

ITINERARY

***Mongolia: The Gobi Desert, Steppe & Taiga***

*June 1- June 18, 2017*



*Pallas's Sandgrouse is found throughout the Mongolian steppes and grasslands, where they feed mainly on seeds and sprouting vegetation. The breeding season occurs from May through June so we will likely be watching for individuals and pairs. Photo by guide Dave Stejskal.*

We include here information for those interested in this 2017 Field Guides Mongolia: The Gobi Desert, Steppe & Taiga 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

The very romantic name Mongolia probably conjures up images of endless steppe grasslands, the vast wastes of the Gobi Desert and wild tribal horsemen. This is, after all, the land of Genghis (Chinggis or Chingiz) Khan and his successors, the dreaded Mongol hordes that swept down on the civilizations of China, India, Central Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Yet after this shattering impact on history, the Mongols faded into obscurity and today Mongolia is a little known land, sandwiched far away between Russia and China in the heart of Asia, about which one hears little.

Mongolia is still an almost empty land of awesome landscapes, where a simple, nomadic lifestyle remains the norm, a land of vast steppe grasslands, profuse wildflowers and fantastic birdlife. For anyone interested in Asian or Palearctic birds, or in travel to a very different location, Mongolia has a great deal to offer. It is one of the least densely settled countries on earth, with a tiny population of only three million scattered across a huge area. Happily, and despite the impact of various forms of communism, it is still a true wilderness, where much of the wildlife still remains. The socio-political systems are fast changing, but Mongolia remains a fascinating transition zone of east Asia, where to the north is

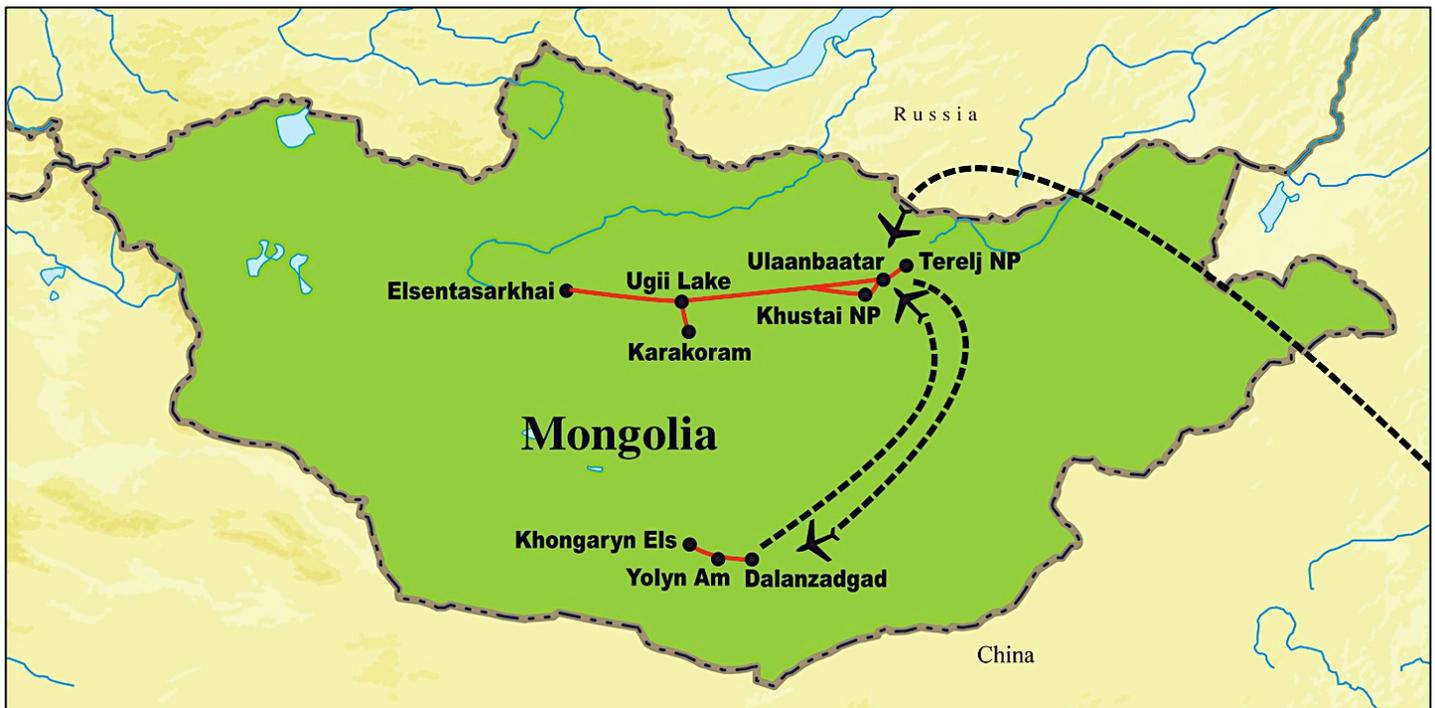
the southern edge of the great Siberian boreal forest (or taiga), in the centre the seemingly endless steppe and in the south the daunting sands of the Gobi Desert. This, plus the diversity found in the vast mountains of the Altai, Gobi Altai, Khangay and Khentiy, and a multiplicity of lakes and marshes rich in wildfowl, shorebirds and cranes, makes Mongolia a fascinating and irresistible destination.

