

ITINERARY
ICELAND
June 9 – 18, 2023



The charming Atlantic Puffin is always a favorite bird on this tour. We'll be able to get close views of these endearing creatures when we visit the seabird nesting cliffs at Latrabjarg. Photograph by guide Eric Hynes.

We include here information for those interested in the 2023 Field Guides Iceland 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
- 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

Iceland is a place of great topographic beauty and has a tumultuous history to match its sublime geography—the violent, elegant sagas of the Vikings seem of a piece with the abundance of active volcanoes, great glaciers, and shining fjords. The island brims with birdlife. The fluting songs of Whimbrels mix with the mournful notes of European Golden-Plovers to provide unforgettable accompaniment to a landscape that was the last home of the Great Auk, a landscape that seems to have been built by giants. An abundance of picturesque landscapes, combined with remarkably cooperative breeding birds on territory, translates to fabulous photo opportunities. Check out our slideshow to see for yourself:

<https://fieldguides.smugmug.com/SHOWS/Europe-Africa/Iceland-2015/>

The towering seabird cliffs at Latrabjarg are breathtaking in scope and hold hundreds of thousands of alcids—Atlantic Puffins, Common and Thick-billed murres, Black Guillemots, and Razorbills hold court on the cliffs next to fulmars and kittiwakes, with a chance at Great Skuas and Parasitic Jaegers patrolling above. Remarkable numbers of waterfowl, of some sixteen species, nest on and around Myvatn, a lake unrivaled in Europe.

Between these nurseries of bird life, we'll look for about seventy nesting species, some Palearctic in distribution, such as White-tailed Eagle, Redwing, Meadow Pipit, White Wagtail, Common Redshank, European Golden-Plover, Pink-footed Goose, European Shag, and Common Ringed Plover, and others on the eastern limit of their Nearctic range: Common Loon, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Harlequin Duck. To see these birds with newly hatched young is a peerless experience.

The world's largest falcon, the Gyrfalcon, is Iceland's national bird and ghostly, light morph individuals are uncommon but widespread across the north. Iceland's endemics include subspecies of Black-tailed Godwit, Rock Ptarmigan, Common Raven, Common Redpoll, Redwing, Eurasian Wren, and Merlin, some of which show marked differences from continental forms.

Several aspects of our itinerary are important to point out, as no other bird tour of Iceland offers this combination of essential features. We will be traveling in a comfortable, 30-seater bus with a professional driver. We will have ample room to spread out, elevated seating for better views through huge windows, and your guide will be free to scan for birds instead of keeping his eyes glued to the shoulder-less roads. Spending the first night in downtown Reykjavik at an upscale hotel really aids in the physical transition to a new time zone after lengthy travel. It also puts us just a couple of blocks from critical birding areas in the city. The modern structures and cultural aspects of the capital city are not to be missed and will come into sharp contrast with the wild landscapes during the rest of the tour. Our brief in-country flight (cost included) is picturesque, a serious timesaver, and means we will not have to do any backtracking. We will enjoy another full birding day instead of being stuck in the bus retracing our route. The sublime beauty of the West Fjords region cannot be overstated, and the birding aspects are spectacular. The rugged and remote landscapes are awe-inspiring, and the seabird cliffs are astonishing. This region also provides some of our best opportunities to spot White-tailed Eagle and Gyrfalcon. We savor this portion of Iceland, while others barely touch the area or skip it all together. Finally, our last afternoon in country will feature the freshest seafood possible. During a short cruise, the crew will trawl for shellfish while getting up close and personal with nesting European Shags and Black-legged Kittiwakes.

The pace of the tour will allow us to savor more than just the fantastic birds. Don't be surprised if waterfalls, fjords, mountains, or a whale distracts us. For those arriving a day or more early, the capital abounds with shopping and cultural opportunities. Iceland is virtually pollution-free and has a friendly population, good cuisine, and modern infrastructure—high-latitude birding for those who like a little more comfort than is usually found within a stone's throw of the Arctic Circle.



*The spectacular White-tailed Sea-Eagle is another breeding bird that we have seen well in Iceland.
Photograph by guide Eric Hynes.*



A special aspect of our tour is the flight to Akureyri; this helps us avoid a great deal of driving, leaving more time for birding! Even when we are driving, though, we are very comfortable! Participants on other companies' tours look longingly at our comfortable bus as they squeeze into small vans. Photographs by guide Eric Hynes.

