

ITINERARY

ETHIOPIA: ENDEMIC BIRDS & ETHIOPIAN WOLF

September 8-28, 2023

Churches of Lalibela Extension

September 28- October 1, 2023



Prince Ruspoli's Turaco is an endemic with an extremely small range in the semi-arid region around Negele, but we've been very successful in finding them on prior tours. Photograph by participant Greg Griffith.

We include here information for those interested in the 2023 Field Guides *Ethiopia: Endemic Birds & Ethiopian Wolf* 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 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

*A fully revised tour through a remarkable land; from the Rift Valley lakes and escarpments to the Bale Mountains, Awash National Park, Yabello, and the remote Negele region. Rich in endemics, with Blue-winged Goose, Rouget's Rail, and Abyssinian Woodpecker, to the "must-see" Prince Ruspoli's Turaco, Stresemann's Bush-Crow, and the enigmatic Ethiopian Wolf. This tour is based mostly in good quality accommodations (see **Special Note on Accommodations** below).*

Set against a backdrop of some of the most stunning scenery in all of Africa, Ethiopia's remote mountains are home to creatures seemingly forgotten by time. These include animals like the bizarre Giant Root-Rat and enigmatic Ethiopian Wolf, while the country's unique birdlife includes more than 30 species found almost nowhere else—and most of which we should see on this captivating adventure.



We'll stay at a wonderful lodge in the spectacular Bale Mountains. Photograph by participant Tim Barnekov.

It's a tour that begins in fine style, as we seek our first endemics—including Wattled Ibis—before we have barely left the capital, Addis Ababa. And here, in the highlands, yet more endemics occur, with excellent chances of seeing White-collared Pigeon, Erlanger's Lark, Rueppell's Chat, the striking White-winged Cliff-Chat, Brown-rumped Seedeater and Ethiopian Siskin. We'll also visit the Gemassa Gedel Escarpment—home to troops of Gelada Baboons and the little known Ankober Serin.

We'll then descend into the Great Rift Valley, with spectacular views, as we head east to Awash National Park. Stops along the way could find us watching any number of dry country species including mousebirds, barbets, bushshrikes, sunbirds and waxbills. Additionally we'll be searching for Red-billed Pytilia and Yellow-throated Serin, two rare species which inhabit a scrubby valley here. In the grasslands and acacia country of bird-rich Awash National Park we should encounter numerous birds of prey, bustards and bee-eaters, the gorgeous Abyssinian Roller, Yellow-breasted Barbet, Nile Valley Sunbird, and Somali Fiscal. Beisa Oryx, Salt's Dikdik, and Sommering's Gazelle occur here too.

Traveling south through Africa's Great Rift Valley we'll then visit a string of varied lakes, including Ziway (for a wide variety of waterbirds), Langanu (for groundwater forest and Yellow-fronted Parrot), and Abijatta (for flocks of Greater and Lesser flamingos). Heading further east we'll visit the magnificent Bale Mountains, as we search out Rouget's Rail, Abyssinian Woodpecker, Abyssinian Longclaw, White-backed Tit, and the mysterious Abyssinian Catbird. Emerging from the juniper and *Hagenia* forests, we'll cross the weird, tundra-like landscape of the Sanetti Plateau, the otherworldly domain of Ethiopian Wolves and Spot-breasted Lapwings—at more than 13,200 feet/4000 meters above sea level, it's the literal high point of our tour!

Continuing south we'll visit the remote Negele area, where we'll walk the dry river beds in search of the little known and beautiful Prince Ruspoli's Turaco! And, on the Liben Plains, we'll look for what is perhaps Africa's rarest bird – Liben Lark! Returning to the Rift Valley we'll spend a night at Lake Awassa, before heading south to Yabello, home of Ethiopia's most sought-after endemic—the curious Stresemann's Bush-Crow, along with White-tailed Swallow, and a wealth of *Acacia-Commiphora* bush birds. And finally, we'll make a second stop at Awassa as we head north and return to Addis Ababa.

*** Special Note on Accommodations:** Without doubt, Ethiopia is one of Africa's most attractive countries. With spectacular scenery and a host of endemic and near-endemic birds, it's a place that all serious birders wish to visit. However, in the past the very poor quality of hotels at almost all the birding spots has made many people think twice about visiting this country, and many simply stayed away.

Since January 2010, Terry Stevenson has made 3 special trips to Ethiopia in order to search out better accommodations for our tour. Some accommodations (Goba, Negele and Yabello) are still very simple, and you may experience some issues with power-outages and no hot water, but we're pleased to report that at Debre Birhan, Awash NP, and at lakes Langano and Awassa, we have found far better places to stay than were ever possible before. We will also stay at the delightful Bale Mountain Lodge, right in the forest on the south side of Bale Mts. and in the four star Haile Resort on the shores of Lake Awassa. In Addis Ababa we stay at a new, first class hotel—so never before has there been a tour visiting all these areas while based in perfectly reasonable lodges and hotels. Of course all these upgrades cost quite a bit more than the very basic accommodation that many other operators still use; however, we feel these new standards will be appreciated by many of you and hope you'll join us in November 2023.

