

ITINERARY  
**SPECTACULAR SOUTHEAST BRAZIL**  
**Part I: North of the Tropic**  
October 11– 28, 2024  
**Part II: South of the Capricorn**  
October 26 – November 11, 2024



*One of our targets on this tour is the Black-backed Tanager, a Brazilian endemic found in the coastal forests of southern Brazil. We'll see these and many other fancy tanagers on the tour. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Field Guides Spectacular Southeast Brazil tours:*

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

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

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

**If** you have contacted us for this itinerary, you probably already have a pretty good idea of the birding treasure we're going after in southeastern Brazil. This region of South America has more species of birds restricted to it than any other, and many of them are among the rarest birds on the continent. The northern hemisphere fall—which is springtime in southern Brazil—is the best time of year to bird there and our start date has been carefully tweaked over many years to

optimize our probability of picking up all migrants returning to breed as well as our chances of having good weather: On average, we're not too early, not too late; not too dry nor too wet. And our guides are, shall we say, pretty "in-touch" with things down there; nobody else has our local network or depth of experience.

Starting back in 2009, we split our traditional 26-day adventure into two slightly expanded tours at the Tropic of Capricorn (about 23° South latitude), the official division between the Tropics and the South Temperate Zone. These tours are perfectly complementary whether taken separately or in tandem. **NORTH OF THE TROPIC**, at 18 days (including travel to and from Brazil), takes you through the tiny but mighty (birdy, that is!) states of Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro plus far northern São Paulo. **SOUTH OF THE CAPRICORN** picks up from São Paulo and runs for another 17 days south through the *gaucho* country of Rio Grande do Sul, a region settled by Italian and German immigrants so culturally different from the north that you may wonder if we are truly still in Brazil! Thus, you can keep the legend alive with nearly a month in the field. So be sure your seat back's up and tray table stowed, and come on down! Oh, and if you're wondering why we didn't list a ton of bird names, we decided to put them in the detailed day-by-day section of the itinerary so you'll have time to read something else today ;-)

*The two tours described in this itinerary may be taken separately, or they may be combined for complete coverage of SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL.*

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

## Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Good amounts of walking (2-4 miles per day) along roads and trails, most of which will be on fairly level ground, but some of which are narrow, uneven, and muddy, with obstacles such as clumps of grass and tree roots. A small number of our birding venues require significant uphill walking. Collapsible walking sticks can be useful.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** This is an ambitious and vigorous tour. Of necessity, there will be several long travel days, and road conditions vary from excellent to very bumpy and muddy.
- **PACE:** We will start early each morning, especially now that Brazil has done away with daylight savings time (we ardently hope that the new Lula administration, entering in January, 2023, will revert to having DST starting in mid-October 2024). We sometimes pack a picnic lunch, to extend our time in the field, but we usually have a restaurant lunch or return to the lodge for lunch. Whenever possible (i.e., we are not on the road), we take a post-lunch siesta before again hitting the trails in the afternoon. On several evenings, we'll also try for nocturnal birds. Most, but not all, of those outings will be optional (i.e., it is possible to skip the owling by staying back at the hotel).
- **WEATHER:** Especially if you are participating on both parts of the Spectacular Southeast Brazil tour, we will cover an unusually wide latitudinal transect. Temperatures will range from the 50s, sometimes even the 40s, at night to near 90 F during the day. World-record warmth in 2023 brought temperatures of 102 F on a couple of days on last year's tours. You'll want at least a coat or heavy fleece, and perhaps gloves, and a Buff (neck-warmer; google it). Rain showers could catch us at any of our distinct venues.
- **ELEVATION:** Sea level to about 7800 feet (Part One); sea level to about 3000 feet (Part Two).
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Participants should be prepared to make comfort stops in nature, as there are often no other options when away from our lodging or on the road between tour stops.
- **OPTING OUT:** Except on travel days (moving between hotels), participants may easily opt to sit out a day, or sometimes a half-day.

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

**NORTH OF THE TROPIC** includes birding areas from the state of Espirito Santo south to northern Sao Paulo. We will discuss birding areas on a state-by-state basis, which will allow an understanding of the type of habitat and general terrain we will visit on each segment of the tour.

**Espirito Santo**—From the state of Paraiba in the northeast to extreme northern Rio Grande do Sul in the south, the coastal plain of Brazil was once almost completely covered in tall, luxuriant rainforest called “Atlantic Forest.” Atlantic Forest as a habitat or biome is “endemic” to this region of Brazil, adjacent eastern Paraguay, and northern Misiones Province in Argentina, sheltering a flora and fauna quite distinct from any other. As recently as the 1950s, however, a massive logging campaign, mostly clear-cutting concentrated in the tiny state of Espirito Santo, drastically reduced the extent of Atlantic Forest. Today less than 5% (many say less than 2%) of the lowland Atlantic Forest remains, and this is in a highly fragmented condition. Some of South America’s rarest birds maintain small populations in the beautiful forest reserves of Espirito Santo, and we will spend the first week of our tour here in search of such exciting birds as Solitary Tinamou, Rusty-margined Guan, Red-billed Curassow, White-necked Hawk, Ochre-marked and Maroon-faced parakeets, Red-browed Parrot, Minute Hermit, Frilled Coquette, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Black-headed Berryeater, White-winged and Banded cotingas, Bare-throated Bellbird, Wied’s Tyrant-Manakin, Oustalet’s Tyrannulet, and Rufous-brown Solitaire, plus a host of antbirds, flycatchers, other hummers—and the ultra-rare Cherry-throated Tanager. We’ll also want to do some night birding in hopes of Tawny-browed Owl, Mottled Owl, Variable (Black-capped) Screech-Owl, Long-tailed Potoo, Long-trained Nightjar, and Ocellated Poorwill.

