

# VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS

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## SRI LANKA

DECEMBER 26, 2005 – JANUARY 10, 2006

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*Sri Lanka is teeming with birds, including some twenty-six rather fancy endemics. Its people welcome tourists with open arms. Our December 2004 tour of Sri Lanka was such a success that we feel the time is ripe to yet again visit this birding Mecca. VENT's fourth Sri Lanka tour will be led by Susan Myers who has led a number of previous tours to this lovely island. Susan has produced a superbly comprehensive itinerary that will give us the very best opportunity to see most if not all of the Sri Lankan endemics, in addition to a number of more wide-ranging species and some fascinating mammals. Furthermore, we will take time out to explore some of Sri Lanka's most important and "have to see" historical and cultural sites such as the extraordinary Lion Rock Fortress of Sigiriya.*

*Although VENT's Sri Lanka tour will focus on the island specialties, we will also be treated to some of the most wonderful waterbird spectacles in Asia. Island specialties will include Sri Lanka Spur-fowl, Sri Lanka Junglefowl, Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon, Sri Lanka Hanging-Parrot, the spectacular and very elusive Red-faced Malkoha, Green-billed Coucal, Yellow-fronted Barbet, the handsome Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Spot-winged Thrush, White-faced Starling, and Brown-capped and Orange-billed babblers. As for the waterbird spectacle, Bundala and Yala National Parks and surrounding tanks, located in the far southeast, are considered by many to be among the best birding areas in Asia. More than one hundred species are regularly recorded during a morning's walk/drive, including five species of Stork; thousands of Palearctic shorebirds, which feed along the drying edge of the tanks (man-made lakes); large numbers of local Spot-billed Pelican; and a host of "bush-birds" such as Sirkeer Cuckoo and the uncommon Blue-faced Malkoha.*

*Our tour will take us from the superb rainforests of Sinharaja to high, wind-swept, moss-covered Rhododendron forests. Sinharaja Forest is Sri Lanka's last major remaining area of tropical wet lowland forest and the single most important site on the island. Here we will search for some of Sri Lanka's most elusive species including the Red-faced Malkoha. We then have three days in the south east to explore Bundala and Yala National Parks and investigate the avian and mammalian riches of this fabulous area before ascending into the central mountains. From our attractive rest house at Nuwara Eliya, we will search mountain forests and botanical gardens for the surprisingly elusive Arrenga, Sri Lanka Bush-Warbler, and Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon, before heading further north to the ancient centres of Kandy and Sigiriya where we will enjoy more fascinating birding amongst the stunningly beautiful ancient monuments of this fascinating country.*

*This tour will produce some very fine birding including a number of very rarely seen endemics. Ideally it should be taken in conjunction with VENT's Southern India & the Andaman Islands tour.*

**December 26 - 28, Days 1-3: Fly USA to Colombo, Sri Lanka.** There are a variety of routes for your travel to Colombo. For assistance with your air arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact the VENT office. All

## ***Sri Lanka, Page 2***

participants arriving on December 28<sup>th</sup> will be met and provided with a transfer from the airport to our hotel. Should your travel schedule require you to arrive earlier than 1:00 pm on December 28<sup>th</sup>, please contact our office so that we may make additional hotel reservations.

NIGHT: Trans Asia Hotel

**December 29, Day 4: Drive to Hambantota.** This morning we will make the long but fascinating drive down to the south-east of the island. Needless to say we will make regular stops along the way on what will inevitably be a fascinating journey.

NIGHT: Oasis Hotel

**December 30, Day 5: Bundala National Park.** This is a superb area absolutely teeming with birds. So this should be a very exciting day. One of the most important wetland areas in Asia, Sri Lanka's south-west "Dry Zone" is composed of a series of lagoons and salt pans separated from the Indian Ocean by a broad beach and fringing sand dunes. Some of the species we may encounter include the endangered Spot-billed Pelican; Indian Cormorant; Little Cormorant; Black-crowned Night-Heron; Intermediate Egret; Painted Stork; Black-headed Ibis; thousands of Greater Flamingos – if they have arrived; Lesser Whistling-Duck; Booted Eagle; Great Thick-knee; Indian Stone-curlew; Small and Oriental pratincoles; Greater Sand, Lesser Sand, Kentish, and Pacific Golden plovers; Marsh, Broad-billed, and Terek's sandpipers; Little and Temminck's stints; Brown-headed Gull; Caspian, Greater Crested, Lesser Crested, Little, and White-winged Black terns; Orange-breasted Pigeon; Pied Cuckoo; Blue-faced Malkoha; Blue-tailed Bee-eater; Indian Pitta; Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark; Jerdon's Bush-lark; Oriental Skylark; Paddyfield Pipit; and Brahminy Myna.

