

ITINERARY

Colombia: The Llanos and More

November 7 – 17, 2020



*The immense Jabiru is found in open, marshy areas in much of South America, including the llanos. We've had some wonderful sightings of these prehistoric-looking creatures, including this one that had captured an eel or small snake.
Photograph by participant Margaret Kelch.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2020 Field Guides Colombia: The Llanos and More:

- 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.

In this 11-day itinerary we maximize birding while minimizing drive times. We combine delightful, mostly open-country birding in the *llanos* of the eastern lowlands of Colombia with a taste of some exciting birding in the Andes near Bogota. We'll be covering just a small part of this bird-rich country, but we should see a terrific cross section of birds and for the most part our drive times will be tolerable except for a couple of travel-and-birding days.

The llanos are seasonally flooded plains that provide safari-like birding opportunities and a rich diversity of grassland and water birds, as well as some specialties associated with the scattered patches of woodland here. In the llanos there is always something to see on the ground or flying by overhead, making for an exciting birding experience. Here, we will stay in a wonderful family-owned lodge in the midst of a 12,000-hectare ranch. We will be able to see many of the classic inhabitants of the llanos, such as Jabiru, Orinoco Goose and several species of ibis. The Llanos are also known as a

wildlife haven, and we'll experience herds of Capybara, troops of Red Howler Monkeys and other mammals; we may also get the chance to see some interesting reptiles.

Our llanos experience will be complemented with birding around Bogota and on the east slope of the Eastern Cordillera (at Villavicencio). The capital of Colombia is one of the highest elevation cities in Latin America and gives us access to some wonderful high-elevation birding. The Andes here are home to an amazingly rich bird life, in particular, beautiful hummingbirds and tanagers, but also numerous other specialties and endemics. These days in the cooler highlands will introduce us to a completely different set of birds than we will experience in the *llanos*.

We'll travel west of Bogota to visit several forested areas that encompass an elevational change that allows us to enjoy several bird communities within a small area. We'll search for some of the birds characteristic of this Andean region, such as Bar-crested Antshrike, and Gray-throated Warbler. Along other trails, we'll search for specialties such as Black Inca, Turquoise Dacnis, Flame-faced Tanager, and Moustached Brushfinch. The Villavicencio area will have some overlap with areas to the west of Bogota, but also obvious and important new ones, among them, White-chinned Jacamar, Yellow-billed Nunbird, Pectoral Sparrow, Grey-chinned Hermit, Green-backed Trogon, Gilded Barbet, Black-faced Antbird and Paradise Tanager.

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 4 miles per day), along roadsides and trails, most of which will be flat, some of which (especially at Chicaque) will be somewhat steep, uneven, and slippery, with obstacles such as rocks or tree roots. Walking sticks will be useful on trails with steeper grade or uneven substrate.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We do drive for long periods several times on this tour. Traffic in and around Bogota can be very difficult, but we will try to avoid the worst of it by staying outside the city and timing our drives for less activity; however, we may encounter road works and road closures that we are unable to plan around. Participants should be able to step up (and step down) 10-12 inches to get into and out of our vehicles, whether small buses, vans, 4x4 Land Rover-style vehicles, or safari jeeps, which may require climbing into and out of the back. Several roads are rough, and although we drive slowly, there is a fair bit of bouncing around. We bird from a small boat on one occasion, and so an ability to climb into and out of the boat is necessary. Electricity can be intermittent away from Bogotá (portable chargers can be useful).
- **PACE:** After breakfast (a few as early as 4:30 a.m., usually at 5:00-5:30 a.m.), we bird until lunch time. We sometimes pack a picnic lunch, 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, especially in the hot llanos.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will range from the 40s at night in higher elevations to the 90s F in llanos during the day. Rain showers are likely somewhere.
- **ELEVATION:** We reach elevations of up to 9000 feet on this tour and spend several nights at an elevation of 9000 feet (Bogota area).
- **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 your guide for the tour.

This tour can be combined with Colombia: Cali Escape, Oct 29 - Nov 7, 2020.

