

ITINERARY  
**BORNEO**

*February 25-March 13, 2020*



*Whitehead's Broadbill is a spectacular endemic found in montane forests of Borneo. We'll look for this gorgeous bird when we visit the highlands of the Crocker Range and Mt. Kinabalu. Photograph by participant Myles McNally.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2020 Field Guides Borneo tour:*

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

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

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

**F**rom a naturalist's viewpoint, Borneo, the world's third largest island, is one of the richest places on Earth, rightfully deserving of the many superlatives it elicits. Its lowland rainforest, which used to cover most of the island but is rapidly being cut, is not only the oldest and among the most diverse in the world, but the tallest as well—the main canopy measures 200 feet (61m) with emergents to a staggering 277 feet (84m)! Towering above these ancient dipterocarp forests, at more than 13,000 feet (4095m), is majestic Mt. Kinabalu, the highest mountain between the Himalayas and New Guinea and the largest batholith on Earth. Its montane forests support species of Himalayan and Australasian affinities—oaks (of 70 species!), eucalypts, laurels, magnolias, and gymnosperms—as well as a great diversity of more tropical species. There are 26 species of rhododendrons, 80 species of figs, 500 species of ferns, and 1200 species of orchids. One hardy little plant on its rugged, granitic summit also occurs through Indonesia and New Guinea to New Zealand *and* in the high Andes, a remnant of a time when Antarctica still linked South America to Australia.

Its biogeographic history, its equatorial location, its diversity of flora, and the incredible stature of its rainforest have all contributed to the terrific diversification of its fauna. From invertebrates (e.g., 4000-plus species of moths) to mammals (140 species), there is amazing diversity of form. There are “flying” frogs, lizards, and snakes, and 14 species of flying squirrels, from the 5-inch Lesser Pygmy Flying Squirrel to the 3-foot Red Giant Flying Squirrel. Big, charismatic mammals include Bornean Pygmy Elephants, the Colugo or flying lemur, the agile and vocal Bornean Gibbon, the strange Proboscis Monkey, and the beloved Orangutan or “Old Man of the Forest.” The birds are equally exciting, from a host of rare and little-known endemics, including the bizarre Bornean Bristlehead (a monotypic family), the monotypic Fruit-hunter, several shy pittas, and the dazzling Whitehead’s Broadbill, to a representative sampling of classic Asian groups. The forests ring with the cries of pheasants, partridges, serpent-eagles, hornbills, barbets, broadbills, pittas, babblers, and bulbuls, sometimes joined by the haunting hollering of primates. The diversity of birds is surpassed only in lowland Amazonia.

Our tours will focus on three prime areas in the northeastern state of Sabah, politically a part of Malaysia: the Danum Valley Conservation Area, the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, and the magnificent Kinabalu Park. We’ll have time to enjoy not only a high proportion of the almost 42 endemic birds possible along our route, but a plethora of more widespread birds and other wildlife. Our accommodations amidst such wildness are remarkably comfortable, all with hot-water showers, delicious food, and impressive views of our surroundings. Their proximity to some of the best birding makes possible afternoon breaks and optional forays by day and by night. The flexibility afforded by staying right in good habitat makes our itinerary appropriate for both veterans of Asian birding and those seeking an introduction to the birds of Sundaland or Southeast Asia. Join us for an exciting exploration of the mystique that is Borneo.

**Please Note:** *We have highlighted in green any text that we consider requires your special attention.*

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** Former home to headhunters and rajahs, Borneo has long been relished by such intrepid naturalist-explorers as Alfred Russell Wallace, Hugh Low (a British botanist who first climbed to near the top of Mt. Kinabalu), and John Whitehead (the British explorer and collector who was actually the first westerner to the top of Mt. Kinabalu—and who named the highest peak for Low). There are still long houses and many of the organisms that wowed these early naturalists, and some of the interior remains virtually unexplored. Exploring Borneo is still a marvelous adventure—but with a great deal more comfort now. *And yet to do so still exacts certain demands, especially in the energy-sapping heat and humidity of the lowland tropics.*



*We’ll spend time along the Kinabatangan River in small boats. These may require ducking out of the way of overhanging limbs, or making landings along the river to look for birds. Photograph by guide Richard Webster.*

A willingness to start *very early* is essential in tropical climes. (Don’t worry: If you’re coming from the US, you’ll be awakening very early anyway for the first week or so!) Like most of our other tours in the tropics, we plan to rise early each day for an early breakfast (usually at 5:30) and a full morning of birding, usually along roads or trails, in some cases by boat. We’ll usually return to our accommodations for lunch. On some days we’ll bird again in the afternoon with our

starts depending on the weather—usually around 3:30. There should be time for afternoon naps on some days and some whole afternoons off (in a lovely setting) after a long, hard morning, especially if the afternoon rains are threatening. It's fun to have some off time to enjoy the birds and other critters right from our balconies. We will also plan some optional evening forays where the potential rewards are terrific. Our pace will not be difficult, **but remember that the lowlands of Borneo are hot and humid, requiring a certain amount of stamina to be up and out early and birding on foot for much of the morning (2-3 miles).**

An important physical requirement is a fair sense of balance. **We will be birding along several forest trails that can be uneven and somewhat muddy, with an occasional root, stump, or other obstacle.** Birding at the Gomantong caves involves a 300m walk along a sometimes slick boardwalk through rich limestone forest to enter the cave itself, and then walking a short distance in on an often slippery boardwalk inside the cave. Much of our birding along the Kinabatangan River is by small, motorized boats along a river with overhanging limbs, sometimes to be avoided by ducking. **An unscheduled rest stop or a stop in pursuit of a calling pitta could involve landing on a muddy riverbank—disembarking and re-boarding via the front of the boat.** Our guides and experienced boatmen will happily offer a hand, but a good sense of balance is essential. **Many of these same hazards—as well as potentially deep mud—apply to the trails in the hilly forest of the Danum Valley, too.** We will also bird from well-constructed canopy towers, connected by walkways through the forest at Sepilok and at Borneo Rainforest Lodge. So, if balance and stamina are issues for you, let us point you toward a less rigorous trip involving less climbing in the mud.



