

ITINERARY

**OREGON: FROM THE COAST TO THE CASCADES**

*I: August 28 – September 7, 2021*

*II: September 9 – 19, 2021*



*The Black Oystercatcher is a specialty of the Pacific coast of North America. They prefer rocky shores, so Oregon is a great place to see them. This is one of more than 20 shorebird species that we'll seek on the tour.*

*Photograph by participant Tony Nastase.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2021 Field Guides Oregon: From the Coast to the Cascades I & II tours:*

- 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, 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

Fall is a wonderful time to go birding in Oregon. The state is home to some of the most striking scenery of the Pacific Northwest, and it also plays host to an impressive variety of birds. With a rich mixture of nesters augmented by migrants and returning wintering species, birding in Oregon is very pleasant during this time of year. Exploring the coast, mountains, and the Great Basin plains of this large and diverse state, all at the peak of fall migration, we'll have a western birding adventure you'll be sure to remember.

We'll start by birding the rocky and picturesque coastlines for which Oregon is so famous. From the coastal town of Newport south to Coos Bay, we'll explore various beaches and lagoons as we search for 20+ species of shorebirds including Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, and Surfbird, as well as gulls, terns, cormorants, and other offshore species. We'll seawatch from the coast, where we hope to see Sooty Shearwaters and a variety of alcids as well including Pigeon Guillemot, Common Murre, Marbled Murrelet, and maybe even a Cassin's or Rhinoceros auklet.

Eventually we'll pull ourselves away, leave the ocean behind, and ascend to 7000 feet in the Cascade Mountains, where we'll explore the legendary and beautiful Crater Lake National Park before continuing on to the town of Bend. Here, several lofty dormant volcanic peaks, some more than 10,000 feet high, command the horizon. Their dense forests of pine, spruce, and fir are home to the likes of White-headed and Black-backed woodpeckers, Steller's and Canada jays, American Dipper, and other high-elevation specialties. If there are recent reports, we may venture out one night to take a stab at Great Gray Owl (rare) or maybe watch as hundreds of Vaux's Swifts spiral around their roosting chimney at dusk. As we descend the eastern slope of the Cascades, the moisture-loving Douglas Firs yield to Ponderosa Pines and other vegetation more tolerant of the drier climate typical of the vast Great Basin Desert. Since water is in short supply on this side of the mountains, the birding can be particularly good in areas where small springs and streams occur. Among the many birds that we can expect in these areas are Williamson's, Red-naped, and Red-breasted sapsuckers, White-headed Woodpecker, Rock and Canyon wrens, Mountain and Western bluebirds, and MacGillivray's, Townsend's, and Hermit warblers, plus a variety of resident birds and numbers of southbound migrant species.

We will conclude our tour with a visit to productive Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Malheur, on the high plateau of the eastern Oregon desert, is considered by many to be one of the dozen best birding locations in the country. The refuge's 181,000 acres encompass marsh, small lakes, sagebrush flats, irrigated meadows, willow and cottonwood riparian growth, and alkali flats, and the plantings around the refuge headquarters make it perhaps one of the finest areas for concentrating migrant birds in the Northwest. While at Malheur and in the surrounding area we could see a wide variety of water- and landbirds, including Eared, Horned, Western, and Clark's grebes, American White Pelican, Trumpeter Swan, Cinnamon Teal, Swainson's and Ferruginous hawks, Prairie Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Sage Thrasher, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Brewer's Sparrow.

NOTE: Since the virus is and will continue to be a significant global health issue for some time, **we require that each participant have completed a full COVID vaccination course** at least two weeks prior to travel. If you are getting a two-dose vaccine, this means you must receive your second dose two weeks prior to departure. As we get closer to the tour date, someone from our office will call to have you confirm your vaccination status. 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'll visit some spectacular landscapes on this tour. As we go from the dramatic rocky coast to the mountains overlooking Crater Lake, and into the sage-brush desert beyond, we'll see some wonderful western specialty birds as well.  
Photograph by participant Shirley Ng.*

*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 (up to 2 miles per outing), some of it on paved, dirt, or gravel roads, some on fairly wide trails, and some on uneven or narrower trails with obstacles such as rocks, fallen limbs, or tree trunks. No steep trails, but participants should be able to walk up to 2 miles over undulating, sometimes uneven terrain (lightweight hiking boots recommended).
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We may stand for long periods to observe seabirds, shorebirds, or marine mammals (spotting scope useful). We cover much ground on this tour, and some days will feature long periods of time in the vans and lots of roadside birding with much getting in and out of vans.
- **PACE:** Early mornings (6:00-6:30 a.m. breakfasts), with both morning and afternoon birding sessions but one or two afternoon breaks during the tour. On some afternoons, we will be in transit between lodgings. Most days will include a full day of birding with a picnic lunch in the field or a stop in a café.
- **ELEVATION:** Birding on this tour will be from sea level to moderately high elevations in the mountains, up to 7000 feet in the Cascades and to 9700 feet at Steens Mountain.
- **WEATHER:** Fall weather is pleasant in Oregon. Expect temperatures in the low 50s in the evening, with days ranging from the low 60s to upper 70s F. Rain showers are likely somewhere during the tour.
- **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 occasion, participants should be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature.
- **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 one of the guides.

