not north-south, but meandering tracks with huge curves and loops. Thus, the "right" and "left" always refer to the bank of the river seen as one moves downstream.) Night aboard the *Tumbira*.

Days 4-5, Thu-Fri, 2-3 Nov. Nova Olinda area; continuing up the Rio Aripuana. The first massive, *terra firme* bluff one encounters headed upriver on the Aripuana is the site of the small community of Nova Olinda. The village will probably be some 90 feet above the river level in early November, requiring a rather lengthy walk up an incline of narrow, wooden steps. We'll bird *terra firme* trails behind the village, and also some of the *varzea* (seasonally flooded forest) nearer the river, in search of mixed-species flocks in the understory and canopy, and also the little-known Dwarf Marmoset, here very near its type locality (meaning, the place from which it was first described just a couple of decades ago). Clearings near the community also provide good vantage points for birding the forest edge and seeing canopy species. Nights aboard the *Tumbira*.

Days 6-12, Sat-Fri, 4-10 Nov. Birding exploration of the Rio Aripuana. This full week will see us on the trail all morning and again, most days, late in the afternoon, with a couple of hours to rest after lunch. We'll be on foot most of the time, sifting through understory and canopy flocks, digging out woodcreepers, leaf-tossers, and gnateaters, and staking out antswarms in search of White-breasted Antbird and Pale-faced Antbird. It will be important to work trails on both banks of the Aripuana, and also to bird at least a couple of islands in the river. We'll definitely want to do some nocturnal birding at one or more of our stops as well!

There are no established trails or other birding amenities anywhere along the Rio Aripuana. Bret and a small crew of guys will have gone up the river a good ways several weeks ahead of the tour to select and clear some birding sites, and locate existing paths and streams that we can take good advantage of for birding forest interiors. Our general plan is to make two-day stops, to allow time for birding both banks of the river at several latitudes. This lower stretch of the Rio Aripuana is free of rapids, and is usually passable by a boat the size of the *Tumbira* at any season. Our progress will depend, of course, on November, 2017 water levels. However, no matter how far up we manage to go, there will be plenty of birding available, and we will have the great luxury of total flexibility in our plans. We'll probably drop anchor near the mouth of the Aripuana on the evening of 7 Nov. Nights aboard the *Tumbira*.

Days 13-14, Sat-Sun, 11-12 Nov. Birding down the Rio Madeira and up the Amazonas to Manaus. The Rio Madeira is the longest tributary of the Amazon. From her headwaters in Cochabamba, Bolivia to her meeting with the Amazon below Manaus, she is over 2000 miles long! The Madeira is very different from the Aripuana in that it is a classic "whitewater" (muddy) river, carrying a massive load of Andean silt that it deposits along its banks and on hundreds of river islands along its course. Thus, most of the birds we'll see during these final three mornings of birding will be different from those we'll have seen on the Aripuana. Some of the special *varzea* species include Chestnut-capped Puffbird, the little-known *Varzea* Piculet, the distinctive subspecies *obidensis* of Plain Softtail (a sure split) and perhaps the fancy Glossy Antshrike, plus Cinereous Becard and possibly Ashy-headed and Gray-chested greenlets. There is a large suite of "island endemics" to be sought on the Madeiran and upper Amazonas islands, such as Streak-throated Hermit, Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Castelnau's Antshrike, Leaden Antwren, Black-and-white Antbird, Lesser Hornero, Scaled, Parker's, Red-and-white, and White-bellied spinetails, Brownish Elaenia, Riverside Tyrant, River Tyrannulet, and Pearly-breasted and Bicolored conebills. Chestnut-fronted Macaws, Short-tailed Parrots, and Tui Parakeets will be everywhere. There is likely to be some muddy walking at our various landing points along the Madeira/Amazonas, so rubber boots are a good (ahem, excellent) idea. Don't worry about tracking mud on the boat—the crew will happily clean your boots every time you come aboard.

Coming off the mouth of the Madeira, we'll point the bow upstream for the return voyage to Manaus with a top-deck lunch and siesta time as we pass through areas that we transited in the speedlaunch on the downstream journey.

