

ITINERARY
WESTERN PANAMA: Chiriqui & Bocas del Toro
I. March 18-27, 2017
II. December 8-17, 2017



A male Scintillant Hummingbird, the smallest hummingbird within its range. These tiny birds are endemic to Costa Rica and western Panama. We will find them in the Mount Totumas Cloud Forest Reserve in the western highlands. Photo by participant Bill Byers.

We include here information for those interested in the 2017 Field Guides Western Panama 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

Long famous as the pathway between two oceans, the Isthmus of Panama is ecologically more important as the pathway between two vast continents—the biogeographic explanation for the widespread distribution of so many Neotropical species. Somewhat paradoxically, with forested mountains in east and west separated by the central lowlands, Panama constitutes not only a land bridge but also a biogeographic barrier. It is for these reasons a rich mixing ground for various elements of the avifauna of North and South America. More than 975 species of birds have been recorded within the country. Here many southern species reach or approach their northern limit, while many of Middle American origin are found no further south.



We should see the lovely Snowy Cotinga at Tranquilo Bay Lodge.
Photo by guide Jay VanderGaast.

Two other aspects of Panama's bird life are important as well. Many North American migrant landbirds winter only as far south as Panama, and many species found in the western highlands are endemic to this area and the mountains of adjacent Costa Rica. These endemics include spectacular birds like Fiery-throated and Black-bellied hummingbirds, the tiny Scintillant Hummingbird, Prong-billed Barbet, Turquoise Cotinga, and Golden-browed Chlorophonia. Its rich diversity of bird life has long drawn naturalists to Panama, where Frank Chapman, Edward Goldman, Alexander Wetmore, and Eugene Eisenmann spent years studying Panama's natural heritage. Happily, too, much of what has been learned about Panamanian birds is conveniently summarized in two field guides, one by Robert Ridgely, *A Guide to the Birds of Panama*, with color plates of virtually all of the resident species, making studying for the trip a genuine pleasure. The other guide, more convenient for the field and more current, is by George R. Angehr, *The Birds of Panama: A Field Guide*.

After arriving in Panama City on Day 1, we'll take the following morning's (Day 2) scheduled flight to the Bocas del Toro archipelago. Upon arrival we will boat over to the island of Bastimentos, the location of our very comfortable lodge, Tranquilo Bay. We will spend three full days birding the area. The lodge has a 100-foot tower for viewing birds from the canopy! Thousands of Red-lored Parrots fly by at eye-level each morning and evening, and we may get lucky enough to spot a Snowy Cotinga from here. The lodge has recorded over 200 bird species on its property, which

includes lowland rainforest, mangroves, and lovely gardens planted with bird-friendly ornamentals. We will make daily excursions to various nearby islands and the mainland. Highlights will be many and may include little goodies like Snowy Cotinga and Nicaraguan Seed-finch (a species uncommon and local throughout its limited range), lovely jewels like Speckled Tanager and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, and animated, snapping and cracking, Golden-collared Manakins at leks. A few offshore islands are home to breeding seabirds, so we should get intimate studies of Red-billed Tropicbird, Brown Booby, and lots of frigatebirds. Oh, and the food and service here are among the best in Latin America!

In the rich Chiriqui highlands we'll be headquartered at the new Mount Totumas Cloud Forest Lodge, where we'll be looking for Three-wattled Bellbirds and Resplendent Quetzals—the real showstoppers—along with other fascinating birds such as Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Spotted Wood-Quail, Black-and-white Becard, Streak-breasted Treehunter, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Sulphur-winged Parakeet, and Flame-colored Tanager. We will also bird the foothills along the Fortuna Road, where the forest is some of the most beautiful in Central America. Among the many species we expect to see, favorites of past tours have included Black-breasted Wood-Quail, Chiriqui Quail-Dove, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, Prong-billed Barbet, Blue-and-gold Tanager, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Black-bellied Hummingbird, Azure-hooded Jay, Dull-mantled Antbird, Brown-billed Scythebill, Orange-bellied Trogon, and Crimson-collared Tanager.

