

ITINERARY
LESSER ANTILLES
December 3-19, 2020



The Antillean Crested Hummingbird is endemic to the Lesser Antilles, and is found on all of the islands. This individual is from Dominica. Photograph by guide Jesse Fagan.

We include here information for those interested in the 2020 Field Guides Lesser Antilles tour:

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

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a 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

The Lesser Antilles comprise a string of small volcanic islands forming the boundary between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. While they don't normally jump to mind as an important birding destination, collectively these exotic islands host a highly threatened avifauna including many endemics that most birders never have an opportunity to experience. We will visit ten islands, nine of which (Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, and Barbuda) are each home to at least one endemic species. Antigua, our tenth island, is an important transportation hub and a great place to search for migrant shorebirds and waterfowl, including White-cheeked Pintail and West Indian Whistling-Duck. We will spend one or two nights on several of the islands, with the final three nights on Antigua, which will serve as a base for visiting Montserrat and Barbuda. Accommodations in the islands are in

comfortable hotels, some right on the beach, and most island hopping will be done via short airline flights (we may include a short ferry ride for some travel).

Of the 45 or so Caribbean specialties possible on this tour, 30 are endemic to the Lesser Antilles and the Virgin Islands. Of these, 11 are listed by BirdLife International as threatened. In spite of their rarity, all but one of these endemics has been seen on our previous tours. The only species we've missed may now be extinct: Saint Lucia's little-known Semper's Warbler, which has not been confirmed since 1967. With our return to the volcano-ravaged island of Montserrat, the addition of a visit to the little-birded island of Barbuda, and a stop on Barbados, (home of the endemic Barbados Bullfinch) we now have a very good chance of encountering all the extant Lesser Antillean endemics.

The natural habitat on most of these islands has been significantly fragmented and altered by human settlement, accounting for the scarcity of many endemic birds. However, conservation efforts on most islands have been very effective and public awareness of the unique nature of this island avifauna has been elevated to new heights. Several species, especially the four Amazona parrots, have greatly benefited. Since good birding habitat is so localized or usually confined to the highlands on most of these islands, a single morning's visit to one trail in appropriate habitat is usually sufficient for seeing all of an island's specialties. This should enable us to be quite flexible with our afternoon schedules, allowing time to laze on a sunny beach or tour other sites on the islands.

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 (at most 2-3 miles in morning, 1-2 miles on some afternoons), mostly on roadways and maintained dirt trails, but several trails on St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Montserrat have steep grades and uneven terrain (walking sticks recommended) and you must be able to make high steps.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will likely stand for long periods to observe birds. In one location on Grenada, we may need to walk off trail into tangled or thorny vegetation. *This is a logistically challenging trip, visiting 10 islands and using 12 or more flights, many of which can depart later than advertised.* Good stamina, balance and patience are essential on this tour.
- **PACE:** Our pace varies, depending on flight schedules and birding needs. Most days begin early, with breakfast as early as 5:00 a.m. On some days, there is a break after lunch, followed by late afternoon birding. Many days are travel days. There will be at least one nighttime excursion to look for birds, but we will return to the hotel before 8:30 p.m.
- **WEATHER:** Weather in the Lesser Antilles is warm to hot and usually sunny. Temperatures may range from the 60s to 90s F. Adequate sun protection is imperative, as is proper hydration, and participants should be adequately prepared for the heat and humidity of the tropics. Rain showers are possible.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we typically employ a seat rotation system on our 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. Because this tour uses so many sorts of vehicles on the various islands, "rotation" of seating will be a bit variable.
- **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.

