

ITINERARY  
**Jamaica**

*Tour I: February 24-March 2, 2024*

*Tour II: March 2-9, 2024*

*Tour III: November 16-23, 2024*



*The Jamaican Spindalis is one of 28 endemic species we'll be looking for on this tour. These colorful birds are found throughout the island, and we should get great views of them. Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2024 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 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

**J**amaica is one of the hotbeds of avian endemism in the West Indies with at least 28 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 we'll be primarily 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.

Mockingbird Hill is an enchanting eco boutique retreat with inviting trails circuitously winding through lush habitat. The extremely range-restricted Black-billed Streamertail was recently elevated to full species status and is easily observed on the grounds. The regal Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo may be working its way through the canopy of mature trees, while Jamaican Woodpeckers work the trunk, spritely Jamaican Todies and active Sad Flycatchers forage in the understory and White-chinned Thrushes hop across the ground. Numerous other endemics can be found here as well. This safe and inviting property is managed for sustainability. The Caribbean breeze, a dip in the inviting pool, a good book, and a rum punch or fresh-squeezed juice might be really tempting. The beauty of staying at the same hotel for most of the tour is you are welcome to succumb to temptation and pass on any outing you wish (except for when we head west to Montego Bay).



*The elegant Black-billed Streamertail is the most-recently recognized Jamaican endemic. This beautiful, range-restricted hummingbird was split from the widespread Red-billed Streamertail. They can be easily seen on the grounds of our hotel. Photograph by guide Eric Hynes.*

In order to round out our list of endemics, we will take field trips to the nearby foothills of the John Crow Mountains, climb up in elevation in the Blue Mountains, and visit Cockpit Country. Our higher elevation targets will include Jamaican Becard, Crested Quail-Dove, Yellow-billed and Black-billed parrots, Blue Mountain Vireo, White-eyed Thrush, Jamaican Oriole, and the odd Jamaican Blackbird. We will make stops along the coast to look for terns, frigatebirds, shorebirds, and herons. The grand finale will be visiting Rocklands Bird Sanctuary where wild birds have been fed for decades. Having a Red-billed Streamertail or Jamaican Mango land on your finger is an unforgettable experience!

*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. 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.) followed by birding until around noon. On some days, there is a break after lunch and optional afternoon birding. There may be at least one nighttime excursion to look for the Jamaican Owl or Northern Potoo if we don't find them on day roosts, 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 Mountains to the mid-90s F later in the day and in lower elevations. Humidity is high, and rain is a possibility. Most days the high is in the 80s F.
- **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

**Foothills of the 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. In fact, the birding is so good we may visit this site twice. One of the primary targets on this day trip will be Jamaican Blackbird, which is a few-and-far-between endemic. Crested Quail-Dove is always tricky to track down so we will stay alert for the “Mountain Witch” as well. 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. Keep your eyes peeled for Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo, Arrowhead Warbler and Jamaican Becard this day too.

**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 with abundant mosses, bromeliads, and tree ferns at Hardwar Gap (~4000 feet in elevation). Our search images will be tuned to the shaky gait of the Crested Quail-Dove (one of the most challenging endemics to see), curious Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo, 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.

**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, Jamaican Elaenia 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 tiny Jamaican Tody is always a favorite! We should get good looks at this charmer on our tour.  
Photograph by guide Cory Gregory..*

## Itinerary for Jamaica

**Day 1, Sat. Arrival at Kingston's Norman Manley International Airport.** Feel free to schedule your flight to arrive at your convenience on this day. The goal is simply to arrive in Jamaica and be in place for the birding to begin the next morning. After collecting your checked baggage and clearing immigration, you can head outside. Turn left and head to the curb in front of the Police Office, which is an easy landmark. Raymond Condappa, of Trev Tours transportation company, will pick you up in front of the Police Office and typically has a sign on the dashboard of his bus that says "Field Guides." Raymond will transport you a short distance to the hotel. You can try to pick out a Brown Bobby or Sandwich Tern among the more common Magnificent Frigatebirds and Royal Terns from the hotel grounds if you arrive before sunset. Night at The Excelsior in Port Royal.

**Day 2, Sun. Hellshire Hills and transition to the Northeast.** The arid, thorny scrub of Hellshire Hills is a protected refuge and is best known for hosting several range-restricted regional specialties; chief among them is Bahama Mockingbird. We will depart Port Royal early and travel a little over an hour to these hot, dry limestone hills, which also

attract Vervain Hummingbird, Stolid Flycatcher, Mangrove Cuckoo and Jamaican Oriole. Our first encounter with Jamaica Mango, one of three endemic hummingbirds, is likely to occur here. Other Jamaican endemics we might see include Yellow-shouldered Grassquit and Jamaican Vireo. Once we acquire some of these targets and before it gets too hot, we will call it a morning and start making our way north and east to Portland Parish. Night at Mockingbird Hill outside of Port Antonio.

**Day 3, Mon. 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. Primary targets for this site will be the secretive Crested Quail-Dove and the elusive Jamaican Blackbird. Yellow-billed Parrot, Black-billed Parrot, Jamaican Crow, Black-billed Streamertail, 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 authentic jerk chicken and pork, bammy, festival, and other traditional dishes. After lunch we will return to Mockingbird Hill for a siesta or dip in the enchanting pool, followed by an afternoon walk on the hotel property. Night at Mockingbird Hill outside Port Antonio.