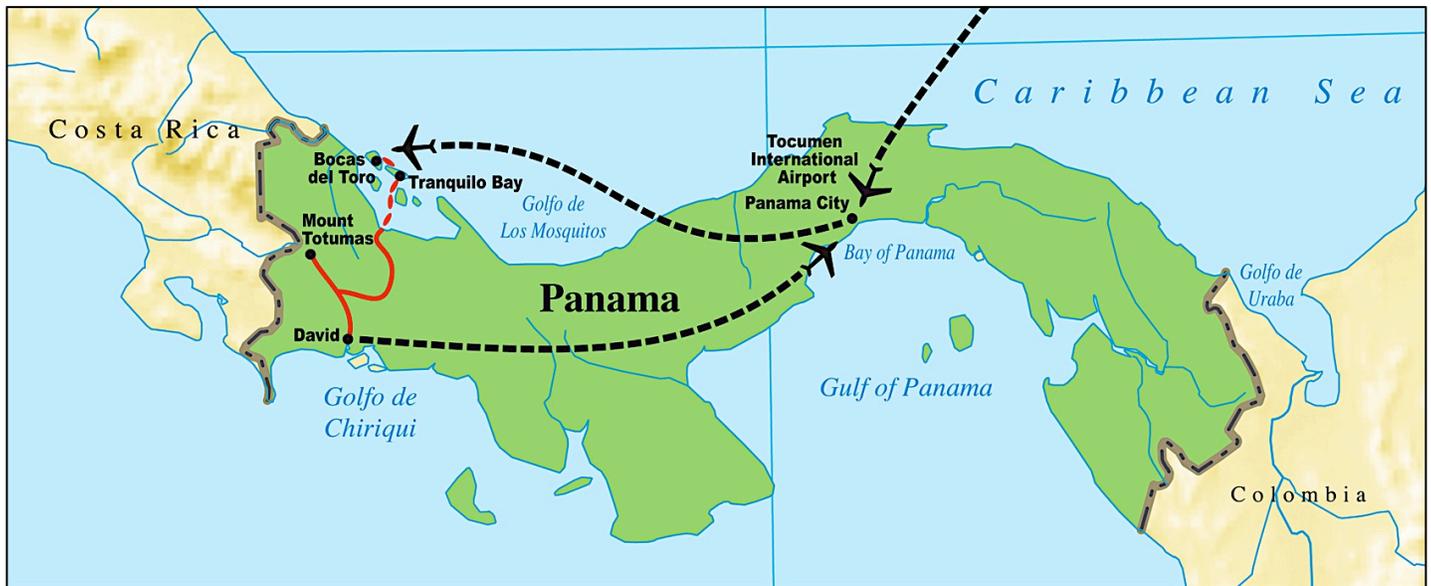
Rest assured, you will not be disappointed in the remarkable avian richness this short tour has to offer.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace: Our Western Panama tour is a moderately physically demanding tour, but will operate at a relaxed pace throughout. Participants should be able to walk up to three miles in a day at a "birder's pace"—mostly in short walks with stops. This will occur mainly at Mount Totumas, where the forest trails can have some incline or an up-and-down component. A walking stick (for those that use one) may be useful here. Our time at Tranquilo Bay will be birding mainly on shorter trails or from boats; although it is not as physically demanding, temperatures will be warmer. Conveyance will be in a bus (birding Fortuna Road and the transfer to Mount Totumas) and 4x4s, which are required to negotiate the entrance road to Mount Totumas. Participants will need to be able to climb in and out of these vehicles; the 4X4's can make for an uncomfortable ride, though our trips should be no longer than about 1 hour at a time. Participants will also need to be able to enter and exit a medium-sized motorboat. Most of our birding (outside of boats)

will take place along roads or wide tracks, and some “standing around” will be required, so a light collapsible stool might reduce the strain. Our main purpose is for all to see well and enjoy a rich diversity of species, but emphasis will be given to indigenous birds special to Panama or Panama and Costa Rica, and to learning about representative groups of Neotropical birds rather than rarities to Panama.

In the spirit of full disclosure, we will use playback, sensitively, with the aim of bringing into view otherwise difficult-to-see species—for example, furtive species, canopy species, nightbirds—or flock-leaders whose response will often attract a number of species at once. Occasionally we use playback to investigate the presence of a target species in a mixed-species flock or on historic territories.