**Rio de Janeiro**—Although it is one of the smallest states in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro boasts one of the richest avifaunas. The second week of our tour will find us birding a diverse array of habitats in Rio de Janeiro, ranging from Atlantic Forest to remnant semi-arid woodland to cloud forest at Pico de Caledonia, and grassland above treeline in the Serra da Mantiqueira along the highest-elevation road in all of Brazil (approximately 7800 feet).

We’ll be based in lovely Itatiaia National Park for three days, allowing ourselves plenty of time to explore the range of forest habitats from 1700 feet to the elfin forests and grasslands below *Agulhas Negras* (the “Black Needles”). The climate in these parts is generally just about perfect, but like the coastal mountains of Sao Paulo, Itatiaia can be quite wet even during this relatively dry season. Mention of just a few of the Rio de Janeiro specialties must include Mantled Hawk, Three-toed Jacamar, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Giant, Large-tailed, and White-bearded antshrikes along with lots of other antbirds, the bizarre Slaty Bristlefront, Black-and-gold and Swallow-tailed cotingas, the mysterious Gray-winged Cotinga, Hangnest Tody-Tyrant, and numerous dazzling hummers and tanagers.





*The Salvadori's Antbird is endemic to a few small areas of coastal Brazil near Sao Paulo.  
Photograph by participant Myles McNally.*

**Sao Paulo**—In far southern Sao Paulo state, around Ubatuba, the Serra do Mar, with its steep, forest-cloaked mountains extends practically to the coast. Although weather is often clear and spring-like, it is also quite likely that we'll hit some rain spawned by moist, Atlantic sea breezes rising against the wall of the serra. Field work in this beautiful region, with its clearwater streams and shining white beaches, has revealed the presence of some of the most distinctive of southeastern Brazil's endemics, such as Buff-bellied Puffbird, Saw-billed Hermit, Squamate and Scaled antbirds, Salvadori's Antwren, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Spotted Bamboowren, Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Sao Paulo Tyrannulet, and Buff-throated Purpletuft. The highly endangered Black-hooded Antwren maintains a precarious existence in a small area of far southern Rio de Janeiro state, and we'll wrap up with a search for the handsome Marsh (Sao Paulo) Antwren, this distinctive subspecies of which was described to science only in 2014.

**SOUTH OF THE CAPRICORN** *includes birding areas from southern Sao Paulo south to Brazil's southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul. We will discuss birding areas on a state-by-state basis, which will allow an understanding of the type of habitat and general terrain we will visit on each segment of the tour.*

**Sao Paulo**—As one moves south in the Atlantic Forest of the southeast, especially through Sao Paulo state, there is a significant change in the birdlife as numerous species are replaced by their southern, sister-species/subspecies. The Serra do Mar of southern Sao Paulo, with its steep, forest-cloaked mountains, offers some of the most pristine montane forest left in Brazil. Endemics to seek here, particularly in beautiful Intervalles State Park, include the rare Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Red-and-white Crake, Mantled and White-necked hawks, Long-trained Nightjar, Tawny-browed and Rusty-barred owls, Crescent-chested and Buff-bellied puffbirds, Red-breasted Toucan, Saffron and Spot-billed toucanets, the very rare Helmeted Woodpecker and the huge Robust Woodpecker, White-throated Woodcreeper, Black-billed Scythebill, Orange-breasted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus ferrugineigula*, split from the more northerly Orange-throated, formerly called Red-eyed), Saw-billed Hermit, White-collared and White-browed foliage-gleaners, Tufted, Large-tailed, and White-bearded antshrikes, Squamate Antbird, Rufous Gnateater, Mouse-colored Tapaculo, Spotted Bamboowren, an undescribed species of bristlefront(!), Bare-throated Bellbird, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Shear-tailed Gray-Tyrant, Oustalet's and Bay-ringed tyrannulets, and the little-known Black-legged Dacnis.

The southern coast of Sao Paulo features a series of barrier islands covered with a dense, low-stature woodland called *restinga*, which is habitat for the endangered (and beautiful!) Red-tailed Parrot, Restinga Tyrannulet, Fuscous Flycatcher (nominat subspecies endemic to the Atlantic Forest), Small-headed Elaenia (recently split from Highland), the impressive Long-billed Wren, and it's just possible we could connect with a gorgeous Black-backed Tanager.

**Parana**—Neighboring Sao Paulo to the south is Parana. We'll get our first taste of temperate southeastern Brazil in the highlands here (still, with highs in the low 70s). Bizarre *Araucaria* ("Monkey Puzzle") trees lend a most distinctive aspect to the landscape, and we'll note an almost completely different appearance to the forest in general. At elevations of about 1900 to 3300 feet we will seek such fascinating birds as Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Violet-crowned Plovercrest, White-spotted Woodpecker, Pale-browed Treehunter (*C. l. holti*, a sure split from northern *C. l. leucophrus*), Sharp-billed Treehunter, Hooded Berryeater, Azure Jay, Brown Tanager, Red-necked and Brassy-breasted tanagers, Glaucous-blue Grosbeak, and, especially, the secretive Canebrake Groundcreeper. We've ensured that we'll have sufficient time to search for Parana Antwren (aka Marsh Antbird), Kaempfer's Tody-Tyrant (known from two specimens and recent records of a few birds), the strange Sickie-winged Nightjar (very rare but we stand an excellent chance of success), and—with some patience and lots of luck—maybe even a Wetland Tapaculo (another recently described species).



