

ITINERARY  
**BIRDS OF BRITAIN**  
May 11-20, 2019  
*Scottish Highlands Extension*  
May 20-25, 2019



*The elegant Pied Avocet is the symbol of the RSBP, which protects breeding colonies of these waders along the coast of Britain. We'll visit the Minsmere Reserve in Suffolk, where we will see Pied Avocets, Great Bitterns and many other marshland birds. Photograph by guide Eric Hynes.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2019 Field Guides Birds of Britain tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

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

- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reading list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing 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

**G**reat Britain may be a busy island full of people, but it is also blessed with some wonderful countryside holding a good cross section of European songbirds, shorebirds, and seabirds. Our tour begins with a comprehensive journey through East Anglia, long considered a mecca for British birdwatchers. This is an excellent place to start your European birding with those species for which the UK has a special attraction. The nation's obsession with gardens has encouraged a number of species that are tricky, skulking woodland birds in mainland Europe to become endearing "yard birds": European Robin, Eurasian Blackbird, Song Thrush, Dunnock, and the colorful Blue and Great tits are all surprisingly approachable here. We should also have the chance to enjoy Garden Warbler, Blackcap, and Common Nightingale—species that may not look like much in the field guide, but just wait until you hear them sing! We'll travel through coastal

marshes where Western Marsh-Harriers patrol above colorful gatherings of Common Shelducks, Pied Avocets, and Northern Lapwings, and where Bearded Reedlings flit through the swaying reedbeds. At this time of year, the East Anglian coast is a great meeting place for birds heading north to breed (some bound for points as far as the high Arctic) and we can expect to see a good selection of shorebirds, all designed to test our observational skills! Inland from the coast, East Anglia's Breckland offers a complete contrast; its dry stony heaths harbor the peculiar Eurasian Thick-knee (Stone-Curlew) while the remarkable songs of Wood Larks and Tree Pipits play out overhead.

Our post-tour extension to the Scottish Highlands, with its tight patchwork of fields and hedges interspersed with oak and ash woods, and its wild, wide-open moors, offers a stark contrast with lowland England. We'll begin with an exploration of Speyside. The babbling waters of the salmon-filled Spey River tumble through well-watered valleys of birch wood and cattle pasture. Here, we'll seek Common Redstart, Wood Warbler, and Lesser Redpoll among others, while White-throated Dipper, Common Sandpiper, and Gray Wagtail feed busily along the river itself. Nearby are some of Scotland's oldest and most scenic native Scots Pine forests, home to Eurasian Capercaillie, Black Grouse, Eurasian Siskin, Crested Tit, and the UK's only endemic—Scottish Crossbill. After several days, we'll move to the historic city of Inverness. This offers us a base a little further north, allowing us to explore moorland lochs for Horned Grebe, Common Redshank, and Arctic and Red-throated loons, and to scan extensive heather moors and rocky rills for the likes of Twite, Ring Ouzel, European Golden-Plover, and the endemic race of Willow Ptarmigan (the famous "Red" Grouse). We'll also make a trip to the country's rugged coast, to search for Black Guillemot, Common Murre, Razorbill, Black-legged Kittiwake and European Shag.

May is simply a wonderful time to visit Britain, with the rural landscape at its greenest, bird song and nesting activity at a peak, and spring migration still in full flow.



*Reed Buntings are found in marshlands and farming areas throughout much of Britain. We'll look for them in Norfolk, where they might be found in the Norfolk Broads. Photograph by participant George Nixon.*

**About the Pace & Purpose:** Part of the appeal of birding in Great Britain is the fact that many of the best habitats are within easy reach of good hotels, meaning we'll be spending much of our time birding and relatively little (on many days) traveling from place to place. While many of the country's species are common and widespread, others are rare and/or very local, so we'll make repeated visits to some habitats to increase our chances of locating some of those less-common species. Early starts on most days will be optional—we'll offer daily pre-breakfast outings, but will be returning to our hotels for breakfast between 8 and 9 a.m., allowing those who'd rather sleep in the opportunity to do so. There will be several opportunities for night birding as well, also optional, of course. For most of the main tour, the terrain will be quite easy, with relatively little elevational change; there will be more elevational change on the Scottish Highland extension, though the maximum altitude will be less than 1500 feet. Most of our walks will be on well-maintained trails or paved roads. Finally, all of our accommodations are quite comfortable.