About the Birding Areas



The Bogota Region—The capital is located at 8,500 feet (2,500m) on the Sabana de Bogota. We'll spend a day at Tabacal with an early morning departure dropping down ever so slightly towards the Magdalena Valley. We will want to arrive early to take advantage of the dawn activity at this very birdy spot. There will also be a stop at a private house with hummingbird feeders. Possible birds include Bar-crested Antshrike, Rosy Thrush-Tanager, Gray-throated Warbler, Rusty-breasted Antpitta, Gorgeted Woodstar, and Indigo-capped Hummingbird.

Laguna Pedro Palo is where we will be targeting the endemics, Turquoise Dacnis and Black Inca (difficult), as well as Metallic-green Tanager. We will also spend a full day at Chicaque National Park, located just 30 minutes from Bogota, which holds a very special group of birds. The park has over 20 km of trails for seeking out targets such as Golden-bellied Starfrontlet, Moustached Brushfinch, Flame-faced Tanager, and another chance at Black Inca. As we descend the eastern slope of the Eastern Cordillera (towards Yopal), we will be birding the Andean foothills again, but on the other side, so you get foothill birding on both slopes! There will be some overlap with species seen at Tabacal, Pedro Palo, and Chicaque, but also many new species that are not found on the east slope. The Villavicencio area is rich in bird life!

The Llanos—The Colombian llanos will provide a complete contrast to the high elevation birding of the Bogota Plateau. We will be birding in wild, open marsh plains with vistas stretching towards the Venezuelan border and for hundreds of kilometers beyond. This wild open mix of grasslands, savannah forest, gallery forest, and seasonally flooded wetlands is home to vast numbers of waterbirds and impressive concentrations of Capybaras. We hope to see the regal, almost ungainly Jabiru and its smaller cousin the Maguari Stork. Scarlet Ibis should be around, and we will also find Buff-necked and Sharp-tailed ibises and Roseate Spoonbills. The localized Orinoco Goose will be a key target, and we may also find Brazilian Teal and several species of whistling ducks. Horned Screamers are also often present. Waders may well be plentiful as it will be migration season and along with a number of wintering and passage North American species, we also hope to see Pied Lapwing and to get up close and personal with Double-striped Thick-Knee. A selection of raptors will include Aplomado Falcon, and we should be able to find some family parties of Burrowing Owls, while the impressive Great Horned Owl can sometimes be found around the Lodge. We should see a selection of herons with Whistling being the most interesting, and we have a fine chance of connecting with the incomparable Sunbittern.

We will not ignore the forest though. The localized Pale-headed Jacamar is common along the riversides, and we will also be looking for the White-bearded Flycatcher—both of these species are Llanos endemics restricted to these plains that are shared between Colombia and Venezuela. Other species we may see include Hoatzin, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Double-banded Puffbird, Chestnut-vented Chachalaca, Blue-tailed and Versicoloured emeralds, Oriole Blackbird, Red-capped Cardinal, Purple-throated Euphonia, Orange-fronted Yellow Finch, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Yellow-browed Tyrant, and Rufous-fronted Thornbird, which nests commonly around the Lodge.

We will also be along the lookout for mammals; along with the common Capybaras, we may find White-tailed Deer, Crab-eating Fox, and Collared Peccaries, as well as Giant Anteater (seen in 2017 and 2018). Jaguars are known to be present on the ranch, although a sighting is extremely unlikely. Anacondas are also present, but rare.

Itinerary for Colombia: The Llanos and More

Day 1, Sat, 07 Nov. Arrival in Bogota. Most flights from North America arrive in the evening; transfers will be scheduled from the airport to our hotel in Bogota. Those who wish to adjust for a day or two or visit Bogota attractions, such as the Gold Museum (Museo del Oro), will need to schedule an earlier arrival. Our local ground operator in Bogota can also help to arrange day visits with a local guide to the old colonial town of La Candelaria, Simon Bolivar Central Park, or a cable-car ride up Mount Monserrate with stunning views of the city below. Night in Bogota (8600 feet).

