

BELIZE: BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES

MARCH 21-29, 2009

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This tour offers an exciting introduction to natural history exploration in the Neotropics. The two elements of this tour are very different and together sample much of this charming country's diverse habitats. In both areas, our accommodations are very comfortable and our schedule flexible enough to accommodate those who wish to take time away from the group.

The first element of our tour will explore the lagoons, pine forest, and savannah that dominate much of northeastern Belize. We'll begin at Crooked Tree, where a boat ride through the lagoon may produce such exciting birds as Boat-billed and Agami herons, Jabiru, Black-collared Hawk, and American Pygmy-Kingfisher. Nearby pine forest and cashew orchards host a long list of birds, including the stunning Yucatan Jay. We'll also tour the magnificent Maya ruins of Altun Ha where butterflying is excellent, and spend parts of two days at Lamanai Outpost Lodge, another fabulous Maya ruin situated on New River Lagoon.

A scenic drive to the west will take us to an entirely different world. Chan Chich Lodge, arguably the finest jungle lodge in Central America, is situated on the main plaza of an ancient Maya ceremonial site. Here, in the midst of the largest tract of unbroken forest north of the Amazon, Howler Monkeys roar, troops of Spider Monkeys crash through treetops, Jaguars prowl along quiet forest trails, and sounds of tinamous and woodcreepers echo through the forest. Because of the remoteness of Chan Chich, and the fact that there has been no hunting here for decades, the abundance and diversity of wildlife we'll experience is simply amazing. The very rare Ocellated Turkey is more common here than anywhere else, and such sought-after species as Ornate Hawk-Eagle and Tody Motmot are found regularly. This pristine natural history juxtaposed with comfortable accommodations, fine food, and incredibly friendly service makes Chan Chich something close to paradise.

Among the long list of special birds we'll look for on this tour, highlights may include Yellow-lored Parrot, Northern Potoo, Canivet's Emerald, Red-vented Woodpecker, Rufous-breasted Spinetail, Yucatan Flycatcher, Gray-throated Chat, Black-throated Shrike-Tanager, and Rose-throated Tanager. Butterflying in Belize is always interesting and often challenging. In March, freshly-emerged swallowtails and sulphurs begin puddling in large numbers, Memnon and Gold-edged giant-owls and Peleides Morphos flit through the forest, a wide variety of heliconians, crescents, and other "brushfoots" seek nectar in forest clearings, and a confusing array of skippers will either make us hit the books or call it siesta time!

March 21, Day 1: Arrivals in Belize City. Because travel delays are frequent in March and this is a busy time of year for travel, we suggest that those of you with flexible schedules consider arriving in Belize City a day early. Upon arrival in Belize City, you will be met by our ground operator and transferred to our comfortable hotel. The trip begins with a get-acquainted meeting at 5:30 p.m. this evening in the center courtyard of the Biltmore Plaza Hotel. Dinner will follow.

NIGHT: Best Western Biltmore Plaza Hotel

March 22, Day 2: Altun Ha to Crooked Tree. We'll spend our first day exploring Mayan Wells and the towering Maya ruins of Altun Ha, occupied from around 10,000 B.C. to 900 A.D. In addition to touring the ruins, we'll sort through the many butterflies that can be found here including Orange-barred Sulphur, Mimosa Yellow, Theona Checkerspot, Mexican Fritillary, Banded Orange Heliconian, Variable Cracker, and Veined White-Skipper. In the afternoon we'll make our way to Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Established in 1984 with the cooperation of the Belize Audubon Society, the government and local villagers, the sanctuary is a 16,000-acre network of lagoons, swamps, pine-savanna, and mango and cashew orchards surrounding the village of Crooked Tree. From our lodge overlooking Crooked Tree Lagoon, we should see a wide spectrum of birds including Limpkin, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Snail Kite, Great Black-Hawk and Northern Jacana.

