

ITINERARY  
**JAPAN IN SPRING**  
May 11-28, 2024



*The Izu Robin is found only on the Izu Islands, near Tokyo. We'll visit Miyake Island to see these attractive small birds and several other island endemics. Photograph by guide Jun Matsui.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Field Guides Spring Japan tour:*

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

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

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

The islands of Japan lie at the eastern edge of Eurasia and cover a diverse range of habitats, from the sub-tropical Ryukyu Islands to the almost Siberian taiga-like wilds of Hokkaido. Japan is a surprisingly mountainous and wooded land, with beautiful, varied coastlines and very heavily populated lowlands, where tiny rice fields dot the landscape amidst the rural dwellings. Add to this the seabirds, migrant warblers, alcids and the Izu and Ryukyu Islands (Amami and Okinawa) endemics, plus a useful sprinkling of Japanese mainland endemics plus of course the huge, marvellous, and rare Blakiston's Fish-Owl, and you have the makings of a truly memorable visit. We spend a few days on Hokkaido, quite different to the winter desolation, and have two short boat trips planned for alcids, sea mammals and hopefully brown bear on an inshore trip.

Japanese culture is also a feature of the trip, with one of our lodgings in a traditional Japanese guest-house or minshuku, with sliding walls, tatami rush matting and futon bedding. The food is also very distinct, with a fantastic selection of sauces for the elaborate fish, rice, and vegetable dishes, which make up the traditional cuisine, and we will have some memorable and varied meals.



*The well-named Large-billed Crow is a common sight in much of Japan.  
Photograph by participant John Keith.*

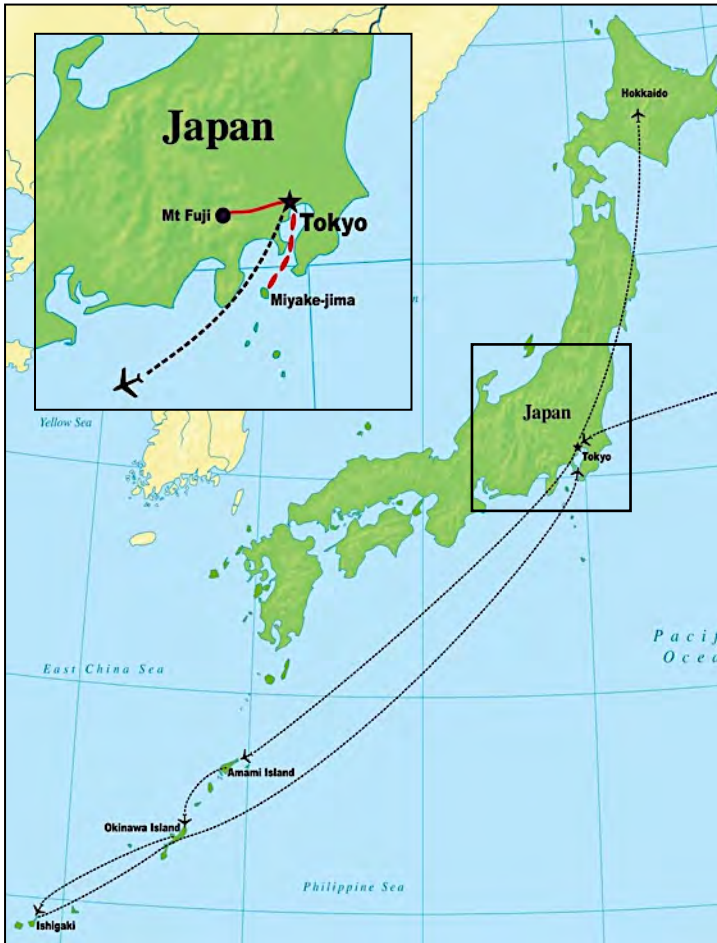
*We want to be sure you are on the right tour! We should emphasize this is not a high-end luxury tour, we stay in comfortable hotels and use a 10-seater van, with a fair amount of quite easy walking, early starts and some moderate drives involved. Below is a description of the physical requirements of 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 (up to 3 miles per day), mostly on level terrain along roadsides and on wide trails.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We have several significant periods of travel on this tour. Participants should be able to step up (and step down) 10-12 inches to get into and out of our vehicles. We take an overnight ferry from Tokyo to Miyake-jima that is large and stable. On one morning, we take a half-day pelagic trip to look for seabirds on Hokkaido on a smaller vessel; choppy seas and salt spray are likely.
- **PACE:** After breakfast (usually set for 5:30-6:30 a.m.), we will bird until lunch time. Normally, we bird after lunch or continue traveling to our next destination.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will range from the 50s to 80s F (10-20 C). Rain showers are a possibility.
- **ELEVATION:** We reach elevations of up to 4500 feet on this tour and spend several nights at an elevation of about 2000 feet.
- **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:** We generally use modern, indoor facilities on this tour.