*The Green-throated Euphonia is endemic to the Atlantic Forest, where it is found primarily in undisturbed places. Because of this, it is considered near-threatened, although it can be common in the appropriate habitat. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

**Rio Grande do Sul**—Brazil's southernmost state neighbors both Uruguay and Argentina. So different is Rio Grande do Sul from the rest of southeastern Brazil that it feels like a different country. Quaint little towns seem to have been transported straight out of eastern Germany! Rolling, green grasslands and *Araucaria*-dominated woodland here and in the highlands of neighboring Santa Catarina state form a quilt-work on the land, and the far-carrying cries of Red-winged Tinamous and Red-legged Seriemas come from remnant native campos. In open areas and marshy swales we'll seek Long-tailed Cincloides, Straight-billed Reedhaunter, Firewood-gatherer, Bearded Tachuri, Sharp-tailed Tyrant, Long-tailed Reed-Finch, Lesser (Gray-cheeked) Grass-Finch, Grassland Yellow-Finch, Great Pampa-Finch, Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch, several rare seedeaters, Yellow-rumped Marshbirds, and small groups of rare Saffron-cowled Blackbirds accompanied by satellite pairs of handsome Black-and-white Monjitas. With luck, we'll also see Giant and South American snipes, Plumbeous and Blackish rails, and Rufous-sided Crake. Forested areas harbor many other special birds, such as Vinaceous Parrot, the very rare Red-spectacled Parrot, the bizarre Blue-bellied Parrot, the rarely seen Mottled Piculet, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Scalloped Woodcreeper, Short-tailed Antthrush, Speckle-breasted Antpitta (soon to be named as a new species), Olive Spinetail, Araucaria and Striolated tit-spinetails, Greenish Tyrannulet, Chestnut-backed and Chestnut-headed tanagers, and the distinctive Green-throated Euphonia. Wow!





*Cotingas are some of the most flamboyant birds of South America, and we'll be searching for a number of species on this tour. This Swallow-tailed Cotinga is one of the more wide-spread species, but we'll also be searching for rarities such as the Gray-winged Cotinga and White-winged Cotinga. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.*

## Itinerary for Spectacular Southeast Brazil

### **NORTH OF THE TROPIC**

**Days 1-2, Fri-Sat, 11-12 Oct. Overnight flights to Sao Paulo and arrival in Vitoria, Espirito Santo.** American Airlines and TAM Brazilian Airlines offer direct flights from the US to Sao Paulo with onward connections to Vitoria. Please be sure your air schedule gives you ample time to make your connection on Saturday. On arrival in Vitoria, you'll be met by a driver for the short transfer to our hotel.

For those who are able to arrive in Vitoria by Friday evening, we will offer an outing to a private fazenda (ranch area) on Saturday for lunch and a nice afternoon of birding that could even produce a day-roosting Pygmy Nightjar. Whatever your plans, let's all get together in the lobby of the hotel at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday and have dinner shortly thereafter. Night in Vitoria.

**Day 3, Sun, 13 Oct. The adventure begins in Espirito Santo; drive to the Kaetes area.** We've arranged for a morning of birding in a little-known block of forest not far from Vitoria where several rarities are possible, including Crescent-chested Puffbird, Salvadori's Antwren, Russet-winged Spadebill, and Black-headed Berryeater. Even failing to connect with some or all of these, we're sure to have a good time, but let's hope for dry conditions because the access road may be impassable if wet/muddy. After lunch, we'll make a productive stop at some feeders where we may see a variety of tanagers and possibly Blue-naped Chlorophonia. We'll then climb further into the mountains of southern Espirito Santo to reach our hotel around sunset, planning to get to bed in time for a good night's sleep after the long flights and this active first day of birding in Brazil. Night near Conceicao do Castelo.

**Day 4, Mon, 14 Oct. On the trail of the Cherry-throated Tanager!** Our birding gets off to an exciting start as we go for some of the most special passerine endemics of southeast Brazil—foremost among them, the ultra-rare Cherry-throated Tanager, which we enjoyed watching at a nest with three big babies on our 2022 tour (they all fledged successfully the morning after we left!). However, nesting attempts had failed ahead of our 2023 tour, and we missed the tanagers altogether. Before October 1996, this remarkable bird was known only from a single specimen (housed in Berlin) and a couple of sight records. Following its exciting rediscovery near Conceicao do Castelo in 1996, and searches for it in nearby areas, the Cherry-throated Tanager remains known from but two or three fragments of native montane forest in southern Espirito Santo, where only about 20 birds appear to be holding their own (but for how long?). In recent years,

the Kaetes Reserve has been the only consistent place for finding the tanager. The birds are usually feeding young in late-Oct/early Nov, and are difficult to find. Records have been spotty over the past several years, but the birds *are* being monitored much more continuously now that there is a formal management plan for the Cherry-throated Tanager, which Bret helped formulate. We will accompany members of the field team in our search for the tanagers, perhaps again having the great good fortune to be able to watch the activity at a nest, and Field Guides will make a generous contribution (included your tour price) to help support their critically important efforts.

