

ITINERARY
NORTHERN PERU: ENDEMIC GALORE
October 3-21, 2018



The endemic Peruvian Plantcutter is one of the first of many interesting birds we'll seek. These exclusive herbivores (hence the name, "Plantcutter") are found in a small strip of open, dry forest along the northern Peruvian coast. Photograph by guide Richard Webster.

We include here information for those interested in the 2018 Field Guides *Northern Peru: Endemics Galore* tour:

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

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

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from the website)
- 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

Peru is a country of extreme contrasts: it includes tropical rainforests, dry deserts, high mountains, and rich ocean. These, of course, have allowed it to also be a country with a unique avifauna, including a very high rate of endemism. Nowhere is that endemism more apparent than in the north of the country, a region that has been a magnet for world birders for many decades! Here, one can encounter some of the Tumbesian endemics of the deciduous forests of the northern coast, the Marañon endemics of the extensive dry valleys within the Andes, and also some of the humid forest Andean endemics of the north of the country. Some of these are political endemics of the country of Peru, and others spill across the border into Ecuador (birds do not obey human politics, and borders and biogeographic barriers are rarely concordant, you see), but many are birds that get the juices flowing for many who pore over the field guide eyeing the exotic therein. North Peru has been a region that has proven itself bountiful to those who wish to explore it, for even

though avian exploration there began as long ago as the late 1600s, new species are still being described as recently as in the past several years! And there are yet more to come!

This tour is sandwiched, geographically speaking, in between other tour routes that Field Guides offers: to the north is the Southwest Ecuador Specialties tour (among others), which gets within spitting distance of the Peruvian border, to the south is the Central Peru tour, which explores the great Cordillera Blanca and Carpish ranges on either side of the upstream end of the Marañon River, and to the east, we offer the Marvelous Spatuletail tour which explores the rich humid forests of the Alto Nieva and Mayo river valleys. Yet, we still have much to see in northern Peru that these tours simply don't encounter! The arid coast has a host of endemics that don't reach Ecuador, not to mention the northern end of the rich, but frigid, Humboldt Current, which itself is home to huge numbers of seabirds! The western portion of northern Peru's Andes is a complicated series of dry montane woodlands, humid cloudforests, and dry intermontane valleys, the most biogeographically important of which is the great Marañon valley, which not only prevents cloudforest birds from crossing its uninhabitable expanse, but also has its own array of endemics that are rather local. The "North Peruvian Low" is another feature important to the landscape here: it is the lowest pass in the Andes between the Pacific and Atlantic (Amazonian here) lowlands between Colombia and southern Patagonia! As such, it too is an important barrier to Andean humid forest species. We will have a chance to visit both sides of these important biogeographical barriers, and see how the avifauna changes across them, as well as visiting the dry forests separated by the Andes themselves. To say we will have an opportunity to see a lot of birds is an understatement!

The north of Peru is also culturally rich: it is the home of Cajamarca, the northern capital city of the Incan Empire (and the site where one of the most important Spanish victories in the conquest of the Americas took place), as well as the pre-Incan Moche and Chavin civilizations of the Pacific coast, and the Chachapoyan culture of the mountains around the Utcubamba valley, and modern-day culture, which boasts some of Peru's most cherished cuisine. Our ground crew, based out of Cajamarca, will include a gifted cooking staff who will provide some opportunities to try some of the local cuisine, and they have not disappointed past groups! The tour will require some long drives and changing our hotels on many nights, and many picnic meals, but we have eliminated camping from the itinerary. Starting in 2018, we have also changed the tour route to limit overlap with other tours and concentrate on the avifauna that sets this region apart.



*The large White-winged Guan is one of our targets in the Chaparri region.
Photograph by guide Mitch Lysinger.*

About the Physical Requirements & Pace: Our fourteen previous tours have gone well. We've been lucky with the birds, the logistics have been quite good, and we have tried to benefit from several "learning experiences." The rewards are substantial, but this is a harder-than-average tour. What is required to enjoy the trip is the combination of fairly good physical condition and a good measure of flexibility and patience: Everything will not go as planned, and we don't even try to plan the weather (apart from avoiding the wet season). Meals in the field take some time (though staff does most of the work), and travel on bumpy roads in remote areas takes time. Still, by spending so much time in the out-of-doors, we get to do much birding.

In terms of day-to-day activities, the tour is not harder than average. We'll do a trail near Pomacochas looking for Pale-billed Antpitta and some other endemics that requires ascending a steep, rocky trail from 9000 to 10,000 feet (2700 to 3000m, a 1000 foot or 300m elevation gain), one of our highest points on the tour. This trail requires good balance, a certain degree of endurance and stamina, and (for some) a good walking stick. In addition, there are usually a few short, steep forays off the road to enter some thicket with some skulker. All of these activities are optional. But trails are limited and a high percentage of our time is spent birding slowly along roads. If you are in reasonable shape and flexible, this could be an easy tour!

The purpose is in fair part announced by the tour title: endemics galore. We will put substantial effort into seeing the birds that are special to this region, and at times we will put less effort than normal into seeing more common and widespread species. Be prepared *not to see* a higher-than-usual percentage of the 650+ species that are included on the

checklist. The checklist reflects the collection of reasonable possibilities that have been heard or seen on our route over the years, some of them regularly, others just a few times. To devote precious morning time to try to see these species (if they are distant or at all tough to see) would divert us from the regional specialties that we consider of much higher priority on this tour. That said, even while searching for specialties we do much basic birding, and everyone sees a large percentage of the long and varied list of species. This trip does not require birding expertise, and some people see over 250 life birds while others see a fifth as many. Part of the purpose is simply to see wondrous Northern Peru in an enjoyable birding format.

