ITINERARY

Mexico's Eastern Sierras: Maroon-fronted Parrots and More

June 24-July 4, 2027



Maroon-fronted Parrots nest in limestone cliffs at Cumbres de Monterrey National Park just south of Monterrey. They feed on pine seeds, which they extract with their powerful bills. During the non-breeding season, they disperse throughout the mountains of Nuevo Leon forming large nomadic flocks and they return to the same nesting cliffs in the spring and summer. Photograph by guide Micah Riegner.

We include here information for those interested in the 2027 Field Guides Mexico's Eastern Sierras tour*:*

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

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

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

In the Field Guides tradition of going to new and exciting places, we've developed this route to show you the best of Eastern Mexico, a karstic region rich in birdlife (with several endemics!), dramatic mountains, enormous limestone sinkholes, colorful pueblos, and flavorful food. Starting in Mexico City, we'll head north into the state of Hidalgo where we'll be exposed to some of Mexico's northernmost cloud forest at the little town of Tlanchinol. Here, among the towering sweetgums, tree ferns, and bromeliads, we'll seek the endemic Tamaulipas Pygmy-Owl as well as Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, White-naped Brushfinch, Middle American Leaftosser, both Unicolored and Azure-hooded Jays, Brown-capped Vireo, Slate-colored Solitaire, Hooded Yellowthroat, the Bronze-winged form of Golden-Olive Woodpecker, and a diverse assortment of woodcreepers including Spotted, Spot-crowned, Olivaceous, Ivory-billed, and Strong-billed.

Working our way north, into the state of San Luis Potosi, we'll spend a few days exploring the Xilitla area in the heart of the *Huasteca Potosina,* the humid side of the state. First, we'll stop at the little community of La Trinidad that sits in the pine/oak zone, where we try for one of Mexico's skulkiest endemics: Bearded Wood-Partridge. Singing Quail are here too.

The town of Xilitla, with its narrow, winding streets and colorful buildings, took center stage during Mexico's surrealist movement in the 40's. Among the notable characters of this period was Edward James, an eccentric British millionaire, and patron of Salvador Dali, Leonora Carrington, and Rene Magritte, who designed a surrealist sculpture garden known as *Las Pozas* that's set within the rainforest of Xilitla. Amid the winding staircases leading to nowhere, concrete lotus blossoms and whimsical columns, we'll look for Northern Emerald Toucanets, Wedge-tailed Sabrewings, Smoky-brown Woodpeckers and White-winged Tanagers. We'll be sure to visit Sotano de las Huahuas, a collapsed limestone sinkhole that plunges to a staggering depth of 1,568 feet. Arriving at dawn, we'll witness the emergence of several hundred Green Parakeets and several thousand White-collared Swifts whirling out of the sotano in a remarkable avian vortex. Along the trail we'll keep an eye out for Fan-tailed Warbler, Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, Blue-capped Motmot and Crimson-collared Grosbeak.

Continuing north, we'll search for the endemic Altamira Yellowthroat that occurs in sugar cane fields, of all places, then we'll check a nesting colony of wild Red-crowned Amazons in an ancient stand of cottonwoods before embarking on a canoe ride to see nesting Military Macaws. At dusk, we'll try for Tawny-collared Nightjar, another Mexican endemic we don't see on any other Field Guides tour.

For the final days of our tour, we'll bird in the state of Nuevo Leon, near the city of Monterrey. We'll visit Valle de la Soledad, a high desert grassland full of Mexican Prairie Dogs and one of the last strongholds of Worthen's Sparrow, a Field Sparrow look-alike, with a distinctive voice, and one of the rarest birds in Mexico; it favors areas with low scattered *Condalia* shrubs and breeds at the onset of the rainy season. We'll conclude our tour with a visit to the Cumbres de Monterrey National Park, where dramatic limestone cliffs support breeding colonies of Maroon-fronted Parrots. These iconic and endangered parrots in the genus *Rhynchopsitta* feed primarily on conifer seeds that they extract with their powerful bills, and they nest in caves within the limestone cliffs. They share their vertical nesting quarters with White-throated Swifts and Peregrine Falcons. The shaded valleys below support breeding Colima Warblers, Audubon's Orioles,and Black-crested Titmice. A night excursion could produce Spotted Owl, Whiskered Screech-Owl and Mexican Whip-poor-will. Micah has scouted this route and chosen some fabulous restaurants, cute cabañas, and talented local guides, so, pack your bags and get ready for another Mexico Field Guides adventure!

This tour may be combined with Mexico's Chihuahua: Thick-billed Parrots and Eared Quetzals, July 4-11, 2027.



