

ITINERARY
SPITSBERGEN & SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO
A Cruise to the Norwegian Arctic
July 1 - 13, 2026



Svalbard is an important breeding ground for many Arctic seabirds. We'll have a chance to witness some of the activities, such as this pair of courting Arctic Terns. Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.

We include here information for those interested in the 2026 Field Guides Spitsbergen & Svalbard Archipelago 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

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

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 completely around the island (depending on ice conditions) aboard the 108-passenger Ortelius. Ortelius is excellent for expedition travel and is comfortable, eminently practical, and perfectly designed for smooth cruising in Arctic waters with great viewing from various decks.

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—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, Fin and even Blue whales are often 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, one of the largest carnivores in the world, we have excellent opportunities to see these magnificent creatures. Each of our past tours has had several sightings of this most engaging of mammals.



*The Polar Bear is an icon of the far North. We'll have numerous chances to see these spectacular animals.
Photograph by participant Nancy Hoffman*

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, ice conditions, safety, etc. Also, each expedition leader has his/her favorite sites so no two sailings are the same.

Also, in 2025 the Norwegian government is instituting some new regulations on ships visiting Svalbard. One of these includes limiting the approach distance to certain wildlife which mostly pertains to Polar Bears. After July 1st ships are required to not approach Polar Bears closer than 300 meters (500 meters before July 1st). With our past trips in mind, this will likely not have much of a change to our experience when initially sighting a Polar Bear and getting into position for viewing and photographing. It might cause issues if a curious bear then approaches the ship. This aspect of the regulation has not been completely sorted out and may not be until the 2025 season gets underway.

Field Guides offers this tour as a partnership with Oceanwide Expeditions, a Dutch company that specializes in oceanic voyages to polar regions. Your Field Guides leader(s) will work with the Oceanwide staff to tailor this experience and maximize your birding and wildlife-watching opportunities.

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.



*Some of our shore excursions will involve walking on icy and rocky terrain.
Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.*

Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** We usually do a morning and afternoon landing on shore each day unless we are in the pack ice. There will be moderate amounts of walking (up to 2 miles per day) on soft ground that will be wet and muddy in places. You will need to wear your rubber boots for all shore excursions. During shore excursions, the expedition staff usually offers three options, e.g., a longer hike to climb a ridge or ice field; a more moderate hike, where more time is available for photography and birding and might also entail going uphill; or a more leisurely walk for those who do not wish to venture far. Typically, our birding walks will be the moderate option.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We travel between ship and shore by zodiac, a sturdy inflatable boat designed for shore landings. Participants should be able to climb into the zodiacs by stepping down the gangway which requires good balance and some agility. Wet landings on shore require stepping into 6-8 inches of water with your rubber boots for a step or two to reach the beach. This is all reversed when returning to the ship. 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 wind, salt spray, and rain are to be expected at times.
- **PACE:** Spitsbergen lies well above the Arctic Circle, so it experiences the midnight sun from April to August. In 24-hour daylight, it is easy to forget to rest or sleep, but we keep the tour to a standard routine of eating and sleeping hours.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures could range from the mid-30s to the low 50s, but winds often make temperatures feel cooler. Rain showers are possible. A sunny day with little wind can seem quite balmy on deck.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** We use modern facilities aboard the ship.
- **OPTING OUT:** All shore excursions are optional and participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day when we are aboard the ship.

Additional Information: 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.

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, Wed, 1 Jul. Arrival in Oslo. Many participants on this tour choose to arrive early in Norway to explore Oslo's museums and landmarks, finding accommodations that fit their itinerary. We recommend staying at the **Park Inn by Radisson Airport Hotel Oslo West**, located just 10 minutes from the airport. Your guide will also stay at this hotel, and at 6:00 p.m. you may join him for a no-host dinner at the hotel restaurant, followed by a short bird walk if daylight allows. Nearby species may include White Wagtail, Jackdaw, Blue and Great tits, Fieldfare, and Chaffinch, among others. **Pre-tour accommodations and dinner are at your expense.**

Day 2, Thu, 2 Jul. Depart Oslo for flight to Longyearbyen. After breakfast at our hotel (for those staying there), we will transfer to the airport for the flight to Longyearbyen (**not included in the Cruise or Land fee**). Participants staying elsewhere must make their own way to the Oslo airport. Upon arriving at the Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Svalbard archipelago, we will transfer to our hotel in the main business district of this small Arctic town. We will likely take a bird walk along the tidal flats where we could find Barnacle Geese, Common Eiders, Common Ringed Plover, Purple Sandpiper, Arctic Terns, and perhaps a surprise! Those who wish may also stroll around this former mining town, whose parish church and Polar Museum are well worth visiting. In the evening, we will gather for our first group dinner and enjoy the midnight sun. **Dinner and the pre-cruise night are included in the Land Fee.** Night in Longyearbyen.



