

ITINERARY
MYANMAR: Birding Burma
February 27-March 13, 2020



The White-eyed, or Davison's, Bulbul is a subspecies of Stripe-throated Bulbul that is endemic to Myanmar. We'll look for them near the capital city of Yangon. Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.

We include here information for those interested in the 2020 Field Guides Birding Burma 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:

- 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

Long was the country of Burma out of play for most western eco-tourists, but the winds of change that blew through its political landscape earlier this decade signaled the beginning of a new era. The country has opened up, and in addition to some of its world-famous cultural regions (including the temple-dappled countryside of Bagan and the floating village at Inle Lake), many of its avian treasures, including all of its endemics, are now accessible to birders. This tour will allow us to bird a litany of different habitat types, from the arid lowlands around Bagan to the rich high elevation evergreen and unique high elevation pine forests of Mount Victoria, and from the rich marshy ecosystem of Inle Lake to the foothill forest around Kalaw, seeing a wonderful variety of birds, many of which are range restricted (including up to ten endemic taxa) and difficult to see elsewhere.

The spectacular vistas and astonishingly lush forests of Mt. Victoria, with their fascinating variety of plant life, would be reason enough for a visit, but the birds are outstanding as well. The iconic White-browed Nuthatch was rediscovered in 1995 after a 60-year absence from the annals of science, and it shares its restricted Mt. Victoria home with the similarly

range-restricted Mt. Victoria subspecies of Chinese Babax (Mt. Victoria Babax according to the IOC). Included in the rest of the dizzying array of special species supported by the mosaic of high elevation habitats are Burmese Bushtit, Streak-throated and Rusty-fronted barwings, Brown-capped, Assam, and Striped Laughingthrushes, Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie, Bar-tailed and Hume's treecreepers, Blyth's, Black-headed and Green shrike-babblers, Himalayan Cutia, and Chestnut-tailed Minla.

Though worlds apart in feel from Mt. Victoria, the hot, dry scrub forest around Bagan is equally unique. This area hosts even more endemic taxa than the forests of Mt. Victoria, including Hooded Treepie, Jerdon's Minivet, Burmese Bushlark, White-throated Babbler, and Burmese Collared-Dove. We will search for all of these amidst Bagan's famed temple landscape (with over 2,000 temples still in existence). These temples were mostly built 800-900 years ago, and have been in large part reclaimed by nature in the intervening years, with the gaps being filled in by some excellent habitat.

In the east of the country, Inle Lake is at once a fascinating cultural attraction, and a delightful birding destination. From our comfortable lakeside resort, we will explore both of these facets, by putting ourselves into boats and gliding out onto the lake itself. Here Jerdon's Bushchat, Collared Myna, and scores of waterbirds will entertain us before we delve into the human side of things (with binoculars at hand, of course!). The hill station at Kalaw will give us access to yet another swathe of forest species that will largely be different from what we will have seen in the western part of the country.



*The countryside around Bagan is covered with temples, many of which are slowly being covered by the jungle. We'll have a chance to spend time in this amazing landscape while looking for some of Myanmar's special birds.
Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.*

About the Physical Requirements & Pace: Our main purpose on this tour is for all to see well and enjoy a rich diversity of species, while immersed in a variety of habitats. Our accommodation in Mt. Victoria is situated a bit below 6,500 feet in elevation, and we may be birding as high as around 9,000 feet. The two drives between Mt. Victoria and Bagan consist of 5 hours of driving time, but will be broken up with some birding and/or picnic stops. There won't be many long walks, but the birding day at Kalaw will involve a five- to six-mile hike, but slowly and over mostly level ground. Terrain around Bagan may be uneven, and it can get hot while we are walking, but we won't typically be walking more than a couple of miles at a time here. In Mt. Victoria, the birding will mostly be along a mountain road. We will usually try to be walking downhill, but there will undoubtedly be some walking uphill here and there. Bagan is very hot and dry, and while we will try to do the bulk of our important birding in the early morning and late afternoon hours, we will surely feel the impact of the sun there. Mt. Victoria can get fairly cold overnight, but not exceptionally so. Yangon is hot and humid, though we won't spend much time outside in the heat of the day there. We have at least three (perhaps four) boat trips on this tour, on Inle Lake and on the Irrawaddy River, and we will be sitting on low bench seats for up to an hour at a time during these rides. The boats on Inle Lake may not have sun canopies, so we will be exposed to the elements for those rides.

