

ALVARO'S ADVENTURES
birding & nature tours



Japan in Spring 2025 – Migration and seabird island hopping.

May 10 - 24, 2025

Guided by Alvaro Jaramillo and Hiroyuki Tanoi



Varied Tit

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May 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 the islands of Japan, away from urban centers, to experience a more traditional Japan that few tourists see.

Tokyo is the central hub of the tour, as we travel out to different islands. This is an island hopping tour, where we will visit the southern and more tropical islands of Okinawa and Amami, along with the "Izu Islands" on our trip to Miyakejima, and finally up in Hokkaido we will be visiting the migrant hotspot and alcid colony of Teuri Island. We also will be moving from Honshu to Hokkaido on ferry, in order to take in some of the birds en route. This is a tour that mixes a search for island endemics, like the Amami Woodcock, Okinawa Rail, Owston's Tit, Izu Robin and many other endemics to species which are extremely difficult to find unless you are on some of the Japanese islands, such as Black Woodpigeon, Pleske's Grasshopper Warbler, Ijima's Leaf Warbler and the like. Of course, with our ferry crossings we should be able to find regional specialties as Streaked Shearwater, Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel, and Japanese Murrelet perhaps even the Short-tailed Albatross and perhaps migrant jaegers, and alcids. We will also be visiting a breeding colony of Rhinoceros Auklets, and Spectacled Guillemots. The diversity and cool experiences on this Japan tour is superb.

The southern islands are particularly interesting. These are known as 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 GreenPigeon, Ryukyu Minivet, Ryukyu Robin, and Black-naped Tern.

In the north, off Hokkaido's west coast, a short ferry ride takes us to the nearby island of Teuri. Here 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 on their way north. Many species pass through here, including such songbird beauties as Mugimaki and Blue-and-white flycatchers, Siberian Blue Robin, Siberian and Japanese thrushes, plus huge Black Woodpigeons and speedy Pacific Swift. In addition, the traditional lodging on the island is attractive and comfortable and a truly Japanese experience.



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!

Izu Islands

The Izu Islands are a chain to the south of Tokyo. We will visit Miyakejima, arriving there by an overnight ferry. The Izu islands are an endemic hotspot and also where a large number of the Streaked Shearwaters breed. Here we can find the Owston's Tit, Izu Thrush, Izu Robin and some specialties that are extremely difficult to find elsewhere such as Plenske's Grasshopper Warbler, and Ijima's Leaf Warbler.

Teuri Island

In the Northwest of Japan, and accessible by a good pelagic rich ferry ride, this island is a site known for spring migration as well as breeding seabirds. It is home to 1 million seabirds and 250 people! 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. On the other hand, Spectacled Guillemots and Rhinoceros Auklets have colonies here that we can enjoy.

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.



Okinawa Rail

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 Teuri Island we will be walking all day, although at a birder's not a hiker's pace. In addition to this, we will be taking multiple ferry rides on this tour. Some are on large and very stable ships, others on smaller ferries. 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 comfortable, Japanese futons. Single rooms may not be available in some hotels, but this will depend on the makeup of our group (how many single rooms are needed). Most Japanese hotels have private bathrooms, but not in many traditional inns, 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

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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 Teuri Island: This 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, Teuri 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 traditional-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. The cuisine consists almost entirely of fresh seafood for most or all meals prepared in the traditional Japanese methods. 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. For those with an interest in Japanese culture and food will enjoy Teuri to the fullest and will find it one of the most memorable parts of the tour. It is also rich in birdlife.

Furthermore, the entire island, its shoreline, forests, and gardens all provide excellent birding, and our time there will be on foot. During the course of a day on Teuri one can expect to walk from five to eight miles total but punctuated with stops for birding and resting. Walking conditions on Teuri are mostly easy, on good roads or wide paths. 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 Teuri, this tour is not appropriate for those who are unable to walk unassisted for lengthy periods over long stretches. 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 a long day 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.



Narcissus Flycatcher

Itinerary for Japan in Spring 2025

May 10, 25. 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 Hiroyuki during this evening. The plan is to **meet at the lobby of the Haneda Excel Hotel Tokyu at 7:00 p.m.**

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 11, 25. Day 2 – TOKYO TO OKINAWA. Today we will have a morning flight to Okinawa (ANA 467 – leaving at 8:30 and arriving at 11:10). 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 a chance of a night-time sighting of Ryukyu Scops-Owl as well as Brown Boobook in the hotel yard, perhaps even the Okinawa Rail. Night at Ada Garden Hotel, Yanbaru in Okinawa.

