

ITINERARY

URUGUAY: Birds & Wines of the Land of the Gauchos 2020

November 28-December 10, 2020



The lovely Diademed Tanager is found through much of Uruguay, where it can be common in edge habitats and open areas. We should see them at Valle del Lunarejo. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.

We include here information for those interested in the 2020 Field Guides Uruguay: Birds & Wines 2020 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:

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

Uruguay, or “river of painted birds”, as it was christened by early inhabitants, is a country where few birders have gone. A small nation, Uruguay has a wonderful assortment of habitats—grasslands or “Pampas” dotted with wetlands, thorn forest mingling with riparian gallery forest, and palm savanna and shrubby, rocky “sierra” highlands. We use the term highlands in the broad sense here, as Uruguay is not a country with true high elevation. The wine industry is as effervescent as some of the great sparkling wines we will sample, but the production of wine in the country is so small that you will rarely see these wines in large retailers. Nevertheless, Uruguayan wines have been collecting awards and the prestigious Wine Spectator magazine recently awarded Garzon winery with the title of “best winery in the New World”.

We'll bird the Pampas from rural estancias and comfortable hotels where we'll get a feel for the land, the people, the birds and the delicious food that we will pair with some of the iconic wines from the country. Classic birds of the Pampas include Greater Rhea, Spotted Nothura, Southern Screamer, Firewood Gatherer, Great Pampa-Finch, and Brown-and-yellow Marshbird. But among the many classics, we could also find a dizzying assortment of the less common, including

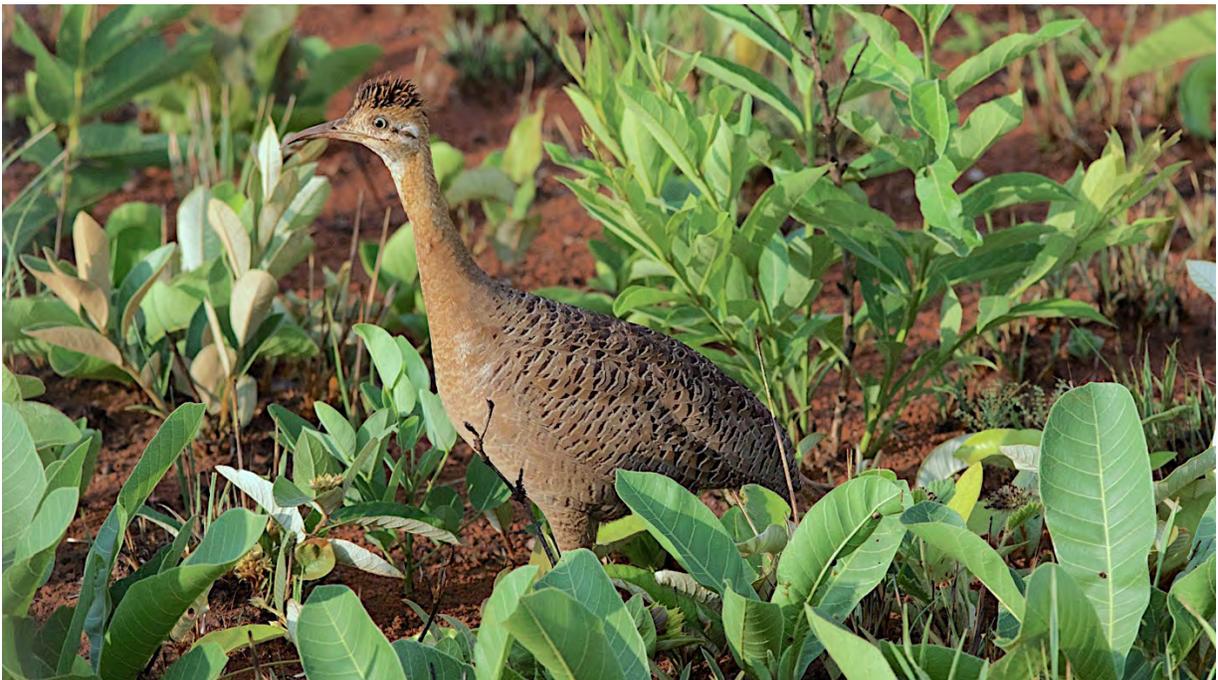
various seedeaters such as the Cinnamon, Dark-throated, and Marsh. Other notable finds could include Straight-billed and Curve-billed reedhaunters and perhaps the unusual Saffron-cowled Blackbird foraging cooperatively with the range restricted Black-and-white Monjita. The freshwater wetlands abound with birds—this is South America's duck factory. Black-necked and Coscoroba swans mingle with oodles of dabblers, including Red Shoveler and the gorgeous Silver Teal, while the rare and sneaky brood-parasitic Black-headed Ducks trick Red-fronted, White-winged, or Red-gartered coots into becoming foster parents for their chicks.

