

ITINERARY

***Brazil: Atlantic Forest Getaway***

*October 24-November 3, 2024*



*The beautiful Surucua Trogon is an Atlantic Forest endemic that we'll look for near our lodge.  
Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Field Guides Brazil: Atlantic Forest Getaway tour:

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

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

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

Less than three hours from Rio de Janeiro, in that exciting zone of endemism known as the Atlantic Forest, lies the 113,000-acre Tres Picos State Park. Situated within this enormous park—itself less than an hour from “The Finger of God,” jutting skyward out of Serra dos Orgaos National Park—is a lovely lodge located at about 3000 feet, an ideal location to immerse ourselves in the fantastic avifauna of southeastern Brazil. Some 150 species to date have been recorded *on the grounds* of this lodge, many of them Atlantic Forest endemics! The montane vistas, the fruiting and flowering vegetation—especially orchids and bromeliads, are inescapably appealing, such that taking the liberty of an afternoon nap or a swim in the natural pool requires little resolve.

Nestled in between steep forested mountains, Mariza lodge will be our base from which we'll bird for more than a week, exploring a range of elevations (from below 200 feet up to 7000 feet) and habitats (from lowland forest to native bamboo, from high-altitude grassland to foothill forest, from wetland to open country). This translates into the possibility

for a number of exciting endemics, from Saw-billed Hermit and Black-billed Scythebill to Large-tailed Antshrike and Ochre-rumped Antbird, from Black-and-gold Cotinga and *even* Gray-winged Cotinga, to Itatiaia Spinetail, Shrike-like Cotinga, and Long-trained Nightjar. If we miss some of these, there will be others like bellbirds and berryeaters, antshrikes and antvireos, tanagers and toucans, puffbirds and plovercrests aplenty to pleasantly appease us—and tongue-tie us, you bet!

One look at the checklist will convince you that, although we won't see it all, we will not have gone south with the spring—for a short time—in vain. During our week of birding the vicinity, expect about 100 endemics. As is apparent from our triplists over the past seven years, our short tour stresses quality (a robust 97-119 endemics) rather than quantity (a modest 250-300 total species). A couple of our afternoons will be spent birding the rich lodge grounds, the remainder will be spent off-grounds at a series of sites from 30 minutes to a bit more than an hour away. On several of the days, we'll return after lunch for some time off before birding trails on the grounds or photographing birds from the veranda; the other half will be full days of rich but relaxed birding, with delicious lunches in the comfortable temperate climate of this remarkably beautiful landscape. Staying at one location only embellishes the appeal of this short tour. For those who wish to enjoy Rio before the tour, our office will gladly help you arrange it.

We have been running this tour in the same area since 2005, but in 2020 we have decided to switch the tour to a different lodge, as this will put us closer to our birding sites and offer us more flexibility. The tour remains essentially the same, but we have changed the name of the tour to avoid any confusion with the previous lodge. This change will not have any impact on our birding as we will be birding the same sites and in fact will result in a more comfortable tour at a lower cost. This tour is designed to target specialties of southeastern Brazil, and we plan to orchestrate our activities to maximize our chances of finding and seeing these species. This does *not* mean that there is no time for the more common and widespread species; indeed, even in southeastern Brazil, one still sees more widespread species than endemics.



*The Black-cheeked Gnateater is endemic to the Atlantic Forests of coastal Brazil. These small insectivores tend to stay near the ground in heavy vegetation, and can be difficult to see well, but we have had great luck with these skulkers on our tour. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.*

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

## Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Good amounts of walking (2-4 miles per day) along trails, most of which will be on even ground, but some of which involve some steepness, such as the hike on Pico da Caledonia.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** Hiking at altitude may be difficult for some; it is possible to stay back at the lodge on the day we go to the higher elevations. We may spend time standing and waiting for birds to appear.
- **PACE:** After breakfast (usually at 6:00-6:30 a.m.), we bird until lunch time. We sometimes pack a picnic lunch (one about five days), to extend our time in the field, while on other days we'll return to the lodge for lunch. Normally, weather permitting, we bird again after lunch. On some days, we'll have a short siesta after lunch. On at least one evening, we'll also try for Long-trained Nightjars on our hotel grounds.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will range from the 60s at night to the 90s F during the day. Rain showers are likely, but weather is highly variable.
- **ELEVATION:** Sea level to 7000 feet; the lodge is located at 3000 feet.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Participants should be prepared to make comfort stops in nature, as there are no other options when away from our lodging.
- **OPTING OUT:** Participants may easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day except on travel days.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with one of the guides.



## About the Birding Area

**Rio de Janeiro**—Although it is one of the smallest states in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro boasts one of the richest avifaunas. During our stay here we will be birding a diverse array of habitats in Rio, ranging from Atlantic Forest to remnant semi-arid woodland to grassland near 7000 feet on Pico da Caledonia.

