

ITINERARY

OREGON: FROM THE COAST TO THE CASCADES

August 30 – September 10, 2025



*The Wren-tit is a specialty of the West Coast that we'll look for in the lower elevation coastal scrub.
Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2025 Field Guides Oregon: From the Coast to the Cascades 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, 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

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 Great Basin plains, mountains, and the coast 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 leaving the metropolitan sprawl of Portland behind and head east into the famed Columbia River Gorge where picturesque waterfalls tumble down towards the Columbia River. We'll enjoy this scenic waterway while hoping to spend time with American Dippers as they play amongst the streams. We'll make our way east towards northeast Oregon where the Blue and Willowa mountains will dominate the horizon. Exploring parts of these mountains may yield a fine

suite of western species such as Canada Jay, Varied Thrush, Pacific Wren, and some exciting woodpeckers like Williamson's Sapsucker or American Three-toed Woodpecker (rare). Depending on recent reports, we may even be privy to a location for one of North America's most splendid owls, the Great Gray Owl. Descending the Wallowa Mountains, we'll start south towards Burns with a stop or two en route to bird in some beautiful Ponderosa Pine forest where we could find White-headed Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, or even a Black-backed Woodpecker.



Another western specialty we'll seek is the White-headed Woodpecker. These birds are found in Ponderosa Pine forests of the Cascades. Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.

Next, we'll enjoy 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 American White Pelican, Swainson's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Sage Thrasher, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Brewer's Sparrow.

Moving westward, we'll ascend to 3500 feet in the Cascade Mountains to the town of Bend. Since water is often 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 and Red-breasted sapsuckers, White-headed Woodpecker, Pinyon Jay, Mountain and Western bluebirds, plus a variety of resident birds and hopefully numbers of southbound migrant species. It's in Bend that we'll enjoy the spectacle of hundreds of Vaux's Swifts spiraling around their roosting chimney at dusk, an experience you're sure to remember! As we move south through the Cascades, we'll drive up to 7000 feet to explore the legendary and beautiful Crater Lake National Park where several lofty dormant volcanic peaks, some more than 10,000 feet high, command the horizon. Keep your binoculars and cameras close, the Clark's Nutcrackers are sure to be near.

As we descend the western slope of the Cascades, Ponderosa Pines and other vegetation more tolerant of the drier climate will yield to the moisture-loving Douglas Firs. We'll continue our descent to the rocky and picturesque coastlines for which Oregon is so famous. From the coastal town of Bandon north to Newport, we'll explore various beaches and lagoons as we search for 20+ species of shorebirds including Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, and Surf-bird, as well as gulls, terns, cormorants, and other offshore species. In our descent we'll have swapped Mountain Chickadees for Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and the low coastal shrubs host the sneaky Wren-tit which is at the northern limit of its range. We'll look offshore from the coast, where we hope to see Harlequin Duck and a variety of alcids including Pigeon Guillemot, Common Murre, Rhinoceros Auklet, and maybe even Marbled Murrelet or Cassin's Auklet.

Eventually we'll pull ourselves away, leave the ocean behind, and head inland to the Coast Range where we'll explore the lovely Marys Peak. This area often hosts Mountain Quail, though difficult, as well as Canada Jays, Varied Thrushes, and maybe even Sooty Grouse or Northern Pygmy-Owls. After our visit to Marys Peak, we will conclude our tour with a visit to the Willamette Valley where we'll search the well-known Fern Ridge Reservoir for Clark's and Western grebes and migrant shorebirds where we might even get lucky with a vagrant like Ruff or Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Our tour will conclude when we follow the Willamette north to Portland.



We'll visit some spectacular waterfalls, where we'll watch for birds like the American Dipper, as this Field Guides group is doing. Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.

