

ITINERARY

***Great Rivers of the Amazon II:
Birding the Madeira-Tapajos Interfluvium
July 16-31, 2021***



While the Red-billed Scythebill is widespread in Brazil, the subspecies we'll see on this tour is a distinctive form. We had great views of this bird on the previous tour. Photograph by guide Tom Johnson.

We include here information for those interested in one of the 2021 Field Guides Great Rivers of the Amazon II tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

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

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

Folks, the next run of this boat-based, Amazonian birding tour is ready for you! It will take us up tributaries and into forests that few birders (besides Bret and colleagues, on research expeditions, and our 2 previous tours) have ever seen, and give us a chance of finding many of the poorly known birds and some primates endemic to the Madeira-Tapajos interfluvium. These are two of the longest, widest, and biogeographically most important rivers of the vast Amazon basin. Both are south-bank tributaries of the Rio Amazonas and are only about 270 miles apart at their mouths, but they could hardly be more different watercourses. The Madeira is the single longest tributary of the Amazon, born in the Andean snowfields of Bolivia; it carries an unfathomable load of rich, volcanic silt to the fertile floodplains of her lower reaches and

those of the Amazon itself. She is therefore a “whitewater” river, her course winding and braided with ephemeral, mud-based islands, her banks lined with tall, seasonally inundated forests. Across the interfluvium to the east, the Tapajos finds its headwaters on the ancient Brazilian Shield. These Precambrian uplands are heavily eroded, their fertile topsoils long-ago weathered away. Thus, the Tapajos runs relatively straight and free of particulate matter, with only a narrow band of seasonally flooded vegetation lining its banks. It is classified as a “clearwater” river, and most of its tributaries are “blackwater”, the “brewed-tea” color and relatively acid PH resulting from the leaching of tannins from vegetation decomposing through a sandy-soil filter. As might be expected from their two very distinct histories, these rivers define the ranges of numerous species and subspecies of birds.

We’ll depart from the bustling capital of Manaus to leave the Rio Negro, cross the Rio Amazonas to ascend the Madeira, and make our first stop in the Madeira-Tapajos interfluvium at the little town of Borba. We’ll have three days in *terra firme* forests and *campinas* around Borba before heading back down the Madeira to re-enter the Madeira-Tapajos interfluvium at Nova Olinda do Norte. The tiny, “whitewater” Rio Urua provides access to the vast interior, allowing us to go a short distance up several important southern tributaries, such as the Canuma and Abacaxis, on our way eastward off the Madeira. The old town of Maués is situated at the mouth of a long, blackwater river of the same name, and has a decidedly “Tapajos” avifauna. We’ll spend more time here, birding a variety of Amazonian habitats, including the impressive interface with the complex of “Tupinambarana” whitewater islands, still quite poorly known ornithologically.

A few of the more range-restricted species we’ll be searching for on the tour include Bald Parrot, Vulturine Parrot, Golden Parakeet (three truly spectacular psittacids!!), White-crested Guan, “Blue-faced” Guan (presently a very poorly known subspecies of Rusty-margined Guan with a bright-blue face and heavy rusty scalloping through the upperparts endemic to the interfluve), Brown-breasted Barbet, Fiery-tailed Awlbill, Hoffmann’s Woodcreeper, Ocellated Woodcreeper (the little-known, nominate form), Spot-throated Woodcreeper, the distinctive *snehlageae* subspecies of Red-billed Scythebill, both White-breasted and Harlequin antbirds, Pale-faced Antbird, Opal-crowned Manakin, Flame-crested Manakin, and Buff-cheeked Tody-Tyrant. We’ll also get to lay eyes on the recently described Sucunduri Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sucunduri*, described by Bret and colleagues in 2013). We will hope for some exciting nightbirding at a couple of our stops.

Our live-aboard boat, the *Tumbira*, is simply fabulous! It has numerous, twin-bedded, air-conditioned rooms, each with private bathroom, a fully stocked bar (delicious, refreshing *caipirinhas* at hand!), and a wonderful cook and friendly, fun staff to take care of us all the way. Many of you have been with us on these boats over 20+ years of our “Rio Negro Paradise” tours, and you know what a dream it is to travel the Amazon in this level of comfort and safety, with your Field Guides guides calling the shots. So, we invite you to return for another run of a very different nature, or jump aboard for your first thrilling Amazon journey!



Our boat, the *Tumbira*, will be a very comfortable base for our expeditions. Photograph by guide Tom Johnson.

Note: All participants and your Field Guides guide(s) will be required to have completed a full course of vaccination at least two weeks prior to the tour. Be sure to share proof of such vaccination with our office and bring a physical copy of your vaccination proof on tour. Having a vaccinated group will greatly diminish but not eliminate the possibility of the group and individual participants being adversely affected by COVID-19.