NIGHT: Bird's Eye View Lodge

March 23, Day 3: Crooked Tree. We'll spend a full day at Crooked Tree, looking especially for some Yucatan specialties such as Black-throated Bobwhite, Yellow-lored Parrot, Yucatan Woodpecker, Yucatan Flycatcher, and Yucatan Jay. As the day warms up, we'll check the flowering cashew trees which often attract hairstreaks and other butterflies. After lunch we'll take a relaxing boat ride through forest-edged lagoons in search of Jabiru, Agami and Boat-billed herons, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Black-collared Hawk, Sungebe, and American Pygmy-Kingfisher. Water levels in Crooked Tree Lagoon are highly variable, but we try to time our visit to coincide with the reduced water levels that tend to concentrate shorebirds, herons, kingfishers, and other species.

NIGHT: Bird's Eye View Lodge

March 24, Day 4: Crooked Tree to Lamanai. After a final early morning at Crooked Tree, we'll travel to Lamanai, another fabulous Mayan ruin set on a bluff overlooking tranquil New River Lagoon. En route, we'll pass through Mennonite farm country where we may find species such as Aplomado Falcon, White-tailed Kite, Plain-breasted Ground-Dove, and Eastern Meadowlark. As we tour the ruins and trails, we'll have our first taste of tropical forest birding and may find such species as Violaceous and Black-headed Trogons, White-whiskered Puffbird, Keel-billed Toucan, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, and Barred Antshrike. Butterflies should be abundant at the ruins and in the gardens at Lamanai Outpost Lodge where we may find such species as Mexican Cycadian, Tiger Heliconian, Red Rim, and several species of crackers.

NIGHT: Lamanai Outpost Lodge

March 25, Day 5: Lamanai and Chan Chich. After a full morning birding at Lamanai, we'll be transferred to Chan Chich Lodge, arriving by late afternoon.

NIGHT: Chan Chich Lodge

March 26-28, Days 6-8: Chan Chich. It is difficult to convey how lovely Chan Chich is. Situated in the midst of over 300,000 acres of pristine seasonal rain forest, the lodge is both a haven for wildlife as well as a first class resort. From the comfort of our private cabañas we'll likely hear the calls of Great Tinamou, Barred Forest-Falcon, Crested Guan, Ocellated Turkey, Mealy and Red-lored parrots, Blue-crowned Motmot, Keel-billed Toucan, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, Bright-rumped Attila, and Montezuma Oropendola before even getting out of bed! Black Howler Monkeys roar from treetops surrounding the property and troops of spider monkeys are seen regularly. Spectacular butterflies such as Dark Kite-Swallowtail, Thoas Swallowtail, Apricot Sulphur, Mexican Cycadian, Spot-celled Sister, Many-banded Daggerwing, and Erato Heliconian flit around the grounds. A laid-back naturalist could have a wonderful experience without ever leaving the main clearing!

Our time here will seem barely sufficient to explore the nearly nine miles of trails, many of which we'll want to visit more than once. Our early morning walks will focus on birds and we'll hope to see most of the specialties of the area such as Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Great Curassow, Purple-crowned Fairy, Tody Motmot, Scaly-throated

Leaftosser, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Plain Antvireo, White-bellied Wren, and Gray-throated Chat. As the days warm up, our attention will shift to butterflies and we'll seek such uncommon sights as Transandean Cattleheart, Five-striped Kite-Swallowtail, Aglaura Banner, Dashwing Beauty, Guatemalan Cracker, One-spotted and Darkened-blue preponas, Lycastie Tiger, Peleides ("Blue") Morpho, and Yellow-fronted Giant-Owl. In addition to walking the trails around the lodge, we'll make short excursions to nearby Gallon Jug Farm where swallows and soaring raptors may be seen, and to Laguna Seca, a small wetland that often attracts an interesting variety of wildlife. We'll also make at least one night drive to look for owls, nightjars, potoos, and mammals.

Our days will usually be broken up into a series of short outings with a midday or late afternoon siesta. For those who wish to have more time away from the group, there will be ample opportunity to take a longer siesta by the pool, walk a trail on your own or go touring with a local guide.

