

ITINERARY

BIRDING PLUS

IRELAND IN SPRING: BIRDS, TRADITIONAL MUSIC & PUBS

May 4-14 2017



The Cliffs of Moher offer some of the most scenic cliff-side views in Ireland. Atlantic Puffins, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Razorbill nest on these magnificent cliffs. Photo by guide Terry McEneaney.

We include here information for those interested in the 2017 Field Guides Ireland: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs 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 triplist

Field Guides offers two quite different Birding Plus tours to Ireland, both of which emphasize traditional music and pubs: spring birding in Ireland features boreal migrants returning from their wintering grounds in North and sub-Saharan Africa and pelagic birds returning from wintering at sea to nest on Ireland's western cliffs; fall birding in Ireland includes Northern Ireland and features the vast populations of wintering waterfowl and shorebirds that retreat from Arctic Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Siberia, and Fenno-Scandia to the island's Gulf Stream-warmed counties of the east. Although resident species are enjoyed on both tours, the avian character of each is decidedly distinct, as are the landscapes and cultural areas visited. Needless to say, the opportunities for enjoying unique traditional Irish music sessions and Irish pubs are redoubled.

Our goal on this IRELAND IN SPRING tour is to show you Ireland as the Irish know it—to meet its people, take in the culture, visit unique pubs, listen to outstanding traditional Irish music, and enjoy its surprisingly delicious gourmet food—while at the same time watch Ireland’s birds as we travel the southern half of the Emerald Isle. By now you have probably heard of the famed “Irish spring,” the rejuvenation period that transforms winter quickly into summer. This is essentially an “Irish spring birding trip.” Many of the waterfowl and passerines that have wintered in Ireland have returned to their far-away nesting areas in Arctic Canada, Greenland, Iceland, northern Europe, and Siberia. But the month of May is an absolutely beautiful time of the year to be in Ireland. The tourists are starting to arrive and so are the migrant birds that have spent their winters south of Ireland or out at sea. The deciduous trees and shrubs have all finally leafed out, and the Irish resident birds, along with the Irish songbirds that wintered in places like North and Sub-Saharan Africa, have made their presence obvious in their respective habitats.



Red-billed Choughs are found near the coast; here, two soar over the waves. Photo by participant Lisa Spellman.

At the same time, the Irish pelagic and coastal/littoral seabirds are beginning to show up on nesting colonies such as rocky islands, cliffs, and sea stacks of the west. So Irish landbirds and seabirds are a magnificent highlight of this tour. Birds to be enjoyed include: Northern Fulmar, Northern Gannet, (Atlantic) Puffin, Razorbill, (Black-legged) Kittiwake, Shag, Common Murre, Black Guillemot, perhaps Manx Shearwater, White-throated Dipper, Red-billed Chough, Stonechat, Meadow and Rock pipits, Pied and Grey wagtails, Common Swift, Wood Pigeon, Stock Dove, Common House Martin, and Eurasian Bullfinch. We will also attempt to locate the harder-to-find species such as Water Rail and Red Grouse as well as rare species recently re-introduced to Ireland such as the White-tailed Eagle and Red Kite. For the musical thrill of thrushes, we’ll be on the lookout (and listen) for Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, and Common Blackbird. Other residents we are likely to see include Linnet, Chaffinch, European Greenfinch, Reed Bunting, and the many beautifully colored and

charismatic tits—including Coal, Blue, Great, and Long-tailed. And we’re sure to get our fill of corvids, no doubt the commonest diverse family resident year-round in Ireland (Eurasian Jays, Common Magpies, Red-billed Choughs, Rooks, Western Jackdaws, Hooded Crows, and Common Ravens). We’ll also pay special attention to the three unique Irish races or *hibernicus* subspecies meaning “wintering or Ireland”—Coal Tit, White-throated Dipper, and Eurasian Jay—and the unusual morph or *scoticus* taxon of Willow Ptarmigan, the Red Grouse, found only in Ireland and the British Isles. The Red Grouse never turns completely white and so its coloration blends in perfectly with the heather, moors, bracken ferns, and bogs. Some of these will be difficult to find (Red Grouse, Water Rail, Red Kite, and White-tailed Eagle), but we’ll give it our best effort and hopefully the “luck be with us.” And while Ireland is not considered a birding hotspot, the experience of watching birds on the Emerald Isle is one of life’s great pleasures.

