

ITINERARY
BRAZIL NUTSHELL
INTERVALES, IGUAZU FALLS & THE PANTANAL
March 11-25, 2023



*The gorgeous Azure-shouldered Tanager is one of a number of lovely endemics we'll see on this tour.
Photograph by participant Neil Wingert.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2023 Field Guides Brazil Nutshell: Intervales, Iguazu Falls & Pantanal tour:

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

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

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

Brazil is huge. A vast melting pot of peoples and cultures, Brazil is also blessed with an extraordinary wealth of wildlife, from the steamy Amazon forests to the more subtropical and temperate regions in the south. It is to these more southerly regions that we journey on this wonderful tour, operating in a slightly different incarnation since 1994 and sure to continue as a favorite of Field Guides participants. Seeking to avoid the rush of too many localities, we have settled on just three main stops—all offering world-class birding and with great accommodations in close proximity to the best birding spots.

Our first stop, Intervalles State Park, is well known for its avian riches and for sheltering a large number of endemics and endangered species of the Atlantic Forest biome, such as Blue-bellied Parrot, Helmeted Woodpecker, Black-fronted Piping-Guan, and even an undescribed species of bristlefront (that's a weird tapaculo!). Our second venue is truly stunning, for Iguazu Falls are the largest in the world. And, while the sight and sound of this awesome place will live long in the memory, the birding round about is pretty fabulous, too! In striking contrast to the forested mountains of Intervalles and the roaring waters of Iguazu, our final stop will be amidst the seasonally flooded grasslands of southwestern Brazil: the famed Pantanal. Water birds abound, but there is one species that has come to symbolize the wilds of the Pantanal—the magnificent Hyacinth Macaw, the largest and now one of the rarest parrots in the world. It's sure to be a fine conclusion to a relaxing and educational tour.



Spectacular Iguazu Falls, which we'll visit on both the Brazilian and Argentine sides, provides a wonderful backdrop for our birding at one of the three venues on this great itinerary. Photograph by participant Ed LeGrand.

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one). Having a vaccinated group will greatly diminish but not eliminate the possibility of the group and individual participants being adversely affected by COVID-19. **We are requiring all of our staff guides to be vaccinated, including getting the booster.** Note too, that many travel destinations are or soon will be requiring proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may become a requirement for some travel destinations if they choose to declare that vaccinations do not last indefinitely. And having a booster means your risk is lowered and your travel plans and those of our group are less likely to be disrupted.

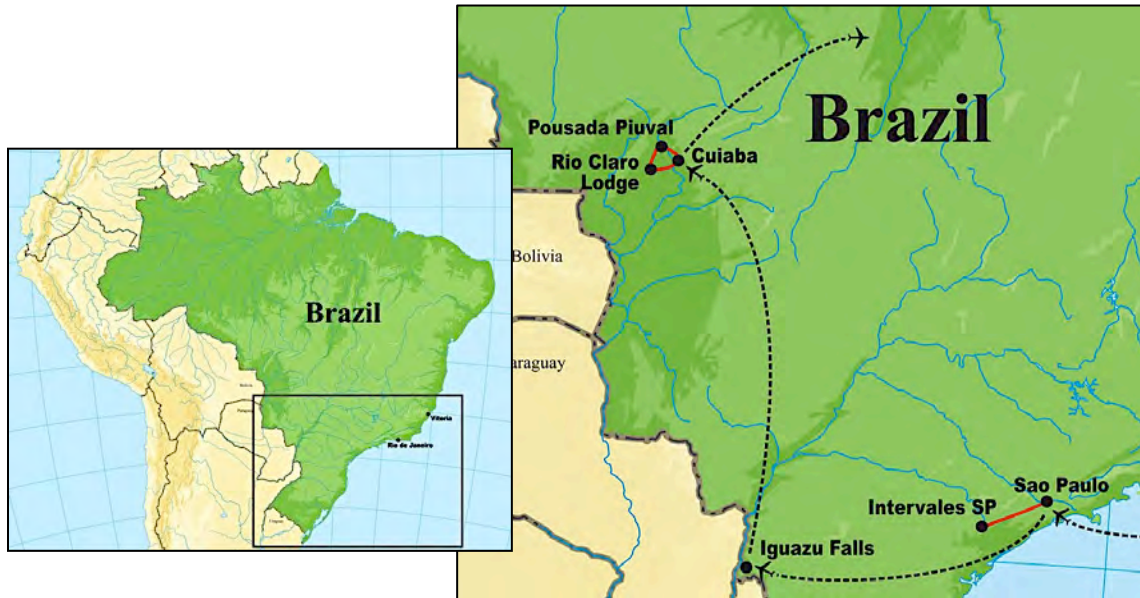
We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable 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:** Good amounts of walking (3-5 miles per day) along roads and trails, most of which will be on even ground, but some of which are narrow, uneven, slippery, and muddy, with obstacles such as tree roots. Walking sticks can be useful.

- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** There will be several long travel days, and road conditions vary from excellent to very bumpy. Our hotel on the Brazilian side at Iguazu is a large one, and rooms are often several hundred feet from reception and dining areas. Also at Iguazu, access to the awe-inspiring Devil's Throat on the Argentine side requires a total of 2.5 miles round-trip of walking on a level, metal walkway; access to other falls sites we regularly visit on both sides requires walking down (and back up) significant numbers of steps and ramps over a couple of loop walkways of about 1-1.5 miles each.
- **PACE:** After breakfast (usually at 5:00 a.m.), we bird until lunch time. We sometimes pack a picnic lunch, to extend our time in the field, but we often return to the lodge for lunch. Normally, weather permitting, we bird again after lunch following a short siesta. On several evenings, we'll also try for nocturnal birds.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will range from the 60s F at night to the 90s during the day. Rain showers are likely, but weather is highly variable.
- **ELEVATION:** Sea level to 1000 feet.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Participants should be prepared to make comfort stops in nature, as there are no other options when away from our lodging.
- **OPTING OUT:** Participants may easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day except on travel days.

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.



Itinerary for Brazil Nutshell: Intervales, Iguazu Falls & Pantanal

Day 1, Sat, 11 Mar. To Sao Paulo. With participants joining this tour from several departure points in the US and possibly from overseas, group members will be traveling on various flights to Sao Paulo. Almost all departures to southern Brazil from the US involve an overnight flight. If you do not sleep well on such flights, you may prefer to come a day early to Sao Paulo and get a good night's rest before the tour.

Day 2, Sun, 12 Mar. Arrival in Sao Paulo; to Intervales State Park. Upon arriving in Sao Paulo airport, please proceed through Immigration and Customs. Your leader(s) or a representative from our ground operator (with a sign saying Field Guides) will meet you as you exit Customs; if you do not spot one of them immediately, please find a place nearby to wait with your luggage (please don't stray far and make sure your luggage has the Field Guides tag... if you stay nearby, we will be able to find you). Note that international flights, depending on the airline, may arrive in different terminals; we are aware of this. **If you are arriving separately from most of the group** (e.g., a day early, or on a much earlier flight), please notify our office of your schedule and plan to be at the international arrival area downstairs in Terminal 3 **by 8:30 a.m.** today; your leader will find you there and escort you to meet the rest of the group.

Once we have gathered everyone, we'll board our bus for the drive to our hotel in Intervales State Park, about five hours away with a couple of rest stops. The rooms at Intervales are concentrated in four different buildings, and we should have one of those for ourselves. A tremendous advantage at Intervales is that the birding starts right outside our door, with birds like Sharpbill, Large-tailed Antshrike, Maroon-bellied Parakeets, and Shear-tailed Gray-Tyrant often appearing on the grounds. We will have lunch at a typical Brazilian barbecue restaurant shortly before reaching the park and make a couple of brief birding stops before entering the park. Upon our arrival and after a little break to settle into our rooms, we'll gather to begin our exploration of this rich area. Night in Intervales State Park.

