

ITINERARY

Taiwan in Spring
April 29 – May 10 , 2025



*The Collared Bush-Robin is one of many endemics that we'll seek on the beautiful island of Taiwan.
Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2025 Field Guides Taiwan 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

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 Field Guides checklist for preparing 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

Taiwan, formerly known as Formosa, or "beautiful island," is situated just 100 miles across the Taiwan Straits from Mainland China. The island is relatively small but its mountains are extremely high, reaching nearly 13,000 feet at Yushan (Jade Mountain). They rise straight out of the sea on the east coast, while the west side of the island is a flat and fertile plain, now mostly developed agriculturally with rice paddies. The population is about 24 million, heavily urbanized, and falling due to emigration. It is the central mountains that contain all but one of Taiwan's 28 (Clements) or 32 (IOC-BirdLife) endemic birds which have doubled in number recognized since becoming better known and studied.

Star attractions include the wonderful Swinhoe's and Mikado pheasants, Taiwan Hill-Partridge, Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge, the stunning Flamecrest, Collared Bush-Robin, the very local Styan's Bulbul, Malay Night-Heron, Taiwan Rosefinch, Taiwan Shortwing, Taiwan Cupwing, Taiwan Bush-Warbler, Alpine Accentor, Scaly Thrush, the rare and distinctive Taiwan Thrush, and Eurasian Nutcracker. Many Palearctic shorebirds winter or pass through here and we

should see a good selection including both Greater and Mongolian (Siberian) Sandplover. A highlight of the 2023 tour was amazing views of two pairs of the gorgeous Fairy Pitta at their nesting area, a great sighting.

Taiwan, also known as the Republic of China, is still regarded by Mainland China as a renegade province and the communists are threatening to invade, though most people here seem remarkably relaxed about it all. The country is not officially recognized by many states, which favor China instead because of its enormous political and economic influence. That said, Taiwan is a safe and friendly place to visit, with some rewarding birding and gorgeous mountain scenery. Taroko Gorge and some of the central national parks are candidates for World Heritage listing if political squabbles can be sorted out.

Tourism in Taiwan is still developing: overseas visitors are still a bit of a novelty away from the cities. The people are extremely friendly and helpful, and in the cities, many understand English. The Taiwanese people have a cultural reverence for nature, with sightseeing, hiking and nature in general as important recreational interests. International tourism in Taiwan largely ceased during the pandemic, and Taiwan only opened to foreigners again in late 2022. The Daoist temples have to be seen to be believed, they are quite beautiful and impossibly exotic, whilst the cuisine is excellent and wide choice of food available, though we mainly eat in local restaurants where our guide can select what he recommends subject to our dietary needs. Please do join us for a spring tour to this beautiful and seldom-visited island.



The Northern Boobook is a hawk-like owl found year-round in Taiwan. We'll have a chance to do some owling to look for this and several other owl species. Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.

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

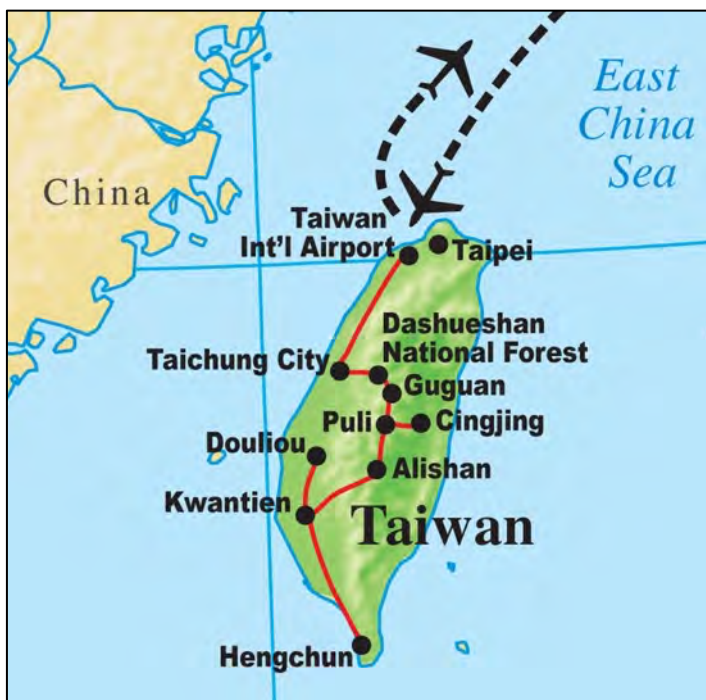
Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Moderate amounts of walking (up to 3 miles per day), mostly along gravel, dirt, or sealed roadsides. In mountainous areas, we walk trails that can be steep and sometimes slippery or muddy (walking sticks recommended).
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We have several longer drives (5 hours) on this tour, and road conditions vary but are usually very good. Participants should be able to step up (and step down) 10-12 inches to get into and out of our vehicles. Many of the guesthouses have stairs but no elevators.

