

ITINERARY

***Lowlands of Bolivia:
Riberalta, Barba Azul and Madidi National Park
October 5-18, 2025***



With approximately 450 individuals left in the wild, the Blue-throated Macaw is one of Bolivia's most endangered birds. We will be visiting Reserva Barba Azul, the largest nesting colony of this iconic species. Photo by guide Micah Riegner.

We include here information for those interested in the 2025 Field Guides Bolivia's Avian Riches 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 website)
- 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

Most people associate Bolivia with thin air, windy mountain roads, and snow-covered peaks, but there's much more to this species-rich and seldom-birded country. For this brand-new route, we focus on Bolivia's lowlands, starting in the far north at the town of Riberalta where endemic Masked Antpittas trill from river-edge vine forests and Chaco Eagles patrol open stretches of cerrado for snakes and armadillos. Working our way south, we'll bird the Llanos de los Moxos, an immense mosaic of seasonally flooded marshes, cerrado and gallery forest around the town of Trinidad and Reserva Barba Azul, where islands of palms support the largest colony of the endemic and endangered Blue-throated Macaw. Thanks to important conservation initiatives, the macaw numbers are slowly increasing. The Beni Savanna, as it's also called, is home to Sharp-tailed, Streamer-tailed and Cock-tailed Tyrants, Black-masked Finch, numerous seedeaters

including the recently described Ibera Seedeater, the Beni form of Velvet-fronted Grackle and Plain Softtail, an as-yet undescribed greenlet, migrant flocks of Buff-breasted Sandpipers and an abundance of mammals that rivals the Pantanal of Brazil! Think Giant Anteater, Maned Wolf, Brazilian Tapir, Marsh and Pampas Deer and even Jaguar. From our lodge at Reserva Barba Azul we'll fly directly to the town of Rurrenabaque, cross the Rio Beni, and drive to Sadiri Lodge in the tourism zone of Madidi National Park. This comfortable new lodge at 3,000 feet in elevation, sits right at the sweet spot where Amazonia meets the Andes and during our 4 days there, we'll chip away at its 550-species bird list. Here are a few from that list to whet your appetite: Subtropical Pygmy-Owl, Scaled Fruiteater, Sharpbill, Bolivian Recurvebill, Yungas Tyrannulet, Yellow-crested Tanager, Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak, Hairy-crested Antbird, Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo, Military Macaw, Butterfly Coquette and Western Striolated Puffbird. We've designed this tour to complement our longstanding Bolivia's Avian Riches tour, which focuses on Bolivia's highlands, so if you've taken that tour already, we welcome you back to explore more of this rich and extraordinary country...and the good news is, you don't have to worry about elevation sickness!



Hairy-crested Antbird is one of the many "professional" army ant followers that we could encounter at Sadiri Lodge. Even Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo is a possibility. Photo by guide Micah Riegner.

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 & WALKING:** Moderate amounts of walking, much of it on paved roads or well-groomed tracks or trails. The longest walks may be about 2 miles, but most are much shorter. The trails at Barba Azul and Sadiri Lodge are in good shape, but there will be some ups and downs, so plan to bring hiking poles if you need them.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** The lowlands of Bolivia get quite hot. Be prepared for temperatures to reach the mid 90's. We will take advantage of cool mornings and afternoons for birding and spend the heat of the day either traveling or resting.
- **PACE:** Most mornings we will have an early breakfast (5 am) in our lodging and be out until lunchtime. In the afternoons we will have time for a siesta before heading out for more birding. Some nights we will go owling after dinner.

- **ELEVATION:** The majority of this tour will be below 3,000 feet in elevation. There will be a short layover in La Paz airport at 12,000 feet on our way back to Santa Cruz.
- **WEATHER:** Be prepared for hot, sunny days reaching the mid 90's. If a cold front comes through, we could get rain and temperatures in the 40's.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion, though with a full-sized bus, this is not difficult. We will be in 4x4 vehicles around Riberalta. 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 medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Bolivia does not have good infrastructure involving such things as comfortable, clean public restrooms. For much of this tour, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature, as there are no alternatives (most gas station bathrooms are perhaps worse than a field stop!).
- **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. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

About the Birding Areas



Our tour of Bolivia takes us through numerous lowland habitats in three of the country's nine *departamentos* (equivalent to states in the US). The recently published *Birds of Bolivia* by Armonia, is the best overall references for the distribution of Bolivian birds. The introductory chapters on habitats will help you get oriented to the general terrain we'll visit on each segment of the tour.