These grasslands were once the wintering grounds of Eskimo Curlew, and many of its relatives still spend their winters here. We'll gain a new appreciation for such "familiar" birds as American Golden-Plover and Upland and Buff-breasted sandpipers, species as dependent on the pampas as the gauchos themselves. And after full days of birding, we'll return to our estancias, feast on asado (mixed grill) cooked in true Gaucho fashion and pair it with a glass (or a few glasses!) of Tannat, the country's iconic red grape, and listen to tales of the gauchos, still the soul of this country as the cowboy is to the American West.

Much of Uruguay is coastline where cold water from the south mixes with warm from the north, making for a varied coastal and marine avifauna as well as unspoiled coastal dune ecosystems, rich with flocks of gulls and terns, including the Kelp, Brown-hooded, and Gray-headed gulls and the fantastic Snowy-crowned Tern, and great concentrations of shorebirds. We'll enjoy these sights, all while sampling some of the best seafood the Atlantic has to offer combined with fresh and vibrant white wines coming from vineyards that benefit from a coastal breeze.

A few other sites we'll visit include the Humedales del Este Biosphere reserve, where we should encounter Short-billed Pipit, and the oddball Ombue trees where we'll look for Diademed Tanager and other specialties. Each ombue in the forest has its own wonderful shape with thick, twisting roots spreading out over the ground; some of the trees are over 500 years old. The Quebrada de los Cuervos (Vulture Ravine), the southernmost outpost of the Atlantic Forest, is a gorge cut into the rocky northeastern hills. Seventy per cent of Uruguay's native flora and a great diversity of bird species, including Red-rumped Warbling-Finch, Red-winged Tinamou, Chestnut-bellied Seed-finch, and three species of vulture are found here. We will spend some good time in the Valle del Lunarejo area in northernmost Uruguay in hopes of seeing forest birds like Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Glaucous-blue Grosbeak, and Chestnut-backed Tanager—maybe even a nice Long-tufted Screech-Owl, or Crane Hawk— and other goodies. In more open sites, we may find Red-legged Seriemas, White Monjitas, Crested Black-Tyrant, and Hellmayr's Pipits. In the far west of the country, we will visit a Ramsar Wetland known as Esteros de Farrapos, named a National Park only recently!

We'll return home with fond memories of flamingos, canasteros, and monjitas, and of vast open vistas, friendly Uruguayans, a colorful and vibrant culture, and a craving for Uruguayan wine that will not be easy to appease. So, don your gaucho beret, drink your yerba mate, and let's ride off into the sunset in search of Scissor-tailed Nightjars and whatever else comes our way.



The Red-winged Tinamou is shy, but we'll hope for good views like this. 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:** Light to moderate amounts of walking, much of it on paved roads or well-groomed tracks or trails. No single walk exceeding 2 miles, most much shorter. We will keep to mostly flat terrain and easy trails, but a few trails may require a bit more care, and walking shoes with some support are recommended. Some trails can be a bit muddy at times, so be prepared for that possibility.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** Meals will have a lot of meat, and not as many vegetable options as some might want. There will be some 3-4 hour drives on the tour.
- **PACE:** Breakfast time will range from 6:00 to 8:00 with some pre-breakfast outings. When possible, we'll have time for afternoon siestas or swims.
- **ELEVATION:** Uruguay's highest point is 1700 feet so there are no significant altitudinal changes.
- **WEATHER:** Climate in December is relatively mild, with temperatures ranging from mid-50's to the mid-80's F. Rain is not common but some rain should be expected.
- **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:** There are no indoor restrooms on some of our excursions, so participants must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature.
- **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.



The Garzon vineyard is set in a beautiful landscape of rolling hills near the coast. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

Other considerations: We plan to bird some of Uruguay's finest natural spots on this tour and also to see a wide cross section of the country, both its scenery, habitats, and people. Note also that Uruguay is about the safest and mellowest country in all of South America. It is an uncomplicated and relaxing place to bird.