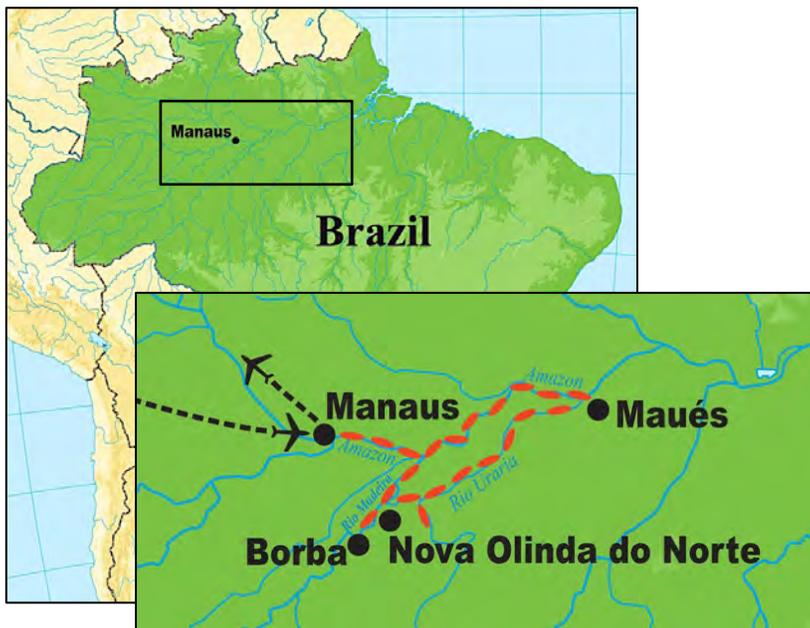
We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable 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:** Challenging walking (2-4 miles per day) along forest trails, some of which are on even ground, but most of which have steep, uneven, and muddy sections, with obstacles such as tree roots, buttresses, fallen trees and branches, and root masses. There may also be small streams to wade through or to cross on improvised log "bridges." These kinds of obstacles are very common on this tour. To reach terra firme terraces for birding, on some days we ascend very steep mud banks. We will have our crew cut steps into the bank to aid in going up and down, but these places can be quite tiring and difficult to negotiate.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We use small boats for transport, and so an ability to climb into and out of the boat onto a dock or riverbank (in some cases via the bow, the front of the boat) is necessary.
- **PACE:** After predawn breakfast (usually 5:00 a.m.), we bird until lunch time. We usually return to the boat (*Tumbira*) for lunch. Normally, weather permitting, we bird again after lunch following a short siesta. On several evenings, we'll also try for nocturnal birds, perhaps staying out until about 10:00 p.m. (optional).
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will range from the 70s at night to the 90s F during the day, and humidity will be high. Rain showers are possible.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Participants should be prepared to make comfort stops in nature, as there are no other options when away from our vessel.
- **OPTING OUT:** Participants may easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day except on travel days.

If you feel that the above birding conditions are possibly too much for you -- in your own best interest and to help ensure that the rest of the group is not compromised -- please find another tour to participate on.

About the Birding Areas



The tour opens with three days of birding *terra firme* habitats, based in a hotel in the little town of Borba, on the Rio Madeira. We'll explore both *campina* (low-stature, savanna-like bushy areas on white, sandy soils) and tall, humid forest. Unfortunately, much of the Borba area burned during the extremely dry season of mid-late 2015, so we will have to locate some new areas for birding, farther out from town than used to be the case. We will also get into good *terra firme* at the Rio Abacaxis, and later, above Maués. We'll bird classic, successional whitewater island habitats and, toward the end of the tour, spend some time exploring the vast "Tupinambarana Island" formation, which is essentially a vast, flooded/floating forest bounded by the Rio Amazonas to the north, and the little Rio Uruá to the south. The area comprises hundreds of square miles. Coming into the Uruá from the south are a series of blackwater rivers and streams the

headwaters of which are on the Brazilian shield, within the interfluvium. They are characterized by wide "mouth lakes", which formed during paleohistorically low water levels, and that led to widening of their lower courses (see the satellite image, above). The interface of these blackwater rivers with the whitewater Uruá is dramatic, the line of demarcation being very clearly defined.

Itinerary for Great Rivers of the Amazon II: Birding the Madeira-Tapajos Interfluvium

Day 1, Fri, 16 Jul. Arrival in Manaus. As of the writing of this itinerary, flights depart Miami at 5:30 p.m. and arrive in Manaus in the evening (the flight is direct, only about 5 hours!). For those who will need to leave home a day early in order to reach Miami in time for the flight to Manaus, we will be happy to help with overnight arrangements in Miami.

You will be met outside customs by your bus driver who will have a Field Guides sign. The drive to the hotel is less than half an hour. Night in Manaus.