NIGHT: Oasis Hotel

**December 31, Day 6: AM Bundala Area; PM Drive to Yala National Park.** After lunch we will drive east and north to our very attractive hotel, located right at the edge of the huge Yala National Park.

NIGHT: Yala Village Hotel

**January 1, Day 7: Yala National Park.** This reserve encompasses a large chunk of the south-east corner of Sri Lanka, including a magnificent mosaic of lowland habitats in a picturesque setting. This is an extremely rich area and we can expect to see large numbers of birds and mammals, many of which provide superb subjects for the photographers among us. It gets very hot during the middle of the day, so we will concentrate our efforts during the early morning and late afternoon. It is quite possible to see over one hundred species of birds in a morning, in addition to herds of Asian Elephants; Leopard; Sambar; and Spotted, Barking, and, perhaps, Greater Mouse deer. The extensive marshes support huge numbers of ducks, herons, egrets, cormorants, and bitterns. Four species of storks regularly occur here: Black-necked, Lesser Adjutant, Woolly-necked, and Painted as well as the globally threatened Spot-billed Pelican. This will also be our best opportunity to see the endemic Sri Lanka Junglefowl. Other birds we may encounter include Crested Serpent-Eagle, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Grey-headed Fish-Eagle, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Blue-faced Malkoha, Pied Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Sri Lankan Wood-Shrike, Asian Paradise-Flycatcher, Jungle Prinia, Hume's White-throat, and Black Redstart.

NIGHT: Yala Safari Lodge

**January 2, Day 8: Drive From Yala to Udawalawe National Park.** This morning we will depart for Embilipitiya, which we will use as a base to visit the Udawalawe National Park. *En route* we will keep an eye out for a host of interesting waders and waterbirds which may be found on the many tanks that dot the countryside. In Uda Walawe we are sure to encounter wild Elephants as well as some of the dry country birds such as Crested Hawk-Eagle, possibly Short-toed Eagle, possibly Painted Francolin and the elusive Rain Quail, Barred Buttonquail, Sirkeer Malkoha, Pied Cuckoo, Tawny-bellied Babbler and Brahminy Starling.

NIGHT: Centuria Hotel

**January 3-4, Days 9-10: AM Uda Walawe; PM Sinharaja Forest.** After some final birding in Uda Walawe we will make the longish drive to Sinharaja Forest. Unlike previous tours, we can now stay at a very attractive small hotel located right on the edge of this wonderful forest and thus avoid the horrendously long drive we used to have to endure. We have two full days in which to explore Sinharaja's superb forests. These beautiful rain forests include more than 125 endemic species of trees as well as a large number of Sri Lanka's endemic birds, in addition to some of the nation's most exciting and elusive species. We should be particularly alert to the presence of mixed species feeding flocks, which invariably include a large number of specialties. Birds we might see include Malay Night-Heron (rare), Besra, Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle, Sri Lankan Spurfowl (this handsome endemic is extremely elusive, but listen for it scratching on the forest floor), Sri Lanka Green-Pigeon, Sri Lankan Hanging-Parrot, Layard's Parakeet, Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, the splendid Chestnut-backed Owlet, Brown Hawk-Owl, Red-faced Malkoha (perhaps the most beautiful of all malkohas and one of the most sought-after of all Sri Lanka's endemic birds), Green-billed Coucal, Sri Lankan Frogmouth, Indian Swiftlet, Brown Needletail, Malabar Trogon, Oriental Dwarf-Kingfisher, Sri Lankan Grey and Malabar Pied hornbills, Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Lesser Yellowthroat, Yellow-fronted and Sri Lankan Small barbets, Square-tailed Black and Black-capped bulbuls, White-faced Starling, White-bellied Drongo, Sri Lankan and Southern Hill mynas, Sri Lankan Blue Magpie (a very striking looking and sounding endemic), Spot-winged Thrush, Sri Lankan Scimitar-Babbler, Dark-fronted and Yellow-billed babblers, Ashy-headed Laughingthrush, Large-billed and Green warblers, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Legge's Flowerpecker, and Loten's Sunbird. With a bit of luck we may also find the frustratingly elusive Sri Lankan Spurfowl and increasingly rare White-faced Starling.

