

ITINERARY

Holland: Birds & Art
Waterfowl Spectacle & Dutch Masters
November 26 – December 5, 2022



*We'll spend time in some of the Netherlands quintessential landscapes, surrounded by flocks of wintering waterfowl.
Photograph by guide Godfried Schreur.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2022 Field Guides Holland: Birds & Art tour:

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

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

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

Large numbers of wintering waterfowl and waders of many species, a fine sampling of northern European landbirds, and visits to several renowned museums discovering the art and cultural riches of this wonderful country are the goal of this new itinerary in our "Birds & Art" tour series. Furthermore, it will be interesting to see how the Dutch manage to avoid the lowlands from flooding and how they deal with nature in such a small and densely populated country.

Tour guide Godfried Schreur has blended the perfect mix of exciting birding with arts and culture into this new tour. We'll begin exploring birds and art in The Hague and surroundings where we will encounter the first flocks of Tufted Ducks, Eurasian Wigeons and Northern Lapwings while searching for species like Smew, Water Rail and Bearded Reedling. In the Mauritshuis, a fine museum with wonderful paintings in exposition, we will be thrilled standing eye to eye

with the “Girl with a Pearl Earring”, the masterpiece of Johannes Vermeer. Moving further south, we'll bird an immense wetland created by the deltas of the Rhine and Waal rivers, where we'll look for Eurasian Spoonbill, Common Shelduck, Dark-bellied Brant, European Shag, Red-throated Loon, European Golden Plover, Eurasian Bullfinch and Snowbunting, and check out the massive engineering works that keep the sea from invading these *nederlande* (the Netherlands, or low-lying lands). The next day we head north passing by the UNESCO World Heritage site of Kinderdijk with a marvelous concentration of old windmills. The surrounding area can be good for Lesser White-fronted Goose and Bearded Reedling. In the National Park of de Hoge Veluwe we explore a beautiful woodland and heathland for Eurasian Nuthatch, Eurasian Jay, tits (Crested, Coal, Marsh, Long-tailed) and finches (Brambling, Eurasian Bullfinch, Red Crossbill). We might even be lucky to find Tawny Owl, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker or the impressive Black Woodpecker. In the heart of the National Park we visit the Kroller Muller Museum which conserves a superb collection of paintings of Vincent van Gogh. We'll continue our trip birding at the famous nature reserve, the Oostvaardersplassen, the “new wilderness” where we have a good chance to see the majestic White-tailed Eagle. We will drive over a dike through the IJsselmeer, with chances on spotting Smew, Common and Red-breasted Merganser, towards the ferry to Texel. This marvelous island is the largest of the Wadden Islands and a magnet to birders from across Europe looking for the many different species present. It's often good for waders like Black-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, Pied Avocet and Ruff, and for passerines like Horned Lark, Redwing, Fieldfare, Eurasian Siskin, and sometimes even redpolls and crossbills. Back on the mainland, we visit the Afsluitdijk (yes, we'll teach you how to pronounce these and other Dutch names!) for waterbirds including, Whooper and Bewick's Swans. On the last day we visit the picturesque fisherman's village of Marken where we will try to see the Red-crested Pochard and the Greater Scaup amongst the thousands of ducks and coots. The last afternoon will be spend in Amsterdam where we'll have the chance to delve into the famous Rijksmuseum to be awed by the works of Rembrandt, including his expansive and famous canvas, *The Night Watch*, and other Dutch Masters. The finishing touch will be a farewell dinner in a nice restaurant.



The lovely Red-crested Pochard is a large diving duck that winters in the Netherlands. We'll look for them near Amsterdam at the Gouwee. This trio was seen on our 2019 tour. Photograph by guide Godfried Schreur

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which, for tours departing on or after March 1, 2022, includes a booster). Having a vaccinated group will greatly diminish but not eliminate the possibility of the group and individual participants being adversely affected by COVID-19. **We are requiring all of our staff guides to be vaccinated, including getting the booster.** Note too, that many travel destinations are or soon will be requiring proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may become a requirement for some travel destinations if they choose to declare that vaccinations do not last indefinitely. And having a booster means your risk is lowered and your travel plans and those of our group are less likely to be disrupted.

