

ITINERARY  
**JAGUAR SPOTTING**  
***Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon***

*I. July 6 - 17, 2024*  
*II. July 20 - 31, 2024*



*We have had wonderful luck finding Jaguars, and having extraordinary views of them. While we're searching for these elusive big cats, we'll also see some amazing birds, such as Jabirus, Hyacinth Macaws, and Sungrebes.*  
*Photograph by participant Nancy Buck.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Field Guides Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon 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 Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

Everyone who has spent some time in remote corners of South America has dreamed of seeing a Jaguar in the wild. But the very reason we dream of seeing this magnificent animal is what makes it so special to spot one. Jaguars are rare, secretive, and mostly nocturnal; they have been hunted for hundreds of years by farmers and poachers, and thus the chances of actually coming across one are very low. However, in recent years as we've managed to venture further into the Pantanal, and as the human pressure has significantly decreased in certain areas, we've had more frequent encounters with this great cat, and we finally feel that we can put together a tour that offers a good chance of seeing Jaguar.



*In the Pantanal, we'll see large waders like this Maguari Stork, plus Jabiru, Roseate Spoonbill and many others.  
Photograph by participant Herb Fechter.*

Our tour will begin north of the Pantanal at Garden of the Amazon, a delightful little family-run lodge that sits at the ecotone between the Cerrado and Amazon. There we'll search for the ultra-rare and only recently rediscovered Cone-billed Tanager (yes, we have its address!) as well as a great variety of Amazonian specialties such as Gould's Toucanet, Black-girdled Barbet, Blue-cheeked Jacamar, Tooth-billed Wren, six species of manakins, and much more! We will reach the Pantanal just as water levels are receding and hundreds of Jabirus, Wood Storks, Limpkins, Roseate Spoonbills and thousands of other waders, Paraguayan Caiman ('gators), and Capybaras congregate around the shrinking ponds—and the few remaining bodies of water become popular hangouts for Jaguars stalking their prey. We will keep our eyes peeled for these massive cats on quiet, relaxing boat trips packed with kingfishers, curassows, Agami Herons, Sungrebes, and Sunbitterns, and we'll take walks through the forest to see everything from Hyacinth Macaws to woodcreepers, antbirds, and spintails. On drives along the Transpantaneira park road, which we will cover from beginning to end, we'll have the birding time of our lives as we immerse ourselves in one of the richest places for wildlife on Earth.

*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 for this tour**

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Trails are mostly level, but we may walk up to 4 miles in a day.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We'll spend time standing and waiting for birds to come in; this can be tiring, especially in the heat and humidity of the Pantanal. During searches for Jaguar, which we will undertake on three days, we'll be in small open boats for much of the day, with little chance for rest stops. You will need to be able to get in and out of the boats. There will be several fairly long drives on the tour (4.5 hours or more).
- **PACE:** We will start before dawn so that we can miss the heat of the day. Some evenings we will have optional night-birding sessions after dinner. We'll be changing locations several times during the tour.
- **ELEVATION:** Elevations are low on this tour.
- **WEATHER:** The Pantanal is generally warm and dry during our tour, with high temps in the low 90s F during the day. Garden of the Amazon is a little cooler, with highs in the 70-80 F range. Evenings will be cooler. There is the

possibility of austral cold fronts which may drop the temps into the 40s F, with rain and wind. Rain is always a possibility.

- **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. Note that on our Jaguar searches, we will have few opportunities for rest stops.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

If you 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.

## About the Birding Areas



**Garden of the Amazon**—This small, family-run lodge features eight comfortable individual rooms with modern, private bathrooms and ceiling fans as well as a spring where we can swim and relax after a long morning walk. Meals are prepared by the owner—and trust me on this one, the food will be memorable! The rooms are right at the forest edge, allowing for leisure time, birding, or photography.

The lodge is 14 kilometers south of the small town of Sao Jose do Rio Claro, and it sits in the ecotone between the *cerrado* and the Amazon, an area that has suffered pressure from the agricultural expansion that has taken place in Mato Grosso. The reserve has a long birdlist—we are surprised each time we visit by new species, including the recently described Cryptic Forest-Falcon, Flammulated Pygmy-Tyrant (a considerable range extension for this tiny flycatcher), Black Manakin, and Pink-throated Becard.

