ITINERARY

BRAZIL: BAHIA BIRDING BONANZA

January 31 - February 14, 2027

The Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner is a furnariid confined to a small region of northeast Brazil. We'll look for this rare bird near Conde, along the coast of Bahia. Photograph by participant Jacob Langford.

We include here information for those interested in the 2027 Field Guides Bahia Birding Bonanza *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

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- 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 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

Bahia, the largest state in northeast Brazil, is about the size of Texas, but it seems few gringos have even heard of it. Around the capital of old Salvador, in the coastal, humid Atlantic Forest habitats and also in the more mountainous interior of the state, near Boa Nova, the Pernambucan/Alagoan endemics we seek on our *Nowhere But Northeast Brazil!* tour are replaced by a quite different set of birds, many of which have miniscule world ranges. Extensive mangrove forests on the northern coast and tall forest we'll bird near the coastal town of Porto Seguro lie within the largest region of lowland Atlantic Forest remaining anywhere. Most of this coastal terrain is flat, very sandy ground. Three birdy days out of Boa Nova will get us into rare *mata-de-cipo* ("vine forest," practically endemic to the state of Bahia) and breathtakingly beautiful, natural "cactus gardens" and also humid montane forest, where we'll reach appropriate elevations for several Atlantic Forest endemic birds we do not get on any other Field Guides tours.

Prizes we hope to find include everything from Little Wood-Rail, Mangrove Rail, Rufous Crab-Hawk, Hook-billed Hermit, Black-capped Screech-Owl, White-winged Potoo, an undescribed *Pyrrhura* parakeet(!), and the elusive Banded Cotinga to Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Stripe-breasted Starthroat, Slender Antbird, Narrow-billed Antwren, Rio de Janeiro Antbird, Plumbeous Antvireo, Band-tailed and Bahia antwrens, Striated Softtail, Pink-legged Graveteiro, Bahia Spinetail, Bahia Tyrannulet, and Wied's Tyrant-Manakin — plus a large dose of other Atlantic Forest and *caatinga* specialties, from Pygmy Nightjar and Golden-capped Parakeet to Black-billed Scythebill and Pin-tailed Manakin — and you could even get that Giant Snipe that's been eluding you for years! WOW, what a wonderful assemblage of great birds… you might even call it a *BAHIA BIRDING BONANZA!* To get yourself ready for the tour, check out the triplists from our previous tours on the Field Guides website; they feature some great photos and videos!

The Giant Snipe is not well known, but we've seen it well on recent tours. Photograph by participant Tristan Jobin.

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS**: Some trails are quite steep in places and their ascent, and later in the day, descent, require good physical stamina. In February of a typical year, these trails are expected to be dry, or at least not very slippery or muddy. Nonetheless, in assessing your own capabilities and endurance levels, some points to keep in mind include: you must be able to maintain a steady forward, often rather steeply uphill, pace for perhaps two hours at a stretch, carrying with you sufficient water to keep yourself adequately hydrated for up to six hours. Of course, we will not be rushing along any of these birding trails, but our overall success in finding rare birds for all to enjoy depends on the group as a whole being *reasonably cohesive in strength and spirit*. Rest assured that, in everyone's best interest, your guide(s) will continuously assess the level of this fundamental group cohesiveness. The guide(s) may deem it necessary to rebalance the participation of some group members in specific birding outings -- please respect their judgments and instructions. **In the day-by-day itinerary, below, activities that require your special attention are marked in green.**

- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES**: Agility and endurance while walking rudimentary and unimproved trails will be a frequently tested skill set. Please come prepared for this, and respect any level of instruction that may be proffered by your guide(s).
- **PACE**: We'll have early starts almost every day; on non-travel days, we'll try to have breaks mid-day. Some days will be long, however, with lunches in the field, and a lot of hiking. There will be a couple of unavoidably long days of travel between major birding venues.
- **ELEVATION**: We will not be encountering high elevations on this tour.
- **WEATHER**: Temperatures will probably remain within the narrow belt of about 75-92 degrees Fahrenheit. Some rain is likely (and, truth be told, desired!).
- **VEHICLE SEATING**: So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats, for example, for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS**: Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on occasion participants must be prepared to make a rest stop in nature.
- **OPTING OUT**: Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. Of course, this will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

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 the guide.