About the Birding Areas



Coastal Desert—Virtually the entire coast of Peru is desert, as the Humboldt Current produces fog but very little rain over the coastal plain. Where the terrain is flat, as in coastal northern Peru, any spot that can support vegetation of any type can support crops, with the result that little native vegetation remains. Thus, some species are threatened; one of these, Peruvian Plantcutter, will be a particular target near Chiclayo. Here it occurs in a few nice wooded patches that have, for various reasons, escaped clearing. We'll seek it in patches of desert-thorn woodland near Chiclayo characterized by Algarobo trees (*Prosopis pallida*, in the same genus as the mesquites of the desert Southwest). Other specialties of the same habitat include the uncommon Rufous Flycatcher, the *Myiarchus* with the most divergent plumage; Cinereous Finch, a species without obvious close relatives; and Tumbes Swallow, a little-known swallow of restricted range that occurs in the Reserva Bosque Pomac. Other species we should encounter in the same area include Peruvian Dove, Croaking Ground-Dove, Pacific Parrotlet, Peruvian Pygmy-Owl, Amazilia Hummingbird, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Necklaced Spinetail, Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero, Coastal Miner, Collared Antshrike, Gray-and-white Tyrannulet, Mouse-colored (Tumbes) Tyrannulet, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, Tumbes Tyrant, Snowy-throated Kingbird, Fasciated and Superciliated wrens, and Collared Warbling-Finch. Visits to the beach and nearby marsh and dune habitats will also showcase a wealth of waders (including boreal migrants from North America that should be arriving in numbers around now), seabirds (gulls, terns, boobies,

pelicans, and the like), and land birds such as the endemic Coastal Miner, the colorful Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, and the recently split Peruvian Pipit (formerly part of Yellowish Pipit).

Tumbesian Dry Tropical Forests—With elevation and distance inland from the Humboldt Current, rainfall increases and the vegetation shifts from desert scrub (along the coast) to a semi-deciduous woodland. The dry, semi-deciduous forests known as the Tumbesian Center of Endemism occur from the Cordillera de Chongon of Ecuador south to Lambayeque, Peru. We will bird this habitat at Chaparri and Laquipampa reserves, both snuggled up against the west side of the western cordillera.

We will encounter a moderate number of Tumbesian endemics during our efforts to see the White-winged Guan and the Piura Chat-Tyrant, but this tour does not represent a thorough coverage of the Tumbesian specialties. For those not encountered on this route, we urge you to consider our **SOUTHWESTERN ECUADOR SPECIALTIES** tour.

At first glance, much of this Tumbesian habitat appears in good shape—sizable trees are still standing, often draped with *Tillandsia* or other epiphytes. At second glance, and each subsequent look, it becomes apparent that goats rule arid northern Peru, and that humans have been a pervasive influence for a long time.

For the tasty White-winged Guan, the result has been near-extinction, though a captive breeding program (with some successful reintroductions) and some efforts toward conservation and education offer some hope. We will see free-living, multi-generation products of the reintroduction program at the community reserve of Chaparri. Other specialties in the region include Tumbes Hummingbird (erratic but usually seen), Tumbes Tyrant, Piura Chat-Tyrant (scarce), and Tumbes Sparrow. At lower elevations we may see Red-masked Parakeet, Peruvian Screech-Owl, Scrub Nightjar, Short-tailed Woodstar, Ecuadorian Piculet, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Collared Antshrike, Elegant Crescentchest, Pacific Elaenia, Sooty-crowned and Baird's flycatchers, White-tailed Jay, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, Speckle-breasted Wren, Gray-and-gold Warbler, Black-capped Sparrow, White-headed and White-winged brush-finches, Collared Warbling-Finch, Sulphur-throated Finch, and White-edged Oriole. At higher elevations, possibilities include Gray-chinned Hermit (the Pacific slope form *porcullae*), Line-cheeked Spinetail, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner (furtive), Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner (extra furtive), Chapman's Antshrike (*Thamnophilus [doliatus] zarumae*), Three-banded Warbler, Bay-crowned and White-winged brush-finches, and Black-cowled Saltator.

The Andes north of the North Peruvian Low—the Huancabamba valley, as small as it appears, is one of the most important biogeographic features of the Andes of Peru: the Huancabamba Deflection, or North Peruvian Low, the lowest Andean pass between Colombia and Patagonia! Here, many species of humid cloudforests from as far north as Venezuela reach south to this valley and stop abruptly, to be replaced on the south side by a related form that then continues often all the way to the southern limit of true cloudforest in Bolivia. This pass also has permitted limited flow of more arid-habitat species between the Pacific coast and the Marañon valley, into which the Huancabamba flows.

We will spend one night in a rather basic hotel in the small town of Huancabamba, where we may see Tropical Pewee (of the northern form *punensis*), Tropical Gnatcatcher (the Marañon form *maior*, which is ripe for splitting), Long-tailed Mockingbird, and some more common species. However, from here, we will drive a fairly new road east, skirting some humid cloudforest that will be home to species that are more characteristic of southern Ecuador than Peru such as Chestnut-naped Antpitta, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, Orange-banded Flycatcher, Turquoise Jay, and the *atriceps* form of Plain-tailed Wren, among others. We may also be lucky and find Gray-winged Inca-Finch (a small pocket survives on some arid slopes here) and Black-necked Woodpecker, both Peruvian endemics at their northernmost limits in this valley. Much of the Peruvian end of this range of mountains is difficult to access, so we will see what we can find from the edge of this road. At the far end of this road, we'll descend into the Chinchipe valley and head south through agriculture and arid woodlands similar to what we saw on the Pacific slope as we head to Jaen (pronounced "High-en").