- **PACE:** After an early breakfast (5:00-6:00 a.m.), we bird until lunch time. On some days, we have a boxed lunch while birding or traveling, but typically, we return to our lodging for lunch. In lowlands, we sometimes have a short afternoon break followed by an optional session of birding or else continue traveling to our next destination.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will range from the 50s (higher elevations) to 90s F. Rain showers are a possibility.
- **ELEVATION:** Sea level to 11,000 feet; no lodging higher than about 7000 feet.
- **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:** Participants should be prepared to make comfort stops in nature, as there are simply no other options (away from our lodgings) on many sections of this tour's route.
- **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 (as we do often on this tour).

This tour can be combined with **Japan in Spring, May 10-27, 2025.**

Itinerary for Taiwan



Day 1, Tue, 29 Apr. Depart LAX for Taiwan.

Day 2, Wed, 30 Apr. Arrival in Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (TPE). We will stay at a hotel which is close to the airport of Taoyuan City (the TPE international airport locate at Taoyuan City). Night in Taipei.

Day 3, Thu, 1 May. Head to Dashyueshan National Forest Recreation Area. We will begin birding in earnest this morning, and head to the Dashyueshan National Forest Recreation Area where we have 2 full days to explore the whole area. The lower areas of this wonderful forested mountain are home to Taiwan Barbet, Taiwan Hwamei, Rufous-capped Babbler, Collared Finchbill and Gray Treepie As the road slowly winds its way up higher, a few stops along the way could result in our first Swinhoe's White-eye, Brown Dipper, Plumbeous Water-redstart, Gray-cheeked Fulvetta, and Taiwan Vivid Niltava. Our birding will be spent mainly around the altitude of 2,200 m /6600'.

Our tour to this beautiful island is focused on the many endemics that reside in Taiwan, and this mountain range is home to many. Besides our first chance to see Taiwan Partridge and Swinhoe's Pheasant, we should easily pick

up Steere's Liocichla, Taiwan Whistling-thrush, White-eared Sibia, Collared Bush-robins, Taiwan Yellow Tit, Flamecrest, Taiwan Yuhina, Taiwan Barwing, Taiwan Cupwing and with luck both Rusty and Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush. Other species present include Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Yellowish-bellied Bush-warbler, Taiwan Bullfinch, Dusky Fulvetta, and both Green-backed and Black-throated Tits. This is also our first chance of finding the stunning Mikado Pheasant. Some stands of bamboo are home to Golden Parrotbill (an endemic Taiwan subspecies, and potential split as Taiwan Parrotbill), whilst nearby areas have the distinctive, Black-necklaced Scimitar-babbler (split from Rusty-cheeked) and Spotted Nutcracker (of the *owstoni* race, a potential split as Taiwan Nutcracker). At higher altitudes (2,600m /7500') we will look for White-whiskered Laughingthrush, Taiwan Fulvetta (split from Streak-throated Fulvetta), Rusty Laughingthrush and Taiwan (Alishan) Bush-warbler (split from Russet Bush-warbler). Night at Dashyueshan National Forest chalets at 6000'.

Day 4, Fri, 2 May. Full day birding at Dashyueshan. We will explore various sites from the summit at km 50 and downwards, with good chances of both the pheasants and chances of White-backed Woodpecker, Scaly Thrush, White-tailed Robin, Taiwan (Vivaceous) Rosefinch and other high elevation species. Some owling is possible on one of these

nights if the weather is suitable, with Mountain Scops Owl a good bet and the rare Himalayan Owl an outside chance. Night at Dashyueshan National Forest Recreation Area chalets. The spectacular White-bellied Giant Flying Squirrel can be seen near the lodge.



