

ALVARO'S ADVENTURES
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Birding in Colombia's "Coffee Triangle" 2021

Dec 1 – 13, 2021

Guided by Andrea Beltran and local guides



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Colombia is one of the megadiverse nations. A country where the number of species of almost anything you consider is huge compared to a temperate region, and even other tropical countries. There are nearly 2000 species of birds in Colombia, making it the richest country for bird species on earth. There are nearly 80 endemic species of birds, and sadly more than half of these are under some element of conservation concern at this moment. The reason for the megadiversity is clear. Colombia is tropical, yet it also has ample elevation change due to the Andes, furthermore it has both the Pacific and Caribbean coasts. The Andes become complex in Colombia, splitting into three ranges, which increases habitat diversity, as well as rain shadow valleys between the mountains. Lots of different habitats, creates an abundance of bird species. This trip ventures into a fantastic area that samples this diversity. We visit two of the Andean Ranges. On the Western Andes we travel into the Chocó ecozone, with its fantastic and unique avifauna. As noted above, elevation changes bring different species, and we will head up above the tree line in the Paramo of the Central Andes, where again more unique species are found. This is a land of hummingbirds and tanagers, as well as endemic birds, antpittas, gorgeous parrots, and unique specialties of Colombia.

The Coffee Triangle (Eje Cafetero) has an important cultural, historical and economic role in Colombia. If famed Colombian Coffee farmer, Juan Valdez, lives anywhere, it is

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here in the Coffee Triangle! International Tourists already consider this a must go region in Colombia, and tourism infrastructure is improving every day as more areas are becoming accessible to visitors. Birders are the vanguard, going where others have yet to discover. Some of these areas were up until recently inaccessible due to conflict. This conflict has ended, and gorgeous areas are now open and primed for discovery. This itinerary is part of a process where birding becomes an active driver in economic development and ecotourism. This itinerary goes to project sites for a Colombian government funded venture being executed by National Audubon Society. As part of this program Alvaro's Adventures was involved in guide training, ranking of birding sites to be included in the project, and proposing birding itineraries to showcase the best of birding in the region. As the guides, and lodges become part of the birding economy, they are becoming ambassadors for their local environments, and they will become the key people who will convince their communities to conserve habitat rather than degrade it. This is conservation of birds and habitats, through bird focused tourism. The photo birding itinerary is a direct offshoot of this project which Alvaro's Adventures has been proud to be involved in.



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The Birding Sites We Visit

Cali & Anchicayá

Cali is the city where the Colombian Bird Fair is based, partly due to its easy access to some fantastic montane birding. Cali itself lies in the broad Cauca River Valley, to the west of Cali are the Western Andes and a site called Km 18. Only approximately a half hour out of the city, it is a gorgeous and birdy spot. Here the montane forests hold Colombian Chachalaca, a myriad of Andean hummingbird species, Golden-headed Quetzal, Andean Motmot, Green-and-black Fruiteater, wintering warblers and prized tanagers. Among the latter, the gorgeous and endemic Multicolored Tanager can be found here. Over 20 tanagers can be found, including Beryl-spangled, Golden-naped, Blue-necked, Metallic-green, Golden and Saffron-crowned to name a few. Farther West is the area known as Anchicayá. This is a road, which cuts through the mountains, and gets to lower and lower elevations depending on how far west you go. And as the elevation changes, so do the birds. You begin with Green Thornbills, Toucan-Barbet, Andean Solitaire, and Rufous-throated Tanager and you may end in areas with Purple-crowned Fairy, Empress Brilliant, Broad-billed Motmot, Spot-crowned Barbet, Lita Woodpecker, Pacific Antwren, Esmeraldas Antbird, Gray-and-gold Tanager, Rufous-winged Tanager and Lemon-spectacled Tanager. This is an incredibly diverse and birdy road, a memorable place.

Montezuma and Tatamá National Park.

The Montezuma Ecolodge is located immediately adjacent to Tatamá National Park and much of the birding here is done on a road which heads up to a set of communication antennas and military installation which is in the park. This access to prime Chocó forest, and a wide elevational range makes Montezuma one of the most important birding destinations in Colombia. With over 460 species found here, and a variety of sought after and rare birds, it is a site that needs at least a couple of days for good coverage. Furthermore, by heading down hill on the highway to a Chocó site at only 300 m (Santa Cecilia) a further set of Chocó endemics can be found there. This is a top rate birding destination.

