

ITINERARY

***GREAT RIVERS OF THE AMAZON III:
MAMIRAUÁ, AMANA & TEFÉ, BRAZIL***

August 26-September 10, 2024



*The Dorinha will be our floating home for a good portion of this tour to one of Brazil's most remote regions.
(Pictured here is Iracema, an almost identical boat in the Amazonia Expedition fleet)
Photograph by participant Marshall Dahl.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Field Guides Great Rivers of the Amazon III 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

Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:

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

Ever heard of the Rio Japurá? How about the Rio Tefé? There's a good chance you've not heard of these rivers, yet they are two of the largest in the central Amazon basin. *Great Rivers of the Amazon III* is an exploratory voyage of the lower sections of both watercourses, which happen to be opposite-bank, blackwater tributaries of the Rio Solimões (the Portuguese name for the Amazon River west of Manaus). And both are extraordinarily poorly known ornithologically.

From the city of Manaus, capital of the huge state of Amazonas, we'll fly west along the Rio Solimões to bird the most extensive *várzea* ecosystem in the entire Amazon basin at Mamirauá Ecological Reserve. The floating lodge we will stay

in for the first three nights features very comfortable accommodations and good Brazilian cooking. We'll then board the *DORINHA* to venture into rarified waters, ascending the Japurá to reach Amanã Sustainable Development Reserve, a feat that requires having a sufficient flow in the river to permit passage of our rather large, live-aboard boat; early July, post-rainy season, should be just about right. Amanã offers access to undisturbed *terra firme* forest in that "mysterious" sector of the Amazon between the Negro and the Colombian border wherein numerous species appear to turn over east-west, replaced by (mostly) close relatives -- or by nothing closely related.

We'll then cross the Solimões, birding some river islands en route to the old Amazonian town of Tefé, gateway to the vast Tefé National Forest. A series of *terra firme* trails have been opened recently, providing access for researchers and responsible tourists to observe and document the abundance of wildlife that has evolved in this special place. Very little ornithological work has been conducted in this region, and we're especially excited to get boots on the ground on those beautiful, new trails!

This will be a truly adventurous birding tour, and we'll expect to see a wonderful variety of birds and mammals as we learn more about the areas we will explore, and exactly what occurs in them.

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 level of difficulty, please contact us 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.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace:

