

ITINERARY
***CENTRAL PERUVIAN ENDEMIC:
THE HIGH ANDES***
October 4-20, 2025



The Black-breasted Hillstar is an endemic found in the puna habitat near Lake Junin, where they feed on cactus flowers and other blooming plants. Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal..

We include here information for those interested in the 2025 Field Guides Central Peruvian Endemics: The High 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 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 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

The Andes mountains are an extraordinarily complex geological and biogeographic feature and nowhere more so than in Peru. Deep canyons and rainshadows isolate portions of the massive central cordillera from other such blocks, and in this isolation some of the most distinctive birds in Peru have evolved. Some have been known for decades as a result of the early collectors having reached central Peru, while others have been found in the last several decades by local naturalists and researchers. Central Peru is one area where the scenery and the birds are equally spectacular and intriguing.

This tour is designed to seek the endemics and high-elevation specialties of the temperate and puna zones of the complex central Peruvian Andes. We'll be doing so amid some of the finest montane scenery in the world. Improved roads make possible our driving the entire beautiful loop. On our first day of birding, in the arid western cordillera above Lima, we will target some landbird endemics as we begin to work our way up altitudinally. Then we'll head north along the coast, crossing the western cordillera to our comfortable base for exploring the Cordillera Blanca, a complex region of enormous snow-capped peaks and intervening glacier-carved valleys in the western cordillera. The centerpiece here is Huascarán National Park, which preserves almost a million acres of high Andean wilderness, regarded by Peruvians as the most spectacular scenery in their country, and home of the tallest mountain in Peru: Huascarán (about 22,200 feet, only the seventh-highest peak in South America!). The slopes of Huascarán support perhaps the largest woodland of *Polylepis* in all of South America, complete with brilliant, orange-flowering mistletoe, Giant Conebills, and a host of Peruvian endemics, including the rare White-cheeked Cotinga (which eats the mistletoe berries) and the very local Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch. And these high-altitude woodlands have got to be the Tit-like *Dacnis* capital of the world!

From Huaraz we'll drive east through the Cordillera Blanca and down to Huanuco, in an arid valley at 6300 feet, our base for exploring the Carpish Mountains and Bosque Unchog, a remote treeline elfin forest that is home to some of the most intriguing of the recently discovered central Peruvian endemics. Also in the Huanuco area, we'll bird for two days near the Carpish Pass northeast of the city of Huanuco. Here we'll seek a great variety of other Andean forest species. These trips will give us a chance to see the many interesting species that are accessible by road and trail, especially in the subtropical and temperate zones along the Paty Trail and at the Carpish Pass. Among the most alluring of the bird possibilities are Bay, Chestnut, and Rusty-breasted antpittas, several tapaculos, Green-and-black and Band-tailed fruiteaters, White-eared Solitaire, and even a chance at the rare Masked Saltator.



Bosque Unchog has several endemics we'll seek, including the gorgeous Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager. These birds are listed as Endangered, but since they inhabit areas that are difficult to survey, not much is known about them.

Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.

Next we'll commence a modest adventure to Bosque Unchog. Bosque Unchog has held the imagination of Neotropical birders since the mid-1970's, when ornithologists published descriptions of three new species—which could sometimes be found in the same flock!—from this elfin forest. For sheer glamour, the foremost among these endemics is the Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager, nine inches of brilliant enamel-plated feathering, which occurs in wide-ranging, small groups that roam patches of treeline forest. For sheer mystery, there is the Pardusco, a monotypic genus in the tanagers. For sheer rarity (and for lovers of cotingas), there is the uncommon and local Bay-vented Cotinga, a quiet inhabitant of the upper montane forests. And for challenge and sheer good birding fun, another attractive denizen of upper elevations is the contrasty, rare Rufous-browed Hemispingus—now known to be more closely related to some of

the warbling-finches than to other “hemispinguses” (which are no longer a unified group by any stretch of the imagination!). All of these intriguing endemics—as well as a host of more widespread Peruvian endemics—are to be found by hardy souls willing to climb up over the pass and down to the boggy treeline forest at Bosque Unchog, at 11,500 feet elevation, and then bird the rugged area for several days. Field Guides has conducted wonderful tours to Unchog and had a high rate of finding these jems. This year, we will jettison our prior strategy of camping at the start of the trail at Unchog in favor of using a lodge in the valley below and driving up to the trailhead in time to get walking at daybreak. This should save us some of the difficulties of camping, but also the time spent driving from Huanuco city.

On our journey from Huanuco back south and west toward Lima, we'll seek the remainder of the possible high-Andean endemics of the region, from the flightless Junin Grebe (endangered and restricted to beautiful Lake Junin) to Black-breasted Hillstar and Rufous-backed Inca-Finch. A boat trip on Lake Junin (13,000 feet) and a day on the Marcapomacocha road (to 15,500 feet) will bring us to the close of two full weeks of montane birding. Ultimately, we'll bird the high puna bogs of the western cordillera, home to some of the most sought-after of High Andean birds: the rare and local White-bellied Cinclodes and the exquisite Diademed Sandpiper-Plover. Finding these specialties in the bogs below magnificent snow-capped peaks at 15,000 feet may well constitute the climax of the trip. Those seeking high-altitude species rarely have such an opportunity to condition to the altitude. We should return to Lima fulfilled!