Among the many other wonderful birds of the Atlantic Forest we could see at Kaetes and nearby are Spot-winged Wood-Quail (difficult to see, of course, but not impossible), Pileated Parrot, Plain Parakeet, Spot-billed Toucanet, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, White-throated Woodcreeper, Black-billed Scythebill, Pale-browed Treehunter (nominate *C. l. leucophrus*, a sure split from southern *C. l. holti*), White-collared Foliage-gleaner, the unbelievable Giant Antshrike, Spot-breasted Antwren, the rare Rio de Janeiro Antbird, White-bibbed and Ochre-rumped antbirds, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Sharpbill, Cinnamon-vented Piha, the fabulous Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Shrike-like Cotinga (aka Brazilian Laniisoma; very difficult in recent years), Bare-throated Bellbird, the gorgeous Blue and Pin-tailed manakins, and glowing Gilt-edged Tanagers. We will also keep a sharp eye and ear out for the rare Buffy-headed Marmoset. Temperatures in the low 60s to mid-70s make for pleasant conditions, but rain is always a possibility in the areas of Espirito Santo we will visit, so don't forget to have your rain gear handy (we've hit non-stop rains on a couple of past tours, darn it). Birding along wide roadbeds mostly inside rainforest, we'll be watching for mixed-species flocks of tanagers and other birds on these really exciting introductory days in northern montane Atlantic Forest. Night Conceicao do Castelo.



*Red-breasted Toucan is a species we might see on both parts of the tour. Photograph by participant Myles McNally.*

**Day 5, Tue, 15 Oct. Kaetes to Santa Teresa.** After another early morning of mountain birding (hopefully having seen the tanager, but we'll have this morning to continue our search, if need be), we'll drive for 2-3 hours to the little town of Santa Teresa, founded by Italian immigrants, to make an exciting visit to the bustling hummingbird feeders at Melo Leitão Museum. These long-established feeders have attracted over 20 species of hummers, and regularly have something like 15, including Rufous-breasted Hermit, Frilled Coquette, Amethyst-throated Woodstar, and Sapphire-spangled Hummer, all of which can be a bit dicey to see well on the rest of our Part 1 tour route. There will be literally dozens of flashy Black Jacobins and not-so-flashy Sombre Hummingbirds, too. We may also see East Brazilian Chachalaca here. Night Santa Teresa.

**Day 6, Wed, 16 Oct. Augusto Ruschi Biological Reserve.** We'll have two days to bird the verdant montane forest near Santa Teresa, primarily at the Augusto Ruschi Biological Reserve (around 2800 feet elevation). Many of the species mentioned for the Kaetes area will also be possible here, including even Cherry-throated Tanager, and we'll hope to



connect with these additional rarities: Wied's Tyrant-Manakin, Salvadori's Antwren, and Rufous-brown Solitaire. In open, marshy areas, we could also find the spectacular Streamer-tailed Tyrant. Weather permitting, we'll offer an owling excursion to try for Mottled Owl (Atlantic Forest type), Tawny-browed Owl, Short-tailed Nighthawk, and possibly Long-tailed Potoo (the rarely seen, nominate bird endemic to the central region of the Atlantic Forest). Night Santa Teresa.

**Days 7-8, Thu-Fri, 17-18 Oct. Linhares Natural Reserve.** Following an early morning of birding around Santa Teresa, if needed, we'll head back to the coastal plain and turn north to drive to the Linhares Natural Reserve. We'll plan to get there with time to bird from the top of a newly-constructed tower, where late-afternoon activity will be exciting. Due to the limited hours of access now available to bird in the tall, lowland (near sea-level) Atlantic Forest at the Linhares Natural Reserve, and the fact that the lovely lodge inside the reserve where we used to stay has been closed -- we have altered our tour itinerary to give us just one full day (two nights). So, fingers crossed for good weather!

At Linhares Natural Reserve, we'll be birding on essentially level ground on an extensive system of roads and trails. Temperatures are dependent on cloud cover, but clear conditions will make for highs in the low 90s. The reserve roads are quite narrow, and the canopy is often closed overhead. This is great for birding—but if it has been windy or rained overnight, we may find that trees have fallen across roads and closed them. The very rare Red-billed Curassow is our #1 target at Linhares, which is essentially the only easily accessible place to see it; fortunately these fine birds have become reasonably easy to find in recent years. We'll also be on the constant lookout for White-necked Hawk, Ochre-marked and Maroon-faced parakeets, Red-browed Parrot, Least Pygmy-Owl, Minute Hermit, Ringed Woodpecker (rare endemic subspecies *tinnunculus*, "Atlantic Black-breasted Woodpecker"), Black-headed Berryeater, and White-winged Cotinga, all among the most special birds of this area. Nights in Sooretama.



*The Minute Hermit is not flashy, like some of the other hummingbirds we'll see, but this little bird is another range-restricted endemic. Photograph by participant Myles McNally.*

**Day 9, Sat, 19 Oct. Flight to Rio de Janeiro; drive to Nova Friburgo.** We'll have to devote a good chunk of today to travel, but it will pay off grandly over the next few days. Depending on the scheduled flight time, we may have a couple of hours of early morning birding, but, in any event, we'll need to make our way to Vitoria in time for our flight to Rio de Janeiro. The airport is on the "right" side of the city for us, so we won't lose much time getting up into the mountains of the Serra do Mar toward Nova Friburgo, with a good birding stop along the way. This is a very old town of about 190,000 people, many of German descent, situated at about 2700 feet in a rather narrow mountain valley below our birding destination: Pico de Caledonia. Night in Nova Friburgo.



