

ITINERARY
MEXICO: OAXACA'S ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC SLOPES
March 12-23, 2022



*Red-breasted Chat is one of the many specialty birds we will search for along the Pacific Coast of Oaxaca.
Photograph by guide Micah Riegner.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2022 Field Guides Mexico: Oaxaca's Atlantic and Pacific Slopes 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:

- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, flight 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

Oaxaca sits at the juncture of two distinct biogeographic realms--the Pacific and Atlantic (Gulf) Slopes. Combine this with its rugged, mountainous topography and you get *the* most biodiverse state in all of Mexico. From hot cactus deserts to chilly conifer-cloaked ridgetops and bromeliad-laden cloudforests, and from thorny coastal scrublands to lush lowland rainforests on ancient limestone ledges, Oaxaca boasts a staggering number of habitats that translates to an impressive number of birds, many of which are found nowhere else. On our venerable Oaxaca Valley tour, we explore the numerous habitats surrounding Oaxaca City. If you've taken that tour, or plan to take it at some point (and you absolutely should!), here's an opportunity to experience even more of Oaxaca!

For this brand-new tour, we'll start in Oaxaca City and head south into the mountains (the Sierra Madre del Sur) in search of White-throated Jay, Garnet-throated Hummingbird, and Red-headed Tanager near the picturesque town of San

Jose del Pacifico. We'll then bird our way down the winding highway to Huatulco, searching the cloudforest for Blue-capped Hummingbird, Gray-crowned Woodpecker, and Wagler's Toucanet (the Pacific form of Emerald Toucanet, which many authorities consider a separate species). We'll spend several days birding the dry coastal forest in Parque Nacional Huatulco, where we'll have the chance to see the flashy Red-breasted Chat, Flammulated Flycatcher (which looks like a miniature *Myiarchus*), Citreoline Trogon, Spot-breasted Oriole, Orange-fronted Parakeet, Orange-breasted Bunting, Colima Pygmy Owl and Lesser Ground-Cuckoo. A night excursion here could yield Mottled Owl, Pacific Screech-Owl, and maybe a Northern Potoo! If the weather allows, we'll do a morning boat trip off the coast of Huatulco. Here, thanks to a subduction zone, the sea floor plunges to more than 3,000 feet deep just a few miles offshore, so birds and marine mammals that occur in the pelagic zone can be seen within a relatively short boat ride. We may see a number of shearwaters including Galapagos, Wedge-tailed, and Pink-footed, both Black and Least storm-petrels, and any of the three jaegers. Humpback Whales and Spinner and Spotted dolphins are generally the most common marine mammals in these waters, and local biologists have recorded 21 species of whales and dolphins over the years, so who knows what else might show up? Yellow-bellied Sea Snake and Green Sea Turtle are also very good possibilities.

From Huatulco, we'll drive the coastal highway to Tehuantepec, land of the stunning Rosita's Bunting and Sumichrast's Sparrow. We'll scope the coastal wetlands for waterbirds and bird the thornscrub before crossing the isthmus over to Valle Nacional, where we'll spend the next few days. The limestone outcroppings in this area are home to the unusual Sumichrast's Wren, another bird named in honor of the Swiss-Mexican ornithologist who spent a considerable time in Oaxaca in the late 1800s. During our exploration of the Atlantic cloudforest, we'll keep our eyes peeled for goodies like White-naped Brushfinch, Slate-colored Solitaire (check out a recording of that bird!), Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, and Unicolored Jay.

These are just a few of the nifty birds we hope to find--the actual list of potential species is almost mind-boggling! All this, combined with Oaxaca's famously delicious cuisine, vibrant culture, and breathtaking landscapes, is sure to make this a delightful getaway. So dust off your binoculars, pack your sense of adventure, and prepare for 12 days of outstanding Oaxacan birding!



Rose-bellied Bunting (aka Rosita's Bunting) is an endemic to southern Oaxaca and neighboring Chiapas, where it lights up the dry scrub. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (if you are getting a two-dose vaccine, this means you must receive your second dose two weeks prior to departure). 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.** 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.