- **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 (as we do often on this tour).

## About the Birding Areas



**Miyake-jima — Miyake** is a volcanic island some 180 km south of Tokyo in the Izu island group. It has some special endemic birds of its own and is a great place for migrants. The return boat trip is in daylight and can be very good for seabirds if the weather is rough.

**Mt Fuji area** — Mt Fuji is probably the number one tourist area in Japan. Despite this, it has a thriving population of woodland birds, and late May - early June is one of the best times of year for birders to visit, as birds will be in breeding plumage. Most of the core woodland birds found throughout Japan can be found here, including several endemic species. Different birds can be found at different elevations and most birding will be done by walking the extensive network of woodland trails.

**The Ryukyus** — The subtropical Ryukyu islands are at the southern end of the Japanese archipelago. With lush vegetation and coral reefs, they are a popular holiday destination. The two islands of **Amami** and **Okinawa** both have an interesting endemic avifauna, sharing some species but each having some of their own. Unfortunately, the introduction of the mongoose from India has put many of these birds at risk, including the Okinawa Rail, but recently, highly effective mongoose control measures give cause for hope.

**Hokkaido** — The most northerly of the main islands, famous for its boreal forests, hot springs, dairy farming and beautiful scenery, with the mountain areas being excellent

for both birds and mammals, including Brown Bears, and with whale and seals offshore. Two fairly short inshore boat trips are planned, one for alcids and seabirds, and one mainly for Brown Bear and some marine mammals. Much of Hokkaido is still quite wild and is quite different to the rest of heavily settled Japan. We visit the south-eastern corner up as far as the Shiretoko Peninsula.

## Itinerary for Japan in Spring

**Days 1-2, Sat-Sun, 11-12 May. Departure from the US; arrival in Narita.** There are direct flights from many US cities to Narita; our office will be happy to help you with the best schedule from your home city. From the US, you'll cross the international dateline, arriving the afternoon of Day 2 (*May 12*). If you arrive in time, the grounds of our hotel and the nearby Tokko creek channel (just across the main roads, about a mile, exit the Tobu Narita, take first right downhill (100m away), turn left along the path by the motorway (300 m) then use the pedestrian crossing to cross the highway before heading downhill to the creek, you may see Bull-headed Shrike, Japanese Wagtail, Japanese White-eye, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. We'll gather for dinner in the lobby of our hotel at about 7pm. Night in Narita.

**Day 3, Mon, 13 May. Birding Tokyo.** Today we will have a full day birding the Tokyo area, visiting several sites. We will have an early departure for the **Tone** marsh area where we hope to find the rare Marsh Grassbird and Ochre-rumped Bunting. We will also visit Funabashi Bay where migrant shorebirds can be diverting, including Great Knot, Siberian (Lesser) Sandplover and Terek Sandpiper.

**Day 4, Tue, 14 May. Mt Fuji area.** We travel up into the Mt Fuji area around Shigakogen, and start our exploration of the of the different altitudinal levels. Japanese Leaf Warbler, Japanese Thrush, Narcissus Flycatcher, Japanese Wagtail, Japanese Grosbeak, Brown Dipper, Japanese Woodpecker and Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker are amongst the target birds for the day. Night at Shigakogen.

