

ITINERARY
HAWAII

March 13 – 21, 2025



The spectacular L'iwi might be Hawaii's best-known endemic. These gorgeous birds are found primarily on the Big Island, but they can be found on several others as well. Photograph by participant Paul Beerman.

We include here information for those interested in the 2025 Field Guides Hawaii tours:

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

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

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

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. 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 sea-birding, as well as enjoying the marine mammals, tropical reefs, and fishes found beneath the water's surface.



Hawaii has a few native thrushes that are in the same genus as the solitaires of North and South America. The Omoia is found on the island of Hawaii in the wet montane forests. Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.

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 l’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 sadly much rarer, and seeing it is beyond the scope of this tour. Finally, a trio of ‘elepaios—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, most of these birds will count towards your ABA list!

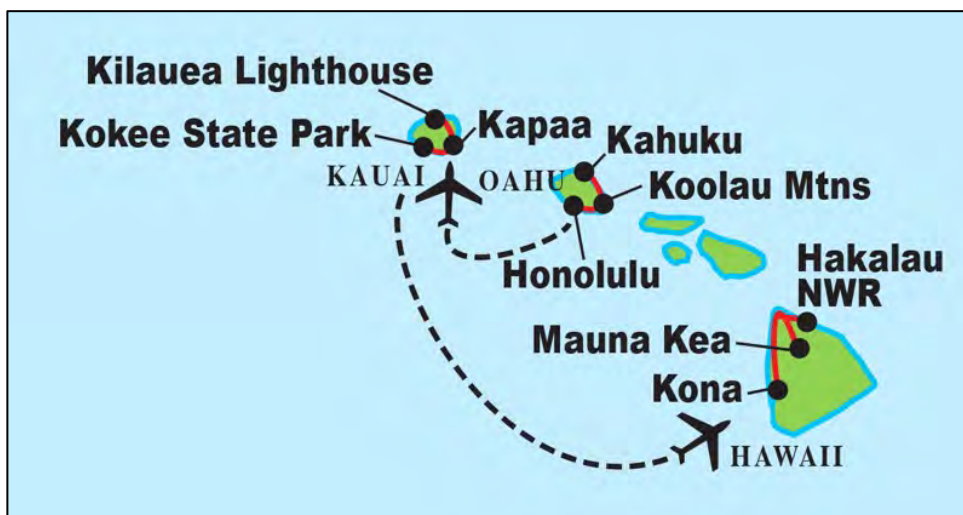
Towering mountains, active volcanoes, black sand beaches, highland forests, dry forests, semi-desert coastlines—you name it, it’s found in this gorgeous and birdy state!

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:** Most walking on this tour is relatively easy, on roads or wide trails (usually ~3 miles per day), with individual hikes of 1-2 miles one way. Some of these hikes may have several uphill and downhill stretches and places that may be uneven, slippery, or muddy. One site we visit has a moderate grade with wooden steps that may be slick (good hiking boots and walking sticks are recommended for the hikes). Both in the lowlands and the highlands, we walk at a moderate (“birder’s”) pace.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will likely stand for long periods to observe birds. We cover much ground on this tour, and several days will feature fairly long (2-4 hour) periods of time in the vans, usually in the afternoon. There will be some roadside birding, with much getting in and out of vans.
- **PACE:** Early mornings (5:00-6:30 a.m. breakfasts); both morning and afternoon birding sessions, with occasional afternoon breaks or travel time. To reach the highland forests by dawn, we start walking very early (about 5:30 a.m.) on two mornings. Most departures will be later but still early. On some days, we’ll take a break after lunch. No nighttime excursions.
- **ELEVATION:** We will reach elevations of about 7000 feet in the highlands. We will be driving from sea level to 7000 ft in one outing, but we will plan to take it slower that day.
- **WEATHER:** Weather in Hawaii is rather warm in the lowlands but can be quite cool in the highest elevations, particularly during rain showers. Humidity is usually high. Expect temperatures in the high 60s in the evening, with days ranging from the low 60s to low 90s F, depending in part upon the elevation. Rain showers and windy conditions are possible, which can make highlands feel chilly; the Alakai Swamp and Koke’e State Park are among the wettest places on Earth (layered clothing and rain gear recommended).
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on occasion, participants will need to be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

If you’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.