**The Pantanal**—The Pantanal biome embraces the low-lying region of Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, adjacent Bolivia, and northern Paraguay within the basin of the Rio Paraguai, a south-flowing river of little gradient, which crosses Paraguay, joins the Paraná, and empties eastward at Buenos Aires. Its climate parallels that of the *cerrado*, with a pronounced dry season from April to October. However, much of the region is seasonally inundated or otherwise saturated during the rainy season due to poor drainage. The Pantanal supports a range of habitat types varying from semideciduous and evergreen forests on well-drained, fertile soils, to *cerrado*/savanna on nutrient-poor soils; from tree-palm woodlands on moist soil to permanent marsh and true *pantanal*, i.e., flat, seasonally flooded grassland with scattered clumps of *cerrado* scrub on slightly elevated soil platforms whose surfaces generally do not become inundated. It is the shrinking of vast marshes and pantanal during the dry season that creates the spectacular concentrations of wildlife for which the area is famous.

Water-associated species can be found in amazing abundance here, from Jacare (Paraguayan) Caiman and Capybara to Snail Kite, Black-collared and Savanna hawks, Southern Screamer, Limpkin, and herons, egrets, spoonbills, storks (three species), ibises (five species including Plumbeous), and kingfishers (five species). Jabirus are nesting in July, but it's also prime time for such scarce austral migrants as Subtropical Doradito, White-naped Xenopsaris, and Tawny-bellied Seed eater. Add to these the fabulous Hyacinth Macaws and an array of interesting land birds (such as Chaco Chachalaca, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Blue-throated Piping-Guan, Bare-faced Curassow, Long-tailed Ground-Dove, Golden-collared Macaw, Monk, Nanday, Peach-fronted, Blue-crowned, and Yellow-chevroned parakeets, Blue-fronted and Scaly-headed parrots, Nacunda Nighthawk, Scissor-tailed Nightjar, Buff-bellied Hermit, Gilded and Swallow-tailed

hummingbirds, Spot-backed Puffbird, White-wedged Piculet, White and Pale-crested woodpeckers, Campo Flicker, Chotoy, Cinereous-breasted, White-lored, and Rusty-backed spinetails, Gray-crested Cacholote, Narrow-billed, Planalto, and Great Rufous woodcreepers, Red-billed Scythebill, Planalto Slaty-Antshrike, Rusty-backed Antwren, Mato Grosso Antbird, Campo Suiriri Flycatcher, Ashy-headed Greenlet, Red-crested and Yellow-billed cardinals, White-bellied and Rusty-collared seedeaters, and Unicolored and Scarlet-headed blackbirds (catch your breath)...and the hot, humid Pantanal will certainly be the highlight of the trip!



*Hyacinth Macaws are the "poster birds" of the Pantanal. We'll get some great views of these magnificent parrots on this tour.  
Photograph by participant Sylvia Hanson.*

## Itinerary for Jaguar Spotting: Pantanal & Garden of the Amazon

**Day 1, Sat, 6 Jul. or 20 Jul. Flight to Cuiabá.** With participants joining this tour from several departure points in the US and possibly from overseas, group members will be traveling on various flights to Brazil and connecting to Cuiabá. Almost all departures to Brazil from the US and Europe involve an overnight flight. If you do not sleep well on such flights, you may prefer to arrive a day early into Cuiabá, do a little sightseeing, and get a good night's sleep before the tour. Our office will be glad to assist you with hotel reservations, and your guides will be happy to make some suggestions about where to spend time around town.

**Day 2, Sun, 7 Jul. or 21 Jul. Arrival in Cuiabá; to Garden of the Amazon.** Please plan to arrive in Cuiabá by 11:30 a.m. Your guides will meet you this morning in Cuiabá at the arrival terminal. After we gather our group and have our first sample of Brazil's wonderful food, we'll drive about 4.5 hours north towards the town of Sao Jose do Rio Claro, where we will check into Garden of the Amazon Lodge. We will bird the surroundings of the lodge this afternoon, hoping to find the likes of Channel-billed Toucan, Blue-winged Macaw, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, and with some luck, even the stunning Point-tailed Palmcreeper. Night at Garden of the Amazon.

