

ITINERARY

***Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests***

*July 30 – August 12, 2023*



*We'll be watching for ant-swarms, where we'll hope to find the spectacular White-plumed Antbird and other ant-followers.  
Photograph by guide Micah Riegner.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2023 Field Guides Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests tour:*

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

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

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings
- 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 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

**F**rom its headwaters on the slopes of the towering Andes, the mighty Amazon River courses nearly 4000 miles through equatorial South America. At any one time, the Amazon--with its 1100 tributaries--contains two-thirds of Earth's fresh water. Its vast basin covers two-and-a-half million square miles and contains nearly 50% of the world's remaining rainforest. Among the countless riches of Amazonia is a bird life without equal, both in overall number of species and in number of species coexisting at any particular site. But even more impressive than sheer numbers is the fantastic diversity of form and function -- from screamers and guans, toucans, trogons, and barbets to hummingbirds,

woodcreepers, antbirds, manakins, and seed-finches, each species is a part of the complex web of organisms and habitats that constitutes Amazonia

This tour provides an unparalleled immersion in the most species-rich sector of the entire Amazon basin. The birding will be lively and educational every day, and into many a night, so come well-rested and ready for the big, bad, breathtakingly beautiful, and always awesome Amazon. We'll start with the white-sand forests of Allpahuayo-Mishana, from which Peruvian ornithologist Pepe Alvarez and Bret described four species new to science 1998-2005—let's find them all on the tour, along with maybe Rufous and White-winged potoos!—then boat down the Amazon itself to three rainforest lodges with excellent trail systems that give us access to várzea (seasonally flooded) forests, extensive terra firme (upland) forests of several types, fabulous canopy access via a long walkway linking emergent tree towers, and also bird-rich islands in the Amazon and lower Napo rivers. The list of possibilities at the many venues we'll bird is crazy, but here's a plateful of mouth-watering starters (not even including the white-sand specialties): Black-faced Hawk, Black-banded Crake, Long-tailed Potoo, White-chested Puffbird, Lanceolated Monklet (if you like puffbirds, get ready for fireworks), Pavonine Quetzal, Fiery Topaz, muchos woodpeckers, Black-necked Red-Cotinga, Plum-throated and Purple-breasted cotingas, Wire-tailed Manakin, Fulvous and Pearly Antshrikes, Hairy-crested and White-plumed antbirds, Reddish-winged Bare-eye, Black Bushbird, Chestnut-belted Gnateater (if you like ant-things, you're playing the mega-jackpot), Pale-billed Hornero, Orange-fronted Plushcrown, Black-and-white Tody-Tyrant, Orange-eyed Flycatcher, Varzea Thrush, and a host of flashy tanagers. And then there is the grail bird of the tour (or of a lifetime): Nocturnal Curassow. Odds are stacked against us, but we have an outstanding record of success.

During our two weeks of birding, we'll make a special effort to see both rare and common birds **well** (and many of them more than once) and to observe how each habitat is partitioned by its particular bird community. Save your spaces early—Bret and Micah will take just 10 adventurous souls for this trip!



*The Chestnut-capped Puffbird is one of many puffbird species possible on this tour. We've seen as many as 10 species on previous tours! Photograph by participant Paul Beerman.*

**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 includes a booster for those eligible to have one).** Note too, that many travel destinations may still require 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 be a requirement for some travel destinations.

*We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the level of difficulty, please contact us to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a*

wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better-fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