Founded in 1894, **Riberalta** with its 98,000 inhabitants, sits at the far northern corner of Bolivia close to the Brazil boarder. One of the town's main exports is Brazil Nuts, which are harvested directly from the forest. Here, the tall forests of Amazonia give way to grasslands to the south. **Pampa San Lorenzo** near Riberalta is one of these open cerrado grasslands where one can find Ocellated Crane, Horned Sungem, White-rumped Tanagers, Rufous-sided Scrub-Tyrant and the impressive Chaco Eagle. At dawn and dusk, Least Nighthawks can be seen flying over the savanna. Just north of Riberalta the Rio Beni joins the Rio Madre de Dios and during the high-water season, these rivers flood their banks into varzea or floodplain forest, home

to the endemic and endangered Masked Antpitta. Recent surveys suggest there are only between 200 and 500 of these striking antpittas left in an area approximately 50 km²—their main threats include timber extraction, agriculture, and mining for clay. One of the best sites to see them is a reserve called Hamburgo, only 10 minutes from downtown Riberalta. Other birds that can be seen in the forests of Riberalta include Flammulated Bamboo-Tyrant, Johannes's Tody-Tyrant, Purus Jacamar, Dusky-headed Parakeet, Black-spotted Bare-eye, Plain-brown Woodcreeper, and Amazonian Umbrellabird.

Much of the **Beni** department is in what's known as the **Llanos de los Moxos**. This enormous natural basin with marshes, gallery forest, cerrado, and palm groves floods during the rainy season. It is in the islands of palms where the endemic and critically endangered Blue-throated Macaw breeds, now just under 450 individuals. For many years this spectacular macaw was known only from specimens and live birds in the possession of parrot collectors, caught by poachers in unknown areas. It was only in the mid-1990s that biologists and conservationists discovered where the few birds still resided.

We will spend a day birding around the town of **Trinidad**, which is the capital of Beni department, in search of Plain Softtail (the endemic nominate race *fusciceps*), Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Hudson's

Black-Tyrant, the secretive Unicolored Thrush, Dark-throated Seedeater, and the endemic *boliviensis* race of Velvet-fronted Grackle. Interestingly, many species from the Beni are differentiated from those found elsewhere in South America and may prove to be separate species including a distinctive form of Gray-eyed Greenlet. North of Trinidad lies **Reserva Barba Azul**, an 11,000-hectare reserve protecting the largest breeding colony of Blue-throated Macaws. The reserve's savannas, gallery forests, marshes and waterways are truly a birder's paradise. Besides the macaw, one can find Cock-tailed, Streamer-tailed and Sharp-tailed Tyrants, Black-masked Finch among huge numbers of waterbirds including Bare-faced Ibis, Jabirus, Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills. It is also an important stopover site for 11 species of migratory shorebirds including Buff-breasted Sandpipers, which peak in October during their migration south to Argentina. In addition to the 345 species of birds, the reserve boasts an impressive list of mammals including Maned Wolf, Giant Anteater, Puma, Jaguar, Pampas and Marsh Deer and Capybara.

The reserve is divided into two sectors: the Private Natural Heritage Reserve where we will be staying and birding, and a sustainable ranching zone where low-impact rotational cattle grazing provides additional income to the reserve. Our money spent at the lodge will directly contribute to the conservation of the macaw and the wildlife that call Barba Azul home. To learn more about the reserve, visit: <https://armoniabolivia.org/visite-la-reserva-natural-barba-azul/> and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/128583429@N05/albums/72157657123371838/> and check out this video, which gives a good overview of the lodge and what to expect <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H609TK3eIQ>



*We have a shot at seeing Maned Wolf at Barba Azul along with a number of other cool mammals.
Photo by participant Sylvia Hanson.*

Santa Cruz de la Sierra is the largest city in Bolivia's lowlands. It is surrounded by a mix of Chiquitania, a short stature semi-deciduous forest found only in Bolivia, and various open savanna habitats. We will spend a morning and afternoon birding the vicinity of the city and for the sake of preparation, here are some of the most exciting birds we'll seek: Greater Rhea, Red-winged Tinamou, White-bellied Nothura, Whistling Heron, Savanna Hawk, Picazuro Pigeon, Golden-collared Macaw, Guira Cuckoo, White Woodpecker, Campo Flicker, Chotoy Spinetail, Common and Greater Thornbirds, Red-billed Scythebill and Bolivian Slaty-Antshrike.