*We will be birding from some marvelous canopy-walkways at Sepilok and the Borneo Rainforest Lodge. These walkways help us to get closer to the canopy where we can find species that don't inhabit the lower levels of the forest.  
Photograph by guide Megan Edwards Crewe.*

At Kinabalu National Park, much of our time will be spent at about 6000 feet along a paved road that gradually ascends the lower slopes of the mountain. But we'll also want to bird along select **trails that can be narrow, uneven underfoot, rather steep for short stretches, and with the usual trail hazards mentioned above.** We'll take them slowly and carefully, but you may want a walking stick for balance along some of the trails, especially if it has been raining. Another recommendation for certain trails is a lightweight, portable stool that can make it easy (and enjoyable!) to stay still in one place in pursuit of a skulker without tiring one's back. Many of these same hazards and recommendations apply to our birding in the Danum Valley too, but remember that each of our lodgings offers a wonderful setting for enjoying birds right outside the door!

As an alternative activity to the road and trails near our cabins at Kinabalu that offers a number of the same species with a different perspective of the mountain, we may want to offer a morning at Mesilau, a highland section of the park entered by a different gate to which we can drive. The endemic Mountain Black-eye is possible there, and four impressive species of pitcher plants, including the world's largest (*Nepenthes rajah*), occur along a rather steep trail near the Mesilau headquarters. Unfortunately, this sector of the park has been closed to the public from 2015-2019, owing to landslides. If it has been reopened, our local guide will be happy to show off these goodies. If not, there will doubtless be specialties yet to be sought within the park!

When birding forest trails at Borneo Rainforest Lodge and Kinabalu Park, we'll adopt our trail behavior, proceeding quietly and rotating trail positions regularly, in order to maximize our chances of encountering some secretive forest dwellers.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact Karen Turner in our office; if she cannot directly answer your queries, she will put you in touch with one of our Borneo guides.

## About the Birding Areas



**Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Center**, only 40 minutes from Sandakan, is located at the edge of the extensive Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center. For us, its considerable draw is its sturdy, well-constructed canopy walkway and observation towers, which allow us to spend precious time in the canopy, sorting out numerous rainforest canopy specialists eye to eye. Among the many possibilities at the canopy walkway are Raffles's and Chestnut-breasted malkohas, Violet Cuckoo, Square-tailed (Asian) Drongo-Cuckoo, Red-naped and Scarlet-rumped trogons, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Brown, Black-and-red, Banded, and Black-and-yellow broadbills; a number of woodpeckers, including Great Slaty, White-bellied, Maroon, Buff-necked, Buff-rumped, Banded, Rufous, Orange-backed, and the tiny Gray-and-buff; Ashy Tailorbird, White-bellied Erpornis, Black-naped Monarch, Van Hasselt's Sunbird (split from Purple-throated), and (with great luck) the bizarre Bornean Bristlehead, a monotypic endemic that wanders in pairs or family groups through the rainforest canopy, uttering far-carrying screams. It's a wonderful place for our introduction to the tropical lowlands.

**The Danum Valley Conservation Area**, encompassing more than 100,000 acres in the upper basin of the Segama River, contains Sabah's most extensive protected area of primary lowland dipterocarp rainforest. Among the oldest in the world, these forests harbor plant diversity that competes with areas of Amazonia for the title of richest forest on Earth. There are more species of plants in twenty-five acres of Bornean rainforest than in all of North America! And not only is the forest rich, it is breathtakingly beautiful, with many emergent trees reaching skyward more than 200 feet.

Such botanical richness is, of course, reflected in the faunal diversity. The avifauna is that typical of the lowland forests of Malaysia, along with a number of Bornean endemics. Notable possibilities include Chestnut-necklaced Partridge, Black Eagle, Blyth's and Wallace's hawk-eagles, Blue-rumped Parrot, Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot, Raffles's, Red-billed, Black-bellied, and Chestnut-breasted malkohas, Whiskered and Gray-rumped treeswifts, Red-naped, Diard's, and Scarlet-rumped trogons, Rufous-backed Dwarf-, Banded, and Rufous-collared kingfishers, eight species of hornbills (including the incomparable Helmeted), five species of barbets (including Yellow-crowned and Red-throated), Rufous Piculet, Rufous, Crimson-winged, Banded, Checker-throated, Olive-backed, Orange-backed, and Gray-and-buff woodpeckers, Black-and-yellow, Banded, and Green broadbills, Giant Pitta (rare), Large Woodshrike, Rufous-winged and Maroon-breasted philentomas, Green Iora, Dark-throated Oriole, Spotted Fantail, Blyth's (Asian) Paradise-Flycatcher, the Bornean race of Crested Shrikejay, the Bornean race of Black Magpie, Slender-billed Crow, White-crowned and Chestnut-naped forketails, a wonderful array of babblers, Yellow-breasted, Yellow-rumped, Yellow-vented, and Orange-bellied flowerpeckers, Ruby-cheeked, Red-throated, and Crimson sunbirds, seven species of spiderhunters, and the following Bornean endemics: White-fronted Falconet, Black-crowned, Bornean Banded-, and Blue-headed pittas, Bornean and Black-throated wren-babblers, Bornean Blue-Flycatcher, Pygmy White-eye, Bornean Spiderhunter, and the bizarre and enigmatic Bornean Bristlehead, whose taxonomic affinities are still being debated. (It's now thought to be part of a large radiation of Old World shrike-like birds, including vangas, bush-shrikes, helmet-shrikes, wattle-eyes, ioras, woodshrikes, philentomas, and flycatcher-shrikes.) The towering forest is a great place for woodpeckers and forest kingfishers, and a