## About the Birding Areas



**Eugene area**—We'll start our adventure by birding at Fern Ridge Reservoir, which sits on the Long Tom River just west of the city. This well-known hotspot is an excellent location to look for a variety of ducks, raptors, and an impressive array of shorebirds. Numerous shorebird species typical of this area include Black-necked Stilt, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Least, Pectoral, and Western sandpipers, dowitchers, and both yellowlegs. Less common species we might find include Marbled Godwit, Pacific Golden-Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, or Red-necked Phalarope. Keep in mind, this is one of the better locations in the Lower 48 to hope for Eurasian vagrants such as Ruff or Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, both of which are almost annual here.

**The Coast**— We'll explore the beautiful Oregon coast from the small fishing town of Newport, our home base for a couple of nights, before heading south to Bandon. Several vantage points provide good

seawatching opportunities, and jaegers and alcids are regularly seen from shore.

Near Newport and Yaquina Bay, the possibilities include Vaux's Swift, Rufous Hummingbird, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bewick's Wren, Wrentit (at the northern limit of its restricted range in Oregon), Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, and MacGillivray's warblers, and Western Tanager. Searching the quiet back waters and the turbulent coastline may yield looks at Common, Pacific, and Red-throated loons, three species of cormorants (including Brandt's

still feeding young at the "nest"), a variety of waterfowl including Harlequin Duck, all three scoters, and possibly all three mergansers, several species of shorebirds, a variety of gulls including Heermann's, Mew, California, Western, and Glaucous-winged, and a number of alcids such as Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, and Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets. Marine mammals should be evident also, with numbers of Harbor Seals lounging on their rocky refuges and big California Sea Lions floating among the fishing boats in the harbor. Gray Whales can also be seen at times breaching the surface close to shore on their long migration from the Arctic to the warmer climes of the south.

Not far south of Newport, the Oregon coast undergoes a dramatic change. The scenic, surf-pounded headlands give way to a flatter, sandy terrain that stretches before the southbound traveler nearly to the limit of vision. Near where the rocky coastline again begins to dominate is Oregon's largest estuary, Coos Bay. And not far south of here is what has to be one of the greatest shorebirding localities along the entire West Coast: the Bandon Marsh. Besides a slew of western shorebird species, this location has hosted rarities in the past such as Great Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit.



*Clark's Nutcracker lives in the high-elevation conifer forests of the western US. These intelligent corvids are known for caching thousands of pine seeds; while they find many of them again, these birds are critical agents of dispersal for a number of montane conifers. Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.*

**The Cascades**— Once we leave the coast, we will pass over the coast range and head towards our night in Roseburg. The following morning we'll continue east to Oregon's only National Park, Crater Lake, one of the most scenic singular views in the Northwest. The highlight of this 180,000-acre park is the crater of Mount Mazama, the remnants of a volcano that erupted and sank into itself around 5700 BC. With time, the caldera eventually filled with rainwater and snow melt, and now this breathtakingly blue lake is nearly 2000 feet deep—the deepest lake in the US and the ninth-deepest in the world! We'll spend time taking in the views of the lake, snapping pictures of the mysterious Wizard and Phantom Ship islands, and learning more about the pinnacles and needle-like spires that rise up from the rim. The temperature will likely be cooler here given our elevation of 6000-8000 feet, but it will be a welcome change as we explore the park in hopes of finding montane species such as Clark's Nutcrackers, Canada Jays, and perhaps some migrant warblers. As the day proceeds, we will travel towards Bend via beautiful high country where we might find a family of Barrow's Goldeneyes on a quiet mountain lake, a magnificent Pileated Woodpecker hammering away on a huge, old snag, a lively American Dipper braving the current of a rushing, icy stream, or a vibrant Townsend's Warbler energetically feeding in order to build up the stores of fat needed for the journey south.

As we descend the eastern slope, the familiar Douglas Firs give way to towering Ponderosa Pines. The avifauna changes dramatically with the drop in moisture, and most of the birds so familiar to us from the previous few days will not be encountered again. Some of the birds for which we will search include Williamson's, Red-naped, and Red-breasted sapsuckers, the striking White-headed Woodpecker, Gray Flycatcher, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain and Western bluebirds, and Rock and Canyon wrens. Bend lies at the base of the Cascades, and on a clear day (which is the norm here) eight snow-covered peaks can be seen from town. As we venture out in the morning, we may be treated to a chorus of Townsend's Solitaires, a species that descends from the mountains nearby during the fall to the lowlands around Bend. We will frequent the best birding areas along the Deschutes River, seeking a variety of fall

migrants and resident birds such as Prairie Falcon, Anna's Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker (at nearby burns), Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided, Hammond's, and Dusky flycatchers, Violet-green Swallow, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, a variety of migrant warblers, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, and Cassin's Finch.

