

**ALVARO'S ADVENTURES**  
birding & nature tours



# Japan in Spring 2023 – Migration extravaganza.

*May 8 - 20, 2023*

**Guided by Alvaro Jaramillo and Kaz Shinoda**



**Varied Tit**

**M**ay is a terrific time to see Japan's birds at the peak of their spring migration, and to search out special birds unique to this ancient nation of many islands. The tour also provides an opportunity to visit and bird in rural Japan, away from urban centers, to experience a more traditional Japan that few tourists see.

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Tokyo is the central hub of the tour, as we travel out to different islands. First, from the coastal city of Sakata on Japan's west coast, a short ferry ride takes us to the nearby island of Tobishima in the Sea of Japan. Seabirds en route may include such regional specialties as Streaked Shearwater, Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel, and Japanese Murrelet. Reaching the picturesque fishing port on Tobishima, we set foot on one of the best spots in the region for seeing birds migrating north along the east rim of Asia, as they stop on this island outpost. Many species pass through here, stopping in woods and gardens, including such songbird beauties as Mugimaki and Blue-and-white flycatchers, Siberian Blue Robin, Japanese Waxwing, and Tristram's Bunting, plus huge Black Wood pigeons and speedy Pacific Swift. With nearly two full days to bird the small island, we are bound to strike birding riches here. Traditional lodging on the island is attractive and comfortable.

Then it's back to Tokyo for two days, birding parks and reedbeds for such specialties as Japanese Green Pheasant, Japanese Wagtail, Japanese Woodpecker, Japanese Reed Bunting, and Marsh Grassbird. Next, we fly south, beyond Japan's main islands, to the archipelago of Nansei Shoto (Ryukyu Islands), the southernmost, subtropical islands of Japan. Here, with ample time devoted to each of the islands of Amami and Okinawa, we will search out their highly sought-after endemic birds. On Amami are the unique cobalt-blue and brown Lidth's Jay, as well as Amami Woodcock and Amami Thrush, and a night outing might also turn up Brown Boobook, Ryukyu (or Elegant) Scops-Owl, and the endemic Amami (or Ryukyu) Black Rabbit. Okinawa boasts the lovely endemic and endangered Okinawa (or Pryer's) Woodpecker and Okinawa Rail. Both islands together offer opportunities to enjoy another rich sample of migrating birds and local specialties, from such wonders as the wildly long-tailed Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher to such birds as Cinnamon Bittern, Ruddy Kingfisher, Ryukyu Green Pigeon, Ryukyu Minivet, Ryukyu Robin, and Black-naped Tern.

## The Birding Sites We Visit

In order to enjoy a wide variety of species during our spring trip in Japan, we will visit several islands in the country, accessible by ferry or plane depending on the site. We will start in the main island of Honshu, and end in the Ryuku Islands which are nearer to Taiwan than Honshu!

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## Honshu

This is the main, central and largest island in Japan. It is where we will land in Tokyo and begin our tour. We will be visiting areas around Tokyo where mudflats and wetlands are found, as well as the Yokohama area. We will be focusing on shorebirds and forest birds while here, with various buntings, Japanese Green Pheasant and other edge and open country species as well.

## Tobishima

In the Sea of Japan, and accessible by a good pelagic rich ferry ride, this island is a site known for spring migration. We will be watching for what is passing through, which could include various cuckoos, flycatchers, swifts and so forth. As with any migration site, what we see will depend on weather and luck.

## Nansei Shoto (Ryukyu Islands)

We will visit two islands in this southern archipelago that essentially connects, or at least forms a corridor between Taiwan and Japan. These are Amami and Okinawa. Both are well known to birders due to endemic birds found only on these islands, we are also here during a time when migratory birds may show up and we will have our eyes and ears open. The Okinawa Rail, a recently discovered species, is perhaps the highlight here and we shall be looking for it at night.



Spectacled Guillemot



## About the Physical Requirements & Pace

This is not a difficult tour; we will be mostly birding on flat ground and the pace will be relaxed. There are no long hikes, although while birding and looking for migrants on Tobishima we will be walking all day, although at a birder's not a hiker's pace. In addition to this, we will be accessing Tobishima on a ferry, a larger boat, but still a boat. If you are especially prone, you may want to have some seasickness medication available.