### About the Physical Requirements & Pace:

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Trails on this tour are mostly level, but there is one trail that has a steep initial section. We'll be on our feet much of the day, traveling about 2-3 miles on many days.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We'll spend time standing and waiting for birds to come in; this can be tiring. We'll make longer river transfers in comfortable, stable speed-launches, and use smaller boats to access several river islands; you will need to be able to get in and out of these boats. We will want to ascend the ACTS canopy walkway at least a couple of times, which entails going up a series of wooden steps with railings to reach the rope-net walkway that connects one tree to the next. We will not be rushing along any of these canopy walkway sections, but you should be prepared for some swaying motion as you walk the traverses between platforms around the several canopy trees. These rope-net traverses have hand-rails to help steady your passage from one tall tree to the next.
- **PACE:** Please see "Additional Information", below.
- **ELEVATION:** Elevations are low on this tour.
- **WEATHER:** Climate in Amazonia is warm and humid; mid-day highs can reach the 90's F in the sun. Evenings and early mornings will be cooler, and you might feel chilly on early morning boat rides. Rain is a possibility at any time.
- **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:** There are no indoor restrooms on most of our excursions, so participants must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a half-day or sometimes a full day.



*The canopy walkway at ACTS allows us to get up where the birds are for amazing views. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*

**Additional information:** On every day of the tour, we will be up quite early, having breakfast before dawn and getting into the field around first light. Lunch will be at the hotel or lodge almost every day, followed by some optional rest time before hitting the rivers and trails again in the afternoon. At the forest lodges, there are great birding trails right out the door that you can explore during this post-lunch break if you'd like to do that instead of rest.

We will do a lot of walking on forest trails on almost every day. Trail walks are generally easy, and almost all are essentially level. One is steep for the first half, but not unduly challenging for anyone in reasonably good shape. On the days we bird the Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve, we'll have a cooler with cold drinks on the bus. Dinners will always be back at the hotel/lodge.

We'll be in a "regular," comfortable hotel for the city (Lima and Iquitos) days of the tour (AC in the rooms, hot water). The forest lodges are also remarkably comfortable, with several natural-temperature showers and latrine-style baths at the end of elevated, communal walkways, and nowadays they even have internet! They're rustic but pleasing lodges, and the buffet-style meals are always delicious.

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

## About the Birding Areas



**Amazonia**—During our stay in the Peruvian Amazon, we will enter several very different Amazonian habitats on foot or by boat, and we will even explore the rainforest treetops via a unique canopy walkway that runs between several emergent trees. This sturdy and easily accessible walkway currently reaches a height of 35 meters (115 feet) and was planned by botanists and vertebrate biologists to allow one to walk between fruiting and flowering trees particularly attractive to wildlife.

The rivers have shaped this world, and riverine habitats represent successional stages from open sandbars to mature *várzea* forest and *cochas* (oxbow lakes). The rivers are dotted with long, thin islands, some almost bare, others supporting trees up to 150 feet tall. Studies over the past several decades have revealed that Amazonian River islands are inhabited by a highly endemic avifauna, effectively isolated from the mainland by the river (even narrow channels). The islands near our lodges are among the richest in all of Amazonia, and we will bird several in search of these island specialties (more than a dozen species, including Castelnau's Antshrike, Black-and-white and Ash-breasted antbirds, and Bay Hornero) and a number of other birds that are scarce on the mainland.

## Itinerary for Iquitos, Peru: Canopy Walkways & Ancient Forests

**Day 1, Sun, 30 Jul. Miami to Lima. Arrival in Lima.** Flights to Lima typically depart from the US late afternoon or evening and arrive into Lima from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. In fact, **you might even want to come in a day early because the flight to Iquitos leaves early the next morning**, and you don't want to miss that! Be sure our office knows your arrival plans. You will get your passport stamped at Immigration, claim your luggage, and proceed through Customs. You can exit the baggage area and make your own way to the Wyndham Costa del Sol Hotel within the airport complex (Ask any porter or airport information assistant for directions). You can push your luggage cart right across the street to the hotel check-in desk on the street floor. As you check into the hotel, please submit your passport for copying (a requirement of most hotels in Peru) and a welcome letter from your guide will either be waiting for you at the check-in counter or under the door of your room with details about plans for tomorrow's departure. Night in Lima at the Wyndham Costa del Sol.

