

ITINERARY

Jamaica

Tour I: February 20-26, 2022

Tour II: February 27 – March 5, 2022

Tour III: November 20 – 26, 2022



The remarkable Streamertail is one of 27 endemic species we'll be looking for on this tour. The Red-billed subspecies, seen here, is the most abundant, but we'll also see the Black-billed Streamertail. Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.

We include here information for those interested in the 2022 Field Guides Jamaica 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 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 reference list
- 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

Jamaica is one of the hotbeds of avian endemism in the West Indies with at least 27 species found nowhere else. Add to that a host of regional specialties and numerous wintering wood warblers and you've got an irresistible birding destination close to the United States. It doesn't hurt that it's all based from a single hotel on a lush tropical island with fabulous food, vibrant culture, and world-renowned music. In just a week, we stand a good chance at encountering all of Jamaica's endemics, from the fabulous Streamertails to the taxonomically curious Orangequit.

Jamaica is the third largest island in the Caribbean at 146 miles long and 51 miles at its widest point. But don't worry; we won't be racing around the whole island. Instead, we'll spend our time at the safe northeastern end of the island, birding at a leisurely pace. Our goal is not to see every species in Jamaica but to see every species that you can only find in Jamaica (this includes the 19 endemic subspecies). We won't be pressing to reach every corner of the island or chancing any risky sites to find a species easily seen somewhere else.

Green Castle Estate provides casual elegance at its picturesque home overlooking nearly 1600 acres on the northeast coast of Jamaica. This safe and isolated property is managed for a cross-section of habitats, which host more than half of Jamaica's endemics. Jamaican Spindalis, the red-billed subspecies of Streamertail, Jamaican Woodpecker, and Jamaican Tody can all be seen while holding a cup of local coffee or organic juice freshly squeezed from the estate's orchards. The trails on site should yield other endemics like the Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo, Jamaican Becard, Sad Flycatcher, Yellow-shouldered Grassquit, and White-chinned Thrush. The Caribbean breeze, a dip in the pool, a good book, and a rum punch or fresh-squeezed juice might be really tempting. The beauty of staying at the same hotel is you are welcome to succumb to temptation and pass on any outing you wish (except for the ride back to the airport).

In order to round out our list of endemics, we will take field trips to the John Crow Mountains, Blue Mountains, and Cockpit Country. Our higher elevation targets will include Ring-tailed Pigeon, Crested Quail-Dove, Yellow-billed and Black-billed parrots, Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo, Blue Mountain Vireo, and the odd Jamaican Blackbird. We will make stops along the coast to look for terns, frigatebirds, shorebirds, and herons.

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (if you are getting a two-dose vaccine, this means you must receive your second dose two weeks prior to departure). 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. 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.

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

Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Moderate amounts of walking (2-3 miles in morning, 1-2 miles in afternoon), mostly on roads or packed dirt trails. No major climbs, but most of the terrain we will be covering is sloped. Green Castle Estate sits atop a hill. Several walks require going up and down a moderate grade for a short distance (walking sticks recommended). Trails may have loose, uneven or slippery areas.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will likely stand for long periods to observe flocks of birds.
- **PACE:** Early starts (5:00 a.m. breakfast) followed by birding until lunch. On some days, there is a break after lunch and optional afternoon birding. There will be at least one nighttime excursion to look for birds, but we will not stay out longer than one or two hours.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures range from the low 50s in the early morning in the higher elevations of the Blue or John Crow Mountains to the mid-90s F later in the day and in lower elevations. Humidity is high, and rain is 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:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on occasion, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

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



About the Birding Areas

Green Castle Estate: This nearly 1600-acre historic plantation will be our home base for the duration of the tour. This eco-retreat works hard to strike a balance on the land and has much of it in protected forest. Active agriculture is pretty limited these days. Twenty-one of the 27 endemic species have been recorded at this site, and the property list stands at 142 species and growing. The lovely flowering trees and shrubs around the guesthouse draw many of the more common and widespread endemics like Jamaican Tody, Jamaican Mango, the red-billed subspecies of Streamertail, Yellow-shouldered Grassquit, Jamaican Euphonia, Jamaican Spindalis, and Jamaican Woodpecker. The network of trails will put Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo, Jamaican Becard, Rufous-tailed Flycatcher, Jamaican Vireo, White-chinned Thrush, and numerous wood-warblers in reach. The reservoir on the estate draws lots of ducks, coots, waders, and shorebirds. The landscape is hilly but the trails are all well maintained and have reasonable footing.