For a slideshow illustrating the tour, go to the tour page (<http://fieldguides.com/bird-tours/peru-central>) on our website and click on the Overview tab; the slide show is at the bottom of the page.

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:** Moderate amounts of walking (up to 3 miles per day) is standard, often along roadsides both dirt and paved, in some cases with moderate elevational change (usually gentle rather than steep grades), but at high elevation. We have several hikes of at least 5 miles round-trip, some of that uphill. In several areas, we walk off the trails into the habitat, where terrain is steep, the elevation substantial, the footing often boggy or spongy, and weather often foggy or rainy. Trail hiking is necessary at several points, but the trails are generally not treacherous in nature; the most difficult is at Unchog, where in the past participants have had the option of returning uphill by mule if they were unable to make the return hike-- we hope that option will still be available!
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We regularly drive for long periods on this tour, often on roads that are dusty and bumpy. Participants should be able to step up (and step down) 10-12 inches to get into and out of our vehicles. Heat is not a feature in our lodging. Particularly at our hotel in La Oroya which is fairly basic and can get quite cold at night, extra wool blankets are provided by request; wearing thermal underwear for those who are thin-blooded may be necessary.
- **PACE:** After early breakfast (4:30-5:30 a.m.), we will bird until lunch time. Normally, we bird after lunch and and/or continue traveling to our next destination. Although not a daily luxury, there will be a few days where we can take a few hours siesta in the afternoon upon arriving at the hotel. We will make the hiking pace as easy as possible given the high altitude; bear in mind that your guide is from sea level!
- **WEATHER:** Much of this tour will be in very mountainous terrain. Local conditions can change rapidly and with little warning (and there is no such thing as "weather forecasting" here). Temperatures can range from the 30s F at night to 80s F during the day on sunny days, cooler in cloudy conditions. Rain showers and cloudy/foggy conditions are likely in some areas at higher elevations and in Huanuco department, where wetter easterly air comes off the Amazon Basin. We will also experience strong sun at times, and beware that high elevation results in strong UV radiation even with light cloud cover. Light snow flurries are not impossible. On the coast, we are likely to experience the fog and even light misting rain (*garua*) typical of Lima city and the *lomas* (hills) along the coast during austral winter. Temperatures are likely to be between 50 F and 80 F here.
- **ELEVATION:** We reach elevations of up to 15,500 feet (briefly, and with minimum of exertion expected; mostly while aboard our bus) on this tour and spend three nights at elevations of 12,000 and 12,500 feet. Lima is, of course, at sea level, but our change from low to high (>10,000 feet) elevation will happen within only a few hours. Altitude medication is highly recommended to avoid strong reactions to the dramatic change in elevation; Diamox has proven very helpful to previous clients and our guides.
- **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, which should not be too difficult on a full-sized bus. 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 simply are few other options (away from our lodgings) on many sections of this tour's route, and our guides note that roadside restrooms are often less appealing than bush stops. We will have toilet paper available as necessary.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily 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

Arid Andean slopes above Lima—Just east of Lima lies the western flank of the western Andes. As we climb into the foothills, we'll leave the coastal fog below and ascend along rushing streams and steep-walled canyons on to dry, shrub-covered slopes. The avifauna of these arid slopes reflects the relative isolation of the habitat type, which is restricted primarily to the west slope of the western Andes from central Peru to northern Chile. Hence, the arid subtropical and temperate shrub zones here host a number of species of restricted geographic range, some of which—like the Great Inca-Finch and the Rufous-breasted Warbling-Finch—are endemic to a very narrow range within Peru. Amid the cacti, shrubs, and terrestrial bromeliads are rather obscure blossoms that attract a variety of hummingbirds. Among them are Oasis

Hummingbird, Purple-collared Woodstar, and the tiny Peruvian Sheartail, whose violet-red gorget and long, white tail feathers distinguish the male immediately.

The lower slopes support Streaked Tit-Spinetail, Bare-faced Ground-Dove, Long-tailed Mockingbird, Golden Grosbeak, and Scrub Blackbird. Interesting mixed-species flocks traverse the slopes, sometimes containing Black-necked Woodpecker, Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail, Canyon Canastero, Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant, Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant, Collared Warbling-Finch, Rusty-bellied Brushfinch, and numbers of Mourning Sierra-Finches.

We'll devote our first full day to birding up to above 10,000 feet, where we'll search especially for two Peruvian endemics that we've seen along this upper stretch of the road,: Bronze-tailed Comet and the very rare Rufous-breasted Warbling-Finch. Watch the skies and ridges for soaring raptors, including Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Variable (Red-backed) Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, and the magnificent Andean Condor (we've seen up to 12 during a past tour here, though that is an unusually high number!).