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** Easy to moderate walking for the most part, with optional harder walks in the mountains.

**Accommodation & Road Transport:** Our hotel in Ulaanbaatar is a comfortable western style hotel. Outside of Ulaanbaatar, the ger lodges are quite simple, consisting of large, very clean, rondavel-like rooms called gers, each with several Mongolian style beds that are attractively painted. Singles will have their own private ger, and those sharing will be accommodated in a private ger, as well. Each ger has a heating stove and a washbasin. In addition to the gers, there are separate dining and toilet/shower buildings.

Roads are generally poor (or even completely lacking in some places, where one merely drives across the steppe or desert!). Our transport consists of sturdy 4x4 vehicles and a well-equipped camp truck.

## About the Birding Areas



The wide range of habitats is reflected in an exciting avifauna which encompasses both Siberian and Central Asian forms, including a number which are unique to Mongolia and its immediate surroundings. Prime specialties include Altai Snowcock, Black-billed Capercaillie, Oriental Plover, Asian Dowitcher, Swinhoe's Snipe, a chance of Relict Gull, Pallas's Sandgrouse, Mongolian Lark, Mongolian (Kozlov's) and Himalayan (Altai) Accentors, White-throated (Eversmann's) Redstart, Hodgson's Bushchat, Red-throated Thrush, Chinese Bush-Warbler, Azure Tit, Mongolian (Henderson's) Ground-Jay, Saxaul Sparrow, Père David's (Small) Snowfinch, Asian Rosy Finch, Brandt's Mountain Finch, and Pine and Pallas's buntings, while a rich supporting cast includes Swan Goose, White-winged (Stejneger's) Scoter, Pallas's Fish-Eagle, Upland Buzzard, Amur Falcon, Demoiselle and White-naped cranes, Herring (Mongolian) Gull, Hill Pigeon, Asian Short-toed Lark, Pale Sand Martin, Blyth's Pipit, Brown Accentor, White-winged (Güldenstädt's) Redstart, Eyebrowed Thrush, Thick-billed Warbler, White-crowned Penduline-Tit, Southern Gray (Steppe) Shrike, White-cheeked Starling, Mongolian Finch and Gray-hooded Bunting.

Spring in Mongolia (which really only commences in mid-May!) is a delightful season when birds are in breeding plumage, song fills the air and migrants are still passing through on their way north to Siberia. Excellent birding and travel through wide-open spaces with incredibly few friendly people make for an unforgettable experience. This is quite an

adventure, where the birds are amidst some of the most remarkable wilderness scenery on our planet! Roads are pretty poor dirt tracks in most of the country, so it takes a long time to cover any distance, but we have allowed for this in the itinerary and so there will still be lots of time for birding.