Blue Mountains: Famed for their outstanding coffee, the Blue Mountains are thinly populated, comprised mostly of igneous shales, and still covered in many places by lush, mature, wet montane forests. We will walk the road through a marvelous cloud forest at Hardwar Gap, with abundant mosses, bromeliads, and tree ferns. Our search images will be tuned to the shaky gait of the Crested Quail-Dove (one of the most challenging endemics to see), Ring-tailed Pigeons overhead, and various endemic flycatchers and the Blue Mountain Vireo in the trees. We will be keen to spot the endangered Jamaican Blackbird. We will hear the ethereal song of the Rufous-throated Solitaire and scan for the impressively large Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo as well.

John Crow Mountains: Named after the Turkey Vultures (called “John Crow” locally) that course back and forth across their cloud-covered peaks, the John Crows are the easternmost mountains in the country. This area is rugged, formed of rather sharp karst limestone, and its razorback peaks receive quite a bit of rain (up to 300 inches per year!), owing to their exposure to the Northeast Trade Winds. This area is the only place in Jamaica where all the endemic bird species are possible. Our number one target on this day trip will be the black-billed subspecies of Streamertail, whose tiny range is restricted to these mountains. This site will be our first chance to spot Jamaican Crow and both the Yellow-billed Parrot and the harder-to-find Black-billed Parrot. Another species we will concentrate on is Jamaican Blackbird, which is one of the hardest endemics to track down and a rather unusual Icterid. Keep your eyes peeled for Arrowhead Warbler and Crested Quail-Dove this day too.

Cockpit Country: This region sits southeast of Montego Bay and derives its name from the classic karst topography. It is made up of steep hills and valleys and is pockmarked with sinkholes and covered in dense forest. We will visit this region toward the end of the tour. It serves as an excellent back-up if we have missed either of the endemic parrots, Jamaican Crow, Crested Quail-Dove, or Blue Mountain Vireo up to this point. The Jamaican subspecies of Olive-throated Parakeet is conspicuous here.

Rockland's Bird Sanctuary: Have you ever experienced a hummingbird on your finger? Well, you can hand feed both endemic hummingbirds here. This site will serve as our grand finale. Over the course of many years, quite a few of the endemic species have become remarkably habituated at this elaborate feeding station. Photographic opportunities abound. Northern Potoo and Jamaican Owl are sometimes found on their day roosts at this site as well.



*The Jamaican Tody is a common resident of the island, and one that is always a favorite with birders.
Photograph by participant Danielle Wong.*

Itinerary for Jamaica

Day 1, Sun. Arrival at Montego Bay's Sangster International Airport and travel to Green Castle Estate. Please schedule your flight to arrive no later than 1 p.m. in order to meet your guide and the rest of the group at **2 p.m.** for the start of the tour. After clearing the last checkpoint in the immigration zone, follow the overhead signs for "Public Arrivals Area" when you enter the open space. Turn right at the Island Rental Car counter and head outside. If you survive the gauntlet of harassing taxi drivers, you will see Groovy Grouper Beach Bar & Grill immediately to the right. Let's meet on their patio. Your guide's photo is on the website for easy recognition. Please be sure to use the Field Guides luggage tags provided to you by our office so the guide can easily recognize you as part of the Field Guides group. An air-conditioned Coaster bus will transport us to Green Castle Estate (GCE). Approximately half an hour after leaving the airport, we will make a stop on coast for a late lunch. Expect there to be about three hours of driving time to get to GCE. We are not expected to drive by anything we won't see later in the tour, so this drive will be fairly direct. However, it is a birding tour after all, so undoubtedly, we will make a couple brief stops. Be sure to have your binoculars out for this drive. After getting settled in our rooms, we will enjoy dinner. Night at Green Castle Estate.