Lomas de Lachay—The Atacama Desert, following the Pacific coast of South America from northern Chile to central Peru, is one of the driest deserts in the world. A couple of hours north of Lima, through the coastal Atacama, is a habitat wonderfully weird beyond belief. The area is almost devoid of vegetation except where high sand dunes (*lomas*) and foothills rise into the winter fog (*garua*), creating an eerie stillness full of the sound of silence. Here there is sufficient moisture to support a few plants along an otherwise barren coast. In a couple of rocky canyons strange greenish-black cacti covered with chartreuse lichens are home to the endemic Cactus Canastero—and very little else (besides the odd Burrowing Owl and perhaps a transient group of Grayish Miner). On the lower slopes of the sandy lomas grow short forbs which are home to occasional flocks of Tawny-throated Dotterels and breeding Least Seedsnipe and Coastal Miners. And way at the top of the lomas is a wonderland of rocky outcrops with seasonal shrubs and herbs and even a few hardy trees hidden among the huge boulders. This is habitat for the endemic Thick-billed Miner!

These fog-enshrouded lomas were studied extensively by the late Maria Koepcke, one of Peru's foremost naturalists and ornithologists from the mid-20th century, who described several new birds from this region. In our search for these specialties of the upper lomas, we should see a number of more widespread species, including Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, hundreds of Eared Doves, Croaking Ground-Dove, Burrowing Owl, Vermilion Flycatcher, Peruvian (recently split from Yellowish) Pipit, Black-lored (recently split from Masked) Yellowthroat, Cinereous Conebill, Collared Warbling-Finch, and Peruvian Meadowlark. We'll visit part of the Lomas de Lachay and the surrounding desert on our way north to Huaraz, and we'll have our final day, before our international flights, to "clean up" species we missed the first time.



*The Croaking Ground dove is one of the more common birds we'll see near Lomas de Lachay.
Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*



*The brilliant Tit-like Dacnis is a small tanager that we'll see in Huascarán National Park.
Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.*

Huascarán National Park—The magnificent Huascarán National Park contains almost a million acres of high Andean wilderness, including the spectacular double peak of Huascarán itself (22,000 feet) and perhaps the finest stands of *Polylepis* trees in the world—on the flanks of the mountain at 11,000 to 14,000 feet. It is this vast temperate *Polylepis* zone that will be the primary focus of our visit to Huascarán. We will start early each morning to spend most of the day in the park, a two-hour drive from our comfortable base near Huaraz at the town of Carhuaz, at 10,000 feet. We'll be birding slowly, easily, between 11,000 and 14,000 feet, and our return to our lodging for the nights should ensure good sleeping at lower elevation.

As we ascend the valley from Yungay into the park, we'll pass through picturesque agricultural land with vistas of the distant cordillera. At the park entrance we'll notice a change: The landscape is suddenly little-disturbed, and native shrubs and lupins with beautiful blossoms abound. Watch for trainbearers, Giant Hummingbird, and Black Metaltail while we register; just around the entrance we've seen Rufous-backed Inca-Finch. Beyond the park headquarters the canyon narrows, sheer cliffs rising a thousand feet above the whitewater river, which itself is choked now by our first gnarled *Polylepis*. As we continue up the Quebrada Llanganuco, the *Polylepis* trees increase in size. At Lago Chinancocha we will search among 30-foot trees with huge trunks and wide-spreading branches for the Giant Conebill, a *Polylepis* specialist that feeds by probing under accumulated scales of the paper-like red bark like a nuthatch. On our last several tours here, we've found conebills to be very responsive. We'll tiptoe through the rather open understory, watching and listening for the quiet motion of a Stripe-headed Antpitta or Striated Earthcreeper foraging among dead leaves, or a small bird party with such endemics as Line-cheeked Spinetail, Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail, or Rufous-eared Brushfinch.

Beyond Lago Orconcocha, with its Crested Ducks and Andean Geese at close range, we will climb steeply up through expanses of stunted shrub and bunch grass, with *Polylepis*/*Gynoxys* groves on the more protected slopes. These uppermost groves are surely the "Tit-like Dacnis capital of the world": as many as a hundred may occur in one small grove, many of them males in full gurgling song and flight display. One can actually observe the feeding behavior of this bird, said to be dependent on a *Gynoxys*-specific aphid. We have also watched it feeding at what appear to be nectar droplets on the *Gynoxys* leaves. Other bird possibilities include Green-headed (split from Andean) Hillstar, Blue-mantled Thornbill, Striated Earthcreeper, Black-crested Tit-Tyrant, Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant, Taczanowski's and Puna ground-tyrants, Thick-billed Siskin (erratic), and the endemic Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch (tough).

On our another day, we'll head directly for the pass, at 14,800 feet, where extensive talus is inhabited by small colonies of Mountain Viscachas, burrowing rodents related to the Chinchilla. Our destination is the most fabulous *Polylepis* woodland we've ever encountered. East of the pass, we descend into the uppermost Marañón basin, where rainfall is significantly greater than to the west. Forty- to fifty-foot *Polylepis* trees stand in dense groves, their branches

supporting an abundance of mistletoe with bright orange tubular blossoms. Mistletoe berries are thought to constitute the primary source of food for a restricted endemic bird first described by the Koepckes in 1953: the lovely White-cheeked Cotinga, for which we will make a special effort. Other *Polylepis* specialties that inhabit the uppermost groves include Striated Earthcreeper, Tawny Tit-Spinetail, and the little-known Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant.

