

ITINERARY

**COLOMBIA'S CLOUDFORESTS:  
THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL ANDES**

*October 31 - November 10, 2024*



*The Munchique Wood-Wren is endemic to Colombia, found only in a few patches of woodlands of the western cordillera. We've seen these tiny birds well at Cerro Montezuma. Photograph by participant Joshua Horner.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Field Guides Colombia's Cloudforests: The Western & 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

*These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:*

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

**C**olombia may seem remote, and yet the earth's most bird rich (nearly 2000 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.

This tour is the southern half of our former Cauca Valley, Western and Central Andes tour, an eleven-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.



*Another endemic we'll seek is the Chestnut Wood-Quail. Although they are not rare, they are, like most quail, difficult to see.  
Photograph by participant Wayne Whitmore.*

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.

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: 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.

*We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.*

### Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Good amounts of walking (up to 5 miles per day), along roadsides and trails, some of which will be muddy, and some of which will be steep and may have obstacles such as tree roots, rocks, or fallen trees. Rubber or neoprene boots and umbrella are necessary; walking sticks can be useful.

- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We drive for long periods several times on this tour. Participants should be able to step up (and step down) 10-12 inches to get into and out of our vehicles. Several lodgings are more basic or rustic. We spend part of one day at significant elevation (13,800 feet).
- **PACE:** After breakfast (often set for 5:00 a.m., sometimes earlier), we bird until lunch time. We sometimes pack a picnic lunch (or have one delivered), to extend our time in the field. Normally, weather permitting, we bird after lunch or continue traveling to our next destination. On occasion, we may take a siesta of several hours after lunch.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will range from the 60s F at night in higher elevations to the 90s F in valleys during the day. Rain showers, sometimes heavy, are likely, and humidity is high in some areas, especially in Choco.
- **ELEVATION:** We reach elevations of up to 13,800 feet on this tour and spend several nights at an elevation of about 7000 feet.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Participants should be prepared to make comfort stops in nature, as there are simply no other options (away from our lodgings) on many sections of this tour's route.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

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

**Cali and KM 18**—The tour begins in Cali, but we make a quick transfer to the Western Cordillera climbing into the foothills on the eastern slope. Our visits to the fincas at KM 18 is typical foothill habitat of the Andes, being tropical montane forest, but mixed with secondary forest, agricultural patches, and cozy weekend homes that is now the norm throughout the world. We visit two *fincas* (or small family farms) here, Finca La Florida and Finca Alejandria, where there is a lot of feeder action. The stars of the feeders include Multicolored Tanager and Chestnut Wood-Quail (both Colombian endemics), but there are photo opps for many other species including Red-headed Barbet, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Southern Emerald-Toucanet, and Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, among hundreds of individuals of tanagers and hummingbirds.



**Montane Choco**—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 fruiteaters, 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.



*The beautiful Gold-ringed Tanager is one of two *Bangsia* species found at Cerro Montezuma.  
Photograph by participant Fred Dalbey.*

**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: Sickie-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.



*The Brown-banded Antpitta is found in a small area of Colombia and is one of the species drawn to worm-feeders at the Rio Blanco Reserve. Photograph by participant Chris S. Wood.*

**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 *velezi*) (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-leafed 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.

**Nature Reserve Manizales: Hotel Tinamú**—Located just 40 minutes south of Manizales, this private reserve hosts over 260 species of birds, over 3 kilometers of nature trails, hummingbird feeders, and photography blinds. Some of the specialities for this site include Spectacled Owl, Green Hermit, Brown-throated Parakeet, Blue-lored Antbird, Scaled Antpitta, White-crowned Tapaculo, Black-tailed Flycatcher, Golden-collared Manakin, Speckle-breasted Wren, and Gray-headed Tanager. In addition, there is some overlap with other spots we will have visited on the tour, which gives us a good second chance for species like Grayish Piculet, Parker’s Antbird, Cinereous Becard, Moustached Puffbird, Colombian Chachalaca, Dwarf Cuckoo, Stripe-throated Hermit, Western Emerald, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Spectacled Parrotlet, Great Antshrike, and Little Tinamou (among others!).



*This tour highlights some of the endemic and near-endemic birds of the Colombian Andes. The Buffy Helmetcrest is a perfect example of the quality of birds we'll see. This species is found only in a small area of paramo on Nevado Ruiz. Photograph by guide Jesse Fagan.*

## **Itinerary for Colombia's Cloudforests: The Western & Central Andes**

**Day 1, Thu, 31 Oct. 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. You can change money at the bank just before you exit the customs area to the outside. 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 in Cali.

**Day 2, Fri, 1 Nov.** 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 time, we will visit a dry woodland site (El Vinculo) near Buga, in the search for two Colombian endemics, Grayish Piculet and Apical Flycatcher. Night at the Hotel Guadalajara in Buga.

**Day 3, Sat, 2 Nov. Laguna de Sonso to Cerro Montezuma.** 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. Leaving the area midday, we will journey north and

west to Pueblo Rico, stopping if something catches our eye. 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, Sun, 3 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).