NIGHTS: Chan Chich Lodge

March 29, Day 9: Chan Chich to Belize City; Departures Home. After spending a final early morning at Chan Chich, we'll take a late morning flight back to Belize City, where the tour concludes with departures home. Please do not schedule a departure flight for earlier than 1:00 p.m. Upon arrival at the Belize airport, you will have sufficient time to check in for your return flights to the U.S.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least **four months** prior to your departure date. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 8 participants.

TOUR LEADER: Michael O'Brien

Michael O'Brien is a freelance artist, author, and environmental consultant living in Cape May, New Jersey. He has traveled extensively throughout North and Central America and has a passionate interest in migration, bird vocalizations, and field identification. At home in Cape May, Michael serves as an Associate Naturalist with Cape May Bird Observatory for whom he conducts numerous workshops, writes a monthly ID column and photo quiz (see www.birdcapemay.org), and, for many years, conducted a fall songbird migration count. He is co-author of *The Shorebird Guide*, *Flight Calls of Migratory Birds*, and *America's 100 Most Wanted Birds*. His illustrations have been widely published in books and field guides, including the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* and the new *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America*. Michael also has an intense interest in butterflies and leads several "Birds & Butterflies" tours with his wife, Louise Zemaitis.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for Belize: Birds & Butterflies is **\$3895** per person in double occupancy from Belize City. This includes all meals beginning with dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 9, lodging, ground/charter air transportation during the tour and guide services provided by the tour leaders. Quoted fees do not include airfare from your home to Belize City and return, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small-party supplement may have to be charged.

The single supplement for the Belize: Birds & Butterflies tour is **\$510**. Please note that single accommodations are available on a limited basis at Chan Chich. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$500** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The

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VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation Penalties and Refunds are based on the following schedule: if cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, the deposit less \$300 per person is refundable. If cancellation is made fewer than 120 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions, as well as any transfers from one tour to another. ***We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.***

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$300.
Fewer than 120 days before departure date	No refund available.

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE: Application forms for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. We **strongly recommend** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering. Contact the VENT office prior to registration for details.**

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

AIR INFORMATION: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. We will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements for you.

CLIMATE: We are often asked about the weather at Chan Chich Lodge and how it differs throughout the year. The dry season runs from December through May, but showers can happen anytime in this region of lush, tropical moist forest. The average temperatures from December through March run from 70 degrees to the low 80s. The midday weather is often hot and humid (80-90 degrees), with slightly cooler evenings (each cabaña has a ceiling fan). November, December and January tours may encounter cold fronts that cross the Gulf of Mexico and bring cooler temperatures into Belize. Good raingear and warm clothing should be brought on these trips. The March trip is usually very dry and averages warmer temperatures than earlier trips. Highest rainfall is usually in June.

OTHER CONDITIONS: There will be several leisurely bird walks at Chan Chich, where the paths are wide and usually flat. None of the walking will be particularly strenuous (one longer walk will be about five miles). Altitude changes will vary from sea level to less than 1,000 feet elevation. To take advantage of the best time for

avian activity, we will begin birding during the dawn hours each morning. Chan Chich has a beautifully designed swimming pool and hot tub; the pool is enclosed by mosquito screens and is bug-free.

CLOTHING: Light field clothing and casual attire are suitable for this tour. Bring several pairs of long pants and comfortable shirts. Long-sleeved shirts are useful for protection from the sun and occasional biting insects. Pre-treating field pants and socks with repellent can provide extra protection from chiggers. A good hat or cap, plus rain gear and/or an umbrella are essential. Be sure to have a pair of comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots, plus a second pair of footwear such as tennis shoes or calf-high rubber boots (if it rains the trails can be muddy, especially from June through January). A sweater and/or jacket are also essential for the occasional cool, damp mornings, evenings and overcast days. Remember to bring a bathing suit if you would like to take advantage of the pool. Laundry service is available on a charge-per-item basis at Chan Chich. Items dropped off in the morning at the front desk are usually returned late the same afternoon. If you plan to wash your clothes in your room, please be aware of the fact that drip-drying (even of quick drying nylon items) may take a couple of days with the frequently high humidity.