We will start our birding in the vicinity of the capital Ulaanbaatar (or Ulan Batar), where Azure Tit and Pine Bunting are to be found, and we will make a start on the waterfowl amongst the ponds. Khustai Nuruu National Park is where Przewalski's Wild Horse (*Equus przewalskii*) is being re-introduced in the country. Bird species here should include Golden Eagle, Saker Falcon, Amur Falcon, Eurasian Hobby, Cinereous Vulture, Himalayan Griffon, Daurian Partridge, Booted Eagle, Daurian Jackdaw, Black Stork, and Isabelline Shrike, Mongolian Lark and Meadow Bunting. After extensive birding, we will drive to a small spring where the wild horses drink water.

Moving westwards, we will explore areas of desert, sand dunes and the strange saxaul 'forest', haunt of the lovely Saxaul Sparrow as well as Southern Gray (Steppe) Shrike. As we travel onwards through the wide-open emptiness of the Gobi Desert, we will investigate areas of steppe and scrub, searching out the specialties of the area including the strange Mongolian (Henderson's) Ground-Jay and Asian Desert Warbler. A highlight of our journey will be the exploration of several brackish steppe lakes to the north of the Gobi Altai. Here we will have reached the breeding grounds of the fabled Relict Gull, and we can also look for Swan and Bar-headed geese, Pallas's Fish-Eagle, Baillon's Crake, Demoiselle Crane, Pallas's Gull, Asian Dowitcher, and many other interesting birds.

On one day we'll fly to Dalanzadgad town near Yolyn Am (High Mountain), which may give us the spectacular Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture), Himalayan Griffons, plus Mongolian (Kozlov's) Accentor, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch, and Wallcreeper. Altai Snowcock is one of the most challenging species for the trip but we hope to see it in this area.

There will be an opportunity to visit the marshlands east of Ulaanbaatar, for White-naped Crane, and the mountains and forested valleys of the Khentiy range where we will encounter many woodland species not found elsewhere in the country and where, in particular, we will be wanting to see the shy Black-billed Capercaillie, Ural Owl, Eyebrowed Thrush and perhaps Swinhoe's Snipe.

We will visit the great Siberian boreal forest near the end of the tour at Terelj NP, with forest and forest steppe birds such as Oriental Cuckoo, Eurasian Hoopoe, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Willow Tit, Pine Bunting, Red-throated Thrush, Siberian Rubythroat, Siberian Stonechat, White-cheeked Starling, Dusky Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Taiga Flycatcher, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Eastern Buzzard, and Blyth's Pipit. There are two challenging species here, Chinese Bush-Warbler and Black-billed Capercaillie, which will depend on local conditions. Next morning, we will drive to the east of our tourist camp to get to riparian river forest. We will try to find Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, Black Woodpecker, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Olive-backed Pipit, Common Rosefinch, and Taiga Flycatcher in breeding plumage.



*Bar-headed Geese are perhaps best known for their high-altitude migrations over the Himalayas, but we will seek them in their breeding habitat on the steppe lakes of Mongolia. Photo by participants David and Judy Smith.*

## Itinerary for Mongolia 2017

**Day 1, Thu, 1 Jun. Depart US for Mongolia.** If you have the time, we urge you to come a day or two early in order to rest up before the tour. City tours can be easily arranged for those interested.

**Day 2, Fri, 2 Jun. Arrival in Ulaanbaatar.** Upon arrival at Chinggis Khaan International Airport in Ulaanbaatar, capital of Mongolia, you will be met by our local representatives, and transfer to our hotel (which is some 30-45 minutes away, depending on the traffic). For those who arrive in the morning, we will try to make an afternoon trip to Tuul River Forest and a gravel pond to see Azure Tit, Azure-winged Magpie and White-crowned Penduline-Tit, and some waterfowl in the pond. The main tour begins with a Welcome Dinner at one of the most famous restaurants in Ulaanbaatar before returning to our comfortable western style hotel.