The Bald Parrot has a very small range, but we hope to find this odd psittacid east of Manaus. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.

mainly from the collections of Johann Natterer made in the early 1800s. Our targets around Borba will be many, including Bar-breasted Piculet, Brown-breasted Barbet, Bald Parrot, Hoffmann's Woodcreeper, Yellow-margined Flycatcher, Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, White-breasted Antbird, Common Scale-backed Antbird, and Pale-faced Antbird. With great luck we could get all of these, and possibly also Fiery-tailed Aowlbill and even Blue-backed Tanager, here represented by a small, apparently isolated and poorly known population. Natterer was an assiduous collector, to be sure (and his beautifully prepared specimens are still in excellent condition, mostly at the Vienna Natural History Museum), but he didn't get quite everything. Thus, we'll be on the lookout for an as-yet-undescribed species of shrike-vireo that Bret discovered on the Rio Sucunduri in 2010. We heard the bird well on the 2015 tour, but could not get it into view (in part because of the smoky atmosphere we had to deal with!). Nights in Borba.

Day 5, Tue, 20 Jul. Borba to Nova Olinda do Norte and boarding the *Tumbira*. We will have a few hours early this morning to bird around Borba before we need to get ourselves to the dock on the Rio Madeira to catch the speedlaunch coming down from Novo Aripuana. They'll serve us lunch as we head downriver for the town of Nova Olinda do Norte, where the *Tumbira*, which will have left Manaus on Friday, will be waiting for us. It will be great to see our beautiful boat sitting there at the dock!

That afternoon we will make our way into the Madeira-Tapajos interfluvium on the Rio Uraria, a strange little waterway that seems to be the remnant of a once-grand channel of the Rio Amazonas. There are lots of people living along the

Day 2, Sat, 17 Jul. Manaus to Borba. We'll depart the hotel early to arrive at the port of Manaus in good time for our 6:00 a.m. departure via speedlaunch to the little town of Borba, on the right bank of the lower Rio Madeira. (Note: we refer to "right" and "left" banks of Amazonian rivers because much of their courses are not north-south, but meandering tracks with huge curves and loops. Thus, the "right" and "left" always refer to the bank of the river seen as one moves downriver.) When we say "speedlaunch" we mean a long, slim, sturdy, enclosed-cabin boat with a center aisle and 10+ rows of two seats each (airplane style), a restroom and meals on board, even terrible movies, and powered by twin 200 Hp motors. In other words, it's pretty cushy compared to almost any other waterborne conveyance in the Amazon. Most if not all of the trip will be smooth as glass. We'll be served a nice lunch on board, and arrive at about noon.

After settling into our rooms in Borba, we'll visit a *campina* to look for a wide variety of birds, the most important among them being Amazonian Scrub-Flycatcher and also Least Nighthawk, here represented by a form distinctly different from the nominate (it is probably named as a subspecies, but this is unsure). Night in Borba.

Days 3-4, Sun-Mon, 18-19 Jul. Borba. Borba is a very old settlement, and is the type locality of numerous species and subspecies of Amazonian birds, stemming

Uraria, but there is still some reasonably good habitat for birding as well, and we'll make a couple of stops, perhaps in our smaller boats, to see what birds are around. We will continue our eastward way down the Uraria through much of the night, our destination the lower Rio Abacaxis. Night on the *Tumbira*.

Days 6-13, Wed-Wed, 21-28 Jul. East to Maues, and beyond. This full week on the *Tumbira* will typically see us on the trail all morning and again late in the afternoon, with a couple of hours to rest after lunch. There are no established trails or other birding amenities anywhere along the Rio Uraria and tributaries. Bret and a small crew of guys will have come into the area several weeks ahead of the tour to select and clear some birding sites, and locate existing paths and streams that we can take good advantage of for birding forest interiors. Our general plan is to make several one- and two-day stops, to allow time for birding the Abacaxis and, especially, the Maues-acu rivers at different latitudes. We'll definitely want to do some nocturnal birding at one or more of our stops as well! Our progress and ultimate stopping points on, for example, the Rio Maues, will depend on August 2017 water levels. However, no matter how far up we manage to go, there will be plenty of birding available, and we will have the great luxury of total flexibility in our plans.

Some of the species we hope to find during the week include Bald Parrot, Vulturine Parrot, Crimson-bellied Parakeet, Golden Parakeet, White-crested Guan, "Blue-faced" Guan, Ocellated Woodcreeper (the little-known, nominate form), Spot-throated Woodcreeper, Harlequin Antbird, Black-bellied Gnateater, Opal-crowned Manakin, Flame-crested Manakin, and Buff-cheeked Tody-Tyrant. We'll also be the second group to lay eyes on the recently described Sucunduri Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sucunduri*, described by Bret and colleagues in 2013). Nights aboard the *Tumbira*.



The Cryptic Forest-Falcon tends to live up to its name, but we were privileged to get good views of these shy raptors on our 2017 tour. Photograph by guide Tom Johnson.