CURRENCY: \$1 USD equals \$2 Belizean Dollars. The exchange rate is subject to change, but has been constant for some years. Both currencies have identical denominations. So if you plan to spend any money in Belize, make sure you understand whether the price is being quoted in Belizean or USD. It is not necessary to exchange currency for this tour, since US dollars are accepted everywhere.

DOCUMENTS: A passport valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure from Belize is required. Visas are not required for entry by United States citizens; however, a tourist card will be issued on your flight. Non-United States citizens should check with their consulate/embassy for instructions. If your passport is stamped by the immigration officials upon entry, you must be sure to get an exit stamp before returning to the United States.

ELECTRICITY: The electricity at Chan Chich is provided via two distant generators, which are in operation 24 hours a day. Wall outlets are provided in each cabaña and electrical appliances may therefore be used at any time day or night. No adapter is needed. The same is true for Crooked Tree.

EQUIPMENT: You should pack a pair of binoculars that are in good condition, along with a belt pack or day pack (good for carrying books, sunscreen, extra film or digital storage media, etc.). As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars, a change of clothing, toiletry items, medications, and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag. Your leader will have a spotting scope; but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so. You should also bring sunglasses and sunscreen, a small flashlight or headlamp, a small folding stool, battery-operated alarm clock, water bottle, camera, film or digital storage media and spare batteries, small daypack, and your favorite snacks. We highly recommend that you bring a collapsible umbrella, and also carry it with you on longer walks. Personal items like film or digital media, sun lotion, batteries, etc., can be very expensive anywhere in Belize. Bring sufficient supplies with you.

HEALTH: A routine anti-malarial regimen is recommended; please consult your physician. Mosquitoes, black flies and other small, biting insects can sometimes be a nuisance in Belize, especially in the forested areas. Chiggers are found in most of the grassy areas. We suggest a stick-type repellent for your face and hands, plus at least one pump-style container of repellent for your clothing. Purified water is available at Chan Chich (each room has a water cooler). As for foods, all salads, dairy products and home-cooked meals at Chan Chich are perfectly safe to eat, plus they are tasty and satisfying.

If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

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As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line 877-FYI-TRIP (394-8747) or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

A Note About Chiggers: This tour visits areas where chiggers are known to occur. Chiggers are tiny parasitic mites found in most warm weather areas of the southern United States and the world's tropics. They are especially numerous in grassy areas, where, in the immature stage, they attach themselves to other animals or humans who make contact with the grass as they pass by. Chiggers do not suck blood and the majority of the world's species do not carry disease. They do feed on bodily fluids, however, through a process in which a digestive enzyme is produced by the chigger which essentially liquefies the skin around the area where the chigger is attached. The chigger is not usually attached to the skin for more than a few hours before it either falls off or is knocked off. Our bodies respond by producing a hardened area as a defense against the chigger's digestive enzyme. Though the chigger may be long gone, it is the presence of the hardened area, and the body's natural process of reabsorbing it that typically causes intense itching, often lasting for a week or more. Chiggers like to attach themselves to areas of thin skin, like around the ankles, beltline, undergarment lines, knees, and elbows.

Chiggers can be avoided by following these procedures:

- Avoid walking, or standing in particular, in areas dominated by grass. These areas are where one is most likely to encounter chiggers.
- Tuck your pants into your socks to avoid direct skin-to-grass contact. Chiggers can find their way through clothing, but this is a standard and effective prevention technique commonly employed by many.
- Apply a cream-style insect repellent, such as "Cutters" to your body from the waist down BEFORE putting on your clothing.
- Spray your pants and socks with a spray repellent such as "Cutters" or "Off." Repellents with high concentrations of DEET (70-100%) are most effective. You do not need to apply these to your skin, only to clothing. (Be careful as DEET will damage plastics and lens coatings). Repel Permanone is an odorless aerosol insecticide that offers perhaps the best defense against chiggers. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online. It should only be applied to clothes and allowed to dry before you dress. Never apply Permanone directly to the skin. Permethrin is known to be a highly toxic chemical to insects. It is the active ingredient in Permanone, but is present in a small amount (0.5%).
- Powdered sulfur applied to waist, bottoms of pants, sock and boots is also effective at repelling chiggers. However, be warned that clothes will retain the sulfur odor for several washings.
- Shower at the end of each day in the field. Use a washcloth to vigorously rub your legs, feet, and ankles.