Worthen's Sparrow breeds in the Altiplano of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila and sadly, its numbers are declining due to expanding potato agriculture. Photograph by guide Micah Riegner.

Activities & Physical Requirements

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! If you are uncertain whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please contact our office. We can answer your questions or connect you with the tour guide. There will be no change or cancellation fee if you opt out due to the physical requirements below within 10 days of depositing, and we'd be happy to help you find the best-fitting tour.

- **TRAILS & WALKING**: Most of our birding will be along dirt roads and trails, some of which are moderately steep so bringing a walking stick would be a good idea. The walk to Sotano de las Huahuas is 1 km on concrete steps, which can be slippery after a rain. The first few hundred meters are downhill, and the rest of the hike is all uphill until we reach the sotano. Once at the sotano, you will need to clamber around some craggy limestone to get to the overlooks.
- **PACE**: Most mornings we will have a 5:30 breakfast followed by birding until lunchtime. We will have a lot of ground to cover on this tour, so many of the days we will be driving to our next destination in the afternoon.
- **ELEVATION**: Elevations will range from 7,300 feet in Mexico City where we start the tour, and it will all be downhill from there. The lowest elevation will be Ciudad Valles at around 270 feet.
- **WEATHER**: **This is the rainy season, so expect rain on most afternoons**. Mornings are generally clear. We will maximize the morning birding and plan to rest or drive during the afternoons. Temperatures range from the low 40s in the early mornings at the higher elevations, to the mid 90's in the lowlands at the heat of the day.
- **TRANSPORTATION**: We will be traveling in a 12-passenger van driven by a professional driver.
- **VEHICLE SEATING**: So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system. 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.
- **DIETARY INFO**: We do our best to accommodate dietary needs and restrictions shared with us upon registration. Any additional or specific concerns should be discussed directly with the guide and/or restaurant or hotel staff throughout the tour.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS**: Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on most days, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES**: There will be some long drives to reach our birding destinations, especially the day we drive from Mexico City to Tlanchinol and the day we drive to Coahuila.
- **OPTING OUT**: You may wish to opt out a morning or afternoon. Your guide will inform you when and where to meet for the next meal or outing.

About the Birding Areas

On our way out of Mexico City we will bird at **Cienega de San Juan** a beautiful high elevation wetland in the northern part of the city. We will also visit **Parque Estatal Patlachique.**

The first few days of the tour we'll bird at **Tlanchinol**, in the state of Hidalgo. This cute little town sits on a cloud forest ridge at 5,020 feet in elevation. It has a population of roughly 6,000 residents. There are various side roads and trails around Tlanchinol that give us access to the unique sweetgum cloud forest here.

The **Huasteca Potosina** encompasses the humid gulf slope of San Luis Potosi. It is the region that was occupied by the Huastec indigenous people, the northernmost Mesoamerican group of the Gulf Coast. The region is characterized by humid tropical forest, turquoise rivers, waterfalls, plentiful caves, and sinkholes. It is one of the most biodiverse parts of Mexico with over 5,413 known species of plants. The lowlands have semideciduous forest, much of which has been cleared for sugar cane agriculture. Moving up in elevation, one reaches more humid cloud forest before reaching pine forests at the highest elevations.

The town of **Xilitla** sits at 2,200 feet in elevation. It is the rainiest part of San Luis Potosi, gathering its moisture from the Gulf of Mexico. The Edward James Surrealist Garden is a must-see attraction in Xilitla. The community of **La Trinidad** sits at 6,500 ft in elevation, about an hour's drive ~~from~~ above the town of Xilitla along a narrow road that switchbacks up the mountain. The habitat here is humid pine forest with abundant mosses, ferns and bromeliads. La Trinidad sits at the

eastern end of the **Reserva Biosfera de la Sierra Gorda** that extends into the state of Querretaro. This is a wild part of Mexico where jaguars still roam.



Sotano de las Huahuas is one of the many limestone sinkholes in the *Huasteca Potosina*. It was a declared an *Area Natural Protegida* (ANP – Natural Protected Area) in 2001. It has two main chambers, the first has a dept of 662 feet, and the lower chamber extends to 1,568 feet. The White-naped Swifts roost and nest in the lower chamber, while the Green Parakeets roost and nest in the upper chamber. Both the swifts and parakeets depart in the early morning, whirling around in the sotano for several minutes while gradually gaining altitude. It truly is one of the great avian spectacles of the world.