Although our focus is on the higher slopes, we will look for several birds in the drier lower valleys as well, including the very local Creamy-breasted Canastero (an undescribed form that is part of the “Pale-tailed” group, often split from Creamy-breasted) and the almost endemic (but not very dramatic) Spot-throated Hummingbird.



*Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant is a high-elevation species that we'll watch for in the Carpish region, where we found it on a previous tour..
Photograph by participant Brian Stech.*

The Central Highway: Carpish Pass—In the patches of forest along the Central Highway from about 7000-9000 feet (2100-2700 m), a long list of “temperate” and a moderate number of “subtropical” forest species occur. In forest around the Carpish Tunnel, we may encounter Mountain Velvetbreast, Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Superciliated Hemispingus, and Slaty Brushfinch. Some of the more regularly recorded species in upper montane forest below the tunnel include Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Barred and Band-tailed fruit-eaters, Flavescent Flycatcher, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Peruvian Tyrannulet, Inca Flycatcher, Peruvian Wren, Citrine Warbler, Gray-hooded (Black-billed) Bush-Tanager, and Black-capped Hemispingus. Additionally, Andean classics such as Collared Inca, Pearled Treerunner, Flame-faced Tanager, Scarlet-bellied and Hooded mountain-tanagers, and Plushcap are present. Also around us, but of a shier nature, will be Brown Tinamou, the endemic Bay and Chestnut antpittas, Leymebamba (recently split from Rusty-breasted) Antpitta, Trilling, Tschudi's, Rufous-vented, and Ash-colored tapaculos, Golden-browed Chat-Tyrant, White-eared Solitaire, and the endemic Cerulean-streaked or Streak-crowned Mountain-Tanager (recently split from Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager, and whose English name is still being settled). Slightly lower down the grade, we will look for Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Emerald-bellied Puffleg, Golden-headed Quetzal, Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner, Uniform and Variable antshrikes, Dusky-green Oropendola, several “*Tangara*” tanagers (including Silvery), and Oleaginous Hemispingus.

Finally, over the years a long list of juicy species has been recorded, and our hopes should include, and sharp eyes and ears may locate, Hooded Tinamou, White-throated and White-rumped hawks, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Buff-tailed Sickbill, Ocellated Piculet, Yellow-vented and Powerful woodpeckers, Tyrannine Woodcreeper, Rusty-winged Barbtail, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Masked and Green-and-black (subspecies *tallmanorum*) fruit-eaters, Jet Manakin, Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia, and Masked Saltator (we can dream).

Sadly, the area has been the site of rapid land clearing as colonists have arrived and cut out pastures and *chacras* (small farm plots), but the main crop locally is Hydrangea bushes for the international flower market (!). The forest along

the Carpath Tunnel trail has been reduced to scraps (still birdy, thankfully), and traffic along it has increased considerably with workers going to their fields to tend their Hydrangea bushes. Paty Trail, too, has suffered some significant alterations with an abandoned road project cutting it in half. We should still be able to see many of the targets despite these setbacks, but will be on the lookout for new locations to visit should these trails become overwhelmed with clearing. Also, beware that the Paty Trail requires hiking for over a mile downslope, and then the return upslope, which requires some stamina. We will take the walk slowly, but the elevation will probably have you puffing!

High-elevation forests and above treeline at Bosque Unchog—In addition to the high-profile “stars” (Bay-vented Cotinga, Pardusco, Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager, and Rufous-browed Hemispingus), the (relatively) short list of species present around treeline is exciting. In the wet treeline habitat (locally known as *pajonal* or *jalca*), birds of record include Great Sapphirewing, Coppery Metaltail, Andean Flicker, Many-striped and Line-fronted canasteros, Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, and Rufous-breasted and Brown-backed chat-tyrants. The upper-elevation forests are home to Purple-backed Thornbill, White-browed Spinetail (endemic form *ochrogaster*), White-chinned (“Plenge’s”) Thistletail (*Schizoeaca fuliginosa plengei*), Chachapoyas Antpitta (formerly considered Rufous Antpitta, but that species has been split into many!), Stripe-headed and Undulated antpittas, Neblina, Tschudi’s, the newly-described White-winged, and Large-footed tapaculos, Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, Ochraceous-breasted Flycatcher, Pale-footed Swallow, White-browed Conebill, Golden-collared and Yellow-scarfed tanagers (sometimes in the same flock!), Chestnut-bellied and Cerulean-striped/Streak-crowned mountain-tanagers, Brown-flanked Tanager, and Drab and Three-striped hemispinguses (hemispingi?). There are also a number of species that may require “almost being stepped on” or other extra good fortune, including Tawny-breasted Tinamou, Puna Snipe, Swallow-tailed Nightjar, Rufous-backed (also called Buff-throated or Peruvian) Treehunter, Greater Scythebill, and roving flocks of White-capped Tanagers.