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.
- **WEATHER:** Fall weather is pleasant in Oregon. Expect temperatures in the upper low 50s in the evening, with days ranging from the low 60s to mid 80s 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



Columbia River Gorge — It doesn't take long, driving east out of Portland, before you're immersed in some splendid western scenery. This famous river canyon, which stretches 80 miles long and can reach up to 4,000' deep, is well-known for its breathtaking vistas, a collection of scenic waterfalls, and a rich history that includes Lewis and Clark and also Native American stories dating back 13,000 years. The collection of waterfalls is truly impressive, with more than 90 found in the area. The birdlife in the moist and lush forests is enjoyable as well; among the expected species include California Scrub-Jay, Steller's Jay, Vaux's Swift, and Pacific Wren. Although our time here will be brief, a half-day, we'll surely see some exciting things!

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 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, or maybe eastern vagrants like Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, or Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Some of the other species that we hope to encounter during our stay here, depending on water conditions, include American White Pelican (usually hundreds), White-faced Ibis, Greater White-fronted Goose, Sandhill Crane, Say's Phoebe, 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 Cascades— As we leave the dry plains, we will head towards our nights in Bend. As we ascend the eastern slope of the Cascades, the sagebrush gives way to towering Ponderosa Pines. The avifauna changes dramatically 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 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 and Hammond's 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.

After our time in Bend, we'll continue to Oregon's only National Park, Crater Lake, one of the most scenic and stunning 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. As the day proceeds, we will descend towards Roseburg. Along the way, we might find a family of Barrow's Goldeneyes on a quiet mountain lake, 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.



One of the shorebirds we'll seek is the Wandering Tattler. These mid-sized sandpipers breed in Alaska, but can be found along the rocky western coast in the non-breeding season. Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.

The Coast— We'll explore the beautiful Oregon coast from the town of Bandon, north to the small fishing town of Newport. Near Bandon, we'll bird the sandy beaches in search of Snowy Plover, visit rocky jetties hoping to see Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, and Surfbird, and visit Bandon Marsh which has hosted rarities in the past such as Great Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit. Not far north of Coos Bay, the Oregon coast undergoes a dramatic change. The flatter, sandy terrain gives way to scenic, surf-pounded headlands. Several vantage points provide good seawatching opportunities, and alcids and loons 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), 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, a variety of waterfowl including Harlequin Duck, all three scoters, a variety of gulls including Short-billed (formerly known as 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.

Eugene area—We'll conclude our adventure by birding at a few spots at Fern Ridge Reservoir or maybe a nearby wildlife refuge. This well-known region is famous 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 Oregon coast has miles of open beaches and lovely coastline where we'll search for west-coast specialties like Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, and a wide selection of waterfowl. Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.

Itinerary for Oregon: From the Coast to the Cascades

Day 1, Sat, 30 Aug. Arrival in Portland. Once you arrive in Portland, please call the Radisson Hotel Portland Airport 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 Portland.

Day 2, Sun, 31 Aug. Portland to La Grande via the Columbia River Gorge. After packing up we'll start eastward along the beautiful and famed Columbia River Gorge, stopping at various waterfalls hoping to spend time with our first American Dippers. We'll continue east, with lunch en route, towards La Grande, a town sitting in northeast Oregon between the Blue and Wallowa mountains. Depending on recent sightings, we may opt for a dusk adventure and spend time looking for Great Gray Owls. Night in La Grande.

Day 3, Mon, 1 Sep. Wallowa Mountains to Malheur area. Bright and early, we'll climb into the lower reaches of the Wallowa Mountains to our east in hopes of finding Williamson's Sapsucker, Canada Jay, Varied Thrush, Pacific Wren, and maybe even Dusky Grouse, Pine Grosbeak, or American Three-toed Woodpecker. Descending and leaving the Wallowa Mountains behind, we'll start south towards Burns with a stop or two en route to bird in some beautiful Ponderosa Pine forest where we could find White-headed or Black-backed woodpecker. Night in Burns.

Day 4, Tue, 2 Sep. Malheur NWR. We'll want an early start as we plan to explore the marshes, grasslands, and deserts of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Expect many raptors in route, waterfowl including Trumpeter Swans, more than a dozen species of waterfowl, 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. Night in Burns.

