

ITINERARY
SPAIN: LA MANCHA, COTO DOÑANA & EXTREMADURA
April 19-May 1, 2025



*We'll visit the marshes of Coto Donana and La Mancha Húmeda, where we'll find Greater Flamingos and other waterbirds.
Photograph by guide Godfried Schreuer.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2025 Field Guides Spain: La Mancha, Coto Doñana & Extremadura tour:

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

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

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

In many ways, birders who have traveled through the American West will feel right at home moving through the Spanish landscape. The rugged terrain of Extremadura, the rolling grasslands of the steppes and the expansive vineyards in many areas bring to mind central California, parts of Arizona, or perhaps the Edwards Plateau of Texas. The sheer granite cliffs of the Gredos are reminiscent of similar formations found in Yosemite National Park. The birding is fantastic, and for European birders, Spain is viewed in much the same way as Southeast Arizona or South Texas is in North America: a birding hotspot with high avian diversity. For both first-time visitors and veterans of European birding, Spain is an excellent choice for a first-rate birding vacation. Not to mention, we have an exciting opportunity to see the very rare Iberian Lynx, one of the world's most endangered mammals!

Our journey through the heartland of Spain will take us first to the bird-rich lagunas of La Mancha, where Common Shelduck, Collared Pratincole, and the endangered White-headed Duck nest, then south to the Sierra de Andújar, the traditional stronghold of the Iberian Lynx and with plenty of Iberian (Azure-winged) Magpies. The tour leads us further southwestward into the magnificent Parque Nacional de Doñana (Coto Doñana), where Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Western (Purple) Swamphen and Audouin's gulls are among the exciting possibilities.

From Doñana we'll venture north to wildest Extremadura and the unique Spanish (pseudo)steppes—a harsh land of wide, rolling plains and rugged sierras, birthplace of the conquistadors and a stronghold of the spectacular Great Bustard. Nowhere else in Europe do birds of prey breed in such numbers or such variety. Species to look for include the immense Cinereous (Black) Vulture and Eurasian Griffon, the elusive Eurasian Eagle-Owl, and the locally rare Black-winged Kite, while many other fast-declining species are also dependent on the survival of this disappearing habitat.

We'll finish up in the beautiful Sierra de Gredos, where we'll stay at a lovely parador with Western Bonelli's Warbler, Citril Finch, Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush, Ortolan Bunting and a number of other birds as possibilities.



Spain offers a range of habitats and birding opportunities, from shore birding in the marshes of Doñana in the south, to mountain birding in the Sierra de Gredos. We'll reach a moderate elevation in the mountains, but none of our hikes will be extremely strenuous. Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.

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 rather easy walking (up to 3 miles per day), some of it on roads, some on good trails. Most trails are flat, but a very few have steeper sections, such as the hike in the Gredos Mountains.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We do spend a bit of time standing to watch birds on this tour (a small folding stool can provide relief as needed). Most roads are paved, but access to a few spots entails travel along unpaved tracks that may be bumpy and/or dusty.
- **PACE:** On some days, there will be optional morning outings from the lodgings (walks in the 7:00-8:00 a.m. range), with breakfasts served as late as 8:00 a.m., followed by a morning session of birding. After a picnic or café lunch, we sometimes have a short afternoon break, but typically we are either in transit to our next lodging or out birding again until the late afternoon. Dinner is seldom served before 8:00 p.m. in Spain.

- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will generally range from the low 60s at night to 86s F during the day, but temperatures in the mountains can be a bit lower and feel chilly in the early morning. Rain showers are a possibility.
- **ELEVATION:** Sea level to 6900 feet in the Gredos Mountains.
- **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 participants who would like to make a comfort stop in nature may do so in many of the locations we visit.
- **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 the guide.