**Malheur National Wildlife Refuge**— Malheur Refuge is considered by many to be one of the dozen best birding locations in the country. Established in the 1930s, the refuge lies on the high plateau of the eastern Oregon desert at an elevation of about 4100 feet. It is truly a birder's paradise. Its 181,000 acres encompass marsh, small lakes, irrigated meadows, and alkali flats, as well as vast sagebrush flats which are home to such specialties as Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrows, and the newly split Sagebrush Sparrow. And the plantings around the headquarters and other small "oases" make Malheur perhaps the best migrant trap in the Northwest. Among expected migrant songbirds, we'll watch for prizes such as Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Varied Thrush, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Worm-eating warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Some of the other species that we are almost certain to encounter during our stay here, depending on water conditions, include Eared, Horned, Western, and Clark's grebes, American White Pelican (usually hundreds), White-faced Ibis, Trumpeter Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Ferruginous Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Black-necked Stilt, Baird's Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Say's Phoebe, Marsh Wren, Orange-crowned, Townsend's, Black-throated Gray, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's warblers, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Lark, White-crowned, and Lincoln's sparrows. It should prove to be an exciting one-and-a-half days of birding.



*The Prairie Falcon is one of about 15 raptors we'll watch for on the tour. With so many habitat-types and wide-open spaces, this tour is great for raptors! Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.*

## Itinerary for Oregon: From the Coast to the Cascades

**Day 1, Sat, 28 Aug. or Thu, 9 Sep. Arrival in Eugene.** Once you arrive in Eugene, please call the hotel and take the courtesy shuttle from the airport.\*\* Please plan to arrive at the hotel by 6:00 p.m., as we will meet in the hotel lobby at 6:30 p.m. for our get-acquainted dinner. Night in Eugene. \*\* **Note:** As of 5/17/21, the hotel's courtesy shuttle is not operating due to Covid-19. If this is still the case on the day of arrival, the guide will schedule 1-2 group transfers for a certain time, perhaps at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. If you can't arrive around those specified times, you will need to take an Uber/Lyft or a taxi to the hotel. However, things can change between now and then, and we will update you about the situation as we get closer to arrival day.\*\*

**Day 2, Sun, 29 Aug. or Fri, 10 Sep. Fern Ridge Reservoir and the Coast Range; on to the coast.** After breakfast this morning, we'll pack our bags and make the short drive to Fern Ridge Reservoir just west of Eugene where we'll search for a variety of shorebirds including less-likely vagrants such as Ruff. Then we'll continue west and climb over the Coast

Range, making an attempt for the hard-to-see species like Mountain Quail, Sooty Grouse, and Northern Pygmy-Owl before continuing towards our lodging for the next two nights. Night in Newport.

**Day 3, Mon, 30 Aug. or Sat, 11 Sep. Newport.** Today we'll have all day to explore the many interesting areas around Newport and we can expect a fun variety of birds including various gulls, terns, and cormorants. We hope to find a variety of shorebirds including Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, as well as chances for Surfbird and Pacific Golden-Plover. We'll also spend time seawatching from shore where, depending on the winds, we might catch glimpses of Sooty Shearwater or some alcids like murrens and guillemots. Night in Newport.

**Day 4, Tue, 31 Aug. or Sun, 12 Sep. Newport to Coos Bay.** Today will be spent working our way south along the gorgeous rocky beaches that Oregon is so well-known for. We'll watch for more rock-loving shorebirds and, depending on weather, we'll stop at various bluffs to seawatch. Various lagoons and coastal pools will likely have roosting flocks where we'll watch for Elegant Terns, Heermann's Gulls, and maybe even Snowy Plovers. We should arrive in Bandon in time for a little shorebirding before checking in to the hotel. Night in Bandon.

**Day 5, Wed, 1 Sep. or Mon, 13 Sep. Coos Bay to Roseburg.** We'll spend this morning birding the famous Coos Bay area for shorebirds, seabirds that might be visible from shore, and any other species we might have missed. After a lunch in Bandon, we'll bid farewell to the ocean and start our way inland. We might pause to track down a Wrentit en route. Night in Roseburg.



*The White-headed Woodpecker is another western mountain specialty that we'll look for on the tour. Males have a tiny red patch on their crowns, while females, like this one, have an all-white head, as befits their name.  
Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.*

**Day 6, Thu, 2 Sep. or Tue, 14 Sep. Roseburg, Crater Lake, and Bend.** An early start is likely as we make our way to the world-famous Crater Lake National Park. After a morning of birding and taking in the scenery, we'll have lunch in the park. We'll close out the day by continuing through the Coast Range to Bend, making a few stops along the way if time allows. Night in Bend.