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one). Having a vaccinated group will greatly diminish but not eliminate the possibility of the group and individual participants being adversely affected by COVID-19. **We are requiring all of our staff guides to be vaccinated, including getting the booster.** Note too, that many travel destinations are or soon will be requiring proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may become a requirement for some travel destinations if they choose to declare that vaccinations do not last indefinitely. And having a booster means your risk is lowered and your travel plans and those of our group are less likely to be disrupted.

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

Ethiopia is a vast country of which we will cover the central and southern regions. The tour maximizes the overall number of birds possible (within three weeks) and gives us a chance of seeing all of Ethiopia's endemic birds within the boundaries of our chosen route.

- **TRAILS AND WALKING:** Most of our walking will be along roadsides, lakeshores, or other flat areas with few obstacles. We will generally walk less than 2-3 miles a day, mostly on flat ground. The exception is at Gemessa Gebel on the Ankober Escarpment where we will walk about 1/2 mile up a steep hill on uneven terrain with grassy tussocks and rocks; if you wish to avoid this walk it is possible to stay nearby with the bus and driver. Some walks in the highlands may be in damp meadows or grasslands, while in the south, in thorny dry acacia bushland; but all are easy going and generally on flat ground. On the extension, walking is mostly on uneven ground at the churches themselves, with some high steps and a few rather steep inclines (hiking boots and/or walking sticks can be useful).
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** Using a Toyota Coaster bus we will have several long travel days, sometimes on rather bad roads. Food on this tour is often spicier and less varied than Americans prefer, although there will normally be a choice of spaghetti (with meat or tomato sauce), shiro and injera (spicy chickpeas on a traditional Ethiopian flat sour bread), and fried chicken or beef. Local people are very curious and at some stage will undoubtedly gather around us as we bird, some participants have been put-off by this, but it can be fun, and let's face it, we are a rather strange novelty in this amazing land where tourism is in its infancy.
- **ACCOMMODATIONS:** We use the best lodgings possible on this itinerary. However, we bird in several places that are remote, where the amenities are quite basic. Water rationing may mean no running water at some locations (but you'll still get a bucket bath), and electricity may be sporadic. Generally speaking, in remote parts of Ethiopia you'll probably have a light bulb that doesn't work, a tricky door lock, or some other minor inconvenience, but considering all the amazing birds you'll see it's worth putting up with these comparatively minor problems. Rest assured your guide will do everything possible to remedy whatever imperfections arise.
- **PACE:** We will generally start birding after breakfast (usually set for 6:00-6:30 a.m.), but on occasion we may need to start earlier to reach a location or to make a flight. We often have picnic lunches to extend our time in the field (or when traveling). In lower, hotter elevations, we normally have an after-lunch break at the lodge (or else

continue traveling in the bus to our next destination). On some evenings, we will have brief, optional night-birding sessions after dinner.

- **ELEVATION:** We will reach elevations of about 14,000 feet on this tour, on the Sanetti Plateau, on two days, but our nearby lodgings at Goba and the Bale Mountain Lodge are much lower, at about 9000 feet.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will range from the high 40s to mid-90s F, depending on altitude and weather. Prepare for rainy, and possibly cold, blustery conditions in the highest elevations. It will be hot but not be especially humid in most of the lower areas, although around the Rift Valley lakes there will be more humidity.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Those who might 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 must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature for most of this tour, as there are simply no other options along most of the tour's route, away from our lodgings.
- **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.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Ethiopia is unique. The people are very friendly, virtually everywhere we travel, and they are also very curious. When we are out birding, it's not unusual to attract a gathering of local people who simply want to observe what we're doing. They're pleasant, but for some who have not experienced birding with onlookers, this might at first seem off-putting! One quickly gets used to it.

Away from our best hotels, there are very limited choices at meal times. Breakfasts are simple: eggs, bread, jelly, and tea or coffee. Picnic lunches from hotels are also very basic, but in an effort to improve these we will try to supply a few additional foods like canned tuna, or peanut-butter and jelly to make your own sandwiches. Most restaurant lunches and dinners involve a handful of choices: a western-style meat choice like chicken or beef, spaghetti, and a couple of local dishes (most commonly *tibs*, small pieces of cooked beef or lamb) or *shiro* (chickpea sauce) served with *injera* (a local bread that tastes like a sourdough crepe). The most common vegetarian choice is spaghetti with a tomato sauce, or occasionally a plate of cooked vegetables (but cooked vegetables are not abundant). Ethiopians like spicy food; the food we are served is almost always toned down for tourists, but may still have a little more kick than you expect. Beverages are also limited (no diet soft drinks away from Addis Ababa). The most common types of beverage are soft drinks, beer, a popular bottled sparkling water ("Ambo"), and regular bottled drinking water.

In summary, Ethiopia has only recently resumed hosting numbers of tourists, and that number is still rather small (the tourist infrastructure is just beginning to develop). Ethiopia is a wonderful experience right now, and certainly within the norm of bird tours (in the view of the guides), but please be aware that some simple accommodations and limited food choice will be 'order of the day' for about half the tour.

