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Bolivia: Macaws and conservation lodges – 2023

Nov 1 –14, 2023

Guided by Peter Burke and local guides



Red-fronted Macaw Reserve, Bolivia. ©Paul Jones.

Bolivia is the most overlooked birding nation in the New World, no doubt about that. It is an amazingly birdy country, with the longest bird list of any non-coastal nation on earth! If you look at a map of the different biomes, the separate habitat types, of South America you will see that a great many of these come together in one place, Bolivia. It is a country known for the high elevation Altiplano, the reed boats of Lake Titicaca, the

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Aymara people and their fine Alpaca woolens. Yet much of the country is lowland forest, or Chaco, even endemic rich inter-mountain dry valleys, and seasonally flooded savanna. If mountains and highlands are your impression of Bolivia, it is only partially correct. The reality is that a wealth of different habitats and environments are present in Bolivia. This tour aims to see several of these, but more importantly support birding and conservation in Bolivia as we do the tour. Peru, Ecuador, watch out, the birding boom in Bolivia is starting!

This tour is distinctive in that much of it will be spent in the lowlands, foothills or inter-montane valleys, as opposed to the high Altiplano. It is in these habitats that Bolivia offers unique habitats and birds. It is also in these habitats where various species are in direct conservation peril. One organization in Bolivia, Asociación Armonía, has been working tirelessly for years with great success in conserving land and birds in Bolivia, while instilling a sense of pride in the unique aspect of the Bolivian natural world to its citizens. The Foundation develops and runs eco-lodges that bring sustainable development, funds and jobs to the local communities and to the reserves that they buy and manage. We will be staying primarily at these conservation lodges, where your tourism dollars maximize the benefit to local conservation. This is not only a truly superb birding tour, but it is one where you are directly impacting birds in a positive and immediate way. Alvaro has great a great connection to Bolivia, having run trips here in the late 90s with a Canadian company, and his friendships with people at Asociación Armonía stretch back even farther than that! It is about time that Bolivia takes place as one of the destinations on the Alvaro's Adventures calendar. Peter Burke, similarly, has experience in Bolivia well back, and has a similar relationship with the folks at the Asociación.

Part of what makes birding in Bolivia special is that some of its notable birds are especially showy and amazing ones. In particular it has an incredible diversity of macaws. These will be front and center in our visit, in particular two endemic species which are not only gorgeous but rare are going to be species we work hard to see. These are the Blue-throated Macaw of the far northeast of the country, the Beni Lowlands and the Red-fronted Macaw of the dry intermountain valleys of Santa Cruz in central Bolivia. We will certainly see many other species of parrots, as well as other macaw species as we look for these. Of course not all showy Bolivian birds are parrots, there are the Rheas, hummingbirds, toucans, tanagers, warbling-finches, crescentchests, puffbirds, trogons.... There is a lot to see. The country is full of riches, the people, the scenery, the great birds and the fantastic and growing infrastructure of local birding guides, trained by Armonía and their ecotourism program. We will be at the forefront of the people seeing this new, vibrant, positive side of Bolivia, where birding and conservation go hand in hand. Before you know it, everyone will be birding in Bolivia, it is inevitable in such an amazing country for the birder. Join us!



Sooty-fronted Spinetail – One of the many “ovenbirds” we may see, some endemic, others rare, and others much more common and frequent.

The Birding Sites We Visit

Madidi National Park: Serrania Sadiri – The foothill tropical rainforest is a very enjoyable habitat to bird in Bolivia. While lowland forest is great, it can get frustrating to encounter so many birds high up, the classic bird canopy foraging flocks which one seldom can see well. In the lowland rainforest the most dazzling unforgettable flocks of 30+ species pass over your head, while you strain your neck muscles to their limit to catch underbelly field marks. The foothill habitat is different and much less frustrating. One has the ability to walk up the road or trail, and see directly level into the canopy, absolutely anywhere! The area is like a huge canopy walkway. Serranía Sadiri, found just inside Madidi National Park is one of the first serranias (a front range) of the Andes. Due to its position and elevation, it traps the warm moist humid tropical forest air brought there by prevailing winds that waft across the Amazon. As a consequence this area has a much higher level of precipitation than surrounding areas, which translates to higher bird diversity and abundance. Two hundred and twenty-one species have presently been

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recorded in the area, and researchers expect totals of around 300 bird species once more birders and observers have been here to see what is present. Remember, Bolivia is still not on everyone's radar! This area, in Sadiri, abounds in foraging flocks- and fortunately and happily these flocks that you can see well.