About the Birding Areas



La Mancha region—Like much of the vast central plain (the Spanish *meseta*), the gently undulating but rather treeless landscape of La Mancha is sparsely populated. Dotted here and there among the vineyards are numerous shallow lagunas, some watery places fringed with reeds, others barren and saline—but each with its own fascinating population of birds. Among the many breeding species we may find are Great Crested, Eared (Black-necked), and Little grebes, Red-crested Pochard, Eurasian Marsh-Harrier, Northern Lapwing, Kentish and Little Ringed plovers, Black-winged Stilt, Collared Pratincole, Gull-billed, Black, and Whiskered terns, Bearded Reedling (Tit), Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler), Great Reed Warbler, and Savi's Warbler. Most importantly, there is a small but thriving population of the rare White-headed Duck here. The surrounding steppe farmland supports decreasing numbers of dry-country

birds such as Eurasian Thick-knee (Stone-curlew), European Bee-eater, Eurasian Hoopoe, Crested Lark, Tawny Pipit (rare), and Black-eared Wheatear, and several small colonies of Lesser Kestrel.

Sierra de Andújar—The Sierra de Andújar, in the eastern part of the Sierra Morena Mountain range, is known as the main stronghold of the Iberian Lynx. The rolling hills and low mountains, covered with Stone Pines, Holm Oaks, and Mediterranean scrub vegetation, provide good cover and plenty of rabbits for this endangered cat. We will search for the Iberian Lynx, and also for other mammals like Otter, Red Deer, Fallow Deer, and Mouflon. In addition, this Natural Park conserves good populations of feathered Iberian endemics, like the Spanish Imperial Eagle, Iberian Magpie, and the Iberian Green Woodpecker. We are also likely to encounter Hawfinch, Little Owl, Mistle Thrush, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Red-billed Chough, and Golden Eagle. The area is mainly privately owned estates (*fincas*) dedicated to big game hunting and livestock like sheep, cattle, and bulls for the “*corridas*.”

Doñana—Covering an area of almost half-a-million acres, the *marismas* (marshes) at the mouth of the Rio Guadalquivir form one of the largest and most important wetlands in Europe—the Doñana. Although access to much of the reserve is restricted, there are many excellent birding spots, and we shall visit the best of these during our stay. Among its rich diversity of birds, the Doñana boasts many that are rare or absent elsewhere in western Europe, including Eurasian Spoonbill, Greater Flamingo, Purple Swamphen, Ferruginous Duck (rare), Marbled Teal, and the lovely Iberian Magpie. We can also expect to find a variety of other more widespread breeding species here in May, among them Squacco and Purple herons, Red-crested Pochard, Booted Eagle, Pied Avocet, Greater and Mediterranean Short-toed larks, Common Nightingale, Cetti's Warbler, Spotless Starling, and European Serin. Finally, on the nearby Atlantic coast and in the rice

fields flanking Doñana, we may still find a selection of northbound shorebirds such as Ruff, Sanderling, and Black-tailed Godwit, along with Sandwich Tern and Yellow-legged, Audouin's, and Slender-billed (scarce) gulls.

Extremadura—The drive north to Parque Nacional de Monfragüe passes through mile after mile of unspoiled countryside where centuries of traditional land management have produced the unique *dehesa*—a superb park-like habitat of cork and evergreen oaks frequented by Sardinian, Subalpine, and shy Western Orphean warblers, Eurasian Golden Oriole, and the beautiful Iberian Magpie. This is one of the finest spots in all of Europe for birds of prey, and we can expect to encounter a dozen or more species, including Red and Black kites, Eurasian Buzzard, Short-toed Snake, Booted, Bonelli's, and Spanish (Imperial) eagles, Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Kestrel, and lots of Cinereous (Black) Vultures and Eurasian Griffons. Black Stork and Eurasian Eagle-Owl also nest in the park, along with Alpine Swifts, Thekla and Wood larks, Blue Rock-Thrush, and Rock Bunting.