May 12, 25. Day 3 – 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 species we would like to find here, both are here in this 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 13, 25. Day 4 – TO AMAMI. We may have some early morning birding in Okinawa, and then we make our way south towards the airport. We have a post lunch flight to the island of Amami (JAL 3867 leaving at 1:45 pm and arriving at 2:50). Our destination is 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. 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 in the town of Naze, Amami.

May 14, 25. Day 5 – 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. Hotel in the town of Naze, Amami.

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May 15, 25. Day 6 – AMAMI AND RETURN TO TOKYO – OVERNIGHT FERRY TO MIYAKE JIMA. We will do a bit of morning birding and then we will have lunch. We'll return to the airport for a mid-afternoon flight to Tokyo's Haneda Airport (JAL 658 leaving at 2:15 pm arriving at 4:20 pm). This night will be a little different as we will be taking the overnight ferry to the island of Miyake Jima. Our ferry leaves at 10:30 pm and will arrive the next day. Our accommodation on the ferry will be in cabins with bunk beds or twin beds. Night on the ferry.

May 16, 25. Day 7 – MIYAKE JIMA. Our arrival will be early in the morning (5 am). We will then begin birding at hotspots on the island of Miyake Jima hoping to find some of the endemics and specialties. The island has a nice forest as well as ponds, and coastal grasslands. The specialties here are Izu thrush, Owston's Tit, Ijima's Warbler, and Izu Robin in the forest. The grasslands may hold the Pleske's Grasshopper Warbler. Miyake Jima is also a great place to see White's Thrush, Black Wood-Pigeon as well as multiple endemic subspecies of various Japanese birds. Lesser Cuckoo is sometimes vocal at this time of year and easier to find here than at other localities we will visit. We will bird during the morning, have lunch and check in to our hotel in the mid afternoon. Overnight at a traditional Japanese Inn, Miyake Jima.

May 17, 25. Day 8 – MIYAKE JIMA. We will look for the species that have eluded us thus far. Migrants may pop in during the spring season, so we will be thinking about where to find the migrants, we will also have time to get good looks at the various Izu endemics. Overnight at a traditional Japanese Inn, Miyake Jima.

May 18, 25. Day 9 – MIYAKE JIMA AND RETURN TO TOKYO. We will have time for morning birding, and lunch before we head to port to take the ferry back to Tokyo. The ferry departs at 1:30 pm and arrives at 7:40 pm in Tokyo. We can eat dinner on the ferry before arriving at our hotel which is walking distance from the ferry terminal. The pelagic birding on the ferry can be quite good. We expect numbers of Streaked Shearwaters, possibly a Tristram's Storm-Petrel, and perhaps something even rarer. Short-tailed Albatross is a possibility. Overnight near the Ferry Port in Tokyo.

May 19, 25. Day 10 – to MISAWA AND HACHINOHE. We will take a morning flight to Misawa today (JAL 155 departing at 10:35 arriving at 11:55). After arrival and lunch, we will go to Hotokenuma and bird there until the late afternoon. Here we can find some breeding ducks such as Falcated Duck and Garganey, as well as some northern specialties like Latham's Snipe, Black-browed Reed Warbler, as well as the local Ochre-rumped Bunting. The uncommon Marsh Grassbird could be here as well. Of course

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many other more widespread species are here, including Green Pheasant. Night in Hachinohe.

May 20, 25. Day 11 – FERRY TO HOKKAIDO. Many of the specialties of Japan are seabirds, it is an island after all. Fortunately, a great network of ferries exist in the country allowing for pelagics on larger and more stable ships than the classic North American pelagic. Today we will take the Hachinohe – Tomakomai (Hokkaido) ferry, leaving at 8:45 in the morning, and arriving at 4 pm in Hokkaido. On the trip we may find the three jaegers, South Polar Skua, Tufted and Horned puffins, and Japanese Murrelet. Laysan, Black-footed and Short-tailed albatrosses are possible, yes all three!! Streaked, Flesh-footed and Short-tailed shearwaters may be found, and perhaps even a storm-petrel if we are lucky. Once we arrive in Tomakomai we will be transferring to the city of Sapporo. Overnight in Sapporo.