The *Bangsia* tanagers are high on the want list for birders in the Chocó. Montezuma has a particularly good looking one, the Gold-ringed Tanager which is not difficult to find fortunately. Sometimes the Black-and-gold Tanager is also found birding here. The number of Chocó specialties is long at Montezuma. Starting in the higher elevation part we visit, the little-known Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer is a specialty. Known only from a few high elevation sites, this may be the most reliable place in the world to find this species. Similarly, the recently described (2003) Munchique Wood-Wren is up here and often quite vocal. Heading downhill the number of specialties one can find, including 10

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endemic species in the park, are exciting to say the least. Birds such as the rare Olive Finch, Black Solitaire, Fulvous-dotted Treerunner, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Beautiful Jay, Semicollared Hawk, Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl, Glistening-green Tanager, the “too sexy” Club-winged Manakin (a recent behavioral paper describes this bird as too sexy for its own survival!), Chocó Vireo, and I still have over 400 other species to mention. Also exciting is to spend some time at the bird feeding stations. Some hummingbird feeders are placed in higher elevation sites, but the eco-lodge also has a good variety of feeders and even more hummingbirds visiting them. Among the more common species, there are some stunners like the White-tailed Hillstar, Violet-tailed Sylph, Velvet-purple Coronet, Booted Racket-tail, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, and the awesome Empress Brilliant.

Santa Cecilia, the lower elevation site approximately an hour from the eco lodge is being discovered as a superb birding site. The extremely range restricted Baudo Oropendola is regularly found here. Other goodies that may show up include the Spot-crowned Barbet, Esmeraldas Antbird, Chocó Toucan, Grey-headed Chachalaca, Baudo Guan, Band-tailed Barbthroat among various other birds less likely to be seen farther east or higher up in elevation. Again, these lower elevation Chocó sites are still being explored and discovered, and more will be seen and found here in the coming years.

Otún Quimbaya

The Otún Quimbaya area is in a Flora and Fauna reserve (Sanctuario de Fauna y Flora Otún Quimbaya) and it is connected to the Los Nevados National Park. It spans a good elevational range (1600 -2200m), the farther you go up the road or trail, more there is to see. During birding trips, we reach the El Cedral area, although one could continue for miles hiking to gain access to the Los Nevados National Park which we will also visit on this tour, albeit a different section. Less than an hour from Pereira, this is a superb and easy to get to destination. Also, worth mentioning is that a local organization runs the hotel and ecotourism offerings in the area. They run the restaurant, and hire locals for all of their positions, including the local birding guides. So, visiting Otún Quimbaya directly benefits the Yarumo Blanco Community Association, which works directly on local conservation issues, and community development. This is a great spot for birding, and what you see depends on what elevation you decide to bird along the access road. There are 250 species of birds in the Otún Quimbaya Sanctuary. One of the most noticeable birds in the reserve at times is the Cauca Guan. This is an endemic species to west central Colombia, and Otún Quimbaya is the best spot in the world to see this guan. In fact, it is greatly endangered and although easy to find at the sanctuary, it is estimated that less than 1000 individuals exist in the wild! The Sickle-winged and Wattled guans can also be found on the roadside. Otún Quimbaya appears to be the world headquarters for the Red-ruffed Fruitcrow. This species can be very common here, unlike in most other places it is found. The reserve is also a good place to find the

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skulking and rare Hooded Antpitta a small Antpitta that has a neat little body swaying behavior, if you are lucky enough to see them. In the department of skulkers, one can find the Chestnut Wood-Quail, Stiles's Tapaculo, Moustached Antpitta here. Perhaps more visually stunning though, Torrent Duck is regularly found, as is the endemic Crested Ant-Tanager, and a nice mix of tanagers in the foraging flocks, like the sought after Multicolored Tanager along with Black-capped, Scrub, Beryl-spangled, Metallic-green, Blue-necked, Bay-headed and Golden tanagers as the regularly encountered species in the colorful *Tangara* genus. There is a lot to see at Otún Quimbaya!