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:** Moderate amounts of walking (1-3 miles in morning, 1-2 miles in afternoon), mostly on roads or packed dirt trails. Some instances we will need to hike up some steep, and possibly slippery, trails with loose rocks and gravel.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will likely stand for long periods to observe flocks of birds in the heat and humidity. On our boat trip we may experience rough water so, if you are prone to sea sickness, plan accordingly.
- **PACE:** Early starts (5:30 a.m. breakfast) followed by birding until lunch, which is sometimes a picnic. In the afternoons, we will bird or take in cultural attractions. On most days, we will be away from the hotel for the entire day. There will be at a few optional nighttime excursion to look for birds, but we will return to the lodge by about 10:30 p.m.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures range from the low 40s in the early morning in the higher elevations of mountains to the mid-90s F in the lower elevations with high humidity. Rain is certainly a possibility.
- **ELEVATION:** In the mountains, we reach almost 10,000 feet; however, much of the tour will be closer to sealevel.
- **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.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms but, on most days, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature. And, yes, the boat does have a bathroom.
- **OPTING OUT:** We will be on the go for much of the tour moving from town to town, so there will be few opportunities to opt out. Those who would like to opt out of the boat trip can spend the morning around the hotel in Huatulco.

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 for the tour.



About the Birding Areas

San Jose del Pacifico is a picturesque town at 8,000 feet nestled within the Sierra Madre del Sur (aka Sierra Miahuatlan). The town is famous for its hallucinogenic mushrooms, which you are more than welcome to try when you're not on a Field Guides tour! The forest surrounding the town is a mix of pine and oaks and some of the birds that can be seen in the vicinity include the elusive White-throated Jay, Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo, Long-tailed Wood-Partridge, and Garnet-throated Hummingbird. There are numerous side roads around town, some of which are quite steep.

La Soledad and Pluma Hidalgo are two small villages whose main export is coffee. Bromeliad-laden cloud forest grows at this elevation (5,000 feet), which is habitat for numerous species including the endemic Blue-capped Hummingbird, Wagler's (Emerald) Toucanet, Collared Trogon, White-faced Quail-Dove, Mexican Hermit, Eared Poorwill, Gray-crowned Woodpecker and Fan-tailed Warbler.

Huatulco sits right on the Pacific Coast. The forest that grows here is a short-stature deciduous thorn scrub. Parque Nacional Huatulco is a 29,400-hectare reserve just outside of town with a system of trails and boardwalks. Some of the birds in this area include Colima Pygmy Owl, Citreoline Trogon, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, Red-breasted Chat, Flammulated Flycatcher and Olive Sparrow.



*Guide Micah Riegner photographed these Black Terns on a boat trip off Huatulco.
Note the tuna leaping out of the water in the lower right.*

The Isthmus of Tehuantepec is the narrowest stretch in Mexico from the Pacific to the Atlantic. This 200-km strip of low-elevation habitat is an important biogeographic break and there are numerous examples of species turnover from the mountains in Oaxaca and the mountains of Chiapas. This low-lying region is also the windiest part of Mexico, where trade winds from the Gulf of Mexico get funnelled between the two mountain ranges. Consequently, numerous energy companies have installed wind turbines, which unfortunately kill thousands of birds each year especially during migration. Rosita's Bunting and Sumichrast's Sparrow are our two main target birds in this part of Oaxaca.

The town of **Valle Nacional** sits right at the foothills of the Sierra Madre Oriental and is surrounded by giant limestone ridges, home to the endemic Sumichrast's Wren. The town provides access to the lowland tropical forest as well as the cloud forest up in the mountains. The lowlands here have been cleared for agriculture except where the carst limestone makes this impossible (lucky for the wren!), and Gulf coast forest birds hang on in these patches. Things we'll keep an eye out for include Collared Trogon, Keel-billed Toucan, Emerald Toucanet (this is the nominate form, different from Wagler's on the Pacific slope), and a whole host of tanagers, brushfinches, flycatchers, our first furnariids, and even an antbird or two! We will also visit several elevations of the Sierra Madre Oriental here to look for more montane species,

ranging from Azure-hooded and Unicolored jays to Slate-colored Solitaire (perhaps the most beautiful bird song in the world?), Common Chlorospingus, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Bumblebee and Emerald-chinned hummingbirds, among others. Higher up, we will be back in pine-oak forest similar to San Jose del Pacifico, but with a few different species (Dwarf Jay instead of White-throated, for example).