Note that our hotels are a mix, some are Western style hotel, and others are Japanese style hotels. Japanese hotels may take some getting used to, on some you will sleep on traditional and very comfortable, Japanese futons. Single rooms may not be available in some hotels. Most Japanese hotels have private bathrooms, but not all, we may have to share bathrooms in at least one hotel. We will be able to sample some wonderful traditional Japanese cuisine as we travel. Some of our dinners are feasts, for the palate as well as for the eyes! Note that in traditional restaurants, you may eat at low Japanese tables, again this takes some getting used to for us westerners. It is traditional to take your shoes off in Japanese style hotels. They have slippers there for guests to use, but you may consider bringing your own.

**About Tobishima:** Tobishima is a very small and traditional place. Many of the island's residents practice traditional ways of life such as fishing and innkeeping. Far removed from the populous mainland cities, Tobishima does not have Western-style hotels and lodges, restaurants, and the types of services overall that are provided on most of our tours. Rather, the inns here are small and cater to the traditional Japanese way of life. This means bunkhouse-style accommodations with shared sleeping facilities and bathrooms. We will sleep on comfortable futons atop woven rugs (tatami) on the floor. Depending on the makeup of the group, several participants may share a single large room. Showers and toilets, which are scrupulously clean, will be in shared facilities in the hallway adjacent to the guest rooms. The cuisine consists almost entirely of fresh seafood for most or all meals prepared in the traditional Japanese methods, both cooked and uncooked (sushi and sashimi). The fishermen and inn proprietors are very proud of their local seafood. This culinary fare is what the island is known for, and there are no alternative meal choices. Not eating the local food not only deprives oneself of needed nutrition but comes with the additional (and very real) risk of offending the fishermen and innkeepers who serve it. Simply put, Tobishima is not a good destination choice for picky eaters or those who require single accommodations. Conversely, those with an interest in Japanese culture and food will enjoy Tobishima to the fullest and will find it one of the most memorable parts of the tour.

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Furthermore, the entire island, its shoreline, forests, and gardens all provide excellent birding, and our three days there will of necessity be on foot. During the course of a day on Tobishima one can expect to walk from five to eight miles total but punctuated with stops for birding and resting. Walking conditions on Tobishima are mostly easy, with a few moderately strenuous spots on slopes and or steps. Participants on this tour need to be capable of staying afoot all day while on the island, as there is no other way to get around. The reward is that birding here can be fantastic for almost any kind of migrants passing through at the peak of spring migration. You may want to take a portable stool, and walking stick. Given this description of physical requirements for Tobishima, this tour is not appropriate for those who are unable to walk unassisted for lengthy periods over long stretches or who are unable to rise from a futon unassisted. We do not want to mislead you into thinking that the island is especially rugged or that the physical demands of a stay here are especially rigorous, only that you be mobile enough and physically fit enough to handle several long days in the field afoot.

Meals: The food will be excellent during the tour. Some meals will be Japanese delicacies, and others will be western cuisine, but *western food and vegetarian diet are not available at many locations*. We will take out a few lunches from convenience stores, especially for the occasions when cafés are not readily available. Convenience stores in Japan are of a different order than those in the U.S., and don't occupy the same lower status that they do in the States. A wide variety of hot and cold foods and drinks are often available, and they make for convenient and clean restroom stops as well. These stops also allow us to stock-up on snacks and drinks for a day in the field or perhaps for several days on the same island. On Tobishima Island, most or all meals consist of fresh seafood, both cooked and uncooked.

## Itinerary for Japan in Spring 2023

**May 8, 23. Day 1 – ARRIVAL IN JAPAN.** Arrival day at **Haneda International Airport**. Recall that you will be crossing the international date line on transit from North America so you will arrive a day later than your departure day! Our hotel is at the airport (terminal 2), and easily accessible using the courtesy shuttle from the international terminal. We will be meeting for a joint dinner and meeting our local guide Kaz during this evening. If you fly in Narita Airport, you will need to take a transfer bus from Narita to Haneda (80 min. cost is approximately \$30). Please allow enough time to shuttle from Narita.