Tinamú reserve and lodge

The reserve is a former Finca, still owned and operated by the same family that has owned it for over 40 years. What they have done here is amazing. They have restored the habitat to forest, and the birds have returned! The forest is second growth, at 1200 m elevation, and the restored forest patch is not huge, but a wealth of neat birds can be seen here. It is also an incredibly comfortable birding lodge, that accommodates to the schedules and needs of the birding traveler. But what is truly outstanding here is the abundance of hummingbirds and some tanagers that come to the nectar and fruit feeders. You can sit back, have something to drink and enjoy a never-ending drama unfolding in front of you. Birding the forest can be great as well, and one may even run into the difficult to see namesake of the lodge, the Little Tinamou. The isolated Colombian population of Grey-headed Dove can be found here, as can several specialties like the Colombian Chachalaca, Grayish Piculet, and some nice antbirds. These include the Parker's Antbird which is difficult, but much easier to find are the nicely named Jet Antbird, and the Blue-lored Antbird. The Moustached Puffbird is a charismatic bird that may be found in the forest, and if you like a challenge the White-crowned Tapaculo is seen here.

Rio Blanco

Very near the city of Manizales, is a reserve operated by the local water company. Ostensibly, the forest here was originally preserved to maintain water flow for the company. In time, it became clear that this habitat was also wonderful for naturalists and birders. They have been coming here in numbers, along with local groups being educated on the value of nature and wildlife. Rio Blanco is high enough that it holds montane forests, moist and luxurious, with a mix of species entirely different from the lower elevations of Tinamú Lodge, yet Rio Blanco is only about an hour from Tinamú. If you had to describe what makes Rio Blanco unique, the answer is decisive and clear, antpittas. These birds are of course very difficult to see, skulkers that walk on the forest floor and are birds which are generally heard and not seen. Amazingly there are 9 species of Antpitta which have been detected here. But what makes Rio Blanco special is the fact that here you can see antipittas! They come to worms brought in by Carlos

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Mario, the excellent local guide who is the Antpitta whisperer. The various antpittas vary in how difficult they are to see, and four species come in regularly including the endemic Brown-banded Antpitta, Chestnut-crowned as well as the Bicolored and Slate-crowned antpittas. The ability to see this many Antpitta species in one morning is unrivaled. Rio Blanco's montane forests also have many other wonderful species. The White-crowned Tanager, an odd large tanager may be seen here, along with some stunning or hard to find birds. These include the Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Rusty-faced Parrot, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Streak-headed Antbird, Ocellated Tapaculo, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Dusky Piha, Black-collared Jay and the south after Masked Saltator. There is a lot to see in this fantastic reserve just outside of town. During the middle of the day, the slow hours, paying attention to the hummingbird feeders here can be a ton of fun, with Collared Inca, Long-tailed Sylph, among many other.

Parque Nacional Los Nevados

This will be our time to visit the Paramo, a high elevation habitat of grass, cushion plants and unique vegetation found only at this high elevation. The Los Nevados National Park is a high elevation park, largely above the tree line. It is a very extensive park, and where we will be visiting is the most easily accessible part of the park. In this region, it is also adjacent to montane forests at slightly lower elevation, such as the road that goes through the Bosques Cheq preserve on the way down to Manizales. The park is wild, and even Spectacled Bear live here, although one would have to be very lucky to see one in this more highly visited part of the park. The birds one looks for here are the high elevation specialties, and most of all the endemic and charismatic hummingbird, the Buffy Helmetcrest. This long-tailed hummingbird with a peaked crest is not only a rare and range restricted bird, but a habitat specialist. It is found in paramo rich in "Frailejon" plants of the genus *Espeletia*. These are odd, large, hairy-leaved plants in the sunflower family that are only found in well preserved paramo habitats. Up at these high elevations we may also find the Stout-billed Cinclodes, Many-striped Canastero, Andean Tit-Spintail, Veridian Metaltail, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Plain-capped Ground-Tyrant, Andean Teal, Paramo Tapaculo and one of the easiest antpittas to find, the Tawny Antpitta. If you are lucky, the Andean Condor may sail by.

One of the highlights of this region are the hummingbird feeders at our hotel. These are chock full of activity, but they also hold some gorgeous and interesting hummingbird species. The star here is the Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, while the Black-thighed Puffleg is a rare species, yet frequent visitor to the feeders here. The supporting cast does sound very star studded, Tourmaline Sunangel, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Collared Inca, Mountain Velvetbreast, Great Sapphirewing, and Shining Sunbeam. Perhaps not as vivid in color as its relatives, on hummingbird stands out for its bill. The Sword-billed Hummingbird has the longest bill length relative to its body of any living bird! The high elevation forests here also may provide Dusky Piha, the gorgeous Crimson-mantled

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Woodpecker, Golden-plumed Parakeet, and maybe mixed forest flocks with Black-capped Tyrannulet, White-banded Tyrannulet, Black-crested Warbler, Lacrimose and Scarlet-bellied mountain-tanagers, Golden-crowned Tanager, Blue-backed Conebill and maybe the uncommon prize of a Black-backed Bush-Tanager.