We choose to bird southern Ireland in spring for a variety of reasons—the 40 shades of green; seabirds and sea stacks; mountains and glens; sea cliffs and scenery; rivers and lakes; hill and vale; ancient forests and rolling hills of heather; birds and scenery; birds and culture; birds and regional music. Watching birds in Ireland is the rationale we use to also enjoy traditional Irish music and visit Irish pubs of many persuasions. Irish pubs are the cultural center of the Irish community—where you will hear stories, jokes, history, poetry, music, and even truthful information at times—so a tour of Ireland that doesn’t include the pubs is not a tour of Ireland at all. We’ll visit a variety of pubs, especially those designed for conversation with others featuring traditional music. And we guarantee, the traditional Irish music we have lined up is some of the best Ireland has to offer, and this grand Irish experience takes place in some of the most scenic landscapes in all of Ireland. An added highlight of the tour is the surprisingly delicious gourmet food found in Ireland in recent years.

This tour begins and ends in Shannon, Ireland, with beginning of the tour starting at Shannon and the last nights in Ennis, Ireland with a short shuttle to the Shannon airport for the final departure. On day one once everyone is accounted for, we’ll head east indirectly through the Slieve Blooms (mountains) for County Wicklow and a Shangri-la-like area of the Wicklow Mountains known as Glendalough, which means “a glen between two lakes.” We’ll search for birds in stunning habitats—the Wicklow Mountains, Vale of Avoca, and a place called “The Meeting of the Waters” where Thomas Moore

penned his famous song of the same name. Leaving the Glendalough area, we head further south to County Wexford and Lady's Island Lake and then west to Dungarvan, exploring lagoons, mudflats, sand beaches or strands, and estuaries en route. Along the way we'll also be visiting special pubs and unique Irish landmarks.

On the second half of this birding journey we'll travel to extreme southwest Ireland, one of the most scenic areas of the Emerald Isle. We have lined up a few music memorable Irish sessions, and a host of surprises. Near Skibbereen, we'll see few if any visitors and visit a landlocked saltwater lake natural area. Further west, we'll make stops for birds on the rolling landscape and breathtaking scenery of the Ring of Kerry and Iveragh Peninsula, and the sea cliffs of the Valentia Island, Dingle Peninsula and Sleah Head. We'll also visit the ancient forests and crystal blue lakes of Killarney National Park, and for those who wish, stroll along the lakes and below the mountains called the "Magillicuddy Reeks."

On our final leg of the journey, we continue in a northerly direction skirting the River Shannon, the longest river in Ireland. Then we'll visit some of the most extensive and majestic sea cliffs in all of Ireland, the Cliffs of Moher. Here we will look for seabirds we may have missed including Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill, and Black-legged Kittiwake. We'll then continue through a limestone natural area known as "The Burren" and stay the night in Ennis. We'll be leaving Ireland with lots of stories and adventures to tell.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace:

This tour is an excellent introduction to Ireland, its birds, and outstanding culture, and it combines an adventurous experience with superb three- to four-star hotel accommodations. The walking is easy and rarely more than a two to three miles each day. There will be no pelagic trips due to unsettled waters this time of year, however a land birding trip on Valentia Island and the Cliffs of Moher are planned to look for the harder to find seabirds.

Our travel distances vary, but though a day's journey may not look far on a map, it may still take a fair amount of time because of the many historic towns and winding roads we'll encounter. We will be traveling on Irish time, meaning if we see something interesting we'll stop and modify plans, so the key is to be flexible. The Irish developed a special time unique to the Emerald referred to "ish". So everything is plus or minus 15 minutes or "ish". It is the flexibility of Ireland time that takes a little adjusting, but at the same time makes Ireland so much fun.



*A Field Guides group looking for Red Grouse. The weather is variable, but that won't keep us from getting out and enjoying what Ireland has to offer!
Photo by guide Karen McEneaney.*

Although we'll seek out many of the birds of the Emerald Isle, listing is not the main goal of the tour, and weather conditions can affect migrant arrival and success in finding birds. The option should all else fail, is your guides' ability to find interesting pubs. We will see a diversity of birdlife and large numbers of corvids and seabirds and some gulls, shorebirds, waterfowl, and songbirds. By tour's end we should have a bird list approaching 90-100 species.