Chestnut-backed Thornbird is restricted to a very small area in the upper Marañon Valley.
 Photograph by participant Kevin Heffernan.

The Marañon Valley—The Amazon is a river without any single headwater, but on looking at a map, it is hard not to call the Rio Marañon just that. As a body of water, the Marañon isn't especially impressive—it's just another big tributary to a really big river. But the deep canyon it has carved through major cordillera of the Andes is truly awesome.

Our tour visits what might be called the central Marañon: above the wet, flat stretches as the river rolls toward Iquitos and below the high, puna country of its headwaters. We will cross the Rio Marañon twice by road, the first time south of Jaen in an area where the river first starts to emerge from the Andes, and the second time at Balsas (about 3000 feet elevation), a region of very impressive topography.

Not only does the valley of the Rio Marañon serve as a major barrier to the distribution of Andean forest birds, but the lower elevations of the central portion are an (evidently old) island of arid conditions. These arid and semi-arid habitats are quite varied for a relatively small area, and the distribution of some species within the Marañon Valley is quite local. North of Jaen, in the valley of the Rio Chinchipe, is a more mesic woodland with greater similarity to the Tumbesian forests; toward Bagua Grande is a more arid scrubland; and further south, above Balsas, is a similar-looking (but higher elevation) arid scrub with yet more distinctive birds. Yellow-faced Parrotlet (which we finally found in 1998 and have seen well on most tours since) has gone from common to endangered in the last twenty-five years, but now appears to be making a slight comeback. Other Marañon specialties include Peruvian Pigeon, Koepcke's Screech-Owl (with luck at a day roost!), Spot-throated Hummingbird (we will almost guarantee this one!), Marañon Spinetail, "Chinchipe Spinetail" ("*Synallaxis*" [*stictothorax*] *chinchipensis*, presently lumped with Necklaced Spinetail by some, including Clements and *Birds of Peru*, though this will likely change in due course), Northern ("Marañon") Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus punctatus leucogaster*), Marañon Crescentchest, Marañon Thrush, Buff-bellied Tanager, and three fabulous inca-finches (Little, Gray-winged, and Buff-bridled). Many other species are represented by endemic races.



The White-collared Jay is found in a narrow band of humid forest stretching from northern Peru into Bolivia.
Photograph by guide Dan Lane.

lovely humid temperate forest for such little-known specialties as Coppery Metaltail (endemic), Sapphire-vented ("Coppery-naped") Puffleg (endemic subspecies), Russet-mantled Softtail (endemic), White-chinned Thistletail (endemic subspecies *peruviana*), Rufous-backed (aka: Buff-throated) Treehunter (slim chance), the little-known race *intermedius* of Blackish Tapaculo, and Yellow-scarfed Tanager (endemic). With an early start, we could be in good habitat in time to try for Swallow-tailed Nightjar and Rufous-banded Owl, both of which we've seen well here pre-dawn. Other species of interest in these high forests and grasslands are Curve-billed Tinamou, Andean Condor, Golden-plumed Parakeet (erratic), Andean Parakeet, Speckle-faced Parrot, Violet-throated Starfrontlet (at the northern extent of its range), Rainbow Starfrontlet, Mountain Velvetbreast, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Great Sapphirewing, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Andean Flicker, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Rufous Antpitta of the race *obscura* (with very distinctive vocalizations), Undulated and Chestnut-crowned antpittas (usually heard anyway), Barred Fruiteater, White-collared Jay, Moustached Flowerpiercer, Drab Hemispingus, Superciliaried Hemispingus (of the gray, *leucogaster* group), and Plushcap.

Forests of the Eastern Andes— Our route takes us over the eastern cordillera near its northern end, cresting at Abra Patricia at the relatively low elevation of 7500 feet. We will only get as far east here as the small town of Florida de Pomacochas, our base for two nights, from which we will look for Marvelous Spatuletail, which occurs in small patches of disturbed forest near Florida de Pomacochas (the same general area as described in Ted Parker's May 1976 insert in *Birding*). At first it is hard to believe that the rackets are all part of one bird, but then the happy reality sets in. *Warning*: Adult male spatuletails are a distinct minority (2 out of 35 sightings in one survey, although our ratio has been higher). We have seen adult males on 14/15 trips to the area, so we are reasonably confident. And a newly protected site (the Centro de Interpretacion Colibri Maravillosa at Huembo) has increased the odds that an adult male will be feeding at one of our various sites for them. We will put substantial effort into seeing an adult male. (And if we fail on our first attempt, we will have another opportunity near Leymebamba.) Although the forest is degraded and remnant, there are some other nice birds in the area, such as Purple-throated Sunangel, Booted Rackettail, Emerald-bellied Puffleg, Emerald (Black-throated) Toucanet, Speckle-chested Piculet, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Silvery and Buff-bellied tanagers.

Our route takes us over Abra Barro Negro ("Black Mud Pass"), at the crest of a ridge between the Marañon and Utcubamba basins. Near tree line here we will bird some



Jelske's Chat-Tyrant is a skulker, but we'll make an effort to find this pretty little flycatcher in the western Andean forests.
Photograph by guide Richard Webster.

