

ITINERARY
NEWFOUNDLAND & NOVA SCOTIA
June 29 – July 9, 2025



We'll visit the colony at St. John's Bay, Newfoundland, where Atlantic Puffins nest among thousands of other seabirds. It's quite a spectacle! Photograph by participant Paul Demkovich.

We include here information for those interested in the 2025 Field Guides Newfoundland & Nova Scotia tour:

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

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

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

Newfoundland and Nova Scotia offer a wonderful summer getaway. These two provinces differ greatly in the flavor of their landscape and people. Here we find a strong Celtic and Irish influence. And here is blended some of the best summer birding in eastern Canada, with lovely scenery that ranges from the temperate forests and gentle coastline of mainland Nova Scotia, to the jagged peaks of the Cape Breton Island highlands and the rugged, tundra-like barrens of Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. In addition to the birding spectacle, this trip offers some fantastic opportunities to see a variety of marine mammals.

Our tour originates in St. John's, Newfoundland, where our attention will first be directed towards seabirds. We'll begin with a boat trip around Witless Bay, home of some 300,000 nesting pairs of Atlantic Puffins, plus more than 400,000 other alcids, including both murrelets, Razorbill, and Black Guillemot! The sight of all these seabirds whirling around the few

select nest islands is reminiscent of bees swarming around a newly disturbed hive—very memorable. This area is also a wonderful whale-watching site with Fin, Humpback, and Minke whales all good possibilities. We will then travel southwest along the coast, eventually heading to the towering cliffs of famous Cape St. Mary's, nesting site for thousands upon thousands of Northern Gannets, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Common Murres, plus smaller numbers of Thick-billed Murres, Razorbills, Black Guillemots, Great Cormorants, and nesting American Pipits and Horned Larks.



We will make a ferry crossing from Argenteia to North Sydney, Nova Scotia. Though the ferry now travels mostly at night, we will have some time in the morning to pick up a few pelagic species. We could see Manx, Great, and Sooty shearwaters, jaegers, Red Phalarope, Leach's and Wilson's storm-petrels, and a number of whales.

Once on Cape Breton Island, the magnificent sweeping coastal vistas and great birding will leave a lasting impression. We'll take a short boat trip out of Pleasant Bay to see the marvelous Long-finned Pilot Whales, Gray Seals, and perhaps a few alcids. And we'll also go birding at some productive wetlands near Port Morien. Proceeding south along the province's eastern shore, we'll be watching for Common Eiders, American Black Ducks, Osprey, Bald Eagles, and other coastal birds as we go. Protected marshes and beaches are frequent, and we'll check a few of these sites looking for the maritime form of Nelson's Sparrow, migrant shorebirds, and maybe even a stray southern heron. Back from the shoreline, the land is covered in dense spruce forest with rich mats of sphagnum moss—the woodland haven of such boreal specialties as Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, and White-winged Crossbill, not to mention a nice variety of warblers and other landbirds.

A special note about Bicknell's Thrush: while this species is a rare breeder in Cape Breton, the population there has declined some 90% in just the past decade, making it extremely unlikely to be seen on

our tour. We will look for it while we are in Cape Breton, but one's expectations should be suitably low. Those really wishing to see Bicknell's Thrush should seek it out in the stronghold of its range, either the White Mountain National Forest of New Hampshire, or at several of the highest peaks in Vermont and New York.

By the time we arrive in Halifax, we will have seen most of the landbirds possible in this region. Join us for some great birding in the cool and lovely Maritimes!

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

Physical requirements of this tour

- **Trails & Walking:** Light to moderate amounts of walking, much of it on paved roads, wide dirt or gravel tracks, or good trails. Most of our walks will be less than a half-mile at a time, with the longest planned single walk (to the gannet colony) being about 1.5 miles in total. Only a few trails have moderate steepness, and it is possible to opt out of these walks.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We cover much ground on this tour, and some days will feature long periods of time in the bus and lots of roadside birding with much getting in and out of the bus. We will have a 14-hour ferry trip

from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland; much of this time will be at night. There are two shorter boat trips to look for seabirds. Motion sickness remedies are recommended for the boat trip and potentially for the ferry crossing.