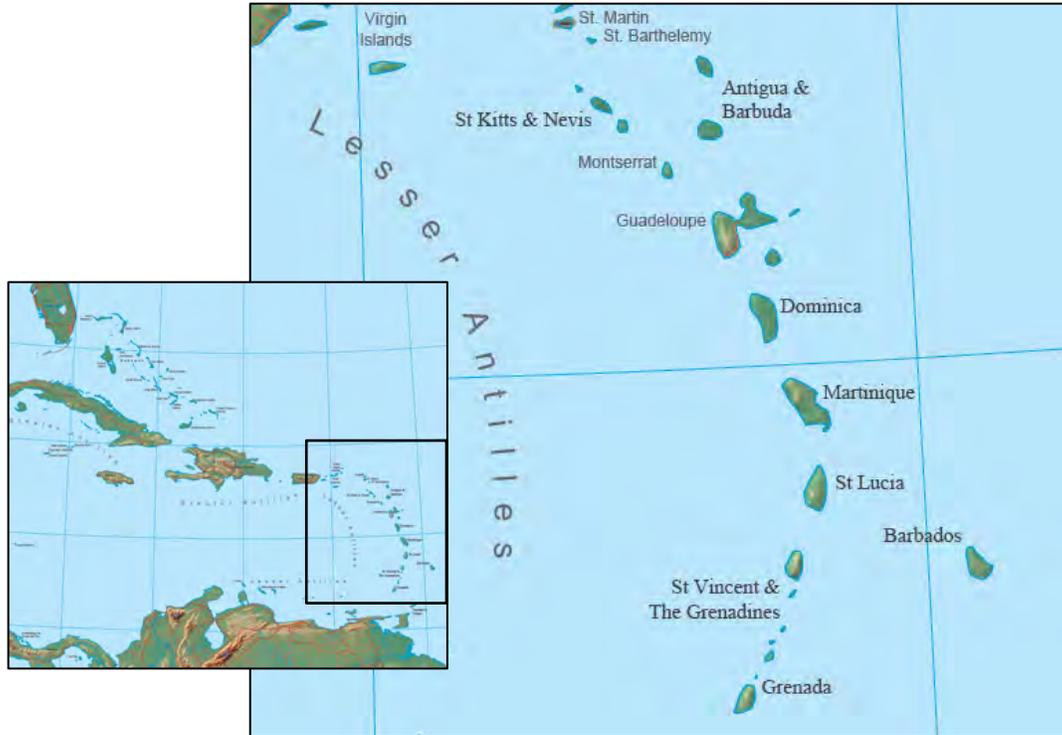
Island avifauna is, in general, very limited, and when the specialties on any given island have been seen adequately by the group, we are often left with considerable time for other activities. Sometimes this may be filled with an unplanned birding excursion to an area that may turn up something of note; other times we may fit in an appropriate non-birding activity such as sightseeing in an area of particular interest; still other times will be unscheduled free time during which participants will be able to do their laundry, catch up on their sleep, or simply kick back and relax on the beach or by the pool.

It is impossible to predict the schedule of these activities, as they are highly variable and dependent on bus and driver availability, and of course, on whether or not the target birds have been located, as this will remain our top priority. **Please note that “free time” is also dependent on flight schedules (which change from year to year) and delays, which are encountered frequently and may mean we are more rushed on islands, so no “free time!”**

Finally, to fully enjoy the tour, it's important to keep in mind that **island time is real**. The pace of life is slower and our “emergencies” may not seem so urgent to others (mainly the airlines!). Your guide will handle all the difficulties and we just ask that participants relax, enjoy the blue waters, cold beers, and endemic birds.

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 one of the guides.

About the Birding Areas



Barbados—This popular tourist destination serves as a gateway to the Lesser Antilles and makes a logical starting point to our exploration of the islands, especially now that the local form of bullfinch has been elevated to species status. In addition to searching for the bullfinch, we also plan to visit the Graeme Hall Bird Sanctuary (if flight times allow, but closed since 2009), famous for the Little Egrets that now breed there. If GHBS is still closed, then we will make visits to several shorebird ponds, which can be incredibly good for European vagrants (Common Greenshank in 2010 and 2013 and Eurasian Spoonbill in 2010 & 2019).

Grenada—On the south side of this island is a small, remnant patch of dry woodland that harbors the last individuals of the endemic Grenada Dove. Once much more widespread, this dove has been brought to the brink of extinction both by habitat destruction and by predation by the introduced Small Indian Mongoose. We'll also do some birding in a lush mountain forest area (if time permits and we have seen the dove on our first afternoon), where we could see a number of other specialties, including Grenada Flycatcher, Lesser Antillean Tanager, and Rufous-breasted Hermit.

St. Vincent—As on most of the islands we visit, the only large remaining tracts of native forest here are restricted almost entirely to the highlands in the center of St. Vincent. It is in these lush mountain forests that we will search for the island's two endemic birds—the striking St. Vincent Parrot and the little-known Whistling Warbler. While following the trail up to the parrot lookout, we'll also look for the island's unique race of House Wren. In the evening (if we haven't already seen it on Grenada) we will look for the local form of *Tyto* owl, a bird that is alternatively considered a race of Barn Owl or Ashy-faced Owl, but may be a separate species.

