

ITINERARY
HAWAII

April 2 - April 11, 2019



Hawaii is known for its endemic honeycreepers, such as this colorful 'Apapane. Unlike some of the others, this species is not endangered, however they are still vulnerable to threats such as avian malaria and habitat change. Most of the population lives on the Big Island, but we may also find them on Kauai and Oahu. Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.

We include here information for those interested in the 2019 Field Guides Hawaii 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 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

Hawaii stands alone among the states. First, it's a Pacific island, with the warm weather, gorgeous beaches, coconut palms, tropical fish, and cooling ocean breezes that the name implies. Second, it boasts more than two dozen endemic species, some of which have become staggeringly rare. It is also a beautiful and diverse state, with each island having its own unique character created by differing weather, geology, and birdlife. The archipelago of Hawaii was formed as the tectonic plate on which it lies moved over a "hot spot" in Earth's crust. The plate moves northwestward, so the oldest main island is Kauai in the northwest part of the chain, and the newest is Hawaii (the Big Island) in the southeast. The Big Island is not only new, it's growing daily. Kilauea, the most active volcano in the world, has been in constant eruption

since 1983; depending on conditions, it may be possible to visit the current lava flow (as of July 2018, it is not). As each island has risen out of the sea, new land has become available for plants and birds to colonize, and each island has several endemic bird species. Finally, the fact that it is a series of islands makes Hawaii great for seabirding, as well as enjoying the marine mammals, tropical reefs, and fishes found beneath the water's surface.



*Another of Hawaii's native species, the Palila has a bill that is specialized for eating seeds of the endemic Mamane tree. The Palila is found in a very small range on the island of Hawaii, where its habitat is being threatened by grazing animals.
Photograph by participant Doug Clarke.*

Concentrating on the birds, Hawaii is a prime spot to think about the concept of adaptive radiation. New colonists to an area with many open niches may evolve into many different varieties—eventually different species—that exploit these available niches. This is what Charles Darwin saw with the “finches” on the Galapagos Islands, and exactly what you see with the endemic birds of Hawaii. There is the Palila, a finch-like species with a thick bill specially adapted to crack the seeds from its dry Mamane forest habitat. The gorgeous red I'iwi and 'Apapane are specially adapted to forage for nectar—and even resemble the color of the native Ohi'a Lehua blossoms. The Hawaii Amakihi has a narrow, curved bill that is well adapted for nectaring from native flowers, but it can also forage on smaller seeds and insects. The more thickset bill of the Kauai Amakihi allows it to take a bit more seed in its diet. The creepers, such as the Hawaii Creeper of the Big Island and the critically endangered Akikiki of Kauai, inch along tree trunks and branches, probing for insects in bark crevices with their pointed, dexterous bills. The 'Akepa of the Big Island and the critically endangered Akeke'e of Kauai have short, pointed bills with slightly crossed tips; in the manner of the mainland's crossbills, these birds use their specialized beaks to pry open tree buds (rather than pine cones, like the crossbills do) and find insects hidden there. Perhaps the most specialized adaptation is the bill of the Akiapola'au; it has a long, curved upper mandible and a shorter, more peg-like lower mandible. With the lower mandible, it pries off bark flakes like a woodpecker does, and with the upper mandible it spears grubs to pull them from crevices in the bark. It's an incredible way to see Darwin's theory in action, in an even more striking manner than is seen on the Galapagos Islands. Hawaii truly is a paradise for the birder and naturalist.

The native birds of Hawaii also include the Hawaiian thrushes, which are really members of the solitary genus *Myadestes*. These thrushes are found up in the trees, but often nest in wet, mossy banks. As is typical with the group, their vocalizations are eerie and complex. The Oma'o on the Big Island is uncommon but not too difficult to find, but its counterpart, the Puaiohi on Kauai, is much rarer. Finally, a trio of 'elepaio—monarch flycatchers which cock their tails up like wrens do—are separated out across the main islands. In addition, we'll find a wide assortment of introduced species from all corners of the globe. The way in which some of these foreign species have adapted to the habitats in Hawaii is interesting. Not all have become common and widespread; some are rather local and difficult to see. Given that in the lowlands native birds are not usually present, these exotics will keep the focus wheels of our binoculars working as we enjoy their beautiful colors and songs. And now, these birds all count towards your ABA list!

Towering mountains, active volcanoes, black sand beaches, highland forests, dry forests, semi-desert coastlines—you name it, it's found in this gorgeous and birdy state!