The style of this tour is to stay at simple but comfortable ranches, which will give us a true feel of the country and comfortable hotels. We will have rooms with private baths, but the rooms themselves may not all be the same size, style,

or décor. Our meals will sometimes be prepared by the owner or family that runs a estancia, giving a homey feel to the food while others will be in world class high end restaurants with carefully picked wines to match. Note that Uruguayans eat a lot of meat, often asado or grilled, which is typical of gaucho culture.

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 for the tour.

About the Birding Areas



Esteros de Farrapos—At the extreme western edge of the country, along the Uruguay River which is the border with Argentina, this Ramsar Wetland site is still being discovered by birders, even by Uruguayan birders. Here, we will find a mix of grassland, marsh, gallery forest, and thorn scrub. The diversity of habitats allows for a wonderful diversity of birds—from such widespread species as Spotted Nothura, Giant and Gray-cowled wood-rails, Nacunda Nighthawk, Spix's Spinetail, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Rufous-bellied Thrush, Red-crested Cardinal, and Epaulet Oriole, to the less common such as Crane Hawk, Scissor-tailed Nightjar, Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper, Short-billed Canastero, White-Browed Warbler, and Black-and-rufous and Gray-throated warbling finches, among others. The area is also a hotspot for seedeaters: Cinnamon, Dark-throated, and Rusty-collared could occur. There are many other species possible here that are unlikely in the rest of the country, and surprises in this little-known area are always possible.

Valle del Lunarejo—With rocky canyons, creeks of crystalline water, and nice stands of gallery forest interspersed with grassland and ranchland, this is a scenic part of the country. The gallery forests here are some of the southernmost extensions of the Atlantic Forest, and they can be surprisingly birdy. We can expect a wide variety of birds from Long-winged Harriers, Snail Kites, and maybe Red-legged Seriemas and Mottled Piculet, to many songbirds, such as Stripe-crowned Spinetail, Buff-browed Foliage-Gleaner, Freckle-breasted Thornbird, Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, Cliff Flycatcher, Gray and White monjitas, Golden-crowned Warbler, Fawn-breasted, Diademed, and Chestnut-backed tanagers, Wedge-tailed Grass-finch, Green-winged Saltator, Yellow-rumped Marshbird, and Glaucous-blue Grosbeak. Various wetland species are also possible, including Plumbeous Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, egrets, and Southern Screamer! Interestingly, we can dip into Brazil here without a passport; the border is entirely open and there is a village with half on the Brazilian side and half on the Uruguayan and no border checkpoints anywhere!

Bañados del Este—The lakes and marshes of the Bañados del Este Biosphere Reserve are a naturalist's paradise. Here we will visit various marshes and lakes, looking for the great diversity of birds to be found. In addition to being one of the most important wintering sites for Buff-breasted Sandpiper and American Golden-Plover, the spectacular marshes of Bañado del Indio are a good spot for the rare Marsh Seedeater. Other species we'll look for include Stripe-backed Bittern,

Ringed Teal, Aplomado Falcon, and Spotted and Plumbeous rails. (Rails in this part of the world are still not completely understood, and hopefully we'll come up with some unusual rail species somewhere! The Red-and-white Crake is always a possibility.) Pectoral Sandpipers and both yellowlegs may mingle with Stilt Sandpipers and other migratory shorebirds in the wet fields of the area. We also have a good chance of seeing the rare Black-and-white Monjita, as well as the Saffron-crowned Blackbird and the more common, but amazing-looking Scarlet-headed Blackbird—a stunner if ever there was one! From Tropical Screech-Owls, to Grayish Baywings, to Bay-capped Wren-Spinetails, to Black-necked Swans, to Maguari Storks and Chilean Flamingos—this area has a lot of birds. Fortunately, birds here are usually in the open and should give us great views.



Guide Marcelo Padua has carefully scouted the country of Uruguay to find some of the best wines produced there, in addition to some wonderful birding areas. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

About the Wine Growing Areas

Montevideo – The country's capital but also a department (the Uruguayan equivalent of a state), Montevideo is a vibrant and captivating city that is home to 40 percent of the country's population. It was this proximity to the capital of the country that prompted the birth of some wineries in the late 1800's. The quick access to the Montevideo markets paired with some relatively poor soil to the north of the city fueled an expansion of the wine industry here, and today there are several well established wineries within a very short driving distance from the Capital.

