

ITINERARY  
**CAMBODIA:**  
**Angkor Temples and Vanishing Birds**  
*February 12-27, 2020*



*The Spot-billed Pelican is listed as Near-Threatened, but conservation efforts in Cambodia are helping to protect them and many other wetland birds, such as Giant Ibis, Oriental Darter, and several stork species. Photograph by guide Phil Gregory.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2020 Field Guides Cambodia 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

**Why Cambodia?** Well, Phil and Sue Gregory had heard a lot about it and decided to take a trip there in 2008; it proved to be a fascinating journey combining some wonderful birds with one of the great legendary cultural sites at Angkor Wat and surrounds. Cambodia is what might be described as the "Last Chance to See" destination for mega-rare large waterbirds like Giant and White-shouldered ibis, Spot-billed Pelican, and Greater Adjutant, as well as the endangered Asian taxon of Sarus Crane, Oriental Darter, Lesser Adjutant, Painted and Milky storks, Pied Harrier, Bengal Florican, Asian Golden Weaver, and the recently described Mekong Wagtail. Population pressures, deforestation, and habitat degradation throughout Southeast Asia mean that relatively undeveloped Cambodia is the last or at least a very significant sanctuary for many of the above species.

Surrounded by Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam, Cambodia is a small country with a very turbulent past, most recently while under the murderous tyranny of the Khmer Rouge when millions of people died in forced labor camps in one of the darkest episodes of 20th Century history. But the country and its people have proven amazingly resilient despite all the turbulence, and Cambodia today is a modern Asian-style guided democracy, proud of its ancestral and cultural heritage and custodian of the World Heritage site of Angkor Wat and its many associated temples. The long Buddhist tradition can be witnessed in the polite and respectful nature of the people, and tourists are welcomed and encouraged as a way of providing jobs and income for the still largely agrarian society. Angkor is on the national flag, the national beer, the currency—it's everywhere and is a truly fantastic spectacle—do bring those cameras!

The land is mostly flat with some mountains around the border areas, has a coastline on the Indian Ocean, and is intensively farmed with rice paddies to feed the burgeoning population. Woodland is dry savanna type in the lowlands with scattered deciduous drought-resistant trees, and there are still some quite extensive (albeit disturbed) grasslands and many small wetlands. The cultivated and seasonally irrigated rice paddies are known as trepeangs, and they can be excellent birding habitat.

Our tour is timed to coincide with the end of the dry season (in so far as these things can be predicted these days), with water levels high enough for the breeding storks and herons and roads again accessible.

The cuisine is very simple, with rice and fish dishes predominating, and not too much in the way of spices. Happily, our recent trips found big gastronomic improvement and some nice curries and local meals were enjoyed. Coffee tends to be moderate but improving—surprising given the French colonial background—and good bread becoming easier to find.



*The critically endangered Bengal Florican is the target of important conservation efforts in Cambodia. We'll visit a reserve created for these rare bustards, and we should be able to get good looks at them. Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.*

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** The terrain on this tour will be easy to moderate with no long steep climbs, however there will be walking through grassland and woodland over uneven terrain on several days. Depending on the cooperativeness of a couple of key species, these walks over uneven (but level) terrain may be half a mile or more. The Prek Toal stork colony may require a short, but very steep, climb up a tower for best viewing of the colony, though from 2016 on we have been to an alternate site without a tower. We will also make a couple of boat trips on which you will have to climb in and out of the boat. It can be muddy at the lakeshore sites but not much walking in those areas is involved. Overall temperatures are quite high in the 80's F (32°C), sometimes higher into the 90's (35°C) at Tmatboey. A good night's sleep is typically to be had, though you may want to venture out and take a look at the colorful and lively urban nightlife of Siem Reap. Our birding will be on a mixture of gravel and tar roads and trails, which are generally in pretty good condition, though some will be dusty and ashy and their condition varies from year to year. Typically we are to take it slowly, though getting out to Giant Ibis roost spots can sometimes be more challenging. Overall, the pace of this trip is mostly easy, quite often with a break in the heat of the day.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide.