**Day 3, Sat, 3 Jun. Ulaanbaatar-Khustai NP.** After breakfast, we will drive to Khustai Nuruu National Park where Przewalski's Wild Horse (*Equus przewalskii*) is being re-introduced in the country. Bird species should include Golden Eagle, Saker Falcon, Cinereous Vulture, Himalayan Griffon, Meadow Bunting, Daurian Partridge, Amur Falcon, Eurasian Hobby, Booted Eagle, Daurian Jackdaw, Black Stork, Isabelline Shrike, Mongolian Lark, and Meadow Bunting. After extensive birding, we will drive to a small spring where the wild horses come to drink water. In the late evening, we'll be back to the park restaurant and have a dinner with Mongolian cold beers. Overnight in a tourist ger camp.

**Day 4, Sun, 4 Jun. Khustai National Park.** Birding Khustai National Park. Overnight in a tourist ger camp.

**Day 5, Mon, 5 Jun. Khustai National Park, and on to Ugii Lake.** Early birding in the morning in Kustai NP. After breakfast, we will head to the west to the steppe lake (Tsagaan) where we will see a number of ducks and shorebirds. The targets today will be Demoiselle Crane, White-naped Crane, probably Common Crane, Asian Dowitcher, Pallas's Bunting, Citrine, White, and Western Yellow wagtails, Bar-headed Goose, Swan Goose, Graylag Goose, and Black and White-winged terns.

We will reach a freshwater lake called Ugii Nuur in the evening. At the lake we can see White-winged Tern, Common Tern (*longipennis*), Mongolian Gull, Common Ringed Plover, Bar-headed and Swan geese, and sometimes Pallas' Fish-Eagle and White-tailed Eagle. On the western side of the lake, we will find a river delta. There we'll see thousands of Swan Geese, as well as pochards and, with luck, Asian Dowitcher. Near the ger camp, we'll find nesting Rock Sparrow, Père David's (Small) Snowfinch, and Upland Buzzard. White-winged (Stejneger's) Scoter and Dalmatian Pelican can be seen on the lakes. We'll overnight in a tourist ger camp.

**Day 6, Tue, 6 Jun. To Karakorum.** After breakfast we drive to Karakorum town where there are ruins of the Great Mongol Empire dating back to the time of Chinggis Khaan when this was the capital of Mongolia. Birding in the planted sea buckthorn shrubs near this town can be rewarding and it should be possible to discover late migrants such as Greenish and Yellow-browed warblers, flycatchers, etc. Overnight in a tourist ger camp.

**Day 7, Wed, 7 Jun. To Elsentasarkhai.** In the early morning we will drive to the east to get to sand dunes in the middle of a steppe area. We will make a concerted effort to see the breeding Arctic Loon, Eastern Marsh-Harrier, White-naped Crane, Bar-headed Goose, Oriental Reed-Warbler, and Eastern Spot-billed Duck in ponds with reeds. Overnight in a tourist ger camp.

**Day 8, Thu, 8 Jun. To Ulaanbaatar .** The morning will be spent in the Elsentasarkhai area and in the afternoon we will head back to our comfortable Ulaanbaatar hotel. Overnight in Ulaanbaatar.

**Day 9, Fri, 9 Jun. Yolyn Am (High Mountain).** This morning we will fly to Dalanzadgad town near Yolyn Am. We will be hoping for good views of Lammergeier and Himalayan Griffons plus Mongolian Accentor, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch, and Wallcreeper. Altai Snowcock is one of the most challenging species for the trip but we hope to see it in this area. Overnight in tourist ger camp.

**Day 10, Sat, 10 Jun. Yolyn Am area.** Another morning spent at Yolyn Am. Later we can visit the Mukhar Shiver valley to see Barred Warbler and White-winged Snowfinch. Overnight in tourist ger camp.

**Days 11-12, Sun-Mon, 11-12 Jun. Khongoryn Els (Sand dune and saxaul forest).** Full day looking for the Gobi species found in this interesting area. Nights in tourist ger camp.

**Day 13, Tue, 13 Jun. Dalanzadgad Town.** We have a long drive today, but will make stops for any interesting birds or scenery along the way. We will arrive at our next location, the famous dunes of Khongoryn Els in the afternoon. We will find all the Gobi species including, Desert Wheatear, Asian Desert Warbler, Mongolian (Henderson's) Ground-Jay, Saxaul Sparrow, Long-legged Buzzard, and Northern Shrike. The remainder of the day is free to relax following the drive. Overnight Ger Camp.