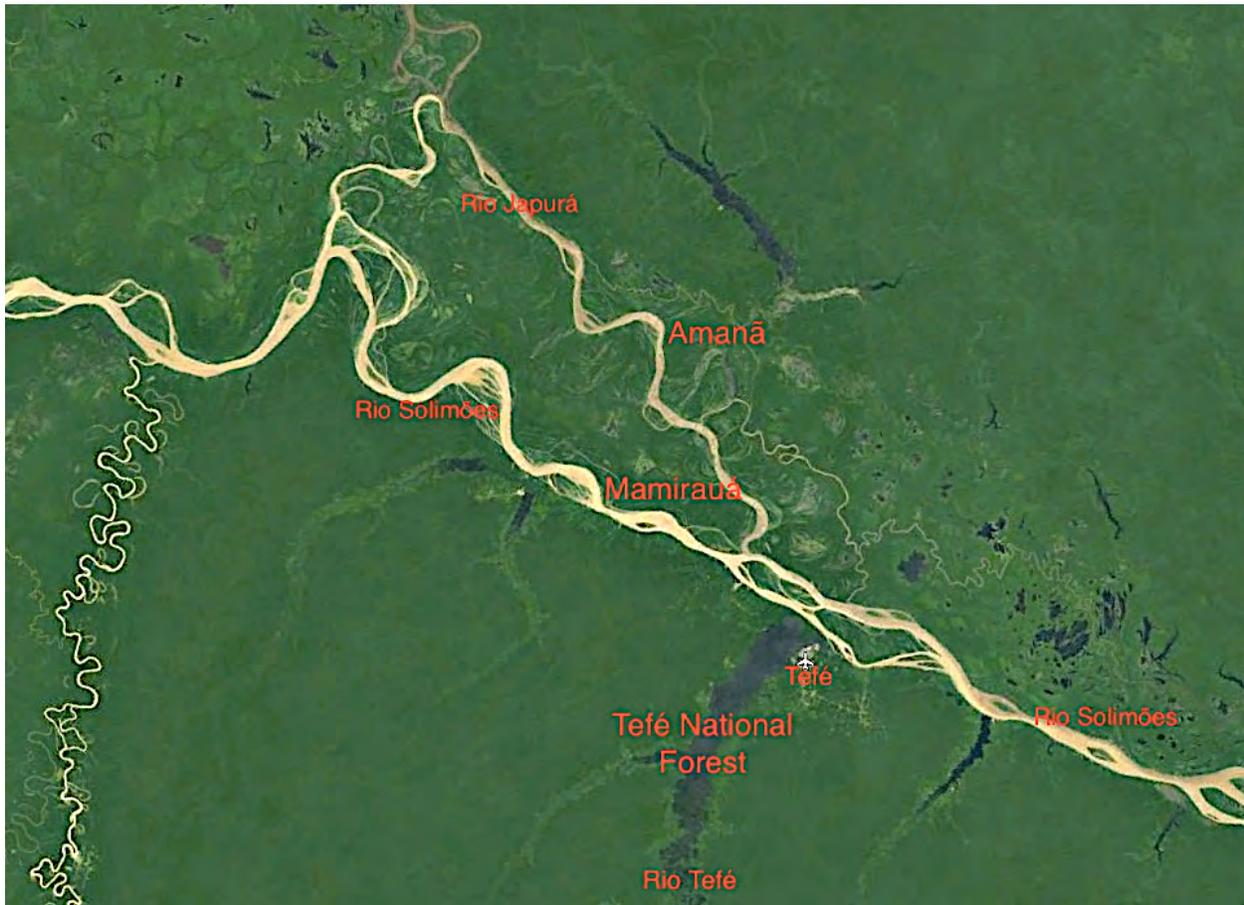
- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Trails everywhere are mostly level, with just a few steeper, hilly sections. We'll be on our feet much of each day, traveling about 2-3 miles. At Mamirauá, we will probably spend at least a couple of hours each day birding from small, uncovered boats. The trail system there is likely to be reasonably dry by July, so we'll do a fair amount of birding on foot as well. However, there will probably be some muddy walking as well, perhaps especially island stops in the Rio Solimões, so rubber boots are recommended. The trails at Amanã and Tefé are in *terra firme* forest.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We'll spend time standing and waiting for birds to come in; this can be tiring. We'll use small boats to cruise along the rivers; you will need to be able to get in and out of these boats.
- **PACE:** Please see "Additional Information", below.
- **ELEVATION:** Elevations are low on this tour.
- **WEATHER:** Climate in Amazonia is warm and humid; mid-day highs can reach the low 90's F in the sun. Evenings and early mornings will be cooler, and you might feel chilly on early morning boat rides. Rain is a possibility at any time.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** There are no indoor restrooms on most of our excursions, so participants must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Participants can easily opt to sit out a half-day or full day. The boat is a comfortable place to relax during the day, and the top deck is especially nice, with almost no insect pests to bother you.

Additional information: On every day of the tour, we will be up quite early, having breakfast before dawn and getting into the field around first light. All meals will be on the boat. We will usually have 1-2 hours for a post-lunch siesta, and it's usually easy to get a full night's sleep on the boat because meals are timely and we don't have to deal with drives or restaurants. That said, we will offer multiple post-dinner nocturnal forays in search of owls, potoos, and nightjars, and who-knows-what our spotlights may turn up in the mammal and herpetological cadres!

We will do a lot of walking on forest trails on almost every day. Trail walks are generally easy, and almost all are essentially level, and even the steepest sections are not unduly challenging for anyone in reasonably good shape. Boat crew members will accompany us on the birding trails, and will carry a cooler with extra water.

Laundry can be done every day on the boat, and is dried on breezy, open-air lines on the top deck.

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 Bret.



Our tour area encompasses a vast region of the central-western Amazon basin, including both banks of the Rio Solimões (= the Amazon River), and forest reserves on the lower sections of the Japurá and Tefé rivers.
Landsat satellite image from Google Earth.

