

ITINERARY
SPITSBERGEN & SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO
A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic
June 19-29, 2017



Seeing Polar Bears is one of our main objectives, and we expect to see them well on this tour! We will sail north from Longyearbyen, and we'll reach a point just 540 miles south of the North Pole. As we sail, we'll make stops to leave the ship and get closer to birds and other wildlife of the north. Photo by participant Betsy Fulmar.

We include here information for those interested in the 2017 Field Guides Norwegian Arctic cruise:

- 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

Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:

- 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 reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

With its rugged mountains, sweeping tundra, and enormous ice-caps, Spitsbergen embodies the high Arctic. The largest island in the Svalbard Archipelago—part of Norway to its south—the island lies just 600 miles from the North Pole. Beginning in the capital of Longyearbyen, we'll sail around the north end of the island aboard the 110-passenger *Ortelius*. The ship is fully-equipped for expedition travel and is comfortable, eminently practical, and perfectly designed for smooth cruising in Arctic waters with a large deck area which provide great viewing.

Known as a region that is uncompromising to those species that inhabit it, the Arctic is one of the most beautiful and yet least birded areas of the world. The list of birds occurring in the far North is small when compared to tropical reaches, but the quality of the species is great. The magnificent bird cliffs along the Spitsbergen coast are a breeding ground for tens of thousands of Black Guillemots and Thick-billed Murres, with Atlantic Puffins, Dovekies, Northern Fulmars, and Black-legged Kittiwakes also in abundance on or around the cliffs. On the flowering tundra, Arctic Terns, Common Ringed Plovers, Purple Sandpipers, Great Skua, and jaegers thrive alongside fantastic scenery. And then there are those elusive gulls—Ross's, Sabine's, and the ghostly Ivory, a bird so dependent on ice-covered environs it seems to have mystical qualities.

Spitsbergen's coastal waters support several seal species including Bearded and Ringed, and the small Beluga, or white whale, and Minke and Fin whales are frequently seen. Walrus can be found lounging on the ice-floes and on the beaches, and the lush tundra is home to the indigenous Svalbard Reindeer and Arctic Fox. And, with 20 percent of the world's Polar Bear population, each of our past tours has had several sightings of this most engaging of mammals, one that is also among the largest carnivores in the world.



*A nesting Parasitic Jaeger. Although this individual looks fairly benign, these birds are formidable predators.
Photo by participant Jan Shaw.*

About the Physical Requirements & Pace: It is important to note that our dependable operators will do their best to stick to the itinerary as planned, but remember that the expedition leader will work with the captain, and s/he will make decisions that may deviate from our itinerary based on weather, safety, etc.

This is a trip on which to relax and soak in the sights and the scenery: We are either confined to the ship or—during the landings—our wanderings are constrained by the geography and the need to stay in a group. This gives the opportunity to observe behavior, take photographs, learn from specialists about more than just birds, and make friends (with people and wildlife!). While on land, we will be in potential areas for Polar Bears, so each group is required to stay together. At least two members of the expedition staff will be with each group and will be carrying rifles and noise making flares to drive bears away if we happen to encounter one.

During shore excursions the expedition staff usually offers three options. One group may do a longer hike where more stamina is involved to climb a ridge or ice field; another group may have a more moderate hike where more time is available for photography and birding; and a third, more leisurely-paced outing is available to those who do not want to venture far. Our birding excursion will be the one that offers the best option for a birding spectacle and the most diversity or the one that is likely to add a special species. Usually this is the moderate hike. The regular process of getting in and out of the zodiacs requires balance and some agility. Everyone boarding a zodiac is required to wear a life vest. Access to some vista points and seabird nesting cliffs may require some short scrambles up steep, icy, or muddy slopes that may be covered in tussock grass. Rough seas are not usually a problem, but seasickness is a real possibility. Wind, cold, salt spray, and rain are also facts of life, but today's advances in outdoor clothing make it ever easier to enjoy being comfortably out in the elements.

Although Spitsbergen is close enough to the North Pole to become an Arctic freezer in winter, because the Gulf Stream delivers warm water to its coast, it has a remarkably mild climate. The average temperature on the west coast in summer is around 41°F (5°C), and in winter, 10°F (-12°C). In general, the temperatures on the east side are lower than on the west. As Spitsbergen lies far above the Arctic Circle, it experiences the midnight sun from April to August. In 24-hour daylight, it is easy to forget to rest or sleep, but we will do our best to keep the tour to a fairly standard routine of eating and sleeping hours.

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.