May 21, 25. Day 12 – TO TEURI ISLAND. During migration periods, Teuri Island holds out some superb possibilities among Asian specialty birds. It also has colonies of Rhinoceros Auklets and the Japanese specialty and gorgeous seabird, the Spectacled Guillemot. We will be on the island for two nights and will make the best of birding for the migrants, and seabirds. In the morning we will drive from Sapporo to the Haboro ferry terminal, at 2 pm we will take the ferry to Teuri Island, which takes 1.5 hours. On our first evening there we will take a night trip to go see the Rhinoceros Auklet colony, with birds streaming back to their burrows on Teuri Island. Night in a traditional Japanese Guest House (Ryokan).

May 22, 25. Day 13 – TEURI ISLAND. We will begin our day on a cruise to go and see the Spectacled Guillemots, pre breakfast. Otherwise, we will be on the quest today for migrants like the Common and Oriental cuckoos, along with big flocks of Pacific Swifts which are particularly common on Japan's islands. We may encounter some shorebird migrants, perhaps even Latham's Snipe, as well as Grey-tailed Tattler and perhaps Eurasian Woodcock. Given the northerly latitude of Teuri Island, Vega Gull, Slaty-backed Gull and "Kamchatka" Common Gull could be present, and even Glaucous and Glaucous-winged gulls. Both Arctic and Pacific loons are possible, along with resident Harlequin Ducks, if we are lucky Yellow-billed Loon may be present as a migrant. Migrant species could include Wryneck, Sakhalin Grasshopper Warbler, Red-rumped Swallow, Yellow-browed Warbler, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Eastern Crowned Warbler, Sakhalin Leaf Warbler, Asian Stubtail, Chestnut-cheeked Starling, White-cheeked Starling, White's Thrush, Japanese Thrush, Eye-browed Thrush, Siberian Thrush, Blue-and-white Flycatcher, Siberian Blue Robin, Siberian Rubythroat, Yellow-rumped Flycatcher, Narcissus Flycatcher, Mugimaki Flycatcher, Amur Stonechat, Olive-backed Pipit, Yellow-throated Bunting, Little Bunting, Yellow-browed Bunting, Gray Bunting and

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more. Basically, lots and lots of migrants are possible if the weather is right and we are lucky. Many of the species are the same that people go gaga over in the Aleutian Islands when they show up there, but here we may see some of them commonly. Night in a traditional Japanese Guest House (Ryokan).

May 23, 25. Day 14 – TEURI ISLAND AND BACK TO SAPPORO. We have a morning departure from the island, if possible, we will do some birding before breakfast and departure. Our ferry departs at 10:25 am, and we will be back to Haboro at 12:10. We will then depart for Sapporo and will spend the night in Sapporo.

May 24, 25. Day 15 – DEPARTURE DAY Departure for Home. We have reserved this day as a buffer in case we cannot leave Teuri Island due to weather on day 14. We do not expect any weather issues that could delay the ferry. But there is a chance. As such, you may want to book a flight out in the afternoon instead of the morning. Check out time at the hotel is at 11 am.

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.

Hiroyuki Tanoi Hiroyuki is from Tokyo, but now lives in Miyagi, Japan with his wife, Shoko who is also a very skilled birder. Both of them are particularly keen on seabirding, and have been all over the world looking at, and photographing seabirds. Hiroyuki started birdwatching when he was 6 years old and has been doing it now for over 30 years. He recalls as a junior high school student, observing seabirds from the ferry (Tokyo-Kushiro) and being drawn to them. He remembered how it was both difficult and interesting to identify seabirds at that time, and over time he became fascinated with them. He has a great knowledge of Japanese birds, and much experience birding in Japan. Hiroyuki works for an environmental research company. In that work he mainly surveys and observes land birds.



Little Bunting

Financial Information

FEE: \$8400 from Tokyo, ends in Sapporo. 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. Or we can have our ground agent in Japan purchase tickets for you. We estimate flights costs to be roughly \$400.

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person.

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: January 10, 2025

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

LIMIT: 11.

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Streaked Shearwater

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 10, 2025. Arriving a day early to rest 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 24 from Sapporo or stay later if you would like to enjoy Sapporo or Tokyo. We are suggesting an afternoon departure from Sapporo in case our ferry the previous day is cancelled due to weather. 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

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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 \$8400 for one person in double occupancy from Tokyo, Japan. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 14, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through lunch on Day 15, 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 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 10, 2025 (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.

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.

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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 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

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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.

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Amami Woodcock

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.

8/24 AJ