*The Hawaiian Goose is the state bird, and it has some interesting adaptations that separate it from other geese. These geese nearly became extinct, but captive breeding, predator control and habitat protection are helping the population to recover.
Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.*

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 native White Terns, which nest in the park by our hotel, as well as introduced species such as Saffron Finch, Yellow-fronted Canary, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Common Waxbill and Java Sparrow. 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 also 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 Koke’e 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, Anianiau, and ‘Apapane, which are still reasonably common. Kauai Amakihi, has declined recently, but we are still hopeful of seeing it on our tour. 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. Kilauea Lighthouse 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 Gallinule 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 depending on which part of the island you’re visiting. The dry forests of Pu’u La’au offer a chance to find the endangered and rapidly declining Palila although they’ve become increasingly difficult to find, 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. 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 people arrived!



The lovely White Tern nests in the city of Honolulu on Oahu. Photograph by participant Larry Taylor.

Itinerary for Hawaii

Day 1, Thu, 13 Mar. Arrival in Honolulu. Please plan to arrive by mid-afternoon, so that you can join us for our first dinner. Upon arrival into the Honolulu Airport, please call Fly Shuttle Tours at 808-260-9766 (<https://www.flyshuttletours.com>) and request a ride to the Queen Kapiolani Hotel (<https://www.queenkapiolani.com>) - the ride takes about 30 minutes. The shuttle service dispatch will give you directions on where to meet your driver. Please note that our hotel is farther from the airport than the other Waikiki hotels, so it will be one last stops the shuttle makes. If your flight is delayed or rescheduled, you do not need to contact Fly Shuttle Tours, as long as you're on the same flight number. If you are rerouted on a different flight please notify Fly Shuttle Tours, as your reservation was confirmed by our ground agent based on your arrival flight details. If you're tired and want to get to the hotel more quickly, a taxi (approximately \$55) or an Uber is an option. We'll meet in the hotel lobby at 6:00 p.m.; after a brief introduction and discussion of tomorrow's plan, we'll head in to dinner. Night in Waikiki. **NOTE: Please let your tour manager, Nicole Cannon, know as soon as possible if you would like to book extra nights at the hotel pre and/or post tour. Hotels get booked up quickly in Hawaii so booking your extra nights as soon as possible will help insure that you're able to extend your stay at the group hotel(s).**

Day 2, Fri, 14 Mar. Birding in Oahu. After breakfast at the hotel, we will leave the city behind and enter the rainforests of the Koolau Mountains in pursuit of Oahu's endemic honeycreeper, the Oahu Amakihi, before we descend down into the valleys to search for the endangered Oahu Elepaio. While on our endemic bird adventure we will most likely encounter White-rumped Shama, noisy flocks of Red-billed Leiothrix, an occasional Red-whiskered Bulbul, and chattering Warbling White-eyes. We'll also check out Kapiolani Park (next to our hotel) to admire visiting Pacific Golden-Plovers and Honolulu's city bird, the beautiful White Tern. While exploring the park we are sure to encounter myriad of introduced species among the banyan and rainbow shower trees, such as Common Myna, Red-crested Cardinal, Red-vented Bulbul, Yellow-fronted Canary, Java Sparrow, Common Waxbill, Spotted Dove, Zebra Dove, and Rose-ringed Parakeet. Night in Waikiki.