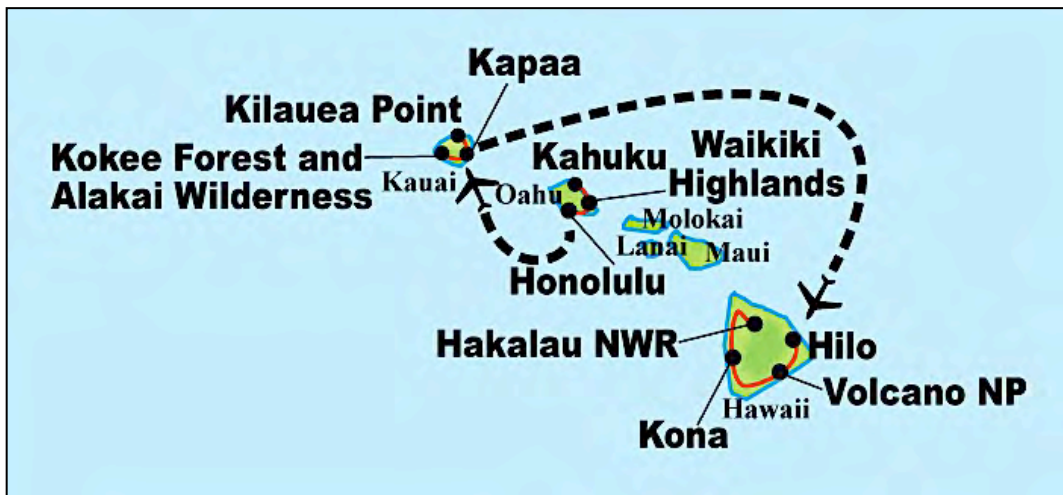
About the Physical Requirements & Pace: To reach the highland forests where the native birds are found, we will have to start several of our days early, as we'll want to be near our destinations by dawn. Other departures will be more leisurely, but we do make sure we are out in the morning when bird activity is highest and the heat and/or chance of rain is lowest. On some days, we'll take a break after lunch to relax or to swim at our hotel. The Kilauea Lodge in Hawaii Volcano National Park is the only place we'll stay that is not on the beach.

Much of our birding will be easy walking on roads or wide trails, but we will have one longer hike (~2-3 miles) on each island. On Oahu on the Aiea Trail, on Kauai in the Alakai Wilderness, and on the Big Island at Hakalau NWR we may encounter some muddy trails. The Alakai is one of the wettest places on Earth, and even if it's not raining, it's still bound to be a bit slippery in places; shoes with good grip and ankle support are recommended. Much of the Alakai/Koke'e birding is possible from wooden boardwalks (some in poor state), but the precaution is for those few places that are not. Birding in montane forests such as those in Koke'e, the Saddle Road, and Hakalau will involve some moderate grades and wooden steps. Some of our forest days will require us to be out walking for several miles, while on other days, our birding will be within short walks from the vehicles. You should be able to easily get in and out of a van (sometimes repeatedly), and able to walk at least three miles, some of it on slopes where traction may not be the best and where footing is uneven. You should be prepared to bird in hot and humid environments, expect some rain, and realize the highlands can be quite brisk or even cool. Sea conditions on the pelagic trip can range from calm seas to moderately rough, so you must have decent balance and an ability to steady yourself on a moving boat if you plan to take that trip.

Although the birds will command our attention, this trip is designed to take notice of some of Hawaii's native rainforests and its marine environment. While we're likely to encounter some interesting creatures in the forest, there are no snakes (venomous or otherwise) in Hawaii. A biting insect here or there may be the major discomfort we encounter.

If you're uncertain as to whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they can't directly answer your queries, they'll put you in touch with one of the guides.

About the Birding Areas



Oahu—This is the state's most populous and developed island-- also known as the "Gathering Island" since it has accessible beaches from all directions and made it easy for neighboring island representatives to meet here. As such, it's the major transportation hub, and the logical place to begin our trip. In Waikiki itself, we'll look for introduced species such as Saffron Finch, Yellow-fronted Canary, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Common Waxbill and Java Finch, as well as native White Terns, which nest in the park by our hotel. Although little native forest remains, there are a few patches of remnant forest reasonably close and accessible to Honolulu. Here, we'll look for the Oahu Amakihi and the elusive and endangered Oahu 'Elepaio, as well as the gorgeous Red-billed Leiothrix and White-rumped Shama. We'll head to the island's northeastern coast, to a golf course and beach famous for its small wintering population of Bristle-thighed Curlews.