Numerous species of birds typical of open habitats in south-central Brazil and the llanos of Venezuela and Roraima have colonized disturbed, deforested areas along the Amazonas. Keep an eye open this afternoon (if you can!) for Savanna Hawk, Buff-necked Ibis, Southern Lapwing, and White Woodpecker, along with migrant shorebirds like American Golden-Plover, both yellowlegs, and Solitary and Spotted sandpipers. Nights aboard the *Tumbira*.

Day 15, Mon, 13 Nov. Docking at Manaus; flights home. Around lunchtime today we'll pass by the dramatic "meeting of the waters," where the Negro flows into the Amazonas—with Manaus off in the background. The different temperatures and densities of the two rivers cause them to run in parallel for many miles before gradually mixing far downriver. On the way into Manaus this afternoon, there will be plenty of time to rest, organize luggage, and get cleaned up for our farewell dinner on the boat, before we head over to the airport for flights home. Direct flights to Miami currently depart at around midnight. *Que tenham uma ótima viagem!*

Day 16, Tue, 14 Nov. Arrival in Miami. Flights from Manaus arrive very early in Miami, allowing for convenient homeward connections.



The Tumbira below a bluff on the Rio Aripuana, Photo by participant Rick Woodruff.

About Your Guides

Bret Whitney must be at least half Brazilian by now. It all began when he was born, birding in the wild Midwest, mostly in Indiana, where he was narrowly overlooked by his high school baseball team but did, in fact, graduate from Earlham College. He is known for his ability to identify birds by their calls and songs, which has led to his stumbling onto multiple species new to science. Bret is one of the founders of Field Guides, a Research Associate of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University, an Associate of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell, 2004 recipient of the ABA's Ludlow Griscom award, and an eternal optimist about everything except Ivory-billed Woodpeckers.

Bret guides most of our Brazil tours and, with Brazilian colleagues, he is supposed to be producing a series of regional field guides to the birds of Brazil. Over the past 16 years, he has probably spent more time investigating the avifauna of the lower Aripuana region than anyone else. When not on tour, "the Kite" attempts to stay in shape with irregular bike rides, by leaning over pool tables, and by hefting kegs of Live Oak Pilsner and dumping 35-lb sacks of spicy crawfish, corn, and potatoes onto old doors covered with newspapers so his family and friends can pig out at his crawfish boils. Oh yes, and by stirring cauldrons of Brazilian *moqueca* and playing lots of rowdy blowball at the Field Guides business meeting, excellent for the c-v pump and eye-mouth coordination.

Please visit <http://fieldguides.com/guides> for a look at Bret's complete tour schedule.

Marcelo Barreiros is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who became fascinated with birds when he entered college in 2005, graduating with a degree in biology in 2009. He then moved to Manaus to work with conservation of Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, monitoring nests in both the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest regions. Today, Marcelo's depth of expertise in finding and identifying even the rarest species in has earned him an outstanding reputation among the leading fieldmen in Amazonia and, increasingly, all of Brazil. He and his wife have recently (2015) moved back to Sao Paulo to be closer to family and the wonderful beaches and Atlantic Forest. Marcelo is a friendly, generous guide with an even temperament and ready laugh, who truly enjoys showing birds to tour participants. His English is good and improving with study and increased experience with foreign birders.

Financial Information

FEE: \$7775 from Manaus

DEPOSIT: \$775 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 2, 2017

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$225 (singles aboard the boat cannot be guaranteed but will very likely be available)

LIMIT: 10

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: In Manaus, we will stay in the very nice Hotel Tropical. Our riverboat, the *Tumbira* (13 nights), is nigh-on luxurious, featuring private (two bunks), air-conditioned cabins with private bathrooms, fully stocked bar, and great meals any time we want them.

DOCUMENTS: A current passport is necessary for US citizens to enter Brazil. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change.

In addition, you will need a visa to enter Brazil. Our office will forward you visa application instructions.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Brazilian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

VACCINATIONS: Yellow Fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please check <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentYellowFeverBrazil.aspx> for the current CDC information and consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals).

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: 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 \$7775 for one person in double occupancy from Manaus. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 14, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through dinner on Day 15, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour 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 Manaus, airport taxes, visa fees, 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 \$225; singles aboard the boat cannot be guaranteed. 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 enclosed Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$775** 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 July 2, 2017. 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 (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 another guide for the original one. Where this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members, and they will have the right to cancel their participation and receive a full refund.

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 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.

28/02/17 BW

3/17 peg