Day 3, Sat, 15 Mar. Birding in Oahu. Today we journey up the picturesque windward side of Oahu to experience the serenity of the North Shore in search of visiting shorebirds such as the Wandering Tattler and sought-after Bristle-thighed Curlew. While cruising the coastline, famous for world class surf beaches and secluded coves with basking sea turtles, we are sure to find some flashy finches such as the Saffron Finch and Chestnut Munia. The North Shore is also home to some of the last family farms on Oahu with crops of coffee, cacao, eggplant, papaya, pineapple, apple banana, and even scattered shrimp farms with Black-crowned Night Heron, the endemic Hawaiian Coot, Common Gallinule (endemic subspecies), and Black-necked Stilt (endemic subspecies). Night in Waikiki.

Day 4, Sun, 16 Mar. Flight to Kauai and Birding Kauai. After breakfast we fly to Lihue and discover the beauty of Kauai's North Shore in pursuit of impressive seabirds along Kilauea Lighthouse NWR's stunning coastline and more endemic water birds amongst Hanalei NWR's historic lo'i ponds. While scanning the rugged cliffs of Kilauea covered with Red-footed Boobies and surveying the skies for Brown Booby, spectacular Red-tailed and White-tailed tropicbirds, majestic Laysan Albatross, and soaring Great Frigatebirds, we will enjoy up close views of Hawaii's state bird, the Nene (Hawaiian Goose). We will then explore Hanalei Valley's lush important bird area for more of Hawaii's endangered water birds such as the Hawaiian Duck. Night in Kapa'a.

Day 5, Mon, 17 Mar. Birding in Kauai. Today we'll embark on a rainforest adventure with astounding views of Waimea Canyon, the Pacific's Grand Canyon, on our journey into Kokee State Park to find Kauai's endemic Kauai Amakihi, Apapane, Anianiau, and Kauai Elepaio (Akeke'e and Akikiki are no longer found at accessible areas that we can visit during the tour). Other forest birds we should encounter in Kokee include Red Junglefowl, the skulky Japanese Bush Warbler and Chinese Hwamei.

Day 6, Tue, 18 Mar. Birding Kauai and Flight to Kona. On our last morning on Kauai we will search for the rare Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush or any of Kauai's specialty species we haven't already found before our afternoon flight to Kona. Night in Kona.



The Kauai Elepaio is a small monarch flycatcher found only on Kauai. These active little birds tend to hold their tails cocked up, much like the wrens of the mainland. Photograph by participant Paul Beerman.

Day 7, Wed, 19 Mar. The Saddle Road. We begin our day on a quest for Hawaii Elepaio and perhaps the endangered Palila, the last of the finch-like honeycreepers. On our way to the sub-alpine dry forests of mamane, sandalwood, and naio, we will bird Saddle Road for Short-eared Owl (endemic subspecies), Eurasian Skylark, Chukar, California Quail,

Wild Turkey, Erckel's Spurfowl, Black, and Gray francolins and more. We'll also plan to check out Waikoloa in search of more introduced species, like Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and African Silverbill. Night in Kona.

Day 8, Thu, 20 Mar. Birding Big Island. Experience Hakalau, Hawaii's honeycreeper heaven! Hakalau Forest NWR is a restricted access cloud forest reserve and is home to many of Hawaii's endangered plants, native arthropods, and endemic birds. We will search for the unique Hawaii Creeper, the gorgeous day-glow orange Akepa, the stunning long billed Akiapolaau, the Hawaiian Hawk, Omao (Hawaii Island's endemic thrush) with beautiful I'iwi, Hawaii Amakihi, and Apapane all over the blossoms of ancient ohia trees enshrouding us. Night in Kona.

Day 9, Fri, 21 Mar. Transfer to the Kona airport; flights home. Depart for home from Kona airport after breakfast at the hotel. Flights to the mainland tend to be in the early afternoon or overnight. One can store luggage at the hotel during the day if sightseeing, and room extensions can generally be arranged for a reasonable fee. 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.