**Day 5, Wed, 15 May.** A full day exploring the forested slopes around **Mt Fuji and Lake Yamanaka**. Raptors such as Japanese Sparrowhawk and Oriental Honey Buzzard, plus passerines such as Japanese Yellow Bunting, Eurasian Nutcracker, Red-flanked Bluetail, and Siberian Blue Robin will be amongst our targets today, as will Siberian, Brown-headed and Japanese thrushes, also Japanese Yellow Bunting and Gray Bunting. Night at Shigakogen.



*In the forests around Mt Fuji, we'll keep a lookout for the Japanese Sparrowhawk. Photograph by guide Jun Matsui.*

**Day 6, Thu, 16 May.** Morning around the **Fuji area** then head back to Tokyo. Late afternoon we will make our way over to the Takeshiba Pier, store our big bags at a nearby hotel, have dinner and take a an overnight bag to embark on our 2230 boat to Miyake-jima, with wonderful views of Tokyo from Tokyo Bay as we depart. Overnight en-suite comfortable cabins on board, arriving 0500 next day.

**Day 7, Fri, 17 May. Disembark around 0500 and explore Miyake-jima.** We will be looking for the endemic Izu Island Thrush plus Ijima's Leaf Warbler, Pleske's (Styan's) Grasshopper Warbler, Izu (Japanese) Robin and the recently split Owston's (Izu) Tit, plus Chinese Bamboo-Partridge. The return crossing to Tokyo is in daylight and we will be looking for Streaked and Short-tailed Shearwaters and perhaps Tristram's Storm Petrel and more, arriving back in Tokyo around 1900. Overnight at a hotel in the pier area, and taxi to Haneda Airport next day.

**Day 8, Sat, 18 May.** Today we fly to **Amami** in the subtropical Ryukyu Islands, where there is a very different avifauna and some interesting endemics. These include the stunning Lidth's Jay, the secretive Amami Woodcock, plus the rare Amami Thrush and Ryukyu (Amami) Robin. There are also several endemic subspecies, including the distinctive White-backed or Owston's Woodpecker. A night drive may help us find the Ryukyu Scops Owl, Northern Boobook, and a rare endemic mammal - the Amami Black Rabbit, with the possum-like Ryukyu Giant Rat a slight possibility. Night on Amami.

**Day 9, Sun, 19 May. Exploring Amami** for Amami Thrush, Ruddy Kingfisher, Ryukyu (Narcissus) Flycatcher, Whistling (Ryukyu) Green Pigeon, Japanese Paradise Flycatcher and more. The Ryukyus are also very good for butterflies with some gorgeous swallowtails amongst others. Night on Amami.

**Day 10, Mon, 20 May.** An early start to catch the flight over to **Okinawa** and transfer to our hotel, where the shy Okinawa Rail, one of our target birds, has recovered well due to effective mongoose and feral cat control measures. They can sometimes be found roosting in exposed bare branches out of reach of predators during a night drive on which we may see Japanese (Pryer's) Scops Owl, Ryukyu Scops Owl, and Northern Boobook, as well as scarce endemic Ryukyu nocturnal mammals, the Ryukyu Spiny Rat and Ryukyu Giant Rat Night on Okinawa.

**Day 11, Tue, 21 May. Birding the Yambaru area.** Okinawa Rail and Okinawa Woodpecker will be target species here. Neither are easy birds but there is plenty more to see as we look for them. These include Ryukyu Minivet and an endemic subspecies of Varied Tit. Night on Okinawa.

**Day 12, Wed, 22 May.** A second full day on **Okinawa**, allows for bad weather and a chance to get further views of the endemic species, with a visit to the rice paddies at Kin near Naha for late migrant shorebirds and suitable habitat for Greater Painted Snipe, Oriental Pratincole and White-breasted Waterhen Night at Naha on Okinawa.