This tour may be combined with its perfect complement, our NOWHERE BUT NORTHEAST BRAZIL! tour, January 15 – February 1, 2027.

About the Birding Areas

Here is some information that will allow an understanding of the type of habitat and general terrain we will visit on each segment of the tour.

Atlantic Forest—For millennia, oceanic trade winds have brushed the face of the coastal forests of eastern Brazil. Moisture from the trades has permitted the historical maintenance of enclaves of humid forest that just a few miles to the west, in the rainshadow of the hills, give way to arid *caatinga* (see below). Along the highest ridges (above about 900 meters elevation) separating the humid forest and *caatinga* there exists a ribbon of habitat dominated by low-canopy forest tangled with dense growth of vines above patches of enormous terrestrial bromeliads called *mata-de-cipo*, which is home to several globally extremely rare species of birds. In a number of reserves in eastern Bahia, including the Pocoes

area and Boa Nova National Park in the interior of the state, we are privileged to enter well-preserved Atlantic Forest and the *mata-de-cipo* as we seek encounters with some of the most endangered species of birds in all of South America. We'll do considerable slow walking through these forests.

Caatinga—Most of the interior of Brazil's Northeast is dominated by seasonally arid woodland and scrub called *caatinga*, or "white forest," by the Tupi Indians because it is so pale and dry for much of the year. *Caatinga* is one of the least-birded but most highly distinctive biomes in South America, and it is found only in the "outback" of Northeastern Brazil. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most highly disturbed biomes on the continent, owing to its generally fragile nature (growing on generally flat ground and easily cleared and burned) and a long history of human occupation. Several different classes of *caatinga* have been defined, based on plant species composition, abundance of trees or shrubs, and other factors; virtually none of the natural *caatinga*, which was a tall, deciduous forest, exists today. On at least one day around Boa Nova, we will bird some disturbed *caatinga* woodland, which will add a good number of birds to our totals. Birding in the *caatinga* is not difficult, as the ground is mostly level and easy to walk, and birds are usually easy to see well (once you find them, that is!).

Mangroves and *restinga*—In contrast to the more fertile regions around Salvador, the littoral region of northern Bahia, just a couple of hours north of the capital, remains relatively lightly populated with minimal agricultural development. Here people make their livelihoods from the sea, fishing, shrimping, and crabbing. Integral to their way of life is the mangrove forest, which in this region is still relatively well preserved, and harbors several birds difficult to see in many other areas of Brazil. Bordering the mangroves are areas of sparkling white sands, long ago eroded from the distant Brazilian Shield. These quartzitic deposits are quite limited in extent and are extremely poor in nutrients, supporting only a sparse and highly specialized plant community called *restinga*.

The tiny Kinglet Manakin is found in a narrow strip of Atlantic forest from roughly Salvador to Rio. This is our only tour where we see this bird, and we have seen them well! Photograph by participant David Parsley.

Itinerary for Bahia Birding Bonanza

Days 1-2, Sun-Mon, 31Jan-1 Feb. Travel to Salvador, Bahia. If not coming down earlier, plan to depart on Day 1, connecting most likely through Sao Paulo or Brasilia before spending the night in Salvador. This will allow some time for your baggage to catch up with you, should winter's frequent northern hemisphere weather delays come into play.

On the afternoon of Day 2, you will meet the group wrapping up the *Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!* tour for a short city tour and dinner in the beautiful, old colonial section of Salvador, called Pelourinho (pelo-REEN-yo). Your guide will be in touch with you at some point to optimize logistics of getting everyone together, but be ready to meet up in the hotel lobby by around 5:30 p.m. Nights in Salvador.