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.



White-throated Bee-eater is fairly common in the Awash area. Photograph by participant Becky Hansen.

About the Birding Areas



Addis Ababa and the Highland Escarpments

—Addis (as it is locally known) is a very birdy city with endemics right on the grounds of several of the larger hotels. In addition to the more widespread Hooded Vultures, Speckled Mousebirds, and Baglafaecht Weavers, keep an eye open for Wattled Ibis, White-collared Pigeon, Abyssinian Slaty-Flycatcher, Brown-rumped Seedeater, and the gigantic Thick-billed Raven. We'll have two and a half days in the highlands to the north, visiting spectacular escarpments at both Gemassa Gedel and Ankober. Both these sites have troops of striking Gelada Baboons, Lammergeiers cross the open skies, and White-billed Starlings feed along the cliff tops, as do the little known endemic, Ankober Serin. While the farmlands, marshes, and scattered rocky hills are home to Blue-winged Goose, Erlanger's Lark, Rueppell's Chat, White-winged Cliff-Chat, Red-breasted Wheatear, Abyssinian Longclaw, and Ethiopian Siskin.

Awash National Park—Over 450 species of birds have been recorded in this park—as well as some great mammals including Beisa Oryx, Soemmering's Gazelle, Lesser Kudu, Salt's Dikdik, Warthog, and both Olive and Hamadryas baboons. The habitats consist of mixed acacia bush and grasslands, the Awash River, and open lava fields. During three days in this area we'll visit all these habitats as we search out Somali Ostrich, a variety of raptors including kites, vultures, Dark Chanting-Goshawk, Tawny Eagle, and the tiny Pygmy Falcon. Arabian, White-bellied, and Buff-crested bustards occur on the open plains, while Sombre Chat and Blackstart prefer the lava fields. But it is the bush country and riverine forest that hold most species with Helmeted Guineafowl, Bruce's Green-Pigeon, White-bellied Go-away Bird, Blue-naped Mousebird, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Abyssinian Roller, Black-billed Woodhoopoe, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, Yellow-breasted Barbet, Gray-headed Batis, White Helmetshrike, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Gillett's Lark, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Nile Valley and Shining sunbirds, Somali Bunting, Rueppell's Weaver, and Eastern Paradise-Whydah being just a sampling of what we could see.

The Rift Valley Lakes—During the course of our tour we'll visit several of Ethiopia's famous lakes, including Ziway and Awassa, where dozens of pelicans, cormorants, herons, egrets, ibis, Hamerkops, and Yellow-billed and Marabou storks preen, feed, and walk within just a few feet of the local fisherman—it's spectacular for photography. Lake Langano has more open deep water, and apart from a few White-winged Terns and Gray-hooded Gulls, is often very quiet compared to the other nearby lakes. It is, however, the surrounding woodlands that are the main attraction here, and we'll have two full days to enjoy this very birdy area. We'll also visit Lake Abijatta, a shallow alkaline lake that sometimes attracts large numbers of both Greater and Lesser flamingos.

Bale Mountains—For many visitors to Ethiopia, the Bale Mountains are the major highlight of the tour. And from our lodge near Goba town, it's just a short drive to the lower (but still montane) grasslands, where many of the highland endemics are found. Any marshy pool could provide us with flocks of Wattled Ibis and Blue-winged Goose, or an inquisitive Rouget's Rail. In the mixed grassland and wooded areas around the park headquarters or higher above the town are yet more local specialties, including Chestnut-naped Francolin, White-cheeked Turaco, Abyssinian Woodpecker, Abyssinian Longclaw, Brown Woodland-Warbler, Brown (Bale) Parisoma, Abyssinian Catbird, and White-backed Black-Tit. Menelik's Bushbuck (a distinctive race) and the endemic Mountain Nyala are also found here.

Continuing still higher (on the highest all-weather road in Africa), we'll leave the juniper and *Hagenia* forests behind and emerge on the Sanetti Plateau, a spectacular open area of Afro-alpine moorland with a variety of everlasting flowers and magnificent Giant Lobelias. Birds are few here except for Spot-breasted Lapwings, Thekla's Larks, Moorland Chats, and Tacazze Sunbirds; this is, however, the domain of Ethiopian Wolf (Simien Fox) and we have a very good chance of seeing this beautiful, endangered mammal.

Haremma Forest and other montane forest patches—The Haremma Forest to the south of the high peaks of the Bale Mountains is one of Ethiopia's largest remaining forests. Together with several much smaller remnant patches at places like Agere Maryam, we'll spend time looking for Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, White-cheeked Turaco, Banded Barbet, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Ethiopian Black-headed Oriole, Heuglin's White-eye, and Abyssinian Ground-Thrush. So rich is this forest, that we have now added an extra night at the Bale Mountain Lodge. We think the change will add greatly to the overall enjoyment of the tour, for this superb montane forest is rich in cuckoos, thrushes, warblers, and waxbills.