Itinerary for Spitsbergen & the Svalbard Archipelago A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic

Day 1 and the land portion of our tour begins in Longyearbyen, on the island of Spitsbergen, on June 20, 2017. Since the flight from Oslo to Longyearbyen is currently scheduled to depart at 9:00 a.m. on June 20, if you are coming from the US, you will need to depart on June 18, flying overnight and arriving in Oslo on the morning of June 19 and spending the night in Oslo. There is an additional "land fee" to cover the extra nights in Longyearbyen prior to and in Oslo after the cruise. Many of our participants wish to see the many interesting sites and museums of the beautiful city of Oslo and, therefore, arrive a couple of days early to enjoy this part of Norway. Sharon Mackie, the manager for this tour, can advise on flights into Oslo and Longyearbyen and our normal hotel for overnighting.



Day 1, Mon, 19 June. Depart the US for Longyearbyen. Connecting in Europe; we recommend visiting Oslo en route.

Day 2, Tue, 20 June. Arrival in Longyearbyen. Upon arrival in Longyearbyen and gathering your luggage you will board one of the large buses just outside the terminal for transfer to the Radisson Blu Polar Hotel, the furthest north hotel in the world. After check-in, we will plan to do a bird walk around town and along a road that passes a large tidal flat. Barnacle Geese and Common Eiders should be quite conspicuous and we hope to encounter Long-tailed Duck, Common Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Purple Sandpiper, Parasitic Jaeger, Glaucous Gull, Arctic Tern, Snow Bunting, and hopefully a surprise or two. We will gather for dinner in the evening and go over plans for our expedition aboard the *Ortelius*. Night in Longyearbyen.

Day 3, Wed, 21 June. Morning birding around Longyearbyen; boarding the ship in the afternoon. After breakfast at the hotel, we will do another bird walk in the vicinity of Longyearbyen, where Ivory Gull is a distinct possibility, or have more time to explore the town. We may check the tidal flats or venture along roads above town in search of Pink-footed Geese or Rock Ptarmigan. After checking out of our rooms in the late morning we will have our luggage available to be picked up and transferred to our ship. We will have lunch in town and, afterwards, there

should be time for those who wish to stroll around this former mining town whose parish church and Polar Museum are well worth visiting. We will gather at an appointed time and make our way to the pier to board the *Ortelius* in the afternoon, usually about 4:00 pm. After getting settled into our cabins there will be a required safety orientation and lifeboat drill before we set sail. We will have dinner as we head out of Isfjorden. Northern Fulmars, Dovekies, Thick-billed Murres, and Atlantic Puffins may all be spotted soon after our departure. All nights will be on the *Ortelius*.

Day 4, Thu, 22 June. Raudfjord. Sailing through the morning hours we'll round the northwest corner of Spitsbergen and enter Raudfjord. This beautiful fjord is dominated by spectacular glaciers and favored by Ringed and Bearded seals. Good numbers of fulmars, kittiwakes and alcids will be a constant sight. The cliffs and shoreline of the fjord also support thriving seabird colonies and a surprisingly rich vegetation, which flourishes in sheltered spots. This will likely be our first good chance of finding Polar Bears.

Day 5 Fri, 23 June. To Liefdefjorden and the Andøyane Islands. We plan to sail to the mouth of Liefdefjorden today and do a zodiac cruise around the Andøyane Islands. Many Common Eiders nest here, and the rarer King Eider may also be seen along with Long-tailed Duck, Red Phalarope and perhaps a surprise shorebird or even a Polar Bear. We hope to be able to sail into the fjord, cruising near the five-kilometer-long face of the impressive Monaco Glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favorite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes, and on previous voyages Polar Bears have been near the glacier, providing wonderful opportunities for photography.

Day 6, Sat, 24 June. Hinlopen Strait. Today we'll sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to Bearded and Ringed seals and, of particular interest, Polar Bears and Ivory Gulls. We'll navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in our zodiacs and explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with their tens of thousands of Thick-billed Murres and Black-legged Kittiwakes and a good chance for Arctic Fox. On the east side of Hinlopenstretet, we'll attempt a landing at Palanderbukta on Nordaustlandet, home to Svalbard Reindeer, Pink-footed Geese, Walrus, and, hopefully, Ivory Gulls.

Day 7, Sun, 25 June. The Seven Islands. Today we'll reach our northernmost land point of the expedition at Phippsøya in the Seven Islands, north of the island of Nordaustlandet, where we might encounter more walruses. From here we hope to sail north to find the edge of the pack ice, a very good area for seeing Polar Bears and, perhaps, Ivory Gulls. Depending on the location of the pack ice we might get close to 81 degrees north, just 600 miles from the geographic North Pole. We may sit for a spell in the pack ice taking in our spectacular surroundings or cruise the floe edge hoping for a more bears, Pomarine Jaeger or even a Ross's Gull, a real rarity here.