## About the Birding Areas



**Kratie** is located on the legendary Mekong River, here quite wide and dotted with gravel bars and islands. The rare and declining Irrawaddy River Dolphin lives here and is a big tourist attraction, and this is also the place to see the recently discovered Mekong Wagtail, a distinctive taxon (amazingly like an African Pied Wagtail!) that lives along sandbars and islets in the river and has a very restricted range. It was named *Motacilla samveasnae* for Sam Veasna, who sadly died not long before the species was formally described. Small Pratincole is usually seen on the sandbars too. Ponds nearby are worth checking for migrants and the rare Asian Golden Weaver.

**Tmatboey** might be described as Giant Ibis central; the dry savanna woodland and seasonally flooded rice paddies (trapeangs) near this isolated village are where the critically endangered species still breeds—along with the perhaps

equally rare White-shouldered Ibis, two of the Earth's rarest species at one of their very last strongholds. We will walk through the woodlands and paddies and hope to see the birds as dawn comes and they prepare to vacate their roosts. The rangers may also know nest sites and we can encounter the birds feeding in the remaining wet patches, though this may entail some few miles of level walking. It's a terrific place for owls, and the amazing local guide often find six species at daytime roosts, with Brown Fish-Owl and both Brown and Spotted Wood-owl roosting in thickets here. The rare White-rumped Falcon is also possible. Woodpeckers are unusually varied here with White-bellied, Great Slaty, Black-headed, Rufous-bellied and Yellow-crowned all major crowd pleasers.

**Siem Reap** is the jumping off point for legendary Angkor Wat, a truly amazing place that is deservedly a World Heritage site. There is a substantial amount of forest remaining around the area, though much of the understorey has been cleared, and a large moat, good for Oriental Darter and White-Pygmy Goose, encircles it. Black Baza is also possible, as are Red-breasted Parakeet, Hainan Blue-Flycatcher, White-throated Rock-Thrush and Forest Wagtail, and other Palearctic migrants will also be moving through at this time of year.

The subsidiary temples are well worth a visit. The ruins at Angkor Tom (Bayon), near Angkor, are very impressive, and Angkor itself has a tremendous setting. We'll have time to tour the site as well as bird the areas around it and you might want to think about coming a day or two early to enjoy the ruins at leisure, with excellent English speaking temple guides readily available. Angkor must have been one of the wealthiest and indeed largest cities on Earth in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

**Prek Toai**—Lake Tonle Sap is a very interesting, albeit heavily settled, destination, with miles of bamboo fish traps and so many houses on stilts it's amazing that the fishery can still support so many people, though in 2012 there was a three-year shutdown of the fish traps implemented to try to get some fish stock recovery. It also supports a large Asian Openbill colony and about 40 pairs of Painted Storks, plus Lesser Adjutant and the rare and endangered Greater Adjutant, with Milky Stork also possible with a bit of luck.

**Ang Trapeang Thmor**—This large wetland is a Khmer Rouge slave labor artifact upon an Angkorian base, that may have both Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged jacanas nearby, Cinnamon and Yellow bitterns, Knob-billed Duck, and White Pygmy-goose. Pied Harriers are a good possibility as well, and this area is the place to see the endangered Asian form of Sarus Crane, much darker than the Australian birds with a redder head and a slightly different call—a potential split as this is very far removed from that population. Owls are also good in some nearby dry thickets, with Spotted Wood Owl and good prospect, also Spotted Owlet and maybe Barn Owl.

**Chankran Roy** is a village forest conservation area about 2 hours north of Siem Reap, with a blind now established and water points visible from it. We made our first visit in 2019 with great looks at Asian Stubtail, Siberian Blue Robin, Puff-throated, Pin-striped and Abbotts's babbler, White-rumped Shama, White-crested Laughing-thrush and Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher, whilst there is an excellent chance of Bar-bellied Pitta.