Temperatures in this North Atlantic humid maritime climate will be mild to cool, ranging from 40 to 60 degrees F, and you can expect both overcast and occasionally sunny skies, some rain, and the famous Irish mist. Rain gear is essential, and we suggest dressing in layers so that as the day warms up, you can easily shed an outer layer.

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.

*And those that don't love us,
May God turn their hearts.
And if He doesn't turn their hearts,
May He turn their ankles,
So we'll know them by their limping.*

About the Birding Areas, the Music, Pubs, and Culture

This tour is designed to combine birds, music, pubs, gastro pubs, and culture. Our journey will take us to some of the best spring bird watching and seabird nesting sites in Ireland—Wicklow Mountains, Wicklow Mountains National Park, Glendalough, Wexford, Killarney National Park, Valentia Island, Dingle Peninsula, The Burren, and the Cliffs of Moher—as well as some special surprises. The music we have lined up will be superb.

The pubs are the key to experiencing Irish culture. Although we cannot guarantee traditional Irish music every night, at a minimum we will have traditional Irish music every other night and maybe more. We have recruited local musical talent and will make visits to special Irish pubs as we travel the Emerald Isle. On some occasions, and depending on group size, we will show you the pub venues and may have to split up to blend in to the pub scene. Be aware that most traditional Irish music does not occur until 0930pm with pubs closing typically at 1130pm. So it is imperative that one rests before going out for the craic “fun”, since we will be birding the following morning. This is the perfect trip to experience the Irish and their culture. We’ll do it all—birds, sightseeing, instrumental music and Irish songs, pubs, poetry, storytelling, culture, history, people, and laughter.

*I went into a hazel wood, because a fire was in my head.
I cut and peeled a hazel wand, and hooked a berry to a thread.
And when white moths were on the wing, and moth-like stars were fluttering out,
I dropped the berry in a steam, and caught a little silver trout.*



Itinerary for Ireland in Spring: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs

Days 1-2, Thu-Fri, 4-5 May. Flights from the US to Shannon; to Glendalough. Most flights depart the US in the evening, arriving in Ireland the following morning. **We suggest coming a day early to adjust to jet lag, which is quite common. Our guides typically meet everyone in the lobby of the Bunratty Castle Hotel on the morning of May 5. Our planned departure for Glendalough on May 5 is at 8:30 a.m.**

The grounds of the Bunratty Castle Hotel offer a nice introduction to some of the resident passerines. Some birds found near the hotel include Common House Martin, Barn Swallow, Common Blackbird, Song Thrush, Dunnock, and Winter Wren. We chose the Bunratty Castle area because there is plenty to do and see before the start of the tour such as visiting the Bunratty Castle, the nearby Folk Park (a reconstruction of old Ireland), and an Irish pub known as Dirty Nelly's.

Once we leave the Bunratty area we will do some casual birding en route to one of the great “shangri-la” areas of Ireland. Our first stop is the Slieve Bloom Mountains where we will search for Red Grouse, Stonechat, Northern Harrier, and Meadow Pipit, and Common Skylark. We’ll also casually bird the Irish countryside on the way to the Wicklow Mountains. When we reach our hotel in Glen of the Downs/County Wicklow, we may have some time to bird the hotel grounds before our evening social hour in a pub followed by an introductory dinner at the hotel. Night in Glen of the Downs.

*Last night as I lay dreaming,
Of pleasant years gone by,
My mind was bent on rambling,
To Ireland I did fly.
I stepped aboard a vision and,
I followed with a will,
And next I came to anchor at
The Cross at Spancel Hill.*

Day 3, Sat, 6 May. Glendalough to Dungarvan. For those who wish, we’ll bird the hotel grounds for an hour before our 7:30 a.m. breakfast. We’ll plan to be on our way to the Wicklow Mountains by 8:30 a.m. We’ll have a variety of habitats and areas to visit including Glendalough, and Vale of Avoca. Among the birds we have targeted for the day include Northern Wheatear, Meadow Pipit, White-throated Dipper, Common Raven, Eurasian Treecreeper, Blackcap, Stonechat, Chiffchaff, and Willow Warbler.



