

ITINERARY
COLOMBIA: CALI ESCAPE 2018
CLOUD FORESTS OF THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL ANDES
November 3-11, 2018



The Buffy Helmetcrest has a very small range in the paramos of Nevado del Ruiz in the Central Andes of Colombia. We'll look for this special bird in Los Nevados National Park. Photograph by participant Steve Parrish.

We include here information for those interested in the 2018 Field Guides Cali Escape: Cloud Forests of the Western and Central Andes 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 website)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a 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

Colombia has seemed remote, but it has been open for business again, certainly including the birding business, for more than a decade now. And yet the earth's most bird rich (over 1,900 species) country is just across a pond, that Caribbean pond, little farther away than Costa Rica and Panama. While "remote" suggests hardship, and there are some simple lodges and the challenges of birding in rainy regions, there is also ease and comfort—our gateways are cities of millions served by major international airlines, and other good birding areas are located close to major cities with good facilities.

Colombia is well known to Field Guides clients for many things, particularly the juxtaposition of the length of its checklist with the magnitude of its internal troubles over the 20 years since our last tour offerings to this beautiful land.

But Colombia has been mending, and we have returned to this diverse and rich country since 2009 with several tours that seek many of its range-restricted and threatened species. Those tours have gone well, and we will continue to offer an approach that focuses on multiple thorough offerings rather than hoping to skim the best in a single visit to Colombia, just the way we do not try to cover Ecuador, Peru, or Brazil with a single itinerary. This tour is the southern half of our former Cauca Valley, Western and Central Andes tour, a ten-day departure, covering rich areas of both the Western and Central Andes over a 10,000' elevation span and a portion of the Cauca Valley, along the way encountering a stunning set of tropical birds, especially hummingbirds and tanagers.

While political and military changes have been occurring, there has also been a steady growth in Colombian ornithology and the establishment of many private nature reserves to complement the public ones, all making locating many of the special birds more practical. Colombia has not had time to catch up to the ecotourism standards of its neighbors, and so be forewarned that while birding in Colombia is fun and feasible, there are a few more rough edges (discussed below) than on comparable tours. All of our trips will have local support from our in-country operators both before and during the tour. As for the Colombians you will meet, the biggest puzzle will be how things could have gone so wrong because so many Colombians are warm, engaging people, happy to see foreign tourists, although not yet inured to them.

In Colombia, the Andes are split into three long, north-south running cordillera separated by two deep valleys carrying the Rio Cauca and the Rio Magdalena. The valley of the Rio Cauca separates the Western and Central Andes and, in comparison with the valley of the Rio Magdalena, is narrow and slightly higher. The floor and lower slopes of the Cauca Valley are in a modest rainshadow in between the very wet Central Andes and the exceedingly wet Western Andes, the west slope of which is in the Choco, one of the five wettest areas in the world.

With a couple of exceptions, we are not really that interested in the Cauca Valley in the sense of the lowest, driest areas, as compared with the Andean slopes well above the valley floor. However, the valley will very much be a part of this tour, as we cross and re-cross it, and travel along 200 kms of its length, repeatedly seeing the effects of this biogeographic barrier.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace: There are no major difficulties with this tour, but there are a number of points that need to be considered carefully to determine if this tour is right for you. Some of this relates to basic facts about Colombia: The tourist infrastructure is early in its re-birth after two decades of security problems, and habitat destruction endemic to this planet means it can be a long way between spots where threatened, endemic birds are to be found.

The focus will be on the endemics and other specialties, but we will generally look for and at the widespread species because we like looking at birds and that is often what is in front of us. Still, this is just to say that these trips are relatively new and special, and while it is not much of a departure from our general tours, it is like others in which there is an emphasis, as opposed to being a general survey trip.

