

ITINERARY
ARIZONA'S SECOND SPRING

- I. July 22-July 31, 2017
II. July 29-August 7, 2017



The striking Varied Bunting reaches its northernmost limit in southeastern Arizona. Breeding is triggered by rainfall; in some years, these birds may wait until August if the summer rains are late. We'll search for these beauties and others on this tour of the southwest's best birding areas! Photo by participant James Lee.

We include here information for those interested in the 2017 Field Guides Arizona's Second Spring 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 list of birds seen on the tour

Arizona's Southeast is a land of contrasts where forested, block-fault mountains rise above the Sonoran Desert plains. Wild canyons ring the mountain ranges carrying cool streams to the dry expanses below. This remarkable geographic diversity is reflected in the region's tremendous variety of plants and animals, especially birds. Indeed, Southeast Arizona has a greater variety of breeding birds than does any other area of comparable size in the US. And many of the birds of Southeast Arizona occur only here within the US, their ranges barely extending north from Mexico.

Our ten-day tour is designed to give us an excellent chance of seeing virtually all of Southeast Arizona's breeding birds. Among the specialties we seek are Zone-tailed and Gray hawks, ten or more hummingbirds including Violet-

crowned and White-eared, Arizona Woodpecker, Rose-throated Becard (rare), Thick-billed and Tropical kingbirds, Sulphur-bellied, Dusky-capped, and Buff-breasted flycatchers, Greater Pewee, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Mexican Chickadee, Bendire's Thrasher, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Abert's Towhee, Rufous-winged, Five-striped, and Botteri's sparrows, Yellow-eyed Junco, and the beautiful Elegant Trogon.

Late July and early August is an ideal time to visit Southeast Arizona. In a typical year, the late-summer prevailing winds bring moisture from the west coast of Mexico. Clouds begin to build in mid-morning and cooling, isolated afternoon rains refresh the desert and mountains. It is not uncommon to watch a rain shower pass a few hundred yards away without feeling a drop of rain. These rains can turn the desert and grasslands into a backdrop for carpets of wildflowers. The summer rain is also the onset of breeding for some of the local bird specialties. Montezuma Quail and Botteri's and Cassin's sparrows are at the peak of their singing and easier to locate. This time of year has also proved to be better than the spring for the appearance of Mexican vagrants as these post-breeding wanderers move north.

Although many of the nightbirds have completed their nesting by early August and are less likely to be vocalizing (hence, less likely to be seen), we will still make an effort to locate as many as possible. Southeast Arizona boasts no fewer than eleven species of breeding owls, including Whiskered and Western screech-owls, Flammulated Owl (very difficult in August), Northern (Mountain) Pygmy-Owl, Elf Owl (the world's smallest owl), Burrowing Owl, and the magnificent Spotted Owl. The Mexican Whip-poor-will is also a possibility. Nocturnal outings can also be productive for seeing mammals. A few of the species we could encounter (day or night) are Collared Peccary, White-tailed Deer, Black Bear, Western Spotted, Hooded, Striped, and Western Hognose skunks, Ringtail, White-nosed Coati, Bobcat, and even Mountain Lion.

Our route forms a loop beginning and ending in Tucson with stops in the Huachuca, Chiricahua, and Santa Rita mountains, the Patagonia/Sonoita Creek area, Nogales, Willcox, California Gulch, and the Pajarito and Atascosa mountains. Scenery is spectacular, one-night stands are few, and the itinerary is arranged so as to maximize our chances for the local specialties as well as any vagrants that might appear.



We will hike up Scheelite or Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains to look for Spotted Owl. The trek can be tiring for some participants, but it is worth it for views such as this family at feeding time. Photo by participant Daphne Tsui.