Valle de la Soledad is a valley right at the border of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila. This high desert grassland is part of Mexico's *Altiplano Central,* the arid region between the Sierra Madre Occidental and Sierra Madre Oriental. It is an extension of the Chihuahuan Desert and is of high conservation priority given the threatened species found there. It has the largest Mexican Prairie Dog colony in the world and is one of the last intact breeding sites of the Worthen's Sparrow, now thought to number fewer than 1,000 individuals. The valley also supports a breeding population of Mountain Plovers, a resident population of Long-billed Curlews and wintering Baird's Sparrows and Sprague's Pipits (our visit will likely be too late in the season for Baird's Sparrow and Sprague's Pipit). This fragile ecosystem is threatened by potato agriculture, but thankfully, conservation initiatives have set aside several hundred hectares of this high desert grassland.

Parque Nacional Cumbres de Monterrey was founded in 1939 under the president Lazaro Cardenas and at the time it was Mexico's largest national park, encompassing 680 square miles of rugged limestone mountains cloaked in high elevation conifer forest. This is the heart of the breeding range of the Maroon-fronted Parrot, which now numbers roughly 2,500 mature individuals. Sadly, recent wildfires have wiped out huge swathes of forest, which the parrots depend on.

Monterrey is the capital city of Nuevo Leon with 1,140,000 residents. It is one of Mexico's wealthiest cities with prominent industries being steel, cement, glass, and auto manufacturing.

Itinerary for Mexico's Eastern Sierras: Maroon-fronted Parrots and More

Day 1, Thu, 24 Jun. Arrival in Mexico City Airport (Aeropuerto Benito Juarez). Please plan to arrive in Benito Juarez International Airport (MEX) by 5:00 pm today. We will meet at the hotel lobby at 6:30 pm, and have dinner at the hotel restaurant. Night at Fiesta Inn, Mexico City Airport.

Day 2, Fri, 25 Jun. Mexico City to Tlanchinol, Hidalgo. We will have breakfast at the hotel, then drive to Cienega de San Juan where Aztec Rail will be our primary target. After that, we'll bird at Parque Estatal Patlachique in search of Ocellated Thrasher. We'll have lunch in Pachuca, then spend the rest of the afternoon driving to Tlanchinol. The drive will take us through some spectacular desert valleys cloaked in columnar cacti, then suddenly, we'll be up in the cloud forest! Night in Tlanchinol, Hidalgo.

Day 3, Sat, 26 Jun. Birding around Tlanchinol. We'll have breakfast at the hotel and spend the day exploring the cloud forest of Tlanchinol. Tamaulipas Pygmy-Owl, Spotted and Strong-billed Woodcreepers, Azure-crowned Hummingbird, Middle American Leaftosser, Black-headed Nightingale Thrush, Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, White-naped Brushfinch, Northern Emerald Toucanet, Mountain Trogon, and Slate-colored Solitaire are all possibilities here. On a recent scouting trip, we found Ornate Hawk-Eagle, a first eBird record for the state of Hidalgo! We'll bird along various side roads and trails, some of which might be rather steep, so bring your walking sticks if you use them. Night in Tlanchinol, Hidalgo.



Azure-hooded Jays can be seen in the cloud forests around Tlanchinol, Hidalgo.
Photograph by guide Micah Riegner.

Day 4, Sun, 27 Jun. Tlanchinol to Xilitla and Edward James Surrealist Garden. We'll have another 5:30 am breakfast, then spend the morning birding our way towards Xilitla, gradually dropping in elevation as we approach San Luis Potosi. Reaching Xilitla, we'll get checked into our hotel, have lunch, then visit the Edward James Surrealist Garden in the afternoon. Night in Xilitla, San Luis Potosi.

Day 5, Mon, 28 Jun. Day trip to La Trinidad. We'll have a 5:00 am departure from our hotel in Xilitla, and bird our way up to the little community of La Trinidad, where we'll try for Bearded Wood-Partridge, Singing Quail, Hooded Grosbeak, and Black Thrush, among other high elevation specialties. After lunch in La Trinidad, we'll make our way back down towards Xilitla in the afternoon. The road we will be birding is quite steep in sections, so bring a walking stick if you need one. Night in Xilitla, San Luis Potosi.

Day 6, Tue, 29 Jun. Sotano de las Huahuas. We will have an early start to reach the Sotano de las Huahuas to watch several hundred Green Parakeets and several thousand White-collared Swifts emerge in a spiraling vortex. The trail up to the sotano is about 1 km of paved even steps, most of which will be uphill. Be sure to bring a headlamp, since we'll be walking there in the dark to reach the sotano right at dawn. Other birds in the area include Red-crowned Ant-tanager (possible future split), Blue-capped Motmot, Crimson-collared Grosbeak, Collared Forest-Falcon, Streaked Flycatcher and Fan-tailed Warbler. We'll have lunch in Xilitla, then spend the afternoon birding the highway to Queretaro. Some of the targets in the drier forest will include Spotted Wren and Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush. Night in Xilitla, San Luis Potosi.