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:** Trails will vary, but are generally easy. Most birding will be done in short walks on level ground, with one or two longer walks on slightly uneven terrain. There is one trail to a waterfall (Detifoss) that ends with steep, wet steps to the primary viewpoint.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will be changing locations almost every night, so be prepared to unpack and repack your luggage daily. Some of our hotels will not have elevators, so anticipate that participants may have to climb up a flight or two of stairs. Please contact your tour manager with special requests for ground floor rooms and we will do our best to accommodate you.
- **PACE:** Most mornings will start fairly relaxed with breakfast, typically around 7:00am. Since we change locations daily, prepare to spend a fair amount of time traveling in our comfortable bus and getting in and out regularly. Many mornings and some evenings may include a pre-breakfast or post-dinner birding walk, but these outings will be optional.
- **WEATHER:** The weather in Iceland can be very variable, and while June is the “warm” period, we can expect temperatures between 45° to 65° F with potentially strong winds, rain, and fog. Because it can shift from warm and sunny to breezy and chilly quickly, please plan to dress in layers.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. 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 must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** As we are not staying in the same location each night, participants will not be able to opt to sit out for a day or half-day. Pre-breakfast and post-dinner outings are all optional.

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



About the Birding Areas

Reykjanes Peninsula and Reykjavik —On the Reykjanes Peninsula, nearer Keflavik, we can watch with spotting scopes for marine mammals, Northern Gannets, and our best chance to see Manx Shearwater and European Storm-Petrel will be here. Northern Fulmars, alcids of multiple species, Black-legged Kittiwakes and several other gull species will be flying by consistently. Expect to be overwhelmed when we immerse ourselves in an Arctic Tern colony numbering in the thousands. Shorebirds such as Eurasian Oystercatcher, Common Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit, European Golden-Plover and Common Snipe will be roadside attractions. The capital city, perched above the sapphire blue bay called the Faxaflói, can be a great place to bird in summer. Our birding here will concentrate on the lake in the city center known to locals as the “Tjörn,” which can have Whooper Swan, Tufted Duck, Greater Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Black-headed Gull, Eurasian Wigeon, and Arctic Tern. A stroll through the city cemetery should get us good looks at Redwing, Eurasian Blackbird, White Wagtail, Common Redpoll, and possibly Goldcrest.

Lake Myvatn – or “Midge Lake” in English, holds one of the world’s largest concentrations of breeding ducks, formerly as many as 30,000 breeding pairs, on a lake covering only 37 square kilometers. At 63° 35’ N, the lake is not far south of the Arctic Circle, and its environs hold a mix of low arctic and temperate flora and fauna. On the south and west sides, bogs and moors boast an abundance of alpine and arctic plants, whereas on the north and east sides, birches predominate. In 1974, the Parliament granted nature reserve status to 440,000 hectares around the lake, and this area is closed to entry until mid-summer: species such as Red-throated Loon, Harlequin Duck, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, Common Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Eurasian Wigeon, all with their young, should be present during our visit. It is not unusual to see a Gyrfalcon overhead here, or a *subaesalon* Merlin hunting Meadow Pipits in the moors on either side of the lake. The lake lies just west of the Reykanes Ridge, the meeting place of tectonic plates. The weather here is typically dry, as the lake lies in the rain shadow of the Vatnajökull.

Látrabjarg—At many seabird cliffs, you view (from below) a vast rock face covered with small specks. Látrabjarg is different: from hundreds of meters above the North Atlantic, you can look down on or across to the birds—Atlantic Puffin, Thick-billed and Common Murres, Razorbill, Northern Fulmar, and Black-legged Kittiwake, all engaged in nesting activities and easily studied and photographed. Along the shoreline, Glaucous Gulls make passes at Red-necked Phalaropes, and Harlequin Ducks and Common Eider bob in the surfline, near loafing Gray and Harbor seals. Purple Sandpipers may dot the coastline. The local weather, as in much of western Iceland, is usually overcast or foggy or drizzly, in part owing to the effect of the Gulf Stream, which brushes the island’s southwest.



*We'll be in Iceland during the breeding season for many birds, including Red-throated Loons.
Photograph by participant Doug Clarke.*

Itinerary for Iceland

If you plan to arrive prior to the start of the tour to visit Reykjavik, you will need to arrange your transfer into town. There are two options for easy and affordable services to Reykjavik – Flybus and Airport Direct. If you select an option that takes a large charter bus, you will need to change to a smaller bus just outside of town (large buses are not allowed in downtown Reykjavik). Airport Direct offers a ‘premium’ option that would eliminate the need to switch buses and will be able to directly drop you off at the bus stop nearest your hotel (for example, our first hotel will use **bus stop #3: Lækjargata**). It is recommended to make these arrangements ahead of your departure for Iceland.