About the Birding Areas



Tranquilo Bay—Tranquilo Bay Lodge is located in the Bocas del Toro archipelago on the island of Bastimentos. It is a short 20-minute boat ride to the south of Bocas del Toro (the provincial capital into which we fly), which is found on the island of Colon. This is the Caribbean lowland with its lush tropical forest, turquoise blue waters, fruity drinks with little umbrellas, sun, and fun. And birds... lots of birds. The lodge and island are part of the Isla Bastimentos Marine Park, and the property has recorded more than 200 species of birds. With day trips to the mainland and short excursions to other islands that total is pushed to 460 species. The lodge has six comfortable cabins with air-conditioning, coffee makers, and warm showers, and is located within a forest clearing near a 100' birding tower. Surrounding forest trails host leks of Golden-collared Manakins, Chestnut-backed Antbird is conspicuous, and this is one of the few sites in Panama to see Stub-tailed Spadebill. Green Ibis are quite common, along with soaring Double-toothed Kites and flocks of raucous Tawny-crested Tanagers. We will be scanning treetops for Snowy Cotinga; another target for us will be the local and limited range Nicaraguan Seed-finch. Other offshore islands hold breeding colonies of Brown Booby and Red-billed Tropicbird, which we should be able to get close to and observe well.

In the evening we will dine in luxury with delicious local and international dishes; the veranda has hummingbird feeders that attract several species including Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Green-crowned Brilliant, Violet Sabrewing, and Band-tailed Barbthroat, among others.

Western Foothills—The Fortuna Road gives easy access to the Caribbean slope of eastern Chiriqui province and to the province of Bocas del Toro. The as yet undisturbed forest near the Continental Divide, at about 3200-4000 feet, supports a number of rather widely occurring foothill specialties such as Black-breasted Wood-Quail, Green Thorntail, White-bellied Mountain-gem, Black-bellied Hummingbird, Green-crowned Brilliant, Orange-bellied Trogon, Red-headed and Prong-billed barbets, Brown-billed Scythebill, Lineated Foliage-gleaner, Dull-mantled Antbird, Rufous-breasted Antthrush, Pale-vented Thrush, Slaty-backed and Black-headed nightingale-thrushes, a long list of tanagers including Scarlet-thighed Dacnis and Rufous-winged, Emerald, Speckled, Passerini's, Blue-and-gold, and Black-and-yellow tanagers, and Black-thighed and Black-faced grosbeaks. We'll work this area one full day from Tranquilo Bay, the closest accommodations that are

suitable for our group, and again on our drive over to Mount Totumas. Needless to say, we will not see all of these birds, or many of the species that appear on the checklist for the tour. The checklist and these highlights are mentioned to help you prepare for the tour.

The Fortuna Road also supports an impressive list of additional species restricted within Panama to the western foothills. Additional specialties such as Barred Hawk, Lattice-tailed Trogon, Spotted Woodcreeper, Russet Antshrike, Black-headed Antthrush, Rufous-browed Tyrannulet, Golden-bellied Flycatcher, Black-and-white Becard, Snowy Cotinga, Azure-hooded Jay, and the striking Sooty-faced Finch are present and we'll keep alert for these. The list of resident species is longer still and includes the spectacular Bare-necked Umbrellabird and Snowcap. The richness of this area is so remarkable that we'll have our hands full seeing just a healthy percentage of these birds.

Western Highlands—If you are only familiar with central Panama or the Caribbean slope, birding the western highlands is like birding a different country. The cool air and montane scenery are invigorating, and there is little overlap in birdlife with that of the central lowlands. One of the outstanding attractions of the highlands is the Three-wattled Bellbird, a lekking cotinga the males of which are adorned with three long wattles at the base of the bill that are extended with vigor when the bill is opened to belch forth the anvil-like or frog-like—but certainly not “bell-like”—call. The bellbird's calls carry a very great distance but can be difficult indeed to locate in these mountain forests. We'll focus our efforts on trying to see the bird well by making a special trip to Mount Totumas Cloud Forest Reserve.