Day 2, Sun, 08 Nov. Tabacal. We will depart early (like 5 am) for a full day of birding at Tabacal, which is about an hour-and-a-half drive from our hotel in Bogota. We'll spend all morning birding here. We plan on lunching in the small town below the site and then making a stop at Jardin Encantado for their dazzling hummingbird display. Species we hope to find at Tabacal include Bar-crested Antshrike, Spectacled Parrotlet, Jet, White-bellied, Dusky, and Blue-lored antbirds, Gray-throated Warbler, Stripe-breasted Spinetail, Rusty-breasted Antpitta, Speckle-breasted Wren (the endemic *columbianus* subspecies), White-bearded Manakin, and a host of commoner lowland species. At the Jardin Encantado we will focus on the endemic Indigo-capped Hummingbird and localized Gorgeted Woodstar, but will also hope to find White-vented Plumeleteer, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Green Hermit, Black-throated Mango, Red-billed Emerald, and three species of violetears, among others. Instead of returning to the traffic of Bogota, we will skirt the city and stay near Pedro Palo. Night at Hotel La Mesa.



The endangered Black Inca is found in a small range in Colombia, and has been seen at Chicaque National Park on several of our tours. We can't guarantee a sighting, but we'll spend time watching the feeders, and even if we don't see the Inca, we'll find many other wonderful birds! Photograph by local guide Andres Trujillo.

Day 3, Mon, 09 Nov. Chicaque Natural Park. Starting along the entrance road and around the car park, we'll be looking for Pale-naped and Moustached brushfinches and Andean-Pygmy Owl. After a quick look at the feeders, which attract the near-endemic Golden-bellied Starfrontlet, along with Glowing Puffleg, Tourmaline Sunangel, Mountain Velvetbreast, and White-bellied Woodstar, we'll bird slowly down through the forest where, as we drop in elevation, the species composition changes. Species we may possibly encounter include Gray-browed and Chestnut-capped brushfinches, Black-eared, Black-capped, Superciliaried, and Oleaginous hemispinguses, Cinnamon and Rufous-breasted flycatchers, Andean Toucanet (of the *albivitta* form, which is sometimes split as White-throated Toucanet), Lachrymose Mountain-Tanager, Ashy-headed Tyrannulet, Ash-browed Spinetail, Blackish Tapaculo, Rufous-browed and Blue-backed cone-bills, Variegated Bristle-Tyrant, a selection of tanagers including Flame-faced, Rufous-tailed Tyrant, Striped Treehunter, Brown-billed Scythebill, and Chestnut-crowned Antpitta—to name a few. Night in La Mesa.

Day 4, Tue, 10 Nov. Laguna Pedro Palo. Our main focus at Pedro Palo will be the endemic Turquoise Dacnis and Black Inca, but we will be on the lookout for Stripe-breasted Spinetail, Moustached Brushfinch, Rufous-naped Greenlet, Olivaceous Piculet, Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner, and Metallic-green Tanager. We'll return to Bogota in the late afternoon. Night in Bogota.

Day 5, Wed, 11 Nov. Villavicencio. We will leave Bogota early and bird the Monterredondo road for mixed flocks with the chance of Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet, Ochre-breasted Brushfinch, Grass-green Tanager, Brown-breasted Parakeet, Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Black-collared Jay and plenty of tanagers, hemispingus, brushfinches and flycatchers. In the late afternoon, we will drop down to the nearby city of Villavicencio where we will spend the night. Night in Villavicencio.

Day 6, Thu, 12 Nov. Bosque Bavaria to Yopal. We will spend the morning in the Bosque Bavaria foothill forest where we hope to find a range of Amazonian foothill (east slope) species including White-chinned Jacamar, Amazonian Motmot,

Yellow-billed Nunbird, Pectoral Sparrow, Violaceous Jay, Speckled Chachalaca, Bare-eyed Thrush, Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, Grey-chinned Hermit, Green-backed Trogon, Gilded Barbet, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Scaled Piculet, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Black-faced Antbird and Paradise Tanager. In the afternoon, we will make a longish transfer of 4 to 5 hours to Yopal. Night in Yopal.



*The White-bearded Flycatcher is a near-endemic of Venezuela that just crosses into Colombia in the Llanos. We should see them near Juan Solito Lodge while we are there.
Photograph by guide Jesse Fagan.*

Day 7, Fri, 13 Nov. Yopal to Juan Solito Lodge. We will depart Yopal early with packed picnic breakfast (or possibly organized in the hotel). We will have a fairly long (six hours) birding drive (with a boat ride) to our lodge from Yopal. On the way, we'll make stops for Jabiru, Scarlet Ibis, Whistling Heron, Oriole Blackbirds, and a few Burrowing Owls we are likely to encounter. We will have a packed lunch (or if time allows, a late lunch at the lodge) and arrive at the lodge in the mid to late afternoon. Night at Juan Solito Lodge.