Negele and Yabello—In southern Ethiopia lie two areas where some of the country's most-wanted birds occur. First, we'll visit some of the tributaries of the Genale River where we'll search in fruiting fig trees for the enigmatic Prince Ruspoli's Turaco—a little known species found only in this area. We'll then head to a nearby area of arid grassland for the equally obscure Liben Lark (with a world population perhaps as low as 200 individuals) and then to Yabello where yet more localized endemics are found. Our main target species here are Stresemann's Bush-Crow and White-tailed Swallow, which only occur in this semi-arid bushland of spiky acacias and termite hills. It's also a fabulous area for other dry country birds like Bateleur, Vulturine Guinea fowl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Red-bellied Parrot, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Somali Tit, Pringle's Puffback, Rufous-naped Bush-Shrike, Scaly Chatterer, Shelley's, Golden-breasted and White-crowned starlings, and if lucky Northern Grosbeak-Canary.



*White-crowned Starling is an Ethiopian near-endemic that we'll find near Yabello.
Photograph by participant Rhys Harrison.*

Lalibela—The primary purpose of visiting this area is to see the world famous rock-hewn churches. But make no mistake, there are birds, with two endemics — Erckel's Francolin and Yellow-rumped Serin — more likely to be seen here than on the main tour. Additionally, many other great birds occur, and we have had our best views of species such as Abyssinian Nightjar, Banded Barbet, White-winged Cliff-Chat, and White-winged Starling. The area can also be very good for a varied mix of passing migrants, which may include European Blackcap, White-throated Robin (Irania), Common Nightingale, and Ortolan Bunting. Plus, there are some other fine shows, such as soaring birds, with Bearded Vultures (Lammergeiers) regular right by our hotel, soaring like albatrosses and followed by acrobatic Fan-tailed Ravens.



*The massive Thick-billed Raven is one of the most amazing birds we'll see on the tour.
Photograph by participant Greg Griffith.*

Itinerary for Ethiopia: Endemic Birds & Ethiopian Wolf

Day 1, Fri, 8 Sep. Departure from US. Participants joining the tour from the US will need to leave today in order to arrive in Addis Ababa on Day 2.

Day 2, Sat, 9 Sep. Arrival in Addis Ababa. Please plan your flights so as to arrive in Addis (as it is locally known) sometime today. For those who provide flight information, we will arrange a transfer from the airport to the hotel; note, however, that since 2012 depending on security policy, transfer agents are not always allowed into the terminal, and one needs to exit the terminal and go down to the edge of the parking area (short distance) to find the transfer agent; **look for your name on a sign and/or the sign for Saro Maria Hotel.** Many choose to come a day early—you may wish to visit the Ethnographic Museum (formerly the home of Emperor Haile Selassie), perhaps see one of the famous local churches, or simply rest after your long flight. There are no birding activities planned for today. With advance notice, our ground agent has been happy to arrange a tour of major features of Addis, including the National Museum, Holy Trinity Cathedral, and the open-air market known as Merkato (not included in the tour fee). Night at the Saro Maria Hotel, Addis Ababa.

Day 3, Sun, 10 Sep. To Debre Birhan. After breakfast this morning we'll leave in our Toyota Coaster bus and head northeast to Debre Birhan arriving in time for lunch. Along the way we'll make stops as we see our first Wattled Ibis, Hooded Vultures, Cape Crows, or even the gigantic Thick-billed Raven, which feed around the villages and among the fields of cattle, sheep, and horses. As we climb higher (to around 9900 feet/3000 metres), we'll see the first moorlands, with Moorland Chats, Brown-rumped Seedeaters, Ethiopian Siskin, and if aloes are flowering — gleaming Tacazze Sunbirds.

In the afternoon we'll drive about an hour to the Ankober Escarpment, a rugged area of lichen-covered rocks and tussock grass with spectacular views over the Great Rift Valley. Troops of strange Gelada Baboons can be seen here, while birds may include Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier), Verreaux's Eagle, Dusky Turtle Dove, White-collared Pigeon, Groundscraper Thrush, White-billed Starling, and Fan-tailed Raven. Our main target though, will be Ankober Serin, only discovered in 1976 small parties of these unobtrusive seedeaters feed amongst the boulders, although actually finding them can require a good deal of time and patience. Night at the Getva Hotel, Debre Birhan.

Day 4, Mon, 11 Sep. The Ankober Escarpment. We'll have a full day in the Debre Birhan and Ankober area as we continue to enjoy many of the endemics and more widespread highland birds which inhabit this area. Even the extensive

farmlands will hold new birds, as will the winding streams, marshy pools, and yet different areas of the spectacular escarpment. In addition to the birds mentioned on day 3, we will also be on the look out for Blue-winged Goose, Yellow-billed Duck, perhaps our first Hamerkop, Tawny Eagle, Augur Buzzard, Lanner Falcon, Northern Fiscal, Thekla's and Erlanger's larks, Little Rock-Thrush, striking White-winged Cliff-Chats, Rueppell's Chat, Abyssinian and Red-breasted wheatears, Long-billed Pipit, Abyssinian Longclaw, African Citril, Yellow-crowned Canary, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Swainson's Sparrow and Yellow Bishop. Night at the Getva Hotel, Debre Birhan.