The Western Andes—On our recrossing of the western cordillera, we will cross one high, moist ridge with remnant patches of *Polylepis* woodland. Although depauperate in comparison with some areas, the region is still birdy, and some of the species are quite interesting. We will look particularly for Black Metaltail (endemic), Baron's (Southern Line-cheeked) Spinetail, Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail (of the race *cajabambae*; endemic), Striated Earthcreeper (endemic; near the northern limit of its range), Rufous Antpitta (*Grallaria rufula cajamarcae*, with a song quite distinct from those of other so-called "Rufous Antpittas"), Black-crested (Marañon) Tit-Tyrant (one of three tit-tyrants on this route), Jelski's Chat-Tyrant (a tough skulker), and White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant (until recently thought to be a very scarce bird—until we learned that its preferred habitat is open, brushy slopes at fairly high elevations; it's not a rare bird here, though its territories are huge). Some other interesting birds in this area are Andean Tinamou, Plumbeous Rail, Rainbow Starfrontlet, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Great Sapphirewing, Giant Hummingbird, Chestnut-crowned

Antpitta, Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant, Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet, Tit-like Dacnis, Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes latinuchus baroni*), and Golden-billed Saltator. We will go through some high puna areas, where we could see a few birds of that habitat, such as Mountain Caracara, Andean Flicker, and Many-striped Canastero. Here too we'll make a special effort to see the endemic *stolzmanni* race of Andean Hillstar (intermittently elevated to full-species status and called Green-headed Hillstar). On our way to Cajamarca we'll search a riparian valley for two more endemics, both at the northern end of their ranges: Rufous-eared Brush-Finch (rare) and Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch (seen in four of the last six years).

The arid mountains near Cajamarca have proven to be home to two recently rediscovered endemics: Great Spinetail, of the monotypic genus *Siptornopsis*, which builds its large stick nests in acacias and spreading cordon cacti on the arid slopes; and Gray-bellied Comet, which sips nectar from terrestrial bromeliads and from the bright yellow flowers of *Tecoma sambucifolia*, a shrub that grows in profusion on the steep slopes of the upper Rio Chonta valley. We'll spend an early morning to the south of Cajamarca in search of the Great Spinetail and then head northeast of town in search of the Gray-bellied Comet. Other possibilities in these habitats include Bare-faced Ground-Dove, Black Metaltail (endemic), Andean Swift (here at the northern limit of its range), White-winged Cinclodes, White-winged Black-Tyrant, Masked ("Marañon Black-lored") Yellowthroat, Blue-and-yellow Tanager, Golden-rumped Euphonia, and the beautiful Buff-bridled Inca-Finch (endemic). The newly paved road from Cajamarca to the south has shortened and made much more comfortable the drive to the Spinetail's breeding area, and the Comet's breeding area is not far from our hotel. With luck we could finish in time to enjoy the natural hot springs and bathtubs before a delicious dinner at our comfortable hotel.

Itinerary for Northern Peru: Endemics Galore

Note: This day-by-day itinerary is less fixed than normal. Although it is difficult to be flexible with a tour, we will try, where possible, to make changes depending on our birding success, to allow more time where it can be best spent. Thus, we might end up emphasizing one area more than another. Further, the (ever-changing) timing of flights between Lima and Chiclayo makes it hard to say what will happen on those travel days.

Current flight schedules are such that we'll likely be flying north to Chiclayo around 5:50 a.m. on Day 2. Most flights from the US depart in the afternoon and arrive in Lima late; if a participant were to arrive 24 hours late, (s)he would likely miss not only our flight to the north, but the first two days of birding. Your guide would encourage you to come a day early and begin the tour rested. You could spend your extra day birding, visiting a museum, exploring Miraflores, or simply relax at our very comfortable airport hotel. Alternatively, you may continue on to Chiclayo to visit the museums around that city, which offer a peek into the unique pre-Incan Moche culture of the North Peruvian coast, and the group will meet you and our ground crew at the airport in Chiclayo on Day 2. Our office can help you with reservations for air, hotel, and even tourist activities. Be sure our office knows your arrival plans.

Our tour itinerary will likely be close to the following:

Day 1, Wed, 3 Oct. Standard group arrival in Lima. If you are not coming a day or more early, we recommend the earliest flight possible to get you to Lima this evening. Upon arrival in Lima, you will pass through Immigration (where your passport and arrival card are stamped; be sure to keep the little arrival card in your passport for submission to authorities upon leaving the country) and proceed to the baggage claim. Use available carts to retrieve your luggage and guide it through Customs. Then roll your cart or luggage (or get a porter) to the Wyndham Hotel Costa del Sol, which is within easy walking distance on the airport grounds, just across the street toward the parking lot from the terminal. Upon check-in you must surrender your passport for copying (a requirement of most larger hotels in Peru nowadays), and be sure to check at the desk for a message from your guides about the plan for tomorrow. Night at Hotel Costa del Sol, Lima airport.

Day 2, Thu, 4 Oct. Flight to Chiclayo; birding en route to Chaparri.

