

ITINERARY  
**MONTANA: YELLOWSTONE TO GLACIER**  
*June 8-18, 2017*



*Harlequin Ducks breed along fast-flowing mountain streams in western Montana. This beautiful pair was found in Glacier National Park. Photo by guide Jesse Fagan.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2017 Field Guides Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier 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 outing

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

- an annotated list of the birds from a previous year's Field Guides tour, 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 about 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

**M**ontana is one of North America's premiere scenic and wildlife destinations. Our tour to the western third of the state will visit two strikingly different yet spectacular national parks and several fabulous birding areas. Try if you will imagining these: Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches feeding on the edges of snowfields; Varied Thrushes calling in an ancient cedar forest; Chestnut-backed Chickadees flying in the foreground of towering peaks, glaciers; shorebirds, sometimes by the dozens, framed in a backdrop of abrupt mountains; Brown-headed Cowbirds or "bisonbirds" feeding next to bison; and Trumpeter Swans bugling in duet as they feed with mountains in the background. Our objective on this tour is to bird everything under the Montana "Big Sky" from Yellowstone to Glacier, through areas known to Montanans as the

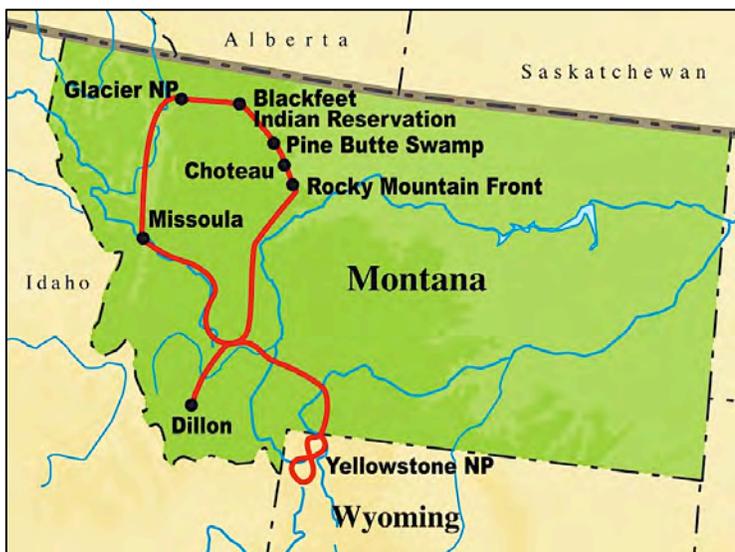
Continental Divide, the East Front of the Rockies, and the Rocky Mountain Trench. In addition to birds, we will expect to encounter grizzlies, black bear, and many other wildlife species in the course of our nine days in the field. We will give it a concerted effort to find wolves, but they are never a given since elk (their principal prey) and elk densities are showing declining trends.

Our tour will be extremely dynamic. We'll notice changes from area to area, hour to hour, and day to day. The terrain is what makes the trip, and the birds observed along the route only add to the experience. Lodging on this tour will be only one or two nights per location, but the experiences we'll encounter will be worth the effort. We will bird primarily the mountains, valleys, and plains of the western third of the state—the most mountainous portion of Montana. Mountains, wildlife, and the grand Montana national parks of Yellowstone and Glacier are our themes. The terrain is quite varied, ranging from short grass prairies, valley marshes, meandering rivers, and shrub hillsides to coniferous forests, mountain meadows, and alpine tundra. The East Front of the Rockies is the interface where the prairie meets the mountains, and it's yet another remote area rich in birds and other wildlife. And the Rocky Mountain Trench, a north-south intermountain valley in western Montana that extends into Canada, is a natural funnel and passageway for birdlife. Your guide, Terry McEaney, has extensive field experience in Montana.

We should tally in excess of 170 species of birds and 25 species of mammals at a steady, relaxed, yet exciting pace. Birds will be singing and in colorful breeding plumage at this time of year. The tourist season is just getting started, but the birdlife and wildlife are plentiful. If you are into exploring new areas and want an adventurous birding trip, then this tour is for you.