**Baeng Toal** is a village led conservation initiative in the lovely dry but dusty dipterocarp forest about three hours from Tmatboey. There is a vulture restaurant set up for the three species of Critically Endangered vultures, the Red-headed, White-rumped, and Slender-billed, with an excellent concealed viewing blind close to all the action. The site is located amidst some fine dry forest birding with many great possibilities, and is notably excellent for woodpeckers and in 2017, Giant Ibis.

**Seima** is a large area of moist evergreen forest in the hills along the Vietnam border, with some very different species coming into Cambodia than we see elsewhere in the tour. Much of it is protected forest, but logging for valuable hardwoods is a serious problem, as is burning. Exciting species we've previously seen have included Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, Green Peafowl, Banded and Silver-breasted Broadbill, Great Hornbill, Rufous-bellied Eagle, four species of Barbet including the very localised Annam (Indochinese) and Red-vented Barbet, Silver-eared Mesia, and many others. There's also a chance of Scaly-breasted Partridge, or Bar-bellied Pitta if we can keep quiet and still for long enough!



*The Baeng Toal "vulture restaurant" is a village-run conservation effort aimed at helping several critically endangered vulture species. We are able to watch Slender-billed, White-rumped and Red-headed Vultures from a blind, where we can observe interactions between the species. Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.*

## Itinerary for Cambodia

**Days 1-2, Wed-Thu, 12-13 Feb. Los Angeles to Siem Reap.** We'll depart Los Angeles on Saturday, February 12 arriving in Siem Reap late in the day on Sunday, February 13. If you have the time, we urge you to come a day or two early in order to rest up before the tour or take a pre-tour with Cambodia Bird Guides Association. Night in Siem Reap, and meet at the reception area next morning at **0600** ready to go birding, coming back for a break in the heat of the day.

**Day 3, Fri, 14 Feb. Siem Reap.** Meet at hotel reception area **0600**, then we'll have some introductory birding amongst the paddyfields near Siem Reap in the morning, with a pack breakfast in the field. We will do some general birding around the city and look at the Flying Fox colony. Night at Siem Reap.

**Days 4-7, Sat-Tue, 15-18 Feb. Angkor and vicinity.** We'll have four full days to spend in this rich and exciting area. We'll tour the temple complex, visiting the gorgeous wooded ruins at Tah Prom and Preah Khan, and birding the temple grounds where there will be plenty of great photo opportunities, and a knowledgeable temple guide to explain various things.

We'll spend one full day at Lake Tonle Sap, traveling by boat out through the fascinating floating villages inhabited by fishermen and their families to the stork and heron breeding site at Prek Toal. Spot-billed Pelican, Oriental Darter, Greater and Lesser adjutants, Painted Stork, and Indian Cormorant are all likely, and there is a chance of Milky Stork.

On another day we'll drive to the wetlands at Ang Trepeang Thmor to look for Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed

jacanas, Cinnamon and Yellow bitterns, Painted Storks, Sarus Crane, Pied Harrier, Spotted Wood Owl and Palearctic migrants. Nights at Siem Reap.

Another day will see an early visit to Chankran Roy village conservation area where there is a blind set up at a waterpoint for good views of shy and elusive forest birds, that may include Bar-bellied Pitta. If we are successful a return to the Angkor area may be possible for more birding and temple visiting.



*The water feature at Chankran Roy draws in many smaller birds for some very good views. This Stripe-throated Bulbul was seen on last year's tour. Photograph by participant Becky Hansen.*

**Day 8, Wed, 19 Feb. Siem Reap to Tmatboey.** Today is primarily a travel day and we will make an early start to drive to the grassland reserve at Kompong Thom where we'll look for the very rare Bengal Florican at one of its last sites. We will then continue to the village ecolodge at Tmatboey, one of the last strongholds of the very rare Giant Ibis and White-shouldered Ibis. A number of other very interesting dry dipterocarp forest birds can be seen here as well and we will check for the rare White-rumped Falcon en route.

