

ITINERARY

MEXICO: VERACRUZ RIVER OF RAPTORS

October 1-10, 2021



The special topography of Veracruz acts to concentrate millions of soaring birds such as the mixed kettle of Swainson's Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks and Turkey Vultures seen here, as well as other migrants such as Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, allowing birders to experience one of the most amazing migration spectacles known.

Photograph by Clay and Pat Sutton.

We include here information for those interested in the 2021 Field Guides Veracruz River of Raptors 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:

- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

This tour brings you to Mexico to witness one of the most legendary migration spectacles on the planet. The migration of soaring birds on thermals over the narrow coastal plain of Veracruz is unmatched in scale and density, and the narrow bottleneck between the mountains and the sea also concentrates landbirds, like Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, in mind-bending numbers. In addition to this spectacle of spectacles, we will also head into the scenic, lush highlands of the nearby Sierra Madre Oriental. The primary goal of this tour is to enjoy the sheer numbers of birds that pass through the state of Veracruz every autumn, but the diversity of habitats we access, as we go from sea level to 10,000 feet in elevation, give us an opportunity to see over 300 species, including more than a dozen Mexican endemics. Veracruz is

the most bird-diverse state in Mexico. This, when combined with the diversity of landscapes, interesting historical and cultural locations we visit, delicious food, and of course, the incomparable visible migration, make this tour an absolute winner!

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (if you are getting a two-dose vaccine, this means you must receive your second dose two weeks prior to departure). Having a vaccinated group will greatly diminish but not eliminate the possibility of the group and individual participants being adversely affected by COVID-19. **We are requiring all of our staff guides to be vaccinated.** Note too that many travel destinations are or soon will be requiring proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time.

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

- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** Participants should be in reasonably good health and able to walk up to three miles in a day at a “birder’s pace.” We will do a fair amount of stationary birding, notably while watching migration events; we recommend small folding stools for those who would be more comfortable sitting. Our birding will generally take place along wide dirt roads, some of which involve mild to moderate elevation change. If circumstances warrant (for example, a bird is calling from nearby, but somewhere off the road), we may offer optional short side trips on narrower, occasionally steeper, trails in search of particular species. Be aware that during the visits to the ruins we will encounter some steep steps.
- **PACE: *Early starts are necessary to take full advantage of morning bird activity.*** We will take full advantage of the first and last couple of hours of light, especially in the lowlands, so that we can make the most of the birdiest and most pleasant times of the day.
- **ELEVATION:** Elevations will range from sea level to almost 10000 ft. The city of Veracruz sits at sea level, while Xalapa is located at just under a mile above sea level (~4,650 feet), but we will climb (mostly by vehicle) to nearly 10,000 feet on one birding day in the surrounding mountains. Because of the elevation, we take our hikes at a very moderate, even slow pace, but those who have trouble with altitude may wish to bring along medication to combat altitude sickness.
- **WEATHER:** Along the coastal plain, weather is typically sunny, humid, and warm, highs in the low to mid 80’s F (you will definitely want to bring a hat with a brim to protect your face from the sun!). In the mountains, the temperature typically remains a bit cooler all day, so we’ll likely continue to bird throughout the day on those visits. Mornings may be chilly (high 30’s to low 40’s F), so plan accordingly, and have some long-sleeve layers for these days. Also, especially around Xalapa, a rain jacket could prove useful, as rain is a possibility there.
- **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:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on occasion, participants should be prepared to make a comfort stop 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. Sitting out some duration is certainly an option on all of the days except for our transit days (transits are currently on days 2, 5, and 9).

Our main purpose is for all to see well and enjoy the mind-boggling of migration, and a rich diversity of Mexican birds, and out of the latter group we will prioritize the region’s endemics and specialty species.

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



This view of Cofre de Perote shows the pine-oak highlands that we will visit near Xalapa. Photograph by guide Jorge Montejo.