Kauai—"The Garden Isle" is the westernmost of the main Hawaiian Islands, and so the oldest in the chain. Its mountains are more eroded than those on the younger islands, giving it a more striking landscape. Rainfall can be heavy here, and a lush green carpet of vegetation covers the mountains and their descending valleys. We'll head up to the Kokee and Alakai areas to experience the montane forest firsthand. This is among the few remaining areas in the state where many of the birds seen are actually native, and it is also one of the most beautiful forests in Hawaii.

Most of the endemics are declining, some precipitously so, but we could see Kauai 'Elepaio, Kauai Amakihi, Anianiau, and 'Apapane, which are quite common. In recent years, three native species, Akeke'e (Kauai Akepa), Akikiki (Kauai Creeper) and the Puaiohi, have become extremely rare and should not be expected in the area to which we have access. Seabirds are another highlight in Kauai. We'll take a half-day pelagic trip and hope for looks at Brown and Red-footed boobies, Wedge-tailed and Sooty shearwaters, Laysan Albatross, Humpback Whale and (with luck) Gray-backed Tern or Christmas Shearwater; Hawaiian Petrel and Newell's Shearwater are also possible, but much scarcer. Kilauea Point will provide us a chance to see (from land!) Great Frigatebird, Red-tailed and White-tailed tropicbirds, nesting Laysan Albatross, a Red-footed Booby colony and Hawaiian Goose (Nene), Hawaii's state bird. The wetlands of the Hanalei valley hold good populations of Hawaiian Duck (Koloa) and Hawaiian Coot, as well as the endemic subspecies of Common Moorhen and Black-necked Stilt.

Hawaii (Big Island)—This island really is big; all of the other main islands could fit comfortably within it. It is also the newest island, and the one with the largest amount of native forest remaining. There are big differences in precipitation amounts depending on which part of the island you're visiting; we'll move up and down the large mountains, sampling the moister forests of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, the Saddle Road and Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, the dry forests of Pu'u La'au, and the desert coast of Kona. In Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, we'll stay at a hotel within the forest zone and wake up to the sights and sounds of native birds and native plants. The park holds some of the same birds as Hakalau, as well as Kalij Pheasant, Red-billed Leiothrix, White-tailed Tropicbird and (Hawaiian) Black Noddy. The dry forests of Pu'u La'au offer our best chance to find the endangered and rapidly declining Palila, as well as the pale (Mauna Kea) form of the Hawaii 'Elepaio. The Kona coast is home to a wide assortment of introduced species, from Yellow-billed Cardinal and Java Sparrow to African Silverbill and Black-rumped Waxbill. We sometimes see Gray Francolin and Wandering Tattler right on the hotel grounds! For a fitting finale, we will visit Hakalau NWR, a superb patch of forest with the widest diversity of native landbirds of any site on the Big Island. Here, we'll look for Hawaiian Hawk, Hawaii 'Elepaio, Oma'o (Hawaii Thrush), Hawaii Amakihi, Akiapola'au, Hawaii Creeper, 'Akepa, and best of all, I'iwi. It gives us a taste of what Hawaii was like before Europeans arrived!



The Nene, or Hawaiian Goose, was nearly lost to extinction, but is making a slow recovery with the help of extensive conservation efforts. We'll look for them on Kauai. Photograph by participant Scott Harvell.

Itinerary for Hawaii

Day 1, Tue, 2 Apr. Arrival in Honolulu. Please plan to arrive by mid-afternoon, so that you can join us for our first dinner. To get from the airport to our hotel, you can either take the shared hotel shuttle (\$16 in 2018) or a taxi (about \$45 in 2018). For the shuttle, you'll need to buy a ticket from an Airport Waikiki Express agent, who will be standing near baggage claim exit; make sure the shuttle goes to the New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel. The shuttle drops people at various hotels; ours is the last, as it is farthest away from the crowds. In traffic, the ride may take more than an hour, so if you're tired, or in a hurry, you might want to take a taxi instead. We'll meet in the hotel lobby at 6:30 p.m.; after a brief introduction and discussion of tomorrow's plan, we'll head in to dinner. Night in Waikiki.

Day 2, Wed, 3 Apr. Birding in Oahu. We'll start our birding before breakfast this morning, in a park right across the street from our hotel. Here, we'll get our first look at the ubiquitous Pacific Golden-Plover, which is remarkably tame here. A variety of introduced species are possible, and flocks of 50 or more Common Waxbills and Java Sparrows will likely be bouncing across the ball fields, while Red-crested Cardinals sing from trees and groups of Rose-ringed Parakeets screech past overhead. After breakfast, we'll hike on a trail through the forested Aiea Heights, looking for Oahu Amakihi and Oahu 'Elepaio; introduced species such as Red-billed Leothrix and White-rumped Shama are also possible. After lunch, we'll work our way up to the north end of the island, passing the famous surfing beaches and stopping to see some waterbirds in a shrimp farm-turned-refuge, and ending our day at the northeasternmost point, where a windswept golf course often holds a small wintering population of Bristle-thighed Curlews. We'll get back to Waikiki in the late afternoon (5:30-6:00 p.m.) Night in Waikiki.