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About the Physical Requirements & Pace

The Coffee Triangle Colombia has an incredible amount of diversity in a small space. In this itinerary, we visit the Western and Central Andes. Although the area we visit is not huge on the map, some distances between sites are longer in travel time due to the nature of mountain roads, seldom straight, and with elevation gain and loss as you move. Moving between sites we will be in larger highways, or good paved roads between towns. Note that to access some birding areas, we have to contend with some rather poor mountain roads. The road above Montezuma for example can become very muddy and can wash out after particularly rainy periods of time. There will be times when we will have to be traveling in 4 x 4 vehicles, such as in Montezuma. Thus, this tour is a little different from others you may have been on in that we will be traveling on 2-3 comfortable 4x4 vehicles for parts of the trip. This will allow us access to all areas we want to go, comfort given the road needs, as well as space for luggage. The negative is

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that during drives you may not be sitting with a guide, but all vehicles will be in radio contact, and keep in mind that we do many birding stops where everyone will be birding as a group. At other times in the tour we will be together in a van or minibus, moving between sites or at sites that do not require 4 x 4 travel.

Accommodation varies throughout this tour. The Montezuma eco-lodge is simple, but caters specifically to birders. Here it may not be possible to have single rooms for example, although they will try to accommodate those requests. Food is great, and the rooms are clean and comfortable, but basic. Hot water is available at all places. The other extreme include the very comfortable and very nicely appointed rooms at Hotel Tinamú. These hotels are great, in nice habitat, and are very appealing spots to stay at. Other hotels vary and are intermediate between these two. We will have purified or bottled drinking water available throughout the trip.

One should be prepared for early morning birding, as it is important to be out before it becomes too hot, and the bird activity begins to subside. Whenever possible we shall have an early afternoon break, before continuing out in the late afternoon – this may only be possible in spots where we have multi-night stays. Also, for those interested in mammals and night birds there will be some opportunities for owling. Most of our meals will be sit-down meals, although field lunches are possible somewhere along the trip. If you have specific food allergies, please communicate these to us on signing up. There are no difficult hikes on this trip. However, some mountain birding, such as Montezuma may be best done by walking downhill on the main road and getting picked up by the vehicle at certain intervals in order to cover an ample elevational distance. Muddy trails may occur in some sites, although much of the birding on this trip is done from roads with little to no traffic. Some muddy trails or roads may be on a slope, if you think you would like some extra stability in these cases, do bring a walking stick.

Note that the tour starts in Cali and ends in Pereira, both are a short flight from the capital city of Bogota. Some airlines fly directly to Cali from the US, although flights out of Pereira go to Bogota. Flights to Bogota from Pereira take less than an hour and arrive in the main terminal (El Dorado) making connections to ongoing international flights quite easy. Bogota is a large, major airport and has many daily flights from North America on various airlines. Pereira is served by Avianca (Star Alliance) and Latam (One World) as well as other smaller airlines, with many daily flights. If your travel needs require overnighting in Bogota, there are close hotels to the airport which make this comfortable to do, and you may also choose to stay over and hire a local guide for birding here in the Bogota area for a day or two! We can also arrange this for you.



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Itinerary for Photo birding Colombia 2021

Dec 1, 21. Day 1 - Arrival day. Arrival by midafternoon in Cali today, or consider arriving a night before, something we can arrange for you. Afternoon drive to the lodge. **Night in Araucania Lodge.**

Dec 2, 21. Day 2 –ANCHICAYA AREA – One of the best birding roads near Cali, is the Anchicaya route which drops in elevation and allows for easy access to various areas of montane forest. **Night in Araucania Lodge.**

Dec 3, 21. Day 3 – BIRDING KM 18. – Another well-known birding area near Cali is Km. 18, named for the distance along a road that winds through montane forest. There are some particularly good feeders here which may have the gorgeous and endemic Multicolored Tanager. **Night in Buga.**

Dec 4, 21. Day 4 – LAGUNA EL SONSO AND MONTEZUMA. – We will spend a few hours of the morning at the wetland site of Laguna el Sonso. We will then travel to Pueblo

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Rico, and onward to the Montezuma Ecolodge, with time for some birding in Montezuma on our first afternoon. **Night in Montezuma.**