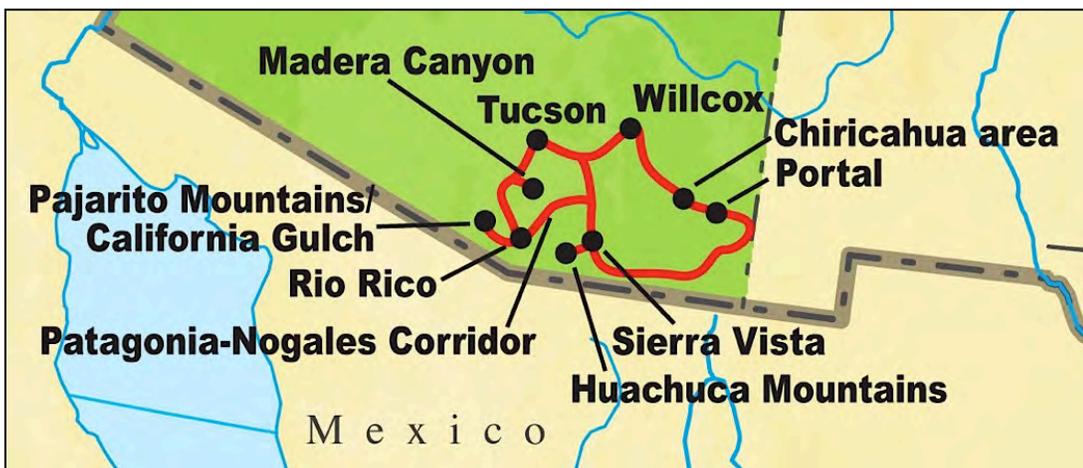
About the Physical Requirements & Pace: Southeast Arizona is one of those required birding destinations for every North American birder. As stated above, there are numerous "Mexican" species that barely cross the border and are seen easily in the US nowhere else. Because of this, most of our attention will be devoted to finding and enjoying these birds on the tour. Since Arizona does not recognize Daylight Saving Time, sunrise comes a bit earlier than you may be used to (about 5:30-5:45 a.m. during the tour). Consequently, starts in the morning will be early to take advantage of the height of song and feeding activity as well as the cooler early morning temperatures. Except on travel days, we'll plan to take a midday break during the normal lull in bird activity. Some nights may find us in the field searching for the numerous owl and nightjar species that inhabit this region.

Terrain in Southeast Arizona is a mixture of flat expanses of desert and hilly or mountainous country. Though we spend much of our time in the mountains, walks in most places will be along uneven, but mostly flat trails or roads. Comfortable footwear with good ankle support is recommended. All of these trails have common hazards such as protruding rocks, fallen limbs, thorny plants, and poison ivy in some places. A typical excursion may have us walking 1-1.5 miles one way. Our hike at about 6000 feet in Scheelite Canyon, or a bit higher in Miller Canyon, in the Huachuca Mountains offers our best chance at seeing Spotted Owl and requires us to walk a narrow trail through a canyon about one mile (one-way) with an elevation gain of about 500-600 feet. This trail has some steep sections, especially near the end where the owls tend to roost. Clients in reasonable health usually have no problem with this trail if taken slowly and if a helping hand is offered on the steepest parts. Everyone gets winded on this walk and we will take a number of short breaks on the way up and down so we can keep the group together and everyone can catch his/her breath. During our nightbirding, we'll generally stick to the roadsides, but we may have to walk a short ways over uneven or inclined terrain to get closer to a calling bird. A small flashlight or headlamp is essential for these few occasions. Accommodation throughout this trip is in good motels.

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.

About the Birding Areas

Tucson Area—We'll start our birding in the Tucson Mountains west of the city. This area is a good place to learn to identify some of the characteristic desert plants. Numerous species typical of the Lower Sonoran Desert can also be found in the area, including Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, and Pyrrhuloxia. We may encounter Lesser Nighthawks around dusk.



Huachuca Mountains—From our headquarters in Sierra Vista we will have a couple of days to explore the Huachuca Mountains. The majestic Huachucas remain one of the wildest ranges in Southeast Arizona. Many of the sharp ridges and rugged canyons are reached only by arduous treks. A few of the finest canyons in the Huachucas, however, are easily accessible and

both Miller Canyon and Ramsey Canyon are well known spots for hummingbird viewing. Magnificent, Blue-throated, Broad-tailed, Anna's, and Black-chinned are regulars at this time of year, and there is a chance for a migrant Calliope or Violet-crowned as well. Even Berylline and White-eared hummingbirds (both having stayed to nest in the past!) have visited the feeders here. Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Scott's Oriole also frequent the canyon around the feeders, and Golden Eagles have nested on the cliffs above. Miller Canyon, site of the Beatty's Guest Ranch, has quickly become the finest hummingbird site in the area, and we will likely spend time here investigating the feeders. Nearby Ash Canyon Bed and Breakfast has become a dependable site in Arizona to see the scarce Lucifer Hummingbird, and we will pay a visit there as well.