**Day 10, Sun, 20 Oct. Pico de Caledonia: Gray-winged Cotinga!** We'll hit the trail early this morning to get an auspicious start in the focused search for the ultra-rare Gray-winged Cotinga. It's one of the least-known of all South American birds, living only in the stunted forests below treeline in the Serra dos Orgaos area of central Rio de Janeiro state. We had a territory that had been reliable for several years, so our chance of finding the bird had been good.... up to 2019. In September of that year, the majority of the forest along the road up Pico de Caledonia burned to the ground. The fire was very hot, and widespread. A year later, after lots of rain and sunshine, the habitat was starting to recover, and it has come back remarkably well since then. We'll use 4WD vehicles to climb the very steep, narrow road up Pico de Caledonia. Weather conditions always play a major role in the birding success here: we're probably going to have some mix of sun and cloud, but rain and fog could shut us out completely, as pretty much happened on our 2018 attempt. We will, of course, be highly alert to all other birds along the way, watching especially for soaring White-rumped Hawk and listening for such skulkers as Large-tailed and Giant antshrikes.

This afternoon we will drive to another old, montane-valley town in the state of Rio, Teresopolis, along the way birding in remnant semideciduous woodland in the valley of the Rio Paraíba do Sul to visit a colony of the endangered Three-toed Jacamar. There is also a chance for Stripe-breasted Starthroat, Serra Antwren, Hangnest Tody-Tyrant, and Gray-eyed Greenlet, among other dry-forest birds. Since deforestation of most of the Paraíba do Sul valley more than 200 years ago, numerous species of birds characteristic of the central Brazilian *cerrados* have invaded the region. Thus, we'll keep an eye open for such birds as Toco Toucan, White-eared Puffbird, White Woodpecker, Wing-banded Hornero, White-rumped Monjita, and Curl-crested Jay. Birding will be along mostly level roads. Night in Teresopolis.

**Day 11, Mon, 21 Oct. Teresopolis to Itatiaia National Park.** We'll bird near Teresopolis early this morning, looking especially for Biscutate Swift, Dusky-tailed Antbird, Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin, Chestnut-headed Tanager, Half-collared Sparrow, and, with luck, Blackish-blue Seedeater. We'll then make the approximately three-hour drive to Itatiaia National Park, with lunch en route, which should give us some productive birding time in the lower elevations of the park as we arrive late afternoon.

Our hotel is situated on a forested slope at about 3500 feet elevation, with a grand overview of the lower elevations of the park. The rooms are private chalets complete with fireplace (the staff will build your fire, if desired) and a super view from the balcony. Night in Itatiaia National Park.



*The Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail is a shy bird that can be difficult to see, but we have seen it well on our tours on occasion!  
Photograph by participant Claudi Racionero.*

**Days 12-13, Tue-Wed, 22-23 Oct. Itatiaia National Park, Rio de Janeiro.** There is no better place in South America to enjoy a few days of birding than at beautiful Itatiaia National Park. Springtime weather is typically cool and calm, with occasional showers (that three-day rains can occur in even dry seasons of the year, however, was evidenced by a couple of past tours!). In the highest areas around *Agulhas Negras* we could encounter some fairly cold (as low as the low 50s) and windy weather. Itatiaia is the oldest Brazilian national park, established in 1937 to protect some 65,000 acres of montane forest straddling the Rio de Janeiro/Minas Gerais border. This is the Serra da Mantiqueira (an outlier of the Serra do Mar), home to most of the species of birds endemic to montane southeastern Brazil.

These days of birding at Itatiaia may well prove to be the highlight of our trip. By now we will be familiar with most of the common birds, and we'll have seen many of the rarities, allowing us to channel our efforts toward finding the many montane specialties Itatiaia has to offer. Just a few of them are Dusky-legged Guan (all over the place, now that they're feeding them), Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Rufous-capped Motmot, Surucua Trogon, Brazilian Ruby, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Red-breasted Toucan, Saffron Toucanet, Robust Woodpecker, Black-and-gold and Swallow-tailed cotingas, Black-capped Piprites, Itatiaia Thistletail, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Tufted, Large-tailed, and White-bearded antshrikes, Rufous-backed Antvireo, Bertoni's and Rufous-tailed antbirds, Such's and Brazilian antthrushes, Variegated Antpitta, Rufous Gnateater, Mouse-colored Tapaculo, Slaty Bristlefront, Blue-billed and Velvety black-tyrants, Drab-breasted and Brown-breasted pygmy-tyrants, Bay-chested Warbling-Finch, Buff-throated Warbling-Finch (recently split from southern, nominate Red-rumped which is now called Gray-throated), Olive-green, Brown, and Brassy-breasted tanagers, and Thick-billed Saltator. Birding will be along roads, some level and some hilly, for part of the time, and we will also hike some hilly trails specifically to get away from the roads. Our hotel also maintains a bunch of fruit and hummingbird feeders that attract a mass of birds pretty much all day, and they're right off the balcony of the restaurant! We'll have lunch in the field on at least one day. Nights in Itatiaia National Park.



*The Velvety Black-Tyrant is a flycatcher endemic to Brazil. These birds are not well-known, but are said to be common in the region of the Serra do Itatiaia., where we've seen them well. Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.*

**Day 14, Thu, 24 Oct. Itatiaia National Park to Ubatuba, Sao Paulo.** After a final morning in the park, we will make our way across the valley of the Rio Paraiba do Sul and then over a pass in the Serra do Mar, to reach the southern coast of Rio de Janeiro state. Our target here is the ultra-rare Black-hooded Antwren, which has a precariously small world population centered in an unprotected, and fairly heavily populated region. A couple of other birds that would be good to pick up in this area are Orange-throated Thornbird and Chestnut-backed Antshrike.