Day 2, Mon. Birding Green Castle Estate. After a long day of travel yesterday, we will avoid getting into any vehicles and just bird the plantation. We will take our time and soak in the more common endemics like Jamaican Vireo, Jamaican Tody, Jamaica Woodpecker, Orangequit, Sad Flycatcher, Jamaican Euphonia, and White-chinned Thrush. We'll devote time to tracking down more uncommon endemics like Yellow-shouldered Grassquit, Jamaican Elaenia, and Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo. Jamaican endemic subspecies of Olive-throated Parakeet, Loggerhead Kingbird, and Vervain Hummingbird should be right outside your door. The fascinating hum generated by the elaborate plumes of the Streamertail when flying might stir you from sleep. In the afternoon we will descend to the reservoir hoping to catch up to the elusive West Indian Whistling-Duck. More reliably, we see several duck species, herons, shorebirds, coots and grebes. Expect to walk four to five miles over the course of the day over hilly terrain with uneven or slippery footing in some sections. Night at Green Castle Estate.

Day 3, Tue. Foothills of the John Crow Mountains and coastal sites. We will head out early to Ecclesdown Road at the far eastern end of the island. This is the only place in all of Jamaica where all of the endemic species have been recorded. New targets for this site will be the confounding Crested Quail-Dove, Yellow-billed Parrot, Black-billed Parrot, Jamaican Crow, and the black-billed subspecies of Streamertail, which is a likely armchair lifer someday (after it's split). Jamaican Blackbird, White-eyed Thrush, Arrowhead Warbler, Blue Mountain Vireo, and Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo are distinct possibilities as well. We will walk several miles on this quiet road with good footing and a gentle rise. For lunch, we will stop in Boston Bay, the world-famous home of Jamaican jerk, for jerk chicken and pork, bammy, festival, and other traditional dishes. As time allows, we will make stops on our return drive along the coast, adding wading birds and shorebirds to our trip list. Night at Green Castle Estate.

Day 4, Wed. Robins Bay to Annotto Bay and Green Castle Estate. Our first stop this day will be right around the corner from GCE. We will walk out to a gorgeous coastal overlook at sunrise hoping to catch elegant White-tailed Tropicbirds wheeling along the shoreline. A significant colony of Cave Swallows should be swirling as well. After a sublime seawatch we will leapfrog along the coast toward Annotto Bay. Species we hope to add to our list include: Northern Jacana, Tricolored Heron, Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone and other shorebirds and waders. In the mangrove thickets we will spy Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Waterthrush and Yellow Warbler, while we check overhead for the impressively large White-collared Swift. Lunch will be back at Green Castle Estate. In the afternoon we might bird areas of the estate we skipped on the first day or return to the reservoir, hoping for the elusive West Indian Whistling-Duck. Other noteworthy species we hope to find there are Purple Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, and Stolid Flycatcher. Night at Green Castle Estate.



The Jamaican Vireo is a common endemic across the island, and like many vireos, it can be heard more often than it is seen. We will keep an eye (and ear!) out for them. Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.

Day 5, Thu. Blue Mountains. This will be an early departure to Hardwar Gap. A perched Barn Owl sighting is a distinct possibility as we depart GCE predawn. The two most challenging endemics to see are Crested Quail-Dove and Jamaican Blackbird. Along with Blue Mountain Vireo and Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo, those four species will be the endemics we are most focused on in the Blue Mountains if we don't have them already. Other endemics at this 4000-foot site include: Ring-tailed Pigeon, Jamaican Vireo, Rufous-tailed Flycatcher, Jamaican Pewee, Jamaican Spindalis, Arrowhead Warbler, and Jamaican Elaenia. The hauntingly beautiful song of the Rufous-throated Solitaire will be one of the highlights of the morning. The footing will be good as we bird along the road. Expect to walk several miles over a gentle slope, but in one stretch it is rather steep. To help round out our Jamaican experience, will make a quick visit to a coffee plantation for a tasting. Night at Green Castle Estate.