Mount Totumas Cloud Forest Reserve is an impressive mountain lodge. The lodge is located at the edge of La Amistad National Park and sits below the looming Mount Totumas at 2,630 meters (8,700 feet). The rich volcanic soil in the western highlands is well suited for agriculture; indeed surrounding areas are being farmed, but at this elevation and being within the buffer zone of the national park most of landscape is dominated by mature/primary oak forest. Here the Resplendent Quetzal and Black Guan are the elegant produce of a common day. But perhaps equally as thrilling a treat is watching hummingbirds visit the feeders at the cabins—among them, Violet Sabrewing, Magnificent, and White-throated Mountain-gem. We may spend the entire afternoon at the deck of one of these cabins without ever moving!

Mixed-species flock activity is often best here in the afternoon, for the clouds typically build during the day to encompass the mountain with mist. Blue-throated Toucanets and Long-tailed and Black-and-yellow silky-flycatchers can be common, Mountain Robins are conspicuous, and the forest rings with the brilliant, ventriloquial song of the Black-faced Solitaire. It's a challenge to be at the appropriate spot along the road when a large foraging flock moves past, with Spot-crowned Woodcreepers, Ruddy Treerunners, flycatchers, warblers, Ochraceous Wren, and Buffy Tuftedcheek. One of the most sublime songsters, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, is readily heard, and Sulphur-winged Parakeets are surprisingly “common” in this forest.

Mount Totumas Cloud Forest Reserve is home to a long list of species endemic to the mountains of western Panama and adjacent Costa Rica. In addition to those mentioned above, species include Dusky Nightjar, Scintillant Hummingbird, Orange-bellied Trogon, Streak-breasted Treehunter, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, Black-capped Flycatcher, Silvery-throated Jay (rare), Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Yellow-winged Vireo, Slaty Flowerpiercer, Black-cheeked and Flame-throated warblers, Collared Redstart, Wrenthrush, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager, and Yellow-thighed Finch. Finally, the owners Jeff and Alma will make sure our stay is pleasant and extremely comfortable. They are also the cooks and will prepare delicious international dishes for our group; meals are not to be missed here.



The Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush is in the same genus as familiar songsters such as the Wood Thrush. We will hear, and hopefully see, these elegant performers in the Western Highlands. Photo by participant Paul Thomas.

Itinerary for Western Panama



We will watch for Double-toothed Kite in the vicinity of Tranquilo Bay. Photo by guide John Rowlett.

Day 1. Arrival in Panama. We will be met upon arrival in Panama this evening and escorted to our hotel. If it is still daylight as the plane descends into Tocumen Airport, watch for the Bridge of the Americas at the entrance to the Panama Canal; a number of ships will be anchored in Panama Bay awaiting passage. Night in Panama City.

Day 2. Flight to Bocas del Toro; transfer to Tranquilo Bay. After breakfast we'll head to the nearby domestic airport for our morning flight to Bocas del Toro. Upon our arrival we'll transfer from the airport to our boat and the 20-minute ride to Isla Bastimentos/Tranquilo Bay Lodge. We will get settled into our cabins and after a sumptuous lunch, we'll take some time off to enjoy our bird-rich surroundings and the backs of our eyelids (during the heat of the day). We will venture out again in the early evening and sample the night birds. Night at Tranquilo Bay.

Day 3. Isla Popa and Tranquilo Bay. We will rise early with our coffee in hand and sample the bird activity near our cabins before venturing into the forest. After breakfast we will load up the boat and visit nearby Isla Popa for a chance at spotting Snowy Cotinga. Later we will visit Finca Buen Esperanza, a small organic cocoa plantation with taller secondary forest and an excellent place to see Green and Black Poison Dart Frog (*Dendrobates auratus*). We will return to Tranquilo Bay for lunch and a siesta during the hot part of the day. Late afternoon we will again visit the tower and bird a forest trail. Night at Tranquilo Bay.

Day 4. La Fortuna Road. We'll have a full day to bird the exciting Fortuna Road that passes from Chiriqui north into Bocas del Toro.