We expect an early flight to Chiclayo, so we will plan to meet for breakfast (meeting time will be clarified by guide the day before) in our hotel restaurant for a simple buffet breakfast, and then go across the street to catch our flight to Chiclayo, where we'll meet our bus drivers and cook crew, who'll be with us for the entire trip. Our first destination will be the coastal dune vegetation near Mocupe, where we will look for Peruvian Plantcutter, Rufous Flycatcher, and Cinereous Finch. Although the morning will no longer be early, we should see at least a couple of these, along with a selection of Tumbesian scrub birds, possibly including Peruvian Sheartail in eclipse plumage and the desert-endemic Coastal Miner. After a picnic lunch, we will journey inland to Chaparri, stopping in Chongoyape to pick up our local guide, and to bird around the edge of Tinajones Reservoir. The water levels are highly variable, but there is often something interesting around, such as Comb Duck, Black-faced Ibis, or Spotted Rail. In the late afternoon we will continue inland to a lodge at the Chaparri (accent on the "i") Reserve. Once we get into our bungalows at Chaparri, we'll meet for the list, dinner, and some nearby owling (for Peruvian Screech-Owl) right after dinner; you'll want your headlamp or flashlight. Night at Chaparri Lodge.



The Three-banded Warbler is endemic to the Tumbesian region of southern Ecuador and northern Peru. We'll look for them in the higher elevations. Photograph by participant George Sims.

Day 3, Fri, 5 Oct. Chaparri back to Chiclayo. Chaparri is a private, community-owned reserve of 34,000 hectares, well known for its White-winged Guan population, which has been re-established from captive-bred birds. Like many other cracids where completely protected, the guans are easily seen. In addition to the guan, a number of Tumbesian species are found in the arid woodlands or are attracted to the permanent water in the stream. Our breakfast may be interrupted by the arrival of White-tailed Jays, and we will have our first chance to see the lovely Tumbes Tyrant, Pacific Elaenia, and White-headed Brush-Finch. We've been amazed to see large flocks of Sulphur-throated Finches coming to drink in the creek in the morning; we have often missed this species entirely on past tours, but it seems to be reliable here. The stream also attracts several species of hummingbirds to bathe. In addition to birds that have become tame in the safety of the reserve, a couple of mammals have as well, particularly the lovely little Sechura Fox.

In the afternoon we will return to Chiclayo via Tinajones reservoir, which can be alive with waterfowl and waders if the water level is right. Night at the Gran Hotel Chiclayo.

Day 4, Sat, 6 Oct. Laquipampa. An attractive reserve at the foot of the Andes, Laquipampa is one of the sites where "wild" White-winged Guans have persisted despite hunting. Now protected, and augmented by releases, the population here seems to be growing. In addition, the forest here is characteristic of the semi-deciduous forests of the Pacific slope of northern Peru, and is home to species such as Scarlet-masked Parakeet, Ecuadorian Trogon, Whooping Motmot (rare), Henna-hooded and Rufous-necked foliage-gleaners (both difficult), Piura Chat-Tyrant, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, and the distinctive *piurae* form of Black-eared Hemispingus (likely to be split), among others. We'll have a picnic lunch here, and return in the afternoon. Night at Gran Hotel Chiclayo.

Day 5, Sun, 7 Oct. Drive to Palambla. This may be a rather long travel day, but we'll try to break it up with some birding spots along the way. Our goal is to reach the town of Palambla and check into our lodge, then bird the semi-humid and humid woodland on the slopes of the mountain to the east, Cruz Blanca, in the afternoon and into the evening, making an effort for some owls, most notably Buff-fronted Owl and Great Horned Owl. Night at Villa de Auca, Palambla.



Golden Grosbeak will be found near Jaen.
Photograph by participant Brian Stech.

Day 6, Mon, 8 Oct. Cruz Blanca and Huancabamba. We'll arise early this morning and load up for a full morning of birding on the picturesque slopes of Cruz Blanca. Here, we'll have another opportunity to see some of the Pacific slope semi-humid montane forest birds such as Line-cheeked Spinetail, Black-cowled Saltator, and the *piurae* form of Black-eared Hemispingus, as well as species such as Henna-hooded and Rufous-necked foliage-gleaners, Gray-headed Antbird (all rare). In addition, we should also have a chance at some forms new to us such as the *cajamarcae* form of Rufous Antpitta, the *subcinereus* form of Blackish Tapaculo, and perhaps even the rare and local Blue Seedeater. After crossing the pass and a picnic lunch, we'll descend through the degraded slopes on the Huancabamba valley side until we reach the town of Huancabamba, where we'll check in to our basic hotel. If there is time, we may try some afternoon birding north out of town. Night in Huancabamba.

Day 7, Tue, 9 Oct. Huancabamba to Jaen. We'll depart early this morning to drive the road along the edge of the Tabaconas-Namballe reserve. This is the most accessible cloudforest north of the North Peruvian Low, and will give us a chance to see several species we'll have no other chances to see on the tour, such as Chestnut-naped Antpitta, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, Orange-banded Flycatcher, Turquoise Jay, and the *atriceps* form of Plain-tailed Wren, among others. We may also be lucky and find Gray-winged

Inca-Finch (a small pocket survives on some arid slopes here) and Black-necked Woodpecker, both Peruvian endemics at their northernmost limits in this valley. We'll have a picnic breakfast and lunch on way. The road eventually reaches the Chinchipe River, which we'll follow south into the city of Jaen (pronounced "High-en"). Night in Hotel El Bosque, Jaen.