NIGHTS: Blue Magpie Lodge

**January 5, Day 11: Drive to Nuwara Eliya.** As we climb steadily through the dramatic scenery of the Sri Lanka highlands we will bird *en route* making a number of stops to look for any species we may have missed, such as the increasingly rare Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon, Brown Wood-Owl, and Streak-throated Woodpecker. We should arrive at our hotel in time for some late-afternoon birding.

The delightfully cool, old colonial hill station of Nuwara Eliya is surrounded by beautiful mature forest and will be our base for the next two nights as we search for Sri Lanka's high elevation species. During the afternoon we will visit centrally located Victoria Park, one of the best spots in Sri Lanka to see the superb Indian Pitta; Pied Thrush; the very attractive, endemic Yellow-eared Bulbul; Kashmir Flycatcher; Sri Lanka White-eye; Loten's Sunbird; and Indian Blue Robin. The immaculate Pied Thrush regularly forages on the lawns late in the afternoon after the daily crowds have wended their way home.

NIGHT: The Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

**January 6, Day 12: Nuwara Eliya.** We will also enjoy another highlight of the tour – a full day trip of the Horton Plains National Park in the heart of Sri Lanka's spectacular mountain ranges. A number of fascinating bird species are restricted to this montane area including Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon, Sri Lanka Bush-Warbler, Dull Blue Flycatcher and the much sought-after and most rarely seen endemic Sri Lanka Whistling-Thrush. However, we should at all times be prepared for rain as we have entered Sri Lanka's "Wet Zone," where damp mist and cloud often swirl back and forth across the surrounding crags.

Later in the day we will visit the Hakgala Botanical Gardens. Established in 1861, these gardens boast some impressive specimens of trees and shrubs, as well as a number of interesting birds. Species we may see include Besra Sparrowhawk; Mountain Hawk-Eagle; Indian Swiftlet; Yellow-eared Bulbul; Sri Lanka Blue Magpie (occasionally nests here); the rare Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon; Sri Lanka Bush-Warbler; Kashmir and Dusky-Blue flycatchers; and Sri Lanka White-eye and Black-throated Munia.

NIGHT: Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

**January 7, Day 13: Drive to Kandy.** A slightly more leisurely start today will see us on our way to the delightful city of Kandy where we will make a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens at nearby Peradeniya. Some excellent birds can be seen in this pleasant setting including Alexandrine and Blossom-headed parakeets, Large Cuckoo-shrike and Sri Lankan Small Barbet. In the afternoon we will visit the legendary Temple of the Tooth, one of Buddhism's most important monuments.

NIGHT: Earl's Regency

**January 8, Day 14: Drive to Sigiriya.** On our way to Sigiriya, we will stop at Udawatte Kelle Sanctuary where we may encounter Yellow-fronted Barbets, the diminutive Oriental Dwarf-Kingfisher, Brown-capped Babblers or Emerald Doves. Arriving at Sigiriya in the afternoon will allow us time to enjoy yet more wonderful birding in a superb setting. This evening we will make a special effort to track down Jerdon's Nightjar.

NIGHT: Hotel Sigiriya

**January 9, Day 15: Sigiriya.** The town of Sigiriya is centred around the incredible Lion Rock Fortress built by Prince Kasyapa over 1500 years ago. We will explore this truly amazing monument as well as bird the adjacent and equally ancient gardens and tanks. Some of the birds we will look out for include Drongo Cuckoo, Blue Rock Thrush and the simply gorgeous Orange-headed Thrush. This brings our tour of this magnificent island to an end as we proceed again to Colombo where we will overnight before our flight either tomorrow or in the early hours of the morning.

NIGHT: Hotel Trans Asia

**January 10, Day 16: Colombo. International Flights Home.** Participants may depart at any time today for their international flights home.

For those participants continuing on the South India tour we will take a non-stop Sri Lankan Airlines flight from Colombo to Bangalore.