fruiting fig here could attract an impressive variety of barbets, broadbills, bulbuls, and fabulous hornbills—from small Black and Bushy-crested to giant Wreathed and Rhinoceros and the spectacular Helmeted, whose maniacal laughter can “bear the forest away.” A Great-billed Heron could be seen right along the river from our dining table, and Crested Firebacks, of the Bornean race *nobilis*, sometimes stroll around the lodge grounds. We’ll hope to locate a huge male Great Argus displaying at its dancing ground; if they’re not displaying, it will take great luck to stumble into one silently foraging along a forest trail. We’ll bird along roads and trails and from a tower 85 feet up in the forest that is accessed by a secure subcanopy walkway about 350 feet long. We’ll focus on finding the Bornean endemics and Sundaland specialties, but we’ll have three full days plus a morning to enjoy the abundance of bulbuls, babblers, and the like as well. By night we’ll search for Brown Wood-Owl (which sometimes hunts near our rooms), exotic “flying” frogs and mammals, and an array of other nocturnal critters, from endemic geckos and arboreal tarantulas to the world’s longest stick insect.

The mammals that inhabit the wilderness here are among the foremost reasons for coming to Danum Valley. The reserve has one of the largest populations of Orangutans in Borneo (split by some authors as *Pongo pygmaeus*, Bornean Orangutan), and we should see these incredible apes in the wild, possibly even watching them build their nightly “nests” or beds. Other possible diurnal primates include Gray (Bornean) Gibbon, Pig-tailed Macaque, and Red Leaf Monkey (aka Maroon Langur). Based at the wonderfully comfortable Borneo Rainforest Lodge, right in the forest, we’ll be able to make nocturnal excursions for both mammals and birds. We’ll have a chance for Greater and Lesser mouse-deer, Thomas’s, Black, and Red giant flying squirrels, Common Palm, Banded Palm, and Malay civets, Colugo (our closest relative outside the other primates), and even such rare and primitive primates as Slow Loris and the goggle-eyed Horsfield’s (Western) Tarsier. Leopard Cats and Clouded Leopards still stalk the forests of Danum Valley as well; the possibilities are staggering!



*White-nest Swiftlets and Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bats are two of the inhabitants of Gomantong Cave. These white nests are the ones that are harvested for “bird’s-nest soup”. Photograph by guide Richard Webster.*

**Gomantong Caves**, cathedral-like caverns housed in a limestone massif, are only a short detour off our route from Danum Valley to Sukau and only a forty-five-minute drive from the Sukau boat landing. The access road runs through a selectively logged forest reserve and provides plenty of good birding right along the road. Possibilities include White-fronted Falconet, Bat Hawk, Green Imperial-Pigeon, Diard’s, Cinnamon-rumped, and Scarlet-rumped trogons, Rufous Piculet, Gray-capped and Olive-backed woodpeckers, Banded, Black-and-yellow, and Dusky broadbills, Black-crowned and Hooded pittas, Scarlet and Fiery minivets, Red-throated, Gold-faced, Blue-eared, and Brown barbets, Raffles’s and Black-bellied malkohas, Plain and Van Hasselt’s sunbirds, Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker, and a variety of raptors and fascinating babblers.

Another purpose of our visit here will be entering the caves themselves. Four species of swiftlets nest

in the lower “black-nest” cave, three of them virtually indistinguishable in the field. Lacking the sonar navigation capabilities of the other three, many Glossy Swiftlets nest in the well-lit area near the entrance to the cave. The others nest in the darker recesses of the high-ceilinged cavern, each building quite a distinctive nest. The most common breeder in this cave is the Black-nest Swiftlet. Its nests are indeed blackish, containing numerous body feathers glued together with the saliva of the swiftlets themselves. These nests, along with those of its close relative, the White-nest (Edible-nest) Swiftlet, are harvested twice a year for the Chinese and gourmet food industries—once when they are first built (after which they re-nest) and then after they are abandoned at the end of the nesting season. The White-nest Swiftlet constructs its nest almost entirely of saliva, making it much more easily processed and thus far more valuable than that of the Black-nest Swiftlet. Only by seeing the birds sitting atop these strikingly white little cups glued to the cave wall can we be assured we are watching White-nest Swiftlets. The third look-alike, Mossy-nest Swiftlet, builds on ledges and covers its twiggy nest with moss; its nests are rarely harvested at all and are often situated fairly low, where incubating adults allow a close approach. The harvesting season varies a bit from year to year but could well be going on during our visit. It is amazing to watch the local harvesters combing the cavern walls and roof atop 100-foot ropes and ladders of rattan. These harvests have been going on for thousands of years.

A (slippery) boardwalk makes a big loop through the “black-nest” cave, the floor of the cave covered with an incredible accumulation of guano, itself writhing with invertebrate life from cockroaches and centipedes to scavenging crabs. It’s

quite a scene! We'll enter the cave just far enough to identify all the swiftlets—all of which usually nest not far in from the mouth. Weather permitting, we'll plan to stay one evening until dusk to witness the impressive emergence of thousands of Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bats, which are easy prey for hungry Bat Hawks and Brahminy Kites. We'll visit the Gomantong Caves area at least twice, and possibly three times in conjunction with our visit to the Kinabatangan.