Elsewhere in Extremadura, we'll head west into the wide rolling plains. We should see Great and Little bustards, sadly both in decline here. The grasslands are interrupted from time to time by low, rocky sierras and slow-flowing river systems. For the sheer variety of birds, this whole area is hard to beat. White Storks nest widely, and other breeding species include Pin-tailed and Black-bellied sandgrouse, Common and Great Spotted cuckoos, Little Owl, Calandra and Greater Short-toed larks, Red-rumped Swallow, Eurasian Penduline-Tit, and Spanish Sparrow. Before leaving Extremadura, we'll plan a quiet stroll through the narrow, cobbled streets of Trujillo. The conquistadors have long since departed, leaving plenty of White Storks and Lesser Kestrels for us to enjoy—and the view across the plains from the castle's battlements is superb!



*The Sardinian Warbler can be found in the "dehesa" woodlands of Extremadura.
Photograph by participant John Missing.*

Sierra de Gredos—Set high in the mountains, our hotel here commands wonderful views across a swath of bottle-green pines to distant snowy peaks. We should encounter Crag Martin, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Eurasian Nuthatch, Goldcrest, and Cirl Bunting nearby, and perhaps European Honey-buzzard, Golden Eagle, and Citril Finch as well. Later, we'll travel through some of the finest upland scenery in all of Spain as we seek out White-throated Dipper, Gray Wagtail, Crested Tit, European Pied Flycatcher, and Red Crossbill. Yellow Wagtails and Oortolan Buntings breed in the alpine meadows, and the hillsides are thick with broom, where we'll search for the scarce Bluethroat. Higher still in the Reserva Natural de Gredos, we may find Eurasian Skylark, Water Pipit, Black Redstart, and the exquisite Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush. As a bonus, large mammals of note include Red Fox and the rare and imposing Spanish Ibex.



Spain boasts a thriving population of European Griffons. We'll see these magnificent birds at a breeding colony at Peña Falcón in Monfragüe National Park. Photograph by guide Godfried Schreur.

Itinerary for Spain: La Mancha, Coto Doñana & Extremadura

Days 1-2, Sat-Sun, 19-20 April. Departure for Madrid; arrival and transfer to Alcázar de San Juan, and the Lagunas de La Mancha. Most flights from the US will depart in the afternoon or early evening of April 19 and arrive in Madrid on the morning of Day 2, April 20. Direct flights are available from many North American cities—please contact our office for details. When booking your flight, please choose a schedule that allows you to arrive in Madrid by 8:30 a.m. on Day 2. You will then collect your luggage, clear customs and immigration, and take a private transfer to the hotel to meet your guide in the lobby by 11:00 a.m. Participants arriving early may choose to join the leader for a pre-breakfast 7:30 a.m. morning walk from our hotel in Madrid to a nearby park to do some light birding before we are joined by those arriving on day 2.

Please note: If you have the time, we recommend that participants from North America plan to arrive in Madrid a day early to recover from jet lag before the tour begins. (Direct flights are available from many North American cities—please contact our office for details.) Madrid is a lovely city and well worth extra time for individual exploration. Our office will be happy to assist you with reservations for extra nights. Contact your tour manager if you are interested in an optional tour of the city (at additional expense) which journeys through Madrid's Renaissance and Baroque style buildings and visits Museo Nacional del Prado.

Once everyone is assembled, we'll load up our bus and head south to the region of La Mancha, home of Don Quixote, the 17th-century creation of writer Miguel de Cervantes. Many of the windmills featured in this tale have been restored and can easily be seen during our stay in Alcázar de San Juan. Before lunch, we'll visit the first of several productive sites. A scope would be helpful but is not necessary. The La Mancha region is a rolling landscape of olive orchards and grape vineyards along with scattered villages. In some of the lower depressions between hills there are wetlands (lagunas) rich in bird life and important as stopover sites for migrant shorebirds and waterfowl. Night of Day 2 in Alcázar de San Juan.