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** The pace of this tour will be moderate **but steady**, and we will try to relax and have a lot of fun. Our driving distances and days afield will be fairly long, so keeping on schedule will be important. There will be a few walks of up to two miles round-trip in high-elevation terrain, but we'll take our time and try to do any walking downhill. One small hike involves an elevational gain of vertical 300 feet. The highest point we will visit in Yellowstone is 8300 feet on the Solfatara Plateau; the maximum elevation we'll reach in Glacier is 6600 feet at Logan Pass. Anyone with health problems or difficulty walking/hiking should consult the Field Guides office before registering for this tour; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with one of the guides. **Since we will be traveling off-the-beaten path half the time, restrooms or outhouses/vaulted toilets with 4 walls and a ceiling are not always available and can be miles away. We will take advantage of conventional restrooms when we can, but participants need to be flexible, relying on private sites Mother Nature has provided as well. In other words, participants need to be flexible when it comes to restroom issues due to the remoteness of the tour.**

## About the Birding Areas



**Yellowstone National Park** is the oldest national park in the world, with a full complement of free-roaming predators and prey. It is also one of the greatest wildlife areas of the temperate zone. While Glacier is known for its outstanding scenery and some wildlife, Yellowstone is different: the scenery is not as spectacular but the wildlife numbers are incredible and the geothermal features unparalleled. The bird life of Yellowstone is slightly easier to see than that of Glacier, and we have the added advantage of having as our guide a retired ranger/ornithologist of this magnificent national park. We'll look for Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Peregrine and Prairie falcons, Golden Eagle, Sage Thrasher, Williamson's and Red-naped sapsuckers, Green-tailed Towhee, and—if we are lucky—Great Gray Owl and American Three-toed Woodpecker. Besides the birds, we will view Pronghorn, Mule, and White-tailed deer, Elk, Bison, Coyote, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain

Goat, Black Bear, and, if all goes as expected, Moose, Grizzly, and Gray Wolf. Thermal areas are the trademarks of this landscape, and we will get to see a number of thermal features (such as geysers, hot springs, fumaroles, mud pots, and frying pans) as we look for birds and explore the Yellowstone caldera and plateau.



*St. Mary Lake in Glacier National Park presents just one of many grand vistas we will experience on this tour. Photo by participant Pat Newman.*

**Points between: East Front of the Rockies, Rocky Mountain Trench**—*Due to ongoing localized Montana drought conditions as a result of changing climate conditions, we have modified our itinerary somewhat to maximize the birdlife.* On our travels we'll visit some of the best birding areas in Montana—a short grass prairie filled with birds; an irrigation reservoir that is a magnet for birds; the ramparts where the mountains meet the sky known as the East Front of the Rockies; and other sites including skirting the edges of Freezout Lake, Pine Butte Swamp, and the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. After leaving Glacier, we'll explore one of the longest and lowest valleys in the mountains known as the Rocky Mountain Trench. Here we skirt the edge of famous Flathead Lake and spectacular Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge with snow-covered Mission Mountains in the background. There are also several other unannounced areas in which we'll stop. Species of note include Trumpeter Swan, Common Loon, Red-necked

Grebe, Ferruginous Hawk, McCown's and Chestnut-collared longspurs, Short-eared Owl, and if we are lucky, Gray Partridge. The principal mammal species we will be looking for on this segment of the trip will be Moose, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, and possibly Badger as well.

**Glacier National Park**, with its breathtaking scenery, is often referred to as the "Switzerland of the United States." Visiting Glacier is like visiting the heavens or "going to the sun." The birdlife is not overwhelming but includes such attractions as Townsend's and MacGillivray's warblers, Varied Thrush, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Black and Vaux's swifts, Dusky Grouse, and possibly White-tailed Ptarmigan and White-winged Crossbill. Mountain Goats are the most obvious large mammals, though Hoary Marmot and Columbian Ground-Squirrel can be found, and Grizzlies are always a possibility. **Finding White-tailed Ptarmigan, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, American Pipit, Fox Sparrow, Dusky Grouse, and Grizzly depends on snow load for the year and whether or not Logan Pass is open for the season.**

## Itinerary for Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier

**Day 1, Thu, 8 Jun. Arrival in Missoula.** Since air schedules to Missoula are limited, it may take a good part of the day to get there if you are flying in; our office will be happy to assist you with your travel plans. For best results, try flying to Montana as early in the day as possible. If you are arriving by air, please take the shuttle from the airport to our hotel. We will meet in the hotel lobby this evening at 6:00 p.m. for a drink and to answer any questions. Should your flight be arriving later, we'll leave instructions at the front desk and catch up with you first thing in the morning. Night at the Holiday Inn Downtown.