Later this afternoon we'll drive south to the town of Ubatuba in far northern Sao Paulo state, perhaps making a couple of stops along the way to scan mudflats and view and photograph the gorgeous coastline in this region of Brazil. Ubatuba is a tourist town, well known for its extensive beaches and variety of nice hotels and restaurants. Night in Ubatuba.



**Days 15-16, Fri-Sat, 25-26 Oct. Ubatuba, northern Sao Paulo.** The northern, coastal lowlands of Sao Paulo are typically warm and sunny with cool breezes wafting in from the sea. The scenery is wonderful, with forested islands ringed by white-sand beaches scattered through deep-blue bays. The area is not highly disturbed, though development is increasing rapidly. We'll be birding mostly along roads, but we will also hike some trails inside the forest that have a few short, steep sections and a couple of places where one has to rock-hop streams a few inches deep. Rubber boots make these crossings easy, though you can get by with Gore-Tex hiking shoes/boots. Among the target birds of this area are Mantled Hawk, Buff-bellied Puffbird, Saw-billed Hermit, Festive Coquette, Squamate and Ferruginous antbirds, Unicolored and the very rare Salvadori's (if we missed it at Augusto Ruschi) antwrens, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Spotted Bamboowren, Pale-browed Treehunter (*C. l. holti*, a sure split from northern *C. l. leucophrus*), Black-capped Foliage-gleaner, Buff-throated Purpletuft, Sao Paulo and Bay-ringed tyrannulets, and Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant. Nights in Ubatuba.

**Day 17, Sun, 27 Oct. Ubatuba to Sao Paulo.** We'll plan to head up the winding mountain road toward the megalopolis of Sao Paulo to make some new birding stops, including a very important one to pick up the recently described Marsh Antwren (this is the distinctive "Sao Paulo Antwren" subspecies). The bird inhabits certain remnant marshes on the outskirts of the city, and is challenging to locate and see well. That a distinctive antbird could remain undiscovered just outside the huge city of Sao Paulo until 2005 is truly amazing, and goes to show just how much there is yet to learn about the complex Brazilian avifauna.

This will be the day of departure for anyone not participating in Part II of the tour (South of the Capricorn). We'll plan to say good-bye to these folks after our final dinner together, at our hotel near the international airport. This evening we'll also be meeting those folks who are joining us for Part II. Night near the Sao Paulo international airport.

**Day 18, Mon, 28 Oct. Arrival home.** International flights arrive in Miami (for example) early this morning, allowing plenty of time for connecting flights home.



*We'll look for the endangered Black-fronted Piping-Guan at Intervales State Park.  
Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.*

## ***SOUTH OF THE CAPRICORN***

**Day 1, Sat, 26 Oct. Overnight flights to Sao Paulo.** American Airlines and LATAM Brazilian Airlines (and perhaps others, too) offer direct flights from the US to Sao Paulo.

**Day 2, Sun, 27 Oct. Arrival in Sao Paulo.** You'll arrive and clear customs by mid-morning, leaving the balance of the day at leisure.

Bret and Marcelo with the NORTH OF THE TROPIC group will drive into Sao Paulo from Ubatuba late this afternoon, so please plan to be back at the hotel by 5:30 p.m. to get the plan for the evening. Night near the Sao Paulo international airport.

**Day 3, Mon, 28 Oct. Sao Paulo to Intervales State Park.** We'll need to devote much of today to the drive to Intervales State Park, but we'll also work in a couple of nice, roadside birding stops along the way. It will be well worth the drive-time to get to Intervales State Park, one of the most productive birding areas in all of Brazil. We should arrive in time for some fun late-afternoon birding around the lodge. Night in Intervales State Park.

**Days 4-6, Tue-Thu, 29-31 Oct. Intervales State Park.** Intervales State Park encompasses some 160,000 square miles of forested lands, from the lowlands to nearly 4000 feet elevation. Some of the overlooks from the roads are really breathtaking! Walking along these roads or wide trails will be most productive most of the time, but we will occasionally need to get inside under the canopy to lure secretive undergrowth species into view. Mention of a few of the target birds here must include the very rare Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Blue-bellied Parrot (difficult), Rufous-capped Motmot, Red-breasted Toucan, Buff-bellied and Crescent-chested puffbirds, the very rare Helmeted Woodpecker (seldom seen), Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, White-bearded Antshrike, Squamate Antbird, Variegated Antpitta, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Slaty Bristlefront (the one here is being described as a new species), Spotted Bamboowren, Gray-hooded Attila, Shear-tailed Gray-Tyrant, and Red-ruffed Fruitcrow. Rufous-tailed Attila will have arrived on its breeding grounds by now, and two rare flycatchers, [Atlantic] Royal Flycatcher (distinctive subspecies *swainsoni*) and Sao Paulo Tyrannulet, are also possible here. A couple of endemic hummers should be on active leks at this season: Dusky-throated Hermit and Violet-crowned Plovercrest. Owling is great at Intervales, and we'll definitely take advantage of clear nights to look for Rusty-barred and Mottled (very different from the much more familiar bird in Middle America) owls, Variable (Black-capped) and Tropical screech-owls, and Long-trained Nightjar. Even Stygian Owl could show up! We'll try to find Least Pygmy-Owl (endemic to the Atlantic Forest) during the day. Nights in Intervales State Park.