Venturing deeper into the mountains, we'll bird the mixed pine/oak and Douglas Fir forests of Huachuca Canyon and/or Garden Canyon in search of Zone-tailed Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Arizona Woodpecker, Greater Pewee, the very local Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Virginia's and Black-throated Gray warblers, Spotted Towhee, and Red Crossbill. During our visit here, we will offer an optional hike up either Miller or Scheelite canyon, depending on the latest information on Spotted Owl. Although the trail is narrow and rather steep in places, each canyon is beautiful, and the birding can be rewarding. With careful searching, at least one Spotted Owl can usually be located at its daytime roost for close, leisurely views. Mountain (Northern) Pygmy-Owl, Canyon Wren, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Painted Redstart, and Red-faced Warbler can also be found along the walk.



The Broad-billed Hummingbird is another primarily Mexican species that occurs in southeastern Arizona. Photo by guide Dave Stejskal.

Chiricahua Mountains—The Chiricahuas possess a peculiar quality, a spirit if you will, that cannot be grasped, but which pervades the place and infects all who love wild places. The massive, lichen-encrusted, red-rock walls of Cave Creek Canyon, last stronghold of the Apaches; the warm, dry smell of pine/oak woodland; a Ringtail in the beam of the spotlight; a Bunch-grass Lizard in a high-elevation meadow; a fidgety Northern Pygmy-Owl, discovered by a mob of small birds; a male Elegant Trogon hover-gleaning Madrona berries in the still of mid-morning... these are some of the things that make the Chiricahua Mountains such a special place.

Our days in the Chiricahuas will be full ones as we explore the complete transect of habitats from low desert washes to cool spruce/fir forest at nearly 9000 feet. Foremost among the many species of birds on which we'll focus is the handsome Elegant Trogon. Other birds we'll seek in the Chiricahuas include Wild Turkey, Blue-throated, Magnificent, and Broad-tailed hummingbirds, Arizona Woodpecker, Greater Pewee, Ash-throated, Dusky-capped, and Sulphur-bellied flycatchers, Mexican Jay, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Mexican Chickadee, Bridled and Juniper titmice, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Hutton's and Plumbeous vireos, Painted Redstart, Virginia's, Grace's, Red-faced, migrating Hermit, and Olive warblers, Hepatic Tanager, Scott's and Hooded orioles, Black-headed and Evening grosbeaks, and Yellow-eyed Junco.

The high desert on the eastern flank of the mountains will give us a chance to seek the uncommon Bendire's and Crissal thrashers. Scaled Quail, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, and Lark Bunting are possible as the desert scrub gives way to open grassland dotted with mounds created by the excavations of the nocturnal Bannertail Kangaroo Rats. Their burrows

are sometimes home to Burrowing Owls as well, and we will watch for them and for soaring Swainson's Hawks as the mountains loom before us.

The devastating Horseshoe II fire in 2011 seriously impacted the high elevation habitats in the Chiricahuas, but our most recent visits indicate that there's still plenty of accessible habitat remaining in this expansive range, along with plenty of the specialty birds that we will seek. Luckily, beautiful Cave Creek Canyon, including the productive South Fork area, was only minimally impacted.

Patagonia/Sonoita Creek and Vicinity—Sonoita Creek is a permanent (albeit intermittent) stream lined with towering Fremont Cottonwoods and Arizona Sycamores. Zone-tailed Hawk, Greater Roadrunner, Thick-billed and Cassin's kingbirds, three species of *Myiarchus* (Ash-throated, Brown-crested, and Dusky-capped) flycatchers, Vermilion Flycatcher, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Phainopepla, Bell's Vireo, Hooded Oriole, Lucy's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and many other species breed here. And Sonoita Creek is a good place to find Gray Hawk, pairs of which proclaim their territories with wild cries as they climb above the canyon on morning thermals.