Serranía Sadiri peaks at 3200 feet (950 m) and the access road travels down the moist slope to a typical tropical forest habitat at 1650 feet (500 m). It is but a fifteen minute drive down to the lowland rainforest, where one can spend the day searching for

antbirds, ovenbirds (furnariids), toucans, macaws, and woodcreepers. Then at the end of the day, one can return back up the slope to a cooler foothill forest-offering a pleasant place to sleep after a hot day.

For hundreds of years, people have been travelling between the towns of Tumupasa and San José de Uchupiamonas, and further up into the Andes to the town of Apolo on PRE-Inca trails as well



Madidi National Park

as a newer dirt road over the mountains here allow access to a relatively undisturbed Tropical Hill Forest habitat. In this habitat highlights that have been found include: Band-bellied Owl, White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant, Scaled Fruiteater, Sharpbill, Bronze-green Euphonia, and this is also the only accessible area in Bolivia where the Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulet can be found.

Barba Azul Nature Reserve – Since 2008, Asociación Armonía has been protecting and expanding the 27,000 acre Barba Azul Nature Reserve. This is the only sanctuary for the critically endangered Blue-throated Macaw, protecting the most important site for the species in the world. Additionally, it is the only site in the Beni Lowlands where you can bird cattle-free, old-growth natural tall-grass savanna. At Barba Azul there are resident populations of tall-grass birds, several of them endangered, such as Cock-tailed Tyrant, Black-masked Finch, Sharp-tailed Tyrant, and Streamer-tailed Tyrant! Over 250 bird species including many of the Beni Endemic Bird Area are found here, keep in mind too that some taxonomic re-arrangements that could occur in the future there may create

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some Bolivian endemic species! Barba Azul also has many rare mammal species such as Maned Wolf, Giant Anteater, Jaguar, Puma and Marsh Deer.

The Barba Azul Nature Reserve, refers to the local name for the Blue-throated Macaw. Barba Azul translates to “Blue Beard”, the key feature that separates this incredibly rare macaw from the Blue-and-yellow Macaw. The reserve protects the critically important Blue-throated Macaw global population stronghold. For many years this rare macaw was considered extinct in the wild, although some long lived captive specimens existed. Eventually in the 90s it was discovered that some specimens of Barba Azul remained in the Beni of Bolivia. Then through years of research, the Asociación Armonía/Loro Parque Fundación program in 2007 discovered this largest remaining group - a roosting site of over 70 individuals. This was shocking and welcome news for a Critically Endangered bird which before this important discovery was only found in isolated pairs in widely distributed privately owned cattle ranches. This is a bird almost impossible to see without knowing a specific roosting site or a nesting tree- often far from any road access. Given there are only 400 Blue-throated Macaws in an area almost twice the size of Texas, you could search for a month without success. Even at the Barba Azul Reserve, they are not always present, as movements occur with respect to food availability. They are unpredictable and certainly NOT guaranteed here, but it is the best place in the world to see them, so you can do no better. The bird and mammal life here even without the macaw is such that it is an amazing experience to be here and see some rare species found only in these ecologically rare native tall grasslands of the Beni.

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Orinoco Geese, Beni Lowlands, Bolivia ©Paul Martin.

Glasgow University conducted an expedition to the Barba Azul Nature Reserve in August 2009 to collect data on the birds and mammals of the reserve, as well as sampling other fauna and plants. Much more work remains to know the riches of what is to be found here, this is still Tierra Incognita in Bolivia and as few birders have visited, our birding tour could actually add significantly to what is known about the reserve! The Glasgow folks found two hundred and thirty bird species protected on the reserve and confirmed the importance of the reserve as a haven for the Critically Endangered Blue-throated Macaw with daily encounters of multiple groups each containing up to 25 individuals. They mapped the distribution of the Cock-tailed Tyrant and Black-masked Finch (both Vulnerable) as well as recording abundant populations of the Near Threatened Orinoco Goose and Greater Rhea. The expedition also confirmed the reserve area as a paradise for waterbirds with a census recording very high concentrations of Egrets, Ibis, Roseate Spoonbills, Jabiru Storks and various waterfowl. Nine species of Boreal migrant shorebirds have been recorded on the reserve, including an observation of over three hundred Buff-breasted Sandpipers (during migration periods), it also is a site where Hudsonian Godwits make landfall on their long-distance southbound migration, making the reserve a top priority shorebird migrant stop-over site. Shorebird migration is

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seasonal, and we may catch the tail end of the southbound movement.