Day 3, Fri, 3 Jul. 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, and have more time to explore the town. It doesn't take long. After checking out of our rooms in the late morning, we will store our luggage at the hotel before having lunch in town (**on your own**). Later in the afternoon we will retrieve our luggage and transfer to the pier to board Ortelius, usually about 4:00 pm. After getting settled into our cabins there will be a required safety and lifeboat drill before we set sail, and we will have dinner as we head out of Isfjorden. All nights will be on the Ortelius.

Day 4, Sat, 4 Jul. Krossfjorden and on to Ny Ålesund. Heading north along the west coast of the island, we'll arrive by morning in Krossfjorden; from here we'll take zodiacs for a cruise along the 14th of July Glacier and probably make a landing. A colorful variety of flowers will be in bloom on the slopes near the glacier, while large numbers of kittiwakes and Thick-billed Murres nest on the nearby cliffs. There is also a good chance of spotting Arctic Fox here, patrolling the base of the cliffs just in case a chick falls from its nest, and Bearded Seals may be cruising the fjord.

In the afternoon we'll sail to the small village of Ny Ålesund, the world's most northerly settlement. Once a mining community served by the world's northernmost railway, which can still be seen, Ny Ålesund is now an Arctic research center. Near the town is a breeding ground for Barnacle and Pink-footed geese and Arctic Terns, and the ponds around town might produce a few shorebirds and, perhaps, Red-throated Loon. Visitors interested in the history of Arctic exploration may want to walk to the anchoring mast used by Amundsen and Nobile on the airship *Norge* before their flights to the North Pole in 1926.



Barnacle Geese breed near the town of Ny Ålesund. Photograph by participant Amy Sheldon.

Day 5, Sun, 5 Jul. Liefdefjorden and tundra walk at Reindyrflya. Near the mouth of Liefdefjorden, we will go ashore for a walk on the tundra of Reindyrflya. Sailing into Liefdefjorden, we will cruise near the face of the impressive Monaco Glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favorite feeding spot for thousands of Kittiwakes and the fjord is known for summering Polar Bears.

Days 6-7, Mon-Tue, 6-7 Jul. Landing at Phippsøya, into the pack ice north or west of Phippsøya. We will have our northernmost landing at Phippsøya in the Seven Islands north of Nordaustlandet. Here, we will be at 81 degrees north, roughly 600 miles from the geographic North Pole. Polar Bears inhabit this region, along with Walrus, and perhaps, Ivory Gulls. After landing, we will sail to the pack ice and cruise the edge. We may sit for several hours in the pack ice, taking in our spectacular surroundings and watching for Polar Bears and Ivory Gulls near the ship. When the edge of the pack ice is several miles north of the Seven Islands, we will spend a second day to get to and in the sea ice. Alternatively, we may also visit Sorgfjord where we may find a herd of Walrus not far from the graves of 17th century whalers. We may encounter Rock Ptarmigan on a shore visit here.

Day 8, Wed, 8 Jul. Nordaustlandet and the Hinlopen Strait. Today we will sail into Hinlopen Strait. We'll explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet where tens of thousands of Thick-billed Murres and Black-legged Kittiwakes nest, and Arctic Foxes are often encountered. On the east side of Hinlopenstrait, the island of Nordauslandet, the second largest in the Svalbard Archipelago, we'll attempt a landing at Torrelneset where Walrus are often on the beach. Here we will also explore the polar desert of Nordaustlandet, next to the world's third largest ice cap, which meets the sea nearby. We will walk along beautiful coastline covered in smooth rocks, sculpted by the surf over thousands of years.



Walrus are one of the iconic mammals of the Arctic, and we'll visit several areas where we may find them lounging on the beach, or swimming to cool off. Photograph by participant Ed Harper.

Day 9, Thu, 9 Jul. Barentsøya and vicinity. In Freemansundet, we plan to land at Sundneset on the island of Barentsøya to visit an old trapper's hut and then take a walk across the tundra in search of Svalbard Reindeer, Barnacle Goose, Common Ringed Plover, and Purple Sandpipers. Later we will cruise south to Diskobukta on the west side of Edgeøya. After a Zodiac cruise through the shallow bay, we plan to land on a beach littered with whale bones and tree trunks, which have drifted here from Siberia. We can also climb to the rim of a narrow gully that is inhabited by thousands of Black-legged Kittiwakes, Black Guillemots, and piratical Glaucous Gulls. During the breeding season, the base of the cliffs is patrolled by Arctic Fox and sometimes Polar Bear, especially females with young cubs, searching for young birds that have fallen from the nesting ledges.