*The colorful Taiwan Blue-Magpie is a distinctive endemic. We'll look for this spectacular bird at Guguan.
Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.*

Day 5, Sat, 3 May. Dashyueshan to Guguan. After some final birding in the Dashyueshan area, we will visit Guguan, which is good for the uncommon Chestnut-bellied (Taiwan Varied) Tit, and an excellent site to find the stunning Taiwan Blue Magpie, Maroon Oriole, Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge (split from Chinese Bamboo-Partridge), Taiwan Barbet, Collared Finchbill and Gray-capped (Black-naped) Woodpecker. Night at a hot-spring hotel in Guguan.

Day 6, Sun, 4 May. Guguan to Puli. After morning birding at Guguan, we will proceed to the Puli area. We will overnight at a birder-owned homestay in Puli, a thriving lowland agricultural town surrounded by flooded fields of water-bamboo and other crops. We will do birding around Puli, focusing on wading birds, shorebirds, and seeking a look at Greater Painted-snipe and Vinous-breasted Parrotbill. We will also make a visit to the fascinating Daoist Temple of 108 Gods which has some amazing statues and is a good area for Malay Night Heron, Maroon Oriole and Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge. Night at *Beauty Spring (Waterwater) Homestay*, Puli.

Day 7, Mon, 5 May. Puli – Cingjing – Hehuan Shan – Puli. We will cross the Hehuanshan pass, at 3,275m the highest road in East Asia, to the Cingjing area. Away from the forest, areas of cultivation, tea gardens and scrub hold Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler, Striated Prinia and Vinous-throated Parrotbill. As we cross the pass, where there are magnificent mountain views on a clear day, we will stop to look for another endemic, the beautiful White-browed (Taiwan) Bush-robin and we will also hope to find the distinctive local race of Alpine Accentor and the striking Taiwan Rosefinch. Another star bird of the area is the elusive endemic Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush. Other species we may well encounter include Besra, Collared Owlet, Oriental (Himalayan) Cuckoo, Gray-capped and White-backed Woodpeckers, Large Cuckooshrike, Eurasian Nuthatch, Eurasian Jay, Brown Bullfinch, White-bellied Green-pigeon, Ferruginous Flycatcher, Taiwan Barwing, Flamecrest, Taiwan Cupwing, and Taiwan Shortwing. Night at *Beauty Spring (Waterwater) Homestay*, Puli.



*Swinhoe's Pheasant is one of two gorgeous endemic pheasants on Taiwan that we'll make an effort to find.
Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.*

Day 8, Tue, 6 May. Puli – Yushan National Park (Tataka Recreation Area) – Alishan. We will head for Yushan National Park (Tataka Recreation Area) in the early morning. Tataka Recreation Area (2,600m) in Yushan National Park is another excellent site for more mountainous specialties. This is good site to find the stunning Mikado Pheasant, plus both Swinhoe's Pheasant and the very shy Taiwan Partridge may be found, whilst nearby areas have the distinctive Black-necklaced Scimitar-babbler (split from Rusty-cheeked), and Spotted Nutcracker. Both Collared and White-browed Bush-robins and White-whiskered Laughingthrushes are here, and Yushan is also a good place for the shy Taiwan Cupwing and Taiwan Bush-warbler. We will also look for Taiwan Fulvetta (split from Streak-throated Fulvetta), the tricky Rusty Laughingthrush and other high elevation species. Then, we will visit the lower elevation of Alishan, with chances of White-backed Woodpecker, Taiwan Yuhina, Taiwan Barwing, Taiwan Sibia and Taiwan Laughing-thrush. Our destination is Kwanghua village (1,000 meters). Night at *Firefly Lodge*, Kwanghua.

Day 9, Wed, 7 May. Alishan – Kwantien, Tainan – Long Luan Tan Lake – Hengchun. After some final birding at Kwanghua village, we drive to Shalun melon farm to look for the endemic *formosae* race of Ring-necked Pheasant, then begin the drive to the southernmost tip of Taiwan – Hengchun. This area should produce the endemic Styan's Bulbul, which is quite common here. The evening will see birding at Long Luan Tan Lake, which is part of the Kenting National Park, where we may see Zitting Cisticola, Whiskered Tern White-breasted Waterhen, Striated Heron and other wetland species. Night at *Riverside Hotel*, Hengchun.