*The Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary is home to the endangered Storm's Stork. Photograph by participant Paul Bisson.*

**The Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary** lies within the vast floodplain of the Kinabatangan River, the longest river in Sabah. Originating in southwestern Sabah, the Kinabatangan River flows 347 miles through eastern Sabah, emptying into the Sulu Sea. Established in 1999, the 65,000-acre sanctuary stretches from the tidal lower reaches, lined with mangroves, to the vast forests of the upper basin. It is home to Sabah's largest population of the extraordinary Proboscis Monkey, a Bornean endemic, as well as to such other mammals as the striking Prevost's Squirrel, Bornean Pygmy Elephant, Gray Gibbon, and the magnificent Orangutan. In fact, the Kinabatangan floodplain is one of only two places in the world where ten species of primates occur together. Rare estuarine crocodiles still glide menacingly through the water here, and even sharks and rays—usually considered sea-based—occur in some stretches.

The bird life of these lowlands is equally diverse, and the species we seek along the rivers by boat and by boardwalk include the endangered Storm's Stork (whose world population is estimated at 250-500 birds), Lesser Adjutant, Oriental Darter, Jerdon's Baza, Lesser and Gray-headed fish-eagles, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, White-fronted Falconet, Cinnamon-headed Pigeon, Large Green-Pigeon, Long-tailed Parakeet, Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo, Greater and Lesser coucals, Blue-eared, Stork-billed, Rufous-backed Dwarf-, and Ruddy kingfishers, Black-and-red and Dusky broadbills, Hooded Pitta, Oriental Pied-, Black, Bushy-crested, White-crowned, Wreathed, Wrinkled, Rhinoceros, and Helmeted hornbills, Scarlet-rumped, Red-naped, and Diard's trogons, Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, White-chested Babbler, and Dusky Munia. With luck we could even encounter the rarely-seen Bornean Ground-Cuckoo.

The Sukau Rainforest Lodge is ten minutes by boat from the Sukau dock. The lodge offers some decent birding right on the grounds, with a well-maintained loop boardwalk right behind our rooms that offers easy access to seasonally flooded forest, by day and by night. Hairy-backed Bulbul, Black-crowned Pitta and Ruddy Kingfisher are possibilities among the trees and Black-capped Babblers sometimes walk right under the boardwalk! Creeping around the boardwalk after dark could disclose a foraging Malay Stink-Badger (reminiscent of our skunks) or an all-white Moon Rat, a possum-like critter related to shrews and moles, or the strikingly marked Malay Civet. But most of our birding around the Kinabatangan will be done by boat. We have access to some lovely forested tributaries where we'll watch the Proboscis Monkeys gather to roost (and socialize!) along the river and use our electric motors to cruise quietly in search of calling ground-cuckoos. On at least one evening, we'll plan to go out in the boats after dark in search of Buffy Fish-Owl (which hunts above the water's edge), Oriental Bay-Owl, and nocturnal mammals; a few past groups have gotten to watch Flat-headed Cat or Clouded Leopard foraging along the edge of the stream. We'll have four nights based at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, as there is much to be seen around the Kinabatangan.



We'll watch for raptors such as the impressive Mountain Serpent-Eagle in the Crocker Range. Photograph by guide Megan Edwards Crewe.

**Crocker Range National Park**—On our way to Kinabalu National Park, we plan to spend a morning near the **Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve**, situated in the Crocker Range above Kota Kinabalu. It was established for its high relative density of *Rafflesia pricei*, the genus of which contains the largest flowers in the world—as big as three feet across! One of the rarest plant genera on earth, *Rafflesia* is entirely parasitic, lacking leaves, stems, and roots. Its seedlings attach by suckers only to the trailing stems of a single genus of wild grape vine, from which it draws its nutrients as an endoparasite. The only visible part of its life cycle appears when it is ready to reproduce. In the largest species (which occurs in Sumatra), a tiny bud swells to the size of a volleyball before the unisexual flower opens, spreading five petals that look rather like dead meat and smell like rotting flesh. The putrid odor attracts bluebottle flies, which *may* pollinate it *if* they have visited a simultaneously blooming flower of the opposite sex—a rare occurrence, given the paucity of

the flowers and their short life span. (The flies themselves receive no reward, having been deceived.) After a short few days, the flower rots, the fertile females producing fruits with minute seeds that are eaten and dispersed by small squirrels and treeshrews, only occasionally landing on the proper host. No wonder the flower is so rare! Reserve staff keep track of buds and blooming *Rafflesia*, enhancing our chances of seeing one, however, given its capricious life cycle, it would take considerable luck to come across one of these giants in the wild.

But there is additional reason to visit the reserve. Situated at around 4,000 feet (1200m), the Tambunan Reserve shares many of Borneo's montane endemics with Mt. Kinabalu, but these middle elevations offer better opportunities for seeing a few species that can be hard to find at Kinabalu itself. We will hope for such species, including the endemic Bornean and Mountain barbets, Bornean Bulbul, Fruit-hunter, Whitehead's Spiderhunter, Whitehead's Broadbill, Pygmy-White-eye, and Bornean Leafbird. We've had intermittent good luck with most of these specialties at Tambunan. Only 60 kms (a bit more than 35 miles) from Kota Kinabalu, the Reserve is accessible for early birding en route to Kinabalu Park.