Day 8, Wed, 10 Oct. Birding near Jaen. This morning we'll bird north of Jaen starting early for Marañon Spinetail, the *chinchipensis* race of Necklaced Spinetail (elevated to full-species status by some), the *leucogaster* race of Northern Slaty-Antshrike, and Marañon Crescentchest. While looking for the endemics we will enjoy some of the world's most beautiful birds (such as Vermilion Flycatcher and Golden Grosbeak) and some of the dullest (such as Dull-colored Grassquit and Drab Seedeater). Other species of particular note that we have seen here include Tataupa Tinamou (of a disjunct, endemic race, generally only heard), Military Macaw (scarce), Gray-chinned Hermit, Speckle-breasted Wren (of the Marañon race *sclateri*), Black-capped Sparrow (of the disjunct, olive-backed race *nigriceps*), Buff-bellied Tanager, and Red-crested Finch. In the afternoon we often acknowledge the heat and take a substantial break to recharge our strength for what will be many busy days to come. Night in hotel in Jaen.

Day 9, Thu, 11 Oct. Jaen to Marvelous Spatuletail area. This morning we'll head toward Florida de Pomacochas, making a few birding stops en route. We'll cross the Rio Marañon just beyond where the Rio Chamaya enters the river. We plan to have breakfast in Little Inca-Finch habitat in the early morning, and we may decide to check the rice fields southeast of Bagua Grande a bit later. On rare occasions, when the water levels are perfect and the fields allow good visibility down the rows, rails can be seen; Paint-billed Crake is an outside possibility. More likely are Yellow-tailed Orioles, and this is the one area where we have seen Ecuadorian Ground-Dove. The paved road follows the rushing Rio Utcubamba upriver to Pedro Ruiz. This stretch can be good for Fasciated Tiger-Heron, and we've occasionally seen Peruvian Pigeons and Marañon Thrush in the taller trees along the river.

From Pedro Ruiz we veer away from the river and into the (very restricted) range of the Marvelous Spatuletail, in the Rio Utcubamba valley around 7000-8000 feet. Assuming good weather, we plan to spend some time this afternoon watching for (and enjoying) the spatuletail, hopefully finding a full-adult male. We will also have the chance to see the excellent exhibits at the Spatuletail Visitor Center, as well as other hummers attending the feeders. In the afternoon, we will continue to nearby Florida de Pomacochas and our mystery accommodations for the night. We say "mystery" for several reasons; you will see for yourself, but trust us that this hotel has been a great asset to the tour for many years. Night in Florida de Pomacochas.

Day 10, Fri, 12 Oct. Birding the San Lorenzo track.

This will likely be the most strenuous hike of the tour and is, as a result, optional. We will depart the hotel before dawn and meet our local guide on the side of the highway near the entrance of a dirt road that heads up to the village of San Lorenzo. From here, we will leave our bus and start hiking up a steep trail that ascends about 1000 ft. (300m) in elevation on rough (sometimes slippery) rock stairs that have been cobbled by locals over the decades. The main targets here will be Pale-billed Antpitta, a spectacular Peruvian endemic only described to science in 1982. The

species has been difficult at this site, realistically the only easily-accessible one for birders, so we shouldn't keep our hopes too high. However, another endemic here is more likely: the *schulenbergi* form of Plain-tailed Wren, a bird that is very distinctive and likely to be split as its own species. In addition, we are likely to encounter several other cloudforest species here such as Sword-billed Hummingbird, Mountain Velvetbreast, Russet-mantled Softtail (difficult), Trilling Tapaculo, Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, Barred Fruiteater, Red-headed Tanager, and Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia, to name a few. We are likely to be back at the bus shortly after noon, where we will have a picnic lunch, then return to the hotel to rest our weary legs, perhaps birding the grounds if we feel up to it. Night in Florida de Pomacochas.

Day 11, Sat, 13 Oct. Pomacochas to Leymebamba. We plan an early start this morning in order to reach good birding while activity is good. We'll retrace our path to Pedro Ruiz (Ingenio) and drive south to Leymebamba, stopping along the spectacular Rio Utcubamba canyon for such possibilities as Torrent Duck, Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Mitred Parakeet, Speckle-chested Piculet, Black-necked Woodpecker, Baron's Spinetail (soon to be lumped with Line-cheeked, which we likely will have seen several days earlier), and Marañon Thrush. We will also stop at a small hostel where roosting Koepcke's Screech-Owls are sometimes found in introduced trees.

The Utcubamba valley has seen much recent road construction that has replaced some rough road with fast, smooth pavement. In Leymebamba we'll spend the first of two nights in a fairly basic hotel with a few roosters and turkeys on the grounds; while simple, the family that runs it have been our hosts on many occasions, and it is a friendly and comfortable environment. Night in Leymebamba.

Day 12, Sun, 14 Oct. Birding out of Leymebamba. We'll start extremely early this morning (leaving by 4:00 a.m. at the latest) to drive up to the temperate forest patches above Leymebamba. We plan to search for Rufous-banded Owl and Swallow-tailed Nightjar pre-dawn, and for the rare Russet-mantled Softtail right after breakfast in the field. It will be quite chilly until the sun comes out here, at 9700 feet (2900m). Listen for Strong-billed Woodcreeper, the *intermedius* race of Blackish Tapaculo, and the *obscura* race of Rufous Antpitta. After birding for several hours between 9700 and 10,500 feet, we'll ascend a 12,000-foot ridge ("Black Mud Pass"; 3600m) with some nice remnant forest and patches of puna. We'll look for Coppery Metaltail, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, White-chinned Thistletail (form *peruviana*), and Undulated Antpitta near tree line if the clouds grant us visibility.