We'll have the next two days to devote to the ibis and special birds of the dry dipterocarp forests here. Other rare species we'll be on the lookout for include White-shouldered Ibis, Brown Fish-Owl, Spotted Wood-Owl, and White-rumped Falcon, with Crested Treeswift, Common and Greater flamebacks, and White-bellied, Black-headed, Grey-headed, Rufous-bellied, Rufous, Yellow-crested and Great Slaty woodpeckers also in the area. We'll spend tonight and the next night in Tmatboey in simple wooden chalets with mosquito nets. Night at Tmatboey Ecolodge.

**Days 9-10, Thu-Fri, 20-21 Feb. Birding the Tmatboey area.** If needed we will depart our lodgings pre-dawn on the next day to reach the Giant Ibis roost sites before the birds depart, then bird the surrounding area for the rest of the morning. We'll plan to take a break in the heat of the day and spend the late afternoons exploring other local sites. We'll also do some optional owling on one evening. Nights at Tmatboey in simple wooden chalets with mosquito nets.

**Day 11, Sat, 22 Feb. Tmatboey to Baeng Toal Vulture restaurant.** This morning we'll head for the vulture conservation site at Baeng Toal. The villagers who live near the site will kill a cow, which they'll put out as vulture food in hopes of attracting the three Critically Endangered species that occur here—Red-headed, Slender-billed, and White-rumped vultures. Widespread use of the veterinary pharmaceutical Diclofenac, which is extremely toxic to vultures, has decimated the populations with catastrophic 95% declines, and Baeng Toal is one of the last places to see them.

We'll stay in fixed tents with shared shower and toilet facilities for this one night. This is a great dry forest site, giving us chances for Savanna, Indian and Large-tailed Nightjars, Brown-backed Needletail, Black-headed, Rufous-bellied and Great Slaty Woodpecker, Chestnut-tailed and Vinous-breasted Starling, plus other woodland birds and a chance of Red Muntjac and the rare Silver Langur. Night at Baeng Toal.

**Day 12, Sun, 23 Feb. Baeng Toal to Kratie.** This morning, trusting that the cow has done the trick, we'll view the vultures early on at the conservation site and then bird some surrounding areas. Then we'll travel to Kratie, crossing the Mekong via the new bridge, and birding the Kratie area that afternoon where Watercock and Asian Golden Weaver are good possibilities. Night at Kratie.

**Day 13, Mon, 24 Feb. Mekong River at Kratie, then to Mondulkiri.** We'll take a 90-minute river trip from Kratie to look for Irrawaddy Dolphins, Mekong Wagtail and Small Pratincole on the Mekong River, then head up to Seima Forest and Mondulkiri, near the Vietnam border. Depending on how we are doing on time, we may have time for some late afternoon birding around Seima which, despite enduring illegal logging damage, holds good birds like several species of Barbets including Indochinese, Red-vented and Green-eared, plus assorted Green-Pigeons and various forest birds also found in nearby Vietnam. Overnight at Sen Monorom in a comfortable hotel.



*We had an amazing encounter with the rare Irrawaddy Dolphin on the Mekong River in 2019.  
Photograph by participant Becky Hansen.*

**Day 14, Tue, 25 Feb. Birding Seima Forest,** and lunch at Oramis Resort which has a very productive strip of riparian forest, before heading out to some other pieces of great microhabitats, including some higher elevation spots. Crimson and Black-throated Sunbirds, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Banded Broadbill, Bar-bellied Pitta, Green-eared, Red-vented and Indochinese Barbet, Phylloscopus warblers, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Black Eagle and maybe Scaly-breasted Partridge are all exciting possibilities, and we will try for Green Peafowl at some point. Overnight at Sen Monorom in a comfortable hotel.