*The Dovekie is the smallest of the Atlantic alcids. These tiny birds breed in huge colonies in the far North; we will try to visit one of these colonies.
Photo by guide John Coons.*

Day 8, Mon, 26 June. Pack Ice and west coast of Spitsbergen. Depending on the weather and our experiences with Polar Bears we may wish to spend more time in the pack ice before turning south. Sailing along the edge of the continental shelf may find us a Minke, Fin, or even a Blue Whale. We also hope to visit a Dovekie (Little Auk) colony in the northwest part of Spitsbergen.

Day 9, Tue, 27 June. Prins Karls Forland or St. Johns Fjord. We'll land today near Fuglehuken in the western part of Svalbard at the northern tip of Prins Karls Forland, now a national park. This is where Willem Barentsz, the Dutch explorer (anglicized as William Barents and after whom the Barents Sea is named), probably first set foot on Spitsbergen. Seabirds nest on the cliffs and this is the most northerly range of Harbor Seals. We'll also have the opportunity to observe the remains of the Polar Bear hunting era, with demolished set guns and bear traps.

Alternatively, depending on the weather, we'll sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of Isfjorden and land at Alkhornet. Seabirds nest on the cliffs here and Arctic Foxes search the cliff bases for fallen eggs and chicks, while Svalbard Reindeer graze the relatively luxuriant vegetation.

In the afternoon we'll cruise, watching for Belugas, as we continue to Longyearbyen where we will spend the night in the harbor.

Day 10, Wed, 28 June. Disembark in Longyearbyen; flight to Oslo. After breakfast on the ship, we'll disembark at Longyearbyen this morning and from there fly south to Oslo. Depending on departure flight times we may have more time to visit Longyearbyen where there are a handful of shops and do some nearby birding before transferring to the airport for our flight to Oslo. Arriving in Oslo we will transfer to our hotel located near the airport.

Currently the flight is scheduled to arrive into Oslo at 4:00 p.m. on June 28; since most flights to the US leave earlier than this, those returning to the US may need to spend the night in Oslo and fly home on June 29. Night in Oslo.

Day 11, Thu, 29 June. Flights home. We are likely on various flights heading home today. The hotel offers early breakfast for those on the first flights out of Oslo. We'll make sure everyone has airport shuttle tickets. Bon voyage.

About Your Guide

John Coons combines birding excellence with a natural ability as a tour guide. He has been leading tours since 1985. Since then his great group skills, attention to detail, easy laugh, and unfailing sense to spot (and remember!) what's fascinating in things large and small have brought delight to innumerable Field Guides participants on tours from the High Arctic to the tip of South America and throughout Australasia.

When not on tour, John enjoys exploring and birding the remote mountains, canyons, and mesas of his home in northern Arizona. His ambition of developing a completely sustainable yard of native wildflowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs is an unending goal that consumes more time than expected each spring and summer.

John has a special affinity for the Arctic region, having led many trips to the far north over the last 30 years including trips to Churchill, Baffin Island, and Iceland, as well as our Spitsbergen expeditions.

"Brilliant guide. John Coons is thoughtful, very skilled at considerate group management, endlessly patient, and terrific at finding birds." P.A., Texas Coast Migration Spectacle

Visit <http://fieldguides.com/guides> to see John's complete tour schedule. Just click on his photo.

About Your Ship

The *m/v Ortelius* is a 300-foot vessel, perfectly suited to expedition travel in polar regions with great viewing areas from the various decks. With an ice-strengthened hull it is able to navigate waters more comfortably than many other ships of similar size, and in normal conditions average travel speed is about 10-12 kts. The vessel has the highest ice-class notation and is therefore very suitable to navigate in solid one-year sea ice and loose multi-year pack ice. *Ortelius* was built in Poland in 1989, was named *Marina Svetaeva*, and served as a special purpose vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. The vessel was re-flagged and renamed *Ortelius* after the Dutch/Flemish cartographer, Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* or *Theatre of the World* in 1570. At that time, the atlas was the most expensive book ever printed.