The Veracruz Coastal Plain—The gulf coastal plain of Mexico tapers to its narrowest point along the coast north of the city of Veracruz. At La Mancha, this distance gets to less than two miles, with the rugged, forested Sierra Madre Oriental approaching the Gulf of Mexico from the west. Consequently, the airspace here is filled up with birds each autumn, as they get funneled between the mountains and the sea on their journeys from North America to Central and South America. The towns of Cardel and Chichicaxtle feature long-running raptor migration counts which in some years have tallied over 6 MILLION raptors flying south over the course of the fall, and La Mancha Biological Station sometimes features passerine and waterbird counts, as well as bird banding. Our trip is timed to hit the sweet spot for the highest numbers of buteos (Broad-winged Hawks and Swainson’s Hawks), while also featuring large numbers of other migrating birds (including American White Pelicans, Anhingas, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, White-winged Doves, and many more), and this combination can provide one of the most breathtaking migration spectacles on our planet. The areas of tropical dry forest in the coastal plain also host some excellent local birding, including endemics Mexican Sheartail, and “Veracruz” Rufous-naped Wren, as well as White-bellied Wren, Black-headed Trogon, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Double-striped Thick-knee and more. We will also be visiting marshes, river mouths, coastal lagoons, and lakes, to sample the aquatic habitats of the lowlands – we may even get to take a boat trip along one of the local rivers. We will also spend some time at the ancient ruins of Quiahuixtlan, and we will visit the Antigua River Mouth, where the first Spanish settlement in the mainland Americas was located (and the oldest Catholic Church in the Americas is here too).

Sierra Madre Oriental—Xalapa, the capital city of the state of Veracruz, is nestled into the mountains of the Sierra Madre Oriental at 4,650 feet (1,420 meters) above sea level, and offers many opportunities for access to great diversity of high elevation habitat. At Cofre de Perote, the far eastern extension of the Central Mexican Plateau, we will be birding between 7,000 and 10,000 feet, from arid xerophytic scrub featuring yucca and cactus, up through juniper forest, pine oak woodland, and into fir habitat. Although lumbering has occurred in the Xalapa-Perote region, there are still magnificent forests of humid pine-oak and fir, as well as broadleaf “cloudforest.” Many montane species, including several endemic to Mexico, can be found in these forests. Transvolcanic Jay, Gray-barred Wren, Strickland’s Woodpecker, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Collared Towhee, and Hooded Yellowthroat, Black Thrush, Rufous-capped Brushfinch, the elusive Bearded Wood-Partridge, Red Warbler, and Russet Nightingale-Thrush are among some of the interesting species that inhabit these beautiful forests. Our birding will take place along dirt roads, and smaller paved roads, where we will try to do our walking downhill as much as logistically sensible. Most grades are gentle to moderate, but a few may be steep. Temperatures at the highest elevations may be chilly in the early mornings, but should warm to very comfortable levels if skies are clear.



As we watch for kettles of migrating raptors and search for local specialties, we'll need to keep our eyes open for the lovely Aplomado Falcon, which is resident in Veracruz. Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.

Itinerary for Mexico: Veracruz River of Raptors

Day 1, Fri., 1 Oct, Arrival in Veracruz. Upon arrival into Veracruz, you'll be met at the airport and transferred directly to our hotel. The ride from the airport to our hotel takes about 20 minutes. For those who have arrived already, we will get together in the hotel lobby at 7:00 p.m. for a short get-acquainted session; then, we'll head to dinner. Night in Veracruz.

Day 2, Sat, 2 Oct Drive to Xalapa. We will meet this morning for a pre-breakfast walk around the hotel grounds. After a nice breakfast, we will load up our bags, and start our ascent to the capital of Veracruz, the mountain city of Xalapa. We will likely make some birding or sightseeing stops on our way up the mountains, and depending on the weather, might look for some coastal migration on the way up as well. The afternoon will find us enjoying the lush habitat around a large waterfall and some coffee plantations near Xalapa, and experiencing our first contact with the montane birds of the region. Night in Xalapa.