- **PACE:** Early mornings (5:30-6:30 a.m. breakfast), with one or two brief afternoon breaks possible during the tour, but on most days, we'll stay out birding until mid- to late afternoon, with a picnic lunch on some days.
- **ELEVATION:** Our birding will take place at only the lower elevations.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures range from the high 40s to the high 70s F on average, but our time near the ocean (Cape St. Mary's) and on the ferry crossing can feel quite chilly. Cold, damp weather and rain are likely on some days (layers of warm clothing and rain gear recommended).
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

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.



Black-legged Kittiwakes are small gulls that nest in the subarctic and arctic regions of the northern hemisphere. We'll see them when we visit Cape St. Mary's. Photograph by participant Paul Demkovich.

Itinerary for Newfoundland & Nova Scotia

Day 1, Sun, 29 Jun. Arrival in St. John's, Newfoundland. (Please note that this tour begins in St. John's, Newfoundland and ends in Halifax, Nova Scotia.) Upon arrival, please take a taxi to the hotel. At 6:30 p.m. we will meet for a get-acquainted dinner and go over a brief outline for the trip. Night in St. John's.

Day 2, Mon, 30 Jun. Witless Bay/St. John's area. Today we'll have the first boat trip of our tour. Witless Bay, with several large islands, is Newfoundland's premier seabird nesting area and home to hundreds of thousands of nesting alcids, kittiwakes, sometimes a few Northern Fulmar, and others. Gull Island and Green Island in the Bay are home to 300,000 pairs of Atlantic Puffins and 400,000 pairs of Common Murre. Whale-watching on this trip can be very rewarding, too, with Humpback and less commonly Minke likely to be seen. It should be an exciting way to start our tour. We'll also

check scenic Cape Spear, the easternmost point of land in North America (if one omits Greenland), which in addition to its scenic setting is a great place for seawatching and spotting whales. Night in St. John's.

Day 3, Tue, 1 Jul. St. John's to Trepassey. We may briefly check St. John's Harbor for unusual gulls—Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed being the most likely “rare” gulls—then spend a relaxing day driving along the beautiful eastern shore of the Avalon Peninsula, stopping at a number of good birding areas along this scenic drive. We'll seek out a few species in the spruce woodlands such as Gray-cheeked Thrush, Blackpoll and Wilson's warblers, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Continuing south, the forest gives way to mostly treeless barrens. We'll keep an eye out for Caribou and maybe even a Willow Ptarmigan as we explore this area. Night in Trepassey.



*We'll seek northern breeders such as the Blackpoll in the spruce forests of Newfoundland.
Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.*

Day 4, Wed, 2 Jul. Southern Avalon. This morning we will take time to explore a few productive areas near Trepassey, including Cape Pine and St. Shott's. If conditions are right, we can do some seawatching in the hopes of picking up three species of shearwaters. If Caplin—the small fish that whales eat en masse—are running, we could also see whales very close to shore. We'll also have time to explore the barrens for caribou and Willow Ptarmigan. We'll make several quick birding stops at various sites along the way. Night in Placentia.

Day 5, Thu, 3 Jul. Cape St. Mary's and Ferry to Nova Scotia. About an hour south of our hotel is one of the greatest bird sights on the continent—the huge and growing colony of seabirds, especially Northern Gannets, at Cape St. Mary's. Located at the southwestern tip of the Avalon Peninsula, the Cape and its spectacular cliffs are the nesting site for thousands of Northern Gannets, Common and Thick-billed murre, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and small numbers of Black Guillemots and Razorbills. As we walk the trail near the cliffs toward the “stack,” we'll pass American Pipits and Horned Larks nesting on the barren ground here, while gannets and kittiwakes wheel and call alongside us, floating on the updrafts off the cliff faces. The stack itself, a huge rock separated from the mainland by a narrow but sheer vertical drop, is literally covered with nesting gannets, tightly clustered on the top and draped over the edge of the rock. Needless to say, photographic opportunities here are superb. We'll hope for a clear day, but even fog adds to the eerie experience of the Cape. We'll have plenty of time to observe the various species and bustling activity of the colony.