As travel can be stressful, bags can become misplaced, and it is a long trip from North America, some folks may choose to arrive a day early and we can help you arrange that with extra nights at the hotel. Night in Haneda Excel Hotel Tokyu.



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**May 9, 23. Day 2 – TRAVEL TO SAKATA, YAMAGATA PREFECTURE.** This morning we will fly to Shonai Airport in Sakata City, which faces the Sea of Japan. After arrival in the afternoon, we'll bird the Mogami River for such species as Japanese Green Pheasant, Long-billed Plover, Oriental Reed Warbler, Bull-headed Shrike, Chestnut-cheeked Starling, and Chestnut-eared Bunting. Night Hotel Inn Sakata.

**May 10, 23. Day 3 – SAKATA TO TOBISHIMA.** A short ferry ride takes us to the nearby island of Tobishima in the Sea of Japan. The pelagic birding will provide excellent chances to see Pacific and Red-throated loons; Streaked, Short-tailed, Sooty, and Flesh-footed shearwaters; and Japanese Cormorant. Reaching the picturesque fishing port on Tobishima, we set foot on one of the best spots in the region for seeing birds migrating north along the east rim of Asia, as they stop over on this island outpost. Many species such as flycatchers, warblers, thrushes, finches, and buntings pass through here, stopping in woods and gardens. Night in Ryokan Obako, Tobishima (Single accommodation will not be available).

**May 11, 23. Day 4 – TOBISHIMA.** During spring migration periods, Tobishima holds out some superb possibilities among Asian specialty birds. We will be on the quest today for such songbird beauties as Siberian Blue and Japanese robins; Narcissus and Blue-and-White flycatchers; Eastern Crowned and Sakhalin Leaf warblers; Siberian, Brown-headed, Eye-browed, and Japanese thrushes; and Meadow, Chestnut-eared, Rustic, and Japanese Yellow buntings, to mention but a few. Rarities often turn up here as well. With luck, we might encounter such uncommon birds as Black-naped Oriole; Yellow-browed and Dusky warblers; Mugimaki and Taiga flycatchers; Little, Yellow-browed, Tristram's, Yellow-breasted, and Chestnut buntings, and so forth. You never know for sure what you might stumble upon on this island, where quite a few vagrants turn up every spring. We will bird on foot around the island all day, but walking will be at a relaxed pace with frequent breaks, including a picnic lunch. Night in Ryokan Obako, Tobishima (Single accommodation will not be available).

**May 12, 23. Day 5 – TOBISHIMA AND RETURN TO TOKYO.** We will be on the lookout for more migrating passerines on Tobishima in the morning. After lunch, we will take a ferry back to Sakata. Seabirds en route might include such regional specialties as Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel, Spectacled Guillemot, and Japanese Murrelet. Later in the afternoon, we will fly from Shonai in Sakata to Haneda in Tokyo. Night in Haneda Excel Hotel Tokyu.

**May 13, 23. Day 6 –YOKOHAMA AND KAMAKURA.** We will drive to a few parks in Yokohama to look for three species endemic to Japan: Japanese Green Woodpecker, Japanese Wagtail, and Japanese Green Pheasant. Other likely sightings include the lovely Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker and Varied Tit. The elusive Chinese Bamboo

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Partridge is far from easy to see, but possible. It is not the best time of year to see these species in the region, but we may find a few of them. After birding, we will travel as far as Kamakura, which was the seat of the samurai government from the end of the 12th Century through the early 14th Century. If we have time, we may visit the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu, one of the most famous shrines in Japan, before we have traditional Japanese cuisine at a restful restaurant in the historic city. Night in Haneda Excel Hotel Tokyu.

**May 14, 23. Day 7 – TOKYO BAY AND THE TONE RIVER.** After a leisurely breakfast, we will drive to a mudflat in Tokyo Bay to watch shorebirds. When tidal conditions are favorable, the mudflat attracts such Asian specialty shorebirds as Great Knot, Gray-tailed Tattler, and Far-eastern Curlew, to mention but a few. Next, we will be on the quest of two global rarities, Marsh Grassbird and Japanese Reed Bunting, in the reed beds along the great Tone River. Oriental and Black-browed reed-warblers, Zitting Cisticola, Skylark, and Japanese Green Pheasant also reside in the reed beds. Leaving the Tone River, we will return to Haneda, in preparation for a morning flight to Amami. Night in Haneda Excel Hotel Tokyu.