About the Birding Areas

Mamirauá Reserve—This vast, wilderness reserve encompasses the most extensive *várzea*, or seasonally flooded, whitewater forest in South America (“whitewater” here refers to the heavy load of silt and other particulate matter in the river system). Each year between about April and August, the mighty Amazon floods hundreds of thousands of acres of forest in this region. Mamirauá is a beautiful place to bird, where endless, tall forest rises out of dark, still waters, and tree crowns are festooned with bromeliads and other epiphytes. The riotous honking of Horned Screamers and the roars of troops of Red Howler Monkeys are heard all day. Hoatzins are simply all over the place. Although there are numerous small communities within the reserve, residents have been educated on the importance of preservation of the ecosystem, critical to their own survival. Many species of birds and mammals have evolved in seasonally flooded forest habitats in South America and, owing to very light human pressure from hunting, two of the most special creatures of these habitats maintain healthy populations at Mamirauá, and essentially *only* here: Wattled Curassow and White Uakari monkey.

Amanã Sustainable Development Reserve links the Mamirauá Ecological Reserve on the lower Rio Japurá with Jaú National Park bordering the Rio Negro, thus forming the world’s second-largest protected area, the whole of which is north of the Amazon River. We will visit one or two small communities in Amanã immediately after our three days at Mamirauá. The **Tefé National Forest**, entirely south of the Amazon River, encompasses another vast, ornithologically poorly known region. The last week of our tour will take us to at least three communities, where, as at Amanã, local residents have opened beautiful forest waterways and trails for us to bird. *Our visits contribute important resources to these subsistence-level economies (non-commercial fishing, apiaries of stingless bees, small-scale agriculture) and carry the message that preservation of the environment is the best way forward for all of us, working together.* Field Guides is delighted and proud to support these communities, and we thank you very much for participating in this initiative with us!



Zimmer's Woodcreeper is found only in the seasonally flooded forests along the major rivers of the Amazon. This pair was seen investigating a possible nest cavity on one of our previous trips. Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.

Itinerary for Mamirauá Ecological Reserve, Brazil

Days 1-2, Mon-Tue, 26-27 Aug. US to Manaus. Most flights depart from your home on Monday and arrive in Manaus on Tuesday. Plan to arrive anytime on August 27. Manaus is one hour later than US Eastern Standard Time. Our driver will be waiting for you outside customs, to take you to the nearby hotel. Night in Manaus.

Day 3, Wed, 28 Aug. Manaus to Tefé. We'll have breakfast this morning, and get over to the airport by about 6:30 to catch the flight to the little town of Tefé, about an hour west of Manaus, on the south bank of the Rio Solimões. The Mamirauá staff will be there to meet us and take us to their boat for the transfer across the largest river in the world, keeping watch for both species of river dolphins: Amazonian (Pink, or "Boto"), and Tucuxi (Gray, much smaller)! Having made it to the north side of the Solimões, we'll continue a short distance up the Rio Japurá to our hotel, the Pousada Uakari, in Lago Mamirauá. The region is flooded for so much of the year that the Pousada Uakari has been built in the middle of a lake, floating on huge logs! The lake is literally three feet below the floor of your room, which affords the unique audio experience of enormous (nearly ten feet long) *pirarucu* (*Arapaima gigas*; the largest fish in Amazonia), lunging and slapping as they feed on lesser fish near the surface. That's a little bit scary, at first, but the pousada really is a comfortable place to stay and meals are quite good, so it makes an ideal base-of-operations for our three days of birding. Night at Pousada Uakari.

Days 4-5, Thu-Fri, 29-30 Aug. Mamirauá Ecological Reserve. Established in the early 90's to protect nearly *2.5 million acres* of pristine rainforest, Mamirauá forms the southern section of the world's second-largest protected area (the other is also in Brazil), extending through Amanã and Jaú National Park all the way to the Rio Negro. It is designated a "sustainable development" reserve, and is widely acclaimed for its innovative measures to educate and incorporate local people in the wise use and protection of the rivers and forests. Mamirauá has been visited by many researchers, mostly anthropologists and mammalogists, but darned few birders. We'll spend three days birding at Mamirauá, one of the ornithologically least-known north-bank regions of the Amazon.