Day 3, Thu, 4 Apr. To Kauai. After breakfast, we'll head to the airport for our late morning/early afternoon flight to Kauai. Once we've eaten our lunch and checked into our hotel, we'll head out for an afternoon of exploring. We'll plan to visit Kiluaea Point to enjoy the avian spectacle of breeding seabirds, where a large Red-footed Booby colony and other seabirds can be seen at close quarters. If time permits, we will visit other nearby sites to see nesting Laysan Albatross or a freshwater marsh. Night in Kapa'a.

Day 4, Fri, 5 Apr. Kokee State Park and the Alakai Wilderness. One of the highlights of this tour, and a highlight of any visit to Kauai, is the chance to walk the trails in the native forests of the Koke'e Forest Reserve and Alaka'i Wilderness. The weather can be misty and sometimes rainy, but sunshine is not out of the question. We'll leave our hotel before dawn, and have a picnic breakfast in the field to give us plenty of time to search for the scarce forest birds. Today offers our best chance of finding Kauai's rare endemic species. Night in Kapa'a.

Day 5, Sat, 6 Apr. Kauai Pelagic. Today, we'll board a charter boat for our half-day pelagic trip, motoring out in search of fish and fisherman, which often attract pelagic birds. More common species include Brown and Red-footed boobies, Brown and Black noddies, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, White-tailed Tropicbird, and Sooty and (less commonly) Gray-backed terns. Uncommon but regular species include Mottled Petrel and Newell's Shearwater; rarer specialty birds such as Christmas Shearwater, and Hawaiian and Bulwer's petrels are possible as well. As with any pelagic trip, we'll need some luck to find any of these less common species. Opportunities for spotting rare marine mammals exist, and we'll be on the lookout for those as well. Night in Kapa'a.



*On our pelagic trip out of Kauai, we'll watch for Laysan Albatross and other seabirds. The main nesting colonies of the Laysan Albatross are on Midway and Laysan Islands however, we may see some nests and young birds on Kauai.
Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.*

Day 6, Sun, 7 Apr. Fly to Hilo; drive to Volcano National Park. This morning, we'll fly to Hilo, on the Big Island's wet side. From there, we'll drive south to the famous Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, perhaps stopping at some local ponds to look for waterfowl or shorebirds on the way. If we still have daylight left after arriving at our hotel, we'll drive to the large Halemaumau Crater within the Kilauea Caldera to see the steaming vents, volcano-scarred landscape, and the magnificent White-tailed Tropicbirds that breed in the crater. Either today or tomorrow, we'll head down the Chain of Craters Road to the coast, where we stand a good chance of finding "Hawaiian" Black Noddy. At present, much of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is closed due to the recent eruptions of Kīlauea. We will continue to monitor the situation up until the tour's departure to ensure your safety, and may alter this itinerary accordingly.

Night near the park at Kilauea Lodge.

Day 7, Mon, 8 Apr. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; to Kona. We'll have a morning to explore the park and search for any species that have yet eluded us before we begin our drive to Kona. One morning destination could be the area known as "bird park," or Kipuka Pua'ulu, where Kalij Pheasants abound and Red-billed Leiothrix occur; Oma'ō, Hawaii Elepaio, and Chinese Hwamei are also present. Our drive to Kona will take us across the center of the island on the Saddle Road, which is between the two large volcanos of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. We'll arrive in Kona in afternoon, and will have dinner at our resort hotel. Night in Waikoloa.

Day 8, Tue, 9 Apr. Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge. We'll start early this morning, taking a picnic breakfast with us to eat in the field. Hakalau was the first wildlife refuge to be established solely for the benefit of forest birds. It's certainly in the right place, as almost all of Hawaii's native birds can be found here. In addition to 'Apapanes, Amakihis, and I'iwis, we'll concentrate on finding the 'Akepa, Akiapola'au, Hawaii Creeper, and Oma'ō (Hawaii Thrush). Today will be another highlight—the birds and forest are superb! Night in Waikoloa.