## About the Birding Areas



**Suffolk**—With Norfolk, this English county forms the region of East Anglia, which forms the “bulge” on the country’s east coast, north of London. While in Suffolk, we’ll visit the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds’ (RSPB) famous Minsmere Reserve. One of the oldest established reserves in the country, it was set up primarily to protect the RSPB’s logo species, the Pied Avocet. It holds the third largest reedbed in the UK and has a wonderful range of habitats, from pebbled shore to open water, marsh, reedbed, swamp woodland, dry oak wood, grassland, and acid heath. Its coastal position also makes it a magnet for migrant birds during both spring and fall migration. The array of habitats makes many species possible during our visit.

**Norfolk**—Lying just north of Suffolk (the county names come from old Anglo-Saxon for ‘north folk’ and ‘south folk’), the long eastern and northern coasts of Norfolk allows it to somewhat overshadow Suffolk and, indeed, the county is generally recognized as the best all-round birding area in the UK. The Norfolk Broads are extensive

areas of open water and reedbed, which, remarkably, were all originally manmade as the result of peat diggings. Some of the region lies below sea level and flooding is a constant threat in winter. The North Norfolk coast holds an array of wetland reserves, including Cley (Norfolk Wildlife Trust) and RSPB Titchwell. Both are key places and both offer excellent opportunities to turn up wetland migrants, especially shorebirds. Birding will be mostly from small blinds, but also from raised dikes giving good panoramic views. Further south, the Breckland region, which straddles the Norfolk-Suffolk border is the only part of the UK with a continental climate. Sandy soils overlying deep chalk give an unusual combination of plant life, and the region holds a number of special birds that are rare or absent elsewhere in the UK – though they’re not necessarily easy even here!

**Speyside**—Scotland’s Spey Valley is justly famous for its wonderful habitats. The salmon-rich Spey River babbles through cattle pasture and birch and oak woods. Beyond lie extensive forests of native Scots Pine with a fine understory of heather and Bilberry, all overlooked by the snow-capped granite massif of Cairn Gorm. Much of the area consists of private, feudal estates, ostensibly set up for grouse and Capercaillie shooting. Though the RSPB is now one of the biggest landowners in the region – and though they’ve put in a huge effort to reverse the downward trend, Capercaillies are now threatened (having become extinct in the UK and reintroduced once before), and we’ll be very lucky to connect with one. But there are plenty of other species to look for.

**Highlands**—Northern Scotland is a vast open land of raised, grassy peat bogs, drier heather moors, and rocky crags, all intertwined with wonderfully serene lochs edged with stunted oak woods and birch. The coast is largely rugged and rocky, each headland separated by sandy bays, many accompanied by timeless fishing villages where gray granite cottages nestle from the wind under grassy slopes. Exposure to the weather makes some of these areas reminiscent of the Arctic tundra and this is reflected in much of the flora—and also in the range of breeding shorebirds and scarcity of breeding songbirds.

## Itinerary for Birds of Britain

**Days 1-2, Sat-Sun, 11-12 May. Flight to the UK; to the Suffolk coast.** You may depart the US on the evening of May 11 for an overnight flight to London Heathrow Airport, arriving on the morning of Sunday, May 12. (If your flight arrives at London Gatwick, there are regular half-hourly buses running from Gatwick to Heathrow. The trip takes about sixty minutes.) Your guide(s) will meet you at the Terminal 3 meeting point, which is in the arrivals building in the ground floor seating area, at 1:00 p.m. **The meeting point is marked with the symbol shown to the right.** From Heathrow, we’ll drive to our first hotel, near the Suffolk coast; the journey should take about 3.5 hours. If time permits,



we'll do some local birding in the Westleton area before dinner. You may wish to consider flying into London a night or two early to get over jet lag or do some sightseeing; our office will be happy to assist you with hotel reservations near Heathrow. There is train service aboard the Heathrow Express that takes you directly from the airport to Victoria Station, in the heart of London's tourist district. Night in Westleton.