Dec 5, 21. Day 5 – MONTEZUMA ALL DAY. All day in Montezuma starting at the high elevation site and birding our way down. **Night in Montezuma.**

Dec 6, 21. Day 6 – MONTEZUMA ALL DAY. All day in Montezuma trying to find the species we have not found yet. **Night in Montezuma.**

Dec 7, 21. Day 7 – MONTEZUMA TO SALENTO. Depending on how things went on the previous day, we may spend time going up the mountain in Montezuma or we will head down to spend the morning on a visit to Santa Cecilia, which is lowland Chocó. We will then travel to Salento. **Overnight in Salento.**

Dec 8, 21. Day 8 – CAMINO NACIONAL AFTERNOON IN OTUN QUIMBAYA. We will bird the areas above Salento on the Camino Nacional. A great road through the forest and palm woodlands with little traffic. In the afternoon we will head to Otún Quimbaya where we will have some time for some birding. **Overnight in Otún Quimbaya.**

Dec 9, 21. Day 9 - MORNING IN OTUN QUIBAYA, DRIVE TO TINAMU LODGE. We have one morning in the Otún Quimbaya Sanctuary, we will head up in elevation today, hTinamú Lodge after lunch, where we can bird near the lodge and catch up with many hummingbirds and other birds coming to the local feeders. **Overnight in Tinamú lodge.**

Dec 10, 21. Day 10 – RIO BLANCO. Birding in the morning at the Rio Blanco reserve, which is about an hour away from Tinamú Lodge. Afternoon birding at the Tinamú reserve. **Overnight in Tinamú lodge.**

Dec 11, 21. Day 11 – TINAMU LODGE TO NEVADOS DEL RUIZ. We will head out in the morning, birding the highland forests of Bosques Cheq as well as Las Brisas. We will end up at Nevados del Ruiz, where our mountain accommodation has some of the most incredible hummingbird feeding stations anywhere. **Overnight in Hotel Termales del Ruiz.**

Dec 12, 21. Day 12 – NEVADOS DEL RUIZ. We will be birding the areas near the hotel today, finding final species we have not yet seen in the Paramo. We shall bird down the montane forest on our way to Pereira. **Overnight in Pereira.**

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Dec 13, 21. Day 13 – TRANSFER TO AIRPORT IN PEREIRA. FLIGHTS BACK TO BOGOTA AND HOME. No birding today. Please book a flight back to Bogota and onwards at any time on this day. Save travels!



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Your Guides

Andrea Beltran Andrea and her husband Alejandro run the company Birding and Herping in Colombia. She is an experienced birder and guide, based out of Armenia in Quindio Department. They specialize in both birding, and herp watching tours but as biologists they also incorporate a conservation ethic to their work, and support local communities, in addition they incorporate an environmental education component with local communities as part of their work. Apart from birding and herp tours, they have worked on nature photography excursions, as well as nature, coffee and cultural trips. You will enjoy Andrea's outgoing personality, and knowledge of the Eje Cafetero (Coffee Triangle) zone of Colombia.



Guides trained by National Audubon Society Project. Alvaro has been involved in training and curriculum development, as well as creation of itineraries to promote birding tourism in Northern Colombia. We will be hiring local guides who have taken part in this program at various points in the tour, as support to these guides and the project. To read more about the project, please visit:

<http://www.audubon.org/conservation/ecotourism-colombia>

<http://www.audubon.org/magazine/march-april-2016/beyond-coca-curtain-can-birding-build>

Financial Information

FEE: \$4350 starting in Cali and departure from Pereira.

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: Aug 3, 2021

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$575.

LIMIT: 8. Minimum 4. If the trip goes with less than 6 people, a small group surcharge of \$350 will be added.



Additional Information

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid three months beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Colombia. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Colombian 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 Cali during the morning or early afternoon on Dec 1, 2021, there is no birding on this day, but we will be transferring to a hotel outside of the city for this first night. Arriving a day early to rest up and avoid the stress of missed connections is always recommended and we can arrange an additional hotel night in Cali for you. You can leave Pereira at any time on Dec 13, 2021. 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 \$4350 for one person in double occupancy from Cali and ending in Pereira, Colombia. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 12, all meals from lunch on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 13, all ground transportation, 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 Cali and Pereira, Colombia, airport taxes, visa fees, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The single supplement is \$575. 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. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by Aug 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.** 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.

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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 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 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

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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.

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. 5/21 AJ