Sadiri Lodge is a relatively new lodge in the department of La Paz nestled right in the foothills of the Andes. It sits in the Madidi Integrated Management Natural Area, a fancy way of saying the tourism zone of **Madidi National Park**. To access the lodge, we'll fly to Rurrenabaque, then drive roughly 2 hours (with birding stops) to the village of San Jose de Uchupiamonas. The lodge is right up the road from the village. The lodge sits on Sadiri Mountain, an outlying ridge of the Andes that reaches 3,200 feet in elevation. There are numerous trails that radiate from the lodge, some that go up in elevation where you can see mixed flocks with a more Andean flavor and some that go down in elevation where the flocks are comprised of predominantly Amazonian birds. Birding along the main road can be quite productive too. The lodge has

several hummingbird feeders that attract Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Gray-breasted Sabrewing, and Fork-tailed Woodnymphs while surrounding flowers around attract White-browed Hermits.



The Andean foothill forest outside Sadiri Lodge is some of the richest on the planet! Over 550 bird species have been recorded around the lodge. Some of the specialty species that can be seen here include Subtropical Pygmy-Owl, Scaled Fruiteater, Bolivian Recurvebill, Yungas Tyrannulet and Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo. Photo by guide Rose Ann Rowlett.

During our morning and afternoon forays, we'll look for Subtropical Pygmy-Owl, Scaled Fruiteater, Sharpbill, Yungas, Red-billed and Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulets, White-bellied Pygmy-tyrant, Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak, Gray-throated Leaf-tosser, Starred Wood-Quail, Butterfly Coquette, Round-tailed Manakin, Hairy-crested, White-browed, Chestnut-tailed and Brownish-headed Antbirds, Yellow-browed Warbling-Antbird, Western Fire-eye, Inambari, Black Banded, Strong-billed and *Tschudi's* Ocellated Woodcreepers, Western Striolated Puffbird (that's the one that Bret Whitney named after Barack Obama), Bar-breasted Piculet, White-winged Shrike-Tanager, Yellow-crested Tanager, Curl-crested Aracari, Lemon-throated Barbet, Rose-fronted and Cobalt-winged Parakeet, Red-and-green, Military and Scarlet Macaws. The well-preserved forest with low hunting pressure means running into Razor-billed Curassow or Pale-winged Trumpeter is a real possibility. Sadiri has a long list of night birds, some of which include Band-bellied, Spectacled and Crested Owls, Tawny-bellied, and Rufescent Screech-Owls, and both Great and Long-tailed Potoos. With our thermal scope we might pick up a cool mammal or two!

The lodge is run by the indigenous community of San Jose de Uchupiamonas so our money spent there goes directly to promoting sustainable ecotourism. For more information about the lodge, please visit: <http://sadirilodge.com/>

Itinerary for Lowlands of Bolivia

Day 1, Sun, 5 Oct. Flights to Santa Cruz. Plan to arrive in Santa Cruz's Viru-Viru Airport (named for a local plant) on this day. Our ground crew will pick you up and take you to the Hotel Camino Real where we will meet for dinner at **7:00 pm**. Night in Santa Cruz.

Day 2, Mon, 6 Oct. Birding around Viru Viru airport, flight to Riberalta. We will meet in the hotel lobby with bags at **5:30 am** and drive back to the Viru-Viru Airport north of town where we'll have breakfast and bird the beautiful grasslands around the airport. Some of the species possible around the airport include Red-winged Tinamou, Greater Rhea and

Chotoy Spinetail. We will then catch our flight to Riberalta, check into the hotel, have lunch, and bird the afternoon at Hamburgo, one of the best sites to see Masked Antpitta. Other birds in the gallery forest include Purus Jacamar, Black-fronted Nunbird, Johannes's Tody-Tyrant, Mustached Wren, and Hauxwell's Thrush. Night in Riberalta.