This afternoon we will make our way to Argentia where this evening we will sail across the Cabot Strait to Nova Scotia aboard a large passenger ferry. The crossing takes about fourteen hours—we will depart at around 8:00 p.m. (time subject to change). The waters here are a rich feeding ground for large numbers of seabirds and, barring dense fog, we have an excellent chance of seeing Northern Fulmars and Great, Sooty, and Manx shearwaters. (The Manx's major North American nesting colony lies near the ferry route.) The ferry also offers excellent opportunities for observing Leach's

Storm-Petrels and their less common relative, Wilson's, sometimes side by side. Northern Gannets and alcids are fairly common, too. Past tours have seen most of these well and also had, on occasion, South Polar Skua and three species of jaeger. The crossing is aboard a large vessel, so even those unused to (or wary of) sea crossings should find this a relatively comfortable day. Since it is a night crossing, we will book sleeping accommodation on board the ferry. Please note that single rooms won't be available. Those prone to seasickness should consult their physician regarding adequate and effective medication in case of rough weather. Be sure to dress appropriately (your guides will go over this with you the day before), for even on a fine-weather day it can be quite chilly with a breeze off the water. Night on ferry.

Day 6, Fri, 4 Jul. Cape Breton Island. We'll spend part of today searching a productive barrier beach for shorebirds and others we may not yet have seen. The marshes at Port Morien have always been interesting to check. It's an excellent place to compare nesting Common and Arctic terns and usually has a small but interesting selection of migrant shorebirds, including scarce species such as Hudsonian Godwit. It is also a great spot to see Nelson's Sparrow. Port Morien also has a history of hosting many fine vagrants including Laughing Gull, Royal Tern, and Northern Wheatear, to name a few. We'll then head west to the Cape Breton Highlands where we will spend the night.

Day 7, Sat, 5 Jul. The Cabot Trail in Cape Breton Island National Park. The upland barrens, where the trees give way to open bogs, are the summer home of Bicknell's Thrush, a "split" from Gray-cheeked Thrush, and we will make an effort to get a look at one, if any are known to be in areas accessible to us. Other birds we hope to encounter here include Mourning Warbler and Pine Grosbeak, and Moose is possible, too. We'll also leave time for a short boat trip out of Pleasant Bay to see Long-finned Pilot Whales and Gray Seal, an unforgettable wildlife spectacle. Throughout the day the coastal vistas along this stretch of the island are stunning. Night in Cape Breton Island.



*We will search for woodland birds such as this Evening Grosbeak during our stay at Liscombe Lodge.
Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.*

Day 8, Sun, 6 Jul. Sydney to Liscombe Lodge. We will head south today with a couple of short birding stops along the way where we should pick up a few new species. We'll continue south toward the Strait of Canso, where we will cross to mainland Nova Scotia. Much of the island drive will be alongside Lac Bras d'Or, a huge inland sea now home to the Maritimes' greatest Bald Eagle nesting population (about 125 pairs!). We will make several birding stops as we go, including a visit to one of the last easily accessible nesting beaches for the lovely Piping Plover. We'll get to Liscombe in the latter half of the afternoon, and we may do some birding around the lodge feeders, which can be quite active with Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks, among others. Night at Liscombe Lodge.

Day 9, Mon, 7 Jul. Coastal Nova Scotia. In the morning we can try a quick walk around the lodge's nature trails in search of crossbills, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and various boreal birds, including Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, and Spruce Grouse. Then it's off to a rich forested area nearby that abounds with nesting warblers, including such beauties as Canada, Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, and more. In the afternoon we can bird along the fish ladder road, an excellent birding road good for grouse that is located right beside the lodge. Night at Liscombe Lodge.

Day 10, Tue, 8 Jul. Liscombe Lodge to Halifax. Our route back to Halifax will be designed around some of our remaining target birds and may include a coastal route or an interior one. Whichever it becomes, we are sure to pick up a few interesting birds along the way. Night near Halifax.