Day 6, Fri. Cockpit Country and Montego Bay sites. We will say goodbye to the wonderful staff of GCE and venture west to Cockpit Country. This region is rich with both endemic parrots, Jamaican Crow, Crested Quail-Dove, Rufous-tailed Flycatcher, and numerous wood warblers. If we have been fortunate enough to tally all of the endemics prior to this day, we may make our way to an alternate site in search of new species. After our walk, we will continue toward Montego Bay for lunch on the coast, just shy of the city. The grand finale will be a visit to Rockland's Bird Sanctuary in the afternoon where you can have Streamertails and Jamaican Mangos sip sugar water from handheld feeders while Orangequits, Jamaican Orioles, Caribbean Doves, Bananaquits, and grassquits visit feeders little more than an arm's length away. On the way to our hotel, we will visit the Montego Bay Sewage Ponds for great looks at a number of waterbirds. We will say our goodbyes over a scrumptious dinner right at our lovely hotel. The tour concludes this night.

Day 7, Sat. Depart for Home. A delightful complimentary breakfast is yours to enjoy at the hotel. The rooftop deck is a great birding spot in the morning. Plan your flight home whenever it is convenient for you. We will arrange a shuttle for you to Sangster International Airport, which is only five minutes away.



*The Orangequit is a Jamaican endemic that we'll see on the grounds of Green Castle Estate.
Photograph by participant Holger Teichmann.*

About Your Guides

Tours I & II

Cory Gregory started learning birds on flashcards at the age of three, but it wasn't until the ripe age of ten that things started to get more serious. Since then he has traveled to Central and South America, Australia, and all 50 states to try to get his fill of birding (and it hasn't worked yet!).

Cory earned a B.S. in zoology in Michigan, where he also worked for Whitefish Point Bird Observatory for several seasons. He then ventured to Iowa State University, where he earned a M.S. studying Long-billed Curlews in Nebraska. As an avid shorebird ecologist, he has handled more than 2000 shorebirds of more than 30 species.

After finishing school, Cory worked for several organizations as a shorebird ecologist and guided on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs of Alaska for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. It was on St. Paul that his dream of stumbling on a first North American record was finally fulfilled. Cory is currently based out of Missouri where, when not on tour, he pursues his interest in birds, butterflies, and dragonflies with abandon.

***"Cory** was wonderful. He surely knows his birds, and his calm presence and dry sense of humor made the trip a lot of fun - and very productive as well. I would absolutely take another tour with him."
S.S, Arizona Nightbirds*

Tour III

Jay VanderGaast was introduced to birding by his father, and his obsession with birds was evident by age seven when he memorized the plates in Peterson's eastern field guide. He went on to earn a B.S. in biology at university and briefly contemplated a career in research, but two years on the mosquito-infested arctic tundra watching ptarmigan do little other than occasionally getting eaten by Gyrfalcons soon put an end to that plan! Instead, he strapped on a backpack and a pair of bins and began roaming the world in search of birds.

His travels eventually led him to Costa Rica, where he stumbled into a job as a birding guide at Rancho Naturalista Lodge. Amazed that he was actually getting paid to watch birds, he jealously guarded his position there for six years. His career with Field Guides coincided with the dawn of the new millennium (if you believe that began in 2000!), and since then he has guided more than 100 tours on several continents. He lives near Montreal, where he spends much of his time between tours with his three young children.

"Jay VanderGaast was a delight to travel with...incredible at finding the birds and extremely helpful in getting us on the birds—which was much appreciated!he made the trip an exceptional experience which I will remember for the rest of my life." L.K., Costa Rica

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

Financial Information

FEE: \$3825 from Montego Bay

DEPOSIT: \$375 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: October 23, 2021 (Tour I); October 30, 2021 (Tour II); June 13, 2022 (Tour III)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$525

LIMIT: 8

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 Sharon Mackie. Sharon will be happy to assist you in preparing for your tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call!

DOCUMENTS: A current passport, valid beyond the date of your return, is necessary for US citizens to enter Jamaica. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Jamaican 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.

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 \$3825 for one person in double occupancy from Montego Bay. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 6, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 7, 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 Jamaica, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, phone calls, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$525. 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 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 \$375** per person, or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 160 days prior to departure, or **by October 23, 2021 (Tour I); October 30, 2021 (Tour II); June 13, 2022 (Tour III)**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 160 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: FOR 2021 & 2022 TOURS: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 160 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 159 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable. **FOR 2023 TOURS & BEYOND:** Note that beginning in 2023, the 50% refund period will become 179 to 90 days before departure, with no refund thereafter.

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

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion

of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NCP 7/2020

EH – 12May20; 5/20peg
NCP—9/2020