Day 9, Wed, 10 Apr. The Saddle Road. We'll start our day early once again, with another picnic breakfast; our primary stop will be the dry forests of Pu'u La'au, the site where we hope to see the endangered and declining Palila, the only accessible surviving finch-like Hawaiian honeycreeper. Here, we also have a good chance for finding the pale form of Hawaii 'Elepaio, and Hawaii Amakihi is common. Other species in the area include Short-eared Owl, Erckel's and Black francolins, Chukar, and Sky Lark. Night in Waikoloa.

Day 10, Thu, 11 Apr. Transfer to the Kona airport; flights home. The tour ends this morning after breakfast. Participants may arrange a transfer to the airport with the help of the hotel staff. Unfortunately, our hotel doesn't offer a free shuttle, but there are several low-cost shuttle options available, and a taxi ride to the airport costs about \$65. Flights to the mainland tend to be in the early afternoon or overnight. We'll reserve several hospitality rooms for group participants to share on the final afternoon; these have en-suite showers and bathrooms, couches, televisions, etc. and will give us a place to store our luggage until we leave the hotel. If you'd prefer, you can plan to stay an extra night to unwind after the tour, or to snorkel or take a helicopter tour over the volcanoes.



*The Western Meadowlark is one of many non-native species in Hawaii; it is found only on Kauai.
Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*

About Your Guides

Chris Benesh grew up studying natural history in California, where he was inspired by his father to take up birding as a teenager. After earning a degree in zoology from UC Santa Barbara in 1987, Chris moved to Austin to join the Field Guides staff. Since then, his life has undergone a wonderful transformation. The intervening years at Field Guides have taken him to many corners of the world and across both the Arctic and Antarctic circles!

Chris takes an interest in nearly anything that flies, and you might catch him sneaking a peek at a passing aircraft or stopping to examine a butterfly or odonate. You might also notice him getting especially excited at the sighting of a rare or wonderful mammal (heck, he can get excited about a squirrel).

Chris's passion for education has led to his serving on the Arizona Bird Committee, leading the occasional workshop, presenting at birding conventions, and—we must add—thoroughly explaining in admirable detail the nuances of flycatchers to tour participants and colleagues alike. These days, most of his “down time” is spent at home in Tucson watching his two wonderful kids, Sean and Linnea, grow.

*“I would travel with **Chris Benesh** anywhere, any time. He is calm, pleasant, and good-humored. He is not only brilliant at spotting and finding birds, but equally brilliant at ensuring that every member of the group gets a great look at the bird.” B.M., Arizona’s Second Spring*

Dave Stejskal’s love of birds and birding began at the age of nine near his childhood home in Phoenix. After teenage years consumed by birding and basketball, he went on to graduate with a degree in biology from the University of Arizona in Tucson, the desert city he and his wife, Julie Hecimovich, call home.

Dave was co-editor for the Southwest Region report in *American Birds/Audubon Field Notes* for nearly 12 years, has served for many years on the Arizona Bird Records Committee, and has a solid reputation as one of the outstanding field birders in the Southwest and elsewhere. Dave is particularly skilled at identifying birds by their songs and calls and is eager to share his knowledge with others. Since guiding his first professional birding tour with Field Guides in 1985, his more than 400 tours have taken him north to arctic Alaska, south to Tierra del Fuego (guiding tours in nearly every country in between), to Madagascar, and across the Pacific to Southeast Asia and New Guinea, and his enthusiasm for finding and watching birds has proven to be contagious.

*“**Dave Stejskal** did an exceptional job. I’d absolutely travel with him again. In addition to being a good bird guide, Dave is an excellent leader. He was conscious of participants’ needs and abilities, which species they’d seen or hadn’t seen, and consistently worked harder than the rest of us to find birds. Thanks for a wonderful experience.” R. L., Borneo*

Check <https://fieldguides.com/guides> and click on Chris’s and Dave’s images for their complete tour schedules.

Financial Information

FEE: \$5750 from Honolulu (departing from Kona)

DEPOSIT: \$575 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: December 3, 2018

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1100

LIMIT: 14

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The tour manager is Mandy Mantzel. Mandy will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call!

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Please note that the tour begins in Honolulu and ends in Kona. 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 will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$5750 for one person in double occupancy from Honolulu. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 9, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 10, the flights within Hawaii, all ground transportation, 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 Hawaii, airport taxes, airport transfers, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$1100. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$575** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **December 3, 2018. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

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

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

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

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

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it

will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

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

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

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

The receipt of your tour deposit shall be deemed to be consent to the above conditions. each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 shall sign and deliver the release and indemnity agreement at the time of registration.

5/17 DFL

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