Day 5, Tue, 12 Sep. To Awash National Park. After breakfast we'll head east and follow the winding road down the west wall of the Rift Valley and into the dry bush-country beyond. It will largely be a travel day as we head east to Awash National Park, but we plan to make many birding stops as we transverse this exciting new habitat. Red-billed Pytilia and Yellow-throated Serin are two rare birds which occur here (but we'd need a good deal of luck to find either). Far more common are, Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Eastern Plantain-eater, Klaas's and Didric cuckoos, Black-winged Kite, African Hawk-Eagle, Blue-naped Mousebird, Hemprich's and Northern Red-billed hornbills, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Blue-breasted (Ethiopian) Bee-eater, Yellow-breasted and Red-fronted barbets, Northern Crombec, Gray Wren-Warbler, Abyssinian White-eye, Red-billed Oxpecker, Beautiful Sunbird, Yellow-spotted and Bush petronias (Bush-Sparrows), Red-headed, Rueppell's, and Chestnut weavers, Red-billed Quelea, Northern Red Bishop, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Red-billed Firefinch, African Silverbill and Village Indigobird. We expect to arrive at Doho Lodge in the late afternoon.

Days 6-7, Wed-Thu, 13-14 Sep. Awash National Park. During two full days in this area we'll bird the park itself, and also a more open plain about 1½ hours away. Home to the Afar people — many of whom still live a wandering traditional way of life — the area is a fabulous mix of acacia bush and savanna grassland, with riverine woodland along the Awash River. Numerous new birds should be found; with just some of the possibilities including Somali Ostrich, Helmeted Guineafowl, Yellow-necked and Crested francolins, Bruce's Green-Pigeon, Namaqua Dove, Mourning and African collared-doves, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Arabian and Buff-crested bustards, Crowned Lapwing, White-browed Coucal, White-backed, Rueppell's, and Lappet-faced vultures, Dark Chanting-Goshawk, Eurasian Hoopoe, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Eastern Yellow-billed and Von der Decken's hornbills, Northern Carmine, White-throated, and Madagascar bee-eaters, Abyssinian Roller, Nubian Woodpecker, Pygmy Falcon, Gray-headed Batis, Ethiopian Boubou, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Somali Fiscal, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark, Gillett's Lark, Mouse-colored Penduline-tit, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Nile Valley and Shining sunbirds, White-headed Buffalo-Weaver, Bristle-crowned Starling, and Eastern Paradise-Whydah. Spotted Hyaena, Beisa Oryx, Soemmering's Gazelle, Lesser Kudu, Salt's Dikdik, and Warthog could all be added to our mammal list. Nights at Doho Lodge.



Bruce's Green-Pigeon is common in Ethiopia. Photograph by participant Tim Barnekov.

Day 8, Fri, 15 Sep. To Lake Langanu. After breakfast we'll make a short stop at a nearby lava flow in search of Blackstart, and a very localised endemic—Sombre Chat. We'll then continue west before turning south to some of the Rift Valley's most spectacular lakes, including Lake Ziway, where numerous herons, egrets, Sacred Ibis, Hamerkops, and Marabou Storks parade around and between the local fishermen as they try to snatch a tasty meal. White-winged Terns and Gray-hooded Gulls can also be common, with smaller numbers of both Great White and Pink-backed pelicans; the surrounding trees provide views of the ever-watchful African Fish-Eagles—photographic opportunities are numerous!

We'll finish the day a little further south at Lake Langanu — watch for Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill in the more open areas along the road! And at night watch for Slender-tailed Nightjar around our rooms. Night at Sabana Lodge.



*We'll watch for the impressive Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill in open areas near Lake Langanu.
Photograph by participant Cliff Hensel.*

Day 9, Sat, 16 Sep. Lakes Langanu and Abijatta. We'll spend today birding around lakes Langanu and Abiata — near to each other, and yet very different in character. Alkaline Abijatta is frequently the feeding ground of thousands of both Greater and Lesser flamingos. Freshwater Langanu is one of the deeper and quieter lakes but, surrounded by fabulous woodlands, the area can be literally full of birds including Clapperton's Francolin, Northern White-faced Owl, Grayish Eagle-Owl, Black-billed Woodhoopoe, Black Scimitarbill, African Gray and Hemprich's hornbills, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Lesser Honeyguide, Rufous-necked Wryneck, Cardinal Woodpecker, Black-winged Lovebird, Red-bellied Parrot, Black-headed Batis, Gray-backed Fiscal, White-winged Black-Tit, Red-faced Crombec, Rufous Chatterer, Mocking Cliff-Chat, Eastern Violet-backed and Beautiful sunbirds, and Crimson-rumped Waxbill. In the latter part of the afternoon we'll take a short drive to our new lodge near the ground-water forest on the south-east shore of the lake. Night at Hara Langanu Lodge.