*At Intervales State Park, we'll do some night-birding to look for species such as Rusty-barred Owl.  
Photograph by participant Ken Havard.*

**Day 7, Fri, 1 Nov. Intervales State Park; drive to Cananea.** After a final morning of productive birding in and around Intervales, we'll drive to the coast of southern Sao Paulo to overnight at a nice hotel at the little resort town of Cananea, which will position us well for seeing Red-tailed Parrot tomorrow morning. Night in Cananea.



**Day 8, Sat, 2 Nov. Coastal birding and drive to Curitiba.** The endangered and beautiful Red-tailed Parrot is top-priority this morning; it's another of the several distinctive, endemic parrots we plan to see on the tour. Other species of interest this morning include the recently described Restinga Tyrannulet, the nominate subspecies of Fuscous Flycatcher, Small-headed Elaenia (a recent split from Highland Elaenia), and Long-billed Wren. Those important birds under our belts, we'll head south to the city of Curitiba, the attractive capital of Parana state. Let's hope for good weather so we can try for the rarely seen Sickie-winged Nightjar at dusk. Night in Curitiba.

**Days 9-10, Sun-Mon, 3-4 Nov. Parana.** Our first morning will see us out early (temp's could be in the low 60s) to drive to the coastal lowlands in search of the handsome and rarely seen Black-backed Tanager. We'll then work our way along the coast and scenic Guaratuba Bay to look for the recently described Marsh Antwren and the little-known Kaempfer's Tody-Tyrant. Our birding for these two days in Parana may also produce Spot-backed Antshrike, White-breasted and Wetland (extremely difficult to actually see) tapaculos, Red-necked Tanager, Thick-billed Saltator, Gray-throated Warbling-Finch (southern nominate, formerly called "Red-rumped", split from northern *P. cabanisi* which is now called Buff-throated), and Glaucous-blue Grosbeak. We'll bird marshes, rice fields, lowland forest, montane forest, and open grassland during our time based in Curitiba. Much of it is quite scenic, and you'll want your camera along. We'll also break one day at a fine Brazilian B-B-Qs (*churrascaria*). The overflowing salad bar and spreads of meats and desserts are truly impressive. These days will be long and memorable ones! We'll be based at our comfortable hotel in Curitiba for these nights.



*The Speckle-breasted Antpitta is found in the Atlantic forest.  
Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.*

**Days 11-12, Tue-Wed, 5-6 Nov. Curitiba (Parana) to Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul.** This morning we'll go for Canebrake Groundcreeper, if anyone needs it (just kidding) then fly to Porto Alegre, bustling capital of Rio Grande do Sul, where we'll enjoy another potentially massive lunch at a traditional gaucho *churrascaria* (find control, people!) and a two-hour drive up the eastern escarpment to the little town of Sao Francisco de Paula. Our lodging here is especially charming, located outside town in an old *Araucaria* forest, with Long-tufted Screech-Owls and Speckle-breasted Antpitta (actually an undescribed species to be named shortly) right on the grounds! Other species we'll hope for here and in other forested areas nearby include Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Red-spectacled, Vinaceous, and Blue-bellied parrots, Mottled Piculet, Olive Spinetail, Araucaria and Striolated tit-spinetails, Sharp-billed Treehunter, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Rufous Gnateater, Brown-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant, Blacksmith (Eastern Slaty) Thrush (a late-arriving breeder), the spectacular Chestnut-backed Tanager, and Green-throated Euphonia. Nights in Sao Francisco de Paula.

**Days 13-15, Thu-Sat, 7-9 Nov. Highlands of the far South.** The highlands of southeastern Brazil are typically cool and comfortable, but sometimes quite chilly, especially in the early morning, with temperatures as low as the mid-50s. Sunny days, however, are common, and daytime highs often approach 80 degrees. Scenery in this region is wonderful. Most of our birding will be along roads in open country, but we will definitely be walking through some marshy places, too, so your rubber boots should be available on the bus. Most of the open-country specialties of the far south are listed above, under the Rio Grande do Sul "Birding Areas" heading. There is a good chance that several late migrants—Ochre-breasted Pipit, Bearded Tachuri, and Tawny-bellied and Black-bellied seedeaters—will have arrived on breeding territories. A very rare bird to be sought in this region is a highly distinctive new species of seedeater that received its formal name in October 2013—*Sporophila beltoni*, Tropeiro Seedeater; we'll have an excellent chance of seeing it! On one day we'll do some significant hiking through hilly grasslands in search of these birds. Nights in Sao Francisco de Paula.

**Day 16, Sun, 10 Nov. Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul) to Sao Paulo; flights home.** We'll probably have at least part of this morning to bird the lowland marshes, etc., near Porto Alegre to see a wide variety of herons, storks, and ibises, along with some passerine birds typical of these far southern latitudes, most of which are not available on the rest of the tour (but are common south into Uruguay and Argentina). We'll make a special effort to find Rufous-sided Crake, Blackish Rail (if these have not already been seen well), Chotoy Spinetail, and White Monjita. We'll then have lunch before flying direct to Sao Paulo, arriving in plenty of time to check in for international flights (timing of this whole day depends on flight schedules at the time of our tour). *Que tenham uma boa viagem!*

**Day 17, Mon, 11 Nov. Arrival home.** International flights arrive in Miami early this morning, allowing for convenient connecting flights home.