Among many birds and beasts to look for, there are two that are truly outstanding: the rare and stately Wattled Curassow and the bizarre White Uakari monkey. Mamirauá is *the best place* to see both, and being there in the fairly dry August-September period will help us cover the most productive birding areas efficiently. The curassow has suffered massive decline virtually throughout its range because it inhabits only *várzea* forest and is easily approached by hunters (almost all of whom live along rivers) in canoes in the high-water season and on foot the rest of the year. It may well take us the whole time to locate a Wattled Curassow, but we will be seeing a wonderful variety of other birds during our quest,

perhaps including Horned Screamer, lots of herons (including Agami and maybe even Zigzag) and other waders, several species of raptors (Harpy Eagle is seen with some regularity!), Sungrebe, Blue-and-yellow and Scarlet macaws, all five Neotropical kingfishers, White-eared and White-chinned jacamars, Scarlet-crowned Barbet, Cuvier's and Yellow-ringed toucans (Toco is a rare possibility), Spot-breasted, Ringed, and Cream-colored woodpeckers, Long-billed and the enigmatic Zimmer's woodcreepers, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, and Amazonian Umbrellabird. Among the mammals, we'll make a special effort to locate a troop of the rare White Uakari monkeys. With its woolly white body, short, stubby tail (it waves it around like a little dog), and naked, brilliant red head, the White Uakari is surely the most bizarre-looking New World primate—it's just incredible! And its world stronghold is Mamirauá. Also to be seen are two species of Squirrel Monkeys, Brown Capuchins, and Red Howler Monkey. Nights at Pousada Uakari.



The beautiful Scarlet-crowned Barbet is one of many species found in the riparian habitats of western Amazonia that we'll seek on this tour. Photograph by guide Richard Webster.

Days 6-9, Sat-Tue, 31 Aug-3 Sep. Amanã Sustainable Development Reserve. *DORINHA* will have arrived from Manaus last night, and this morning we'll transfer to "the mothership", settle into our rooms for the next nine days (yay!), and meet the crew. We'll then man the top deck, our mobile "canopy tower", for the exhilarating ascent of the lower Japurá, toward Amanã, watching the treetops, especially, for Harpy and Crested eagles, toucans and aracarís, and a wide variety of macaws and other parrots.

The Amanã Sustainable Development Reserve was established in 1998 to protect about *5.8 million acres* of rivers and rainforests in the remote region linking Mamirauá and Jaú National Park. There are about 3800 people living in the reserve, in small, scattered villages and individual plots of land. We will learn of trails into the forest from these locals, and have one or more of them accompany us on birding walks, benefitting from their intimate knowledge of the land. We'll especially hope to encounter some army ant swarms, accompanied by Chestnut-crested Antbird and Reddish-winged Bare-eye, two spectacular obligate ant-followers inhabiting this sector of the Amazon basin. Two puffbirds we'll be looking and listening for are White-chested Puffbird, and Lanceolated Monklet – and the little-known Chestnut-headed Nunlet should occur around Amanã; we'll certainly be searching diligently for it! There is a huge number of species possible in these forests.

The *terra firme* forests of Amanã are home to a different suite of primates and other mammals as well. For example, the White Uakaris of neighboring Mamirauá are here replaced by Golden-backed (or Brown) Uakaris, which often move in enormous troops (the challenge is to find a troop at all!), and we'll also hope to encounter Yellow-handed Titi Monkeys and the enigmatic Mottle-cheeked Tamarin (it would be a lifer for Bret!). And all along these watercourses and lake edges we will be watching carefully for Amazonian Manatees. The Mamirauá/Amanã region holds one of the largest populations of this little-known animal, and finding one would be a mega-highlight of this tour!

Depending on our progress with finding birds and mammals, we'll depart Amanã on either Day 8 or 9, to recross the Solimões to Tefé. En route, we'll improvise at least one major birding stop on a whitewater island in the Solimões, which

will add a ton of birds endemic to the central Amazon to our list. Even if you have done a fair amount of birding on Amazonian river islands (perhaps around Iquitos or Manaus), you are sure to enjoy these islands of the middle Solimões and there's always one or two past misses to catch up with! Nights on the *DORINHA*.



This White-browed Purpletuft was seen near Tefe, with its namesake tufts exposed. These small birds are fairly widespread in Amazonia, but are not often seen. Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.