Day 10, Sun, 17 Sep. South-East Lake Langanu. We'll have the whole of today to explore the lake shore, the acacia woodland around our lodge, the nearby forests, and isolated giant fig trees, as we search for one of the more tricky to find endemics — Yellow-fronted Parrot! But, many other great birds occur here too, and we hope to find Scaly Francolin, Lemon Dove, White-cheeked Turaco, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Green Malkoha, Crowned Eagle, African Goshawk, Narina Trogon, Woodland Kingfisher, Banded and Double-toothed barbets, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Ethiopian Black-headed Oriole, White-rumped Babbler, and Mountain Wagtail. Night at Hara Langanu Lodge.

Day 11, Mon, 18 Sep. To the Bale Mountains. After some early birding around our lodge we'll head south climbing through the cultivated fields until eventually coming to more natural grasslands, crossed here and there with highland streams. Although the area is still quite populated by the horse-riding Oromo people, this is good habitat for Abyssinian Longclaw and perhaps our first Rouget's Rail. By mid-afternoon we'll see the Bale Mountains ahead of us and stop at some small pools. Wattled Ibis are usually common here, as are Blue-winged Goose, Rouget's Rail, and sometimes Spot-breasted Lapwing. It will also be our first chance for Chestnut-naped Francolin and perhaps Red-billed Chough, which feed in the sparse cultivated areas and damp grasslands. We'll also visit the forest and glades around the park headquarters where Mountain Nyala and (Menelik's) Bushbuck are usually seen. And if lucky, perhaps our first Abyssinian Woodpecker, White-backed Black-Tit, or a roosting African Wood-Owl. Night at Goba Wabe Shebelle Hotel.

Day 12, Tue, 19 Sep. Bale Mountains. Today we'll climb high into the mountains (on the highest all-weather road in Africa) in search of many of the montane endemics that occur there. It's not far to the first area of forest and we'll undoubtedly make a stop, however we'll need to keep moving, as the main prize awaits us on beautiful open moorlands of the Sanetti Plateau. Only known from here (and a few other remote Ethiopian mountain blocks), the Ethiopian Wolf can be found as it wanders the sparsely vegetated plains searching for its primary food source—the Giant Root-Rat. We have an excellent chance to find this rare Canid, which for many visitors is a major highlight of the tour. Moorland Francolin, Ruddy Shelduck, and Spot-breasted Lapwing are some of the more localized birds to watch for here as well, while in the afternoon we'll descend through Giant Heather and *Hygenia* forests as we look for Mountain Buzzard, Abyssinian Woodpecker, White-backed Black-Tit, Abyssinian Catbird, Brown (Bale) Parisoma, Rueppell's Robin-Chat, and Yellow-crowned Canary. Night at Bale Mountain Lodge.



The beautiful Ethiopian Wolf is one of the world's rarest carnivores. The Bale Mountains are one of the remaining strongholds for these endangered canids, and we will hope to find them while we are there.

Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.

Day 13, Wed, 20 Sep. Bale Mountains. Depending on our success in finding Ethiopian Wolf yesterday, we will either make a short return visit to the Sanetti Plateau, or spend most of the day birding the forest near our lodge. New species to look for here include Rameron Pigeon, White-cheeked Turaco, African Emerald Cuckoo, Narina Trogon, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Gray Cuckooshrike, Ethiopian Black-headed Oriole, Abyssinian Slaty-Flycatcher, Dusky-brown Flycatcher, Abyssinian Thrush, Abyssinian Ground-Thrush, African Hill-Babbler, Heuglin's White-eye, Slender-billed Starling, and Yellow-bellied Waxbill. Striking Mantled Guereza (Black-and-white Colobus) are often seen in the trees around the lodge. Night at Bale Mountain Lodge.

Day 14, Thu, 21 Sep. To Negele. We'll have a pre-breakfast walk before beginning a long drive (which may be rough and bumpy) as we head south to Negele. After leaving the forest behind, we pass through more open country, becoming drier, and cut here and there by riverbeds as we head towards the Genale River. Time permitting we'll then make stops at several of our favorite spots, perhaps walking in a dry river bed while looking for fruiting fig trees—for this is the habitat of Prince Ruspoli's Turaco. We'll have part of this afternoon and much of tomorrow to find this little known, gorgeous endemic! And late in the afternoon we'll arrive at our simple hotel in Negele town for a two-night stay. Night at Honey Land Hotel.

Day 15, Fri, 22 Sep. Negele area. We'll spend today in the semi-arid bush country around Negele and also in the grasslands of the Liben Plain, the only known habitat for yet another little known endemic—Liben (Sidamo) Lark. With a population of no more than a few hundred, finding the lark is hardly expected, but with the help of local guides we will certainly give it a good try. In addition to hopefully having further encounters with Prince Ruspoli's Turaco, we should also find a large number of new species, perhaps including Kori Bustard, Temminck's Courser, Gray-headed Bushshrike, Taita Fiscal, Somali Crow, Somali Short-toed Lark, Ethiopian Swallow, Boran Cisticola, Greater Honeyguide, Spotted Morning-Thrush, White-crowned Starling, Collared Sunbird, and Speke's Weaver. Night at Honey Land Hotel.