**Day 2, Fri, 9 Jun. Missoula to Dillon.** We'll meet and start this morning at **5:00 a.m.** in the lobby of the hotel with bags packed. After a light mobile breakfast en route—we'll stop later for something more substantial—we'll load up and bird our way east, stopping at a couple of areas as time permits en route to Dillon. Our main goal this morning is to try for a diversity of birdlife. We should find in excess of 60 species of birds. Among the many birds we hope to see today are Barrow's Goldeneye, Ferruginous Hawk, Red-necked Grebe, McCown's Longspur, Sage Thrasher, Sagebrush Sparrow, and Gray and Dusky flycatchers. Night at the Comfort Inn in Dillon.

**Day 3, Sat, 10 Jun. Dillon to Yellowstone.** We'll look for birds in the Dillon area, then start working our way towards Yellowstone. Target birds for today include: Green-tailed and Spotted towhees, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Yellow-breasted Chat, Evening Grosbeak, Calliope Hummingbird, and Western Tanager. Night near Yellowstone.

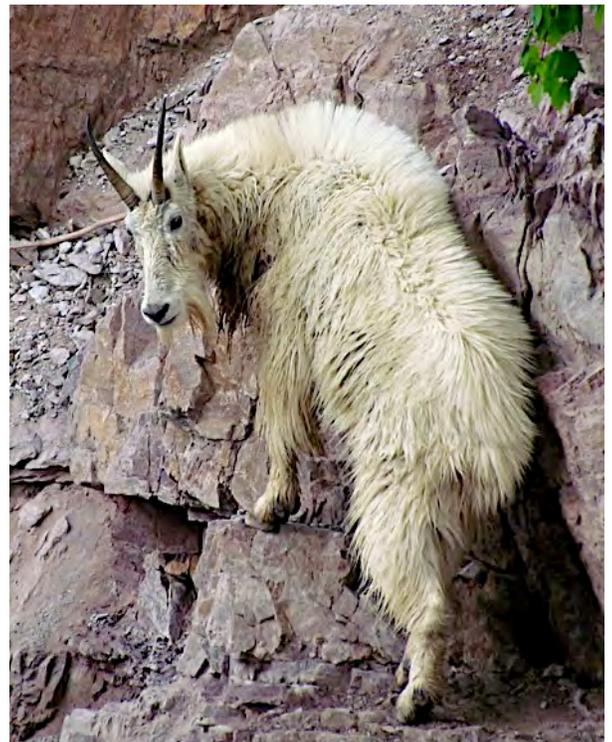
**Day 4, Sun, 11 Jun. Yellowstone National Park.** We'll have the day to bird the east side of Yellowstone as well as Yellowstone Lake, Hayden Valley, and Lamar Valley. Large mammals, present nearly everywhere, will add variety to the birds we find, which might include Green-tailed Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, Peregrine Falcon, American Dipper, Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, and with luck, Dusky Grouse. Night near Yellowstone.

**Day 5, Mon, 12 Jun. Yellowstone National Park.** Today we'll bird the west side of Yellowstone and visit the scenic features along the upper and lower Grand Loop Road. We'll also take in a number of thermal features while remaining on the lookout for Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Sandhill Crane, and Osprey; mammals could include Grizzly, Black Bear, and Gray Wolf. Night near Yellowstone.

**Day 6, Tue, 13 Jun. Yellowstone to Choteau.** We'll bird our way from Yellowstone to the East Front of the Rockies also known as the Rocky Mountain Front, watching en route for such highlight birds as Swainson's and Ferruginous hawks, Lazuli Bunting, Sage Thrasher, and Red-necked Grebe. Passerines, shorebirds, and raptors will be our primary goals, with species to watch for including Long-billed Curlew, Trumpeter Swan, and Sandhill Crane. As we head north today, we'll travel close to several mountain ranges in what is called basin/range topography; then we'll enter the area known as the Rocky Mountain Front where the mountains meet the plains and where the land and skylines are incredible. We'll gradually work our way north, birding as we go. A few of other target birds include McCown's Longspur, Black Tern, Golden Eagle, Marbled Godwit, and Forster's Tern. Night in Choteau.