Day 7, Wed, 30 Jun. Puente de Dios San Francisco to Tamasopo. We'll load up with bags at 4:45 am and begin our journey north. Our first stop will be a breeding colony of Red-crowned Amazons along the side of a river. After breakfast,

we'll do a canoe trip up a spectacular canyon where Military Macaws nest. Keep an eye out for Great Curassows, too, near the riverbank! After lunch, we'll try for Altamira Yellowthroat in the sugar cane fields, then we'll continue to drive to Tamasopo. We should come across Tamaulipas Crows at some point along the drive. We'll get checked into our hotel, have an early dinner, and look for Tawny-collared Nightjar at dusk. Night in Tamasopo.



Red-crowned Amazons are wild in this part of Mexico. We will visit a breeding site in the state of San Luis Potosi. Photograph by guide Micah Riegner.

Day 8, Thu, 1 Jul. Tamasopo to Coahuila. This will be primarily a travel day. We'll do a bit of birding early-on near Tamasopo then we'll make our way north towards Coahuila, a drive of about 6 hours. Arriving at our hotel we'll plan to do some birding in the late afternoon, where we might see Lucifer Hummingbird and Buff-breasted Flycatcher. Night in Chapultepec, Coahuila.

Day 9, Fri, 2 Jul. Valle de la Soledad to Laguna de Sanchez. We'll dedicate the morning to finding the endemic Worthen's Sparrow in the high elevation grassland of Valle la Soledad. Besides the Worthen's Sparrow, we could see Horned Larks, Scaled Quail, Cassin's and Botteri's Sparrow and Western Meadowlarks. We'll be near the largest colony of Mexican Prairie Dogs in the world, so we should see a few of those, and maybe Spotted Ground-Squirrel too. The hillsides nearby support a huge diversity of cacti, many of which should be in bloom at this time of year. After lunch back at the hotel, we'll drive to the Cumbres de Monterrey National Park, stopping to find breeding Colima Warblers in the willow thickets along the road. In the evening, we might do some owling near our cabañas in search of Mexican Whip-poor-will and Whiskered Screech-Owl. Night in Laguna de Sanchez, Nuevo Leon.

Day 10, Sat, 3 Jul. Laguna de Sanchez. This day we will dedicate to seeing and enjoying the Maroon-fronted Parrots and whatever else decides to fly by! The parrots tend to hang out near the cliffs, but they might also be further down the road, so be prepared to walk on rather steep terrain. Other species we might see today include Peregrine Falcon, White-throated Swift, Northern Pygmy-Owl and Blue-throated Mountain-Gem. We'll have an early dinner then we'll try for Spotted Owl at dusk. Night at Laguna de Sanchez, Nuevo Leon.

Day 11, Sun, 4 Jul. Flights Home We will have a 5:15 am breakfast and drive to the Monterrey airport to arrive by 9:00 am. Please do not book your flights any earlier than 12:00 pm. Those connecting on our *Chihuahua: Thick-billed Parrots and Eared Quetzals* tour will fly from Monterrey to Chihuahua City and spend the night in Chihuahua City. *Buen viaje*!

About Your Guide

Micah Riegner grew up exploring the Central Arizona Highlands and was fortunate to have parents who took him along on college field courses ranging from the coast of Mexico to the mountains of Costa Rica, where encounters with tinamous, barbets, and jacamars launched him into the birding world at a young age. During his time at Prescott College, he made annual pilgrimages to Amazonia, where he worked as a guide and participated in expeditions, mostly in Brazil. For his master's he studied the foraging ecology of Amazonian woodcreepers. When he's not in the field, he tries to make time to paint birds and other creatures that spark his interest.

*"**Micah** is a real bird finder and a delightful guy. He obviously knows the country and the culture well. He provided us with some really great owling, too." P.B., Central Mexico & Baja: Birds, Butterflies & Whales 2022*

Micah guided tours with Bret Whitney, John Coons, Dan Lane, and Tom Johnson before joining Field Guides full time in 2019. Micah is a generous guide with an easy laugh and is eager to share his love of birds and nature in the years to come. We know you will have a great time traveling with him, too!

Visit https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/ for Micah's complete tour schedule.