St. Lucia—Our birding effort on St. Lucia will again be focused on the island’s more humid, montane forests. Here, along good trails, we will search for five of the six island specialties—the St. Lucia Parrot, St. Lucia Pewee, St. Lucia Warbler, St. Lucia Oriole, and the St. Lucia Black Finch. The dense interior forests on this beautiful island were also home to Semper’s Warbler. This bird was still virtually unknown at the time of the last reliable sighting over 35 years ago, and sadly, it may now be extinct.

Martinique—This is one of two French islands we’ll visit on our trip. We will spend time in the dry, lowland forest of Presqu’île de la Caravelle for the odd White-breasted Thrasher and the beautiful Martinique Oriole. The thrasher, one of the rarest birds in the Caribbean (with possibly fewer than 100 remaining on Martinique), can be found on only two islands—here (where we have the best chance of finding it) and on neighboring St. Lucia.



*Found on only St. Lucia and Martinique, the Gray Trembler is a unique mimid that we’ll watch for.
Photograph by participant Greg Griffith.*

Dominica—Billed as the “nature island,” Dominica is one of our most important stops. It is here in the luxuriant forests of the highest reaches of the island that two rare endemic parrots can still be found: the gaudy Red-necked and the critically endangered Imperial, the latter the largest of the genus *Amazona*. The island is also the only one of the Lesser Antilles where Red-legged Thrush is found (recently shown to have been most likely introduced to the island by Amerindians from Puerto Rico), and it also is home to several other restricted range species including Blue-headed Hummingbird, Lesser Antillean Pewee, Forest Thrush, and Plumbeous Warbler, as well as an endemic form of House Wren.

Guadeloupe—In spite of its large size and variety of habitats, Guadeloupe is home to only one endemic—the Guadeloupe Woodpecker. We will have an opportunity to see it on a trip to the western half of Guadeloupe known as Basse Terre. It is in these rich forests that we will search for Bridled Quail-Dove and Forest Thrush, as well as several more common, widespread species.

Antigua—We’ll spend three nights on this charming island, using it as our base to visit the neighboring islands of Montserrat and Barbuda. As elsewhere in the Caribbean, much of the original habitat has been gone for centuries, but there are several rich wetland areas we will visit, though how much birding time we have here will be dependent on our flight schedule. Of all the islands we visit, Antigua is the best for both shorebirds and waterfowl including White-cheeked Pintail and the rare and hard-to-find West Indian Whistling-Duck. This far to the east there’s always a chance of finding an Old World species (Little Egret from 2005 to 2008 and 2013 tours and Black-headed Gull in 2005 and 2009), so we’ll check carefully for these species.

Montserrat—The landscape of tiny Montserrat is dominated by the looming Soufriere Hills Volcano, which came to life in 1997 devastating much of the southern half of the island and causing concern among naturalists for the welfare of the endemic Montserrat Oriole. Fortunately a population of orioles survived in the northern parts of the island and these will be the main focus of our visit here. We will also have the chance to visit the Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) for a view of the volcano and some insight into its effects on the island's environment. A visit to Montserrat can be done either by plane or ferry.

Barbuda—Flat, dry Barbuda is one of the East Caribbean's least-visited islands and is home to one endemic species of bird, Barbuda Warbler. Our day-visit here will be focused on finding this bird, but we should also have the chance to take a boat trip in Codrington Lagoon to visit the largest frigatebird colony in the Lesser Antilles. A visit to Barbuda or Montserrat can be done either by plane or ferry.



*The shy Bridled Quail-Dove is a regional endemic, found from St. Lucia northward to Puerto Rico.
Photograph by guide Jesse Fagan.*

Itinerary for Lesser Antilles

Day 1, Thu, 3 Dec. Departure from Miami to Barbados. As arrival times may vary throughout the day, please plan to take a taxi to the hotel. Dinner tonight is on your own; your guide will leave a message for you concerning arrangements for the morning. Night on Barbados.

Day 2, Fri, 4 Dec. Barbados; flight to Grenada. We'll make the most of the short amount of time we have here on Barbados to search for the endemic Barbados Bullfinch. Barbados has a long history of vagrant species from the Old World, and we will make attempts to find any species of note that might be present during our visit.