This tour involves a moderate amount of driving, although less than our Bogota to Santa Marta tour. Still, a fingernail length on the map is, in the Andes, a half-day of driving. The countryside is interesting, and while the environment is generally greatly disturbed, in comparison with many countries there are actually fewer areas that are devastated: There are large trees or riparian corridors or patches of substantial secondary growth. Of course, the shift to sun coffee (as opposed to shade-grown coffee) has been extensive in the last two decades—another piece in the environmental puzzle that has not been favorable to birds. The pros and cons are that when we travel, that is really all we do—little roadside birding, few stops to check out birds; and when we bird, we are birding on trails and tracks as close to the wild as we can be, escaping from the bustle of roadside and cities. And on the subject of transportation, the ability to hop onto a horse, or to allow yourself to be pushed up onto a horse (and then stay on it; they don't give tourists broncos) may be useful to make it to one area, depending on road conditions. Conditions have been fine for vehicles the last five years, but we could be one landslide away from a return to using horses for one day. The path we would ride is a jeep track with a



A Slate-crowned Antpitta waits for a hand-out at a feeding station. Views like this of shy skulkers make a little potential discomfort worth-while! Photo by participant Ron Majors.

gentle gradient; there is nothing technical about the riding, but we may ride for two hours and we may be riding in the rain. If you are over about 100 kg (220 lbs), please let us know in advance so we can make sure to find a "super mule"! The 4WD vehicles we use are not SUVs, they are old Willys or "coffee jeeps," and we must climb in and out of the back, and hang on, somewhat more like hanging onto a bronco.)

This tour is not strenuous. Most of the trails are not especially long (several kilometers) or difficult, but do require normal balance and agility on what are often steep slopes (it is the Andes). The most important endurance relates to long hours in the field (often a half day at a time, and much of an entire day) rather than miles walked. If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide.

This tour can be combined with Colombia: Llanos & More, Nov. 11-21, 2018.

About the Birding Areas



Otun-Quimbaya Reserve: Pereira—We are going to an abandoned ash-tree plantation to be knee-deep in Cauca Guans (Endangered) and Red-ruffed Fruitcrows? Of course we promise nothing, but all past visits point to this being a great place to see both of these special species (an endangered cracid of limited distribution and a widespread spectacular that is an E-ticket bird). Although there is great habitat up to treeline, it is the accessible lower elevations (6300 feet; 1900m) here that will be the focus, looking for such endemics as Chestnut Wood-Quail (Near-Threatened; always tough, but common enough here that they can occasionally be seen crossing the track), Bar-crested Antshrike, Multicolored Tanager, and Crested Ant-Tanager. Plus, there are Moustached Antpittas out there, and, from mist-netting evidence, Hooded Antpitta is not uncommon (Vulnerable). Other fun birds: Sicklet-winged Guan, Bronze-winged Parrot, Greenish Puffleg, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Uniform Antshrike, Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant, Chestnut-breasted Wren, Black-billed Peppershrike, White-naped (Yellow-throated) Brush-Finch, and Yellow-bellied Siskin. The clearings have some appealing

birds, from Scrub and Flame-rumped tanagers to Black-winged Saltator. And if it is small, orange, and striped, it is a wonderful Blackburnian Warbler! Our lodging here is in the park, offering plenty of rooms with private facilities and birds just out the door.

Rio Blanco Reserve: Manizales—Situated above the university town of Manizales, this is a gem. Although some of the lower slopes are forested, we are likely to concentrate on the upper part, around 8700 feet (2600m). However, concentration is difficult at 8700 feet because the reserve HQ is ringed with hummingbird feeders, and 50 hummingbirds at once on a drizzling day is absorbing, especially for photographers. Buff-tailed Coronets are common and unfortunately have recently come to dominate the scene, but there are usually also Tourmaline Sunangels, Speckled Hummingbirds, Green Violetears, Fawn-breasted Brilliants, and Long-tailed Sylphs, with a few Collared and Bronzy incas and White-bellied Woodstars; careful looking can reveal rarities such as Wedge-billed Hummingbird, or a Sword-billed out in the garden.