**Day 15, Wed, 26 Feb. Seima Forest reserve sites, Oramis and Dac Dam.** More birding around Seima Forest and Mondulkiri. Our itinerary on our last full day around Seima will be determined by what we have seen over the past day and a half in the area, and how productive the various spots in the area have been. Overnight at Sen Monorom in a comfortable hotel.

**Day 16, Thu, 27 Feb. Seima to Phnom Penh and departure flights home.** We will leave early and try to visit a site by Seima Park HQ area before we then head the 3+ hours to the site of the recently discovered Cambodian Tailorbird which is actually in Greater Phnom Penh. Then, on to the airport for our flights home, with shared day rooms available at the You-Eng Hotel in Phnom Penh for pre-departure changing and repacking.

**PLEASE ARRANGE YOUR DEPARTURE FOR NO EARLIER THAN 8:00 P.M. TODAY.** If it is necessary for you to overnight in Phnom Penh, your tour manager will be happy to make arrangements for you. We typically arrange day rooms at an airport hotel to clean up and change before your flight, if desired.

## About Your Guide

**Doug Gochfeld** made the jump from a love of trains, planes, and automobiles typical of many 7-year-olds to an avid interest in birds after a close encounter with a Steller's Jay in the Pacific Northwest. This filled his early formative years with scouring the urban landscape of New York City for birds with his father. After a teenage break from all things avian, he returned to it with a vengeance, and he hasn't looked back.

His first birding job was as a migration counter at the legendary Cape May Bird Observatory, where his love of and interest in the dynamics of migration (of anything with wings, insects included!) was cemented. From 2006 to 2016, he worked with birds from New Hampshire to Arizona, and from Suriname to Israel. He has also spent a substantial amount of time guiding in Alaska, the bulk of which was spent on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs.

Doug's strongest interests in birding are migration, vagrancy, and overall patterns of distribution. Shorebirds and seabirds (and any other long-distance migrants, really) hold a special place in his heart, and he has done intensive work studying the breeding and wintering ecology of Hudsonian Godwits in Alaska and Semipalmated Sandpipers in Suriname and Brazil.

In addition to being on the New York State Avian Records Committee, Doug is passionate about spreading the gospel of birding and the outdoors, and to this end he participates in youth and urban birding initiatives and has guided at birding festivals across the country. His writing and photographs have been published in a myriad of venues.

Doug has co-led Field Guides groups from Alaska, Trinidad, Panama, Cape May, and Arizona, to Newfoundland/Nova Scotia, New Guinea, Cambodia, Vietnam, Texas, Puerto Rico, Madagascar, and more. Additionally, he brought Florida and Israel back into our schedule in 2018, and developed our New Mexico tour for its 2019 inaugural.

*"Doug's enthusiasm, skill and tenacity at finding birds is amazing. He clearly loves showing birds to people - be it a common or not so common bird". D. S. Colorado Grouse*

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

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$5575 from Siem Reap**

**DEPOSIT: \$550**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE: October 15, 2019**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$360 (\*\*Singles may not be available at Tmatboey and Boeng Toal, however, if there is room available at these places we will arrange for singles at no cost.)**

**LIMIT: 8**

## Other Things You Need to Know

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

**DOCUMENTS:** A current **passport** valid beyond the date of your return and a visa is necessary for US citizens to enter Cambodia. 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. We will send you visa forms and instructions with the tour packet. **A Tourist Visa is now available on-line and has worked well, just print off two copies.**

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Cambodian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. **Note: This tour starts in Siem Reap and ends in Phnom Penh.** Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

**Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is \$5575 for one person in double occupancy from Siem Reap. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 15 (checking out Day 16), all meals from dinner on day 2 through lunch on Day 16, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Siem Reap, 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. 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 **single supplement** for the tour is \$360. Singles may not be available at Tmatboey and Boeng Toal. Cost for singles at these two places is not included in the single supplement; if singles are available, we will accommodate you at no extra charge. 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 \$550** 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 15, 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 an 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.

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