Days 3-4, Sun-Mon, 3-4 Oct. Highlands around Xalapa. We will have two full days to explore the rich highlands around Xalapa, from lush cloud forest, to spectacular canyons, pine-oak woodland, and even a good sampling of the dry central plateau of Mexico, where the rain-shadow effect provides dramatically different habitat, and so, different birds, than the nearby gulf slopes. We will visit Las Minas Canyon, the Cofre de Perote, and several other exciting high-elevation birding locales, with the exact order of operations to be determined based on weather. There are quite a few specialties in this region, including such endemics as Strickland's Woodpecker, Transvolcanic Jay, and the shy and elusive Bearded Wood-Partridge, among a slew of other delightful birds. Nights in Xalapa.

Day 5, Tue, 5 Oct. Drive to Cardel. We will begin the day by descending from the mountains towards the coast, and on the way we will visit the very special Miradores Lagoon, where we will hunt for Mexican Sheartail and Grass Wren, among others. After we check into our hotel, we will head to one of the migration counting locations for a look at the diurnal migration, and the rest of our day will depend on the migration conditions- we may take an afternoon birding excursion if the migration is tapering off as the day cools down. Night in Cardel or near Chixicastle.

Days 6-8, Wed-Fri, 6-8 Oct. Lowlands around Cardel. We will have three more full days to experience the migration of birds through the Veracruz coastal plain, as well as sample the variety of habitats in the humid lowlands. This will allow us some flexibility in our daily schedule, so that repeat visits to key areas may be possible if deemed necessary to fully appreciate the winged spectacle that Veracruz is so justly legendary for. We will likely spend mornings looking for

songbirds on the ground, and potentially in active migration, and then spend much of the warm middays enjoying migration of birds as they use thermals to aid them on their southbound journeys. There is a possibility of a boat ride, and we will at some point visit the ruins of Quiahuixtlan, and the historic town of La Antigua. Nights in Cardel or near Chixicastle.

Day 9, Sat, 9 Oct. Lowlands around Veracruz. We will check out of our hotel, and have an early start to visit the grasslands south of Veracruz City. Here, in addition to the myriad of migrants that may be criss-crossing the sky, there will be a slew of open-land residents, like Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture and Aplomado Falcon, competing for the same space in the sky. After our morning in the grasslands, looking for birds such as Grassland Yellow-Finch, Pinnated Bittern, Double-striped Thick-Knee and more, we will head farther south, to the town of Tlacotalpan, the land of musica “jarocho”. After a wonderful lunch along the mighty Papaloapan River, we will head back to Veracruz City, visiting some more wetlands en route. Night in Veracruz.

Day 10, Sun, 10 Oct. Departure for home. You may schedule your departure for any time today. ¡Que les vaya bien!



The tiny Bumblebee Hummingbird inhabits pine-oak forests in much of Mexico. We'll look for this endemic and a number of other Mexican specialties in the forests near Xalapa. Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.

About Your Guides

Doug Gochfeld was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and his interest in birds was sparked at a young age (he participated in his first CBC at the age of 7), in part by his father. This interest soon spiraled into a full-blown obsession for Doug for a few years before he abruptly shelved it, in favor of baseball, for several adolescent years. He picked up his interest in birds again in College and once again became a dedicated/obsessed birder.

For several years before starting to lead a full slate of tours for Field Guides in 2016, he traveled extensively as a working birder. Field jobs working for multiple seasons monitoring migration at each of the legendary migration hotspots of Cape May, New Jersey, and Eilat in Israel helped to incubate Doug's healthy and dogged obsession with winged migration. He also guided on St. Paul Island, in Alaska's Pribilof Islands, for parts of four years, where the abundance of migrant birds was traded in for the abundance of tundra breeding and cliff-nesting birds. He now leads all over the world for Field Guides. His robust interest in the birds and culture of East and Southeast Asia has brought him to lead a broad spectrum of tours across these fascinating regions. You can also find him exploring, through the lens of bird guiding, Australia, Mexico, New Guinea, Israel, Alaska, and locales beyond and in between.