Mid-morning or mid-day we will take a short flight across to the small island of Grenada. Here we will make our first attempt to find the elusive Grenada Dove in the afternoon. Night on Grenada.

Day 3, Sat, 5 Dec. Grenada. Early this morning we will make a return trip to the dry forest to continue our quest for the Grenada Dove (if necessary). Here too, we may find the rare local race of Hook-billed Kite. As the heat starts to build (and depending on our success with the dove), we'll travel to a lush mountaintop forest with Lesser Antillean Tanager and Rufous-breasted Hermit among our targets. Night on Grenada.

Day 4, Sun, 6 Dec. Grenada to St. Vincent. There may be some light morning birding on St. Vincent before traveling to Saint Vincent. We will check into our comfortable hotel and depending on our success in Grenada, look for the local *Tyto* owl on the hotel grounds in the evening. Night on St. Vincent.

Day 5, Mon, 7 Dec. St. Vincent. Today we will hike up to the mountain forest in search of two endemics (St. Vincent Parrot and Whistling Warbler) plus several distinct forms of other species. The trail is good but steep and slippery, so we will make frequent stops to catch our breath and search for birds. Hiking boots or shoes with good tread will be needed here. In the afternoon, if time permits, we will make a visit to the Kingstown Botanical Gardens where we have a good chance of seeing Common Black-Hawk (the only island in the Lesser Antilles where they're found) and can get up close encounters with the parrots that are part of the captive breeding program here. Night on St. Vincent.

Day 6, Tue, 8 Dec. St. Vincent to St. Lucia. Today, we will fly from St. Vincent to St. Lucia. Birding or other opportunities will depend on the final flight schedule. Night on St. Lucia.

Day 7, Wed, 9 Dec. St. Lucia. Today's birding will be in an extensive forest reserve in the central highlands. Our birding will be done mostly from a good trail where all extant endemics are possible, and we will use as much time as needed to get looks at all the endemic species. Our main goal is a platform with a view over the forest from which we should be able to see St. Lucia Parrots as they fly past in the early morning.

This afternoon the guides will try to arrange for an optional excursion to the dry northeastern part of the island in search of the rare island race of House Wren, Bridled Quail-Dove, St. Lucia Pewee, White-breasted Thrasher (very rare), and the very local Rufous Nightjar (often heard, but difficult to see). This excursion is dependent on whether the local guide can assist us or not since access to the site is by permission only. Night on St. Lucia.

Day 8, Thu, 10 Dec. Today we will fly from **St Lucia to Martinique**. Once again, our birding plans will largely be dictated by the flight schedule. Night on Martinique.

Day 9, Fri, 11 Dec. Martinique. We will have an early start as we head to a location for both White-breasted Thrasher and Martinique Oriole. Depending on our success here, we will adjust our plans accordingly. Other target birds include Lesser Antillean Saltator, and Gray Tumbler. Night on Martinique.

Day 10, Sat, 12 Dec. Martinique to Guadeloupe. Flight schedule dependent, we may have a morning to sleep-in and relax a bit. We will fly from Martinique to Guadeloupe, get checked-in to our hotel, and explore any nearby forest patches for the endemic woodpecker. Night on Guadeloupe.



The lovely Forest Thrush is one of our goals when we visit Guadeloupe. They might be found in moist forests on Dominica, Montserrat and St. Lucia as well, but the species is uncommon to rare, and the largest population is found on Guadeloupe. Photograph by guide Jesse Fagan.

Day 11, Sun, 13 Dec. Guadeloupe. This morning we'll depart for the mountain forests of Basse Terre in search of Bridled Quail-Dove, Forest Thrush, Brown Trembler, and Guadeloupe Woodpecker. The trails in this area are generally good but can be slippery if wet, so appropriate shoes or hiking boots are recommended. In the afternoon (time dependent), we will look at other birding options. Night on Guadeloupe.

Day 12, Mon, 14 Dec. Guadeloupe to Dominica. In the afternoon, we should have some time to do some birding on the island, perhaps at the nearby historical park at La Cabrits, but the schedule today is very much dependent on the final flight schedule. Night on Dominica.