**Kinabalu Park**, Sabah's oldest park, protects 290 square miles (754 square kms or 186,000 acres) around its dramatic centerpiece, Mt. Kinabalu. At 13,455 feet (4100m), it is the highest peak between the Himalayas and New Guinea. A gigantic granite monolith—its bald, jagged crown shaped by glaciers during the last Ice Age—Mt. Kinabalu is a geologically young mountain; it is still growing at an estimated rate of five millimeters a year. Its towering presence dominates the landscape, indeed creating its own weather, and has understandably been significant to local people for a long time, being regarded as an abode of spirits by the Kadazan/Dusun people. Its name is generally thought to derive from the Dusun "Aki Nabalun," meaning "Sacred Place of the Dead."

The vegetation on the flanks of Kinabalu comprises one of the richest and most remarkable assemblages of plants in the world. There are three main types of forest on the mountain itself: montane oak forest from the park entrance at 5200 (1580m) to about 6500 feet (1980m); mossy cloud forest from there to 8700 feet (2650m); and then stunted forest with many mosses, ferns, and bamboos to the treeline at about 11,000 feet (3350m). In each zone there are examples of western plants of Himalayan/Chinese origin meeting eastern ones from Australasia; there is even a tiny plant on the summit, *Oreomyrrhis andicola*, believed to have very close New World affinities. There are eight species of pitcher-plants, 26 rhododendrons, and 1200 orchids (including the world's largest) in the park.

Mt. Kinabalu is the center of distribution for essentially all of the montane birds of Borneo, including a majority of the island's endemics. At the lower elevations (5200 to 6200 feet; 1585-1900m; the elevation range that we will be birding while here) there is access to extensive oak forest along roads and trails within walking distance of the trailhead to the climb up the mountain. Here we'll search for such endemics as Red-breasted and Crimson-headed partridges, the beautiful Whitehead's Trogon, Golden-naped Barbet, the spectacular big Whitehead's Broadbill, Mountain Wren-Babbler, Bornean Stubtail, Bornean Whistler, Bornean Whistling-Thrush, the rare and little-known Everett's Thrush, Bornean Green-Magpie (split from Short-tailed Magpie), Bornean Treepie, Fruit-hunter, Chestnut-crested Yuhina, Black-sided Flowerpecker, Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush, the scarce and distinctive Whitehead's Spiderhunter, and the strange, bald-headed Bare-headed Laughingthrush. Other interesting birds, many of which sometimes occur right outside our chalets, include Sunda Cuckoo, Mountain Scops-Owl, the endemic Bornean race of Collared Owllet, Maroon, Checker-

throated, and Orange-backed woodpeckers, Hair-crested Drongo, Sunda Cuckooshrike, White-browed Shortwing, Snowy-browed and Indigo flycatchers, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Ochraceous Bulbul, Black-capped White-eye, Mountain Leaf Warbler, Yellow-breasted Warbler, Sunda Bush-Warbler, Sunda Laughingthrush, Temminck's Babbler, and Temminck's Sunbird. We also have a chance of seeing the montane *borneensis* race of the impressive White-crowned Forktail, which forages along rushing mountain streams and roadside ditches.



*The Golden-naped Barbet is common in the forests of Kinabalu Park. Photograph by participant Paul Bisson.*

Mesilau Nature Resort, located at 6600 feet (2000m) in the eastern part of the park, offers access to some of the higher-elevation species, including four species of *Nepenthes* pitcher plants. Carnivorous pitcher plants grow on nitrogen-poor soils, where animal matter (like the dead insects that drown in their pitchers) is their primary source of nitrates. The world's largest pitcher plant, *N. rajah* or Rajah Brooke's Pitcher Plant, endemic to Kinabalu, has a strong-rimmed pitcher that can hold up to 3.5 liters of liquid and an aberrant lid that stays open at a high angle. Recent research has revealed the function of such a combo: the lid exudes a sweet nectar that attracts (and rewards) treeshrews, which then stand on the rim of the pitcher to sip the nectar and mark their territories by defecating their nitrogen-rich feces into the pitcher. Being prevalent at the higher elevations, where arthropods are generally scarce, these largest pitcher plants have probably evolved larger and larger pitchers specifically to attract treeshrews, on which they depend for nitrogen. The access to Mesilau was blocked by the June 2015 earthquake and has been closed to visitors from 2015-2019, but we hope that this situation changes by tour time in 2020!

Kinabalu's avian and botanical wealth is echoed in other aspects of its natural history. There are a number of mammals endemic to the mountains of Borneo, including several restricted to the slopes of Mt. Kinabalu itself. Among the endemics we could see here are Mountain Treeshrew, Kinabalu and Jentink's squirrels, Bornean Mountain Ground-Squirrel, and Whitehead's Pygmy-Squirrel.

## Itinerary for Borneo

**Days 1-3, Tue-Thu, Feb 25-27. Flights from the US to Kota Kinabalu to Sandakan.** There are multiple flights from the US to get you to Kota Kinabalu, where you can connect with a flight to Sandakan. *Note that some leave the US in the wee hours of the morning.* Karen Turner, our tour manager for Borneo, can help you select the flights which will work best for you. Whatever your situation, you should plan to arrive in Sandakan to the Sepilok Nature Resort in time for a good night's sleep on Day 3 (February 27).