**Day 2, Mon, 31 Jul. Connection to Iquitos, Peru.** After an early, light breakfast we'll leave our hotel to check in for our flight to Iquitos, departing around 9:30 a.m. On a clear day this is a truly spectacular flight, traversing the Andes then descending over miles and miles of unbroken rainforest on the east slope to the lowlands of Amazonia. Upon arrival in Iquitos, we'll be met by our local operator, and we'll then check in at our comfortable hotel in town. After lunch, we'll get in

some late-afternoon birding near town. It will be interesting to see whether the huge roost of wintering Southern Martins that has traditionally gathered each evening on the towers above our hotel is present this year. Night in Iquitos.

**Day 3, Tue, 1 Aug. Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve.** Iquitos is an old town and has been visited by ornithological collectors regularly for more than 100 years. The mosaic of forest types in this region is, however, among the most complex in all of Amazonia. Some of the rarest habitat types, which also happen to be some of the most distinctive ones, were bypassed or simply not recognized until just the last 25 or so years. Important recent integration of paleogeological studies with modern aerial photography and satellite imagery has revealed a mosaic of patchily distributed habitats, and subtle differences among more widespread types, far more complex than previously imagined. Other studies have documented much new information concerning the history of Andean uplift and the dynamics of river formation, channel migration, and distribution of soil types just east of the Andes. All of this has paved the way for more focused investigation of the unsurpassed biodiversity of western Amazonia, especially of the northern Peruvian Amazon. Renewed botanical and ornithological exploration are at the forefront of all disciplines.

In terms of birds, Iquitos is center-stage in this chapter of exciting discovery. Just past the edge of town, in the recently created Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve, the Ancient Antwren, described new to science in 1998, the Mishana Tyrannulet, described in 2001, the Allpahuayo Antbird, described in September 2001, and the Iquitos Gnatcatcher, described in June 2005, are present in small numbers in white-sand forest habitats. Two days at the start of the tour (and perhaps another day at the end of the trip) will give us ample time to visit this very special habitat and search for some incredible birds. Night in Iquitos.



*The Mishana Tyrannulet is a small flycatcher found in only a few locations in Peru. We'll watch for them when we visit the Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve near Iquitos. Photograph by guide Richard Webster.*

**Day 4, Wed, 2 Aug. Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve.** Our second full day in Iquitos will see us up and away from the hotel well before first light, in search of the rare White-winged Potoo, known in Peru only from one trail in the Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve (we've had *five* species of potoos on this trail!). Rufous Potoo is another very rare possibility. After 'potooing', we'll be in place as the sun comes up and the dawn chorus reveals the presence of some of the special (diurnal!) species we may still seek, all poorly known anywhere in Peru, such as Brown-banded Puffbird, Pearly Antshrike, Yellow-throated Flycatcher, Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, Citron-bellied Attila, Pompadour Cotinga, and the recently split Zimmer's Antbird. Night in Iquitos.

**Day 5, Thu, 3 Aug. To Explorama Lodge.** This morning we will boat downriver, down the Amazon itself, about two hours to Explorama Lodge. En route, we plan to stop at a recently exposed and vegetated river island to look for Pied Lapwings, Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Lesser Hornero, Parker's Spinetail, Riverside Tyrant, Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, and others. Explorama Lodge is situated on Yanamono Creek, just in from the big river. It features private (but thin-walled), twin-

bedded rooms with mosquito nets over the beds. Showers (men's and women's) are numerous and close to the rooms down elevated walkways. There is no electricity, but the staff lights lots of kerosene lamps each evening, which provide a quiet glow that harmonizes perfectly with the rainforest surroundings. We'll have the afternoon here to explore a productive *varzea* trail where we may encounter the recently (2011) described Varzea Thrush (*Turdus sanchezorum*). Night at Explorama Lodge.



Parker's Spinetail is found in the lowlands along the Amazon river and its tributaries from the Rio Negro west into Peru.  
Photograph by guide Micah Riegner.

**Day 6, Fri, 4 Aug. To A.C.T.S. and ExplorNapó.** We'll visit a birdy river island in the Amazon this morning before continuing down the Amazon, impressively large even this far up, then up the Río Napó to a forest preserve that includes ExplorNapó Lodge and A.C.T.S. (Amazonian Conservatory of Tropical Studies), our bases for the next six nights!