But walking up the track from the HQ offers much more in the forest, including such scarce and local Andean specialties as Tyrannine Woodcreeper, Flammulated Treehunter, Dusky Piha, Black-collared Jay, Masked Saltator, and White-capped Tanager. Rio Blanco has started an antpitta feeding program, and free worms may entice Brown-banded (endemic, Endangered) and Chestnut-crowned antpittas; Chestnut-naped, Slate-crowned, and the near-endemic Bicolored are much less often so enticed (and if the worms have been coming too easily, we may need to find all of them

the old-fashioned way, in the forest). Throughout this, we will be listening and looking hard for Rusty-faced Parrot (local population *velez*) (Vulnerable). Other interesting birds include Tawny-bellied Hermit, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Rufous-crowned Tody-Tyrant, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Rufous-breasted and Handsome flycatchers, Black-billed Peppershrike, and Golden-fronted Redstart. Plus, there are plenty of tanagers, such as three species of *Hemispingus* and Buff-breasted and Lacrimose mountain-tanagers.

Los Nevados—We will spend at least a morning around 12,000 feet (3600m) in a tiny portion of the huge Los Nevados National Park in the Central Andes. In treeline forest and scrub we will hope for, but not expect, the endemic Rufous-fronted Parakeet, which has been seen here, and finally by us in 2017. In this habitat we will hope for any of several erratic hummingbirds, such as Black-thighed and Golden-breasted pufflegs, Viridian Metaltail, and Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, all of which have been coming to spectacular new feeders since 2015, feeders that will hopefully endure. We will also try to dig out a Paramo Tapaculo, and look for the small mixed flocks that can include Black-backed Bush-Tanager and several mountain-tanagers. Moving higher into the paramo in places dominated by the fuzzy-leaved composite *Espeletia*, the particular quarry is Buffy Helmetcrest (*O. stubelii*); other species here are more widespread, such as Thick-billed Cinclodes, Andean Tit-Spinetail, Many-striped Canastero (the bright subspecies *quindiana*), Tawny Antpitta, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, and Sedge (Grass) Wren.

Montane Choco—We would love to go to some known locales and reserves farther south in the Western Andes. But there are areas of Colombia that are still known to be dangerous and others that are marginal, including the Colorful Puffleg reserve (sigh), Cerro Munchique, and areas close to the Ecuadorian border. Our contacts in Colombia have suggested, and we have visited, some safe areas west of Jardín and Pereira. Be forewarned that one of the mountain ridges of the area translates as "Umbrella Mountain" and that this steep terrain is one of the wettest areas on Earth, with all of its correlates.

On this tour we will visit the **Pueblo Rico** area, where 4WD takes us around a mountain to a tiny community where a young family has converted their farmhouse into a simple, comfortable base at the edge of a spectacular mountain wilderness. An old track covers twelve hundred meters of elevation on forested **Cerro Montezuma**, which is at the base of Cerro Tatamá, a National Park. We expect to access the forest by 4WD. It can be wet; it probably will be wet. The accommodations and food will be simple. But Cerro Montezuma was described by two folks as "an incredible place to bird" and "the best place in highland Choco," and that is how we have found it. The bird list for Cerro Montezuma is replete with two species of *Bangsia* tanagers (Gold-ringed and Black-and-gold) and Black Solitaires; other species of interest include Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl (we were lucky twice), Toucan Barbet, Orange-breasted and Scaled fruit-eaters, Olivaceous Piha, the recently-described Tatama Tapaculo plus Narino and Choco, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Fulvous-dotted (Star-chested) Treerunner, Uniform Treehunter, Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Beautiful Jay, Golden-bellied (Choco) Warbler, Purplish-mantled Tanager, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Choco (Tricolored) Brushfinch, Olive Finch, Yellow-collared Chlorophonia, and a nice selection of hummingbirds (White-tailed Hillstar, Brown Inca, Empress Brilliant, Violet-tailed Sylph). If we make it to the top and it is not socked in, Munchique Wood-Wren and Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer can be found. Choco Vireo, Bicolored Antvireo, and Yellow-green Bush-Tanager are possible, but very difficult here.