**May 15, 23. Day 8 – TOKYO TO AMAMI.** A late morning flight takes us to Amami Oshima, which is located between the southernmost main island of Kyushu and the subtropical island of Okinawa. We should be seeing our first birds on Amami in late afternoon. After dinner at our hotel in Naze, we will take a spotlighting tour with a local guide. Our main targets will be the endemic and nocturnal Amami Woodcock, Ryukyu (Elegant) Scops Owl, and Amami Black Rabbit. With a bit of fortune, we might find the critically endangered Amami Thrush roosting in an evergreen. During the quest for such specialty birds, we will likely encounter some indigenous herptiles and mammals as well. Hotel West Court Amami, Naze in Amami

**May 16, 23. Day 9 – AMAMI.** Today we will be on the quest for such Nansei Shoto (the southernmost islands of Japan) specialties as the stunning Lidth's Jay, Ryukyu Robin (Amami race), Ryukyu Minivet, Amami Woodpecker (owstoni race of White-backed Woodpecker), Ruddy Kingfisher, Ryukyu Green-Pigeon, Black Wood-Pigeon, Ryukyu Flycatcher, and the gorgeous Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher. The rare and endemic Amami Thrush is also a much hoped-for possibility. When we are lucky enough to have seen most of these woodland birds, we will poke around in farmlands for such elusive birds as Cinnamon Bittern, White-breasted Waterhen, and Ruddy-breasted Crake. Night at Hotel West Court Amami, Naze in Amami.

**May 17, 23. Day 10 – AMAMI AND TRAVEL TO OKINAWA.** On our way to the Amami Airport, we will drop in at some paddies and beaches, where we will see some

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shorebirds as well as herons and egrets. At this time of year, it is possible for us to run into some rarities in addition to the more common waders. After lunch at a nice resort restaurant, we will fly to Okinawa. Upon arriving in Naha Airport in southern Okinawa, we will head northwards to Yanbaru, the northernmost forest on the island. After a few hours of driving with beautiful views, we will arrive at our restful hotel nestled in the forest. After dinner, we may have another chance of a night-time sighting of Ryukyu Scops-Owl as well as Brown Boobook in the hotel yard. Night at Ada Garden Hotel, Yanbaru in Okinawa.

**May 18, 23. Day 11 – OKINAWA.** We will meet up by dawn to check near our hotel for the endemic Okinawa Rail. It is a flightless rail, which was first found only in 1981, and sadly is now endangered. Our other target bird will be Okinawa (or Pryer's) Woodpecker, which is critically endangered, with a total population said to be between just 200 and 600. These two Okinawa endangered endemics may rank among the top highlights of the tour, and right from the same area of forest. While we are on the quest of the rail and woodpecker, we may see other Nansei Shoto specialties such as Ryukyu Robin (Okinawa race), Ryukyu Minivet, Ruddy Kingfisher, Japanese Paradise Flycatcher, Ryukyu Green-Pigeon, Black Woodpigeon, and the uncommon Ryukyu Flycatcher. Night at Ada Garden Hotel, Yanbaru in Okinawa.

**May 19, 23. Day 12 – OKINAWA AND RETURN TO TOKYO.** We leave Yanbaru Forest in the morning, heading south for Naha Airport. On our way, we may drop in at one or two farmlands and mudflats to see some terns, shorebirds, and waders. There is a slim possibility of such rarities as the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill near the airport (there are only about 3,500 that remain worldwide.) Though uncommon in mid-May, there may be a few lingering individuals in the vicinity. We'll return to Naha Airport for a late afternoon flight to Tokyo's Haneda Airport, arriving in time for our farewell group dinner. Night in Haneda Excel Hotel Tokyu.

**May 20, 23. Day 13 – DEPARTURE DAY** Departure for Home. Although both Haneda and Narita are international airports, there are more international flights out of Narita, so you might want to fly out of Narita rather than Haneda. If you fly out of Narita, please schedule international flight departures no earlier than 12:00 p.m., to allow time to shuttle from Haneda Airport (90 minutes) and arrive with plenty of time (two-and-a-half to three hours) before your departure. The shuttle bus fare is JPY 3,100 a person (approx. \$29).