Days 10-14, Wed-Sun, 4-8 Sep. Tefé National Forest. The Floresta Nacional de Tefé (FLONA Tefé, or Tefé National Forest) was established in 1989 to protect some 2.2 million acres of mostly *terra firme* forest near the old fishing town of Tefé. Here the blackwater Rio Tefé hits the silt-laden Solimões, creating a remarkably well-demarcated “meeting of the waters”, as dramatic as the much larger confluence of the rios Negro and Solimões, 400 miles below. We'll probably make a brief stop at Tefé to resupply with fresh vegetables, etc. (quite possibly needing to restock with limes for *caipirinhas!*), before motoring smoothly up the gorgeous Rio Tefé. The river is extraordinarily wide near its mouth, a condition known as a “ria lake”, supposedly resulting from the erosion of a wide, relatively shallow area during paleohistoric, low-water epochs. Our plan is to bird three distinct arms of the lower Rio Tefé, accessing *terra firme* forest much as we did in Amanã, accompanied by knowledgeable local people. We'll be among the first birders to walk three new trails affording us miles of fabulous Amazonian birding!

This region of the basin, between the rios Purús (to the east) and Juruá (to the west), is darned poorly known. Being on the south bank of the Amazon (Solimões), there are a great many species that replace ones we may have seen over the past week around Mamirauá and Amanã. For one significant example, obligate army ant followers here will shift to Hairy-crested Antbird (subspecies *purusiana*, a likely split from nominate birds, of northwestern Amazonia) and Black-spotted Bare-eye. The mammal community will likewise differ greatly, and we'll continue the vigil for Amazonian Manatees. These days birding out of Tefé are sure to be fun and memorable experiences!

We'll have a festive, top-deck happy hour and final dinner the last evening (not that that will not have happened many other nights by now!). Nights on *DORINHA*.

Days 15-16, Mon-Tue, 9-10 Sep. Flight Tefé to Manaus and travel home. Today we'll take advantage of the technological advances of the late 20th Century (= planes that fly across oceans and the Amazon) to get all the way from Tefé to Manaus, thence down to São Paulo or Brasília for international flights home. Alternatively, if you wish to spend this night in Manaus, we can reserve a quiet, comfortable room for you near the airport. *Uma boa viagem para todos!!*

SPECIAL NOTE: The Brazilian air schedules change fairly frequently, which means that we sometimes have to make alterations to the published tour itinerary. It is unlikely that such alterations would affect the tour price. Should we need to change the itinerary, we'll send you a revised one as soon as we are able.

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, a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society, 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.

"Bret Whitney is a superb guide who knows the birds at a level I have not experienced in any other tour. His scientific expertise was a huge plus for serious birders." P.P., Brazil's Rio Roosevelt.

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 started him birding at a young age. After graduating from high school, he made annual pilgrimages to Amazonia where he worked as a bird guide and participated in expeditions, mostly in Brazil, and he served as a field assistant following mixed-species flocks in Peru. He studied ecology and scientific illustration (some of his bird art has been published in ornithological journals, and he regularly sketches birds in the field) at Prescott College and recently completed his master's degree on the foraging ecology of Amazonian woodcreepers.

Micah has accompanied a number of Field Guides tours with Bret Whitney, John Coons, Tom Johnson and other FG guides over the past few years, and became a permanent member of the Field Guides roster of full-time guides in June 2019. Micah is a generous guide with an easy laugh and is eager to share his love of birds and nature. We know you will have a great time traveling with him, too!

"Kudos to Micah Riegner, who was an excellent guide. He has a calm demeanor and seemed unflappable. He was patient with all of us birders and always made sure everyone got on the bird. His enthusiasm was contagious." G.H. Arizona's Second Spring

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

Financial Information

FEE: \$9975 from Manaus (includes flights Manaus to Tefe and return)

DEPOSIT: \$1000 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: February 28, 2024

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$425 (singles aboard the boat cannot be guaranteed but will likely be available)

LIMIT: 10

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!

DOCUMENTS: US citizens will need a **current passport and an e-Visa** 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.

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.

VACCINATIONS: Yellow Fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please check <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentYellowFeverBrazil.aspx> for the current CDC information and 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 \$9975 for one person in double occupancy from Manaus. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 14, all meals from dinner on Day 2 through lunch on Day 15, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour 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 \$425; singles aboard the boat 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).

TOUR LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, the guide in training will be taking a seat in the van or bus. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact us at fieldguides.com/contact-us/. 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 \$1000** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **by February 28, 2024**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

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. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

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

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

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

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

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the 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
1/24 BW
2/24 RK, peg