Day 10, Fri, 10 Jul. Hornsund in southern Spitsbergen. We start the day quietly cruising the side fjords of the spectacular Hornsund area of southern Spitsbergen, enjoying the scenery of towering mountain peaks. Hornsundtind rises to 4700 ft, while Bautaen shows why early Dutch explorers named the island "Spitsbergen" (pointed mountains). The area is also home for 14 magnificent glaciers, with very good chances of encountering seals, Polar Bear, and Dovekie.

Day 11, Sat, 11 Jul. Bellsund, Ahlstrandhalvøya; Recherchefjorden; evening return to Isfjorden. Today we hope to land on Ahlstrandhalvøya at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden. Here, piles of Beluga skeletons, the remains of 19th century whaling days, are yet another reminder of the consequences of thoughtless exploitation. Fortunately, Beluga were not hunted to the edge of extinction and may still be seen locally. There is a good chance that we will come across a pod here. Cruising into Recherchefjorden during the afternoon, we can explore an area of tundra at the head of the fjord where many reindeer feed, before sailing back in to Isfjorden where our ship will overnight near the harbor in Longyearbyen.

Day 12, Sun, 12 Jul. Disembark in Longyearbyen; flight to Oslo. After breakfast on the ship, we'll disembark at Longyearbyen for the flight to Oslo (not included in the Cruise or Land fee). Depending on schedules we may have more time to visit Longyearbyen where there are a handful of shops or do some nearby birding before transferring to the airport. Currently the flight is scheduled to arrive into Oslo late-afternoon or early evening. Since most flights to the US depart earlier, those returning to the US will likely overnight (covered by Land Fee). If a same-day flight from Longyearbyen to Oslo is unavailable, an extra night in Longyearbyen will be required at the participant's expense. Night in Oslo.

Day 13, Mon, 13 Jul. 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.

"John Coons is one of your best - don't let him retire. He is superb at his craft, professional in carrying out his duties, possesses incredibly high energy, attentive to his clients and knows how to make himself known and respected by the larger tour operators (in this case, Oceanwide Expeditions). His sense of humour and detailed storytelling make dinners delightful." D. T., Norwegian Arctic

About Your Ship



*Ortelius in the Antarctic Sound, from a previous Field Guides tour.
Photograph by guide Tom Johnson.*

The **m/v Ortelius** is a 300-foot expedition vessel, ideal for polar travel, with excellent viewing areas from multiple decks. Its ice-strengthened hull allows safe and comfortable navigation through solid one-year sea ice and loose multi-year pack ice, at an average speed of 10-12 knots. Built in Poland in 1989 as *Marina Svetaeva* for the Russian Academy of Science, it was later renamed after Dutch/Flemish cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598), author of the first modern world atlas *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* or *Theatre of the World*.

Ortelius has 50 cabins and features a well-equipped infirmary with a doctor on board, two dining rooms, a bar/lounge, a lecture room, and 10 zodiacs with 60hp Yamaha engines. The international crew and mostly European expedition staff provide announcements, briefings, and lectures in English. Keeping with the spirit of expedition travel, dress is informal. Cabins have 220-volt European electricity

(adapters required for US devices), and complimentary Wi-Fi is available (1.5 GB/day, additional data may be purchased). Service can be unreliable in much of our travel area: for urgent communications, the ship has satellite phone (pricey) and facsimile systems. Laundry service is available for a fee.

For cabin details and a deck plan, please visit: <https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/our-fleet/m-v-ortelius>. We have reserved 6 twin private cabins for our group. These include two lower beds, a private bathroom with shower, desk, storage, and a porthole or window. Deluxe cabins (with small sofa, refrigerator and coffee maker) and Superior cabins (with one double bed) are also available upon request, but are very limited. **Please let our office know your cabin preference when registering.**

Financial Information

CRUISE FEE: per person from Longyearbyen

Cabin category:	Double occupancy	Single Supplement	Deposit
• Porthole Twin	\$8,500	+ \$5,950	\$1,700
• Window Twin	\$9,200	+ \$6,440	\$1,840
• Deluxe Twin	\$9,900	+ \$6,930	\$1,980
• Superior (1 bed)	\$11,100	+ \$7,770	\$2,220

LAND FEE: \$1375 per person in double occupancy

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: 0.7 x Cruise Fee in double occupancy; \$325 for Land Fee.