Days 14-15, Thu-Fri, 29-30 Jul. Return to Manaus. Our route will take us out to the Rio Amazonas through the Tumpinambara Archipelago, which is a vast (hundreds of square miles) region of seasonally flooded forest, much of which should be walkable in early August (if it's still underwater, we'll do it from boats). Among a host of "whitewater" island specialties, we'll hope to find Streak-throated Hermit, Varzea Piculet, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Long-billed and Zimmer's woodcreepers, the distinctive *snethlageae* subspecies of Red-billed Scythebill, Scaled Spinetail, Klages's Antwren, and several other antbirds. Day 15 will be largely devoted to cruising up the Amazonas toward Manaus, with perhaps a couple of birding stops as our schedule permits.

After our farewell dinner on 30 July, we'll head over to the airport for flights home. *Que tenham uma ótima viagem!*

Day 16, Sat, 31 Jul. Arrival in Miami. Flights from Manaus arrive very early in Miami, allowing for convenient homeward connections.

About Your Guides

Bret Whitney must be at least half Brazilian by now. It all began when he was born, birding in the wild Midwest, mostly in Indiana, where he was narrowly overlooked by his high school baseball team but did, in fact, graduate from Earlham College. He is known for his ability to identify birds by their calls and songs, which has led to his stumbling onto multiple species new to science. Bret is one of the founders of Field Guides, a Research Associate of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University, an Associate of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell, 2004 recipient of the ABA's Ludlow Griscom award, and an eternal optimist about everything except Ivory-billed Woodpeckers.

Bret guides most of our Brazil tours and, with Brazilian colleagues, he is supposed to be producing a series of regional field guides to the birds of Brazil. When not on tour, "the Kite" attempts to stay in shape with irregular bike rides, by leaning over pool tables, and by hefting kegs of Live Oak Pilsner and dumping 35-lb sacks of spicy crawfish, corn, and potatoes onto old doors covered with newspapers so his family and friends can pig out at his crawfish boils. Oh yes, and by stirring cauldrons of Brazilian *moqueca* at the Field Guides annual business meeting!

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

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

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete tour schedules for both Bret and Micah; just click on their photos.

Financial Information

FEE: \$7775 from Manaus

DEPOSIT: \$775 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: May 2, 2021

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional*): \$200 (singles aboard the boat cannot be guaranteed but will very likely be available)

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.

*"This trip surpassed all of my wishes! It was simply an amazing experience! Seeing birds that not many have seen was really an honor. **Bret Whitney** has such knowledge of the birds and of the history of Brazil and he shares so much that it is a full experience. I just loved this trip! I feel very privileged to have been able to go." D.F., Brazil's Rio Roosevelt*

*"**Micah Riegner** was a delightful addition to the tour with Bret Whitney and Tom Johnson, and he added tremendous value. He was attentive to everyone and performed as though he'd worked together with Bret and Tom for years.... terrific!"
D. R.; Great Rivers of the Amazon II*

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: In Manaus, we will stay in the very nice Nobile Suites hotel (or somewhere similar). Our riverboat, the *Tumbira* (10 nights), is high-on luxurious, featuring private (two bunks), air-conditioned cabins with private bathrooms, fully stocked bar, and great meals any time we want them.

DOCUMENTS: A current passport is necessary for US citizens to enter Brazil. 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. In addition, you will need a visa to enter Brazil. Our office will forward you visa application instructions. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Brazilian 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.

All participants and your Field Guides guide(s) will be required to have completed a full course of vaccination at least two weeks prior to the tour. Be sure to share proof of such vaccination with our office and bring a physical copy of your vaccination proof on tour.

VACCINATIONS: It is quite possible (albeit unlikely) to contract malaria in the area that this tour will visit. For information about malaria in Brazil, please consult the CDC webpage on [malaria in Brazil](#), and consult with your physician about the most appropriate prophylaxis for you, should you opt to take one. Likewise, Yellow Fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, including the Amazon basin, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. The link above also has the current CDC information on Yellow Fever, and you should consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals).

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.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$7775 for one person in double occupancy* from Manaus. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 14, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through dinner on Day 15, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, 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 Manaus, 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 \$200*; singles aboard the *Tumbira* cannot be guaranteed. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

*If you have a trusted friend, relative, or significant other with whom you wish to share a room on tour, please let us know and your tour manager will make that assignment. However, due to recommendations from the CDC, Field Guides is not currently pairing roommates who do not know each other, and the single supplement will apply if you do not have a roommate. As of this writing (April 5, 2021), we are reviewing these CDC recommendations carefully and often and will let you know if that changes.

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

Please mail your **deposit of \$775** per person, or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by May 2, 2021**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other

arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

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

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

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

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

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

NCP 7/2020

3/21 RK, 5/21peg