Canelones – Responsible for almost 60% of the country's production of wine, Canelones' wavy landscape is influenced heavily by the cold trade winds coming in from the Atlantic. These winds keep the temperatures within a tolerable limit in the summer, but cools things off considerably in the winter, causing the vines to have a slower growth and the grapes to mature slowly, bringing out the aromas of the wine. Rains are abundant and great care goes into keeping the grapes healthy, but the erosion from the rains also benefits the wine as the vines are planted in areas where a lot of rock has been exposed and the roots have to go much deeper to seek out nutrients.

Colonia – This UNESCO World heritage site preserves a historic city that incorporates both Portuguese and Spanish influences. Although the Portuguese and Spanish battled for the control of this strategic area on the Rio de la Plata, both were fervent Catholic societies that were deeply connected with the wine making culture. As a result, the first wineries of the country were established here and even though the area does not present the best climate of the country for wine production, there are interesting examples of red wines of the Cabernet Sauvignon and Tannat varieties that come from here.

Maldonado – This region in the southeastern edge of the country is largely responsible for putting Uruguay on the radar of the international wine community. The eroded granite soil paired with a favorable climate are quickly making this one of the most prominent wine regions of the country and some of Uruguay’s best wines come from here.



The Greater Rhea is a symbol of the pampas, the great grasslands that cover much of Uruguay and Argentina. We'll no doubt see these giants on the tour. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

Itinerary for Uruguay: Birds & Wines in the Land of the Gauchos

Days 1-2, Sat-Sun, Nov. 28-29. Miami to Montevideo. Flights from Miami to Montevideo are usually overnight, arriving in the city early in the morning. You will be met by our representative holding up a sign with your name or “Field Guides”. We plan to hit the ground running and go straight to Bodega Juanico for some birding, followed by a visit to the winery and a wine tasting. We will then transfer to Artesana Winery and have lunch paired with their wines. We will then settle into our bus and make a three-hour journey to the town of Colonia del Sacramento. Night at Plaza Mayor lodge.

Note: Montevideo is a vibrant and safe city that is fun to explore, we highly recommend that you come a day or two early and take some time to explore the city and acclimate. Your Tour Manager will be happy to assist with any special arrangements you need in order to do so.

Day 3, Mon, Nov 30. To Estancia La Paz. We will start our day with a pre-breakfast bird walk along the Rio de la Plata looking for species such as Wren-like Rushbird, Great Pampa-finch and several other common species. We will return to the lodge for breakfast, after which we will do a walking tour of this historic town. We will pack up and head out to Bodega Legado, a micro winery that produces some excellent red wines, and continue on to the lovely Bodega Cordano where we will have lunch.

We will spend much of the rest of the afternoon driving north towards Estancia La Paz. The drive will take approximately four hours. We'll bird near and at the Estancia in the afternoon. We may encounter our first Greater Rhea, tinamous, and a variety of other landbirds and waterfowl today. Night at Estancia La Paz near Paysandú.

Day 4, Tue, Dec 1. Farrapos area. We will spend the morning exploring the Farrapos area. This is a little-birded site, but may turn out to be one of the most diverse spots for birds in the country, and we'll be part of the vanguard, enjoying first-hand the diversity present in this corner of the country. We'll be looking mainly for seedeaters and gallery forest birds that we may not see elsewhere. Farrapos was only recently designated a wetland of international significance (Ramsar) and a national park. Night at Estancia La Paz.

Day 5, Wed, Dec 2. Drive to Valle del Lunarejo. After a leisurely breakfast, we will pack up and we will embark on our drive of several hours to the northern outpost of Valle del Lunarejo. Along the way, if conditions allow, we will make brief

stops to look for various open country birds. Among them will be wintering populations of Upland Sandpiper, a species seldom seen by North Americans on its wintering grounds. Short-billed Pipits will be about, as well as Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Firewood-Gatherers, Brown-and-yellow Marshbirds, and perhaps the Red-legged Seriema. We will reach Valle del Lunarejo in the afternoon and explore some of the nearby wetlands with breeding herons, egrets and Ibis and after dinner we will do some owling to try to find species such as Long-tufted Screech-owl and Scissor-tailed Nightjar. Night at Posada La Bordonera.

Note: although there is a simple lodge close to Valle del Lunarejo Park, we have decided to sacrifice proximity for the sake of comfort and will be staying about one hour away from the Park itself.