About Your Guides

Cory Gregory, a lifelong addict of all things birds, started learning birds on flashcards at the age of three. Ever since he can remember, he knew he wanted to pursue his passion and work with birds. Cory earned a B.S. in zoology in Michigan, where he also worked for Whitefish Point Bird Observatory for several seasons. He then furthered his education at Iowa State University, where he earned a M.S. studying Long-billed Curlews in Nebraska. Still to this day, the prairie states mean a lot to him.

As an avian ecologist, Cory has worked with a wide range of birds including Steller's Eiders in Alaska, Laysan Albatrosses in Hawaii, Red Knots in Georgia, and Upland Sandpipers in Kansas. In 2014 and 2015, Cory served as a local guide on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs of Alaska and hasn't stopped guiding since.

Parallel to being a full-time guide, Cory still identifies as a lifelong biologist and will occasionally work field jobs when he can. As recently as 2022, he worked as an avian ecologist in northern Michigan where he captured, handled, and banded Northern Saw-whet Owls.

Cory has been based out of Hannibal, Missouri for some time and now serves on the Missouri Birds Record Committee. When not on tour, he and his partner Ashley pursue their interests in birding, traveling, and mostly recently, moths.

In North America, his stomping grounds, Cory has co-led Field Guides groups to locales coast-to-coast, including Arizona, Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Maine, and Newfoundland. Farther afield, Cory has also guided in Costa Rica, Mexico, Jamaica, Colombia, Peru, France, and Australia. He has a busy and wide-ranging schedule coming up thanks to adding Oregon and Michigan to his portfolio of tours. Be sure to take a look at his upcoming trips--folks have had a great time traveling with Cory, and we think you will, too!

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

Mandy Talpas As a tremendous lover of birds and wildlife, Mandy has dedicated her life to avian conservation. From the time she was a young girl in northeastern Pennsylvania, she collected natural history observations in her backyard, volunteered at a wildlife rehabilitation and education center, and rescued many unwanted pet parrots. Mandy earned a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Studies from East Stroudsburg University and began conducting countless environmental education programs as a Naturalist, a Lead Conservation Educator at an AZA accredited zoo, and a Bird Banding and Education Specialist at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. She continued to broaden her scientific studies and field skills with the Ornithology Lab at Villanova University pursuing graduate school. Her passion for parrots led her to the remote forests of Manu, Peru, where she worked to save endangered macaws, as well as studying tropical ecology in Costa Rica, Mexico, Belize and Guatemala.

"Cory Gregory is an amazing bird-finder. He also knows A LOT about birds and shared knowledge about habitat, history, nesting, populations, and behavior. "
K. K., Oregon.

"Mandy is fun, energetic, professional, and had deep expertise in Hawaiian birds, nature and culture." J.M., Hawaii

Mandy is grateful to have made Hawaii her permanent home. She has conducted biological assessments on Kauai and Oahu, worked as an avian field technician, assisted endangered forest bird conservation efforts with Oahu Elepaio and continues to volunteer with local non-profits working to save Hawaii's endangered forest birds and seabirds across the islands. Mandy has led hiking, history, culture, nature, sightseeing, food, nature and birding tours for other companies for years and is thrilled to have started her own business leading birding tours full time in Hawaii with seasonal birding trips abroad. She is eager to share her knowledge and enthusiasm of Hawaii's culture, history, wildlife, and most especially, its unique and fascinating birds.

Financial Information

FEE: \$7125 from Honolulu (*departing from Kona*)

DEPOSIT: \$725 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: September 14, 2024

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1375

LIMIT: 14

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The tour manager is Nicole Cannon. Nicole 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 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.

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

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is **\$7125** for one person in double occupancy from Honolulu. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 8, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 9, 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 **\$1375**. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact 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 \$725** 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 September 14, 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.

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

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

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

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 90 to 179 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

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

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

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

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

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

TBJ 5/2023; 6/23NC & CJG

6/23peg

4/24 CJG; 7/24NC, peg

9/24 peg-updated