In addition to the 53 cabins, the ship contains an infirmary, two adjacent dining rooms, a bar/lounge and lecture room. The ship's crew is international, and the expedition staff is largely European. *Ortelius* carries 11 zodiacs of which 9 are in use and 2 on reserve. Announcements, briefings, and lectures will be in English and, in keeping with the spirit of expedition travel, dress is informal. Internet service on board is limited and for a fee, and it is rather unreliable in much of our travel area. For urgent and important communications, the ship is equipped with satellite phone (pricey) and facsimile systems. There is power in all cabins and electricity is of the European 220-volt variety. American travelers will require an adapter for any electronic devices. Laundry service is available on board for a fee. A doctor will travel with us, and the infirmary is well provisioned with medicines and equipment. Those passengers on regular medication should bring with them an adequate personal supply, and participants concerned about seasickness are encouraged to consult with their physicians before departure.

We have reserved 6 berths, all in twin private cabins. Twin private cabins have a private bathroom with shower, washbasin, and toilet, two lower twin bed berths, a desk, ample storage space, and a window. Available on request are superior cabins with shower, washbasin, and toilet, two lower double beds, a desk, ample storage space, and windows.

You may visit <http://oceanwide-expeditions.com/our-fleet/m-v-ortelius> for more information about the ship and for a deck plan.

Financial Information

CRUISE FEE: \$5800 (window) / \$5540 (porthole) in twin, private cabin
\$6850 in superior cabins (See descriptions above; all prices are per person from Longyearbyen.)

LAND FEE: \$975 per person in double occupancy

DEPOSIT: 20% of the cruise fee per person; *please note your cabin category preference on your registration form*

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: February 19, 2017

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: 1.7% of published cruise fee. Single travelers who wish to share their cabin/hotel room should indicate this on the registration form. The published per person twin occupancy fare is guaranteed in this case, whether or not a cabinmate is available. Single travelers who require sole occupancy of cabins will be charged at 1.7 times the published fare.

The **single supplement for the land portion of the tour** is \$200 (June 20 in Longyearbyen and June 28 in Oslo).

LIMIT: 9 (Field Guides has been allotted 6 berths on the ship in private cabins. More may become available, and if so, the limit may increase.)

Price Changes—*Oceanwide Expeditions (from whom we have an allotment of cabins) reserves the right to impose surcharges (price increases) up to 120 days before departure due to unfavorable changes in exchange rates, increases in air fares or other transportation costs, increases in local operating costs, taxes, or government action. If fuel prices increase to exceed US \$120 per Barrel Brent, Oceanwide Expeditions reserves the right to levy a fuel surcharge of US \$25 per passenger per night.*

Insurance—*Oceanwide Expeditions requires that travelers obtain insurance that will cover personal injury, medical, repatriation, and evacuation expenses. The cost of emergency evacuation and medical care can be very high. A minimum of \$75,000 is required and it is strongly recommended that coverage be extended to include cancellation and trip interruption. Coverage offered through CSA on the Field Guides Comfort Plan meets these minimums as well as trip cancellation/interruption insurance.*

Other Things You Need to Know

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

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid for six months beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Norway. No visa is required.

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

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

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify

the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **cruise fee** from Longyearbyen includes the voyage aboard the vessel as indicated in the itinerary; all meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee, and tea; all shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by zodiac; program of lectures by noted naturalists, leadership by experienced expedition staff, and the guide services of your Field Guides leader; all miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program; and comprehensive pre-trip material. 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 **land fee** of \$975 is for one person in double occupancy from Oslo. It includes lodging for the nights of June 20 in Longyearbyen and June 28 in Oslo, breakfast and lunch on June 21, dinner on June 20 and June 28, ground transportation from the airport to the hotel in Longyearbyen, transport at the end of the tour from the airport to the hotel in Oslo, and the guide services of the tour leader.

The above fees do not include your airfare to and from Longyearbyen, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, the customary gratuity at the end of the voyage to the boat crew (guidelines will be provided), phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the land portion of the tour is \$200. 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).

The tour fee does not cover bar drinks that are charged to one's cabin. This includes soft drinks, juices separate from those served at meals, and alcoholic beverages. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate are free of charge and available 24 hours in the lounge.

Single travelers who wish to share their cabin/hotel room should indicate this on the registration form. The published per person double occupancy fare for the cruise is guaranteed in this case, whether or not a cabinmate is available. Single travelers who require sole occupancy of cabins will be charged at 1.7 times the published fare.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of 20% of the cabin fee per person.** (*Please note your cabin category preference on your registration form.*) If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by February 19, 2017. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** 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: Please note that the *m/v Ortelius* is generally smoke-free with designated smoking areas outside. 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: Due to the cancellation policy of our supplier, Oceanwide Expeditions, we must amend our usual cancellation policy as follows: If cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure, Field Guides will refund 10% of your deposit (20% of the cabin fee). If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

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

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

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

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

US citizens will receive from us a brochure 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, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at www.fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.htm and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility 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.

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