Day 3, Tue, 2 Feb. Salvador to Conde. We'll enjoy an early but well-appointed breakfast at our hotel before hitting the ground, running northward as dawn breaks, as it has for millions of years, over Bahia's beautiful coastline. We have a couple of important birding stops on the docket: one in an enclave of *cerrado*-like habitat (humid savanna with an open, fire-adapted plant community) where we could find Russet-crowned Crake, Peach-fronted Parakeet, Rusty-backed Antwren, Plain-crested Elaenia, and possibly even Horned Sungem and Blue Finch -- the other in tall forest where we will seek the rare, range-restricted Fringe-backed Fire-eye and Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner.

We should make it to our hotel near the little town of Conde this afternoon, with a few roadside stops to bird extensive cattail marshes near the coast. Night in Conde.

Day 4, Wed, 3 Feb. Conde mangroves. This very full day will find us exploring an extensive area of old-growth mangroves on Bahia's northern coast. We'll use small boats to access narrow channels in the mangroves watching carefully for Little Wood-Rail, Mangrove Rail, Rufous Crab-Hawk (rarely seen anywhere in Brazil!), Straight-billed Woodcreeper (endemic coastal subspecies *bahiae*), Campo Troupial, and Bicolored Conebill. A recent discovery here is the existence of a small, perhaps relictual population of *Pyrrhura* parakeets obviously related to the rare Gray-breasted Parakeet, until now thought to be endemic to the Serra de Baturite of northern Ceara state. Plumages of the two populations are at least slightly different, and their genetic makeups are currently under study. Although very few people have seen these birds, we will hope to find at least one small flock this morning. We will also make a foray into the *restinga*, where we could be fortunate enough to come up with Pectoral Antwren. Night in Conde.

We'll seek the Little Wood-Rail in the mangroves near Conde. This is a Brazilian endemic, and the smallest of the wood-rails. Photograph by participant Eric Carpenter.

Day 5, Thu, 4 Feb. Conde area and drive to Santo Antonio de Jesus. After a good early morning of birding near the coast, or perhaps making another attempt to find Fringe-backed Fire-eye or Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner, should either of these have escaped us earlier, the balance of today is largely devoted to repositioning from northern coastal Bahia to the southern, interior part of the state. Along the way we'll make a few birding stops, with good chances to see some great birds like the rare Pectoral Antwren, Great Antshrike, Scarlet-throated Tanager and more. Night in Santo Antonio de Jesus.

Day 6, Fri, 5 Feb. Drive to Boa Nova and the Pink-legged Graveteiro. Our plan for today is to push southward through southern Bahia to enter a very different, more humid region on dark, fertile soils where almost all of the forest has been converted to growing cacau, bananas, and other crops. Cacau was introduced into southern Bahia from the Brazilian Amazon in 1746, and cultivating it is the economic base for almost everyone in the region to this day. Planting cacau has resulted in the total clearance of the forest understory beneath a somewhat thinned canopy of tall, native trees and, nowadays, planted *Erythrina* and other species. Thus, all lowland birds dependent on native forest understory have disappeared from this region (a subset persists on the few and scattered hilltops over about 500m elevation), but the circumstance of cacau requiring shade for maturation has had the positive corollary of providing a tenuous maintenance of at least some of the canopy avifauna, the most illustrious member of which is the Pink-legged Graveteiro.

A "graveteiro" is a "twig-gatherer," which Bret and Brazilian colleagues introduced in the formal description of *Acrobatornis fonsecai* in 1996. The Pink-legged Graveteiro is one of the most distinctive species of furnariids—the Ovenbird family—which is saying a lot. DNA analysis has confirmed that it is most closely related to the Orange-fronted Plushcrown of upper Amazonia, and the even farther disjunct Ecuadorian and Double-banded graytails. This odd little bird, black-and-gray as adult and rufous-and-buff as juvenile, with stout, bright-pink legs and bill, hangs on in the canopy of native trees shading the cacau plantations in southern Bahia. It is a highly acrobatic forager (hence the genus name), deftly scaling along the undersides of thin branches as it searches for insect prey with mixed-species flocks. We'll make a point of seeing it well and learning of its interesting nesting habits. Other birds to watch for during our birding stops include Mantled Hawk, the handsome Golden-capped Parakeet, and Green-headed Tanager.