The flightless Junco Grebe is the main attraction at Lake Junin. Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.

Lake Junin—A gently sloping valley at about 13,000 feet, the Pampa de Junin is covered with grass, marsh, and (for some 200 square kilometers at its lower end) Lago Junin. The lake margins are alive with Bright-rumped Yellow-Finches and Correndera Pipits, and the lake itself teems with waterbirds: thousands of Puna Ibis, hundreds of pairs of Andean Geese, Yellow-billed Pintails, Speckled and Puna teal, and White-tufted Grebes. All of these birds inhabit an almost unreal setting—of blue water surrounded by the special greens and golds of soft high-altitude light on the puna grasslands, the marshes themselves punctuated here and there by mud walls and thatch-roofed huts or a line of foraging llamas.

But the real rarity of the lake is the Critically Endangered Junco Grebe, *Podiceps taczanowskii*, so long-isolated on Lake Junin that it has lost its powers of flight and is thus endemic to the lake. Depending on the breeding cycle, the

grebes may be in deeper water or closer to the floating reedbeds. The current population is estimated at fewer than 150 pairs on the entire lake (see *Threatened Birds of the Americas* and “The waterbirds of Lake Junin, central Peru,” by M. P. Harris, in *WATERFOWL* 32, 1981, and online at www.birdlife.org). Threats from dams and (mining) pollution have endangered the population, but the lake has now been declared a preserve (at least on paper!). We hope to search for the grebes by motorized boat, accompanied by an official of the reserve. This excursion always depends on where the grebes are, obtaining permits, turning the promise of the boat into actuality, and the current lake level (which affects ease of access). Keep your fingers crossed for an appropriate response and good weather conditions (wind is not good). Given the number of variables, we can’t guarantee that this boat trip will happen, but we’ll certainly plan it and hope for the best.



The large White-bellied Cinclodes is a high elevation specialist endemic to a small region of Peru, where it lives in boggy areas. We'll look for it along the Marcapomacocha Road. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.

Marcapomacocha road—The mystique surrounding the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover stems from a number of the bird’s characteristics. It is a handsomely plumaged shorebird, with white diadem, chestnut neck, gray back, and spiffy black-and-white bands on breast and flanks. A plover with a bill like a sandpiper’s, it is a taxonomic enigma, infrequently seen and poorly known. Its habitat is high Andean lakeshores and bogs, mostly above 14,000 feet, where altitude and terrain can make finding it difficult, especially in light of its unobtrusive behavior. And throughout its range—from central Peru to southern Argentina and Chile—the sandpiper-plover is sparsely distributed. The best Peruvian locality for finding the sandpiper-plover is near the crest of the western cordillera along the road to Marcapomacocha.

The White-bellied Cinclodes, one of the largest ovenbirds in the world, is even more poorly known than the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover. Recorded only from the Andes of central Peru, it appears to be genuinely rare and is seemingly restricted to very high altitudes. Unseen by ornithologist or birder for 45 years, the cinclodes was rediscovered in a valley just off this road in the 1940’s. In the same valley occur flocks of as many as 300 Rufous-bellied Seedsnipes, uttering mellow whistled calls as they fly from slope to slope.

Other puna species for which to watch in these high valleys include Puna Tinamou (sometimes moving in family groups across the most barren of slopes; it is perhaps declining), Gray-breasted Seedsnipe, Olivaceous Thornbill, Black-breasted Hillstar (a particularly handsome endemic), Andean Flicker, Dark-winged Miner, Buff-breasted Earthcreeper, Junin Canastero, Puna, Taczanowski’s, White-fronted, and Ochre-naped ground-tyrants, Glacier Finch (formerly called White-winged Diuca-Finch), and Black Siskin.



The White-cheeked Cotinga has a very restricted range in the Polylepis forests of the western Peruvian Andes. These interesting birds feed almost exclusively on mistletoe berries. Photograph by participant Ken Havard.

Itinerary for Central Peruvian Endemics: The High Andes

Day 1, Sat, 4 Oct. Flight to Lima. Flights to Lima typically depart from Dallas, Houston, Miami, Atlanta, or Los Angeles and arrive either late-night (8:00 to 11:30 p.m.) or very early morning (5:00 to 8:00 a.m.). Because we'd like to start very early tomorrow morning (to avoid the traffic and get to the birding early), we urge you to select a flight that arrives early or else come a day early in order to rest up before our birding begins. Our office can help you with reservations for air and hotel. Please be sure we know your arrival plans if you book your own flights.

Upon arrival at the Jorge Chavez International Airport, you will be processed at Immigration (which have stopped stamping passports, apparently!), claim your luggage, and proceed through Customs. You can exit the baggage area and push your own luggage cart to the Costa del Sol Wyndham Hotel within the airport complex. (It's the building across the street from the international arrivals door; ask any one of a number of English-speaking airport information assistants for directions.) As you check into the hotel, please submit your passport for copying (a requirement of most hotels in Peru). The guide(s) will leave a message regarding the plan for tomorrow under the door of your room. Your guide will meet you at the buffet breakfast on Day 2, if not before. Night at the Costa del Sol Wyndham Hotel, Lima International Airport.