Financial Information

TOUR FEE: $4525 from Mexico City and ending in Monterrey
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): $600
DEPOSIT: $450
FINAL PAYMENT DUE: December 26, 2026
LIMIT: 8

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The Tour Fee is $4525 for one person in double occupancy from Mexico City. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 10, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 11, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to Mexico City and from Monterrey, airport taxes, 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 $600 for those requesting a single room. 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).

Other Things You Need to Know

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

TOUR IS A GO: Each tour has a certain number of registrants required in order for confirmation that the tour will operate to be sent out. This number varies by tour, therefore we strongly suggest that since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager or have received final billing for the tour.

DOCUMENTS: Be sure to verify the latest entry requirements for each country you will visit or transit.

Passport: For US citizens traveling to Mexico, a current passport is necessary to re-enter the United States. It should be in good condition, valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date, and have at least one blank page for each country on your itinerary.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Mexican consulate nearest you for entry requirements.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: This tour starts in Mexico City (MEX), MX and ends in Monterrey (MTY), MX.

Arrival: Mexico City, Mexico, Day 1, by 5:00 pm; dinner will be at 6:30 pm.

Departure: Monterrey, Mexico, Day 11, after 12:00 pm.

Please wait to purchase airline tickets until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate. Before booking your flights, please **ensure they align with the tour schedule**–we're happy to confirm this for you. Most airline tickets are non-refundable and may carry change or cancellation fees, which remain your responsibility.

Once your arrival and departure plans are finalized—whether you are flying, driving, or taking a train—it is important that you **send us your complete itinerary** (including any extensions or connecting tours confirmed to operate) so we can coordinate group logistics. While most of our clients prefer to book their own flights, as a travel agency we are happy to arrange and book your flights at no service fee, if you would like.

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.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The accommodations on this tour are all comfortable. The Hotel Fiesta Inn in Mexico City is a very nice hotel with a fine dining area serving buffet breakfasts. As for the rest of the hotels on our route, some are more basic than others, but all are clean and comfortable nonetheless with private bathrooms. At the end of the tour, we will stay at some cute cabañas outside the town of Laguna de Sanchez. Being in little Mexican towns, please be prepared for the possibility of street noises such as dogs barking, roosters crowing, and cats meowing and kids playing—we will try our best to get us the quietest rooms, but there's a limit to what we can control.

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.

TOUR REGISTRATION: If you have reserved a space on this tour, please follow the instructions contained in the "Field Guides reminder: deposit due" email to confirm your registration. If you would like to register for this tour and have not yet reserved a space, please contact us at 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 electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please submit your deposit of $450 per person at the time you complete your registration; see https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/ for our Payment Options. (This amount is non-refundable due to deposits we must remit to secure lodging.) If you have previously paid a booking fee to reserve space on the tour, then the balance of your deposit minus the booking fee will be due. **Final payment for the remainder of the Tour Fee and any single supplement will be billed either 180 days prior to departure or upon receipt of the Tour is a Go email,** confirming that the tour has reached sufficient participation to operate, whichever date comes later.

As a reminder, 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.

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, one seat in the van or bus will be taken by the guide in training. 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.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If cancellation is received in writing 180 days or more before departure, all payments toward the Tour Fee, less $100 handling fee, will be refunded. If cancellation is received in writing between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the full Tour Fee is non-refundable. If the full Tour Fee has not yet been received by

Field Guides, then any payments already received will be applied against the non-refundable amount owed, and the remainder of such amount will be due from registrant immediately. All deposits and payments are non-refundable and non-transferable if cancellation is received closer than 90 days prior to the departure date.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made directly to Field Guides: the Tour Fee, the single supplement, and/or to any separately billed services. 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.

Field Guides reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. In this event, Registrant agrees that a full refund constitutes full and final settlement to the Registrant of any potential claims resulting from the cancellation. However, in the event that you were notified prior to registration that there is a non-refundable portion of your Tour Fee, that portion will not be refunded regardless of the reason for Field Guides' cancellation of the tour. Field Guides reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to substitute another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to protect your investment in case of injury or illness to you or an immediate family member before or during a trip. Because we must remit early and substantial deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer refunds for cancellations outside of our Cancellation Policy. If a participant is unable to join or continue a tour due to illness, all related expenses will be their responsibility, and no refunds can be issued for missed days. Please wait to purchase insurance until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate, as most policies are non-refundable.

For full details, visit our Trip Cancellation Insurance page at https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/.

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 when 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.

MR 7/25, RK 9/25
Peg 9/25; 11/26