We should roll into the little town of Boa Nova after lunch for birding in the afternoon. Night in Boa Nova.

The Green-headed Tanager is an Atlantic Forest bird thst often travels in mixed species flocks.
Photograph by participant Becky Hansen.

Day 7, Sat, 6 Feb. Boa Nova. The region of southeastern Bahia that we will be birding at Pocoes and above the town of Boa Nova is a transition zone where the southern rim of the *caatinga* meets the western fringe of the humid Atlantic Forest. There is a remarkable assemblage of birds in the unique *mata-de-cipo* ("vine forest") here, including an impressive concentration of rare antbirds. Species we hope to find this morning that we may not encounter again on the tour include Broad-tipped Hermit, the handsome Silvery-cheeked Antshrike, the peculiar Narrow-billed Antwren, the ultra-rare (but here fairly common!) Slender Antbird, the recently described Caatinga Antwren and White-browed Antpitta. Unfortunately, most of the *mata-de-cipo* has been cleared, and our birding will be in remnant patches on ridgetops.

After this invigorating morning in the *mata-de-cipo*, we will bird an open rock shield that is studded with flowering cacti that attract a host of hummers, usually including Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, the gorgeous

Ruby Topaz, and sometimes even Amethyst-throated Woodstar and Stripe-breasted Starthroat. Depending on the weather and our hour of arrival, we will either check into the hotel, or perhaps head straight to another excellent birding venue in tall, humid forest about 11 kilometers east of town. This area is usually very birdy, even during afternoon hours, but there is one celebrity that will have us waiting until dusk: Giant Snipe. We will have the thrilling experience of seeing this amazing creature, the largest snipe in the world, practically at our feet!

Here, from the Atlantic Forest element of the Boa Nova avifauna, which is more typical of southeastern Brazil, we may see such species as Least Pygmy-Owl, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Black-billed Scythebill, Striated Softtail, White-collared Foliage-gleaner, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Bahia and Pallid spinetails, Buff-fronted and Ochre-breasted foliage-gleaners, Tufted and Spot-backed antshrikes, Spot-breasted Antvireo, the rare and little-known Rio de Janeiro Antbird, Ferruginous and Scaled antbirds, Pin-tailed and Swallow-tailed manakins, Drab-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, the rare and beautiful Fork-tailed Tody-Tyrant, Sharpbill, and Gilt-edged, Rufous-headed, and Golden-chevroned tanagers among numerous others. There are LOTS of fabulous birds in this area! Night in Boa Nova.

The Striated Softtail is another beautiful furnariid that is endemic to a small range of coastal forest from Bahia to Rio de Janeiro. Photograph by participant François Grenon.

Days 8-9, Sun-Mon, 7-8 Feb. Boa Nova to Itacaré. We'll spend the early morning concentrating our efforts on finding any rarities around Boa Nova that may remain at large before making our way eastward to the coastal resort town of Itacaré. Our overriding goal this morning is to lay eyes on a Bahia Tapaculo, among the least-often seen of all Atlantic Forest endemics. We'll have plenty of time to work on it, trying to ensure that everyone comes away with a satisfying view of this shy species. That mission accomplished, we'll have the afternoon to go for "Margaretta's Hermit", a highly range-restricted endemic currently considered a subspecies of Great-billed Hermit (by the SACC; the Brazilian CBRO regards it as a distinct species). Other amazing sightings on our past two tours included gorgeous male Kinglet Manakins, a close, foraging group of White-winged Cotingas, and a fly-over flock of 22 very rare Brown-backed Parrotlets near Itacare, so we'll sure be looking for repeat performances! Nights in Itacaré.