Cinnamon-tailed Sparrow (aka Sumichrast's Sparrow) is another endemic of the Pacific side of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.

Itinerary for Mexico: Oaxaca's Atlantic and Pacific Slopes

Day 1, Sat, 12 Mar. Arrival in Oaxaca (or continue from the Mexico: Oaxaca 2022 Tour). Upon arrival into Oaxaca City, you'll be met at the airport by our local driver (who should be carrying a sign with your name and "Field Guides" on it) and transferred directly to our hotel. The ride from the airport to our hotel can take about 45 minutes. We'll get together in the hotel lobby at 7:00 p.m. for a short get-acquainted session; then, we'll head to dinner, where we'll discuss our plans for the tour. Night in Oaxaca City.

Day 2, Sun, 13 Mar. Drive to San Jose del Pacifico. After breakfast at the hotel we'll drive to the town of San Jose del Pacifico. We'll check into our cabins, have lunch and spend the afternoon birding the high elevation pine/oak forest around town. Some of the species we'll keep an eye out for include Long-tailed Wood-Partridge, Garnet-throated Hummingbird, Hooded Yellowthroat, and the elusive White-throated Jay. Night at San Jose del Pacifico.

Day 3, Mon, 14 Mar. Birding around San Jose del Pacifico; drive to Huatulco. We'll have an early breakfast, load up the vans and drive down to Huatulco, birding along the way. This is a very windy road so, if you are prone to motion sickness, plan accordingly. We'll stop at numerous pullouts and side roads to look for the endemic Blue-capped Hummingbird, and Wagler's Toucanet on our way down. Night in Huatulco.

Day 4, Tue, 15 Mar. Boat trip out of Huatulco; birding Parque Nacional Huatulco. After breakfast at the hotel, we'll board the boat and spend the morning out on the water. We won't need to venture far to see numerous pelagic species. We'll return to Huatulco for lunch, then spend the afternoon at Parque Nacional Huatulco looking for Red-breasted Chat, Flammulated Flycatcher, Colima Pygmy-Owl and Citreoline Trogon. Night in Huatulco.

Day 5, Wed, 16 Mar. Birding around Pluma Hidalgo. After breakfast, we'll venture up to the cloud forest again around the town of Pluma Hidalgo. We'll spend the day looking for Gray-crowned Woodpecker, Fan-tailed Warbler, and Blue-capped Hummingbirds, and we might even do some owling up there after dinner. Night in Huatulco.

Day 6 Thu, 17 Mar. Drive to Tehuantepec. We'll spend a couple hours birding around Huatulco before driving the coastal road south to Tehuantepec. After checking into our hotel, we'll bird Laguna Superior for shorebirds and waders. Night in Tehuantepec.

Day 7 Fri, 18 Mar. Birding around Tehuantepec; drive to Valle Nacional. After an early breakfast we'll drive to a site about 40 minutes from Tehuantepec to look for Rosita's Bunting and Sumichrast's Sparrow. We'll then return to the hotel, pack up, and drive to Valle Nacional where we'll spend the next several days. Night in Valle Nacional.

Days 8-10 Sat-Mon, 19-21 Mar. Birding around Valle Nacional. We'll have two full days to bird around Valle Nacional. One morning we'll dedicate to looking for Sumichrast's Wren and other low-elevation species. Another morning we'll drive up into the cloud forest to look for White-naped Brushfinch, Unicolored Jay, and Blue-crowned Chlorophonia. Nights in Valle Nacional.

Day 11 Tue, 22 Mar. Drive back to Oaxaca City. We'll pack up and spend the day driving back to Oaxaca City, stopping to bird the cloud forest along the way. Night in Oaxaca City.

Day 12 Wed, 23 Mar. Departure for home. You may schedule your departure for any time today; we will provide transportation to the airport based on departure times. *¡Que les vaya bien!*

About Your Guides

Dan Lane was barely out of diapers when his love for birds manifested itself. He was an active birder in his home state of New Jersey until he moved to Louisiana to pursue a master's studying Neotropical birds at Louisiana State University. By 1999, he'd received his degree and participated in three LSU expeditions to Peru and Ecuador, discovering a new species of bird (Scarlet-banded Barbet) along the way. His increasing experience with the Peruvian avifauna, coupled with having the luck of being "in the right place at the right time," landed Dan coauthorship on the recently published *Birds of Peru*—alongside his childhood heroes Ted Parker and John O'Neill. Meanwhile, his continuing fieldwork has resulted in uncovering additional new species to science (although writing these up, sadly, takes far more time than finding the birds, and Dan's way behind schedule).

