

ITINERARY  
**COLORADO GROUSE**

*I. April 9-19, 2022*  
*II. April 14-24, 2022*



*One of our primary goals on this tour is to observe lekking grouse close-up. The Greater Sage-Grouse is the largest of the North American grouse species, and we'll have the opportunity to see these impressive birds as they display. Photograph by guide Megan Edwards Crewe.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2022 Field Guides Colorado Grouse 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 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

**T**here is no better place in North America for gallinaceous birds than the state of Colorado and no better time of year to find them than in April. Our goal on this tour is to seek out the prairie-chickens (Lesser and Greater) of the eastern plains, the Sharp-tailed Grouse and two sage-grouse (Gunnison and Greater) of the intermountain parks, and the sometimes-difficult Dusky Grouse of the mountains and ridges. Sprinkled in there could be Wild Turkey, Scaled and Gambel's quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, and the harder-to-find Northern Bobwhite. Weather permitting, we'll also make an attempt to find the difficult White-tailed Ptarmigan, resident in high-elevation areas above treeline.

This trip might best be described as a “compare and contrast” tour. That is to say: we’ll be visiting distinctly different North American biomes, making it possible to encounter several closely related forms in Colorado and adjacent states. Some of these are East-West differences, but others are more complicated: Gunnison vs. Greater sage-grouse; Lesser vs. Greater prairie-chickens; Say’s vs. Eastern phoebes; Eastern, Mountain, and Western bluebirds; Clark’s vs. Western grebes—and the list goes on.

In addition, we’ll take the opportunity to compare and contrast the birds of the various regions of the state, the Rockies, the eastern plains, and the intermountain basins, those broad valleys known as “parks.” But most importantly we’ll see Colorado grouse and prairie-chickens in their elaborate, boisterous, and colorful breeding displays, usually on “leks” but sometimes on small territories. By the end of the tour, we often see over 140 bird species and 20 species of mammals and will gain a better understanding of Colorado’s birds and wildlife, mountains, and plains. Join us on this wonderful action-packed tour in search of Colorado grouse.



*We'll be in a great area to find the American Dipper. These charismatic songbirds are only found on fast-moving, pollution-free streams in the western US, where invertebrate prey is abundant. Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.*

**All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour** (if you are getting a two-dose vaccine, this means you must receive your second dose two weeks prior to departure). Having a vaccinated group will greatly diminish but not eliminate the possibility of the group and individual participants being adversely affected by COVID-19. **We are requiring all of our staff guides to be vaccinated.** Note too that many travel destinations are or soon will be requiring proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time.

*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.*

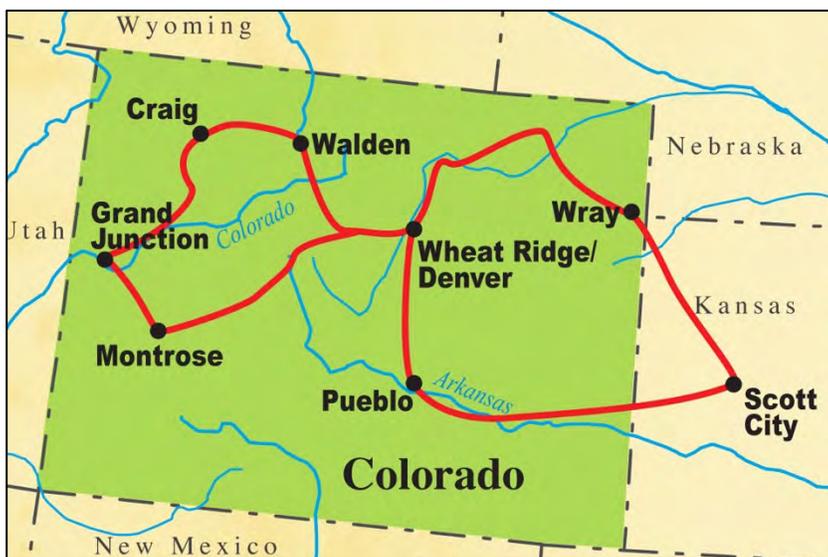
### Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS:** Although much of our birding will be at leks or along roadsides, we may take a couple short hikes (less than a mile). There is a chance that we will encounter deep snow in the mountain passes, so participants should expect to hike through some snow.

- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will be changing hotels almost every night, so be prepared to unpack and re-pack your luggage daily. Also, we will cover large distances each day, so participants should expect to spend a significant amount of time in the vans.
- **PACE:** Because this tour covers more than 2000 miles (over 200 miles per day), the pace will be fairly fast. Most mornings we will be up very early, sometimes before 5:00 a.m., in order to get to leks pre-dawn. This tour may not be a good fit for participants who require a lot of sleep.
- **ELEVATION:** We will be traveling over six mountain passes ranging from 8,000 to 12,000 feet in elevation. The highest elevation where we will spend a night is in Walden, at 8,099 feet. Anyone with significant heart or respiratory problems, or difficulty in walking/hiking should consult the Field Guides office, as shortness of breath and fatigue are common issues to consider at elevation.
- **WEATHER:** The weather is incredibly variable in Colorado in April, so it's prudent to be prepared for temperatures between 0° and 75° F. Because it can shift from warm to cold quickly based on fast-moving storms or elevation changes, please plan to dress in layers and bring cold weather gear to stay warm and dry in potentially deep snow and very cold temperatures.
- **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:** We will plan to make regular breaks every 2-3 hours, and most stops will have indoor restrooms; however, in remote areas or before our early morning lek visits, it will be necessary to make comfort stops in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** As we are not staying in the same location each night, participants will not be able to opt to sit out for a day or half-day.

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

## About the Birding Areas



**Colorado** is one of the great birding states of the American West and the best place for gallinaceous birds in North America, particularly in April. But there are many other species of birdlife and wildlife to observe as well at this time of year, and we'll be seeing them against a stunning landscape.

**Eastern Plains**—Spring bird migration will be starting up and most apparent on the eastern plains of Colorado and western Kansas, an area that includes the riparian foothill country of the Pueblo area, the vast riparian habitat of the lower Arkansas River, numerous reservoirs, and the short-grass prairie habitat of the Pawnee Grasslands. We'll visit leks of both Lesser and Greater prairie-chickens to observe their elaborate displays as the sun rises over the

plains. Other birds we'll hope to see in this section of Colorado and Kansas include Western and Clark's grebes, Scaled Quail, Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Sage Thrasher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, and Loggerhead Shrike.

**Foothills, Mountains, and Intermountain Parks**—The foothills of the Front Range are often thawed out for our trip, but there might still be plenty of snow in the mountains. Regardless of the weather conditions, the scenery will be spectacular and the birding exciting. Weather permitting, we'll visit Loveland Pass in search of the elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan. In addition, we will stop in the mountains and foothills to search for scarce Dusky Grouse and other mountain specialties. In

the intermountain parks, we'll visit Greater and Gunnison sage-grouse as well as Sharp-tailed Grouse displaying on their respective leks, plus a variety of other birds, hopefully including Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, and Swainson's Hawk. Our travels will take us over the Front Range and to the birding hotspots of the area such as Yampa and Gunnison basins and North, Middle, and South parks.

**Colorado Plateau: Plateaus, Mesas, and Valleys**—The western portion of the state is the most dramatic and colorful section of Colorado. Our birding travels will take us to reservoirs and canyons such as Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Colorado National Monument. We pass alongside the great rivers of western Colorado, including the Uncompahgre, Gunnison, and Colorado, enjoying panoramic views of western Colorado's most spectacular landscape features—the San Juan Mountains, Uncompahgre Plateau, and the granddaddy of them all, the Grand Mesa. Birdlife here is wonderfully diverse, with all three species of rosy-finches in the higher elevations and Gambel's Quail, Rock and Canyon wrens, Pinyon Jay, Juniper Titmouse, and Black-throated, Brewer's, and Sagebrush sparrows in the lower elevations.



*One of the star species of this tour is the Greater Prairie-Chicken. We'll be able to see these marvelous birds performing their mating rituals. Photograph by guide Cory Gregory*

## Itinerary for Colorado Grouse

**Day 1, Apr 9 or 14. Arrival in Denver; to Pueblo.** Please plan to arrive at the Denver airport on day 1, no later than 1:30 p.m. MDT. Once you've retrieved your luggage, **go to East Terminal, curbside, Level 4 near the Alaska Airlines sign. Your guide(s) will meet you curbside there at 2:00 p.m. (Please let our office staff know your mobile phone number, so that the guide will be able to contact you in case of missed connections or other difficulties).** After loading luggage, we'll travel south along the Rocky Mountain Front to Pueblo. Be sure to have your binoculars handy; we will be birding along the way! Night in Pueblo, Colorado.