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

About the Birding Areas

Yangon—The capital of Myanmar, we won't spend a ton of time in the area, but we will explore an interesting pagoda complex with its many gilded stupas and shrines before our local birding. The local birding will consist of a trip to Hlawga Park, which will be a nice introduction to some of the more widespread birds, as well as a shot at the localized pale-eyed endemic subspecies of Stripe-throated Bulbul, known as Davison's Bulbul.



Bagan—Bagan, an ancient city along the banks of the Irrawaddy River, is legendary for its temple-strewn landscape, but it also lies at the center of avian endemism in Myanmar. The dry forests of the area host such gems as Hooded Treepie, Jerdon's Minivet, Burmese Bushlark, Ayeyarwaddy Bulbul, Burmese Collared-Dove, and White-throated Babbler, while the nearby river islands may produce Sand Lark, White-tailed Stonechat, Striated Babbler, Pale-throated Martin, Red Avadavat, and if we're lucky, Rain Quail and perhaps even a River Lapwing. We will plan on taking one or two boat rides on the river; our conveyances will be typical Asian riverboats with bench seating and a canopy, and the ride is typically quite calm.

Mt. Victoria—Along the east side of the Chin Hills in the foothills of the Himalayas lies the ornithologically rich and, until recently, underexplored Mount Victoria. The mountain climbs under a covering of lush broadleaf evergreen forest to a summit capped in verdant high elevation pine forest at 10,016 feet. One of the major highlights here is the endemic White-browed Nuthatch, re-discovered in the mid-nineties after being lost to science for decades. In addition, Mt. Victoria Babax, Chin Hills Wren Babbler, Himalayan Cutia, Streak-throated and Rusty-fronted barwing, Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie, Himalayan Greenfinch, several species of laughingthrushes including Striped and Brown-capped,

and many more may be found in the roving mixed flocks that inhabit the mountain. We will be spending several nights on the mountain in order to experience the full range of avian diversity available to us. Be warned though: you may wake up to a glorious sunrise bathing the green hills in a morning bath of orange as you can look down on top of the clouds in the valleys below us. The setting on the mountain can be downright staggering, with green mountainsides rising out of the clouds (which are often well below us!) layered over one another all the way to the horizon.

Kalaw & Inle Lake—The mid-elevation hill forest at Kalaw, in eastern Myanmar, has a host of species that aren't available in the forests of the Chin Hills, such as Spectacled Barwing, Brown-breasted Bulbul, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler, Davison's Leaf Warbler, Yunnan Fulvetta, Silver-eared Laughingthrush, and Black-backed Sibia. Our hike here will be several miles, though it will be slow and mostly over level ground. Other species in the area will include Slender-billed Oriole, Maroon Oriole, Wire-tailed Swallow, Silver-eared Mesia, Martens's Warbler, Mountain Bulbul, and Japanese Tit. The fascinating culture of the lake-dwelling people of Inle (pronounced Inlay) Lake is well-known as a tourist attraction in and of itself. We will have a taste of some of this culture, but we will also be exploring the exciting avifauna that inhabits the lake alongside the human residents. Jerdon's Bushchat, Collared Myna, a variety of waterfowl (Baer's Pochard, while not expected, has been seen on the lake), Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, and an impressive colony of Asian Openbills are some of the headliners that we'll be looking for on the lake.

Itinerary for Myanmar: Birding Burma

Days 1-2, Thu-Fri, 27-28 Feb. Travel to Yangon. Most international flights leave the US on Feb 27th, and arrive at Yangon in the late evening of Feb 28th. There will be someone to meet you at the airport and transport you the short distance to our hotel. Night in Yangon.

Day 3, Sat, 29 Feb. Yangon. We will meet at noon for introductions at the hotel and then have lunch, before an evening trip to the picturesque Shwedagen Pagoda (going inside the main pagoda itself will involve climbing a long staircase in bare feet), and dinner at a nearby Burmese restaurant. Night in Yangon.

Day 4, Sun, 1 Mar. Yangon and travel to Kalaw. We will go birding at a local park in Yangon, which will provide a good introduction to the birds of the region, as well as giving us a chance for the endemic Davison's Bulbul (considered to be a subspecies of Stripe-throated Bulbul, but a strong candidate for a split). We will take an afternoon flight to Heho, and then drive west to Kalaw. Night in Kalaw.

Day 5, Mon, 2 Mar. Kalaw. Today we will spend much of the day on a gentle hike through the foothill forest around Kalaw, sampling both the dry forest remnant and some open fields and edge habitat, with the goal of seeing a good diversity of regionally restricted species including Spectacled Barwing, Black-backed Sibia, Brown-breasted Bulbul, Martens's Warbler, Davison's Leaf Warbler, White-browed Laughingthrush, Silver-eared Laughingthrush, and Yunnan Fulvetta. Depending on when our hike wraps up, we may have an opportunity to do a little more clean-up birding around the area. Night in Kalaw.