Day 1, Fri, 9 Jun. Departure for Iceland. If you are flying from the US, you will leave today for Iceland, arriving at Keflavik, near Iceland's capital city of Reykjavik. You arrive either just before midnight or the next morning.

Day 2, Sat, 10 Jun. Arrival in Iceland, birding the Reykjanes Peninsula. Participants arriving the night before may prefer to stay at the hotel on the airport grounds. Most people will arrive in the morning bank of flights between 6 and 8 a.m. After collecting your baggage and clearing customs, you will need to make your way to our meeting point at the Airport Hotel Aurora Star. It is easy to find, since it is the only hotel on the airport grounds. To get there, exit the airport building on the side opposite from where you emerged from customs. The hotel has no shuttle, but it's just a short walk across the parking lot. At the hotel, you can dig your optics and field clothes out of your luggage. Our hotel in Reykjavik will not have our rooms available until the afternoon, so we will get directly to the birding. Primary birding sites on the Reykjanes Peninsula will be Gardur lighthouse and Sandgerdi. Sea watching from the lighthouse will give us our best chance to add European Storm-Petrel, Northern Gannet, and Manx Shearwater to the tour tally. Other species winging by will be a good mix of alcids, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Parasitic Jaeger. We may spot a cetacean or two as well. The ponds and shoreline of Sandgerdi host a large Arctic Tern colony, and Common Redshanks, Black-tailed Godwits, and European Golden-Plovers will decorate the landscape. After a strong start to our birding adventure and lunch, we will drive (less than an hour) to Reykjavik to check into our hotel. There should be some down time in the afternoon to take in a museum or just put your feet up after all the travel. Night in Reykjavik.

Day 3, Sun, 11 Jun. Reykjavik birding; flight to Akureyri; transfer to Myvatn. We will walk directly from our hotel for a few hours this morning. Just around the corner is the Tjörn-pond, which attracts an assortment of ducks, Black-headed Gulls and Arctic Tern. A few blocks away is the forested city cemetery, a rare habitat in Iceland. This enchanting graveyard holds Eurasian Blackbirds, Redwings, White Wagtails, and possibly Goldcrest and Redpoll. After checking out

of our hotel, we will catch a mid-morning flight from the domestic airstrip in Reykjavik to Akureyri, in the northeastern quarter of the island. Our hotel is about 90-minutes' drive to the east of Akureyri. However, we won't head there directly. First, we'll visit the city's botanical garden (for lunch and another chance for Goldcrest), then we'll wind our way towards Myvatn with a stop at Godafoss ("Waterfall of the Gods") en route. We might see the first Harlequin Ducks close to Godafoss. Night near Lake Myvatn.

Day 4, Mon, 12 Jun. Lake Myvatn to Dettifoss. This morning will be dedicated to birding this waterfowl-rich area. Species we will target include: Tufted Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Red-throated Loon, and Horned Grebe. The concentration of waterbirds is the principal reason for visiting; furthermore, this area is our best chance to catch up to Gyrfalcon. The rare Merlin and Short-eared Owl patrol the region as well. Red-necked Phalaropes are common here, and we will watch for Eurasian Wren and Meadow Pipit too. We'll search for Great Skua along the coast northeast of Husavik. Later in the afternoon, we'll find ourselves marveling at Europe's most powerful waterfall: Dettifoss. Iceland's volcanic origin is on full display in this region. Night near Lake Myvatn.



Iceland has relatively few passerine breeders; one that is common throughout our tour is the Redwing. These lovely thrushes are seen across the island. Photograph by participant Doug Clarke.

Day 5, Tue, 13 Jun. Myvatn; transfer to Hvammstangi. After trying to clean up any targets we may have missed at Lake Myvatn on day 4, we'll work our way back to Akureyri, where we'll visit a woodland just before lunch; Eurasian Wren will be a target here. Our afternoon will be spent traveling west along the Ring Road, keeping a sharp eye out for Pink-footed Geese and Common Mergansers as we go. Night near Hvammstangi.

Day 6, Wed, 14 Jun. West Fjords to Breidavik. The spectacular West Fjords, in the northwest corner of the country, are remote, rugged, and rarely visited. We'll spend our day picking our way along the serpentine coast of this dramatic peninsula. Numerous fjords will hold Purple Sandpipers, Whooper Swans, Black Guillemot, possibly Gyrfalcon or a lingering King Eider, and one of our best chances at White-tailed Eagle. Night in the West Fjords.