**Day 3, Mon, 13 May. Suffolk and Sutton Hoo.** Today should see us up bright and early, and coming to grips with the common, but unfamiliar! Barn and Bank swallows are joined by Common House-Martins and Common Swifts overhead, Song Thrush, Eurasian Blackbird, European Robin, and Dunnock rub shoulders with Eurasian Wrens, and we should find our first European Greenfinches, European Goldfinches, and Common Chaffinches. Nearby heathland will seem rather quiet after the activity of the village, but we'll seek out sentinel European Stonechats and hope for a glimpse of a furtive Dartford Warbler or two. We should find Eurasian Linnet and Meadow Pipit (in delightful song flight) here too, and perhaps Wood Lark, with its wonderful fluty song. After lunch, we'll work our way south to Sutton Hoo, site the largest and most complete Anglo-Saxon archeological find in Britain. Now a National Trust property, it houses a replica of a burial ship found on the property, with brand-new exhibits explaining the treasures found and their significance. In the evening, weather permitting, we'll listen for Common Nightingale—Britain's most celebrated songbird—not far from our village hotel, and hope for a glimpse of Eurasian Nightjar. Night in Westleton.

**Day 4, Tue, 14 May. Minsmere.** Today, we'll have a full day in and around one of lowland Britain's premier bird reserves. The diversity of habitats offers the chance to enjoy many woodland species, including Blackcap, Eurasian Green and Great Spotted woodpeckers, Eurasian Jay, and Marsh, Eurasian Blue, Great, and Long-tailed tits. Following the reserve's trails, we'll head out through reedbeds where Water Rails, Bearded Reedlings, and Great Bitterns breed, and out to well-placed blinds which overlook Minsmere's famous Scrape. In the reserve's shallow ponds, the month of May produces a bustle of activity. Pied Avocets lead a star cast of birds that should also include Sandwich, Common, and Little terns, an array of ducks (including Tufted Duck and Common Pochard), and a host of migrant shorebirds, likely including Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, and Common Greenshank. Night in Westleton.



*Sedge Warbler is a summer visitor, found in wetland habitats across Britain. Photograph by participant George Nixon.*

**Day 5, Wed, 15 May. To Norfolk, via the Norfolk Broads.**

Today, after a final morning's birding around Westleton, we'll travel north to the neighboring county of Norfolk. This is prime birding territory, and although we'll be driving for part of the day, we should still have some fine birding opportunities. Our route takes us through the famous Norfolk Broads, manmade bodies of water created by people digging peat for several centuries more than 1000 years ago; the sea levels then rose, flooding the pits left by the diggings. Great Crested and Little grebes nest here, Reed Buntings sing from exposed perches while Cetti's Warblers shout their explosive songs from denser growth, and Western Marsh-Harriers can be roadside birds; we'll also have an outside chance of locating some of the Common Cranes that have become established in the area. Night in Overstrand.

**Days 6-7, Thu-Fri, 16-17 May. North Norfolk coast and Blickling Hall.** We'll have two full days to enjoy the delights of the UK's most important and species-rich birding region. As we wind through the pretty flint and brick villages so characteristic of this corner of England, a series of wetlands along the coast offer further opportunities to enjoy more of the delights of Minsmere. Common Shelducks and Eurasian Wigeons will add a splash of color, while the erratic display flights of Northern Lapwings have to be seen to be believed!

European Reed and Sedge warblers are plentiful and Little Egrets are increasing as a regular breeding species. Norfolk also has sandy sections of coastline, and the Blakeney area holds good numbers of breeding terns, Common Ringed Plovers, and Meadow Pipits. On one afternoon, we'll visit Blickling Hall, an impressive Jacobean stately home which is now part of the National Trust. Built in the early 1600s, it was the home of various Marquises de Lothian (a Scottish peerage) for centuries. Its last owner, Philip Kerr, served as Ambassador to the United States during WWII. But there's

more than just a stately home to visit. The property's gardens are magnificent, and the house is surrounded by more than 4600 acres that house a multitude of species, including Eurasian Jackdaw, Eurasian Jay, Eurasian Magpie, and (with luck) Barn Owl. In the evenings, we'll have the opportunity to look for Eurasian Nightjar on nearby heathland where Tree Pipit, Wood Lark, and Eurasian Woodcock also breed. Nights at in Overstrand.

**Day 8, Sat, 18 May. To Breckland.** Our travels today will take us west along the Norfolk coast, with chances to explore yet more interesting sites. Possibilities today include Eurasian Turtle Dove, Common Cuckoo, Yellowhammer, and Corn Bunting. After some final birding here, we'll turn inland and southward to East Anglia's Breckland, a unique area of dry, stony fields, heaths, and pine forest—with a new suite of birds to look forward to. We should arrive in time for some local birding, perhaps in some heath pastures where Eurasian Curlew and the wonderful Eurasian Thick-knee (known locally as the Norfolk Plover) breed. Night in Mundford.