Day 10, Thu, 8 May. Hengchun –Ying-do Farm, Pingtung – Huben – Douliou. After we tick the Styan's Bulbul, we will drive to some scrubby fields to check for Common Buttonquail and Black-faced Bunting, then head to a private farm in Pingtung. The woodland and forest edge in this area will be our best chance to see Black-naped Oriole. We may also encounter Maroon Oriole, both Taiwan (Whistling) and White-bellied Green Pigeon, Taiwan Barbet, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, and Lesser Coucal. Next, we head to a small reserve at Kwantien, Tainan which holds significant numbers of the very local Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, with good chances of Greater Painted-Snipe, Oriental Pratincole and Kentish Plover. Head then to Douliou, where may do some owling after dinner, with chances of Northern Boobook, Collared and Mountain Scops Owl. Night at *Grand Earl Hotel* Douliou.

Day 11, Fri, 9 May. Douliou – Xitou Nature Education Centre – Douliou. In the morning we will bird the Xitou Nature Education area looking for the resident Scaly Thrush and other mid elevation birds. We also plan to be searching the seemingly endless ponds, mudflats, drainage ditches and coastal lagoons of the expansive Aogu and Budai Wetlands for

Black-faced Spoonbill, Black-winged Kite, Eastern Marsh Harrier, and assorted waders including Avocet and other wetland species. Night at *Grand Earl Hotel* Douliou.



*The endemic Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler is found over much of the island.
Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.*

Day 12, Sat, 10 May. Douliou – Huben – TPE. This morning we will bird the forest around Huben with the aim of finding the elusive Fairy Pitta, a few pairs of which breed here. In addition, Huben is also a good birding site for lowland endemics. We will be looking for Black necklaced Scimitar-Babbler, Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler, Morrison’s Fulvetta, Emerald Dove, White-bellied Erpornis and Maroon Oriole.

In the early afternoon, we will head north to Taoyuan International Airport (TPE) for flights home. Please do not book flights which depart Taipei before 7pm.

About Your Guide

Phil Gregory was born in the UK and became a birder when the steam engines were scrapped and birding offered a way to travel and look for wonderful things. The quest for birds has led to many forays in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia, and the Pacific. He and his wife, Sue, worked as teachers for eight years in Nigeria and Zambia, two years in the Falklands and seven years in Papua New Guinea. Since 1997 they have lived in Australia.

Phil's major interests are field identification, vocalizations, and the geographic distribution of birds. He is also a writer with assorted contributions to many reference books including *Handbook of Birds of the World*. More recent publications include a *Field Guide to the Birds of New Guinea, Birds of Paradise and Bowerbirds*, and the *Field Guide to the Birds of North Queensland*. Phil and his wife, Sue, used to run the well-known Cassowary House, a birding and nature lodge, but sold it in 2020 and moved to the rolling pastures, rainforests and mountains of Topaz on the southern end of the Atherton Tablelands where much of their very rural property has been put aside as a designated Nature Refuge, and they are busy helping look after the grandchildren and indoctrinating them into nature. Look for Phil guiding Field Guides tours to Japan, Cambodia, Ghana, Mongolia and Madagascar.

*“Phil Gregory was outstanding, not only acoustically and visually when finding birds, but also when it came to logistics and relating to individual tour participants and taking care of their special needs.”
D.S., Madagascar, Mauritius & Reunion*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Phil’s complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$5925 from Taipei

DEPOSIT: \$600 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: October 31, 2024

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$825

LIMIT: 8

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: All hotels and guest houses are en-suite and should be quite comfortable for our needs. They range from the relatively simple rustic style to quite nice western hotels in the major cities.

DIETARY NEEDS: We use a variety of eating places including many local restaurants, a few hotel restaurants and some Seven-Eleven or Family Mart convenience stores which have a good range of items for when we have early pre-breakfast departures. Our local guide can advise us to what is good at each place, and we vary according to group needs, but the food is very good, mostly based on Chinese cuisine but with some western adaptations. Rice and noodles figure large, with lots of sauces and vegetables with chicken, pork, fish or shrimp.

DOCUMENTS: US citizens will need a current passport to enter Taiwan. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Taiwanese 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.

INTERNET: Good at most sites except high in the mountains at Dasyueshan.

LANGUAGE: English is not widely spoken away from the cities.

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 \$5925 for one person in double occupancy from Taipei. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 11, all meals from breakfast on Day 3 through lunch on Day 12, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters,

and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$825. 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 \$600** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or by **October 31, 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.

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