Day 2, Sun, 5 Oct. Arid montane slopes above Lima: the Santa Eulalia road. We'll spend our first morning wending our way up the spectacular Santa Eulalia road until we reach 7000 feet, where there is good habitat for the endemic Great Inca-Finch. We hope to reach 10,000 feet before the wind comes up and activity dies down. We'll make a special effort for the Rufous-breasted Warbling-Finch and try for a good look at a Canyon Canastero. We'll work our way up by vehicle, walking the level stretches and riding uphill. There is usually little traffic along the road, but what there is can raise clouds of dust, so come prepared.

After a picnic lunch (away from the road) we'll bird the higher slopes in hopes of mixed-species flocks. Watch for White-capped Dipper and Torrent Duck (not in mixed-species flocks in this case) along the rushing stream on our way back down. Expect an early start and a late close to a wonderful day of birding. Night at the Costa del Sol Wyndham Hotel, Lima International Airport.

Day 3, Mon, 6 Oct. Lima to Huaraz, birding Lago Conococha. Today we'll head north along the coast, probably detouring for a while to one section of the Lomas de Lachay (see Day 16), and then turn east, climbing the precipitous west slope of the western cordillera, here called the Cordillera Negra. From the crest of these arid mountains, we'll descend into a broad intermontane valley flanked by gleaming, snow-covered mountains of the Cordillera Blanca and bisected by meandering mountain streams. This beautiful valley supports extensive puna slopes of golden bunch grasses

interspersed with spreading, prostrate cacti of limited distribution. It's a land of Cinereous Harriers and Aplomado Falcons, of Ornate Tinamou, Andean Flicker, White-winged Cinclodes, Buff-breasted (formerly Plain-breasted) Earthcreeper, and Streak-throated canasteros, Andean Swallow, and a variety of seedeaters and sierra-finches. At the south end of the valley at 13,400 feet, is Lago Conococha, a large natural lake supporting sizable flocks of Andean Geese, Puna Ibis, and Giant Coots as well as a variety of additional waterbirds. Puna Snipe, Slender-billed Miners, Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrants, and small flocks of Black-faced (Andean *branickii*) Ibis (scarce) inhabit the margins of the lake and adjacent marshes. From here it's a two-hour drive to our lodging, our base for the next four nights. We'll have a delicious dinner and discuss plans for the next several days. Night in Carhuaz.



*At Lago Conococha, we'll see a good assortment of waterbirds, including the Puna Snipe.
Photograph by participant Greg Griffith.*

Days 4-6, Tue-Thu, 7-9 Oct. Huascaran National Park. We have three full days to bird Huascaran National Park. Exactly how we orchestrate that time will depend on weather, road conditions, birding success, and, to some extent, the whims of ever-capricious leaders (bwa-ha-ha!). During this time, we will make daily long forays out from Carhuaz, starting before sunrise and returning for dinner as dusk envelops ever-watchful Huascaran, a dominating feature of the landscape here.

On our first visit to the park, we'll bird the lower sections (watch for hummers even as we check in at the entrance) up to Laguna Llanganuco. In addition to birding from the road, we'll walk several (fairly level) trails. One morning we'll work in some lower-elevation birding at Pueblo Libre near Yungay to look for the local endemic (but still undescribed) form of Creamy-breasted Canastero. And on one full day, we'll head directly—or as directly as the many switchbacks allow—for the pass, at 14,800 feet, and cross into the upper lip of the Marañón valley and the fabulous *Polylepis* woodlands. The drives are long, so the days will be long but, hopefully, quite rewarding. Come prepared daily for bright, high-altitude sun, rain, and cold (down jacket, scarves, gloves; rain pants, or even long underwear, which can be removed as it heats up), and plan to sip water from your canteen regularly to ward off dehydration. Good hiking boots are usually appropriate, but we can leave rubber boots in the bus in case of rain or to use for wading into a puna marsh. **If you have brought diamox or some other altitude-sickness preventive, these are days you may want to take it.** Nights in Carhuaz.

Day 7, Fri, 10 Oct. Huaraz to Huanuco. This morning we'll journey through the Cordillera Blanca through a more southerly section of Huascaran National Park, across the upper Marañón valley, over a ridge, and down into the arid valley of Huanuco at 6300 feet. This is primarily a travel day, but we'll make some birding and rest stops as time allows,

perhaps finding such species as Ornate Tinamou, Green-headed (split from Andean) Hillstar, Many-striped and Streak-throated canasteros, Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch, Glacier Finch (formerly White-winged Diuca-Finch), and Black and Yellow-rumped siskins. We should also see some examples of *Puya raimondi* today (if we're particularly lucky, perhaps with a flower spike!)—a wonderful high-altitude terrestrial bromeliad for which Huascarán is famous among botanists. Upon leaving Huascarán NP, it will be a long ride to Huanuco, so we'll need to be on our way before lunch. Night in Huanuco.