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

**TOUR LEADERS:** Susan Myers and a local guide

**Susan Myers** has been studying the fauna of Australia and Asia for over 20 years. After her university studies in Biological Sciences, she moved to Japan where she lived for four years, learning the language and studying the natural history and culture. Once a qualified nursing practitioner, Susan has also worked as a scuba dive instructor on Australia's Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, showing international visitors this marine marvel. Her passion and enthusiasm for all aspects of natural history, especially birds, began in early childhood. She has published papers on ornithology and general ecology in a variety of scientific journals. Susan has traveled extensively through most of southern and eastern Asia and led tour groups to many destinations in this region. Her deep affection and appreciation of Asia and its wildlife, her special language skills, and her understanding of the different cultures of this region ensure an extra dimension to your tour. Susan's involvement in nature tourism now exceeds 15 years.

**EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS:** Should you wish to make arrangements to extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least **two months** prior to your departure date. These arrangements may range from an extra night at the initial hotel of the tour to a week or more extension including accommodations, sightseeing, and transportation. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for the **Sri Lanka** is **\$4,130.00** per person, based on double occupancy, and includes all meals beginning with dinner on Day 3 to breakfast on Day 16, accommodations as

stated, ground transportation during the tour, internal flights, and guide services provided by the tour leader. The tour fee does not include roundtrip airfare from your home to Colombo and back to the USA, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages other than those supplied as part of regular meals, special gratuities, telephone 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 be charged.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$360.00**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations or if you prefer to share a room, but have no roommate and one cannot be provided for you.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, complete the VENT registration form and return it with a deposit of **\$500** per person (check or money order in US dollars.) If registering by phone, the deposit must be received within 10 days or the space will be released. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refunds are made according to the following schedule: If cancellation is made 120 days or more before departure date, the deposit less **\$75** 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 to protect yourself.***

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus <b>\$75</b> .
Fewer than 120 days before departure date	No refund available.

**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, as are other coverages such as terrorism protection; 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 (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

**CLIMATE:** The VENT tour is arranged at a time when the weather is not especially hot or humid and in general the climate will be very pleasant. It is a little drier and hotter in and around Bundala and Yala National Parks and quite cool around dawn and dusk at higher altitudes around Nuwara Eliya and especially in Horton Plains National Park. It may even be cold for the first few hours, around dawn on some of our early morning excursions. We may encounter some rain, but it is unlikely.

**CLOTHING:** For all VENT tours to Sri Lanka, bring lightweight long-sleeved shirts and pants in natural fabric such as cotton or cotton and man-made fiber blends, or even better the new loose-fitting nylon field shirts and pants that are produced in ideal colors, such as those by Columbia and Exofficio. These offer protection against the sun and insects (very few), while remaining comfortable, cool and easy to launder. A warm sweater or jacket is essential for the cool dawns and evenings. People who feel the cold easily may require additional protection. Robust walking boots with good lug soles are essential; lightweight sports sneakers are generally insufficient.

Thick socks help absorb perspiration and cushion one's feet, especially when walking constantly on a hard surface. A sound rainproof jacket and plastic pants are also recommended. All clothing should be in DULL muted colors as this is less disturbing to birds and other wildlife. **PLEASE no bright colors and that includes pale khaki.** A wide-brimmed hat is also very important. Sunglasses can also be useful for reducing glare and keeping dust out of one's eyes during rides in open vehicles. Clients may like to include one dressier outfit (such as a sports coat, dress or pantsuit) for wearing to dinner at some of the smarter hotels and/or lodges.

**DOCUMENTS:** A current passport valid for at least six months after the conclusion of the tour and your return airline ticket are required for entry into Sri Lanka. For travel to Sri Lanka for tourism, if your stay is under 30 days, you will not need to obtain a visa prior to departure. It is important to indicate that your reason to visit is "natural history tourism" rather than specifically birdwatching. If you indicate specifically "birdwatching", they may think the expedition is scientific and require a business visa.