DEPOSIT: 20% of Cruise Fee per person (non-refundable)

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: January 2, 2026

LIMIT: 9

Price Changes—Oceanwide Expeditions reserves the right to impose surcharges (price increases) up to 60 days before departure due to unfavorable exchange rates, increased airfares or transportation costs, higher local operating costs, harbor dues, duties, taxes, or government action.

Insurance—Oceanwide Expeditions requires all travelers to obtain insurance, covering personal injury, medical care, repatriation, and evacuation expenses, with a minimum coverage of \$50,000. It is strongly recommended that coverage include cancellation and trip interruption. Insurance offered through Field Guides meets these requirements. For full terms, please visit: <https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/terms-and-conditions>.

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: Be sure to verify the latest entry requirements for each country you will visit or transit.

Passport: A current passport is required for international travel. It should be in good condition, valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date, and have at least one blank page for each country on your itinerary.

Visa: U.S. and Canadian citizens do not require a tourist visa to enter Norway. Electronic Travel Authorizations may be needed, depending on your connection city. Citizens of other countries should check with the consulates of each destination for current entry requirements.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: This tour begins and ends in Longyearbyen (Svalbard Airport, LYP), which requires a flight from Oslo, Norway (Oslo Gardermoen Airport, OSL). Flights to and from Longyearbyen are not included in the Cruise or Land Fee. We recommend booking these flights with Scandinavian Airlines as soon as your tour manager confirms the tour, as seats sell out quickly.

Arrival: We strongly recommend arriving in **Longyearbyen on July 2** to avoid flight delays that could jeopardize boarding the ship the following day, July 3. While it is possible to travel from the US to Oslo and onward to Longyearbyen the same day, we advise arriving in **Oslo by July 1** (departing the US on June 30).

Departure: Plan your return flight from **Longyearbyen on July 12**. If a same-day flight is unavailable, an extra night in Longyearbyen will be at your expense. We recommend planning flights from **Oslo on or after July 13**.

Please wait to purchase airline tickets until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate. At that time, we'll be glad to assist with your flight arrangements at no service fee.

SMOKING: Please note that cruise ships are 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.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: **The Cruise Fee depends on cabin category and is per person in double occupancy from Longyearbyen.** It includes the voyage aboard the vessel as indicated in the itinerary; all meals

throughout the voyage, including snacks, coffee, and tea; all shore excursions and zodiac activities; all miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program; comprehensive pre-trip material; a program of lectures by noted naturalists; leadership by experienced expedition staff, and the guide services of your Field Guides leader. 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 \$1375 is per person in double occupancy from Longyearbyen. It includes lodging for the pre-cruise night in Longyearbyen and post-cruise night in Oslo, two dinners, one breakfast, ground transportation 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. **Note:** Lunch in Longyearbyen the day we board the ship is not included.

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, museum entrance fees, 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 tour fee does not cover bar drinks charged to the cabin, including soft drinks or juices not served at meals. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate are free of charge and available 24 hours in the lounge.

Single travelers requiring sole occupancy of cabins will be charged 1.7 x the Cruise Fee total. Single travelers wishing to share should indicate this on the registration form. The double occupancy fare is guaranteed in this case, whether or not a cabinmate is available.

The single supplement for the Land Fee is \$325. 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 indicate your cabin preference and whether you prefer to share on the registration form.**

All participants will also be required to complete an **online Personal Information Form (PIF)** with Oceanwide Expeditions; a link will be provided at a later date.

Please send the deposit of 20% of the Cruise Fee per person (amounts listed in Financial Information above), see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or by January 2, 2026.** 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: Due to the cancellation policy of our supplier, Oceanwide Expeditions, we must amend our usual cancellation policy as follows: **once you confirm your space on the tour, the deposit (20% of the Cruise fee) is non-refundable.** If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is non-refundable, including 100% of the non-refundable deposit. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

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

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

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: Required at \$50,000 minimum.

We strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to protect your investment in case of injury or illness to you or an immediate family member before or during a trip. Because we must remit early and substantial deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer refunds for cancellations outside of our Cancellation Policy. If a participant is unable to join or continue a tour due to illness, all related expenses will be their responsibility, and no refunds can be issued for missed days. Please wait to purchase insurance until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate, as most policies are non-refundable.

For full details, visit our Trip Cancellation Insurance page at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/>.

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.

10/24 JC; 12/23 peg; 10/25 peg; 12/25mz