**Day 13, Thu, 23 May. Naha, Okinawa, then flight to Haneda and connection for Hokkaido.** The least populated of Japan's major islands, Hokkaido has large areas of forest, a windswept coastline and is an important agricultural area. Famous in winter for its large flocks of Red-crowned Cranes, at this time of year the flocks have dispersed but we will see some of these impressive birds, probably with youngsters too. Our birding will take place in the south-east of the island near Kushiro, Nemuro and the Shiretoko Peninsula. Overnight Kushiro.

**Day 14, Fri, 24 May.** Kushiro Forest Park for Sakhalin Leaf Warbler, Eastern Crowned Warbler, Japanese Robin and perhaps Black Woodpecker. Notsuke Peninsula for White-tailed Eagle, Siberian Rubythroat, Middendorf's Grasshopper Warbler, Amur Stonechat, Sika Deer and Red Fox. Drive to Rausu and check the harbor for gulls, then to nearby Washino-Yado minshuku for a delightful Japanese dinner and an overnight with a good chance of the amazing Blakiston's Fish Owl, visible from the simple futon bedrooms.



*This wonderful Blakiston's Fish-Owl posed beautifully for us on our 2019 tour. We'll stay at a small lodge where we've seen them in the past, and we should be able to view them well! Photograph by participant Bernie Grossman.*

**Day 15, Sat, 25 May.** Shiretoko Pass at 2500' for a chance of Pine Grosbeak, Nutcracker and Brandt's Jay. Morning coastal boat trip for Brown Bear and perhaps dolphins and whales. Teshikaga park for woodland birds including White-backed and maybe Lesser-spotted woodpecker, and the striking white-headed taxon of Long-tailed Tit, now an icon bird for Hokkaido and with its image used on all sorts of items. Overnight Nemuro.

**Day 16, Sun, May 26.** Full day birding Hokkaido looking for the Red-crowned cranes, and any other species we may still be missing. The coastal islands and rock stacks around Cape Nosappu are home to large breeding colonies of seabirds, including Pelagic and the rare Red-faced Cormorants. The grassy headlands with patches of dwarf bamboo are often good for Lanceolated and Middendorf's Grasshopper Warbler and Siberian Rubythroat. Overnight Nemuro.



*We'll keep watch for small birds such as the Siberian Rubythroat when we are on Hokkaido.  
Photograph by participant Bernie Grossman.*

**Day 17, Mon, 27 May.** This morning, weather permitting, we will take a pelagic to look for some exciting seabirds, including Spectacled and Kurile (Pigeon) Guillemot, Common and Thick-billed Murre, Tufted Puffin, Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet and perhaps jaegers and Laysan Albatross, with excellent chances of Sea-otter and perhaps also the rare Red-faced Cormorant. Later in the day we will be looking for migrants in forest parks near Nemuro, with the late-arriving Sakhalin Grasshopper Warbler a possibility. Overnight Nemuro or Kushiro.

**Day 18, Tue, 28 May. Return to Narita; flights home.** We'll transfer this morning to the Kushiro airport for a late-morning flight back to Haneda and then Express bus to Narita. Most flights to the US depart Narita after 4:00 p.m. You will arrive on the same day, after recovering that lost day by once again crossing the International Date Line—in the opposite direction.

## About Your Guides

**Phil Gregory** was born in Southampton, UK, and became a birder as a youth when the steam engines were scrapped, and birding offered a way to travel and look for wonderful things. The quest for birds has led to many forays in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia, and the Pacific. He and his wife, Sue, worked as teachers for eight years in Nigeria and Zambia, where they raised their family and made serious inroads into the birds of Africa, before transferring to the Falkland Islands for a two-year stint. In 1991-97 they relocated to Papua New Guinea where the 450 + endemics proved a great challenge, and since then they have lived in the Northern Territory and far north Queensland, Australia.

Phil's major interests are field identification, vocalizations, and the geographic distribution of birds. He is also a writer with assorted contributions to many reference books including some family accounts for the *Handbook of Birds of the World* and a *Field Guide to the Birds of New Guinea and the Bismarcks* for Lynx Edicions, and a photographic *Field Guide to Birds of North Queensland* (2019 and 2023) with Jun Matsui, our local co-leader on this tour. He published a spectacular book on *Birds of Paradise and Bowerbirds* in the Pica/Helm family monograph series in 2019,

Phil and his wife ran the well-known *Cassowary House*, a birding and nature lodge situated in a great birding spot in

the rainforest at Kuranda, near Cairns, but since early 2020 the family has relocated to a large rainforest property with a forest reserve at Topaz near Malanda on the Atherton Tablelands. They now have much more time for the grandchildren and are busy indoctrinating them into natural history.