**Day 9, Sun, 19 May. Breckland.** We'll spend much of the day in "The Brecks," where our hotel is especially well-placed for an early morning visit to nearby Lynford Arboretum. The mix of deciduous and conifer woodland offers chances for Firecrest, Goldcrest, Eurasian Treecreeper, Coal Tit, Eurasian Nuthatch, and – if we are extremely lucky – the secretive Hawfinch. Eurasian Green Woodpecker also breeds here and we may come across Gray and Red-legged partridges, Common Kingfisher, Garden Warbler, and Lesser Whitethroat, too. Later in the day, we'll head south to a hotel closer to the airport. Night at the Holiday Inn London, Heathrow Ariel.

**Day 10, Mon, 20 May. Departure from England.** For those not continuing on the Scottish extension, you can plan your departure for any time today. Note that breakfast at the hotel is included in your tour fee.

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$4250 from London Heathrow**

**DEPOSIT: \$450 per person**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE: January 11, 2019**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$525**

**LIMIT: 12**



*"Red" Grouse, a form of Willow Ptarmigan, is a specialty of Scotland that we'll make an effort to find.  
Photograph by participant Jim Rome.*

## Itinerary for Scottish Highlands Extension

**Day 1, Mon, 20 May. Transfer to Scotland.** Those joining us for the Scottish extension will fly north to Inverness. Once we arrive in Inverness, we'll drive south to the village of Aviemore, at the very heart of Scotland's famous Spey Valley; the journey should take about an hour. Though today is given over mainly to travel, we should encounter a good variety of species along the way—anything from Common Buzzard to Ring Ouzel is possible—while the Highland scenery becomes ever more delightful as we draw near our hotel. Night in Aviemore.

**Days 2-3, Tue-Wed, 21-22 May. Speyside.** Over these two days we'll explore the best that Speyside has to offer. The RSPB has some important bird reserves in the region and a number of the centers we'll visit will be under their ownership. Within the Spey valley itself, we'll seek such delights as Common Sandpiper, White-throated Dipper, Gray Wagtail, and Eurasian Bullfinch. Nearby birch woods hold Lesser Redpolls and Willow Warblers, while banks of oak woods are home to Common Redstarts and Wood Warblers. Further onto the moors, we'll enter extensive forests of native Scots Pine—home of the dapper Crested Tit, Eurasian Siskin, and Britain's only endemic bird, the Scottish Crossbill. Over the years, influxes of Parrot Crossbills from Scandinavia have resulted in a breeding population of this species too. Grouse will be high-priority birds in this region and we hope to benefit from a little local knowledge in our quest for "Red" Grouse (a highly distinctive form of Willow Grouse that's confined to the British Isles), Black Grouse, and, with great good fortune, the impressive (but frustratingly elusive!) Capercaillie. Raptors will be targets too, with a visit to the tucked-away Findhorn Valley offering chances of Golden Eagle, Peregrine, and Osprey. The wary Ring Ouzel breeds here as well, and mammals to watch for include Blue or Mountain Hare, European Pine Marten, and the majestic Red Deer. Nights in Aviemore.

**Day 4, Thu, 23 May. Transfer to Inverness via Loch Ness.** Our itinerary allows plenty of time this morning to try again for anything we may not yet have seen. Finally saying farewell to Speyside, we'll head back to Inverness, but we'll be birding along the way and most definitely taking the scenic route! At Loch Ruthven, we should find Horned Grebes in full breeding regalia, while the surrounding hills and fields may provide Twite and Whinchat. Our route takes us past the mysterious depths of Loch Ness (views of the monster most definitely not guaranteed) and finally on to Inverness. Night in Inverness.



*We'll watch for the graceful Red Kite while we're in the Highlands. Photograph by participant David Disher.*

**Day 5, Fri, 24 May. Highlands.** The vast, open tracts of land north and west of the Great Glen constitute Scotland's Highland Region. We have a whole day to explore but a small area of this vast region and our exact itinerary will depend on what we're still looking for. Without a doubt, we'll want to head for the coast and the opportunity to see some seabirds. Passing the Black Isle, just north of Inverness, we'll pause to enjoy that most graceful of raptors, the Red Kite—one of only a handful of species endemic to the Western Palearctic region. From here, we'll visit a small but bustling seabird colony where Common Murre, Razorbill, Black Guillemot, Black-legged Kittiwake, Northern Fulmar, and European Shag should all be breeding and where there is a chance for genuine wild Rock Pigeons, too. Quiet, sandy bays hold Eurasian Oystercatcher, Arctic Tern, and Red-breasted Merganser, and there is a reasonable chance of finding Bottle-nosed Dolphins in the area. Moving to higher ground, the quiet freshwater lochans are favored by Arctic and Red-throated loons, with Common Greenshank, Dunlin, and Eurasian Golden-Plover on the surrounding moors. Night in Inverness.