In the nearby Nogales area we'll search a few water areas in the desert for Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Tropical Kingbird, Varied Bunting, migrants, and Mexican vagrants. A few other canyons in the area may yield a number of species typical of the oak-grassland hills of the area, including Rock Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Rufous-crowned and Lark sparrows, and Lesser Goldfinch.

Atascosa and Pajarito mountains—Located west of Nogales, the Atascosa and Pajarito mountains are best known to birders because of scarce and local Five-striped Sparrows in California Gulch, but they also are one of the best places to find Montezuma Quail. The grassy, scrub-oak hillsides near Pena Blanca Lake are the favored habitat of Montezuma Quail, and we'll make a careful search for them very early en route to California Gulch. Eastern Bluebird occurs in small numbers in these oaks as well. California Gulch is a sparsely vegetated, steep-walled canyon with well-developed riparian habitat along the creek. It is prime habitat for the Five-striped Sparrow, a Mexican species that breeds within the US in but a handful of canyons in this part of Southeast Arizona. In past years we've had excellent views of the Five-striped Sparrow within a quarter-mile walk along the ravine here. This is also a prime place to see the multi-hued Varied Bunting and a variety of other species including Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Bell's Vireo, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Itinerary for Arizona's Second Spring

Day 1, Sat. Arrival in Tucson. Please plan to arrive in Tucson **no later than 2:00 p.m.** Please call the motel, located just two minutes away from the airport, for complimentary transportation. We'll meet in the lobby of the motel at 2:30 p.m. to start our birding.

Where we go this afternoon depends largely on what's been around, but we'll likely visit a favored wetland area in Tucson before heading to the saguaro forests west of the city. This afternoon we could see the likes of Harris's Hawk, Gambel's Quail, Gilded Flicker, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Verdin, Rufous-winged Sparrow, and many other species characteristic of the Sonoran Desert. We'll catch an early dinner so that we can get out and search for Lesser Nighthawks at dusk before returning to the hotel. Night in Tucson.

Day 2, Sun. Morning birding around Tucson; to Sierra Vista. We'll pack our bags this morning and set out for some desert birding near Tucson, more than likely making some stops in the mesquite grasslands on our way east. Later in the morning we will make our way to Sierra Vista at the base of the Huachuca Mountains. We plan to bird that area in the afternoon, perhaps checking some higher elevation spots in the Huachuca Mountains and visiting some hummingbird feeders known for their rarities. Night in Sierra Vista.

Day 3, Mon. The Huachuca Mountains. We will spend the entire morning birding these mountains in a series of canyons on Fort Huachuca: Huachuca, Garden, and Scheelite canyons. The bird possibilities this morning are numerous, but Spotted Owl, Elegant Trogon, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, and Greater Pewee stand apart from the rest. We will head back to Sierra Vista for lunch. In the afternoon we'll likely visit another set of hummingbird feeders as well as check some other high elevation areas. *Remember to bring your photo ID with you this morning as we will need to show it at the Fort Huachuca gate.* Night in Sierra Vista.



Montezuma Quail is a sought-after species; we'll hope for some good looks like this! Photo by guide Chris Benesh.

Day 4, Tue. Sierra Vista area; to the Chiricahua Mountains.

We'll have a chance this morning to search for migrants, return to the mountains, or look for some riparian species near the San Pedro River near Sierra Vista. Later in the morning we'll head east making a stop at Whitewater Draw along the way to Portal and the Chiricahua Mountains, our base for the next three nights. Towering above the endearing village of Portal are prominent red-rock mountains that capture the warmth of the setting sun and make this one of the most scenic spots in this range, a range that is overloaded with great scenery. We will bird the Portal area and Cave Creek Canyon this afternoon. Night in Portal.

Days 5-6, Wed-Thu. The Chiricahua Mountains and vicinity.

Our two full days here will give us the opportunity to visit several areas in the Chiricahuas, from the shady trails along the South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon to pinyon and juniper scrub near Portal, to sparse Chihuahuan Desert flats east of the mountains on the New Mexico border, to cool spruce/fir forests at Rustler and Barfoot parks. Temperatures may be cool in the morning hours, but they will quickly increase as the sun rises. We'll probably find ourselves doing some owling after dinner both nights, either close at hand in the Portal area, or farther afield, weather permitting. Nights in Portal.