One of the most range-restricted birds of the tour is Masked Antpitta, which just occurs in the flooded forest around Riberalta. Recent surveys indicate there are only 200-500 individuals left. It is surprisingly easy to see as far as antpittas go. Photo by guide Micah Riegner.

Day 3, Tue, 7 Oct. Pampa San Lorenzo and varzea forest of Riberalta. We'll need an early start to get out to the Pampa San Lorenzo while it's cool. Here, in the open cerrado we will try for the easy-to-hear, but difficult-to-see, Ocellated Crane, the adorable Rufous-sided Scrub-Tyrant, Horned Sungem, Rusty-backed Antwren, Plain-crested Elaenia, and White-rumped Tanager. We will check the nest site of Chaco Eagle to see if any adults are around. During a scouting trip we watched one of the adults bring in a snake to feed the chick. After lunch and an afternoon siesta, we will head back out to bird a trail in the floodplain forest where we could see Flammulated Bamboo-Tyrant, Riparian Antbird, Long-billed Woodcreeper, Specked Spinetail and Band-tailed Manakin. Night in Riberalta.

Day 4, Wed, 8 Oct. Flight to Trinidad. We'll spend another early morning at Hamburgo before our flight to Trinidad, arriving in time for lunch. After checking into our lodge, we will spend the afternoon birding along the road. Long-winged Harrier, Great Antshrike, Mato Grosso Antbird, Great Rufous Woodcreeper, Red-billed Scythebill, Scarlet-headed Blackbird and the scarce Great-billed Seed-Finch are all possible along the road. Night at Tapacare, Trinidad.

Day 5, Thu, 9 Oct. Birding around Trinidad. This day we will spend birding the gallery forest in around Trinidad. This is a birdy part of the world and we could easily see well over 100 species in a day. We will bird a trail near at Puerto Balivian in search of Plain Softtail, Velvet-fronted Grackle, and Bolivian Gray Titi Monkey. In the afternoon we'll take a relaxing ride on the Rio Ibare where we have a chance to see the endemic Bolivian River Dolphin, Blue-throated Piping-Guan and Razor-billed Curassow. Night at Tapacare Resort, Trinidad.

Day 6., Fri, 10 Oct. Charter flight to Barba Azul. After another early morning of birding around Trinidad, we will fly in two Cessna charter planes from Trinidad to the landing strip at Reserva Barba Azul. Each plane has capacity for 5 people with 20 kilos of luggage. If you have a large bag that you would like to leave behind, our driver will bring it back to Santa Cruz, but please note you will be the rest of the tour without it! There are only 4 double cabins and a guide's room at Barba Azul, so singles will have to double up while we're there. All our meals will be at the lodge. Night at Barba Azul.

Days 7-8, Sat-Sun, 11-12 Oct. Birding around Barba Azul. These two days we will spend exploring the various trails that radiate from our lodge at Barba Azul. Some trails go into the cerrado where we could see Cock-tailed and Sharp-tailed Tyrants and Black-masked Finch, while others meander through gallery woodland. Make sure to bring hiking poles if you need them as these trails could be uneven. At some point, we will take a boat ride on the Omi River to see the Blue-throated Macaw roost site. A recently constructed boardwalk through a marsh will give us a shot at seeing Azure Gallinule, Rufous-sided and Ash-throated Crake and Least Bittern. Nights at Barba Azul.



Cock-tailed Tyrant is an indicator of well-preserved cerrado grassland. We will look for them at Reserva Barba Azul along with Steamer-tailed, and Sharp-tailed Tyrants. Photo by tour participant Maureen Phair.

Day 9, Mon, 13 Oct. Flight to Rurrenabaque, transfer to Sadiri Lodge. After an early morning of birding at Barba Azul, our charter planes will fly us to the town of Rurrenabaque. Once there, we will have lunch, then drive roughly 2 hours to Sadiri Lodge where we will spend the next several days of the tour. Night at Sadiri Lodge.