The Glasgow survey recorded the presence of the ICUN red listed Maned Wolf as well as high concentrations of Giant Anteater and Pampas Deer (all Near threatened), high concentrations of other mammals such as Southern Tamandua, Black Howler Monkey, Capybara and Nine-banded Armadillo. Jaguars were found to use the reserve.

The Barba Azul Nature Reserve is a jewel of natural savanna habitat. The Armonía/ Loro Parque Foundation Blue-throated Macaw conservation program is developing the area for tourism. A lodge now exists with a dining hall, on our first visit no lodge was present. But our visit helped to fund this welcome change, as have visits from other birders over the years. It is hoped that ecotourism will be the main economic tool to maintain the reserve, and perhaps even expand the reserve. In years to come, Barba Azul will be TOP place to visit, a well-known birding destination well known to international birding and conservation-oriented travelers. Today it is still in the formative phase, and you will be part of the group that makes this happen!! We will have access to boats and total access to this impressive reserve. You will not want to leave, this is still a land that has had little encroachment, where few people live, where wildlife and the rule of nature is still the rule of law. We

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are privileged to be able to visit the reserve now, before the entire world wants to come here. We shall reach the reserve on a chartered small planes from the city of Trinidad.



"Barba Azul" or Blue Beards, these are the rare Blue-throated Macaws of the Beni Lowlands of Bolivia. © Paul Martin.

Amboro National Park – On this trip we shall have a short amount of time to sneak up into the cloud forest, near Samaipata. This is not too distant from the town, although to be able to be there early in the morning we shall have to depart early to make the hour or so trip on a dirt road. As one climbs the hills here, the moisture content they receive from passing clouds increases, creating a moist montane forest. The activity one finds in this type of forest depends on the weather, actually moist and cloudy is better than warm and sunny, so let's hope for some 'gentle' weather! Here Blue-banded Toucanets hang in with Crested Quetzals, while Yungas Warblers and White-throated Tyrannulets mingle. Montane birds like Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager and Mountain Wren mix with local specialties such as Bolivian Brush-Finch, Green-throated Tanager, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker and Bolivian Tapaculo. Showy locals include the Red-billed and Black-winged Parrot. If weather and luck are with us we could have a nice little visit to Amboro National Park.

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Bolivia's Andean Dry Valleys — This is a unique and endemic rich habitat in Bolivia. This is a rain shadow valley at mid elevations found to the West of the city of Santa Cruz. This is a habitat specific to Bolivia with several range-restricted and endemic species. The main draw here is the gorgeous and endemic Red-fronted Macaw- which is practically guaranteed at the Red-fronted Macaw Reserve. This is a conservation project by Asociación Armonía, profits of a stay here go to three local indigenous communities that help to protect the bird. A great project for a marvelous bird and place. The mild Andean climate, open habitats and tame birds offer a wonderful birding experience (loved by nature photographers). Here we may see Andean Condor, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Mitred Parakeets, Yellow-chevroned Parakeets, Turquoise-fronted Parrots, Red-tailed Comet, Giant Antshrike, the cactus loving White-fronted Woodpecker, Fawn-breasted Tanager, Bolivian Warbling-Finch, White-eared Puffbird, Greater Wagtail Tyrant, White-tailed Plantcutter, Gray-crested Finch, Ultramarine Grosbeak and the endemic and uncommon Bolivian Blackbird among others. The Andean Valleys are home to an intriguing population of cliff nesting Monk Parakeets, which are now separated as the Cliff Parakeet. Similarly, an isolated subspecies of the Blue-crowned Parakeet is found here, it is visually and vocally different from lowland populations – there is work to be done here obviously!



Red-fronted Macaws. © Paul Martin.