Day 11, Wed, 9 Jul. Departure for home. Halifax has numerous flights connecting to major cities in the US and Canada, and we are likely to be departing at different times throughout the morning. Have a safe return home!

About Your Guides

Jay VanderGaast was introduced to birding by his father, and his obsession with birds was evident by age seven when he memorized the plates in Peterson's eastern field guide. He went on to earn a B.S. in biology at university and briefly contemplated a career in research, but two years on the buggy arctic tundra watching ptarmigan do little other than occasionally getting eaten by Gyrfalcons soon put an end to that plan! Instead, he strapped on a backpack and a pair of bins and began roaming the world in search of birds. His travels eventually led him to Costa Rica, where he took a job as a birding guide at Rancho Naturalista Lodge. He held this position for six years, becoming one of the country's leading guides in the process, before joining Field Guides in 2000. When not touring, Jay can be found at home in the Montreal region.

"Jay is an excellent guide. He is a native Canadian, so he not only knew his birds and was expert at getting everyone on each bird -he knew the culture. He dispatched all obstacles seamlessly. We really felt taken care of at all times."
S. L., Owlberta

Alex Sundvall is a proud Minnesota native and has truly loved birds all his life. At the young age of five, he took a field trip with his kindergarten class to their local Nature Center and learned all about birds. At the end of the trip, the class got to watch staff release a Dark-eyed Junco they had been rehabilitating, and from that moment he was hooked! With the help of his very supportive and encouraging parents, he learned everything he could about birds and birding. Even as a child, whenever anyone asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, he would always reply: "I'm going to be an ornithologist!"

This love of birds and nature has followed him throughout his life. He graduated from the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences with a degree in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology with a double minor in Forest Ecosystem Management and Conservation; and Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management. In 2016, Alex received the Young Birder Award from the Minnesota Ornithologists Union, and he has served as an alternate on his State's Bird Records Committee.

Growing up in Minnesota, Alex developed a passion for studying bird migration. In the past he has worked as both a Counter and Count Interpreter at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, MN. Even now, in his free time he'll often drive somewhere, post up for the day, and just count migrating birds as they pass by.

In recent years, Alex has led numerous tours across the US and beyond -- from the deserts and sky islands of the Southwest to the hallowed shores of Attu, Alaska, and everything in between. He loves teaching people about birds and showing them all that nature has to offer!

"Alex was so delightful and kind. He was thoughtful and charming to everyone! He is smart AND accomplished; Field Guides is lucky to have him." J.M., Texas's Big Bend & Hill Country

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete tour schedules for Jay and Alex; just click on their photos.

Financial Information

FEE: \$6175 from St. John's, Newfoundland

DEPOSIT: \$625 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: December 31, 2024

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1050

*Note: We'll ask everyone to share a double-berth cabin during the ferry crossing. However, if space is limited, we may be forced to use cabins with four berths instead. This would be very rare as we already have double berth cabins reserved. If you prefer to occupy a cabin as a single, and space is available, we can make arrangements at an added cost.

LIMIT: 14

Other Things You Need to Know

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

DOCUMENTS: **US citizens will need a valid passport for travel to Canada.** If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Canadian 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 this tour begins in St. John's, Newfoundland, and ends in Halifax, Nova Scotia.* Please check with our office for rates on flights to St. John's and from Halifax. 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.

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

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$6175 for one person in double occupancy from St. John's. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 10, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through dinner on Day 10, all ground transportation, ferry/boat trips, 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 St. John's or return from Halifax, airport taxes, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$1050. (NOTE: Single accommodations on the ferry crossing are not factored in to the cost of this tour. If you must have a single cabin on the ferry crossing, and space is available, it can be arranged at an added cost. Please contact your tour manager.)

If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

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

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please [contact our office](#). Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$625** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **by December 31, 2024**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for

the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

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

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

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

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

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

JV 9/24

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Peg-updated backmatter, 11/13/24