Dan's interests in birds also include illustration, bird vocalizations, and bird biogeography and evolution. He's pleased to share his knowledge with participants on tours and loves birding with folks who are really enthusiastic about seeing BIRDS! Working with Field Guides is a blast and Dan thoroughly enjoys the friendship and fun the Field Guides family provides. His favorite areas are largely in tropical Latin America, but on occasion he has led tours to other corners of the globe and of course (somewhat) regularly birds near his home in Louisiana.

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

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

"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

"Micah Riegner was outstanding. He seemed to get on every bird out there for the hard-core birders, while also sharing his expertise about natural history and ecology in general. He had a good sense of timing for getting everyone smoothly through the long days, accommodated Covid caution, fixed flat tires, and more - really a long day for one guide to deal with, and he did it with good humor and energy. Kudos to Micah!" S.J. ; Arizona's Second Spring

Jorge Montejó-Díaz was born in Yucatan, Mexico and developed a passion for nature from a very early age, exploring the surroundings of his native Merida, where he began to observe birds and learn how to trap them! His interest in birds and nature continued to grow during his college years in Veracruz, when Jorge and a group of friends “discovered” the great coastal migration in the state, now known as the Veracruz River of Raptors. Since the late 90’s, Jorge has guided birding tours throughout Mexico.

His explorations have taken him across Mexico and to other parts of the world, including Venezuela, Brazil, and much of the US and Canada. Because of both the beauty and importance of birds, he considers the opportunity to watch them and share his passion with others a great honor, as well as a great responsibility. On the rare occasions when he is not in the field, Jorge shares his bird observations with his partner, Amy, from their base in the city of Xalapa, set in the foothills of central Veracruz.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete guide tour schedules; just click on a photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$3750 from Oaxaca

DEPOSIT: \$375 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: November 12, 2021

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional*): \$475

LIMIT: 14

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 tour manager for is Nicole Cannon. Nicole will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact her!

DOCUMENTS: Currently (as of December 6, 2021), the following documents are needed for entrance into Mexico: a valid passport, a mandatory health declaration for US citizens and a tourist card (Multiple Immigration Form, FMM). Neither a negative Covid-19 test or proof of vaccination is necessary to enter Mexico at this time. As of December 6, all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States. All air passengers to the United States are also required to provide contact information to airlines before boarding flights to the United States.

Testing will be arranged for the group at the appropriate time for our return flights home from Mexico. Please note the cost of the test will be the client's responsibility, and the fee you can expect to pay is roughly \$50 USD. Requirements can change at any time, so please be sure to check for updates at the following link, <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-3/coronavirus-mexico>.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Mexican 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 your 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT IMMIGRATION IN MEXICO: Upon arrival in Mexico, the immigration officer will give you a paper form which you **MUST** keep with you at all times with your passport. Failure to present this when you are leaving for home will result in at least an extra day's delay.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Flights are available from most cities to Oaxaca via Dallas or Houston. 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 **\$3750** for one person in double occupancy* from Oaxaca City. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 11, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through dinner on Day 11, all ground transportation including airport transfers, 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 Oaxaca City, airport taxes, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, breakfast on Day 12, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is **\$475**. 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).

*If you have a trusted friend, relative, or significant other with whom you wish to share a room on tour, please let us know and your tour manager will make that assignment. However, due to recommendations from the CDC, Field Guides is not currently pairing roommates who do not know each other, and the single supplement will apply if you do not have a roommate. As of this writing (December 8, 2021), we are reviewing these CDC recommendations carefully and often and will let you know if that changes.

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

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 \$375** per person, or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by November 12, 2021**. **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.**

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: FOR 2021 & 2022 TOURS: 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 and non-transferable. **FOR 2023 TOURS & BEYOND:** Note that beginning in 2023, the 50% refund period will become 179 to 90 days before departure, with no refund thereafter.

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 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 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

9/21 MR and DL

11/21 NC; 12/21peg