Days 6-7, Thu-Fri, Dec 3-4. Valle del Lunarejo. We will leave our lodge early each day (6:30 in the morning) and reach Valle del Lunarejo where we will have breakfast and head out on our safari vehicle to explore the seldom-traveled roads of Valle del Lunarejo, stopping at any good patch of habitat to bird. We have two full days to explore all the valley has to offer and take full advantage of the wealth of birds this corner of the country has to offer. Nights at Posada la Bordonera.

Day 8, Sat, Dec 5. To Quebrada de los Cuervos. After a relaxed breakfast we will make our way to one of the estates owned by Carrau winery where we will visit the finca and enjoy a typical Uruguayan lunch, after which we will pack up and head to Melo where we will do some relaxed afternoon birding during a visit to the town's park. Night at Hotel Juana.

Day 9, Sun, Dec 6. To Jose Ignacio via Chui and Bañado del Indio. On the morning of Day 9 we will continue east to the Rocha Department where marshes and large seasonally flooded fields create great habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and marsh-dwelling species. This is rice-growing country and we may see many waterfowl, perhaps rails and other marsh species if the water levels are right. While here, we will visit various marshes and lakes in the region looking for the great numbers of pampas and marsh birds to be found in the area. The Bañado del Indio is particularly good for seedeaters, especially Marsh Seedeater, which will be one of our main targets, as well as the rare Black-and-white Monjita and the gorgeous Saffron-cowled Blackbird. We may also visit a historically important Portuguese fort, which conveniently has some good birding around it, before continuing to our comfortable lodge by the sea. Night at Posada Viudade Jose Ignacio.



We'll find the brilliant Scarlet-headed Blackbird in the marshes of Laguna Rocha. Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.

Day 10, Mon, Dec 7. Bodega Garzon and Laguna Rocha. Today we will make a big loop as we drive inland to visit the ultra-modern Bodega Garzon, where we will do some birding, visit this outstanding winery and have lunch, then we will head north to Laguna Rocha which has a great number of wintering shorebirds as well as populations of grassland and wetland species such as Paraguayan (South American) Snipe, Bay-capped Wren-Spintail, and a host of waterfowl. Weather permitting, we will cross the laguna by boat and meet our vehicle on the other side before heading to an outdoor picnic dinner under the stars and returning to our lodge. Night at Posada Viudade Jose Ignacio.

Day 11, Tue, Dec 8. Estancia Guardia del Monte. Today we will bird other areas in the Rocha Department, particularly the Laguna Castillo where waterfowl can abound. We may visit the Bañado del Indio once again, as it is a great birding site. There are also palm forests in the area, and the interesting Ombu tree forests. We'll visit a mix of sites and have lunch at Estancia Guardia del Monte along the shores of the Laguna del Castillo before heading back to our hotel to enjoy a siesta. We will then head out to a nearby Estancia to have our final dinner as a group. Night at Posada Viudade Jose Ignacio.

Day 12, Wed, Dec 9. To Punta del Este and on to Montevideo airport. After a leisurely breakfast we will visit a nearby lake for some relaxed birding as we look for shorebirds before heading back to our lodge to pack our bags and head out to the bustling town of Punta del Este. We will enjoy a fine lunch by the sea and head to the Montevideo airport with plenty of time for folks to catch their evening flights to Miami.

Day 13, Thu, Dec 10. Arrival in Miami. Overnight flights are scheduled to arrive in Miami in the morning, allowing for connections to other places on the continent. *Safe travels 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.

*"I'd go anywhere with **Marcelo Padua** because I know the tour will be seamless, fun and we will get the birds."
D. N.; *Beyond the Ports of Portugal**

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Marcelo's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$6375 from Montevideo

DEPOSIT: \$650 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 31, 2020

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$975

LIMIT: 10

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Caroline Lewis. Caroline 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 Uruguay. 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 Uruguayan 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.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is **\$6375** for one person in double occupancy from Montevideo. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 12, all meals from lunch on Day 2 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 above fee does not include your airfare to Montevideo, airport taxes, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to maids at our hotels, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is **\$975**. 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, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$650** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by July 31, 2020. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

SMOKING: 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 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour 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.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute another guide for the original one. Where this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members, and they will have the right to cancel their participation and receive a full refund.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult

with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

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

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, 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. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA.

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 reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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