Day 7, Thu, 15 Jun. Latrabjarg seabird cliffs. The seabird cliffs at the westernmost point in Europe are truly a sight to behold. We will spend the morning soaking in the spectacle of thousands of alcids in all directions. Atlantic Puffins will be underfoot, Razorbills will be just beyond reach, and Common Murres will crowd ledges like sardines in a can. The cacophony of kittiwakes is stirring, while Northern Fulmars show off their soaring prowess. Our afternoon may be spent exploring the highlands. Night in the West Fjords.

Day 8, Fri, 16 Jun. Westfjords to Snaefellsnes Peninsula. We will bird near our hotel, then catch the midday Baldur Ferry across Breidafjörður Bay to Stykkishólmur. From the ferry, we will see Atlantic Puffins and Northern Fulmars by the thousands, and remain vigilant for possible Great Skua, Red Phalarope, European Shag, and White-tailed Eagle. Night on the Snaefellsnes Peninsula.

Day 9, Sat, 17 Jun. The Snaefellsnes Peninsula and Breidafjörður Bay cruise. We will circumnavigate the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, starting along the southern shore and working our way into the National Park at the peninsula's end. The peninsula is dotted with a myriad of small lakes that hold a host of ducks, loons, and grebes, and Parasitic Jaegers by the score should enliven our route. We will continue on toward Olafsvík and Rif, often good spots for shorebirds and gulls. The whole peninsula is lightly birded, and we might turn up something new for our list out this way, such as an Iceland Gull or a Killer Whale. Our afternoon will be spent taking a bay cruise, where we will get close looks at nesting European Shags and Black-legged Kittiwakes, and hope for a White-tailed Eagle. The crew will trawl for the freshest seafood appetizers you can imagine. Night in Stykkishólmur.

Day 10, Sun, 18 Jun. Return to Reykjavík. Today, we will drive back towards the capital, checking a river valley near Borgarnes to look for nesting Common Shelducks. If time allows, we might return to the coast near the airport for another seawatch. We will be back at the airport no later than 2:30 p.m. Return flights from Keflavik depart in the early evening.

Those wanting to spend another few days in Iceland, taking in the multitude of outstanding restaurants, museums, cultural attractions, and shopping opportunities, are encouraged to do so—a week will seem like too brief a stay in this lovely part of the world.

About Your Guide

Eric Hynes has been fascinated by birds and passionate about birding since he first heard the ghostly wailing of a Common Loon at summer camp in Maine more than 30 years ago. Upon completion of his B.S. at the University of Vermont, where he studied environmental studies and wildlife biology, Eric began a serious endeavor as a bird hobo that lasted more than a decade. His travels ranged across the U.S. with a number of trips to Central America as well. During this quest, Eric did everything from monitoring breeding raptors in the Snake River Canyon, to guiding for two summers in Alaska on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs, to ground squirrel rustling in Montana, to owl banding and hawk counting in Pennsylvania.

Getting married to Christine helped settle Eric into a fulltime position at Maine Audubon but not until after a birding trip to Panama cleverly disguised as their honeymoon. As the staff naturalist and adult education coordinator, Eric taught numerous bird identification workshops and led field trips locally and abroad for Maine Audubon. His positive energy and infectious enthusiasm for all things wild has drawn many a convert to birding and conservation. Eric served several terms on the Maine Bird Records Committee.

“Eric Hynes is the ultimate professional—he’s well organized, disciplined about budgeting time, makes good decisions for the benefit of the group, and is very clear about what he wants to accomplish each day. He’s also excellent in the field and fun to be with. Couldn’t be better.”
D.R., Puerto Rico

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

Financial Information

FEE: \$6150 from Reykjavík

DEPOSIT: \$625 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: December 11, 2022

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1325

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.

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: We will stay in comfortable accommodations in all areas throughout the tour.

DOCUMENTS: For US citizens, a passport valid for three months beyond your departure date is required for entry into Iceland. No visa is required.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Icelandic consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Field Guides is a full-service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$6150 for one person in double occupancy from Reykjavík. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 9, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through lunch on Day 10, the flights within Iceland, all ground transportation, boat trips, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Iceland, airport taxes, visa fees, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature. 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 **single supplement** for the tour is \$1325. 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. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, the guide in training will be taking a seat in the van or bus. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please [contact 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 \$625** 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 December 11, 2022**. **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 are 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.

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

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

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

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

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

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. 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 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 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.

MEC – 8/2022
Peg 10/22