Day 6, Tue, 3 Mar. Kalaw to Inle Lake. We will wake up and do a little bit of birding around the Kalaw area for some remaining bits and pieces before heading over to Inle Lake, with a birding stop or two along the way. This afternoon is our first of several experiences as mariners: after arrival at Inle Lake and lunch at our resort, we will take a boat ride out onto Inle Lake for some very interesting birding, including regionally restricted species such as Jerdon's Bushchat and Collared Myna, a nice colony of Asian Openbill storks, and waterbirds such as Pheasant-tailed Jacana. Night at Inle Lake.



*At Inle Lake, we'll have the opportunity to get out on the water to look for Pheasant-tailed Jacana and other water-birds, and we'll hope to also have some time to experience the unique culture that thrives at the lake.
Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.*

Day 7, Wed, 4 Mar. Inle Lake to Bagan. After breakfast, we will head back out on the lake for more birding and perhaps some immersion in the culture of the lake-dwelling people of Inlay. After lunch, we will pack up and head over to Heho for our flight to Bagan. Depending on our arrival time in Bagan, we may have time for some introductory birding or to watch a sunset across the temple-laden environment. Night in Bagan.

Day 8, Thu, 5 Mar. Bagan. Bagan is justly famous for the temples, but this ecologically unique area is also home to very special birds, including several of the Burmese endemics: Hooded Treepie, Jerdon's Minivet, Burmese Bushlark, Burmese Collared-Dove, White-throated Babbler, and Ayeyarwaddy Bulbul. Many of these can be found concentrated in just a couple of habitats, so the birding will be fairly relaxed. In the afternoon we will go onto the Ayeyarwaddy River on a boat ride, with a chance to see several other species of interest, including White-tailed Stonechat, Sand Lark, Plain-throated Martin, Ruddy Shelduck, Striated Babbler, and if we're really lucky, River Lapwing. Night in Bagan.

Day 9, Fri, 6 Mar. Bagan. We will have another full day of birding around Bagan, to allow for the possibility of having missed some species the day prior, and catching more chances to view species like Yellow-eyed Babbler, Yellow-streaked Warbler, and Rufous Treepie. Depending on how our birding is going, we could do some cultural sightseeing amidst the vast number of temples, after a break from the heat of the day. Night in Bagan.

Day 10, Sat, 7 Mar. Bagan to Mt. Victoria. We will have a very early departure from Bagan, and load into several 4x4 vehicles for the long drive to Mount Victoria. It is possible that we could make a stop to look for the rare and declining Eld's Deer en route, before we start climbing through the foothills. The foothill forest on the way to Mt. Victoria also holds some fantastic species, and we may target the likes of White-rumped Falcon, Yellow-footed Pigeon, and more. We will arrive in Mt. Victoria in the early afternoon, and plan on an afternoon excursion to experience our first bit of highland birding. Night on Mt. Victoria.



The Chin Hills Wren-Babbler is a near-endemic we'll seek at Mt. Victoria. Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.

Days 11-13, Sun-Tue, 8-10 Mar. Birding Mt. Victoria. We will have three full days to bird the wonderful high elevation forests on Mount Victoria, in the remote Chin Hills. Our time in the lush and healthy forests will be split between high elevation pine forest and broadleaf evergreen forest. Each offers different possibilities for species, and we will make multiple visits to each habitat type at different times of the day in order to maximize the species diversity during our time in this exceptional place. Some of the special birds we can see here are White-browed Nuthatch, Chin Hills Wren Babbler, Mount Victoria Babax (an endemic form of Chinese Babax that has potential to be split), Brown-capped, Assam, and Striped laughingthrushes, Red-faced Liocichla, Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie, Crested Finchbill, Burmese Bushtit (an endemic subspecies of Black-browed Tit), Streak-throated and Rusty-fronted barwings, Rufous-winged and White-browed fulvettas, Scaly-breasted Cupwing, Whiskered Yuhina, Green Shrike-Babbler, and Bar-tailed and Hume's treecreepers. In between seeking these high priority targets we may also have multiple encounters with Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, Great Barbet, Chestnut-headed Tesia, Yellow-bellied Fairy-Fantail, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Gray Sibia, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, and more. Nights on Mt. Victoria.