Days 10-11, Tue-Wed, 9-10 Feb. Itacaré to Camacan: Serra Bonita. After an early morning of birding around Itacaré with a excursion for the gorgeous Black-and-Gold Lion-Tamarin, we will head southwest to Serra Bonita to settle in for two nights of fabulous birding in well-preserved foothill Atlantic Forest. Highlights we will seek here include, first and foremost, the rare Banded Cotinga, which has proven to be fairly reliable here (certainly more reliable than any place else!). We'll also aim to find Plumbeous Antvireo and the enigmatic Rufous-brown Solitaire, Bahia Tyrannulet, Salvadori's Antwren, White-eyed and White-throated foliage-gleaners, Spot-billed Toucanet, an undescribed race (possibly species) of Sharp-

billed Tree-hunter and, should Pink-legged Graveteiro have eluded us between Boa Nova and Itacaré, we'll do our best to get good looks at it while we're based in Serra Bonita. Nights in Serra Bonita.

Days 12-13, Thu-Fri, 11-12 Feb. Serra Bonita to Porto Seguro: Estação Veracel Reserve. We'll have the early morning to concentrate our efforts on finding any rarities that may remain at large before making our way ever southward to the coastal, resort town of Porto Seguro. After checking into our lovely hotel near the coast, and a truly spectacular lunch, we'll make the short drive to the VERACEL Reserve for an opening afternoon of birding. If the weather looks to be good, we may also choose to stay out later, to be in position for a go at the rarely seen Atlantic Forest population of White-winged Potoo. This is the nominate form, widely disjunct from the very similar Amazonian/Guianan birds that are much more frequently seen. The type specimen (original skin upon which the name *Nyctibius leucopterus* was based) was taken in southern Bahia in 1816. There were no additional records in the Atlantic Forest until Bret and Brazilian colleagues rediscovered it at the Una Biological Reserve some 300 kilometers north of Porto Seguro on 1 November 1999. In February 2009, Bret found a White-winged Potoo at the reserves we will visit near Porto Seguro, and since then, the bird has been seen well at VERACEL many times, including last year's (2026) tour. Still, it's a mighty rare bird, and we'll certainly give it a solid try! We may also be able to throw the light on some other night birds in the hunt, perhaps including Black-capped Screech-Owl and Tawny-browed Owl.

Birding sandy-soil forests in this extensive forest reserve will give us an excellent chance of seeing the little-known Hook-billed Hermit, Red-browed Parrot, Ochre-marked Parakeet, very local Bahia Antwren (true *Herpsilochmus pileatus*), Band-tailed Antwren, White-winged Cotinga, and the stunning Brazilian Tanager. With great luck, we could also come up with Racket-tipped Thorntail (formerly Racket-tailed Coquette), Ringed Woodpecker (Atlantic Forest endemic subspecies *tinnunculus*), Red-billed Scythebill (little-known, nominate *trochilirostris* restricted to these coastal forests of southern Bahia), Black-headed Berryeater, and the ultra-rare Banded Cotinga. Other birds to work on include Least Pygmy-Owl, Blond-crested Woodpecker, White-barred Piculet, Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike, White-flanked Antwren (endemic Atlantic Forest subspecies *luctuosa* in the process of being formally split, probably to be called "Silvery-flanked Antwren"), Black-capped and White-eyed foliage-gleaners, Rufous-throated and White-chinned sapphires, White-bellied Tanager, and Opal-rumped Tanager (endemic *cyanomelaena* soon to be split and probably called "Silvery-breasted Tanager"). Nights in Porto Seguro.

Tawny-browed Owl is one of the nightbirds we'll watch for at the Estação Veracel Reserve. This is another Atlantic Forest species, found in the tropical lowlands of Brazil. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

Day 14, Sat, 13 Feb. Porto Seguro to Sao Paulo. We still have a couple of hours of birding early in the morning to look for some possible missing species before departure to São Paulo. We'll probably leave our hotel early in the morning for the Veracel Reserve for a couple of hours, coming back to have a great breakfast and prepare to go to the airport. Our flight is usually around 1pm, arriving in São Paulo around 3pm, with plenty of time for possible connections on that day.