Depending upon local water levels today, we'll either have lunch at ExplorNapó or at A.C.T.S. The confluence of the Amazon and the Napó is a dramatic spot and a good place to watch for both species of rarely seen river dolphins. During all of our boat trips we'll also look for soaring vultures and raptors (King Vulture, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, and Black-collared Hawk, among others), aquatic species such as Large-billed and Yellow-billed terns, and the handsome Oriole Blackbird, which favors the cane and grasses along the river margins. We'll probably have time this afternoon to bird a good trail near the A.C.T.S. lodge. Night at A.C.T.S.

**Days 7-11, Sat-Wed, 5-9 Aug. The A.C.T.S. Lodge** is located in the 250,000-acre Amazon Biosphere Reserve a short distance behind ExplorNapó Lodge. The main lodge has twenty private rooms (shared showers and latrine-style baths down an elevated walkway) and sits on a slope overlooking a small jungle stream. The large dining hall is distractingly close to the forest edge. One of the truly wonderful aspects of a stay here is the chance to get into the canopy, not just once, but two or three times: the canopy walkway is just a fifteen-minute walk from the A.C.T.S. lodge. With patience we should have good views of many species that *never* test the close-focus capabilities of binoculars from the forest floor, but which occasionally pass fearlessly, at eye level, through the treetops through which the walkway meanders. But the walkway will constitute but one element of our birding. Trails radiating in several directions provide a green world in which to seek the *terra firme* avifauna. More than 500 species have been recorded around A.C.T.S. and the ExplorNapó Lodge, which will seem hard to believe at times when not a single bird is to be heard for an hour. But you knew that. The varied forest habitats offer not only incredible diversity (its puffbird list is the best for any site known, with such seldom-seen species as Chestnut-capped, Spotted, Collared, and White-chested puffbirds, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, and, oh yes, Lanceolated Monklet), but a long list of specialties and some outstanding behavioral spectacles.

The comfortable ExplorNapó Lodge (much like A.C.T.S.) is situated on a small tributary of the Napó at the edge of upland (*terra firme* or *altura*) and seasonally flooded (*várzea* or *bajo*) forest habitats and provides easy access to some river islands. Several fine forest trails radiate out from ExplorNapó, and the clearing itself is a productive birding area, especially in late afternoon when mixed-species flocks often visit the forest edge. Just a few minutes' walk from A.C.T.S.

or the Lodge is a lek of the little-known Black-necked Red-Cotinga. On some days, about a dozen spectacular males call loudly from the forest sub-canopy, competing for the attention of females. Individual males occasionally perform a rapid, twisting courtship flight with a weird whirring sound produced by specially modified wing feathers. Females visit the lek for mating. With patience, we will enjoy viewing this rare cotinga and perhaps its fascinating courtship behavior. The forest here is home to several other lekking species as well, including Golden-headed and Wire-tailed manakins. The latter inhabits *várzea* forest where males perform from low perches, while the Golden-headed prefers *terra firme* forest where males display from branches twenty to thirty feet above ground.

At any time in these forests, we could encounter a raiding swarm of army ants. With luck we'll locate one or more swarms attended by some of these fascinating army ant followers: White-plumed, Hairy-crested, Bicolored, and Common Scale-backed antbirds; Black-spotted and Reddish-winged bare-eyes; and Plain-brown, White-chinned, and Black-banded woodcreepers. Even the spectacular Red-billed Ground-Cuckoo is possible – or, better to say, “not impossible”. A couple of miles away by river is a trail through old *várzea* forest where we'll seek the many species characteristic of this habitat. One very special creature that sometimes may be found at the forest edge is the tiny Pygmy Marmoset, the smallest primate in the New World.

Nocturnal birds we'll seek include Nocturnal Curassow (we'll try for it late at night), Crested and Spectacled owls, Tropical and Tawny-bellied screech-owls, Short-tailed Nighthawk, and Great, Long-tailed, and Common potoos.