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## Your Guides

**Alvaro Jaramillo** was born in Chile but began birding in Toronto, where he lived as a youth. He was trained in ecology and evolution with a particular interest in bird behavior. Research forays and backpacking trips introduced Alvaro to the riches of the Neotropics, where he has traveled extensively. He is the author of the Birds of Chile, an authoritative yet portable field guide to Chile's birds. Alvaro writes the Identify Yourself column in Bird Watcher's Digest. Among various projects he recently authored the ABA Field Guide to Birds of California, and the sparrow chapter for the Handbook of Birds of the World, he is also writing a photo guide to the birds and wildlife of Patagonia. Alvaro was granted the Eisenmann Medal by the Linnaean Society of New York, it is awarded occasionally for excellence in ornithology and encouragement of the amateur. Alvaro lives with his family in Half Moon Bay, California.

**Kaz Shinoda** has been integrally involved in the logistics and planning of Alvaro's Japan tours. He was born in Yokohama, Japan, in 1957. From age 11 to 14 he lived in South Africa with his family and often went on safari where he learned about the fascinating world of wildlife. He later became a birdwatcher and has now been a keen birder for more than 20 years. Kaz graduated from Waseda University in Tokyo, and then taught English to high school students for more than two decades before dedicating himself to guiding visiting birders in the Tokyo area and around Japan. As a birding guide with more than a decade of experience, he has led birders throughout the Japanese Archipelago. As a nationally licensed English-speaking Tour Guide, Kaz is knowledgeable not only about birding in Japan, but also about Japanese geography, history, and especially culture, important subjects that help enhance a birding trip to this culturally unique country. His guiding experience has taken him throughout the country from Hokkaido to Okinawa and many places in between including Tobishima, Karuizawa, the Izu Islands, Mount Fuji, Kyushu, and Amami. Kaz's considerable organizational and logistical skills are key to the success of Alvaro's Japan tours, while his philosophy of giving clients an enjoyable and rewarding birding experience makes him an extremely popular guide.

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$6900 from Tokyo. This does not include "Visit Japan" domestic airfare tickets. These needs to be bought outside of Japan, by non-Japanese residents, and we will give guidance on their purchase. In 2019, internal flights cost \$390.

**DEPOSIT:** \$500 per person.

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**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** January 8, 2023

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$650. Singles may not be available at traditional Japanese style hotels.

**LIMIT:** 9.

## Additional Information

**DOCUMENTS:** A current passport valid for the dates of your stay is necessary for US citizens to enter Japan. Your passport must have at least one blank page for the stamp. No visa is necessary if you are staying less than 90 days. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Japanese 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.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS (BAGGAGE):** Please plan to arrive in Tokyo by May 8, 2023. Arriving a day early to rest up and avoid the stress of missed connections is always recommended and we can arrange extra nights at the hotel for you. Please schedule to leave Japan on May 20, or later if you want more time to see Tokyo on your own. 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.

**BAGGAGE:** When traveling within Japan, officially, one piece of checked luggage weighing no more than 44 lbs. (20 kg) is allowed free of charge. In addition, you are allowed one piece of carry-on luggage and whatever you carry over your arm or in your hands (i.e. coat, book, purse, umbrella etc.). We recommend applying these guidelines to your international flights as well, as this will allow you to plan for all circumstances. We request that your luggage be limited to one medium-sized soft-side roller bag or duffel bag. Please note for our flight from Amami to Naha, the total outside dimensions of your carry-on luggage will have to be within 100cm since it is a smallish aircraft with less than 100 seats: <https://www.jal.co.jp/en/dom/baggage/inflight/>

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The tour fee is \$6900 for one person in double occupancy from Tokyo, Japan. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 12, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 13, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling, drivers 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 Japan, internal airfare, airport

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taxes, visa fees, optional extra tips to local drivers or guides, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for the tour is \$650 but note it may not be possible to have a single room at traditional Japanese hotels (at least two on our itinerary). 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 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 January 8, 2023 (we may delay if Japan is not open to tourism at this time)**. **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:** 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

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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 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 89 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

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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.



**Asian Spot-billed Duck**

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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.

5/22 AJ