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Moderate amounts of rather easy walking (up to 2 miles per day), all on roads or broad trails, all on level ground with no obstacles.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We do spend a bit of time standing to watch birds on this tour.
- **PACE:** On most days, we will breakfast at about 7:30 a.m. and afterward head out to bird (reaching birding areas involves short travel times). Lunches will be at restaurants, afternoons spent enjoying Holland's museums.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will range from the high 20s at night to 40s or 50s F during the day. Rain showers are a possibility.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** Travel times are short on this tour, and we do relatively little birding from inside the vehicle; nevertheless, we request that participants rotate seating during the tour, so that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** We use modern indoor restrooms on this tour.
- **OPTING OUT:** Taking a day off during the tour is certainly possible on non-travel days (just let the guides know if you will be doing so).

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide for the tour.

About the Birding Areas



South-western Delta—In the southwest of the Netherlands the bigger rivers like the Rijn and the Waal finish their course just before reaching the North Sea. An immense and dynamic wetland is created by the interaction of the rivers and the sea featuring salt water, brackish and fresh water bodies, tidal areas, and sandbanks. It is also the area with the most impressive hydraulic engineering works of Europe. After the fatal floods of 1953, the Dutch authorities decided that all the sea arms of the provinces of Zuid-Holland and Zeeland should be closed by dikes and dams in order to protect the land and the people against the sea. This delta holds an important wintering population of all kinds of shorebirds like loons, alcids, ducks, geese, swans and waders.

de Hoge Veluwe National Park—This national park has several interesting habitats, including conifer and deciduous tree forests, heathlands and sand dunes. In addition to many bird species belonging to the Tits, Finches, Larks, Woodpeckers, Thrushes and

Corvids, we'll have the opportunity to see Red Deer, Wild Boar and Mouflon. In the heart of the National Park a fine art museum is found. The Kroller Muller Museum was established in the year 1938 and is dedicated to modern art. It owns an important collection of paintings of Vincent van Gogh and is also famous for the extensive sculpture garden. De Hoge Veluwe is a wonderful example of symbiosis between nature and art.

Wadden Sea and Texel Island—The Wadden Sea (Waddensee) is a vast intertidal zone that runs from the Netherlands north to the eastern coast of Denmark. It is an important area for breeding birds as well as for many migrants. Texel Island

is the largest of the Wadden Islands, and is a well-known birding site. Texel is on a migratory route for many waders and waterfowl species. The Wadden Sea is an important area for wintering birds like Brant (Dark-bellied), Common Eider, Common Shelduck, Eurasian Curlew, Black-bellied Plover and Eurasian Oystercatcher.

IJsselmeer and Afsluitdijk—The Afsluitdijk is one of the dikes built to protect some of the lowland areas from flooding. This dam cut off an arm of the North Sea, creating a large freshwater lake called IJsselmeer. The 20-mile long dam creates an interesting environment, with salt water on one side, and fresh on the other. Rough-legged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Whooper, Mute and Tundra Swan (Bewick's), Greater Scaup, Red-crested Pochard, Smew and large numbers of Eurasian Coot, Eurasian Wigeon, Gadwall, Common Pochard and Tufted Duck can be found here.