Day 14, Wed, 11 Mar. Mt. Victoria to Bagan. We will depart Mt. Victoria early, and bird our way back to Bagan by way of a few stops in the productive foothill forest along the way. It will be a long drive, but broken up with several birding stops, and we will arrive in Bagan in the afternoon. Night in Bagan.

Day 15, Thu, 12 Mar. Bagan to Yangon. Depart for home or stay over. The birding ends today after a flight back to Yangon. Day rooms, which are included in the tour fee, will be provided for all who are flying out today and we will have a final dinner in Yangon before the late-night international flights. Please do not book your departure flight before **10PM**, in order to allow for a timely trip to the airport after dinner.

Day 16, Fri, 13 Mar. Arrive in USA. It is time to look back fondly on all the wonderful landscapes and birds you experienced in Burma. Flights departing Myanmar late on March 12 will arrive in the USA on March 13. Bon Voyage!

About Your Guide

Doug Gochfeld was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and his interest in birds was sparked at a young age (he participated in his first CBC at the age of 7), in part by his father. This interest soon spiraled into a full-blown obsession for Doug for a few years before he abruptly shelved it, in favor of baseball, for several adolescent years. He picked up his interest in birds again in College and once again became a dedicated/obsessed birder.

For several years before starting to lead a full slate of tours for Field Guides in 2016, he traveled extensively as a working birder. These field jobs have included multiple seasons monitoring migration at the legendary migration hotspots of Cape May, New Jersey, and Eilat in Israel. He also guided on St. Paul Island, in Alaska's Pribilof Islands, for parts of four years. He now leads all over the world for Field Guides. His robust interest in the birds and culture of East and Southeast Asia has brought him to lead a broad spectrum of tours across these fascinating regions. You can also find him exploring, through the lens of bird guiding, Australia, New Guinea, Israel, Alaska, and locales beyond and in between.

Doug is a Leica Pro Staff member, and he has been a regular leader at birding festivals throughout the USA. He has worked in Alaska, Suriname, and Brazil studying the breeding and wintering ecology of shorebirds, which hold a special place in his heart. His strongest interests in birding are migration, vagrancy, and patterns of distribution, and he's always excited to share his enthusiasm in, and knowledge of, these subjects and much more (even beyond birds!) on his tours, whether close to home or halfway around the world.

"Doug Gochfeld is one of the very best guides in the world, IMHO! His hearing and bird-spotting skills are almost super-human. He is also witty; can handle people well; and executes all of the trip arrangements (lodgings, mealtimes, transportation, human comforts) with precision. He communicates well, especially the plans for each day. Bird guiding is a tough job, and I just can't say enough about how well he does it."
C. B.; Israel Migration Magic

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Doug's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

An expert **local guide** will join Doug on this tour.

Financial Information

FEE: \$5975 from Yangon

DEPOSIT: \$600 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: October 30, 2019

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$625

LIMIT: 8

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: Accommodations are generally quite good in some nice hotels with one or two more basic. A few of the hotels have swimming pools, so bring your swimsuits if you wish!

DOCUMENTS: US citizens will need a passport valid for six months beyond the date of their return and a visa to enter Myanmar. In accordance with INTERNATIONAL SANITARY REGULATIONS, all persons entering Myanmar are required to have a vaccination against yellow fever if traveling from a country with risk of yellow fever virus transmission, including transits greater than 12 hours in an airport located in a country with risk of yellow fever. Malaria is also present at altitudes of less than 3,281 ft, including Bagan. Please consult with your physician regarding vaccination before traveling to Myanmar.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Myanmar 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: Please note that the tour begins and ends in Yangon. Participants should arrive in time to meet in the lobby of our hotel by 12:00PM on Day 3, February 29. You may plan flight departures after 10:00PM on March 12.

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: Due to vehicle size limitations, we ask that you limit yourself to one medium-sized bag and a carry on. Laundry service is available where we have multiple night stays, including at Kalaw, Bagan, and Mt. Victoria. Be aware that many international air carriers have weight restrictions on carry-on/cabin luggage, and plan accordingly. Also, 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 flights are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$5975 for one person in double occupancy from Yangon. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 14 with dayrooms available on Day 15 (many flights depart Yangon in the late evening), all meals from breakfast on Day 3 through dinner on Day 15, all ground and air transportation once in-country, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Yangon, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages consumed on tour, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$625. 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, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit** of \$600 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 October 30, 2019. 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 from us a brochure 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. **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 with InsureMyTrip (www.insuremytrip.com) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. Please let us know if you have any questions about this. If you purchase the insurance within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> and clicking the link to CSA. 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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