This lovely Gold-ringed Tanager was a prize from last year's tour. Photograph by participant Steve Parrish.

Itinerary for *Colombia: Cali Escape*

Day 1, Sat, 3 Nov. Arrival in Cali. Flights on several international carriers are available to Cali; check with your tour manager for the best flight available from your home. If you need a luggage cart, have a couple of dollar bills handy as you enter the luggage area; you can change money at the bank just before you exit the customs area to the outside (all of this subject to major renovation of the terminal in 2017-2018). You will be picked up at the airport (it is essential that we have your flight information if you have not booked through us) and transferred to our hotel. Night at the hotel MS.

Day 2, Sun, 4 Nov. Foothills of the Western Andes to Buga. We will have a fun (=birdy!) start to our Colombia tour visiting hummingbird feeders and patches of forest in the region of the famed “El 18” of the highway from the Cali to Buenaventura. We will look in particular for the endemic (and stunning) Multicolored Tanager, which could be part of mixed tanager flocks that include many other fabulous tanagers, and our morning should feature ten species of hummingbirds. After lunch we will head across the agricultural lands of the Cauca Valley to the town of Buga. Depending on water levels, we will stop at Laguna de Sonso (a.k.a. “the Buga marshes”), where many widespread species of heron, duck, and shorebird occur, along with Snail Kite, Wattled Jacana, several kingfishers, and a variety of landbirds, including Spectacled Parrotlet. Night at the Hotel Guadalajara.



The endemic Apical Flycatcher looks and behaves like a typical Myiarchus species. Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.

Day 3, Mon, 5 Nov. Laguna de Sonso to Cerro Montezuma. We will start the morning in dry woodland near Buga, birding a small reserve for two Colombia endemics, Grayish Piculet and Apical Flycatcher. Leaving the area in the middle of the morning, we will journey north and west to Pueblo Rico, stopping if we see concentrations of waterbirds in any of the rice fields. On reaching Pueblo Rico, on a low crest of the Western Andes, we will switch to 4WD vehicle(s), and continue another hour to our base for three nights, Montezuma Rainforest Lodge, a small, rustic lodge, the simplest of the trip (mix of private and shared facilities; hot water), but a most hospitable place. It is at the base of wonderfully forested Cerro Montezuma and Tatama National Park. We should arrive in time for a first immersion in the hummingbirds at the lodge feeders, including Empress Brilliant and White-tailed Hillstar. Night at Cerro Montezuma (Montezuma Rainforest Lodge).

Day 4, Tue, 6 Nov. Cerro Montezuma. We'll have all day to spend on this forested mountain, and we will go as high as possible, which depends on road conditions (the track is periodically repaired and becomes passable for 4WD vehicles, as it has been the last four visits); if we cannot use 4WD, then we will at least reach middle elevations by horseback. Night at Cerro Montezuma (Montezuma Rainforest Lodge).

Day 5, Wed, 7 Nov. Cerro Montezuma. We have another day for the Montane Choco of the Western Andes. Assuming we have had a good day at higher elevations, we will concentrate on the lower slopes and a somewhat different suite of birds, again hoping to encounter as many mixed flocks as possible, as well as searching for skulkers. Night at Cerro Montezuma (Montezuma Rainforest Lodge).

Day 6, Thu, 8 Nov. Cerro Montezuma; to Otun-Quimbaya. We will have another morning on Cerro Montezuma to find yet more specialties of the montane Choco. After an early lunch we will return by 4WD to Pueblo Rico and continue by our small bus north and east across the Cauca Valley to the town of Pereira and then onto the lower slopes of the Central Andes and the reserve of Otun-Quimbaya. A country hotel/lodge (La Suiza) (private facilities) will be our home. Night at Otun-Quimbaya.

Day 7, Fri, 9 Nov. Otun-Quimbaya; to Manizales. For our birding this morning we will walk out the door of our rooms along a seldom-driven track, watching for Cauca Guan, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Crested Ant-Tanager, and Multicolored Tanager, occasionally venturing into the forest in pursuit of a skulker. After lunch at the lodge we will head north to Manizales, also on the slopes of the Central Andes, stopping at some marshy ponds en route. Night at Hotel Estelar Recinto del Pensamiento.