Day 7, Fri. Chiricahua Mountains; to Patagonia/Sonoita Creek/Nogales area. Our morning birding will depend on what we might still need to see in the area. After packing up and leaving the Portal area, we'll drive over the mountains passing through beautiful, mature streamside vegetation, oak woodland, and mixed conifer forests. With the Chiricahuas in the rear view mirror, we'll check some ponds near the town of Willcox for such migrants as Eared Grebe, Cinnamon Teal, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Curlew, Baird's Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Snowy Plover, and Black Tern. From here we will make our way to Patagonia for some afternoon birding in the Sonoita Creek area. Night in Nogales/Rio Rico.

Day 8, Sat. Patagonia/Nogales and vicinity. We will bird this morning at various sites in the Patagonia-Nogales corridor. After a midday break, we'll head back out where we'll check several riparian oases. Night in Nogales/Rio Rico.

Day 9, Sun. Pajarito Mountains/California Gulch. We will want to get going early this morning to beat the heat into California Gulch and hopefully see a Montezuma Quail or two. After searching for Five-striped Sparrow, Varied Bunting, and other specialties of the area, we will make our way back to Rio Rico. With the heat of the day, we'll return to our hotel for a midday break before heading out for some afternoon birding to catch up on some new species. Night in Nogales/Rio Rico.

Day 10, Mon. Departure for home. We'll get an early start this morning for Tucson and get in a couple hours of birding along the way. We plan to arrive at the airport by 11:00 a.m., so **please do not book flights for home before 12:30 p.m.** Safe travels.

About Your Guides

Tour I

John Coons has lived in Flagstaff since he came to graduate school 30-plus years ago and found it impossible to leave for any length of time. He has been leading tours since 1985. Since then his great group skills, attention to detail, easy laugh, and unfailing sense to spot (and remember!) what's fascinating in things large and small have brought delight to innumerable Field Guides participants on tours from the High Arctic to the tip of South America and throughout Australasia. When not on tour, John enjoys exploring and birding the remote mountains, canyons, and mesas of his home in northern Arizona. His ambition of developing a completely sustainable yard of native wildflowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs is an unending goal that consumes more time than expected each spring and summer.

"John Coons. He wasn't just good, he was damn good. He seemed to be enjoying himself, and it rubbed off on the rest of us. And his local knowledge, and knowledge of the locals, was invaluable." P.A., Arizona's Second Spring

Tour II

Chris Benesh grew up studying natural history in California, where he was inspired by his father to take up birding as a teenager. After earning a degree in zoology from UC Santa Barbara in 1987, Chris moved to Austin to join the Field Guides staff. Since then, his life has undergone a wonderful transformation. The intervening years at Field Guides have taken him to many corners of the world and across both the Arctic and Antarctic circles!

Chris takes an interest in nearly anything that flies, and you might catch him sneaking a peek at a passing aircraft or stopping to examine a butterfly or odonate. You might also notice him getting especially excited at the sighting of a rare or wonderful mammal (heck, he can get excited about a squirrel).

Chris's passion for education has led to his serving on the Arizona Bird Committee, leading the occasional workshop, presenting at birding conventions, and—we must add—thoroughly explaining in admirable detail the nuances of flycatchers to tour participants and colleagues alike.

These days, most of his "down time" is spent at home in Tucson watching his two wonderful kids, Sean and Linnea, grow.

"I would travel with Chris Benesh anywhere, any time. He is calm, pleasant, and good-humored. He is not only brilliant at spotting and finding birds, but equally brilliant at ensuring that every member of the group gets a great look at the bird." B.M., Arizona's Second Spring

You may check complete tour schedules for both guides at <http://fieldguides.com/guides>; just click on their photos.

Financial Information

FEE: \$2875 from Tucson

DEPOSIT: \$300 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: March 24, 2017 (Tour I) or March 31, 2017 (Tour II)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$450.00

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!

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Please plan to arrive in Tucson by 2:00 p.m. on Day 1. Participants may depart Tucson at any time after 12:30 p.m. on Day 10. 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 \$2875 for one person in double occupancy from Tucson. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 9, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast 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 Tucson, 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 \$450. 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, however, on occasion, we will send a guide in training along 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 \$300** 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 March 24, 2017 (Tour I) or March 31, 2017 (Tour 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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