*Cerro Montezuma is often wet, but we are likely to find some very special birds here, such as the Gold-ringed Tanager and many species of hummingbirds. Photograph by participant Daphne Gemmill.*

**Day 5, Mon, 4 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, Tue, 5 Nov. Cerro Montezuma; to Manizales.** We will have another morning on Cerro Montezuma to find yet more specialties of the montane Choco. After an early lunch 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 head north to the bustling town of Manizales. This will be a long day with some driving involved (Montezuma to Manizales is about 5 hours). Night in Manizales.

**Day 7, Wed, 6 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 in Manizales.

**Day 8, Thu, 7 Nov. Los Nevados National Park.** 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. One morning stop will include Hacienda El Bosque which has feeding stations for antpittas and mountain-toucans. We plan to

have lunch at a refurbished hotel with some terrific hummingbird feeders before making an afternoon drive back to Manizales. Night in Manizales.

**Day 9, Fri, 8 Nov. Hacienda El Bosque to Hotel Tinamu.** This morning we will depart packed from our hotel and drive back towards Los Nevados NP with a detour to Hacienda El Bosque. We will spend most of the morning here at the feeding stations both for antpittas (Crescent-faced and Equatorial) and mountain-toucans and mountain-tanagers. There are lots of hummingbird feeders here, too! After lunch, we will drive to Hotel Tinamu where we can get checked-in and check out the lodge property in the afternoon. Night at Hotel Tinamu.

**Day 10, Sat, 9 Nov. Hotel Tinamú to Otun-Quimbaya.** We will have nearly a full morning birding the grounds of Hotel Tinamú. Targets here will include Blue-lored Antbird, White-crowned Tapaculo, Black-tailed Flycatcher, Golden-collared Manakin, and Speckle-breasted (Colombian) Wren, among others that we may have missed during the tour like Grayish Piculet, Parker's Antbird, Dwarf Cuckoo, and Great Antshrike. This site can be very productive. We will have lunch here, then drive south to Pereira with a stop at Embalse Comeguadua en route for shorebirds and waterfowl. We will then drive up the Rio Otun watershed and check into our small hotel in the town of La Florida. Night in La Florida.

**Day 11, Sun, 10 Nov. Otun-Quimbaya; to Pereira.** For our birding this morning we will load up into 4x4 vehicles for the 30-minute drive to 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 an early lunch at the lodge we will load up and return to Pereira for our afternoon flights home. Tour ends. ***Please schedule your flights from Pereira after 3 p.m.*** For those not on an overnight flight, we can arrange for a comfortable hotel near the airport.

## 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 [\*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.

*"Jesse Fagan is a first-rate guide, combining a great ear and eyes with a congenial personality. He manages the group well while being fun to be with. His organization skills matched his birding skills." C.B.; Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Jesse's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$5495 from Cali

**DEPOSIT:** \$550 per person

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** May 4, 2024

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$450 [*singles are not guaranteed at Montezuma Rainforest Lodge (Days 3-5)*]

**LIMIT:** 8

**All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one).** Note too, that many travel destinations may still require proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may be a requirement for some travel destinations.



## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Nicole Cannon. Nicole 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. In Nov 2023, they had Wi-Fi at this lodge. Our lodging near Otun-Quimbaya is more like a simple hotel with private facilities. Hotels in larger cities are good (like Manizales and Cali) and with all the modern conveniences.

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, but we may try to optimize time with fewer options.

**A NOTE ON ALTITUDE:** We will have one morning at 10,000 to 13,000 feet near the end of the tour (Los Nevados NP); prior to that we will have two days birding at 7,000-8,500' and several others at 5,000-7,000' (Montezuma). 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.*** You may plan to arrive in Cali (CLO) at any time on Day 1 (**October 31**). Transfers will be arranged (let us know your flights); our agent will meet you outside of customs with a sign with your name and/or **Field Guides** on it. ***Please schedule your flights from Pereira for after 3 p.m. on Day 10 (November 10<sup>th</sup>).*** For those not on an overnight flight, we can arrange for a comfortable hotel near the airport.

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. **Please limit your luggage to one medium-sized duffel or suitcase (soft-sided preferred) and ONE carry-on.** This will allow for ease of movement and wear-and-tear on your guide's back. Laundry is available at several hotels and lodges.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee is \$5495** for one person in double occupancy from Cali. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 10, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through lunch on Day 10, 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 **\$450**; 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 LIMITS:** Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, the guide in training will be taking a seat in the van or bus. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact us at [fieldguides.com/contact-us/](https://fieldguides.com/contact-us/). Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$550** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **by May 4, 2024**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 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 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

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

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



US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

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

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

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

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

NCP 7/2020

5/22 JFF; 5/22NC; peg  
 12/22 JFF; 12/22NC; 4/23NC  
 4/23 JFF; peg  
 11/23 JFF; 11/23NC