**We urge you to bring rubber boots to wear routinely, or at least good Gore-tex® hiking boots. Even in the dry season, *várzea* forest and river islands will probably be awfully muddy.** Nights at A.C.T.S. and ExplorNapó.



*We'll make at least one night expedition in search of Nocturnal Curassow and various owls and potoos.  
Photograph by guide Micah Riegner.*

**Day 12, Thu, 10 Aug. ExplorNapó to Iquitos.** After a final morning in the ExplorNapó area, we'll boat back to Iquitos. And then hit the Pisco Sours! Night in Iquitos.

**Day 13, Fri, 11 Aug. Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve; later afternoon flight from Iquitos to Lima.** We have one final day to bird the Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve. We'll undoubtedly have a few things to look for today despite our two days there at the start of the trip. After a sack lunch in the field, we'll fly back to Lima, where we'll check into our rooms and have dinner at the Wyndham Costa del Sol. Most folks will probably have international flights that depart late this evening (10 p.m. or later) and arrive in the US tomorrow morning. Night in Lima or on an airplane homeward bound...

**Day 14, Sat, 12 Aug. Arrival home.** Que les vayan bien!

## About Your Guides

**Bret Whitney** grew up birding in the Midwest, mostly in Indiana, where he graduated from Earlham College. He is well-known for his ability to identify birds by their calls and songs, which has led to his discovery of multiple species new to science in South America and Madagascar. Bret is one of the founders of Field Guides, a Research Associate of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University, and an Associate of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell. Among both birders and professional ornithologists, Bret is highly respected for his expertise on, especially, Amazonian and Brazilian birds. He has led many tours to Iquitos over the years and, with colleague Pepe Alvarez, Bret described four species of birds new to science from white-sand forests near town between 1998 and 2005. When not on tour, Bret loves being in Austin where he is close to the Field Guides office and can pester the gals with silly stories from the Amazon over icy cold *margaritas*. When on tour in Peru, he enjoys pestering tour participants with equal enthusiasm over delicious Pisco Sours.

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

**Micah Riegner** grew up exploring the Central Arizona Highlands and was fortunate to have parents who took him along on college field courses ranging from the coast of Mexico to the mountains of Costa Rica, where encounters with tinamous, barbets, and jacamars launched him into the birding world at a young age. During his time at Prescott College, he made annual pilgrimages to Amazonia, where he worked as a guide and participated in expeditions, mostly in Brazil. For his master's he studied the foraging ecology of Amazonian woodcreepers. When he's not in the field, he tries to make time to paint birds and other creatures that spark his interest.

*“Micah is a great addition to the FG team - he was kind, attentive, fun, shared lots of his deep knowledge about Amazonia, and is an exceptionally sharp birder that gets folks on the bird quickly. And I loved that he shared his artwork with us.” M.C.; Succinct Suriname*

Micah guided tours with Bret Whitney, John Coons, Dan Lane, and Tom Johnson before joining Field Guides full time in 2019. Micah is a generous guide with an easy laugh and is eager to share his love of birds and nature in the years to come. We know you will have a great time traveling with him, too!

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

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$6575 from Lima

**DEPOSIT:** \$650 per person

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** January 31, 2023

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$800

**LIMIT:** 12

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour 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 her!

**DOCUMENTS:** A current **passport** valid beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Peru. US citizens do **not** need a tourist visa from the Peruvian Consulate to visit Peru. If you have a passport issued by a country other than the US, please contact the nearest Peruvian consulate to determine which documents are required for you.

**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 **\$6575** for one person in double occupancy from Lima. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 13, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 13, the flights Lima/Lima, all ground transportation, 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 Peru, airport taxes, visa fees, 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 **\$800**. 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/](https://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 \$650** 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 January 31, 2023**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

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

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

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

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

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health

costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3/22 BW; 5/22 NC, peg; 1/23NC; 2/23 peg