About the Physical Requirements & Pace

This is a tour of various major habitats of Bolivia, with a sampling of its scenery, culture and bird diversity. Bolivia is the least birded of the Andean nations and holds many surprises for the visitor as the distribution, and abundance of the birds is still being discovered. To sample the various sites, and conservation lodges/projects we will need to take several internal flights. These are included in the tour fee. Note that some of the flights will be on local commercial scheduled routes. To reach the Barba Azul reserve on the other hand we shall fly there on chartered small planes (Cessna). This flight and its weight restrictions requires that folks pack light for the trip and to be prepared for light packing for a week's time at Barba Azul and Sadiri. Extra luggage will be stored until we return in seven days to Trinidad. The pace of the tour is moderate, we plan to enjoy ourselves as we bird, and we have tried to minimize the time spent in vehicles although given the size of the country some of this is unavoidable. There will be some slopes, as very little of montane Bolivia is flat, but we will bird from roads or trails and are not prepared to do any major hiking or sustained steep climbing. However, the weather can be quite warm, even hot, some years so come prepared with appropriate light clothing and ability to carry water on your person. The Beni region is flat and can be dry, hot and dusty depending on local rainfall; given that this is a seasonally flooded wetland there may be some muddy areas while we bird and we recommend footwear for these situations is rubber boots in some instances. They do have them at Barba Azul for you to use, but note that if you have a particularly comfortable pair, you may want to take them along. It is recommended that we try to get out for first light while at Barba Azul to have a good chance at seeing its special mammals so we will plan to rise before first light here, have quick bite to eat and depart. We typically will have time to catch up on rest with a siesta most non-travel days.

Sadiri and Barba Azul lodges are on generators. The electricity is not always on, and it is off in the middle of the night. The timing of when the generator is on will be noted, for any recharging of batteries and other equipment. You may want to plan on having spare batteries for some equipment. If you require to have electricity throughout the night, this will not be possible at a couple of our lodges.

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Aplomado Falcon. ©A. Jaramillo

Itinerary for Bolivia 2023

Nov 1, 2023 (Day 0) – Arrival in Santa Cruz. Arrive any time today, no scheduled birding. Night in Santa Cruz.

Nov 2, 2023 (Day 1) – Flight to Barba Azul Nature Reserve. We will have a scheduled flight to Trinidad. From there we will fly on charter Cessna planes to Barba Azul Nature Reserve. Birding at the reserve once we arrive. Night in Barba Azul Nature Reserve.

Nov 3 - 4, 2023 (Day 2 - 3) – Barba Azul Nature Reserve. We expect that the Barba Azul Nature Reserve will be one of the highlights of this tour! We will explore the grassland habitats, looking for the superb flycatchers found in this area. Of course, we will also be looking for the very rare and endangered Blue-throated Macaw. It is not a guarantee, even here in the best spot for them on earth, but we will look hard for them. Nights in Barba Azul Nature Reserve.

Nov 5, 2023 (Day 4) – Fly to Rurrenabaque and go to Sadiri. Late morning flight to Rurre, and then we drive to Sadiri lodge. Night in Sadiri.

Nov 6 - 7, 2023 (Day 5 - 7) – Sadiri Amazon Lodge. We will spend time visiting trails both above and below the elevation of the lodge. From lowland tropical forest to tropical hill forest. There is lots to see here! Nights in Sadiri.

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Nov 8, 2023 (Day 8) – Flight to Santa Cruz. We will drive to Rurrenabaque in the morning before our flights to Santa Cruz. Night in Santa Cruz.

Nov 9, 2023 (Day 9) – Birding in Santa Cruz and drive to Samaipata. Today we spend the morning birding the Lomas de Arenas park on the southern edge of the city. We will then drive up the mountains to Samaipata. Night in Samaipata.

Nov 10, 2023 (Day 10) – Birding Amboro National Park- Paradones- Elfin Forest Rd. Morning birding in the higher forests of the Andes at the edge of Amboro National Park, about an hour away, and then back to the town of Samaipata. Enjoy the later afternoon in the quaint town of Samaipata with its cozy, mid elevation town ambiance. Night in Samaipata.

Nov 11, 2023 (Day 11) – Lago Quirusillas. About an hour's drive to Laguna Quirusillas from Samaipata. An early departure to have some morning birding at the lake where we may encounter more Yungas bird species of this special part of the Andes. Back to Samaipata for lunch and then a longer afternoon drive to the Red-fronted Macaw reserve. Night in Red-fronted Macaw Reserve.