If you have the time, we encourage you to arrive a day or so early to rest up from the long international flight before the tour begins. Kota Kinabalu ("City of Kinabalu"), the capital of Sabah, is a surprisingly modern city overlooking the South China Sea on the northwestern coast of Borneo. It was completely rebuilt after Allied bombing in WWII and has sprawled with modern buildings since. But along its waterfront and near the outskirts of town there remain a few tidal

marshes and mudflats, and there is some good birding from a mangrove boardwalk right in KK. The Kota Kinabalu City Bird Sanctuary is open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for a small entrance fee; one-way taxi fares are reasonable, and the staff at the sanctuary is happy to call a taxi for your return trip. It's fun introductory birding and you could see a few mangrove species there that we probably won't see on our tour route, including Rufous Night-Heron, Slaty-breasted Rail, and Pink-necked Pigeon. Another option in Kota Kinabalu would be to take a boat trip or tour to one of the forested islands visible from the waterfront—together comprising Tunku Abdul Rahman Nature Park. Boats to Manukan Island—where bird possibilities include Tabon Scrubfowl (try the “Jogging Track”), Pied Imperial-Pigeon, and Mangrove Whistler—operate every 30 minutes (after 8:00 a.m.) from the pier at Jesselton Harbor, a short taxi ride away. Karen can help you with pre-tour arrangements should you wish to spend time in KK.



*The massive Rhinoceros Hornbill is one of eight species of hornbill that are possible to see on the tour.  
Photograph by participant Bruce Hallett.*

But, for the best opportunities for pre-tour birding, we recommend going all the way to Sandakan and staying an extra night or two at the Sepilok Nature Resort. It's a comfortable lodge with air-conditioned bungalows on a lovely piece of landscaped property, with a lake and a number of good birds right on the grounds. It's conveniently close to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, which we will not visit on the tour itself, and to the Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Center, which has a multitude of trails through forest, gardens, and lake edge, not to mention the canopy walkway itself. You could enjoy an extra morning or two on the RDC canopy walkway, which is our main reason for coming here; bird activity in the canopy changes throughout the day, as well as from day to day. And about 40 minutes away by vehicle is the Labuk Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary, where a handful of mangrove species that we don't usually see on the tour occur in an environment where it's easy to watch and photograph the incredible Proboscis Monkeys. All in all, the Sepilok Nature Resort is a comfortable and birdy place to rest up and get ready for the tour.

Whenever and wherever you arrive, our agents in KK or Sandakan can meet you and transfer you to your hotel. Our guide will get in touch with you one way or another, perhaps through an advance email, or by leaving you a message reconfirming the plan. When you reach the Sepilok Nature Resort, ask at the check-in desk if you have a message from Field Guides. Night at Sepilok Nature Resort.

**Day 4, Fri, Feb 28. Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Center to Danum Valley.** We'll arrange for an early breakfast this morning before heading out into the field. We'll then head directly to the nearby Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Center, the main draw of which is a fabulous canopy walkway—surely one of the sturdiest ever built! A morning in the canopy and along the trails below will provide us a wonderful introduction to birds of Borneo's lowland tropical rainforest. Wide metal stairways climb to two high sheltered metal towers connected by a (lower) wide metal walkway through the canopy. The vistas are lovely, and the light should be lovely early. But activity can wane by mid-morning, making it important to start

early on this first day. We plan to spend the productive morning hours watching activity develop and calling in species that are vocalizing nearby. As the day heats up and activity wanes, we'll travel by road to Lahad Datu, on the coast several hours south of Sepilok. We'll have lunch at a Chinese food restaurant in Lahad Datu and visit the office of Borneo Rainforest Lodge, where we'll get some background information on the Danum Valley Conservation Area, a logging concession managed by the state of Sabah. Then we'll load into vehicle(s) from the lodge for the two-and-a-half-hour drive over gravel (mostly) logging roads to Borneo Rainforest Lodge, which is located in the heart of a reserve of pristine rainforest nestled amid selectively logged woodland.

The lovely Borneo Rainforest Lodge, where each chalet has a beautiful interior and a private balcony, will be our home for the next four nights. We should arrive in time to get into our cabins, shop for leech socks, and look around the grounds for the dazzling Crested Firebacks that sometimes walk around just outside the rooms before dark. Night at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley.



*We'll have several opportunities for night excursions, where we'll look for owls, frogs, flying squirrels, civets, and other night-creatures. With luck we'll have an encounter with something as exciting as this Clouded Leopard that dazzled us on our 2019 tour!*

*Photograph by participant Myles McNally.*

**Days 5-7, Sat-Mon, Feb 29-Mar 2. Borneo Rainforest Lodge.** We'll have four mornings (and four nights!) to bird the entrance road, the canopy walkway, and the less rugged trails within this lovely forest reserve. Our usual routine will be early breakfasts, birding on foot for a long morning (sometimes including the canopy platforms, where one can sit on a bench for awhile), then back to the lodge for lunch, which is served from 12:00-2:00. *We highly recommend a lightweight folding stool for the extensive amount of trail birding here; the chance to sit while we're working on skulkers not only rests the back, but makes it comfortable to be still and patient—and it often gives one a great viewing hole into the forest without having to crouch.* Of course, you'll want to be prepared for rain and for some hilly climbing; if you use a walking stick, there's some good terrain for it here. We'll plan easy afternoons, with a good break for a nap after lunch, a little exploration on one's own, and/or some easy birding from the veranda or nearby; birding right around the lodge can be delightful—and keep us from getting caught too far afield when the afternoon rains commence. We'll have (delicious!) dinners at the lodge and, sometimes before and sometimes after dinner, optional night drives that usually last an hour to an hour-and-a-half. These night drives are offered by the lodge on a nightly basis, being guided by an

experienced spotlifter who sits high in a truck adapted for seating multiple ecotourists. The list of mammal, bird, and frog possibilities is long indeed, and we've had some great luck with them, with sightings ranging from File-eared, Harlequin, and Wallace's flying frogs and three species of flying squirrels to a confiding family of Brown Wood-Owls, a calling Reddish Scops-Owl, and a prowling Leopard Cat. The riches of the ancient rainforest here could easily prove some of the greatest of the trip! Nights at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley.