Day 3, Mon, 21 April. Laguna de Veguilla, Parque Nacional de las Tablas de Daniel south to the Sierra de Andújar. We'll be off for an early morning outing to the Laguna de Veguilla, which has a variety of interesting species including White-headed Duck, Red-crested Pochard, and Eurasian Penduline-Tit. Later, we'll head southwest to the extensive wetlands of Tablas de Daniel. This rich area should provide us with good views of several marsh species, including Purple Heron, Common Nightingale, Cetti's and Savi's Warbler. After birding and lunch nearby, we'll head south to the scenic Sierra de Andújar. Night in Andújar.



The rare White-headed Duck nests in the wetlands of La Mancha. Photograph by guide Godfried Schreuer.

Day 4, Tue, 22 April. Morning search for Iberian Lynx and birding in the Sierra de Andújar. We will spend today exploring some wonderful oak woodlands in the scenic Sierra de Andújar. The first hours are the best for spotting the rare and captivating Iberian Lynx, one of four lynx species in the world. This one is restricted to Spain and Portugal and the healthiest population is here in the Sierra de Andújar. Local wildlife guides will bring us to the places with best chances. Birdwise, there is a rich assortment of species possible, including Red-billed Cough, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Golden Eagle, (Iberian) Green Woodpecker, Eurasian Nuthatch, Woodchat Shrike, and Cirl Bunting which breed in the area. Night in Andújar.

Day 5, Wed, 23 April. Córdoba and Parque Nacional de Doñana. We'll travel southwest to the historic city of Córdoba to pay a wonderful guided visit to the Mezquita (a unique complex of Islamic buildings with later Christian modifications dating back to 785). There is also a rookery of Cattle Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons here. From here, we'll head further southwest to the Parque Nacional de Doñana. After the check-in and a short rest, we will walk from the hotel to explore the nearby marshes. Plenty of Black-winged Stilts, Eurasian Spoonbills and Glossy Ibis are waiting for us. We even might encounter a Squacco Heron or a Little Bittern. We will stay the next two nights in historic El Rocío (pronounced ro-THEE-o), home of the Virgen del Rocío. Nearly a million people converge on this small town to pay respects to the virgin's image during the Romería del Rocío. Night in El Rocío.

Day 6, Thu, 24 April. Parque Nacional de Doñana and surrounds. On our second day here, we will board range rovers and travel to the Jose Antonio Valverde Visitor Center, another great wetlands site and education center located in the heart of the park, replete with nesting Purple Herons, Glossy Ibis, flamingos, and spoonbills. Our travel there will take us through more prime Iberian Lynx habitat too, so keep a sharp eye out for them. We will have lunch at the hotel's restaurant and after a short rest we'll make an afternoon excursion in another, completely different part of the park. In particular, this visit will take us to the unspoiled beach near the mouth of the Rio Guadalquivir, where we may encounter gulls, terns and waders like Yellow-legged, Audouin's, and Slender-billed gulls, as well as Little and Sandwich Terns and European Oystercatchers. Above sea we might spot distant Parasitic Jaegers and Northern Gannets. Night in El Rocío.

Day 7, Fri, 25 April. Palacio de Acebrón and Drive to Trujillo. This morning we'll make two more birding stops in Doñana-area before heading north. The Palacio de Acebrón can be quite birdy and has been a good spot for Iberian Chiffchaff, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Eurasian Wryneck. After breakfast, we will explore the Dehesa de Abajo, host to goodies like European Bee-eater, Red-knobbed Coot, Ferruginous Duck, and Marbled Teal. After the picnic lunch we will head north towards Extremadura. We will make two afternoon stops, the first one near Alange to search for Black

Wheatear, Alpine Swift, and Bonelli's Eagle. And before heading on to Trujillo we will make a walk on the Roman Bridge of Mérida which can be good for Pallid Swift, Penduline Tit and Little Bittern. This region of Spain, known as Extremadura, will remind many of California's oak savanna. Extremadura has spawned some of Spain's most noted explorers, including Francisco Pizarro and Hernán Cortés. Regardless of how one perceives the virtues of their exploits, the influence of these figures has been felt throughout Spain and much of the New World. Night in Trujillo.