*Irish pub music is a special part of this tour.
Photo by guide Karen McEneaney.*

As we head out through the Vale of Avoca, we will be looking for the rare Red Kite; fewer than 50 individuals have been introduced thus far, making this a difficult bird to locate. We’ll also visit the Wexford area, primarily looking for Great Crested and Little grebes and terns— Arctic, Common, Sandwich, and perhaps Roseate. With luck we could encounter a Hen Harrier.

Later in the day we’ll have the rare treat of experiencing an Irish session in a special Irish pub. Night in Dungarvan.

*I am the mountainy singer—
The voice of the peasant’s dream,
The cry of the wind on the wooded hill,
The leap of the fish in the stream.*

*No other life I sing,
For I am sprung of the stock
That broke the hilly land for bread,
And built the nest in the rock.*

Day 4, Sun, 7 May. Dungarvan to Skibbereen. After breakfast we’ll load up the bus and head for Skibbereen. En route we will try for Sedge, Grasshopper, and Reed Bunting. We’ll spend much of the day passing through some amazing coastal and hilly landscapes. We will try to have a special music session lined up tonight in the quaint town of Skibbereen. Night in Skibbereen.

*I hear an old song that keeps haunting me ever
The good times rush back, with the well loved refrain
The sweet wine is flowing, the bright laughter ringing
And all my old friends, gather round me again*

Day 5, Mon, 8 May. Skibbereen to Killarney. After breakfast (with bags on the bus) our first stop is an easy walk around a beautiful natural landlocked saltwater lake known as Lough Hyne. Target bird for this stop is the secretive Eurasian Jay. The rest of the day will be spent around Killarney and Killarney National Park. We’ll get some exercise by walking around this beautiful land of lakes, mountains, and ancient forests. Target birds include Eurasian Treecreeper, Long-tailed Tit, Blackcap, Gray Wagtail, Eurasian Jay, and Willow Warbler. The more difficult bonus bird—a long shot—

would be a White-tailed Eagle. (The birds were introduced into Killarney National Park in 2007.) People might be interested in walking the grounds of the hotel taking in the incredible scenery of lakes and mountains or visiting a watering hole at the hotel tonight! Red Deer can be found out the window of the hotel. Night in Killarney.

*From Bantry Bay, up to Derry Qua,
And from Galway, to Dublin town,
No maid I've seen, like the sweet colleen
That I met, in the County Down.*



Killarney National Park. We will spend two nights in this wonderful setting. Photo by guide Karen McEneaney.

Day 6, Tue, 9 May. Killarney. After breakfast and weather permitting, we will head for Valentia Island and distant views of the Skellig Islands from afar. Target birds include Northern Fulmar, Northern Gannet, Shag, and Red-billed Chough. In Killarney we will search further for Spotted Flycatcher, Gray Wagtail, Blackcap, Goldcrest, and Eurasian Bullfinch. On one of the two nights in Killarney we will have a traditional music session lined up. Night in Killarney.

*A statesman is an easy man, he tells his lies by rote.
A journalist invents his lies, and rams them down your throat.
So stay at home and drink your beer, and let the neighbors vote.*

Day 7, Wed, 10 May. Killarney to Dingle. Following breakfast, we'll bade farewell to the beautiful "Killarney lakes so blue" and head for the spectacular Dingle Peninsula. We have some special stops planned, including a walk on a long sand beach called Inch Strand. We have a unique session lined up for the evening. In search of the *craic* tonight in Dingle.

*There was a wild colonial boy, Jack Duggan was his name.
He was born and raised in Ireland, in a place called Castlemaine.
He was his father's only son, his mother's pride and joy,
And dearly did his parents love the wild colonial boy.*

Day 8, Thu, 11 May. Dingle. After an early breakfast—we'll head for the tip of the Dingle Peninsula and Sleat Head. Target birds will include Red-billed Chough, Rock and Meadow pipits, Northern Wheatear, and seabirds similar to those found on Valentia Island. We'll also be on the lookout for Peregrine and Grasshopper Sparrow. We'll finish up with a night of musical *craic*. Night in Dingle.

*While going to the fair at Dingle
One fine morning last July
While going up the road before me
A red-haired girl I chanced to spy*

Day 9, Fri, 12 May. Dingle to Ennis. On our final leg of the journey, we'll continue in a northerly direction skirting the the coast and the River Shannon, the longest river in Ireland. Then we will bird a stately Irish castle. Tonight we search for a session. Night in Ennis.