**Day 7, Wed, 14 Jun. Choteau to Glacier; east side of Glacier National Park.** This morning we'll skirt the edge of a large marsh known as Freezout Lake and then we'll continue to the foothills of the plains and a related fen called Pine Butte Swamp. There should be a variety of passerines, raptors, and shorebirds present. Later in the morning we'll head north paralleling the East Front of the Rockies or the Rocky Mountain Front, visiting the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and entering the east side of Glacier National Park. Here the habitats are much drier and wind is more of a factor. Hopefully we'll see McCown's and Chestnut-collared longspurs, Horned Grebe, American Dipper, Black Tern, Pine Grosbeak, and if we are lucky, Common and White-winged crossbills. Night in East Glacier at Glacier Park Lodge.

**Days 8-9, Thu-Fri, 15-16 Jun. West side of Glacier National Park.** We'll travel the famed Going to the Sun Highway, an engineering marvel, and admire the beauty of Glacier as we search for Dusky Grouse, Golden Eagle, Steller's Jay, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Varied Thrush, Harlequin Duck, Fox Sparrow, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Mountain Goats should be easily visible, although Grizzlies and Hoary Marmots take a greater effort to find. We'll have full days of activity as we explore some of Terry's favorite haunts. (Normal opening dates for Logan Pass vary from as early as May 16 to as late as June 28, depending on the snow load for that year. An alternate route has been selected should the pass be closed due to weather.) Nights in West Glacier.



*The mountains in Montana are home to Mountain Goats, as well as Grizzly Bears and other large mammals. Photo by guide Terry McEneaney.*

**Day 10, Sat, 17 Jun. Glacier to Missoula.** Our early morning ventures will give us time to look for more elusive birds such as Townsend's Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, and remote possibilities of finding Spruce Grouse, Great Gray Owl, and Northern Hawk-Owl. At a stopover in the Mission Valley, we'll look for Short-eared and the harder to find Long-eared owls, although they can be difficult at times, and a whole assemblage of waterfowl including Trumpeter Swan. This evening we'll top off the trip with a farewell dinner to sum up the week's sightings and experiences in Montana, including its magnificent national parks. Night in Missoula.

**Day 11, Sun, 18 Jun. Depart Missoula.** You may make arrangements to leave any time today. Have a safe trip home! Slan Abhaile!



*A gorgeous male Western Tanager. These beauties are common in coniferous forests of the American West. Photo by guide Jesse Fagan.*

## About Your Guides

**Terry McEneaney** knows Montana like the back of his hand. He is a retired ornithologist/ranger for Yellowstone National Park, where he was known for his 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 lived in thirteen towns in Montana and has authored three books (*Birds of Yellowstone*, *The Uncommon Loon*, and *Birding Montana*) and is a former member of both the Montana Bird Records Committee (MBRC) and the Wyoming BRC. 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. In addition, he teaches annual bird workshops to Yellowstone tour guides and Yellowstone National Park rangers. 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*. Take a look at his personal website [www.ravenidiot.com](http://www.ravenidiot.com) to see what you are getting into.

*"An excellent overall experience. Terry and Karen McEneaney were a delight to be with and worked very hard to make this trip perfect. Their hospitality was terrific." L. & M.V., Montana: Yellowstone to Glacier*

**Karen McEneaney**, a former art teacher, is also a retired Yellowstone National Park ranger who specialized 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. She has extensive field knowledge of the park, its wildlife, and its geothermal features. 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.

If we are lucky and her schedule allows, Karen will join us on this tour. Karen's participation will mean that we will have three people on one of the van bench seats each day, but her knowledge and warm, outgoing personality will more than offset the reduced space, and participants will always have a window seat.

Visit [www.fieldguides.com/guides](http://www.fieldguides.com/guides) for Terry's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$4275 from Missoula

**DEPOSIT:** \$430

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** February 8, 2017

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$1000

**LIMIT:** 7

## Other Things You Need to Know

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

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Accommodations are simple but clean and comfortable throughout the tour. Some lodges do not have air conditioning or televisions.

**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 \$4275 for one person in double occupancy from Missoula. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 10, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 10, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

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

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$1000. 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 \$430** 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 8, 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](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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