**Day 14, Wed, 14 Jun. Transfer to Terelj.** Transfer and fly to Ulaanbaatar and drive to Terelj NP. Overnight in tourist ger camp in Terelj.

**Day 15, Thu, 15 Jun. Gorkhi-Terelj (Boreal forest zone).** After breakfast, we will drive to the east of the city to the Terelj forest and check into our tourist ger camp. After we get settled, we will go birding. We will search for forest and forest steppe birds such as Oriental Cuckoo, Eurasian Hoopoe, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Willow Tit, Pine Bunting, Red-throated Thrush, Siberian Rubythroat, Siberian Stonechat, White-cheeked Starling, Dusky Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Taiga Flycatcher, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Eastern Buzzard, and Blyth's Pipit. There are two challenging species here which will depend on local conditions: Chinese Bush-Warbler and Black-billed Capercaillie. Overnight in a tourist ger camp near birding site.

**Day 16, Fri, 16 Jun. Gorkhi-Terelj NP (Siberian boreal forest).** We will drive to the east of our tourist camp to get to a riparian forest. We will try to find Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, Black Woodpecker, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Olive-backed Pipit, Common Rosefinch, and Taiga Flycatcher in breeding plumage. Overnight in a tourist ger camp near birding site.

**Day 17, Sat, 17 Jun. To Ulaanbaatar.** The morning will be spent birding the area around Terelj. In the afternoon, we will drive back to Ulaanbaatar city, where we will spend the final night of the tour in a comfortable hotel. We will have a farewell dinner together at a famous Mongolian restaurant.

**Day 18, Sun, 18 Jun.** Transfer to the airport for your homeward flight. Depending on traffic, the transfer should take around 30-45 minutes. Happy travels!

## About Your Guide

**Phil Gregory** was born in Southampton, UK, and became a birder as a youth when the steam engines were scrapped and birding offered a way to travel and look for wonderful things. The quest for birds has led to many forays in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia, and the Pacific. He and his wife, Sue, worked as teachers for eight years in Nigeria and Zambia, where they raised their two children and made serious inroads into the birds of Africa, before transferring to the Falkland Islands for a two-year stint. In 1991-97 they relocated to Papua New Guinea where the 450-plus endemics proved a great challenge, and since then they have lived in the Northern Territory and since 1998 in far north Queensland, Australia.

Phil's major interests are field identification, vocalizations, and the geographic distribution of birds. He is also a writer with assorted contributions to many reference books including doing some family accounts for the *Handbook of Birds of the World*. He is currently working on a *Birds-of-paradise and Bowerbirds* title in the Pica/Helm series, and a forthcoming *Field Guide to the Birds of New Guinea* for Lynx Edicions. He has also published and now maintains three checklists, one for the birds of Australia and its island territories, one for the Solomon Islands and one for New Guinea and associated islands. Phil and Sue run the well-known Cassowary House, a birding and nature lodge situated in a great birding spot in the rainforest at Kuranda, near Cairns in the far north of Queensland.

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

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$6875 from Ulaanbaatar**

**DEPOSIT: \$690**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE: February 1, 2017**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$620**

**LIMIT: 8**

## 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:** A current **passport** valid beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Mongolia. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your return, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. Please make sure your passport has at least six months validity beyond your return date. No visa is currently necessary if traveling as a tourist for under 90 days.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Mongolian 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.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** This tour starts and ends in Ulaanbaatar. 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 \$6875 for one person in double occupancy from Ulaanbaatar. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 17, all meals from dinner on Day 2 through dinner on Day 17 (Breakfast on Day 18 is covered in the tour fee. Please enjoy breakfast on Day 18 on your own schedule, if your flight departure time allows for it.), all ground transportation, all internal flights, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Ulaanbaatar, 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 \$620. 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 LIMITS:** Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases one seat in the van or bus will be taken by the guide in training. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$690** 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 February 1, 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 an 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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