By following these methods, you should be able to avoid all chigger bites, as well as tick bites. If, however, you are bitten by chiggers anyway, you can reduce or eliminate the symptoms by applying benzocaine or hydrocortisone creams, calamine lotion, After Bite, or any number of anti-itch products.

LUGGAGE: We request you try to limit your luggage to one medium-sized lockable suitcase and one carry-on bag. It's a good idea to pack a change of clothes, your binoculars, medications, toiletries, walking shoes, and travel documents in the carry-on.

MISC:

Departure Tax - \$32 USD
Electricity - 110/220 volts
Language - English
Time - Central Standard Time

SUGGESTED READING: Our website at www.ventbird.com offers an affiliated online store that carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers, including over 6,000 books. The online bookstore can be found by following the link on our homepage. A portion of the sales from the store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You might also want to visit such other online stores as www.amazon.com and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, www.abebooks.com, or www.buteobooks.com, which specializes in ornithology books.

- DeVries, Philip J. 1987. *The Butterflies of Costa Rica and their Natural History, Volume I: Papilionidae, Pieridae, Nymphalidae*. Princeton University Press.
- DeVries, Philip J. 1997. *The Butterflies of Costa Rica and their Natural History, Volume II: Riodinidae*. Princeton University Press. Though not true field guides, both volumes are very useful for their high-quality color plates of specimens and in-depth natural history information.
- Garwood, Kim & Richard Lehman. 2005. *Butterflies of Northeastern Mexico, A Photographic Checklist, 2nd Edition*. Eye Scry Publishing, McAllen, Texas.
- Glassberg, Jeffrey. 2007. *A Swift Guide to the Butterflies of Mexico and Central America*. Sunstreak Books. A groundbreaking new book that covers most species we are likely to see in Belize.
- Glassman, Paul. *Belize Guide*. Moscow, Vermont: Passport Press, 1989.
- Hilty, Steven. *Birds of Tropical America*. Shelburne, VT: Chapters Publishing Ltd., 1994. Subtitle: "A watcher's introduction to behavior, breeding and diversity."
- Howell, Steve N.G. and Sophie Webb. *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- H. Lee Jones. 2003. *Birds of Belize*. University of Texas Press, Austin. Covers all species known to occur in Belize, including North American Migrants, though generally not as useful as Howell & Webb.
- H. Lee Jones and A. C. Valley. 2000. *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Belize*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain. The most authoritative status and distribution information on Belize. Unfortunately, this publication is not widely available but it is for sale at Chan Chich.
- Peterson, Roger T. and Edward L. Chalif. *A Field Guide to Mexican Birds*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1973.
- Sibley, David Allen. 2000. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Arguably the best North American field guide.
- Wood, D. Scott, Robert C. Leberman & Dora Weyer. "Checklist of the Birds of Belize" (booklet). Pittsburgh: Special Publication #12, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 1986.

SUGGESTED RECORDINGS: These will be helpful in learning the vocalizations of some of the region's birds. *Bird Songs of Belize, Guatemala and Mexico* by Dale Delaney. Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 1992.

A Bird Walk at Chan Chich by John V. Moore. San Jose, California: Astral Sounds Recording, 1992. Proceeds aid the local library in Gallon Jug, Belize.

TIPPING: As noted in our itineraries, tipping (restaurants, porters, drivers, and local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are not expected and are entirely optional.

RESPONSIBILITY: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its agents can accept 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. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved 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. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund

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will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. When this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on June 3, 2008 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.