And there is no better place in Brazil to enjoy a few days of birding than the beautiful Serra dos Orgaos, home to most of the species of birds endemic to montane southeastern Brazil. We'll have a full week to bird this beautiful area with all the pleasures inherent in one-site lodging! This is especially important for those who can't take the long vacation required for our two-part SPECTACULAR SOUTHEAST BRAZIL tour. The climate in these parts is generally just about perfect, but as with all the coastal mountains of the Atlantic Forest, Tres Picos State Park can be quite wet even during this relatively dry season.

Seven-and-a-half days of birding out of the lodge will permit us to become familiar with most of the common birds of southeastern Brazil, and we'll see many of the rarities and montane specialties this area has to offer.





Another Atlantic Forest endemic we'll seek is the colorful Swallow-tailed Manakin. These birds are known for their energetic displays, and we'll hear and see them near Novo Friburgo. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

## Itinerary for Brazil: Atlantic Forest Getaway

**Day 1, Thu, 24 Oct. Flight to Rio.** Flights depart this evening (usually from Houston, Miami, or Atlanta), overnight to Rio de Janeiro.

**Day 2, Fri, 25 Oct. Rio to Nova Friburgo.** Please arrange your flight to arrive into Rio de Janeiro no later than 9:30 a.m. Participants will clear customs in Rio de Janeiro early this morning, then be met by Marcelo and our transportation for a drive of about two-and-a-half hours to Nova Friburgo, then only 12 minutes on to the lodge. After we've settled into our rooms and had lunch, we'll take some time off to recover from our all-night flights and enjoy birding the grounds.

The grounds and the trails around the lodge provide excellent birding opportunities. We'll want to spend at least one morning on the trails, but most of our birding on the grounds will be done coming and going and in the afternoons, since we will want to spend other mornings further afield. Among the birds we expect to see during our time off, perhaps right around our rooms or during afternoon hikes up the trails include Plain and Maroon-bellied parakeets, White-throated Hummingbird, Brazilian Ruby, Plovercrest, Surucua Trogon, White-browed, Buff-fronted, and White-collared foliage-gleaners, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Bare-throated Bellbird, Chestnut-headed Tanager, Mantled Hawk, Half-collared Sparrow and White-shouldered Fire-eye to name a few. *The first of eight nights at our lodge!*

**Days 3-9, Sat-Fri. 26 Oct-1 Nov.** Although our daily schedule will depend on weather conditions and other local factors, we are planning to bird the following areas, if not necessarily in the order discussed below. Fortunately, many of the birds mentioned can be seen in several areas we'll bird; consequently some species, especially the endemics, are sometimes repeated for different excursions. The birds mentioned here should give you a good idea of what we may see in a given area and help you prepare the previous evening, once the plans for the following day are announced.

**Theodoro Trail**—The head of the Theodoro Trail is a short drive from the lodge. Commencing at 3600 feet, the entire length of this gradually descending track used to be part of the old Cachoeiras-Nova Friburgo railway line and remains surfaced with asphalt. Running through secondary and primary forest, this trail holds the following possibilities: Mantled Hawk, Scale-throated Hermit, White-throated Hummingbird, Brazilian Ruby, Black-throated and Surucua trogons, Spot-billed Toucanet, White-browed Woodpecker, Rufous-capped Spinetail, White-browed and Black-capped foliage-gleaners, Scaled Woodcreeper, Variable Antshrike, Ferruginous Antbird, Brazilian and Short-tailed antthrushes, Variegated Antpitta, Bare-throated Bellbird, Shrike-like Cotinga (*L. e. elegans*), Pin-tailed Manakin, Greenish Schiffornis, and Brassy-breasted Tanager. We'll be back to the lodge after lunch.

**Cedae Trail**—The beginning of the Cedae track is a 40-minute drive onto the other side of the pass from our lodge. Here we hope to see, among others: Mantled Hawk, Black-throated and Surucua trogons, Rufous-capped Motmot, Buff-bellied and Crescent-chested puffbirds, Spot-billed Toucanet, Channel-billed Toucan, White-barred Piculet, Yellow-eared and White-browed woodpeckers, Rufous-capped Spinetail, White-browed, Black-capped, Ochre-breasted, and White-eyed foliage-gleaners, Pale-browed Treehunter, Lesser and Planalto woodcreepers, Spot-backed Antshrike, Spot-breasted and Plain antvireos, Streak-capped Antwren, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Gray-hooded Flycatcher, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Eared Pygmy-Tyrant, Rufous-headed, Yellow-backed, Olive-green, Flame-crested, Ruby-crowned, Black-goggled, Green-headed, Red-necked, and Brassy-breasted tanagers, and Black-throated Grosbeak. This is a good track for White-tufted-ear Marmoset. We'll be back to the lodge after lunch.