Day 8, Sat, 10 Nov. Rio Blanco. We will have a full day at the wonderful Rio Blanco reserve in the Central Andes above Manizales, hoping to see antpittas being fed, enjoying the hummingbird feeders and garden, and birding the little-traveled tracks for mixed flocks in the rich montane forests between 8,000 and 9,000'. Night at Hotel Estelar Recinto del Pensamiento.

Day 9, Sun, 11 Nov. Los Nevados National Park; to Pereira; flights to Bogota and home. This morning we'll take a highway out of Manizales and branch off into an edge of the vast Los Nevados National Park; we will check treeline forest and scrub, and then wonderful *Espeletia* paramo, with tanagers and hummingbirds—including Bearded Helmetcrest—among the best represented families. We plan to have lunch at a refurbished hotel with some terrific hummingbird feeders before making an afternoon drive to Pereira, where we will fly to Panama or the capital, Bogota, for connections home. For those not on an overnight flight, we can arrange for a comfortable hotel near the airport.



Tapaculos are difficult to see, so we were pleased to get a good look at this Ocellated Tapaculo at Rio Blanco on last year's tour. Photograph by participant Steve Parrish.

About Your Guide

Jesse Fagan (a.k.a. the Motmot or just "Mot") has been passionate about birds since his teens, when he had an encounter with a flying Pileated Woodpecker. He has birded throughout the United States, including spending seven years in Texas, and since 1995 has been birding and for a time living in northern Central America. He is a co-author of the recently published [*Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America*](#) (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016), a field guide to the region, which includes the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Belize.

In addition, Mot has birded in or led tours to Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, France, Morocco, and Madagascar. He also enjoys leading many of the Field Guides tours in the Caribbean. He likes to think he can bird anywhere at any time and still show you the birds, but most importantly, a good time. Jesse holds a B.S. and an M.S. in mathematics from Texas Tech University. He is currently living in Lima, Peru.

You may visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Jesse's' complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$3775 from Cali

DEPOSIT: \$400 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 6, 2018

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$230 [Note: singles are not guaranteed at Montezuma Rainforest Lodge (Days 3-5)]

LIMIT: 8

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: Montezuma Rainforest Lodge (Cerro Montezuma, three nights) consists of simple rural buildings, improved for tourists, with some private and some shared facilities (again, singles not guaranteed). The accommodations are simple, but overall sufficient, thanks to the hospitality of our hosts, making it possible to stay in a wild and wonderful place. Otun-Quimbaya is a reserve lodge that is more like a simple hotel with private facilities and plenty of rooms. Hotels in larger cities are good, and all places have hot water. No Wi-Fi or cell service at the remote lodges (four nights).

The food is good, fairly basic, and hearty. During recent trips individual health was fine. At the lodges the menu will be fixed. While vegetarian fare is available, it isn't very diverse. At restaurants in the larger cities and hotels, the usual choices are available. Breakfasts tend to be a weak point, but sufficient. There is still plenty of tasty food on this trip.

A NOTE ON ALTITUDE: We will have one morning at 10,000 to 13,000 feet at the end of the tour; prior to that we will have two days birding at 7,000-8,500' and several others at 5,000-7,000'. We will take our time at the higher elevations.

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid six months beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Colombia. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Colombian 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: **Please note that the tour begins in Cali and ends in Pereira.** There are direct flights to Cali from Miami, and connections via Panama City or Bogota from other US cities. You may plan to arrive at any time on Day 1. On Day 9, you can make arrangements out of Pereira after 6 p.m.

Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to 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 \$3775 for one person in double occupancy from Cali. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 8, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through lunch on Day 9, 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 Colombia, 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 \$230; singles may not be available all nights. 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 \$400** 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 July 6, 2018. 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, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides

Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, 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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