The flora of the high Andes is spectacular. As we drive through Huascarán National Park, we should see stands of the largest bromeliad, Puya raimondi. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.

Days 8-9, Sat-Sun, 11-12 Oct. Birding the Central Highway. These two days will be spent in the Carpish mountains near where the highway to Tingo Maria passes through the Carpish Tunnel (at about 9000 feet or so). This area has been steadily degraded in habitat quality in the past few decades, and it's been 8 years since our last visit, so our birding here will be determined by where the best remaining blocks of habitat are and access. The Carpish Tunnel trail—which has become a site dominated by a cut flower growing industry (featuring Hydrangea!)—has in the past provided some local specialties such as Ash-colored Tapaculo, Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager (a form that is being split with the provisional name of “Cerulean-streaked” or “Streak-crowned” and is a Peruvian endemic!), as well as outside chances for Masked Saltator (rare!) and Rufous-browed Hemispingus (also rare), among others. Historically, the Paty Trail, a rather steep trail that takes us down inside the forest and providing some access to understory skulkers such as tapaculos and antpittas. Our last visit (in 2017) found that the area has been greatly degraded due to a road-building project that has chopped through the forest, and we will have to determine if it is worth visiting this site at present. This east-slope region supports a rich assortment of montane forest birds. Each day we'll have a picnic lunch in a lovely setting the Carpish mountains. Nights in Huanuco.

Days 10-11, Mon-Tue, 13-14 Oct. Bosque Unchog. A new lodge near to the bottom of the road leading up to the site called Unchog will permit us to stay in relative comfort (and at a more reasonable elevation!) the nights we visit this famous birding site. We will be departing well before dawn and snaking our way up the dirt road up to the trailhead. From here, we will be walking on a mule trail that goes over a rocky rise and thence down a winding path into the elfin forest valley where the bulk of the birding will be, with a picnic lunch in our bags. This will be a strenuous hike, and the return uphill can be tiring. In the past we've been able to arrange mules to help those who find the return hike difficult,

something we hope to be able to organize for this visit. Our hikes in on the trail will go slowly, stopping for Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Black-throated and Moustached flower-piercers, our first Coppery Metaltail, or perhaps a Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant or a Paramo Pipit. Once down in the elfin forest valley, we will be looking for mixed flocks that may contain the glorious Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager, Pardusco, Rufous-browed Hemispingus, among others. We'll also be putting effort into skulkers such as Large-footed, Neblina, Tschudi's, and White-winged tapaculos, Chachapoyas Antpitta, White-browed Spinetail, and bolder residents such as the local Bay-vented Cotinga. Nights at Hacienda Santa Cruz.



Line-fronted Canastero is a near-endemic that we've seen well at Bosque Unchog. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.

Day 12, Wed, 15 Oct. From Bosque Unchog back to Huanuco. After a final morning of birding at Bosque Unchog, we will return to Huanuco town. Night in Huanuco.

Day 13, Thu, 16 Oct. Huanuco to La Oroya. We'll load up this morning and head south on the Central Highway toward Pasco. En route we'll stop in the high arid scrub for Rufous-backed Inca-Finch and Brown-flanked Tanager (if we haven't seen them already) or for any *Polylepis* species we may have missed. The high-altitude bogs in this region will be our first opportunity for Dark-winged Miner and possibly a few other puna specialties. We'll continue past the town of Cerro de Pasco and bird our way along the stunning Lake Junin in the lovely late-afternoon light. Watch for herds of Vicuñas as we head for our simple hotel in the mining town of La Oroya, at 12,500 feet. This will position us well for an early start back to Lago Junin for our boat trip tomorrow. Night in La Oroya.

Day 14, Fri, 17 Oct. Lake Junin boat trip. This morning we'll return along the Central Highway to the Pampa de Junin and Lake Junin. Conditions permitting, we hope to get out onto the lake by boat to search for the grebes in the deeper waters. Be sure to wear your rubber boots today, and come prepared for walking across boggy puna to the edge of the water (there is a moderate chance of getting wet today, so bring a change of clothes and footwear in the bus). And be prepared as well for the bright glare and sunburn potential of spending time on the water on this beautiful, high-altitude lake. In the late afternoon we'll return to our modest hotel in La Oroya. Night in La Oroya.

Day 15, Sat, 18 Oct. Marcapomacocha road. We'll head west this morning directly over Ticlio Pass (also known as Anticona Pass) at 15,800 feet, the highest pass on a paved road in Peru (indeed, the highest pass on a major highway anywhere in the world!). Watch for Vicuñas and White-bellied Cinclodes, which we sometimes see right along the road to the west of the pass! At the Marcapomacocha turnoff, we'll detour off the Central Highway onto a dirt road that goes to several mining towns, including the wonderfully-named Marcapomacocha. It is along this high-elevation road that there is good habitat for the beautiful Diademed Sandpiper-Plover: wet peat bogs where we've had good luck finding the bird. If

we haven't yet seen the White-bellied Cinclodes, we'll continue to other cinclodes valleys. We should also encounter Rufous-bellied and Gray-breasted seedsnipe.