Spain has a rich history, and we'll have a chance to see some wonderful castles and other structures, some complete with local birds such as these White Storks nesting on a castle in Trujillo. Photograph by participant Ed LeGrand.

Day 8, Sat, 26 April. Bird Trujillo area. Today we'll head out for a full morning of exciting birding. During the first hours we will focus on the pseudo-steppe plains near Trujillo to search for Pin-tailed and Black-bellied sandgrouse, as well as Great and Little bustards and Great Spotted Cuckoo. Afterwards, we will visit several important sites in the extensive dehesa-covered hills west of Trujillo. Possibilities include Alpine and Pallid swifts, Black-shouldered Kite, Common Kingfisher, White and Gray wagtails, and the colorful European Roller and European Bee-eater. After lunch and a rest during the hottest hours of the day, we will appreciate a guided visit to the medieval centre of Trujillo finishing at the Plaza Mayor of Trujillo, one of the most beautiful squares in Spain, where we will enjoy dinner. Night in Trujillo.

Day 9, Sun, 27 April. Parque Nacional de Monfragüe. After breakfast we will pay another visit to the vast, tree-less plains for any missing steppe bird species, the sandgrouse can be difficult... After lunch we will head north towards Monfragüe National Park for a first afternoon visit. One of the real treats of any visit to Spain, this nearly 70-square-mile park is both picturesque and birdy. We'll make a couple of short stops on our way into the park in search of Cirl Bunting before arriving at the Sierra de Corchuelas Mountain range, where we will look for Hawfinch, and Subalpine Warbler, among others. We will also search for Dartford Warbler, Black-eared Wheatear, Woodlark, and the imposing Eurasian Eagle-Owl during our first afternoon birding and exploring this productive park. Night near Torrejón el Rubio.

Day 10, Mon, 28 April. Parque Nacional de Monfragüe. We will spend a full morning back at Monfragüe, searching for any species still eluding us. At Peña Falcon, where the Rio Tajo has cuts through the Sierra de Corchuelas, we'll enjoy watching nesting Black Storks and Eurasian Griffons, and we'll keep a lookout for Spanish Imperial Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Blue Rock-thrush, Black Redstart, and Rock Bunting. Once we've left the park, we will visit the marsh area of Arrocampo which can be good for Black-winged Kite, Little Bittern, and Common Kingfisher. In the afternoon we travel towards the Sierra de Gredos, which forms the southern boundary of Spain's Cordillera Central. The climb is steep and scenic, and we will arrive at our parador in late afternoon. This lovely government-run lodging is in an idyllic setting overlooking pine forest. We should see a number of forest specialties from the comfort of the spacious rooftop patio,

which overlooks the surrounding countryside. The rock mason wall in the garden below is home to spectacular Ocellated Lizards. Night at the Parador Sierra de Gredos.

Day 11, Tue, 29 April. Sierra de Gredos. We'll have all day for birding in the Sierra de Gredos. Dress for cooler (changeable) weather and take account of the higher elevations here (about 6900 feet). The morning will include a hike in the Reserva Natural de Gredos through spectacular scenery in the shadow of Pico Almanzor, which at over 8550 feet is the highest peak in this range. We'll take our hike slowly, searching for Ortolan and Rock buntings, Dunnock, Northern Wheatear, Golden Eagle, White-throated Dipper, Dunnock, Bluethroat, Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush, and Spanish Ibex. Keep a sharp eye out for two stunning lizards which occur in the area, the blue headed Schreiber's Green Lizard and the speckled green Cyren's Rock Lizard. And don't forget your camera as the scenery is spectacular! Night at the Parador Sierra de Gredos.