Days 3-5, Mon-Wed, 13-15 Mar. Intervales State Park. With three full days at Intervales, we'll have plenty of time to settle into the unhurried nature of birding here while seeking the many special birds tucked away in these beautiful Brazilian mountains. The lowlands and foothills in these parts of Sao Paulo state are still largely forested, and some of the overlooks from the roads are really breathtaking. This is a place of natural sounds, far removed from the noise of traffic and planes. Walking along these roads or wide trails will be very productive most of the time, but we will occasionally need to get inside under the canopy to lure secretive undergrowth species into view. Our pulses will quicken at the approach of our first mixed feeding flocks, which may harbor such elegant birds as Spot-billed Toucanet, White-collared and White-browed foliage-gleaners, Pale-browed and Sharp-billed treehunters (radically different birds despite the English name), Black-billed Scythebill, and Bay-ringed and Sao Paulo tyrannulets, as well as an array of jewel-like tanagers—Brassy-breasted, Gilt-edged, and Burnished-buff to name just three!

Peering into the dense undergrowth may reveal Star-throated Antwrens, White-shouldered Fire-eyes, or perhaps a stunning male Swallow-tailed Manakin, while tangled streamsides conceal the Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper and a lek of magnificent Plovercrests. Where the trails climb through bamboo-laden woodlands, we'll hope to find the amazing Giant Antshrike, while the huge White-throated Woodcreeper, Surucua Trogon, Red-breasted Toucan, Ferruginous Antbird, Short-tailed and Such's antthrushes, and the rarely seen Slaty Bristlefront (the one here is being described as a new species) are some of the possibilities awaiting our discovery. We'll constantly be on the lookout for a Black-fronted Piping-Guan and keep an eye to the sky as well for rare raptors like Mantled Hawk and all three species of hawk-eagles.

Mention of a few additional target birds here must include the very rare Blue-bellied Parrot (seldom seen), Rufous-capped Motmot, Buff-bellied and Crescent-chested puffbirds, the very rare Helmeted Woodpecker, Orange-breasted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus ferrugineigula*, recently split from Red-eyed Thornbird), White-bearded Antshrike, Squamate Antbird, Variegated Antpitta, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Spotted Bamboowren, White-breasted and Mouse-colored tapaculos, Gray-hooded Attila, the little-known Black-legged Dacnis, and Green-chinned Euphonia. Owling is great at Intervales, and we'll take advantage of clear nights to look especially for Rusty-barred and Tawny-browed owls and Long-tufted and Tropical screech-owls. We'll try to come up with a Least Pygmy-Owl during the day. Nights in Intervales State Park.



The showy Yellow-fronted Woodpecker is one of the most beautiful of the genus Melanerpes. It is almost endemic to the Atlantic Forest of Brazil. Photograph by participant Ed LeGrand.

Day 6, Thu, 16 Mar. To Iguazu Falls. On this last morning at Intervalles we'll have a couple of early hours of birding before we transfer to Sao Paulo, where we will enjoy a quick lunch at the airport and then catch our afternoon flight. Upon arrival at Iguazu, we'll board our bus and transfer directly to the Argentine side, where we'll spend our first two nights. Our lovely, modern hotel sits a few minutes away from the park's entrance and is nestled in a lovely patch of forest! The grounds and nearby trails are great for birding, too, and we'll have time this afternoon to enjoy a walk around our hotel and get to know some of the local birds, which may include the secretive Spot-backed Antshrike and the rare Buff-bellied Puffbird as well as the lovely Rufous-capped Motmot. Night at Iguazu Falls/Argentine side.



We'll look for the Spot-backed Antshrike in the moist forests near Iguazu Falls. Photograph by participant David Woods.

Days 7-9, Fri-Sun, 17-19 Mar. Iguazu Falls. Lowland rainforest interspersed with great tracts of bamboo is the habitat around Iguazu Falls. The climate is quite tropical, with daytime highs sometimes reaching the upper 90s, though it can also be quite a bit cooler. If it has been raining in the past couple of days, the birding roads could be muddy—you should be sure to bring your waterproof footwear to Iguazu. Some of the most special birds to be sought at Iguazu are Toco Toucan (the largest toucan), the endangered and rare Black-fronted Piping-Guan (less likely here than at Intervalles, but it's great to have another chance for it!), the tiny Ochre-collared Piculet, the huge Robust and spectacular Blond-crested woodpeckers, Spot-backed Antshrike, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow (rare), and Plush-crested Jay, along with a host of little-known passerines including Russet-winged Spadebill, Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher, and Southern Bristle-Tyrant—three Atlantic Forest endemics not usually seen on the Southeast Brazil tours. Beyond these, the area's bird life is rich indeed, and there will be plenty to keep us busy.