Flevoland – Oostvaardersplassen—Flevoland was once part of the Zuiderzee and the IJsselmeer, but a major reclamation project created a polder with a landscape of agricultural land and canals surrounded by lakes. Flevoland is therefore the youngest province of Holland. Polders are areas of dry-land created when water is held back by the famous dikes. These polders are used for agriculture, however, the lowest area of the Flevopolder, was left aside for later cultivation. During the few years of "set aside", a huge reedmarsh developed, attracting thousands of birds. Consequently, the area called the Oostvaardersplassen was declared nature reserve, and it is now one of the most famous protected natural areas of the Netherlands. Some years ago, a movie was made about nature, life and death in the Oostvaardersplassen. This movie, named the *New Wilderness*, was very successful in the Dutch cinemas. The Oostvaardersplassen and other areas of Flevoland can be good for White-tailed Eagle, Great Bittern, Pied Avocet, Common Shelduck, Willow Tit, Bearded Reedling, etc...



Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring"



"The Goldfinch", by Fabritius

*We'll visit several world-famous museums, where we'll view artworks by some of Holland's most well-known painters.
Photographs by guide Godfried Schreur.*

Itinerary for Holland: Birds & Art

Day 1, Sat, 26 Nov. Flights depart from the US.

Day 2, Sun, 27 Nov. Arrive in Amsterdam, birding and Mauritshuis. We will meet at **10:00AM at Starbucks in Arrivals 1 at the Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.** We will start driving south and make our first birding stop, getting familiar with the most common bird species like Great-Crested Grebe, Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Northern Lapwing and Common Buzzard. White Stork, Great Bittern and Water Rail are also possible. After lunch, we will visit the Mauritshuis in The Hague, the residential city of the government and the monarchs of the

Netherlands. The Mauritshuis is a small but very interesting museum next to the governmental buildings. It conserves a superb collection of Dutch Masters, with the outstanding painting of the *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Johannes Vermeer. The exhibition also includes paintings of Rembrandt van Rijn, Frans Hals, Jan Steen, Paulus Potter, and other Dutch painters. After the visit to the Mauritshuis we will drive to our first hotel. Night in Rockanje.

Day 3, Mon, 28 Nov. South-western Delta (Haringvliet+Brouwersdam). This morning we will visit the Haringvliet and the Brouwersdam in the southwestern delta which are usually very good for seabirds, waders, loons, grebes, and seals. We will probably see species like Purple Sandpiper, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Eared and Horned Grebe, Red-throated Loon, European Shag and Common Scoter. Besides, there is a small chance to find Long-tailed Duck, Black Guillemot, Common Loon, Snow Bunting, Twite, Dunnock or Rock Pipit. After lunch, we will continue our excursion through the Delta and visit some agricultural areas that attract great numbers of geese, ducks and waders. Here European Spoonbill, Short-eared Owl, Northern Goshawk, Tundra Bean Goose, Ruff and Common Kingfisher are also amongst the possibilities. Night in Rockanje.

Day 4, Tue, 29 Nov. Oude Land van Strijen, Kinderdijk. We leave our hotel in eastern direction towards an area, south of Rotterdam which usually holds a small winterpopulation of the rare Lesser White-fronted Goose. We will try to find them amongst thousands of Barnacles and Greater White-fronted Geese. Then we will visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Kinderdijk enjoying a walk through the typical dutch landscape with dozens of old, traditional windmills. Bearded Reedlings and Reed Buntings are sometimes feeding in the reedbeds along the canals. In the afternoon we will drive further north to our next hotel and make a birding stop on the way. Today we will also probably see Eurasian Kestrel, Rook, Eurasian Jackdaw, Great Tit and Eurasian Blue Tit. Night in Soestduinen.



Bearded Reedling, as the name suggests, is found in reed beds through much of Europe. We'll look for this attractive skulker when we visit Kinderdijk. Photograph by participant Joshua Horner.