On the higher ground is dry puna grassland. Three species of cinclodes are found here. Cream-winged (one of the three sibling species from the recently-split Bar-winged) is everywhere; White-winged is restricted, dipper-like, to the immediate vicinity of the stream; and a few White-bellieds are to be found, primarily on the drier ground of the bog. We'll pace ourselves, and after a few hours' birding, we'll climb back to the road, load into our bus, and head down the (mostly) paved, and very windy, Central Highway through the western cordillera to Lima. Tonight we'll be back to the relative luxury of our comfortable hotel at the Lima airport. Night at the Costa del Sol Wyndham Hotel, Lima International Airport.

Day 16, Sun, 19 Oct. Lomas de Lachay; international flights homeward. So enchanting are the fog-enshrouded Lomas de Lachay—and so birdy this time of year—that we've decided to devote our final day to birding them. We'll head north of the airport on the paved Pan American Highway through the coastal desert for an hour-and-a-half to the Lomas de Lachay National Reserve and the surrounding cactus-clad hills. In search of Coastal, Thick-billed and Grayish miners, Cactus Canastero, and other lomas inhabitants, we'll do some hiking around in sandy and rocky hills for a couple of hours. It should be cool with the coastal fog, and hiking boots would be appropriate. In the lower sand hills, we'll be watching for dotterels, seedsnipe, and flocks of nomadic Raimondi's Yellow-Finches. We'll have a picnic lunch amid the huge boulders and the most enchanting patch of lomas habitat, and return to the hotel, time permitting, via the coastal road and perhaps bird some marsh habitat.

We'll return to our airport hotel (even those departing tonight will have rooms) in time to clean up and organize for our international flights. We should each plan to be at the check-in counter 2.5 to 3 hours in advance of our flight(s)—lines can be long and frustrating if we don't! We'll have a farewell dinner this evening in the fine hotel restaurant before saying goodbye and heading our separate ways. Night on the airplane (or at the Costa del Sol Hotel).

Day 17, Mon, 20 Oct. Flights, connections, and arrival home. Departures from Lima are usually spread out over the late evening on Day 16 to very early morning on Day 17. Please let us know your preference for international flights. *Que les vayan bien.*

About Your Guide

Dan Lane was barely out of diapers when his love for birds manifested itself. He was an active birder in his home state of New Jersey until he graduated from college in 1995 and moved to Louisiana to pursue a master's studying Neotropical birds at Louisiana State University. By 1999, he'd received his degree and participated in three LSU expeditions to Peru and Ecuador, discovering a new species of bird (Scarlet-banded Barbet) along the way. His increasing experience with Peruvian avifauna, coupled with being in the right place at the right time, landed Dan co-authorship of the recently published *Birds of Peru*—alongside his childhood heroes, Ted Parker and John O'Neill.

Dan's interest in birds also includes illustration (he's provided artwork for several books, journals, and magazines, as well as the *Birds of Peru*), bird vocalizations, and bird biogeography and evolution. Dan was pleased to join Field Guides in 2006 and has ever since enjoyed the friendship and fun the FG family provides. His areas of expertise are largely in tropical Latin America, but on occasion he has led tours to other corners of the globe and of course, (somewhat) regularly, birds near his home in Louisiana. He's eager to return to the high Andean wilds of central Peru.

"Dan Lane is superior in all aspects as a guide—excellent recognition of bird sounds, patient in drawing birds in for views, able to relate to group members with relaxed courtesy and helpfulness."
J. & E.H., Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge

Financial Information

FEE: \$6875 from Lima

DEPOSIT: \$675 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: April 7, 2025

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$350 (Singles may not be available in all areas.)

LIMIT: 8

Other Things You Need to Know

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

A NOTE ON ALTITUDE: Altitude sickness sometimes affects visitors to Huascaran and other high-altitude areas in Peru—especially upon over-exertion after arriving from sea level. It is usually avoided by taking it easy and moving very slowly; this requires a conscious effort. On this tour we'll work our way up, but we will be birding mostly above 8000 feet and will reach elevations of 15,800 feet. A serious search for the White-cheeked Cotinga or the Bay-vented Cotinga can involve climbing (slowly!) several hundred feet off the trail (or road) at elevations of 12,000 to 13,500 feet. At Bosque Unchog we'll be hiking at 12,000 feet, after two weeks of mountain birding that will help us acclimate. But the climb back up is strenuous at these elevations; we'll allow plenty of time to make it. Chances are you'll never have a better opportunity to get into shape for this climb.

DOCUMENTS: A passport is necessary for US citizens to enter Peru. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. Peru no longer (as of 2024) stamps passports at entry. However, most hotels require a copy of your passport and the date of entry, so be sure to keep track of that!

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

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. 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.

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.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$6875 for one person in double occupancy from Lima. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 16 (or day rooms in Lima on Day 16), all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 16, 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 Lima, 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 \$350. (Singles may not be available in all areas.) 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, 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.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$675** 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 April 7, 2025**. **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.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and full 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 full tour fee is non-refundable, which would include the full deposit if the final payment has not yet been paid. 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 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.

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