In the afternoon we'll head back to the Leymebamba Museum, a fabulous little museum specializing in the Chachapoyan culture. After a short tour of the museum, we'll visit some nearby hummingbird feeders that usually teem



We'll look for the endemic Koepcke's Screech-Owl in the Marañon Valley. Photograph by guide Richard Webster.

with hummers, from Purple-throated Sunangels and Rainbow Starfrontlets to Sword-billed Hummingbird and (at least for three of the last six years) adult male Marvelous Spatuletails! We'll return to our hotel in time for a good night's sleep tonight. Night in Leymebamba.

Day 13, Mon, 15 Oct. Leymebamba to Celendin via Balsas. This is a long day, as we drive from Leymebamba to the Rio Marañon at Balsas and on to Celendin; it is also one of the most scenic days of the trip. In 2012 we were staggered to find some stretches of pavement in the most remote locations, and signs of preparation for doing most of it, a task largely completed by 2014! That is generally good news, but construction has been hard on the roadside habitat. We'll start in search of anything we've missed near Abra Barro Negro, and then we'll continue, making a couple of other short stops that could produce a variety of upper montane species, ranging from Yungas (Andean) Pygmy-Owl to Smoky and Red-rumped bush-tyrants.

From vista points shortly west of Abra Barro Negro, one can see sections of the Marañon itself, 10,000 feet below! We will descend through disturbed habitat and then down through dramatically beautiful desert with natural thorn scrub with large cordon cacti. This is where we've had good luck with the Yellow-faced Parrotlet, but luck and work both seem to be important elements. Buff-bridled Inca-Finches are regular here along the roadside as well, and watch for the big stick nests of the scarce Chestnut-backed Thornbird. Descending further through irrigated groves of mangos, we'll cross the Marañon at Balsas, and climb, climb, climb back up the other side, crossing a pass and descending to the valley of Celendin, where we'll spend the night in a basic hotel on the Plaza de Armas at 8600 feet. Night in Celendin.

Day 14, Tue, 16 Oct. Return to Balsas from Celendin. Early this morning, we'll return most of the way to Balsas (where we used to camp), giving us another chance for birds we might have seen the afternoon before, including Yellow-faced Parrotlet, Peruvian Pigeon, and Marañon Thrush. On a past tour here we've seen Bicolored and Zone-tailed hawks, and Andean Condor has appeared three times. Then we'll climb back up the desert slopes (making a stop or two for photos or perhaps another Buff-bridled Inca-Finch) toward an irrigated agricultural district known as Hacienda Limon. The slopes and quebradas around the hacienda are habitat for two very local endemics, Chestnut-backed Thornbird and Gray-winged Inca-Finch, as well as many more widespread species including Andean Tinamou, Little Woodstar, Masked Yellowthroat (of the local subspecies *peruviana*), and the endemic Buff-bellied Tanager.

Continuing toward Celendin, we'll bird ever-higher slopes through the arid temperate zone to a high zone of more humid temperate shrub and remnant *Polylepis*. Here wooded canyons are interspersed with agricultural lands, where we have had good luck with Black-crested Tit-Tyrant and Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, as well as Golden-billed Saltator and the *baroni* race of Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch. Night in Celendin.

Day 15, Wed, 17 Oct. Celendin to Cajamarca. Heading toward Cajamarca, we'll ascend ever-higher and more arid ridges through mostly agricultural country. Major construction in 2012 destroyed some of our best roadside birding, and in future years we may need to scramble farther from the road to find equivalent habitat. We'll bird patches of forest on the east side of the western cordillera above Celendin, where we will look for various species with hyphens in their names: Rusty-crowned Tit-Spintail, Black-crested Tit-Tyrant, Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant, White-tailed and Black-billed shrike-tyrants, Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet, Tit-like Dacnis, and Peruvian Sierra-Finch. We will also be open to admiring species with less high-falutin' names, including Black Metaltail, Baron's Spintail, Striated Earthcreeper (now in a monotypic genus), and Rufous Antpitta (of the race *cajamarcae*, with a very different punctuation in its voice, though not in its name). In the puna zone, around 11,600 feet, we plan to walk through a grassland to a community of purple-flowered *Brachyotum* that, if in bloom (i.e., in wet years), concentrates hummingbirds. There are usually some trainbearers (both species possible) and a few Andean Hillstars of the endemic race *stolzmanni*, sometimes considered a full species ("Green-headed Hillstar"). Paramo Pipits inhabit the bunch grass, and we could flush up a scarce Short-eared Owl as we climb through the puna grassland.

After crossing the pass, we plan a stop near Encanada to bird riparian habitat in search of two scarce endemics at the northern end of their ranges: Rufous-eared Brush-Finch and Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch, both of which are tough but have been found the last couple of years. Back in civilization, we'll spend tonight at a good hotel with fine food and hot spring water that can be drawn right into our cabanas! Banos del Inca (named for good reason) is about 9000 feet. Night at Hotel Laguna Seca near Cajamarca.

Day 16, Thu, 18 Oct. Cajamarca area. We'll start early and devote the first part of the morning to a search for the Great Spintail. A small breeding population has been found on the arid slopes about seventy kilometers southeast of Cajamarca near San Marcos. Other species that are found in the area include White-winged Black-Tyrant (the endemic northernmost race *heterogynus*, which may be a separate species), Masked Yellowthroat, Golden-rumped Euphonia, and

Buff-bridled Inca-Finch. Our search will entail a picnic breakfast near the road and then a search of the acacia-cactus habitat for big stick nests and/or vocalizations that will lead us to a pair of Great Spinetails. Depending on our luck, we may spend only a couple of hours here, or we may be here for much of the morning, perhaps climbing up a steep, rocky trail.