Day 5, Wed, 3 Sep. Malheur NWR to Bend. Our morning plans around Burns, which might be rather flexible, will depend on what remaining targets we have. We'll eventually load up and travel westward, slowly climbing in elevation, heading for the rising Cascades in front of us. We'll be birding along the way and we'll hope for Mountain Bluebirds, Sagebrush Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, a variety of hawks and falcons, and even Pronghorns. Night in Bend.



*In the desert around Malheur, and as we drive toward Bend, we'll watch for dry country birds like the Sage Thrasher.
Photograph by participant Pete Peterman.*

Day 6, Thu, 4 Sep. Bend and the eastern slope of the Cascades. Today will be spent birding in Bend and other mid-elevation areas nearby where we'll focus on a new suite of birds such as finches, Pinyon Jays, and a fun variety of woodpeckers including White-headed and Black-backed woodpeckers as well as Williamson's, Red-breasted, and Red-naped sapsuckers. If our timing is right, we may be able to witness the amazing spectacle of hundreds of Vaux's Swifts swirling into their chimney roost! Night in Bend.

Day 7, Fri, 5 Sep. Bend, Crater Lake, Roseburg. 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 views of the friendly Clark's Nutcrackers, we'll have lunch in the park. We'll close out the day by continuing downhill through the Cascades to Roseburg, making a few stops along the way if time allows. Night in Roseburg.

Day 8, Sat, 6 Sep. Roseburg to Bandon. We'll start our day with some local birding near Roseburg before winding our way towards the coast. After lunch in Bandon, we'll spend this afternoon birding the the coast for shorebirds looking for Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Wandering Tattler, and seabirds that might be visible from shore. Night in Bandon.

Day 9, Sun, 7 Sep. Bandon to Newport. Today will be spent working our way north 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 Newport, our home for the next two nights, in time for a little shorebirding before checking in to the hotel. Night in Newport.

Day 10, Mon, 8 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, Surfbird, as well as a stop at a fresh seafood market for lunch. We'll also spend time seawatching from shore where, depending on the winds, we might catch glimpses of Sooty Shearwater, some alcids like murrets and guillemots, or maybe even some Harlequin Ducks. Night in Newport.



We'll stop at Fern Ridge Reservoir to observe wetland birds such as Black-necked Stilts and other shorebirds.
Photograph by participant Joe Gardner.

Day 11, Tue, 9 Sep. Newport, Marys Peak, Eugene, to Portland. We'll want an early start as we head inland, saying goodbye to the Pacific Ocean. Our main stop this morning will be at Marys Peak, the highest mountain in the Oregon Coast Range, where we'll slowly climb the mountain road hoping for Mountain Quail and Sooty Grouse. We may encounter Canada Jays, Varied Thrushes, or possibly a Northern Pygmy-Owl. Afterwards, we'll make our way towards the fertile Willamette Valley where we'll visit the well-known Fern Ridge Reservoir. This reservoir, which is just west of Eugene, can be a fantastic place for a variety of shorebirds, both Clark's and Western grebes, and even including less-likely vagrants such as jaegers, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, or Ruff. We'll spend the afternoon making our way back to Portland where we'll have our final dinner together. Night in Portland.

Day 12, Wed, 10 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: \$5275 from Portland
DEPOSIT: \$525 per person
FINAL PAYMENT DUE: March 3, 2025
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1175
LIMIT: 7

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 Portland in time to meet for dinner at 6:30 p.m. The Radisson Hotel Portland Airport is where you will be staying, and it has a free airport shuttle on a will-call basis. More detailed instructions will be given in the information bulletin and your 30-day final email.

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

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees. **Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

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

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

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$5275 for one person in double occupancy from Portland. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 11, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 12, 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 Portland, 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 \$1175. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour, but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, 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 us at fieldguides.com/contact-us/. 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 \$525** 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 March 3, 2025. We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NCP 7/2020

9/23/22 CJG; 2/15/23NC;

3/23peg

10/23cjb; 11/23NC; 1/24peg

9/24cjb; 11/24NC; peg-updated