**Day 7, Fri, 3 Sep. or Wed, 15 Sep. Bend and the eastern slope of the Cascades.** Today will be spent birding in Bend and other high-elevation areas nearby where we'll focus on a new suite of birds such as finches and a fun variety of woodpeckers including White-headed and Black-backed woodpeckers as well as Williamson's, Red-breasted, and Red-naped sapsuckers. Depending on recent sightings, we may attempt to track down an owl or two after dinner where Great Gray Owl is a very rare possibility! Night in Bend.

**Day 8, Sat, 4 Sep. or Thu, 16 Sep. Bend to Malheur NWR.** Our morning plans around Bend, which might be rather flexible, will depend on what remaining targets we have. We'll eventually load up and travel eastward down into the Great Basin Desert around Malheur NWR. We'll be birding along the way and we'll hope for Mountain Bluebirds, a variety of hawks and falcons, and even Pronghorns. Night in Hines.

**Day 9, Sun, 5 Sep. or Fri, 17 Sep. Malheur NWR.** We'll want an early start as we plan to explore the marshes, grasslands, and deserts of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Brace yourself for an impressive show of waterfowl including Trumpeter Swans, more than a dozen species of waterfowl, Western and Clark's grebes, and flocks of American White Pelicans. We'll scour the drier, desert regions for Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow, and Sagebrush Sparrow as well as check various islands of trees for migrant songbirds. After lunch and depending on weather, we will drive up Steens Mountain in the southeast corner of the state where we'll enjoy fantastic scenery and have a slim chance for the Black Rosy-Finch which breeds in the upper reaches of the mountain. Night in Hines.

**Day 10, Mon, 6 Sep. or Sat, 18 Sep. Malheur NWR to Eugene.** We may return to Malheur NWR one last time this morning or venture north to Malheur National Forest to look for any remaining targets that might have slipped through the cracks. After bidding farewell to the refuge, we'll load up our luggage and start making our way back towards Eugene. Although this will primarily be a travel day, we'll stop along the way for birding breaks to track down any misses and to enjoy the scenery. Night in Eugene.

**Day 11, Tue, 7 Sep. or Sun, 19 Sep. Departure for home.** You can book your flight home for any time today. Please plan to take the hotel courtesy bus to the airport. Safe travels!

## About Your Guide

**Cory Gregory** started learning birds on flashcards at the age of three, but it wasn't until the ripe age of ten that things started to get more serious. Since then he has traveled to Central and South America, Australia, and all 50 states to try to get his fill of birding (and it hasn't worked yet!).

Cory earned a B.S. in zoology in Michigan, where he also worked for Whitefish Point Bird Observatory for several seasons. He then ventured to Iowa State University, where he earned a M.S. studying Long-billed Curlews in Nebraska. As an avid shorebird ecologist, he has handled more than 2000 shorebirds of more than 30 species.

After finishing school, Cory worked for several organizations as a shorebird ecologist and guided on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs of Alaska for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. It was on St. Paul that his dream of stumbling on a first North American record was finally fulfilled. Cory is currently based out of Missouri where, when not on tour, he pursues his interest in birds, butterflies, and dragonflies with abandon.

*“Cory Gregory is an amazing bird-finder. He also knows A LOT about birds and shared knowledge about habitat, history, nesting, populations, and behavior.”*  
K. K., Oregon.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Cory's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$4125 from Eugene**

**DEPOSIT: \$425 per person**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE: April 30, 2021 (Tour I); May 12, 2021 (Tour II)**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional\*): \$925**

**LIMIT: 7**

### **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. 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 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 Nicole Cannon for both tours. Nicole will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** On Day 1, please plan to arrive in Eugene in time to meet for dinner at 6:30 p.m. The Courtyard by Marriot where you will be staying has a free airport shuttle. **\*\*Note:** As of 5/17/21, the hotel's courtesy shuttle is not operating due to Covid-19. If this is still the case on the day of arrival, the guide will schedule 1-2 group transfers for a certain time, perhaps at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. If you can't arrive around those specified times, you will need to take an Uber/Lyft or a taxi to the hotel. However, things can change between now and then, and we will update you about the situation as we get closer to arrival day.\*\*

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 **\$4125** for one person in double occupancy\* from Eugene. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 10, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 11, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Eugene, 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 **\$925**. 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 (May 17, 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.



**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 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 \$425** 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 April 30, 2021 (Tour I) or May 12, 2021 (Tour II)**. **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.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

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

Field Guides reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. 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

10/19 CG  
2/21NC; peg  
5/21NC