Nov 12, 2023 (Day 12) – Red-fronted Macaw Reserve. We have a full day to enjoy the Red-fronted Macaws, and dry valley birds, hoping for Bolivian Blackbird, Scissor-tailed Nightjar and many others. Night in Red-fronted Macaw Reserve.

Nov 13, 2023 (Day 13) – Return to Santa Cruz. A travel day with birding en-route, focusing on species we have not seen thus far. We look forward to celebrating all we saw at a nice dinner spot in Santa Cruz tonight. Night in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Nov 14, 2023 (Day 14) – Flights back to North America. Most flights leave in the morning back to the United States. Have a good trip back home!

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Your Guide



Peter Burke is a well-known Canadian birder, artist, and author who started birding more than 40 years ago. Peter is widely known as one of the most affable guides out there, with an upbeat and accessible personality. His great sense of humor and amazing knowledge of birds makes for a fun, and very informative tour. He devotes much of his time to illustrating and works as a biological consultant. He has co-authored various articles on bird identification and biology and served as chair on the

Ontario Bird Records Committee. Peter has birded extensively throughout Canada and much of the US and has traveled abroad to Andean South America, Papua New Guinea, Cuba, Trinidad, and much of Central America. He is an accomplished artist as is evident from his work in the identification and biology of the New World Blackbirds (Jaramillo and Burke, Princeton University Press), several editions of the National Geographic Society's Birds of North America (J. Dunn), and Birds of Chile (A. Jaramillo, P. Burke, D. Beadle). He is also a contributing artist to the Birds of Peru (T. Schulenberg et. al.) and the upcoming three volume series Birds of Brazil (B. Whitney et. al.). His most recent work includes illustrations in The Peterson Field Guide to the Birds of Northern Central America (Fagan and Komar 2016). He has led tours for Field Guides Inc., as well as Alvaro's Adventures.

Financial Information

FEE: \$6800 from Santa Cruz. Price includes internal air flights. Does not include international flight.

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 4, 2023

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$650

LIMIT: 8. A small group supplement may be necessary with a group 5 or less.



Additional Information

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid six months beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Bolivia. Americans require a tourism visa (\$160) which can be obtained before the trip, or upon arrival. One will be asked for a Yellow Fever vaccine certificate to obtain the visa, so best to have this vaccination up to date. More details on the visa process will be given upon registering for the trip. As mentioned, it can be done upon arrival in the country.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Bolivian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or phone or e-mail Alvaro's Adventures and we can look this up. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Please plan to arrive in Santa Cruz by Nov 1, 2023, as on Nov 2 we fly out to the Barba Azul Reserve. Arriving a day early to rest up and avoid the stress of missed connections is always recommended and we can arrange that for you. Flights back home at the end of the tour can be booked any time on Nov 14, 2023. Be sure to check with Alvaro's Adventures to confirm that the flights you have chosen will work with our itinerary and to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. We are not responsible for these fees.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The tour fee is \$6800 for one person in double occupancy from Santa Cruz. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 13, all meals from lunch on Day 1 through dinner on Day 13, all ground transportation, internal flights, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leaders. Alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature are not included. The above fees do not include your airfare to and from Bolivia, airport taxes, visa fees, optional tips, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for the tour is \$650. 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.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the enclosed Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$500** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit and the Release and Indemnity form 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 4, 2023**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate,**

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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: This is a non-smoking tour.

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 Alvaro's Adventures 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 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.

Alvaro's Adventures is a Registered Seller of Travel in the State of California (CST # 2105497). Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. This ensures your right to a prompt refund: Upon cancellation of the transportation or travel services, where the passenger is not at fault and has not canceled in violation of any terms and conditions previously clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger, all sums paid to the seller of travel for services not provided will be promptly paid to the passenger, unless the passenger advises the seller of travel in writing, after cancellation. This provision does not apply where the seller of travel has remitted the payment to another registered wholesale seller of travel or a carrier, without obtaining a refund, and where the wholesaler or provider defaults in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service. In this situation, the seller of travel must provide the passenger with a written statement accompanied by bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a wholesale seller of travel, proof of current registration of that wholesaler.

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

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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.

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 Alvaro's Adventures, 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. Alvaro's Adventures 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. Alvaro's Adventures 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. Alvaro's Adventures 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. Alvaro's Adventures 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, and other pertinent matter provided by Alvaro's Adventures. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

ALVARO'S ADVENTURES

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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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