**Day 4, Tue. Blue Mountains.** This will be an early departure to Hardwar Gap. At Buff Bay on the coast, we will turn inland and wind our way up to approximately 4000 feet. 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 elevation 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 Mockingbird Hill outside Port Antonio.



*Arrowhead Warbler and other higher elevation species will be our goals in the Blue Mountains.  
Photograph by guide Eric Hynes.*

**Day 5, Wed. San San Preserve.** This dense forest preserve is only a few minutes from our hotel. A road with minimal vehicle traffic passes through lush habitat and is a great birding spot where we can “clean up” a few of the endemics we might still be missing like: Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo, Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo, Yellow-shouldered Grassquit, Ring-tailed Pigeon, and White-eyed Thrush. After lunch at a local Jamaican joint, we will visit Errol Flynn Marina. This waterfront park is lined with Hong Kong Orchid Trees, which are bloom this time of year. Their gorgeous blossoms attract hummingbirds

and warblers galore so expect to get killer looks at Jamaican Mangoes and Vervain Hummingbird. We will return to Mockingbird Hill for a siesta or dip in the relaxing pool, followed by an afternoon walk on the hotel property. Night at Mockingbird Hill outside of Port Antonio.

**Day 6, Thu. Crossing the island to Montego Bay and Rocklands Bird Sanctuary.** We will say goodbye to the wonderful staff at Mockingbird Hill and venture west along the north coast of the island. During this significant drive we will have to try to put the blinders on because our goal is to get to Montego Bay ahead of afternoon traffic. Our motivation for the expedited commute is a visit to the spectacular Rockland's Bird Sanctuary. Decades of feeding wild birds at this private home has led to a number of endemic species becoming remarkably habituated. Here you can have Red-billed Streamertails and Jamaican Mangoes 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 back to our hotel, we will visit the Montego Bay Sewage Ponds for great looks at a number of waterbirds. It is not uncommon for us to add a dozen new species to our triplist here (ducks, shorebirds, grebes). Night at Mynt Retreat in Montego Bay.



*The endangered Black-billed Parrot is the less common of the two endemic Jamaican parrots. Both species can be found in the Cockpit Country of central Jamaica. Photograph by guide Eric Hynes.*

**Day 7, Fri. Cockpit Country.** Plain Pigeon is poorly named and a difficult-to-encounter regional specialty. We will head out early to catch a flight of these subtle beauties leaving a roost site. Then it is off to Cockpit Country, which is rich with both endemic parrots, Jamaican Crow, Crested Quail-Dove, Jamaican Elaenia, Rufous-tailed Flycatcher, and numerous wood warblers. After our walk in Stewart Town, we will return toward Montego Bay for lunch on the coast, just shy of the city. A few stops along the shore might add a plover, sandpiper or tern. We will say our goodbyes to our fantastic local guide and driver and wrap things up over a scrumptious dinner right at our lovely hotel. The tour concludes this night. Night at Mynt Retreat in Montego Bay.

**Day 8, 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.

## About Your Guides

### Tours I and III

**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 has co-lead Field Guides groups to Arizona, Cape May, Colorado, Maine, Texas, Newfoundland, Costa Rica, Oaxaca, Colombia, Peru, France, and Australia and has a busy and wide-ranging schedule coming up, adding Oregon to his portfolio of tours.

*“Cory Gregory was very patient no matter how many times people asked “what was the name of that bird again?”. He was able to ID birds by calls and song and called out what he was hearing. I really appreciated his careful use of the laser to get us on the right area of the tree to find a bird. He was able to keep track of who still needed which birds, and was attentive to people's physical limitations.”*  
C. N. Costa Rica

### Tour II

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

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

Eric and his family recently returned to Maine after an amazing six years living in the stunning San Juan Mountains that surround Telluride, Colorado. Eric focused on tracking down Gunnison Sage-Grouse and rosy-finches as a scout in-residence for the Colorado Grouse tour and is currently still serving on the Colorado Rare Birds Committee.

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

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

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$3975 from Kingston**

**DEPOSIT:** \$400 per person (non-refundable due to deposit we must remit to secure the main lodge for the tour)

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** August 28, 2023 (Tour I); September 4, 2023 (Tour II); May 20, 2024 (Tour III)

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$800. *Our lodges have a limited number of rooms, so depending on the group make up we may need to double.*

**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 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 \$3975 for one person in double occupancy from Kingston. 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.

(\*\*Note regarding breakfast: If you are in need of high protein at the start of the day, please plan to bring a protein bar to supplement the breakfasts at Mockingbird Hill. Clients have said in the past the spread there was light on protein and offered more fruits, maybe boiled eggs, and breads with marmalade and jam. Also, while we'll plan to start early each morning, breakfast service can be slow, and we may even take bagged breakfasts in some cases. For the staff at Mockingbird Hill, working and living in a remote area has its pros and cons. The pro are obvious! However, folks without a car have no way around! It's not like at home, where we just drive to work or take public transportation. Workers are often waiting for hours, before it's even light out, waiting to catch a ride to work. They'll do their very best to accommodate our group, but we'll need to have patience.)

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 \$800. *Our lodges have a limited number of rooms, so depending on the group make up we may need to double.* 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 \$400** 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 August 28, 2023 (Tour I); September 4, 2023 (Tour II); May 20, 2024 (Tour III)**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets are generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**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:** Due to the early and non-refundable deposits we must remit to our supplier, we must amend our usual cancellation policy as follows: If cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure, the **tour deposit of \$400 is non-refundable**. 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.

NCP 7/2020

EH – 12May20; 5/20peg

NCP—9/2020; 9/23peg