**Day 2, Apr 10 or 15. Pueblo to Kansas plains.** Our travels today will take us in an easterly direction (roughly following the Arkansas River) as we position ourselves for visiting lekking Lesser Prairie-Chickens the next morning. This imperiled species is declining rapidly and is no longer reliable at accessible leks in Colorado. En route, we will stop at several reservoirs, riparian woodlots, and feedlots. Birds we'll be looking out for include Clark's Grebe, Cinnamon Teal, Franklin's Gull, American White Pelican, Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, Scaled Quail, Wild Turkey, Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern

and Say's phoebes, Sage and Curve-billed thrashers, Swainson's and Ferruginous hawks, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. By the end of the day, our checklists should be brimming with ducks, grebes, raptors, shorebirds, sparrows, and blackbirds. We will cross from Mountain Time to Central Time today. Night in Scott City, Kansas.

**Day 3, Apr 11 or 16. Eastern Plains to Wray.** This is the day we've all been anticipating, our first experience at a lek. The rare Lesser Prairie-Chicken will be displaying as the sun rises. We'll need to be out very early to increase our chances for success. After (we hope) the excitement of seeing the prairie-chickens, we'll enjoy a hearty breakfast and then work our way northward and westward to Wray, Colorado. En route, we'll keep eyes peeled for Rough-legged and Swainson's hawks, Long-billed Curlew, and Eastern and Mountain bluebirds. We will cross from Central Time to Mountain Time today, gaining back the hour we lost the previous day! Night in Wray, Colorado.



*While the main focus of this tour is viewing grouse, this is also a great tour for raptors such as this Rough-legged Hawk.  
Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.*

**Day 4, Apr 12 or 17. Wray to Wheat Ridge.** We'll be up early today to observe the second of the three members of genus *Tympanuchus*—the Greater Prairie-Chicken. After breakfast, we'll head northwestward, skirting the shortgrass prairie habitat of the Pawnee Grasslands as we target prairie specialists like McCown's Longspur and Mountain Plover. We will look out, too, for the harder-to-find Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Long-billed Curlew, and Prairie Falcon. Time permitting, we may also check reservoirs for dabbling ducks and shorebirds. Night in Wheat Ridge, Colorado (on the west side of Denver).

**Day 5, Apr 13 or 18. Wheat Ridge to Montrose.** Today we'll start early and head from the foothills of the Front Range into the mountains themselves. Weather and road conditions permitting, we should be able to traverse a mountain pass where the elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan can be found. Stops at feeders at high elevation might produce Brown-capped and possibly two more rosy-finches, as well as other finches. We'll gradually work our way in a southwesterly direction through basin/range topography to Montrose, crossing the Continental Divide several times. It's largely a travel day, but we will stop periodically to stretch our legs and search for local color such as Golden Eagle, Pine Grosbeak, Mountain Bluebird, Cassin's Finch, Steller's Jay, Gray-headed (Dark-eyed) Junco, and possibly American Three-toed Woodpecker. Night in Montrose, Colorado.

**Day 6, Apr 14 or 19. Montrose area.** Our goal this morning is the rare Gunnison Sage-Grouse displaying on its lek. Afterwards, we will climb in elevation in search of American Dipper, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (and its more elusive cousins, Black and Gray-crowned), Evening Grosbeaks, Cassin's Finches, juncos, and mammals. An afternoon visit to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is a possibility. Night in Montrose, Colorado.

**Day 7, Apr 15 or 20. Montrose to Grand Junction.** Our day will begin with a visit to the spectacular Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, where Dusky Grouse can be seen as they perform their nearly inaudible (to us), deep booming song. Other possibilities at this unheralded gem of a national park are the “Slate-colored” subspecies of Fox Sparrow, White-throated Swift, Northern Pygmy-Owl (scarce), Mountain Bluebird, Townsend’s Solitaire, and Spotted Towhee. Lower elevations here hold Pinyon Jay and Juniper Titmouse. After morning birding, we will head northwestward, making concerted efforts to find Sagebrush and Brewer’s Sparrows on the Utah border. Other stops may get us Lewis’s Woodpecker (scarce) and waterbirds on several reservoirs along the way. Night in Grand Junction, Colorado.