Once we've seen the Spinetail well, we'll retrace our route, probably making a short stop near a highland lake with a few waterbirds, as well as an occasional Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant. Then we'll continue back past Banos del Inca and head directly to the upper Rio Chonta valley, where the Gray-bellied Comet is found. We'll have lunch in the field, search for the Comet, Andean Swift, White-winged Cinclodes, Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant, and a few other species that might be new for us. We expect to return to our luxury hotel in time for a proper soaking before a good dinner at the restaurant. Night at Hotel Laguna Seca near Cajamarca.

Day 17, Fri, 19 Oct. Drive from Cajamarca to Chiclayo. This morning, we will depart Cajamarca and head back towards the city of Chiclayo, with birding stop at Abra Gavilan at the Continental Divide. Here, we will make an effort for the endemic Unicolored Tapaculo, which is as spectacular looking as it sounds (but it IS endemic, so...). We will make additional stops as we descend the Pacific slope if there are suitable spots, and see if we can detect any Pacific slope species we may have missed earlier in the trip. We'll likely have time in the afternoon to visit Puerto Eten, on the Pacific shoreline, where possibilities include several of the Humboldt Current species as well as some of our migrant shorebirds returning south. For several years we saw Spotted Rails in the freshwater marshes behind the dunes, and we'll hope they're indeed resident here, but the last couple of years have been a bust. With further luck (we were most recently lucky in 2012) we could see Peruvian Terns among the throngs of shorebirds and waders near the (ever-changing; this place is bust or boom) mouth of the Rio Reque. Night at Gran Hotel Chiclayo.

Day 18, Sat, 20 Oct. Flight to Lima. Our plan this day will depend on when flights to Lima are scheduled. We will hope for an early afternoon flight, in which case we'll do some morning birding at Bosque Pomac, a stellar birding location not far from the city where we may clean up some dry scrub Tumbesian birds if we still need any. However, if we must take a morning flight, we will be able to store bags at the airport hotel (or check in, for those who plan to stay the night), and have time to visit some marshes about half an hour from the airport in Lima for some relaxed birding. Most flights to the United States depart around midnight, so if you are not planning to spend the night at the Costa del Sol hotel at the Lima airport, you may want to have your bags mostly packed for the flight before we depart Chiclayo.

Day 19, Sun, 21 Oct. Arrival home. Buen viaje y que les vayan bien!

About Your Guide

Dan Lane grew up in New Jersey, where his interest in birds surfaced early. He was an active birder there from age eight through college, after which he moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to pursue a master's degree studying Neotropical ornithology at Louisiana State University. Since receiving his degree in 1999, Dan has remained at LSU as a research associate, participating in research expeditions to South America (especially Peru) almost annually. He has been involved in the discovery of several birds new to science and is one of the authors of and an artist for the recently released field guide, ***Birds of Peru***.

Dan is particularly interested in bird systematics, biogeography, and vocal variation, and is an avid recorder of bird voices; he and colleagues hope to put out a companion sound publication to the Birds of Peru soon. He also dabbles in bird art, and his works have been reproduced in several magazines, journals, and books (not to mention several Field Guides t-shirts!). Meanwhile, he has been guiding tours since 1999. He joined Field Guides in 2006 and has been very pleased to be part of the "FG family." You can find a link to Dan's current Field Guides schedule, as well as more about his artwork and other interests at his personal home page <http://www.museum.lsu.edu/lane.html>.

"Dan Lane is superior in all aspects as a guide—excellent recognition of bird sounds, patient in drawing birds in for views, able to relate to group members with relaxed courtesy and helpfulness. We rate Field Guides the highest." J.N. & E. H., Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge

Please check <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for a complete listing of Dan's tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$9275 from Lima

DEPOSIT: \$950 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: June 5, 2018

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1000 (Singles for the nights at the Owlet Lodge will share a bath with one other room.)

LIMIT: 8

Other Things You Need to Know

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

A NOTE ON ACCOMMODATIONS: On six nights our lodging will be in simple hostals/hotels (though all have private baths). At the new Abra Patricia Owlet Lodge, occupants of as many as two doubles (or, if we have singles, a single and a double) will share a bathroom (with toilet and propane hot-water shower), located off the entry hall into the unit. We will spend four nights at this lovely lodge, right inside the reserve. The Chaparri lodge is similar (but with plenty of private facilities)—rustic but clean and comfortable. Although there is no camping, we will have most meals in the field. We'll have an excellent cooking staff and experienced driver team, all of whom work together beautifully to provide for our needs.

A NOTE ON ALTITUDE: We will reach altitudes of around 12,000 feet on this tour on three different days, two between Leymebamba and Balsas and one between Celendin and Cajamarca toward the end of the trip. The highest hotels are 7000-9000 feet (ten nights). We will bird at a measured pace at the higher elevations, having had some time to acclimatize as we work our way up.

DOCUMENTS: US citizens will need a current **passport** to enter Peru. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. You will be issued a disembarkation card by the airline, to be filled out before arrival; please keep this in a safe place as you will need to submit it when you depart the country.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Peruvian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$9275 for one person in double occupancy from Lima. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 17, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 18, the flights within Peru, 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 fees do not include your airfare to and from Lima, 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 \$1000. 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 \$950** 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 June 5, 2018. 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, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when 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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