On Day 8 we will make the approximately 90-minute drive (though seemingly only a stone's throw away across the river!) to the remarkably pink Hotel das Cataratas, a landmark at Iguazu and a very comfortable place to stay, inside the national park on the Brazilian side. We'll have the afternoon of Day 8 to visit the falls on the Brazilian side and much of Day 9 to bird a quiet road in good woodland on the Brazilian side, where the rainforest is generally taller. Nights at Iguazu Falls (Day 7 on Argentine side; Days 8-9 on Brazilian side). *(Note: All other hotels on the Brazilian side, though likely less expensive than the Hotel das Cataratas, are located outside the park and require a significant bus ride to and from the falls and passage through the park checkpoint.)*

Day 10, Mon, 20 Mar. To Cuiaba and the Pantanal. To take advantage of the best schedule, we will have an early breakfast and catch an early-morning flight to Cuiaba. Once there, we'll sample some of Brazil's famous barbecue and make our way south to the Pantanal. This is easier said than done, as it is hard to keep moving as there will be a flurry of new birds outside the bus windows. We will make a few stops along the way as we begin to see the first Jabirus, Plumbeous Ibises, kingfishers, Limpkins, Monk Parakeets (native to the Pantanal) and, with some luck, even the beautiful Scarlet-headed Blackbird. Dusk could bring out lots of Nacunda Nighthawks and perhaps even a Great Potoo before we reach the lodge. Night in the Pantanal.



Our Pantanal experience will include seeing huge Greater Rheas close by. Photograph by participant Dominic Sherony.

Days 11-13, Tue-Thu, 21-23 Mar. The Pantanal. The ecological region designated as the Pantanal is the low-elevation region of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul in the basin of the Rio Paraguai, a southward-flowing river of little gradient which crosses Paraguay, joins the Parana, and empties eastward at Buenos Aires. The Pantanal's climate is characterized by a pronounced dry season from about March to November. Due to poor drainage, however, much of the region is seasonally inundated or otherwise saturated during the rainy season. For this March tour we'll be visiting at the end of the rainy season (but, of course, who knows what the 'season' will really be doing!): we can expect some showers, and in a typical year water levels should be quite high in the lakes and ponds; the birding will be excellent all along the Transpantaneira Highway and around our lodges.

The Pantanal supports a range of habitat types varying from semideciduous and evergreen forests on well-drained, fertile soils to cerrado/savanna on infertile soils; from tree-palm woodlands on moist soil to permanent marsh and true pantanal, i.e., flat seasonally flooded grassland with scattered clumps of cerrado scrub on slightly elevated soil platforms whose surfaces do not become inundated. We'll be visiting the Pantanal during the most beautiful period of the year, as most of the flowers will be in bloom and many of the passerines will be nesting. Although we're not as likely to see the huge congregations of waders one sees during the dry season, all water-associated species will still be numerous, from Snail Kite, Black-collared Hawk, and Southern Screamer to Limpkin, herons, egrets, storks (three species, though Maguari is scarce this time of year), ibises (five species!), and kingfishers. We'll also be on the lookout at all times for a variety of mammals, ranging from Capybara and Crab-eating Fox and Giant Anteater.

Add to these highlights the fabulous Hyacinth Macaws and an array of interesting land birds—such as Bare-faced Curassow, Long-tailed Ground-Dove, Golden-collared Macaw, Monk and Nanday parakeets, Spot-backed Puffbird, White and Pale-crested woodpeckers, Great Rufous Woodcreeper, Red-billed Scythebill, Rufous Cacholote, Mato Grosso Antbird, Chestnut-bellied Guan, and Red-crested and Yellow-billed cardinals—and the Pantanal is sure to leave you with a lasting impression of the wildlife riches of this part of Brazil. While in the Pantanal we'll bird on foot, perhaps by boat, and by the famous Transpantaneira Park Road on board our air-conditioned mini-bus, allowing excellent viewing for all. Nights in the Pantanal.