*The tiny Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher is one of the near-endemics we'll look for in the Sumidoro region.  
Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.*

**Sumidouro and Duas Barras**—This excursion requires a full day, since our main objective, the very local and endemic Three-toed Jacamar, is to be found a good distance away. However, in order to get to the site and back, we'll bird several habitats that will be new—and very productive—for us. Species to be watched for include Whistling and Capped herons, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Savanna and White-tailed hawks, Laughing and Aplomado falcons, Red-legged Seriema, Blue-winged Macaw, White-eyed Parakeet, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Planalto Hermit, Glittering-bellied and Sapphire-spangled emeralds, Amethyst Woodstar, White-eared Puffbird, Black-necked Aracari, White Woodpecker, Tail-banded Hornero, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Orange-eyed Thornbird, Scaled and Narrow-billed woodcreepers, Tufted Antshrike, Serra Antwren (*F. serrana interposita*), Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, Gray and White-rumped Monjita, the marvelous Streamer-tailed, Yellow-browed, and Long-tailed tyrants, Green-backed Becard, White-rumped and Tawny-headed swallows, Black-capped Donacobius, Long-billed Wren, Curl-crested Jay, Magpie, Orange-headed, Hooded, and Gilt-edged tanagers. With some luck, we may see Crowned Eagle.

**Pico da Caledonia Road**—This will be a full day. Our targets will be the endemics that exist above a mile high! We'll head off from Nova Friburgo for a 30-minute drive before our first stop. In another half-hour we'll be in position to drive as high as possible towards 7000 feet in elevation.

On the slope of Pico da Caledonia, in the small stunted trees surrounded by bamboo and other low vegetation, we should see Plovercrest, White-throated Hummingbird, Large-tailed and Rufous-capped antshrikes, Rufous-tailed Antbird, Rufous-backed Antvireo, Rufous-capped and Pallid spinetails, Serra do Mar Tapaculo, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, the magnificent Black-and-gold Cotinga, Shear-tailed Gray-Tyrant, Blue-billed and Velvety black-tyrants, Diademed Tanager, Bay-chested Warbling-Finch, and Green-winged and Thick-billed saltators. Our highest hopes for the day, however, will be focused on the endemic Gray-winged Cotinga. This Vulnerable and elusive bird (there still exists only a single



specimen), was first described to science in 1980, based on the female specimen collected but misidentified as a female Black-and-gold Cotinga in 1942. It lives only in the stunted forests below treeline in the *serras* surrounding dos Orgaos. It's one of the least known of all South American birds, and darned few people have ever laid eyes on it; indeed, many have failed in the attempt. Our chance of success is reasonably good (we had wonderful scope views in 2007 and 2008; in 2009 we had it within 20 feet; in 2011 we had a pair in chase; in 2012 and 2013 we had long, fantastic scope views of a close bird sitting up and singing; in 2014 we had it at about 20 feet eating fruit until we walked away!); and in 2015 we had great views of two males, one so close that it embarrassed the guides; again, a lot will depend on the weather. We'll make the trek rain or shine because in these coastal mountains a nasty start to the day is no reliable forecast of what may happen a few hours later (especially on the other side of the mountain or at a higher elevation). The grassland almost at the summit is home to the endemic, Asthenes-like Itatiaia Spinetail. After lunch, we will visit a nearby area at lower elevation where we can add additional species including Red-legged Seriema, Swallow-tailed Cotinga, and Highland Elaenia.



*The tiny Itatiaia Spinetail is a range-restricted species that we'll look for in the higher elevations of Pico da Caledonia.  
Photograph by participant Claudi Racionero.*

**Sitio Virtuoso**—This private property sits 20 minutes away from our lodge and features a variety of feeders giving us ample opportunities to observe in detail many species of hummingbirds, Tanagers and even the occasional Toucanet.). Depending on the weather, we may also opt to take a trail within the property for a long morning. Some of the birds we aim to see include Mantled Hawk, Spot-winged Wood-Quail, Plumbeous Pigeon, White-throated Hummingbird, Brazilian Ruby, Surucua and Atlantic Black-throated trogons, Saffron Toucanet, White-browed Woodpecker, Pallid Spinetail, Sharp-billed Treehunter, Scaled Woodcreeper, Black-billed Scythebill, Black-capped Foliage-gleaner, Giant and Tufted antshrikes, Bertoni's, Rufous-tailed, and Ochre-rumped antbirds, Rufous Gnateater, Sharpbill, Swallow-tailed and Pin-tailed manakins, Rufous-crowned Greenlet, Brown, Azure-shouldered, Fawn-breasted, and Brassy-breasted tanagers, and Green-winged Saltators.