Day 16, Sat, 23 Sep. To Lake Awassa. Today we'll drive west on the newly paved road passing through the rolling hills of farmland and countless villages as we head to Lake Awassa (increasingly spelled Hawassa). Although many of the waterbirds that we see here we will have seen previously on the tour, in a good year just the sheer numbers of birds can be impressive, and we're certain to add some new ones too; perhaps including White-backed Duck and African Pygmy-Goose along the lakefront promenade near our hotel. A walk in the nearby woodland will certainly increase our list, with Little Sparrowhawk, Banded Snake-Eagle (scarce), Blue-spotted Wood-Dove, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Mountain Gray Woodpecker, African Thrush, White-browed Robin-Chat, African Spotted Creeper, African Black-headed Oriole, Rueppell's Glossy-Starling, and Fawn-breasted (Abyssinian) Waxbill being just some of the possibilities. Night at Haile Hawassa Resort.



Stresemann's Bush-Crow is one of the special endemics we'll search for near Yabello. Photograph by guide Ned Brinkley.

Day 17, Sun, 24 Sep. To Yabello. After breakfast we'll begin our journey south. The road was being reconstructed in 2019 making progress in some of the diversion areas rather slow, but we expect to arrive in the Yabello area by mid-afternoon and hopefully have a few hours to look for the star attraction of this area – the strange Stresemann's Bush-Crow! Previously considered as a crow, a starling, and even put in its own family, they move around in small parties and can be encountered anywhere within its tiny range. Night at Qaqu Motel in Yabello.

Day 18, Mon, 25 Sep. Yabello. At about 5000 feet (1500m), Yabello is in an area of red soils, dry acacia woodland, and chimney-like termite mounds that are the hallmark of this part of Ethiopia. We'll have more time to look for the Bush-Crow and additionally the poorly known White-tailed Swallow which is also endemic and equally restricted in range.

Other birds of this area include: Vulturine Guineafowl, White-bellied Bustard, Bateleur, Eastern Chanting-Goshawk, Martial Eagle, Three-banded Courser (luck required), Red-bellied Parrot, Black-throated, d'Arnaud's, and Red-and-yellow barbets, Pygmy Batis, Pringle's Puffback, Red-naped Bushshrike, Somali Fiscal, Foxy Lark, Somali Tit, Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit, Somali Crombec, Pale Prinia, Banded Parisoma, Scaly Chatterer, Shelley's and White-crowned starlings, Hunter's Sunbird, Northern Grosbeak-Canary, Somali Bunting, Shelley's Rufous Sparrow, Gray-headed and Black-capped social-weavers, and Black-cheeked Waxbill. Night at Qaqu Motel in Yabello.

Day 19, Tue, 26 Sep. North to Lake Awassa. Today is largely a travel day as we head north towards Addis, breaking the journey with another night at Lake Awassa. Stops along the way will provide welcome breaks and hopefully allow us to pick-up any species we may have missed earlier. Night Haile Hawassa Resort.

Day 20, Wed, 27 Sep. Return to Addis Ababa. We will return to Addis today, stopping along the way at Lake Cheleleka, a shallow freshwater lake favored by Maccoa Duck, and perhaps (if we're lucky), the strange White-backed Duck as well. On arrival in Addis Ababa, day rooms will be available before your international departure flights, most of which take place in the late evening. For those taking the Churches of Lalibela Extension, we'll overnight at the Saro Maria Hotel.

Day 21, Thu, 28 Sep. Arrival home. If you're returning to the US, you should arrive today in time for your onward connections home.

Churches of Lalibela Extension



St. George's Church is perhaps the most famous of the rock-hewn chapels at Lalibela. Photograph by participant Tim Barnekov.

Days 1-2, Thu-Fri, 28-29 Sep. To Lalibela. For those taking this highly recommended extension, we'll transfer to the airport this morning (November 28) and then fly to Lalibela. Luggage allowances change frequently depending on the type of plane flying that day (and other not so obvious reasons) therefore we suggest you have a *small overnight bag in your main luggage that you can use for this two-night extension.*

On arrival we'll transfer to our hotel and then begin our exploration of this fascinating area. There are no less than 1,000 churches in the "Lasta Region of Lalibella," some hidden in enormous caves, but it is exceptional to find 11 churches of such master craftsmanship as those found at Lalibela. These brilliant feats of engineering and architecture are a World Heritage Site and (are one of many wonderful places) often referred to as the "Eighth Wonder of the World." We'll have the afternoons of both Day 1 and Day 2 to visit some of the most special monuments. This is an excellent way to wind down after the main tour, find a few new birds, and

reacquaint ourselves with many of the highland endemics seen earlier in the tour. We will certainly go birding on the morning of Day 2, when new species may include Erckel's Francolin (which lives on the escarpment below our lodge), and Yellow-rumped Serin (a very localized endemic). We may also see a varied mix of passing migrants, which may include, European Blackcap, White-throated Robin (Irania), Common Nightingale, and Ortolan Bunting. Plus, there are some other fine shows, such as soaring birds, with Bearded Vultures (Lammergeiers) regular right by our hotel — soaring like albatrosses and followed by acrobatic Fan-tailed Ravens. At dusk Abyssinian Nightjar can often be seen flying around the hotel terrace. Nights at Maribela Hotel, Lalibela.