We'll depart early in the morning (after a good breakfast) and take a 35-minute boat ride to Puerto Robalo on the mainland to reach the best habitat for the peak of bird activity; the potential rewards are enormous. We'll have a picnic lunch in order to enjoy without interruption the variable vistas of undisturbed foothill forest, perhaps unsurpassed in all of Middle America. Night in Tranquilo Bay.

Day 5. Old Canal and Bird Island. By boat we will explore an old narrow shipping canal, now abandoned and ideal for birding forest edge and overgrown plantations. We have a good chance of locating Nicaraguan Seed-finch here. We will have a picnic lunch and later visit Bird Island for close views of breeding Red-billed Tropicbird and Brown Booby. Night in Tranquilo Bay.

Day 6. Transfer to Mount Totumas. Today will be somewhat of a travel day, but with several stops again along the Fortuna Road. After crossing the Continental Divide we will descend into the province of Chiriqui, eventually making our way to Volcan. Here we will transfer into 4X4 vehicles for the 1-hour trip up to the lodge. Night at Mount Totumas.

Days 7-9. Mount Totumas. We will have three full days at Mount Totumas. The lodge has 8 trails to explore in addition to the lovely grounds and hummingbird feeders, so we will have plenty of birding opportunities during our stay. Your guide will announce the day's activities in the evening (for the next day) and give you plenty of time to prepare your birding gear. Nights at Mount Totumas.

Day 10. Early departure; flight to Panama City. We will have an early breakfast, then head down to David, where we will catch the morning flight back to Panama City. If you have an international flight after 1 PM, then you should be able to make your connection, otherwise, night in Panama City. Tour ends. *Buen viaje!*

About Your Guide

Jesse Fagan (a.k.a. the Motmot or just “Mot”) has been passionate about birds since his teens, when he had an encounter with a flying Pileated Woodpecker. He has birded throughout the United States, including spending seven years in Texas, and since 1995 has been birding and for a time living in northern Central America. He recently completed a field guide to northern Central America (which includes the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Belize). In addition, Mot has birded in or led tours to Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, France, Morocco, Uganda, and Madagascar. He also enjoys leading many of the Field Guides tours in the Caribbean. He likes to think he can bird anywhere at any time and still show you the birds, but most importantly, a good time.

Jesse holds a B.S. and an M.S. in mathematics from Texas Tech University. He is currently living in Lima, Peru.

“Jesse is a fantastic guide. He really knows calls, infinitely patient in getting everyone on the difficult birds, fun to be with.” L. F. Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley, and Santa Marta.

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

Financial Information

FEE: \$3875 from Panama City

DEPOSIT: \$400 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: November 18, 2016 (I); August 10, 2017 (II)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$900 (Singles may be limited at both lodges.)

LIMIT: 7

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: Rooms at Tranquilo Bay and Mount Totumas are comfortable and spacious, providing all the comforts of a good lodge, including hot water and electricity all night, so recharging batteries is never a concern. Dining areas at both lodges are excellent in quality with fresh local food options offered. At Tranquilo Bay, the cabins are a short walk (about 100 meters) from the main dining area along a paved path, so at night a headlamp would be recommended. There are just a few stairs to enter the cabins, and a flight or two to reach the main dining area (either from the boat ramp or the cabins). Of course, if you want to access the 100’ birding tower you will need to be able to climb more than a few flights of stairs. Mount Totumas has several rooms in the main dining area, and several cabins located 200 meters away. Most likely the group size will mean some people will be staying in the main dining area and others in the cabins. For walking from the cabins to the main dining area at night, you will want to have a headlamp or flashlight. The cabins are all very cozy and warm, and each uniquely decorated. Regardless of whether you are staying in the main dining area or in a cabin, you will have a most comfortable and enjoyable stay.

DOCUMENTS: US Citizens traveling by air to and from Panama must present a valid passport when entering or re-entering the United States. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. You will be issued a tourist card by the airline to be filled out before arrival.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Panamanian 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: Please call our office for the best fare from your home. 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.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$3875 for one person in double occupancy from Panama City. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 9, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 10, the flights within Panama, all ground transportation, 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 Panama, airport taxes, visa fees, 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 \$900. (Singles may be limited at both lodges.) If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the enclosed Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$400** 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 **November 18, 2016 (I); August 10, 2017 (II)**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

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

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

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (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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