Days 10-12, Tue-Thu, 14-16 Oct. Birding at Sadiri Lodge. These days we will spend taking in the beauty and diversity around Sadiri Lodge in the foothills of the Andes. We will be birding the trails that radiate from the lodge, but we may also drive down the main road to bird. We'll be working through canopy flocks with tanagers, woodcreepers, tyrannulets and antwrens and searching for ant swarms that could have Hairy-crested Antbird, Western Fire-eye, Sooty Antbird and even Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo. Some evenings we will be out looking for owls and nocturnal mammals. All our meals will be at Sadiri Lodge. Nights at Sadiri Lodge.

Day 13, Fri, 17 Oct. Transfer to Rurrenabaque, flight to Santa Cruz. After breakfast at Sadiri, we will drive to Rurrenabaque for our flight back to Santa Cruz. Note there will be a short layover in La Paz. Upon arrival in Santa Cruz, we will have lunch, then spend the late afternoon doing some final birding. Plan to fly home any time after 9:00 pm on this day or the following day.

Day 14, Sat, 18 Oct. Flights home. Buen viaje!

About Your Guide

Micah Riegner grew up exploring the Central Arizona Highlands and was fortunate to have parents who took him along on college field courses ranging from the coast of Mexico to the mountains of Costa Rica, where encounters with tinamous, barbets, and jacamars launched him into the birding world at a young age. During his time at Prescott College, he made annual pilgrimages to Amazonia, where he worked as a guide and participated in expeditions, mostly in Brazil. For his master's degree, he studied the foraging ecology of Amazonian woodcreepers. When he's not in the field, he tries to make time to paint birds and other creatures that spark his interest.

Micah guided tours with Bret Whitney, John Coons, Dan Lane, and Tom Johnson before joining Field Guides full time in 2019. Micah is a generous guide with an easy laugh and is eager to share his love of birds and nature in the years to come. We know you will have a great time traveling with him, too!

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete tour schedules for Dan and Micah; just click on their photos.

"Micah Riegner was a delightful last-minute addition to the tour with Bret Whitney and Tom Johnson, and he added tremendous value. He was attentive to everyone and performed as though he'd worked together with Bret and Tom for years.... terrific!"
D. R.; *Great Rivers of the Amazon II*

Financial Information

FEE: \$7625 from Santa Cruz

DEPOSIT: \$750

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: April 8, 2025

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$450

LIMIT: 8

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: Accommodations range from excellent to basic but comfortable. The hotels in Santa Cruz and Riberalta are very comfortable with air conditioners and private bathrooms. The cabins at Barba Azul and Sadiri do not have air conditioners, however, their open screen design allows for a cross-breeze to blow through, and temperatures are generally quite pleasant in the evenings. Both lodges have electricity for charging batteries overnight.

DOCUMENTS: A current **passport** is necessary for US citizens to enter Bolivia. 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. If you are a US citizen, you need to have a Bolivian **visa** in order to enter the country. We recommend doing this before you travel to the country, but it can be done upon your arrival in Santa Cruz airport as you pass through the immigration checkpoint. You will also need an **International Certificate of Vaccination for Yellow Fever** to enter Bolivia. The vaccination is good for 10 years and can be obtained at your local travel clinic or from your physician.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Bolivian 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: Field Guides is a 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. For our flight to Barba Azul and then to Sadiri Lodge, we will be in 2 Cessna aircrafts with a limit of **20 kilos** of luggage per person. That's roughly 44 lbs. If you have a bag that you would like to leave behind in Trinidad, our driver can bring it to Santa Cruz for you to pick up at the very end of the tour.

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.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$7625 for one person in double occupancy from Santa Cruz. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 13, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through dinner on Day 13, 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 fees do not include your airfare to and from Bolivia, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$450. 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). **Please note the single supplement does not apply for Barba Azul since there are only 4 double cabins available.**

TOUR LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, the guide in training will be taking a seat in the van or bus. 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, 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 new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$750** per person, or see fieldguides.com/payment-options/ for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by April 8, 2025. 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.

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 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, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (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 information from us 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, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii. We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

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 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.

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