Days 14-15, Fri-Sat, 24-25 Mar. To Cuiaba and homeward. On Day 14 we'll have to tear ourselves away from the Pantanal (not an easy thing to do!) and return the way we came to Cuiaba—about two-and-a-half hours—where we will bid each other *adieu*. You may schedule your flight home to depart Cuiaba anytime after 2:00 p.m. on Day 14; depending on your carrier, you may connect through Sao Paulo, Brasilia, or Rio to an overnight flight back to the States (or your destination), arriving home on Day 15. *Boa viagem!*

About Your Guide

Marcelo Padua was born in Belem at the mouth of the Amazon River. Growing up he spent his free time at his uncle's farm in an Amazon rainforest reserve observing everything from insects to mammals and birds. Marcelo began studying English at an early age and attended high school in Middletown, Pennsylvania, in a student-exchange program. He is remarkably fluent and even taught English for a couple of years back home in Brazil. Following university in Rio de Janeiro, Marcelo transferred to law school in Cuiaba, but working as an English-speaking naturalist guide during school holidays soon made it clear to him that birding was much more than a hobby! With just a year to go for his bar exam, he turned his back on the law to hang out his shingle as a birding guide.

Marcelo met Bret Whitney in 2005 and embarked on a full-time guiding career with Field Guides in 2010. With his great sense of humor, impeccable organizational skills, and love of seeing birds, Marcelo has quickly become a reference for birding in Brazil, spending over 200 days each year in the field. A warning: Watch out if he sees displaying manakins of any kind! Marcelo makes his nest at the crossroads of the Pantanal and the Amazon in Cuiaba with his wife, Ana.

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

"Marcelo Padua was the best feature of the tour. He is an expert at his profession, a diplomat, and his obvious enthusiasm for what he does is much appreciated. Marcelo is second to none and heads above most other guides with whom we have traveled." J. & M.V., Jaguar Spotting

Financial Information

FEE: \$6775 from Sao Paulo and ending in Cuiaba

DEPOSIT: \$675 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: September 12, 2022

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1125

LIMIT: 8

Special Note: Tour fees may be subject to change due to the global economic effects of COVID-19.

We have published the itinerary and price for this tour with the understanding that during these uncertain times we are likely to encounter unforeseen changes. Some of our tours may incur higher costs due to increases in currency exchange rate fluctuations or COVID-19 related fees imposed by countries and/or suppliers. Travel and hospitality companies all over the world have been adversely affected by the pandemic, and there is no guarantee that all of the lodging and transportation we have booked for this tour will still be available at the time of departure. We hope to maintain our services as indicated in our itinerary as well as our published tour fee. However, if changes are required we will make every effort to maintain the quality of the itinerary as it is published with the most appropriate substitutions available. Should any necessary changes or other unforeseen causes result in an increase in service rates to us, we reserve the right to pass on those increases in fees to the tour participant.

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: Accommodations are comfortable to excellent throughout the tour. Our hotel at Intervalles does not have air conditioning and the rooms are somewhat spartan. Our hotel on the Brazilian side at Iguazu is a large one, and rooms are often several hundred feet from reception and the dining areas. In the Pantanal, we will divide our stay between two lodges, both of which are comfortable but not luxurious.

DOCUMENTS: A current passport is necessary for US citizens to enter Brazil. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Brazilian 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.

VACCINATIONS: Yellow fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please check <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil> for the current CDC information and consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals).

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Please note that the tour begins in Sao Paulo and ends in Cuiaba. Please check with our office for the best schedule from your home airport.

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 \$6775 for one person in double occupancy from Sao Paulo. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 13, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through lunch on Day 14, all ground transportation, flights within Brazil, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Brazil, airport taxes (these are now usually included on tickets issued in the US), 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** is \$1125. 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, 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 \$675** 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 September 12, 2022. 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.**

Please note that if you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will require **proof of travel insurance**. 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 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. 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. If you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will **require proof of travel insurance**. 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 within 90 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 90 to 179 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

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

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

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

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

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. 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.

NCP 7/2020

12/21RK; 1/22peg; 11/22cb; peg