Day 8, Sat, 14 Nov. Juan Solito Lodge (South of the River Ariporo). A full birding day on the llanos. We will have options for a boat safari in the morning (roughly 6-10 a.m.) in search of Hoatzin, Pale-headed Jacamar, and Chestnut-eared Aracari, and a river walk late morning. In the afternoon (3-6:30 pm), we will explore the forest patches along the entrance road. Night at Juan Solito Lodge.

Day 9, Sun, 15 Nov. Cascabel. Today is a long, but very fun birding day; we'll drive up to El Hato and (conditions permitting) Cascabel; all day out with early breakfast and lunch at ranch house, El Hato, and more nightbirding. Night at Juan Solito Lodge.

Day 10, Mon, 16 Nov. Return to Yopal and Bogota. Today is mainly a travel day—with birding stops—back to Yopal. Night in Yopal.

Day 11, Tue, 17 Nov. Departure. We will have an early AM flight to Bogota, then connections home. Tour officially ends.

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 extensively throughout North America and in 2016 published the *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) with co-author Oliver Komar and illustrators Robert Dean and Peter Burke. In addition, Mot has experience in many other areas of Central and South America, Europe, and Africa. 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 with his wife, Rocio.

Jesse will be accompanied throughout the tour by **local guides**.

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

"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

Financial Information

FEE: \$4875 from Bogota

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 10, 2020

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$475 [*singles are limited at Juan Solito Lodge (Days7-9), some may have to share*]
LIMIT: 8

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: In Bogota and Yopal we will be staying in very comfortable hotels with all the modern conveniences near the airport. Other hotels on the tour, in La Mesa and in Villavicencio, will be more basic, but comfortable and suitable for our needs. In the Llanos, our lodge is located on the 16,000-hectare Hato La Aurora Reserve. There are seven rooms, all with private bathrooms (with unheated water). Singles cannot be guaranteed and some may have to share rooms; singles in that case will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The traditional structure of the building, with a palm roof, is designed to keep it cool (there is no air conditioning). Given the remote location, the lodge offers some great wildlife viewing, especially for birds, but also caiman, wild pigs, deer, capybara, anteaters, and even jaguar. You'll get a feel for the way of life in the llanos, too, with its distinctive traditional music, food and cowboy way of life.

A NOTE ON ALTITUDE: Bogota sits at 8,660 feet (2,640 meters), so you may experience some elevation discomfort on your first evening or the first day of birding. We spend several nights in Bogota, so you should acclimatize rapidly. You should bring appropriate medication if you think you will have problems with the altitude; consult your physician. The Llanos portion of the tour is at or near sea level.

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid for at least 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: You can arrange your flights to arrive in Bogota anytime on November 7th. We encourage you to arrive a day early if possible. If you wish to come early, we would be happy to help with extra arrangements. Early arrival provides insurance against you or your luggage being delayed, time to become accustomed to the elevation of over 8,600', and the opportunity to visit such attractions as the Gold Museum.

On November 17th, you can plan to depart from Bogota after 12:45pm, following our group flight from Yopal. Our group flight from Yopal (Avianca 9265) is currently scheduled to arrive in Bogota at 8:45AM. For those flying on American Airlines or if you would like more time to make your connection, there is an earlier flight from Yopal to Bogota arriving at 7:59AM on Latam (LA 4201). Your tour manager will be in touch with you to help you with your flights. If you need to overnight in Bogota, 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 limit your luggage to one medium-sized suitcase/duffel and carry-on. Also, 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 \$4875 for one person in double occupancy from Bogota. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 11, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on day 10 (our last meal as a group), the flight within Colombia (Yopal to Bogota), 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 \$475. Note: singles are limited at Juan Solito Lodge (Days 7-9). 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 \$500** 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 10, 2020. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

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

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

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

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When

consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. 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. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA.

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. 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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