## About Your Guides

**Part One—Bret Whitney and Marcelo Barreiros**

**Part Two—Bret Whitney and Marcelo Barreiros**

**Bret Whitney** must be at least half Brazilian by now. It all began when he was born, birding in the wild Midwest, mostly in Indiana, where he was narrowly overlooked by his high school baseball team but did, in fact, graduate from Earlham College. He is known for his ability to identify birds by their calls and songs, which has led to his stumbling onto multiple species new to science. Bret is one of the founders of Field Guides, a

Research Associate of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University, an Associate of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell, 2004 recipient of the ABA's Ludlow Griscom award, Fellow of the American Ornithological Society, and an eternal optimist about everything except Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. Bret guides most of our Brazil tours and, with Brazilian colleagues, he is supposed to be producing a series of regional field guides to the birds of Brazil. When not on tour, "the Kite" attempts to stay in shape with irregular bike rides, by leaning over pool tables, and by hefting kegs of Live Oak Pilsner and dumping 35-lb sacks of spicy crawfish, corn, and potatoes onto old doors covered with newspapers so his family and friends can pig out at his crawfish boils. Oh yes, and by stirring cauldrons of Brazilian *moqueca* at the Field Guides annual business meeting!

**Marcelo Barreiros** is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who became fascinated with birds when he entered college in 2005, graduating with a degree in biology in 2009. He then moved to Manaus to work with conservation of Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, monitoring nests in both the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest regions. Today, Marcelo's depth of expertise in finding and identifying even the rarest species has earned him an outstanding reputation among the leading fieldmen in Amazonia and, increasingly, all of Brazil. He and his wife and young daughter, now live in Sao Paulo state, closer to family and the wonderful

*"This trip surpassed all of my wishes! It was simply an amazing experience! Seeing birds that not many have seen was really an honor. **Bret Whitney** has such knowledge of the birds and of the history of Brazil and he shares so much that it is a full experience. I just loved this trip!" D.F., Brazil's Rio Roosevelt*

*"**Marcelo B** has great eyes and ears, and a lot of experience with the Brazilian rarities that this trip features. He is also delightful company: friendly, helpful (including getting everyone on the birds) and very cheerful! And he was very resourceful as we worked to find regional specialties. I look forward to birding with him again!" K. B. Brazil: Minas Gerais & Tocantins*



beaches and Atlantic Forest. Marcelo is a friendly, generous guide with an even temperament and ready laugh, who truly enjoys showing birds to tour participants.

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

## Financial Information

**FEE: Full Tour (Parts I & II)—\$15,350 from Vitoria and ending in Sao Paulo**

**Part I only—\$7875 from Vitoria and ending in Sao Paulo**

**Part II only—\$7475 starting and ending in Sao Paulo**

**DEPOSIT:** \$1525 per person for full tour (Parts I & II); \$775 per person (Part I only); \$750 per person (Part II only)

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** April 14, 2024 (Full tour or Part I only); April 29, 2024 (Part II only)

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$1650 (Full Tour-Parts I & II); \$900 (Part I); \$750 (Part II)

**LIMIT: 12**

**All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one).** Note too, that many travel destinations may still require proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may be a requirement for some travel destinations.

## Other Things You Need to Know

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

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Our lodging in Brazil is in comfortable hotels throughout, varying from first-class by US standards to simple, clean, small hotels. All have private bathrooms with hot water, and most (but not all) have air conditioning (those without air conditioning have either ceiling fans or are located in cool climates). While at Intervalles (Part II), most of the group will be housed at one lodge, but as it only has 7 rooms, some participants and the guides may be housed at another lodge near the main lodge.

**DOCUMENTS:** US citizens will need a **current passport and an e-Visa** to enter Brazil. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Brazilian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

**VACCINATIONS:** Yellow fever is present in some areas of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please check <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/yellow-fever> for the current CDC information and consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals).

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Please check with our office for the best schedule from your home airport.

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

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

**Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**LUGGAGE: Please pack light!** Space will be limited in the tour vehicle. If you think you need to bring an item, you probably don't. **Please only bring what you know you will need**, and plan to pack it all into a soft sided duffel bag. Hard cases are discouraged. Please also 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 fee for the **full tour** (Parts I and II) is \$15,350 for one person in double occupancy from Vitoria. It includes all lodging from October 12 through November 9, all meals from lunch on October 12 through lunch on November 10, **all flights within Brazil**, 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 Vitoria at the start of the tour and from Sao Paulo**, airport taxes, visa fees, 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 full tour is \$1650\*.

The fee for **NORTH OF THE TROPIC** (Part I) is \$7875 for one person in double occupancy from Vitoria. It includes all lodging from October 12 through October 26, **flight from Vitoria to Rio**, all meals from lunch on October 12 through dinner on October 27, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to Vitoria and from Sao Paulo, airport taxes, visa fees, 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 Part I is \$900\*.

The fee for **SOUTH OF THE CAPRICORN** (Part II) is \$7475 for one person in double occupancy from Sao Paulo. It includes all lodging from October 27 through November 9, all meals from dinner on October 27 through lunch on November 10, **all flights within Brazil**, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Sao Paulo, airport taxes, visa fees, 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 \$750\*.

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

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact us at [fieldguides.com/contact-us/](https://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 \$1525 per person for the full tour (Parts I and II); \$775 per person (Part I only); \$750 per person (Part II only)** or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or or **by April 14, 2024 (Full tour or Part I only); April 29, 2024 (Part II only)**. **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.



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

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

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

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

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

12/23 - BW  
2/24RK; peg