Day 13, Tue, 15 Dec. Dominica. We'll drive high into the mountains where the last of the Imperial Parrots live along with the more common Red-necked Parrot. A walk on the well-groomed Syndicate Estate Trail will also give us our best chance at a couple of other Caribbean specialties, Plumbeous Warbler and Red-legged Thrush, as well as the lovely Forest Thrush. Here, too, we'll have our first opportunity to find both Blue-headed Hummingbird and Lesser Antillean Pewee as well as the distinctive local race of House Wren. Night on Dominica.

Day 14, Wed, 16 Dec. Dominica to Antigua. Depending on flight times, in the afternoon we will bird a nearby salt-lagoon for waders (including looking for Little Egret, which has bred here in the past), waterfowl (White-cheeked Pintail and West-Indian Whistling-Duck), and hopefully lots of shorebirds. Night on Antigua.

Day 15, Thu, 17 Dec. Day trip to **Barbuda.** A short flight or longer ferry ride this morning will take us across to the island of Barbuda, home of the endemic Barbuda Warbler. Once we have seen the warbler, we should have sufficient time remaining to make a boat trip to the frigatebird colony in Codrington Lagoon, as well as the cliffs on the islands east coast, where Red-billed Tropicbird is known to breed. We should also have time to check a couple of coastal sites where we may find Least and Roseate terns as well as a variety of shorebirds. We will return to Antigua late in the afternoon either by plane or ferry. Night on Antigua.



*The endemic Montserrat Oriole is threatened by loss of habitat due to volcanic eruptions on the island.
Photograph by guide Jesse Fagan.*

Day 16, Fri, 18 Dec. Day trip to **Montserrat.** Today will find us making a short flight or ferry trip across to the nearby island of Montserrat. We will have the full day here to search for the endemic Montserrat Oriole as well as Bridled Quail-Dove and the endemic race of the Forest Thrush. Time permitting, we will visit the interesting Montserrat Volcano Observatory before our return flight to Antigua. We may also have some time in the late afternoon to check the salt ponds

near our hotel on Antigua where on past trips we've had numerous West Indian Whistling-Ducks, large numbers of shorebirds, and various vagrants in the form of Little Egret and Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed gulls. Farewell dinner and night on Antigua.

Day 17, Sat, 19 Dec. Departure for home. You may schedule your departure flight for any time today. Please plan to take a taxi from the hotel to the airport. Have a safe trip home!

About Your Guide

Jesse Fagan (a.k.a. the Motmot or just "Mot") has been passionate about birds since his teens, when he had an encounter with a flying Pileated Woodpecker. He has birded throughout the United States, including spending seven years in Texas, and since 1995 has been birding and for a time living in northern Central America. He is a co-author of the recently published [*Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America*](#) (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016), a field guide to the region which includes the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Belize.

In addition, Mot has birded in or led tours to Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, France, Morocco, and Madagascar. He also enjoys leading many of the Field Guides tours in the Caribbean. He likes to think he can bird anywhere at any time and still show you the birds, but most importantly, a good time. Jesse holds a B.S. and an M.S. in mathematics from Texas Tech University. He is currently living in Lima, Peru.

"Jesse Fagan, with his eagle eye, was the best feature of the tour. He made every effort to make sure we saw the wonderful birds of the area. The trip was made successful by having such a knowledgeable guide." S.C., Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru

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

Financial Information

FEE: \$10,575 from Barbados (does not include inter-island flights)

INTER-ISLAND FLIGHTS: \$2300 as of May, 2020; subject to change

DEPOSIT: \$1500 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: Aug 5, 2020

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1750

LIMIT: 6

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Karen Turner. Karen will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

DOCUMENTS: US citizens will need a current passport, valid for six months beyond the return date, to enter the Lesser Antilles islands. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the corresponding island consulate nearest you for entry requirements as they vary by island. 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.

LUGGAGE: Please limit your luggage to one medium-size duffel or suitcase and one carry-on. We will be moving frequently and in a variety of vehicles, so it is imperative that we keep our weight down, which makes travel easier and saves your guide's back. In addition, keep your bags light so as to avoid overweight baggage charges (this changes year to year). 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 \$10,575 for one person in double occupancy from Barbados. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 16, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 16, all ground transportation during the tour, 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 **from your home to Barbados, or from Antigua to your home, or any inter-island flights**, airport transfers on Days 1 and 16, 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 \$1750. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, the guide in training will be taking a seat in the van or bus. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$1500** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by August 5, 2020. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 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 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour fees (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 the 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 airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. 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, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 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. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility 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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