*In addition to seeking grouse, we'll look for western specialties such as the stunning Mountain Bluebird.  
Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.*

**Day 8, Apr 16 or 21. Grand Junction to Craig.** This morning we'll leave at daybreak for Colorado National Monument where we'll spend a morning enjoying some of the most spectacular scenery of the tour. The incredible Monument Valley overlook provides awe-inspiring views of the impressive geologic formations of Wingate sandstone cloaked in juniper and pinyon pine woodland. Although this will likely be a “grouseless” day, we will nevertheless see some fine birds. Here, possibilities include Gambel’s Quail, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Rock, Canyon, and Bewick’s wrens, Juniper Titmouse, Bushtit, Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay, Pinyon Jay, and Black-throated Sparrow. After lunch, we'll travel north to the town of Craig, watching for Sandhill Cranes and Prairie Falcons along the way. Night in Craig, Colorado.

**Day 9, Apr 17 or 22. Craig to Walden.** Our early morning outing will take us to a private ranch where we hope to see strutting Sharp-tailed Grouse. These hills and valleys are also home to Swainson's Hawk, Red-naped Sapsucker, Vesper Sparrow, and Sandhill Crane. After our morning outing, we'll head eastward toward our hotel in Walden. The North Park area affords the best chances to see a Moose in Colorado. If thawed, Walden Reservoir often hosts the most impressive diversity of waterbirds of the whole tour. Night in Walden, Colorado.

**Day 10, Apr 18 or 23. Walden to Denver.** Our grand finale this morning will be a visit to a lek of displaying Greater Sage-Grouse. After brunch, we'll head out to Denver making several birding stops en route, looking for anything we may have missed along the way. We'll conclude our grand Colorado Grouse tour with a farewell dinner tonight. Night in Denver, Colorado.

**Day 11, Apr 19 or 24. Depart Denver.** You may plan your departure from Denver for any time today. Have a safe trip home!

# About Your Guides

## Tour I

**Eric Hynes** has been fascinated by birds and passionate about birding since he first heard the ghostly wailing of a Common Loon at summer camp in Maine more than 30 years ago. Upon completion of his B.S. at the University of Vermont, where he studied environmental studies and wildlife biology, Eric began a serious endeavor as a bird hobo that lasted more than a decade. His travels ranged across the U.S. with a number of trips to Central America as well. During this quest, Eric did everything from monitoring breeding raptors in the Snake River Canyon, to guiding for two summers in Alaska on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs, to ground squirrel rustling in Montana, to owl banding and hawk counting in Pennsylvania.

Getting married to Christine helped settle Eric into a fulltime position at Maine Audubon but not until after a birding trip to Panama cleverly disguised as their honeymoon. As the staff naturalist and adult education coordinator, Eric taught numerous bird identification workshops and led field trips locally and abroad for Maine Audubon. His positive energy and infectious enthusiasm for all things wild has drawn many a convert to birding and conservation. Eric served several terms on the Maine Bird Records Committee.

Eric and his family recently relocated to Telluride, Colorado where he focuses on tracking down Gunnison Sage-Grouse and rosy-finches as a scout in-residence for the Colorado Grouse tour.

*"I'd absolutely travel with guide **Eric Hynes** again. He was fabulous. Eric exceeded my expectations in his interest in the entire habitat and the life it supports. Everything on the tour was perfectly organized and executed." D. M., Colorado Grouse*

**Micah Riegner** grew up exploring the Central Arizona Highlands and was fortunate to have parents who took him along on college field courses ranging from the coast of Mexico to the mountains of Costa Rica, where encounters with tinamous, barbets, and jacamars launched him into the birding world at a young age. During his time at Prescott College, he made annual pilgrimages to Amazonia, where he worked as a guide and participated in expeditions, mostly in Brazil. For his master's he studied the foraging ecology of Amazonian woodcreepers. When he's not in the field, he tries to make time to paint birds and other creatures that spark his interest.

Micah guided tours with Bret Whitney, John Coons, Dan Lane, and Tom Johnson before joining Field Guides full time in 2019. Micah is a generous guide with an easy laugh and is eager to share his love of birds and nature in the years to come. We know you will have a great time traveling with him, too!