**Day 8, Tue, Mar 3. Danum Valley to Sukau.** After a final morning's birding in the Danum Valley, we'll have lunch and then depart for the 2.5 hour drive back to Lahad Datu. There, we'll transfer to another vehicle and head toward the village of Sukau, gateway to the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. Time and weather permitting, we'll detour to visit the fascinating Gomantong Caves this afternoon, taking the boardwalk into the "black-nest cave" and staying until sunset to watch the exodus of Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bats. For this adventure, you'll want your flashlight (for the cave), as well as your umbrella; you never know what the weather in the rainforest will be, especially in the afternoon. If we stay for the bats, we won't reach Sukau Rainforest Lodge until after dark. Reaching our lodge involves driving to the boat dock at Sukau (some 40 minutes away) and taking a 10-minute boat ride to the lodge, where we'll be greeted with dinner and an orientation session. We should sleep in comfort tonight, with a chorus of frogs and insects just outside our windows.

The climate throughout the lowlands will be tropical, meaning hot and humid; the mean temperature for the year (at Danum Valley, where it has been recorded for many years) is 80°F, and it rarely varies by 10°F in either direction

throughout the year. Nights are usually quite pleasant for sleeping, but it often gets hot in the direct sun by 8:30 or 9:00 in the morning. The coastal lowlands are generally warmer, depending on the amount of cloud cover. Lightweight field clothing is appropriate throughout the lowlands, and you'll always want your sunscreen, rain gear, and water with you. Drinking water is supplied in your room, and you can refill your canteen anytime from big bottles of drinking water in the lobby and restaurant.

The lodgings at Sukau Rainforest Lodge have been recently renovated and are wonderfully comfortable, offering spacious rooms, private, hot-water bathrooms, air-conditioning, and screened windows with views of the forest. We'll enjoy delicious Malaysian food in a festive atmosphere right on the Kinabatangan River, and we'll bird from boats with quiet, electric motors—a real plus for birding! Night at Sukau Rainforest Lodge.



*The tiny and colorful Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher is one of a number of kingfishers we'll watch for along the rivers.  
Photograph by participant Bruce Hallett.*

**Days 9-11, Wed-Fri, Mar 4-6. Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary.** We'll start with an exploration of the nearby Menanggul River, doing most of our birding by boat (with experienced operators). You'll want to have your rubber boots with you on our various boat trips, as you may need to land for a rest stop, and the mud along the rivers is quite sticky. Of course, as always, you'll want your rain gear handy, including your umbrella, and you'll need sunglasses for the glare of a bright tropical sky over water. We anticipate doing cruises on the Kinabatangan and its tributaries early morning, late afternoon, and on at least one of our evenings at Sukau; exactly how we orchestrate our time will depend upon anticipated weather conditions. Having four nights here should ensure we have some good-weather time for cruises, including time to search for any recently reported Bornean Pygmy Elephants. Each boat will have a sharp-eyed boatman and a guide. In between early cruises and lunchtime, or if rain should interfere with our planned boat trips, we'll bird on foot along the covered Sukau boardwalk trail as well. On one of our mornings, we'll explore the well-developed secondary forest along the Gomantong Caves entrance road. This little-traveled road offers access to rich forest, full of new birds for us. Nights at Sukau Rainforest Lodge.

**Day 12, Sat, Mar 7. Sukau to Kota Kinabalu.** Today, we'll travel back to Sandakan in time for our flight of about an hour back to Kota Kinabalu. On the way, we'll make another visit to the birdy Gomantong Caves access road, for another chance to pick up anything we might have missed. We'll arrive in Sandakan in time to have some lunch before our flight, which is scheduled for 1:10 p.m. and should take about an hour. Once we've arrived in Kota Kinabalu, we'll head to a small park along the coast to bird for an hour or so before checking into our hotel. The Tanjung Aru beach park is home to an introduced population of Blue-naped Parrots, and its tall trees and ornamental plantings can also be an excellent place to spot Sunda Woodpeckers and Pied Trillers. Night in Kota Kinabalu.

**Day 13, Sun, Mar 8. Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve; to Kinabalu Park.** We plan an early (5:00 a.m.) start, with a boxed breakfast from our hotel, in order to reach good habitat near the Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve while there is good activity. It's a bit more than 35 miles (about 60 km) to the reserve, where we'll spend the best part of the morning. The highway

transects Crocker Range National Park, but there is little access to areas away from the road. We'll bird good forest from the road edge, around the Rafflesia Center itself, and at the Gunung Alab sector of the park (where we hope to find the highland endemic Mountain Black-eye) for much of the morning.

After a nearby restaurant lunch, we'll head for Kinabalu Park, descending into the Tambunan valley and then heading northeast toward Ranau via a picturesque road with views of both the extensive Crocker Range and, eventually, Gunung (Mt.) Kinabalu itself, looming in the distance. We should reach the park headquarters, at 5300 feet (1600m) on the southern slopes of Mt. Kinabalu, in time for an exciting introduction to beautiful Kinabalu. We'll have the balance of the day to get into our rooms and enjoy the sunset, which can be quite dramatic from our accommodations inside the park. Here, near the eastern edge of the time zone, darkness falls around 6:30 p.m. Our routine here will be to walk to a nearby restaurant for dinners. You'll want some warmer clothing and your umbrella for the walks back and forth; clouds and mist can materialize out of nowhere in the shadow of the mountain. Night at Kinabalu Park.