Day 3, Sat, 30 Sep. Return to Addis Ababa. We'll take the flight back to Addis, where day rooms will be available before your international departure later tonight. For those wishing to stay overnight, please make these special arrangements through the Field Guides office.

Day 4, Sun, 1 Oct. Arrival home. If you're returning to the US, you should arrive today in time for your onward connections home.

About Your Guide

Terry Stevenson, originally from England, Terry has made Kenya his home since 1977. He is the senior author of the *Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi*—the only guide in the region to have a text and maps opposite plates format; it has recently been released as an app, with the added advantage of making it possible to hear many of the calls. He is also co-author to *Birds of the Horn of Africa: Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and Socotra*. Published in 2009, this acclaimed guide is the only one to this region. He is a member of the East African Rarities Committee. On November 30, 1986, he set a new World Big Day record with 330 species *seen* in one day in Kenya; the record stands today. One of Africa's and India's foremost bird-tour guides, Terry has led numerous Field Guides tours across the African continent, in Madagascar, India and more recently in Hungary & Romania. He is currently living in a mud-and-cow-dung mansion near Mt. Kenya.

“Terry Stevenson is both a great technical bird guide and the consummate tour guide, looking after our comfort and needs. A great combination of talents—and, in addition, he has a great sense of humor and is a great conversationalist.”
R.C., Kenya

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

Financial Information

FEE: \$7750 from Addis Ababa

FEE FOR THE EXTENSION: \$1500 from Addis Ababa (includes round trip flight Addis Ababa/Lalibela)

DEPOSIT: \$775 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: March 12, 2023

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$975

EXTENSION SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$125

LIMIT: 10

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

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

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: We have made every effort to make the standard of accommodation on this tour better than what any other birding tour company offers. This includes our nights in Addis Ababa at the Saro Maria Hotel, and Sabana and

Hara lodges at Lake Langano. The Getva Hotel at Debre Birhan is a modern style hotel within the town; it's clean and comfortable, but certainly not luxurious. The small lodge at Awash National Park is a series of simple rooms and cottages made from local materials; again no luxury, but wonderfully placed, with friendly and accommodating staff. We also now include two nights at the Bale Mountain Lodge, one of the few lodges in Ethiopia with standards comparable to the tourist lodges of Kenya or Tanzania, and we also spend two nights at the four star Haile Resort at Hawassa. Three areas, Goba (Wabe Shebelle Hotel), Negele (Honey Land Hotel), and Yabello (the Qaqu Hotel), still have very simple accommodations, but even these now have private bathrooms and showers (although if there's a local 'power-outage' only cold water may be available, and perhaps brought to the bathrooms in buckets), but this is still a huge improvement on what was available just a few years ago. For those taking the Lalibela extension, we stay at the very nice Maribela Hotel, only ten minutes from the churches and with truly spectacular views from all the rooms.

ARRIVAL IN ADDIS ABABA: Depending on security policy (which can change without notice) tour company agents are not usually allowed into the terminal. Therefore, upon clearing customs, exit the terminal, go down to the edge of the parking area (a short distance) and **look for your name on a sign and/or the sign for Saro Maria Hotel.**

DOCUMENTS: US citizens will need a **passport** valid for six months beyond the date of their return and a **visa** to enter Ethiopia. We will provide you with the necessary visa application form and instructions at the appropriate time.

If you are arriving from a yellow fever-infected area, you will be required to show proof of vaccinations against yellow fever. Those who are vaccinated against Covid19 will not be required to show proof of a negative covid test upon arrival.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the 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. **Also please note:** hard suitcases are very difficult to pack where all our luggage has to be carried on the back seat of our bus. **THEREFORE, PLEASE ONLY BRING DUFFLES (WHEELED DUFFLES ARE ALLOWED).**

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$7750 for one person in double occupancy from Addis Ababa. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 19 (and day rooms on Day 20), all meals from breakfast on Day 3 through dinner on Day 20, 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 fees do not include your airfare to and from Addis Ababa, 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 \$975. 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).

The fee for the **Churches of Lalibela Extension** is \$1500 for one person in double occupancy from Addis Ababa. It includes all lodging from Day 1 of the extension through Day 2 (and day rooms on Day 3), all meals from breakfast on Day 1 through dinner on Day 3, flights from Addis Ababa to Lalibela and return, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from the Addis Ababa, 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 extension** is \$125.

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 \$775** 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 **March 12, 2023**. **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.**

Please note that if you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will require **proof of travel insurance**. Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

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

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

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

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

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. If you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will **require proof of travel insurance**. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs within 90 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 90 to 179 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

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

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for

the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

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

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

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

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

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

NCP 7/2020

Revised 18/Nov/20TS; 12/2020 peg

3/23peg