*"**Micah Riegner** was outstanding. He seemed to get on every bird out there for the hard-core birders, while also sharing his expertise about natural history and ecology in general. He had a good sense of timing for getting everyone smoothly through the long days, accommodated Covid caution, fixed flat tires, and more - really a long day for one guide to deal with, and he did it with good humor and energy. Kudos to Micah!" S.J. ; Arizona's Second Spring*

## Tour II

**Tom Johnson** grew up watching birds in central Pennsylvania. Interested in science and the outdoors from a young age, he became involved in a variety of field projects throughout his school years, including banding migrant landbirds and conducting point counts for the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas. He was fortunate to pursue undergraduate studies in biology at Cornell University, where he became even more excited to learn about systematics and migration while surrounded by the amazing ornithologists and birders of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Since graduating, Tom has spent much of his time studying seabirds off the East Coast of North America, conducting line transect surveys from NOAA ships between Nova Scotia and the Bahamas. When he's not otherwise occupied, he loves to devote time to wandering, taking photos, and searching for vagrants and hybrid birds.

Tom has long been interested in sharing his enthusiasm for exploring bird identification, distribution, and migration dynamics; he is a regional editor for *North American Birds* magazine and has contributed identification articles to *Birding* magazine. Perhaps most of all, he loves sharing his passion for the natural world with others out in the field, and he's excited to have the opportunity to do this while leading for Field Guides.

*"**Tom Johnson** [is] everything you would ever want in a birding guide. I have never known anyone who can get the target bird in the scope and ready for viewing faster... He hears the bird, scopes it, and we see it!" G. T., Spring in Cape May*

**A second guide will be added as tour size warrants.**

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Eric, Tom and Micah's complete tour schedules; just click on their photos.

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$4075 from Denver

**DEPOSIT:** \$400 per person

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** December 10, 2021 (Tour I) or December 15, 2021 (Tour II)

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional\*):** \$700

**LIMIT:** 14

### **Special Note: Tour fees may be subject to change due to the global economic effects of COVID-19.**

We have published the itinerary and price for this tour with the understanding that during these uncertain times we are likely to encounter unforeseen changes. Some of our tours may incur higher costs due to increases in currency exchange rate fluctuations or COVID-19 related fees imposed by countries and/or suppliers. Travel and hospitality companies all over the world have been adversely affected by the pandemic, and there is no guarantee that all of the lodging and transportation we have booked for this tour will still be available at the time of departure. We hope to maintain our services as indicated in our itinerary as well as our published tour fee. However, if changes are required we will make every effort to maintain the quality of the itinerary as it is published with the most appropriate substitutions available. Should any necessary changes or other unforeseen causes result in an increase in service rates to us, we reserve the right to pass on those increases in fees to the tour participant.

## Other Things You Need to Know

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

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Accommodations are in comfortable hotels, typically in familiar chains such as Holiday Inn Express, Best Western Plus, and Cobblestone Inn. In Walden, we stay at the family-owned North Park Inn & Suites.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Please plan to arrive at the Denver airport on day 1, no later than 1:30 p.m. MDT. Once you've retrieved your luggage, **go to East Terminal, curbside, Level 4 near the Alaska Airlines sign. Your guide(s) will meet you curbside there at 2:00 p.m. (Please let our office staff know your mobile phone number, so that the guide will be able to contact you in case of missed connections or other difficulties).** After loading luggage, we'll travel south along the Rocky Mountain Front to Pueblo. Be sure to have your binoculars handy; we will be birding along the way! You may make plans to depart anytime on Day 11.

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 \$4075 for one person in double occupancy\* from Denver. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 10, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 11, all ground

transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides 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 Denver, airport taxes, 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 \$700. 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).

\*If you have a trusted friend, relative, or significant other with whom you wish to share a room on tour, please let us know and your tour manager will make that assignment. However, due to recommendations from the CDC, Field Guides is not currently pairing roommates who do not know each other, and the single supplement will apply if you do not have a roommate. As of this writing (January 4, 2022), we are reviewing these CDC recommendations carefully and often and will let you know if that changes.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please [contact our office](#). 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.)

Due to the late nature of the release of the itinerary, at this time, please mail us your **full payment**, or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. **Generally, full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by December 11, 2020 (Tour I) or December 18, 2020 (Tour II)**. **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.**

Please note that if you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will require **proof of travel insurance**. 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: FOR 2022 TOURS:** 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 and non-transferable. **FOR 2023 TOURS & BEYOND:** Note that beginning in 2023, the 50% refund period will become 179 to 90 days before departure, with no refund thereafter.

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. If you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will **require proof of travel insurance**. 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 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 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 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. 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  
11/21 TBJ; 1/22peg

Field Guides Incorporated is an equal opportunity service provider.  
Field Guides Incorporated is an authorized permittee of the Pawnee National Grassland.