Day 5, Wed, 30 Nov. Hoge Veluwe - Kroller Muller Museum. In the morning, we will drive to the National Park of de Hoge Veluwe, where we will make a birding walk through a beautiful woodland and heathland. Here we aim to see Crested, Coal, Marsh and Long-tailed Tits, Goldcrest, Firecrest, Eurasian Nuthatch, Short-toed Treecreeper, Mistle Thrush, Brambling, Red Crossbill, Northern Goshawk, Sparrowhawk and with a bit of luck the Tawny Owl. Eurasian Jay, Eurasian Wren and European Robin are common birds here. One of the most attractive birds that we might encounter is the Black Woodpecker but the Lesser and Middle-spotted Woodpecker are also possible. After lunch, we will visit the Hoge Veluwe - Kroller Muller Museum which houses the world's second largest collection of the paintings of Van Gogh. Although not belonging to the Dutch Masters of the Golden Age, van Gogh is considered one of the most outstanding painters from Holland. The post impressionist painter suffered from mental illness and poverty during his life, but after his death was considered a genius and recognized as a founder of modern art. We'll enjoy these masterpieces, plus works by Claude Monet, Georges Seurat, and Piet Mondrian. In addition to the painting collection, the museum has a wonderful sculpture garden. Night in Soestduinen.

Day 6, Thu, 1 Dec. Flevoland – Oostvaardersplassen - Texel. In the morning, we'll bird the area known as the Oostvaardersplassen, in the province of Flevoland. We will make an excursion to reed-beds, lakes, canals, arable and grazing land in the Oostvaardersplassen, visiting some of the best points for the observation of birds. White-tailed Eagle, Eurasian Great Egret, Great Bittern, Pied Avocet, Common Shelduck, Cetti's Warbler, Willow Tit and Bearded Reedlings are amongst the possibilities. We'll break for lunch, and in the afternoon we drive over a dike through the IJsselmeer to Den Helder where we will take a ferry over to Texel. During the drive we might encounter Red-breasted and Common Merganser, Greater Scaup, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Stock Dove, Redwing, Fieldfare, Rock Pipit or Snow Bunting. Night in Texel.



This immature White-tailed Eagle was one of three that were seen on our 2019 tour. We'll look for these massive predators in the Oostvaardersplassen. Photograph by guide Godfried Schreur.

Day 7, Fri, 2 Dec. Texel, Waddengebied. Texel is the largest Wadden-island and is becoming the birding island of the Netherlands. There are many different habitats, and the area is developed nicely for birders with numerous boardwalks, hides and visitor centres. The concentration of birders present on the island leads to the discovery of a lot of rarities, which attracts more birders, so updated information is crucial on Texel in order to find the best birds. Therefore, we will enjoy the services of an expert local guide who will help us find the places with the most interesting birds present. Amongst the target species on Texel there are geese like Tundra Bean Goose, (Dark-bellied) Brant, waders like Eurasian Curlew, Pied Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, and passerines like Eurasian Siskin, Goldcrest, Redwing, Fieldfare, Eurasian Skylark, Horned Lark and Snow Bunting. Night in Texel.

Day 8, Sat, 3 Dec. Texel - Afsluitdijk - IJsselmeer coast. We will still do some birding on Texel-island, visiting a modern bird observatory where we search for species that we might have missed the previous days. Then we take the ferry from the island to the mainland. During the short crossing we might be able to encounter rare gull species like Black-legged Kittiwake or Little Gull, and maybe seals. We will have lunch at the base of the Afsluitdijk which is the dike that separates the IJsselmeer, with fresh water, from the Waddenzee, with salt water. With the construction of the Afsluitdijk in 1933, the Zuiderzee (Southern Sea) was turned into the IJsselmeer (lake of the IJssel). That means that standing on the Afsluitdijk, there is a fresh water environment at the southern side and a saltwater habitat at the northern side. In winter, good numbers of the most sought-after species can be found along the dike like Whooper Swan, Common Eider, Red-breasted and Common Merganser, Smew and Common Goldeneye. Rough-legged Buzzard and Hooded Crow are also possible but certainly not guaranteed. However, there are heavy building works going on on the Afsluitdijk, adapting the dike to the rising sea level. So it is not sure if we are able to actually do some birding on the dike. If not we will stay around Den Oever which is an area where often vagrants and rarities turn up. Time allowing, we will make one more birding stop along the route to our next hotel. Night in Zaandam.