Uma boa viagem para todos!

Day 15, Sun, 14 Feb. Return to the US. You'll arrive in the US early this morning, allowing for leisurely homeward connections.

About your Guide

Marcelo Barreiros is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who became fascinated with birds when he entered college in 2005, graduating with a degree in biology in 2009. He then moved to Manaus to work with conservation of Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, monitoring nests in both the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest regions. Today, Marcelo's depth of expertise in finding and identifying even the rarest species has earned him an outstanding reputation among the leading fieldmen in Amazonia and, increasingly, all of Brazil. He and his wife moved back to Sao Paulo in 2015 to be closer to family and the wonderful beaches and Atlantic Forest. Marcelo is a friendly, generous guide with an even temperament and ready laugh, who truly enjoys showing birds to tour participants. We know you'll have a great time with him!

*"We had a fabulous time. Great birds, great skilled and capable guides, and good food. Large number of interesting birds, beautiful scenery… Bret Whitney and **Marcelo Barreiros** were very personable guides and skilled birders. Their knowledge of Brazil certainly added to the overall experience." J.B., Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!*

Visit https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/ for Marcelo's complete tour schedule just click on his photo.

Financial Information

FEE: $6,350 per person from Salvador to Sao Paulo (includes flights within Brazil)
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): $900
DEPOSIT: $650
FINAL PAYMENT DUE: August 4, 2026
LIMIT: 8

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!

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: This tour begins in Salvador, Bahia (Deputado Luís Eduardo Magalhães International Airport, SSA) and ends in São Paulo, Brazil (São Paulo/Guarulhos International Airport, GRU).

Arrival: Salvador, Bahia (SSA) on February 1, by 4:00 p.m.

Departure: São Paulo, Brazil (GRU) on February 13, after 6:00 p.m.

Please wait to purchase airline tickets until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate. At that time, we'll be glad to assist with your flight arrangements at no service fee.

DOCUMENTS: Be sure to verify the latest entry requirements for each country you will visit or transit.

Passport: A current passport is required for international travel. It should be in good condition, valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date, and have at least one blank page for each country on your itinerary.

Visa: U.S. and Canadian citizens must obtain **an e-Visa** to enter Brazil. As of April 10, 2025, Brazil is issuing eVisas for US citizens at the following link https://brazil.vfsevisa.com/. Our office will forward more detailed visa application

instructions closer to the tour dates. Citizens of other countries should check with the consulates of each destination for current entry requirements.

VACCINATIONS: Yellow fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please check https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/yellow-fever for the current CDC information and consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals).

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The tour fee is $6,350 for one person in double occupancy from Salvador to Sao Paulo. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 13; all meals from dinner on Day 2 through lunch on Day 14, flights within Brazil, 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 tour fee does not include your airfare to and from the tour, 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 is $900 for those requesting a single room. 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, please contact us at fieldguides.com/contact-us/. Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please send your deposit of $650 per person; see https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/ for our Payment Options. **Full payment of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or by August 4, 2026.** We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 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 full payment, less $100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the full tour fee is non-refundable, which would include the full deposit if the final payment has not yet been paid. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non- transferable.

Our cancellation 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 that 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 airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to protect your investment in case of injury or illness to you or an immediate family member before or during a trip. Because we must remit early and substantial deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer refunds for cancellations outside of our Cancellation Policy. If a participant is unable to join or continue a tour due to

illness, all related expenses will be their responsibility, and no refunds can be issued for missed days. Please wait to purchase insurance until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate, as most policies are non-refundable.

For full details, visit our Trip Cancellation Insurance page at https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/.

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 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. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible 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.

NCP 7/2020; 9/24 updated; 6/25 MB; 6/26 RK MZ; peg; 8/26peg