**Days 3-5, Mon-Wed, 8-10 Jul. or 22-24 Jul. Garden of the Amazon.** With plenty of time to enjoy the birding here, we'll make our way along the trails as we search for a number of Amazonian specialties including Black-girdled Barbet, Tooth-billed Wren, Gould's Toucanet, Black-tailed, Collared, and Green-backed trogons, the stunning Red-necked Woodpecker, and perhaps even a Rufous-capped Nunlet. We'll listen for mixed-species flocks that may reveal a wealth of birds such as Paradise, Yellow-rumped, and Turquoise tanagers, and understory species that may include Spix's Warbling-Antbird, Cinereous Antshrike, and Elegant Woodcreeper. As we explore the mostly level terrain, we will also keep an eye out for displaying Red-headed, Snow-capped, and Flame-crested manakins, while watching, too, for an antswarm that may yield

Black-spotted Bare-eye, White-backed Fire-eye, and Scale-backed Antbird. Exploring the beautiful Rio Claro will also prove to be a delightful experience, as we search for the legendary Cone-billed Tanager, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Pompadour Cotinga, or perhaps a Great Potoo sitting along the river at night. Birding right around the lodge may well produce some friendly Brown Jacamars, a gorgeous Long-billed Starthroat, the minute Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, or the equally small Reddish Hermit. Nights at Garden of the Amazon.



*We'll look for the endangered Cone-billed Tanager at the Garden of the Amazon.  
Photograph by participant Herb Fechter.*

**Day 6, Thu, 11 Jul. or 25 Jul. To the Pantanal.** This morning we'll go out one more time before breakfast hoping to see a few more species such as Chestnut-tailed and Black-faced antbirds, Bar-breasted Piculet, and even Pink-throated Becard. After breakfast we'll head to the Pantanal, a 250-mile drive that will take most of the day. Our route, which passes through fields of sugar cane and soy beans, is a sad reminder of the recent and rapid expansion of agriculture in the area but it presents chances of seeing some interesting raptors and lots of Greater Rheas, and once we reach the Transpantaneira and start making our way into the Pantanal, we'll be amazed by the diversity and abundance of wildlife. We should see Southern Screamers, Jabirus, thousands of Wood Storks, Limpkins, and Great and Snowy egrets, all sharing their space with hundreds of Caiman and Capybara. We will reach our lodge late in the afternoon and have dinner and possibly do some owling after dinner. Night at Aymara Lodge.

**Day 7, Fri, 12 Jul. or 26 Jul. To Porto Jofre.** Today we will take advantage of the early morning hours to explore the surroundings of our lodge in search of many species such as Yellow-collared Macaw, Blue-thorated Piping Guan and many others and as the morning heats up we will do some trail birding hoping to find Great-rufous Woodcreeper, Stripe-necked Tody-tyrant, Chotoy Spinetail and several others. After lunch we will then head to Porto Jofre taking advantage of the hottest part of the day to sit in our air conditioned bus but we will make a few strategic stops that may yield Scarlet-headed Blackbird, Helmeted Manakin, Blue-crowned Trogon, and Fawn-breasted Wren. The almost 100 miles that we have to cover today are extremely birdy. We'll check in at Porto Jofre late in the afternoon and enjoy a good night's sleep to prepare for the next day. Night at Porto Jofre.

**Days 8-9, Sat-Sun, 13-14 Jul. or 27-28 Jul. Porto Jofre.** Exactly how we spend these two days will be determined by our luck in spotting a Jaguar, but in general we can expect to have breakfast pre-dawn and then head out by boat for the morning, returning for a late lunch followed by a siesta. Late-afternoon excursions may be by boat or by birding along the road at one of the many great locations close to our lodge. One way or another, we're bound to see a wide variety of

birds, ranging from the noisy Hyacinth Macaw and Toco Toucan to the remarkable Red-billed Scythebill and Gray-crested Cacholote. Our boat outings are also sure to produce a nice variety of birds that may include Pied Lapwing, Large-billed and Yellow-billed terns, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Blue-crowned Trogon, and Cream-colored Woodpecker. Nights at Porto Jofre.

**Day 10, Mon, 15 Jul. or 29 Jul. To Aymara Lodge.** Hopefully we will have spotted a Jaguar by now, but if not, we'll have one last shot at it this morning in its prime habitat! After breakfast, we'll begin making our way back towards the beginning of the Transpantaneira with plenty of time to appreciate the congregations of waterfowl along the way. We'll reach our lodge mid afternoon in time to explore the lodge's surroundings as it is the only lodge in the Pantanal that sits in the forest and species such as the Great-rufous Woodcreeper, Dull-capped Attila and Yellow-collared Macaw, we'll still have time to do a little owling in the evening that may yield a Tropical Screech-Owl and Common Potoo as well as some mammals to add to our list. Night at Pousada Piuval (Tour I) or Rio Claro Lodge (Tour II).