Day 9, Sun, 4 Dec. Birding at the Gouwzee, visit to Marken and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. Following breakfast, we will drive to the Gouwzee, which is a partially enclosed area of the IJsselmeer. In winter it holds a huge concentration of waterfowl. Here we have the best chance for the attractive Red-crested Pochard. We will have lunch in a nice restaurant in the old fishing village of Marken and afterwards we will head to Amsterdam. In the capital, we will visit the most renowned museum of Holland, which holds the best collection of Dutch Masters of the 17th century. The Rijksmuseum exhibits artwork of Rembrandt, Vermeer and Hals, but also from Van Gogh. The most famous painting is the *Nachtwacht*, or *The Night Watch*, an enormous masterpiece of Rembrandt van Rijn. We will have plenty of time exploring the masterpieces of this museum. As a finishing touch to this Birds & Art tour, we enjoy a farewell dinner in a fancy restaurant. Night in Zaandam.

Day 10, Mon, 5 Dec. Departure. Transfers to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport where you can catch your flights home. **Please schedule homebound flights at any time.**

Financial Information

FEE: \$5125 from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: June 19, 2022

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$550

LIMIT: 12

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

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

About Your Guides

Godfried Schreur developed his interest in wild birds and nature at an early age and became involved as a volunteer in several Dutch naturalist associations. In 1991, after completing his Bachelor of Science studies in Nature and Landscape Management at the Van Hall Larenstein Institute (Velp, Netherlands), Godfried moved to Spain's Extremadura region for a stint of volunteer work with the conservation NGO ADENEX. Since 1994, Extremadura has been his permanent base, and there he co-founded the company ECOTUREX with Ana Cordero. He was one of the first specialized birding guides in the region, an activity that he continues to practice with great pleasure.

Godfried is a friendly guide with extensive knowledge and wide-ranging experience. He finds great satisfaction in sharing that knowledge and the beauty of nature with participants. He knows the geography of Extremadura and other interesting areas in Spain very well; he has also traveled, birded, and guided widely throughout Europe and parts of Africa. He is fluent in Dutch, Spanish, and English. Godfried also has a deep interest in other fauna (the study of bats is another specialty), flora, and humanity's role in landscape, culture, and history. Additionally, Godfried remains active in environmental causes to promote sustainable development and nature conservation.

“Godfried Schreur added so much to this trip: it was a huge bonus to have someone so knowledgeable about local geography, history, food, and so forth...” A.D., Spain: La Mancha, Coto Doñana & Extremadura

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

A **second guide** will be added as tour size warrants.

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: Accommodations are comfortable throughout the trip, though rooms are cozy in typical European fashion. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms.

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid at least six months beyond the planned departure date is required for US citizens to enter the Netherlands. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Dutch 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 and you will need **two blank pages** for the entry stamp to the Netherlands. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp, so as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

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

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: When departing from the US to join this tour, an overnight flight will be necessary.

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 help with ticket prices and schedules, as well as 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 may charge additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify its policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$5125 for one person in double occupancy from Amsterdam. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 9, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 10, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping for hotel staff and restaurant staff 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 hotel staff for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to give an additional tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to or from Amsterdam, 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 \$550. 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 LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open.

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

Please mail your **deposit of \$500** per person, or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 160 days prior to departure, or **by June 19, 2022**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

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

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

CANCELLATION POLICY: FOR 2022 TOURS: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 160 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 159 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable. **FOR 2023 TOURS & BEYOND:** Note that beginning in 2023, the 50% refund period will become 179 to 90 days before departure, with no refund thereafter.

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

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

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. If you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will **require proof of travel insurance**. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 159 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

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

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

Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii. We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if

you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

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

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

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

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

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