**Macaes de Cima**—After a 20-minute drive from the lodge, we arrive at the beginning of the track towards Macaes de Cima. Birds we'll be on the lookout for include Barred Forest-Falcon, Plumbeous Pigeon, Scale-throated Hermit, Plovercrest, White-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-browed Woodpecker, Pallid Spinetail, Sharp-billed Treehunter, Buff-browed and White-collared foliage-gleaners, Black-billed Scythebill, Tufted and White-bearded antshrikes, Ochre-rumped Antbird, Rufous Gnateater, Bamboowren, Rufous-tailed Antthrush, Bare-throated Bellbird, Pin-tailed Manakin, Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin, Drab-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant, and Chestnut-headed Tanager. We will have lunch at a lodge where we will be able to enjoy some birds at the feeders before heading back to our own lodge.

**Guapi Acu**—On one morning we'll visit a local nature reserve—Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Acu. Established in 2002, this large wetland restoration project has been very successful in the number of species it has attracted over just a few years. REGUA also protects a large amount of forest within the local area and employs rangers to ensure that species on the reserve are safeguarded. Some of the species we may see at one of the two wetland areas on the reserve include Whistling, Capped, and Rufescent Tiger- herons, Brazilian Teal, Wing-banded Hornero, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Yellowish Pipit, and Chestnut-capped Blackbird.

However, we will spend little time in the open wetland area because surrounding the wetland are fragments of lowland Atlantic Forest, a habitat that has been almost wholly destroyed. We venture into this forest in hopes of finding species such as White-necked Hawk, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, White-bibbed and Scaled antbirds, White-flanked (*Ictuosa*), Unicolored, and Rufous-winged antwrens, some of which do not occur in montane Atlantic Forest. These birds will be our main targets for the day. Lunch plans to be announced.

**Day 10, Sat, 2 Nov. Atlantic Forest; to Rio.** We'll spend one last morning birding somewhere in the Atlantic Forest, perhaps the lodge grounds, exactly where to be determined with our previous week's birding in mind. After a final lunch and a chance to clean up and settle up, we'll head for the airport to check in for our international flights. Please make plans to depart no earlier than 7:00 p.m. from Rio de Janeiro.

**Day 11, Sun, 3 Nov. Arrival home.** International flights arrive in the US early this morning, allowing plenty of time for connecting flights home.

## About Your Guide

**Marcelo Padua** was born in Belem at the mouth of the Amazon River. Growing up he spent his free time at his uncle's farm in an Amazon rainforest reserve observing everything from insects to mammals and birds. Marcelo began studying English at an early age and attended high school in Middletown, Pennsylvania in a student-exchange program. He is remarkably fluent and even taught English for a couple of years back home in Brazil. Following university in Rio de Janeiro, Marcelo transferred to law school in Cuiaba, but working as an English-speaking naturalist guide during school holidays soon made it clear to him that birding was much more than a hobby! With just a year to go for his bar exam, he turned his back on the law to hang out his shingle as a birding guide.

Marcelo met Bret Whitney in 2005 and embarked on a full-time guiding career with Field Guides in 2010. With his great sense of humor, impeccable organizational skills, and love of seeing birds, Marcelo has quickly become a reference for birding in Brazil, spending over 200 days each year in the field. A warning: Watch out if he sees displaying manakins of any kind! Marcelo makes his nest at the crossroads of the Pantanal and the Amazon in Cuiaba with his wife, Ana.

*"Marcelo Padua was the best feature of the tour. He is an expert at his profession, a diplomat, and his obvious enthusiasm for what he does is much appreciated. Marcelo is second to none and heads above most other guides with whom we have traveled."  
J. & M.V., Jaguar Spotting*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for the guides' complete tour schedules; just click on a photo.

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$3775 from Rio de Janeiro**  
**DEPOSIT: \$375 per person**  
**FINAL PAYMENT DUE: April 27, 2024**  
**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$550**  
**LIMIT: 8**

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

## Other Things You Need to Know

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

**DOCUMENTS:** US citizens will need a current passport with at least one blank page available for the visa stamp to enter Brazil. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change.

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

**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 may charge additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify its policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights will be the client's responsibility.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is \$3775 for one person in double occupancy from Rio de Janeiro. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 9, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through lunch on Day 10, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Brazil, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$550. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact us at [fieldguides.com/contact-us/](https://fieldguides.com/contact-us/). Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$375** 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 April 27, 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.



**TOUR LIMITS:** Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases one seat in the van or bus will be taken by the guide in training. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

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

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

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

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

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs within 90 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 90 to 179 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 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.**

NCP 7/2020

RK 3/24; peg 3/24