*In the merry month of June, from me home I started,
Left the girls at Tuam, nearly broken hearted,
Saluted father dear, kissed me darling mother,
Drank a pint of beer, me grief and tears to smother,
Then off to reap the corn, leave where I was born,
Cut a stout black thorn, to banish ghosts and goblins:
Bough a pair of brogues, rattling o'er the bogs
And frightening all the dogs, on the rocky road to Dublin.*

Day 10, Sat, 13 May. Ennis. Today we'll explore a great natural area of Ireland. We'll visit some of the most extensive and majestic sea cliffs in all of Ireland, called the Cliffs of Moher. Here we will look for seabirds we may have missed including Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill, Common Murre, Northern Fulmar, and Black-legged Kittiwake. We'll continue through a limestone natural area known as "The Burren" and search for Common Whitethroat and Common Cuckoo. Tonight we will search for fiddle music or some form of great traditional Irish music. Night in Ennis.

*One, two, three, four, five,
Hunt the hare,
And turn down the rocky road,
All the way to Dublin.
Wack fol lol de rah!*

Day 11, Sun, 14 May. Ennis to Shannon; Departure for home. Most flights back to the US depart mid morning, arriving by mid-afternoon; we will arrange transfers to the airport in groups as long as your flight departs between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. It is a twenty minute trip from Ennis to the Shannon airport. If your flight is significantly earlier or later, we can arrange a shuttle, taxi or a bus for you. **Slan abhaile!** Have a safe trip home!

About Your Guides

Terry McEneaney is a retired Yellowstone National Park ornithologist, where he was known for his extensive knowledge and experience of the park and of the Greater Yellowstone area. Prior to coming to Yellowstone, he was biologist at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, one of the most prestigious, remote, and beautiful refuges in the NWR system. He has authored three books (*Birds of Yellowstone*, *The Uncommon Loon*, and *Birding Montana*). He has also written numerous scientific and popular articles, appeared in magazine articles in *National Geographic*, *Birding*, *North American Birds*, and *Smithsonian*, and has been field consultant and cinematographer guide for Nature, the BBC, the National Geographic Society, and *Audubon*. Terry has developed a number of western itineraries for Field Guides over the years, and his guiding skills have been featured in the book *Fifty Places to Go Birding Before You Die*. Terry has dual US/Irish citizenship, and close ties to the Emerald Isle, a country he loves to visit and to bird. He has his own Traditional Irish music sessions at his house in Montana featuring some of Ireland's top performers. Take a look at his personal website, www.ravenidiot.com to see what you are getting into, or googling You Tube and Terry's session house called "Tossie's West."

Visit <http://fieldguides.com/guides> for Terry's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Karen McEneaney, a former art teacher, has recently retired from Yellowstone National Park where she was a ranger specializing in guiding film crews from around the globe. If you have ever seen a Yellowstone documentary or news clip on Yellowstone, chances are Karen was involved as the park's film monitor for those projects. Karen has illustrated two books, *Birds of Yellowstone* and *Birding Montana*. In addition, she is a great organizer of logistics and lunches, and has, according to past tour participants, a glowing personality. She's one of the hidden treasures you could discover on any of her husband's tours.

Financial Information

FEE: \$4375 from Shannon

DEPOSIT: \$440 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: January 4, 2017

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$590; singles may be limited in some areas and will be assigned on a 'first-come' basis.

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!

DOCUMENTS: For US citizens, a passport valid for six months beyond your return date is required for entry into Ireland. No visa is required for stays of 90 days or less.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Irish 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, so it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Please plan to arrive in Shannon on or before the morning of Day 2, May 5; we plan to depart for Glendalough at 9:30 a.m. You can plan your departure from Shannon anytime on Day 11, May 14. We will arrange transfers to the airport in groups as long as your flight departs between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. If your flight is significantly earlier or later, we can arrange a taxi for you (about \$25.00). 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. **It is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any flight(s) 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 \$4375 for one person in double occupancy from Shannon. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 10, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through breakfast (for those not leaving for the airport before 8:00 a.m.) on Day 11, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, tips for musicians and local guides, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

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

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$590. There are limited singles and they will be assigned on a 'first-come' basis. 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 \$440** 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 January 4, 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 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 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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