**HEALTH:** Sanitation is not ideal; however, it has improved radically during the time that VENT has been operating tours to Sri Lanka, largely as a result of greatly improved hygiene and the widespread availability of bottled, non-carbonated, water. Clients are advised **NOT** to drink the water anywhere, even in the very smart hotels of the larger cities. Indian and Sri Lankan beer is excellent and tea and coffee and other bottled soft drinks are safe and widely available. Bottled water is also widely available, and this is perhaps one of the most important contributions to the reduction in sickness on tours to the Indian sub-continent. In addition, your tour leaders will carry iodine tablets for your use should you so wish. Clients are advised **NOT** to eat uncooked or partially cooked meat or vegetables or food that has been cooling in the open permitting flies to settle. Only eat fruit that you have peeled, preferably first washing the outside with clean water. **"BOIL IT, PEEL IT OR FORGET IT."**

Traveler's diarrhea used to be a common complaint on trips to the Indian sub-continent. Fortunately, this increasingly is now uncommon and usually only as a result of the incautious eating of some of India's wonderfully spicy food! A prescription of Lomotol, to take care of the symptoms, is useful to have along.

Malaria is present in some parts of the Indian sub-continent (including Sri Lanka). There are currently three popular prophylaxis treatments for malaria: Mefloquine (Lariam), Malarone, and Doxycycline. All of these medications are available by prescription only. Please consult your physician. Recommended vaccinations include cholera (now considered only mildly effective), typhoid, and tetanus.

Please be sure to bring along all necessary prescription drugs and other pharmaceutical items. Although they can be purchased in India, you may not be able to obtain your preferred brand.

**INSECT PROTECTION:** Insects are generally not a problem at the time of VENT tours to Sri Lanka; however, mosquitoes can be an occasional nuisance. We recommend carrying Cutter's or similar insect repellent.

**EQUIPMENT:** Of course a good pair of binoculars in sound condition (please check) are essential. Some clients carry a second pair in case of emergency. The same advice applies to people who wear spectacles or contact lenses to protect against accident or theft. Your tour leader will be carrying a Swarovski spotting scope; however, you are more than welcome (**in fact encouraged**) to bring your own spotting scope if you so wish.

Clients are strongly advised to check that all their equipment is in good working order, that they have new and plenty of spare batteries for all their flash units, etc., and that they are carrying more than enough film. A commercially available, lead-lined bag is very useful to keep your film cool. It does not keep film safe from X-rays, however.

Other items of use include a flashlight (torch), water bottle or canteen, a small daypack, plastic bags to protect your equipment, handywipes, and paper tissues and industrial masks (very useful in dusty, sandy locations such as the dry habitats).

**ELECTRICITY:** 230 – 240 volts, 50 cycles, AC systems.

**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.**

**SUGGESTED READING:** *An asterisk (\*) indicates the book is recommended to bring on tour.*

Our website at [www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com) offers an online store that carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers, including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from our store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You might also want to visit such other online stores as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com), or [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com), which specializes in ornithology books. Participants may also wish to contact the Natural History Book Service in England, which has one of the most comprehensive collections of books on natural history: 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5XN U.K. Phone: 011-44-1803865913, Fax: 011-44-1803865280.

Daniel, J. C. *The Book of Indian Reptiles*. Oxford University, 1992. Try looking for this one on [www.abebooks.com/](http://www.abebooks.com/).

**\*Grimmet, R., C. Inskipp and T. Inskipp. *Birds of India*. Princeton University Press, 1999.**

Gurung, K. K. and Raj Singh. *Field Guide to the Mammals of the Indian Subcontinent*. Oxford. Academic Press, 1998.

**\*Harrison, J. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka*. OUP. 1999**

Kazmierczak, Krysz and Ber Van Perlo. *A Field Guide to Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. Yale University Press, 2000.

McNeely, J. A. and P. S. Sochaczewski. *Soul of the Tiger*. New York. University of Hawaii Press, 1995. (NOTE Mehta, Ved. *The New India: A recent history of India under Indira Gandhi*. Penguin Books, n.d. (paperback) or Viking Press, 1978 (hardback). Out of print but still available.

Rasmussen, P. C. & J. C. Anderton. *Birds of South Asia. The Ripley Guide*. Vols. 1 and 2. Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions. Washington D.C. and Barcelona. 2005. **This is THE book to have on this trip.**

Prater, S. H. *The Book of Indian Animals*. Oxford University Press, 1993. Try looking for this on [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com).

**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 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 May 03, 2005 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.