Day 12, Wed, 30 April. To Madrid. We'll spend a final morning searching for last trip birds in the Gredos, perhaps searching additional spots for Citril Finch before heading into some more temperate forested areas with chances for Red-backed Shrike and Tree Pipit. We'll plan to make a short photo stop at the historic, walled city of Ávila before returning to Madrid. Night in Madrid.

Day 13, Thu, 1 May. Departure for home. Our tour ends today. ¡Buen viaje!

About Your Guides

Godfried Schreur developed his interest in wild birds and nature at an early age and became involved as a volunteer in several Dutch naturalist associations. In 1991, after culminating his Bachelor of Science studies on Nature and Landscape Management at the Van Hall Larenstein Institute (Velp, Netherlands) Godfried came to Extremadura for a period of volunteer work with the conservation NGO ADENEX. Since 1994, Extremadura has been his permanent base. Here he founded, together with Ana Cordero, the company ECOTUREX. He was one of the first specialized birding guides in the region, an activity that he continues to practice with great pleasure.

Godfried is a friendly guide with extensive knowledge and experience. He finds great satisfaction in sharing his knowledge and experiencing the beauty of nature with people. He knows the geography of Extremadura and other interesting areas in Spain very well. He is fluent in Dutch, Spanish, and English. Godfried has also a deep interest in other fauna, flora, and the human role in the landscape, culture, and history. In addition, Godfried remains active in environmentalism and is not afraid to protest against projects that seriously threaten sustainable development and nature conservation.

Willy Perez has been leading birding tours for more than ten years. He has also worked as a resident guide at Maquipucuna Reserve on the west slopes of the Andes, on a project protecting marine turtles in Costa Rica, and on bird conservation in northwestern Ecuador. He was a resident guide at Kapawi Lodge in the Ecuadorian Amazon for three years, mastering the art of finding and identifying the many secretive birds of the lowland rainforest. He has since guided throughout Ecuador including the East and West slopes of the Andes, the Amazon Basin, the Galapagos Islands, and southern Ecuador. During the last few years he has also guided birding groups in Bolivia. In his free time, Willy trains local guides and is a frequent lecturer, in English and in Spanish, on birding and conservation issues in the Neotropics. His wife, Fiona, is British, and Willy and his family relocated to England some 15 years ago. He speaks excellent English and has an engaging and outgoing personality that makes every tour he leads enjoyable and fun.

"Godfried Schreur added so much to this trip: it was a huge bonus to have someone so knowledgeable about local geography, history, food, and so forth...He would be a great addition to future Spain trips." A.D., Spain: La Mancha, Coto Doñana & Extremadura

"Willy Perez is an abundantly kind and caring person with an amazing ability to spot, identify, and show us the birds. I look forward to many more tours with him!" S. S.; Birds of Britain

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

Financial Information

FEE: \$5850 from Madrid

DEPOSIT: \$575 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: October 21, 2024

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$575

LIMIT: 12

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: Accommodations are simple but comfortable throughout the trip, though rooms are cozy in typical European fashion. All rooms have en suite bathrooms.

ALTITUDE: We will reach a maximum of about 6900 feet in the Sierra de Gredos. Our hotel in Navarredonda de Gredos sits at about 1525 feet.

DOCUMENTS: A current passport, valid three months beyond the date of your return, is necessary for US citizens to enter Spain. 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.

Starting in the first half of 2025 (no specific date provided by the EU), travelers from visa-exempt countries will be required to have a **travel authorization (ETIAS)** to enter most European countries (including Spain). If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Spanish 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.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: *Please note that the tour begins and ends in Madrid. When booking your flight, please choose a schedule that allows you to arrive in Madrid by 8:30 a.m. on Day 2.* When departing from the US, an overnight flight will be required. 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 \$5850 for one person in double occupancy from Madrid. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 12, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 13, 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 Madrid, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$575. 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/. 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 \$575** 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, **by October 21, 2024. 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.

9/24 RK
 NCP 8/2020
 09/24 GS; 10/23peg; 9/24peg
 10/24 update