“Doug's enthusiasm, skill and tenacity at finding birds is amazing. He clearly loves showing birds to people - be it a common or not so common bird”. D. S. Colorado Grouse

Doug is a Leica Pro Staff member, and he has been a regular leader at birding festivals throughout the USA. He has worked in Alaska, Suriname, and Brazil studying the breeding and wintering ecology of shorebirds, which hold a special place in his heart. His strongest interests in birding are migration, vagrancy, and patterns of distribution, and he's always excited to share his enthusiasm in, and knowledge of, these subjects and much more (even beyond birds!) on his tours, whether close to home or halfway around the world.

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

Jorge Montejo was born in Yucatan, Mexico and developed a passion for nature from a very early age, exploring the surroundings of his native Merida, where he began to observe birds and learn how to trap them! His interest in birds and nature continued to grow during his college years in Veracruz, when Jorge and a group of friends "discovered" the great coastal migration in the state, now known as the Veracruz River of Raptors. Since the late 90's, Jorge has guided birding tours throughout Mexico.

His explorations have taken him across Mexico and to other parts of the world, including Venezuela, Brazil, and much of the US and Canada. Because of both the beauty and importance of birds, he considers the opportunity to watch them and share his passion with others a great honor, as well as a great responsibility. On the rare occasions when he is not in the field, Jorge shares his bird observations with his partner, Amy, from their base in the city of Xalapa, set in the foothills of central Veracruz.

Financial Information

FEE: \$3225 from Veracruz

DEPOSIT: See Tour Registration section below

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: **Immediately; see Tour Registration section below**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional*): \$275

LIMIT: 12

Special Note: Tour fees may be subject to change due to the global economic effects of COVID-19.

We have published the itinerary and price for this tour with the understanding that during these uncertain times we are likely to encounter unforeseen changes. Some of our tours may incur higher costs due to increases in currency exchange rate fluctuations or COVID-19 related fees imposed by countries and/or suppliers. Travel and hospitality companies all over the world have been adversely affected by the pandemic, and there is no guarantee that all of the lodging and transportation we have booked for this tour will still be available at the time of departure. We hope to maintain our services as indicated in our itinerary as well as our published tour fee. However, if changes are required we will make every effort to maintain the quality of the itinerary as it is published with the most appropriate substitutions available. Should any necessary changes or other unforeseen causes result in an increase in service rates to us, we reserve the right to pass on those increases in fees to the tour participant.

Other Things You Need to Know

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

DOCUMENTS: For US citizens traveling to Mexico, a current passport is necessary to reenter the United States. Currently, as of August 17, 2021, travelers are required to complete an online form before traveling to Mexico. Also, upon returning to the US, it will be necessary to be tested for Covid 19 and show a negative result 96 hours before returning home, in addition to completing travel forms for the United States. Requirements can change at any time, so please be sure to check for updates at the following link, <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-3/coronavirus-mexico>.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Mexican 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 your 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT IMMIGRATION IN MEXICO: Upon arrival in Mexico, the immigration officer will give you a paper form which you **MUST** keep with you at all times with your passport. Failure to present this when you are leaving for home will result in at least an extra day's delay.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Flights are available from most cities to Veracruz via Mexico City or Houston. Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$3225 for one person in double occupancy* from Veracruz. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 9, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through dinner on Day 9, all ground transportation including airport transfers, 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 Veracruz, airport taxes, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, breakfast on Day 10, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$275. 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).

*If you have a trusted friend, relative, or significant other with whom you wish to share a room on tour, please let us know and your tour manager will make that assignment. However, due to recommendations from the CDC, Field Guides is not currently pairing roommates who do not know each other, and the single supplement will apply if you do not have a roommate. As of this writing (August 20, 2021), we are reviewing these CDC recommendations carefully and often and will let you know if that changes.

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.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please [contact our office](#). 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 **full payment of \$3225** per person (plus single supplement, if applicable), or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. ~~Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or by July 3, 2021. 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.~~ **Due to the late release of this itinerary, we are asking for full payment at time of registration.**

Please note that if you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will require **proof of travel insurance**. 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.

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

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: 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. If you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will **require proof of travel insurance**. 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 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 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 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. 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
7/21 DDG; 8/21peg