**Days 11-12, Tue-Wed, 16-17 Jul. or 30-31 Jul. Return to Cuiabá and homeward.** We'll spend the morning of Day 11—our last in the Pantanal—picking up a few more birds including Spotted Puffbird, Southern Scrub-flycatcher, Helmeted Manakin, and White-wedged Piculet, Black-bellied Antwren and the locally rare White-fronted Woodpecker. We'll return to the lodge before lunch, and after packing up, we'll bid the Pantanal farewell, making the return trip to Cuiabá where we will have lunch and catch our afternoon flight (usually 2:40 p.m.) to Sao Paulo or Brasilia and then connecting to our various overnight international flights homeward. *Boa viagem!*

## About Your Guides

### Tour I:

**Marcelo Barreiros** is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who became fascinated with birds when he entered college in 2005, graduating with a degree in biology in 2009. He then moved to Manaus to work with conservation of Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, monitoring nests in both the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest regions. Today, Marcelo's depth of expertise in finding and identifying even the rarest species in has earned him an outstanding reputation among the leading fieldmen in Amazonia and, increasingly, all of Brazil. He and his wife have recently (2015) moved back to Sao Paulo to be closer to family and the wonderful beaches and Atlantic Forest. Marcelo is a friendly, generous guide with an even temperament and ready laugh, who truly enjoys showing birds to tour participants. His English is good and improving with study and increased experience with foreign birders.

*Marcelo Barreiros is a natural trip leader and I would be delighted to take any trip with him as the lead guide. Aside from his mastery of the birds and environment, he projects a warm and humble confidence as well as a great sense of humor and even playfulness, which I appreciated enormously. W. M.; Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus*

### Tour II:

**Marcelo Padua** was born in Belem at the mouth of the Amazon River. Growing up, he spent his free time at his uncle's farm in an Amazon rainforest reserve, observing everything from insects to mammals and birds. Marcelo began studying English at an early age and attended high school in Middletown, Pennsylvania, in a student-exchange program. He is remarkably fluent and even taught English for a couple of years back home in Brazil.

Following university in Rio de Janeiro, Marcelo transferred to law school in Cuiabá, but working as an English-speaking naturalist guide during school holidays soon made it clear to him that birding was much more than a hobby! With just a year to go until his bar exam, he turned his back on the law to hang out his shingle as a birding guide. He met Bret Whitney in 2005 and embarked on a full-time guiding career with Field Guides in 2010. With his great sense of humor, impeccable organizational skills, and love of seeing birds, Marcelo has quickly become a reference for birding in Brazil, spending over 200 days each year in the field. A warning: Watch out if he sees displaying manakins of any kind! Marcelo makes his nest at the crossroads of the Pantanal and the Amazon in Cuiabá with his wife, Ana.

*"Marcelo Padua was perfect. He knows the area, the people, and the birds. He even remembers which bird you've missed and makes sure you see it if it's found again (even if it's days later). P.V., Jaguar Spotting*

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

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$5350 from Cuiabá

**DEPOSIT:** \$550 per person

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** January 8, 2024 (Tour I); January 22, 2024 (Tour II)

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (Optional): \$900. Porto Jofre is a small lodge with only 8 rooms; singles need to be confirmed well in advance and may be limited. If single rooms are unavailable, your single supplement will be pro-rated accordingly.

**LIMIT:** 8

**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.

## 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 to excellent throughout the tour with hot showers and private bathrooms in all the lodges. Our hotel at Garden of the Amazon does not have air conditioning, but the nights are cool and sometimes even a blanket is needed. In the Pantanal, we will divide our stay among three lodges, all of which have air-conditioning, hot showers, and comfortable beds. Hotel Porto Jofre in the Pantanal is a large hotel and some of the rooms may be a bit far from the dining area.

**DOCUMENTS:** US citizens will need a **current passport and an e-Visa** to enter Brazil. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Brazilian 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.

**VACCINATIONS:** Yellow fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please visit <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil> for the current CDC information and consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals).

**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.**

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify

the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is \$5350 for one person in double occupancy from Cuiabá. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 10, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through lunch on Day 11, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Cuiabá, airport taxes (these are now usually included on tickets issued in the US), 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** is \$900. 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 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 \$550** 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 8, 2024 (Tour I); January 22, 2024 (Tour II)**. **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; 1/23peg; 12/23cb; peg