*Rafflesia* is one of the largest flowers in the world; we'll hope to find one in bloom when we visit the Tambunan Reserve. Photograph by guide Megan Edwards Crewe.

#### **Days 14-16, Mon-Wed, Mar 9-11. Kinabalu Park.**

We have three-and-a-half days to explore the forests of Kinabalu. It will be pleasantly cool here, especially at night and at dawn, when we should have wonderful views toward the mountain. While at Kinabalu, we'll have a number of options and some very focused endemic birding. At the lower elevations—from the park entrance at about 5300 feet (1600m) up to 6300 feet (1900m)—there are some wonderful birds to be seen right around our lodgings and along the paved road up the mountain. (The Summit Trail, which accesses the higher habitats, is no longer available to day-hikers in the park, which means the Friendly Bush-Warbler is no longer possible on this tour.) We'll probably begin in these areas and then enter some of the less difficult trails through the extensive montane oak-dipterocarp forest if the day becomes sunny and warm. We'll use a van or bus for transport to some of the trailheads in the park, sometimes walking back to lunch at the centrally located Liwagu Restaurant and sometimes lunching at restaurants a short distance from the park. The covered patio of the Liwagu restaurant is a lovely, birdy place to hang out in case of rain. Our afternoon activities will depend on the combination of weather and what we've seen and what we haven't. Our routine will be early starts after a hot buffet breakfast, sit-down lunches with some down

time afterward, and some optional birding in the afternoon. We plan one afternoon to drive down to Poring Hot Springs primarily for a look at a blooming *Rafflesia*. Nights at Kinabalu Park.

**Day 17, Thu, Mar 12. Kinabalu Park; afternoon return to Kota Kinabalu.** We have a final full morning to focus on finding whatever exciting Kinabalu species may have eluded us until now. After lunch, we'll load up and head for KK, which is about two hours away by direct driving. We may stop by some marshes or rivers en route in hopes of a few waterbirds, but we plan to get to our hotel in time to clean up and repack before our farewell dinner at the hotel restaurant. Night in Kota Kinabalu.

**Day 18, Fri, Mar 13. Departure (flights homeward).** You can depart Kota Kinabalu at any time today; breakfast is included in the price of your room. Our Malaysian operator will confirm our flights and advise us as to when we should be ready for our transfers to the airport. Recrossing the international dateline, we should arrive home (many hours later!) on the same date.

Check <http://fieldguides.com/bird-tours/borneo> on our website for a captioned slideshow that will give you a feel for some of what we'll be doing in Borneo. Just click on the "Mosaic of the Tour" slideshow in the left-hand column.

## About Your Guide

**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 brothers and sisters) if she was willing to get up very early on Saturdays and tromp around the woods in search of birds. After graduating with a degree in biology from Purdue University, she sampled an impressive variety of jobs 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 participants.

One unexpected bonus of the job has been meeting her British husband Mike, with whom she co-led a trip to France in 2000. They've bounced back and forth across the Atlantic since then, and are now settled in a small coastal village in Norfolk, England, where they're enjoying long walks around their "local patch" and slowly converting their half-acre garden into a wildlife refuge. She has led five previous Borneo tours.

*This was our 4th trip with Megan. We enjoy her sense of humor and people skills. She is organized, very knowledgeable, worked hard to get everyone on the birds, and worked well with our local guides to give us the best experience she could. She also gives good hugs! K.C., Borneo*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Megan's complete tour schedule; just click on her photo.

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$7975 from Sandakan

**DEPOSIT:** \$800 per person

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** October 28, 2019

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (Optional): \$1250 \*Traditional singles may not be available in Kinabalu Park-see below.

**LIMIT:** 8

## Other Things You Need to Know

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

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** We stay at a very nice resort lodge in Sepilok, in a modern, comfortable hotel in Kota Kinabalu, in forest-based chalets inside Kinabalu Park, and at *exceptionally* good lodges on the Kinabatangan River and in the Danum Valley. Our lodgings at Kinabalu Park are somewhat basic, but spacious and clean and in a dreamy location. All have hot-water showers, but you will need to flip a switch to turn on the hot water in the Danum Valley and at Kinabalu Park. At each of our accommodations, we'll enjoy delicious Malaysian and international food, most often in a lovely natural setting.

**DOCUMENTS:** A current passport, valid for three months beyond the date of your return, is necessary for US citizens to enter Borneo. No visa is required.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Malaysian consulate (Sabah is part of Malaysia) 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.

**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 the flights are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility. Please check the weight limit for carry-ons on your international flight; some airlines are quite strict about it.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is \$7975 for one person in double occupancy from Sandakan. It includes all lodging from Day 3 through Day 17, all meals from breakfast on Day 4 through breakfast on Day 18, all

ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader. Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Borneo, 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 \$1250. \*Please note that in Kinabalu Park we will stay at either Hill Lodge or Nepenthes Lodge. Hill Lodge is a typical hotel with single rooms and double rooms. Nepenthes Lodge is quite different; it has suites which are split level. The top floor typically has two bedrooms, and one of the bedrooms has an en-suite bathroom, and then there is another bathroom on the floor, then downstairs has a room and a bathroom. The suite also has a large living area. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$800** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by October 28, 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 \$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. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. **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 with InsureMyTrip

([www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com)) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. Please let us know if you have any questions about this. If you purchase the insurance within 24 hours of 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, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

9May19-MEC