**Day 6, Sat, 25 May. Flights home.** We have scheduled the group to fly out midday to Heathrow (the first available flight to Heathrow, so that onward late afternoon connections to many US cities can easily be made. If you need flights to an alternate London airport (there's a 7 a.m. flight to London Gatwick, for instance), we are happy to arrange this for you (and will credit you what we would have paid for the Heathrow flight). **Please do not book your return flight before 5:00 PM on May 25.** For those requiring an overnight stay, please arrange this with the tour manager.

## Financial Information: Scottish Highlands Extension

**FEE:** \$2650 from London Heathrow

**DEPOSIT:** \$250 per person (if taken without the Birds of Britain 2019 tour)

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** January 11, 2019

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$485

**LIMIT:** 12

## About Your Guides

**Megan Edwards Crewe** has been birding since childhood, when she discovered she could have her father all to herself (rather than sharing him with her brother and sisters) if she was willing to get up very early on Saturdays and tromp around the woods in search of birds. After graduating from Purdue University, she sampled an impressive variety of jobs (including veterinary technician, park ranger, junior high school science teacher, freelance writer and computer programmer) before discovering Field Guides. Since joining the company more than two decades ago, Megan—who brims with information and enthusiasm—has delighted in sharing the wonders and adventures of birding and the natural world with tour participants. One unexpected bonus of the job was meeting her husband, Mike, with whom she co-led a trip to France in 2000. They now live in a tiny seaside village in England’s Norfolk county, quite near some of the areas we’ll visit on this tour.

*“Megan Crewe is a star, with superb birding (and people) skills, unbounded patience, and a fascinating trove of bird lore... We were abundantly favored and look forward to future trips with her.”  
J.H., Spring in Cape May*

**Willy Perez** has been leading birding tours for more than ten years. He has also worked as a resident guide at Maquipucuna Reserve on the west slopes of the Andes, on a project protecting marine turtles in Costa Rica, and on bird conservation in northwestern Ecuador. He was a resident guide at Kapawi Lodge in the Ecuadorian Amazon for three years, mastering the art of finding and identifying the many secretive birds of the lowland rainforest. He has since guided throughout Ecuador including the East and West slopes of the Andes, the Amazon Basin, the Galapagos Islands, and southern Ecuador. During the last few years he has also guided birding groups in Bolivia. In his free time Willy trains local guides and is a frequent lecturer, in English and in Spanish, on birding and conservation issues in the Neotropics. His wife, Fiona, is British, and Willy and his family have recently relocated to England for two years. He speaks excellent English and has an engaging and outgoing personality that makes every tour he leads enjoyable and fun.

*“Willy Perez was an incredible birder and an extraordinary guide. I do a lot of traveling and have been on a fair number of birding trips...and Willy is one of the best guides I’ve ever seen.” N.D., Amazonian Ecuador, Sacha Lodge*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> to see complete tour schedules for both guides; just click on their photos.

## Other Things You Need to Know

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

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Accommodations are comfortable throughout the trip, though rooms are cozy in typical European fashion. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms.

**DOCUMENTS:** A current passport valid the duration of your trip is necessary for US citizens to enter the United Kingdom (at least six months remaining validity is required for onward travel to many other countries). 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 not a US citizen, please check with the British 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, so as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** When departing from the US, an overnight flight will be necessary.

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 help with ticket prices and schedules, as well as 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 may charge additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify its policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights will be the client's responsibility.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is \$4250 for one person in double occupancy from London. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 9, all meals from dinner on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 10, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping for hotel staff and restaurant staff 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 hotel staff for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to give an additional tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to London, 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 \$525. 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).

The **Scottish Highlands Extension** is \$2650 for one person in double occupancy from Inverness. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 5, all meals from lunch on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 6, the flights within the UK (London/Inverness/London), 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 are 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 hotel staff for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to give an additional tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from London, 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 \$485. 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 and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$450** per person. (**\$250 deposit** if taking the extension only.) 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 January 11, 2019. 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 a \$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 fees (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. In case of emergency, we reserve the right to substitute 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 <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> 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, bus, 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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