Japan remains one of his favorite tours, for the birds, scenery, and fascinating culture plus the interesting and varied food available.

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

**Jun Matsui** has had a lifetime interest in wildlife. He started guiding in 1993 when he worked as a volunteer ranger at the Hikarigoaka nature park in Tokyo. After working for the Japanese Environment Agency where he collected and managed data and at several reserves where he was involved in setting up environmental education projects and guiding, he decided in 1999 to move to Australia. He spent a year traveling around the country and volunteering at various birding hotspots (including Broome Bird Observatory), and then he settled in the tropical Far North Queensland town of Cairns and took a job as a specialist bird tour guide for inbound Japanese groups.

Jun is an excellent photographer and has been involved in several bird publications. He is the author of the very popular Japanese language *A Photographic Guide to the Wildlife of the Cairns Region* and the new edition of the photographic *Field Guide to North Queensland Birds*. He joined Sicklebill Safaris in 2007 and has been working with them ever since, with the Japan tours one of his specialties, of course.

*“Phil's tours are among our favorites. And we enjoyed traveling with his assistant guide/driver, Jun, who was beyond patient when it came to explaining what we were eating, etiquette, and the like.”*  
B. S.; Winter Japan

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$10,675 from Narita (does not include flights within Japan; see note below)**

**DEPOSIT: \$1075 per person**

**INTERNAL FLIGHTS:** \$1800 as of October 2023; subject to change

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** November 13, 2023

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$650 (Singles are not available at some lodges including Washi-no-Yado.)

**LIMIT: 7**

***A NOTE ON THE INTERNAL FLIGHTS:*** *We often try to include flights ‘in-country’ in the tour fee; however, in this case we have excluded them, and included them instead as an estimated cost. Field Guides will assist in the booking of your internal flights, and you will be charged the current price when they are booked.*

**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 Ruth Kuhl. Ruth will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Accommodations are generally good on this tour, but not luxurious. Most hotels will be western-style, but one will be Japanese-style with futons which make a great warm, firm base on which to sleep, and you simply pile quilts up on top to make a really comfortable nocturnal nest. Some places may get you to make up your own futon and quilts, and these are simply folded up and put away in a cupboard next day (as at Washi-no-Yado). Some shared rooms may be necessary here in Hokkaido at the Blakiston's Fish Owl site. Otherwise, we try to ensure en suite where possible.

**CULTURAL ETIQUETTE:** Some of the accommodations will have Japanese-style bathhouses, if you use the onsen (hot spring facilities), you need to shower beforehand just outside the hot spring baths, and stack your clothes in the lockers

there. Footwear is removed before going into Japanese houses and non-western style hotels. There will be an array of slippers available to wear, but as our feet tend to be larger than the average in Japan, we advise packing a light pair of slippers of your own.

Toilets are usually western-style, and the Japanese lead the world in toilet technology with such things as in-built bidets, piped relaxing music, and warmed seats, which can be very handy when freezing in Hokkaido!

Bowing is a traditional way of greeting, and you may respond with a similar bow, but a smile and handshake will not cause offence. Bows are part of the service in many places. Blowing your nose in public is also taboo, and gauze masks are common in many places to avoid catching colds or infecting others.

**DOCUMENTS:** US citizens will need a current passport to enter Japan. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Japanese 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 \$10,675 for one person in double occupancy from Narita. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 17, all meals from dinner on Day 2 through lunch on Day 18, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Tokyo or flights within Japan, airport taxes, visa fees, 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** for the tour is \$650. (Singles are not available Washi-no-Yado and may not be at Lake Furen.) 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 \$1075** 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 November 13, 2023**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in

conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

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

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

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