The beating heart of the Mayan world, Guatemala offers imposing architectural monuments, a vibrant and friendly modern culture, and some of the best and easiest birding in Central America. Our main tour, based in charming Antigua, is followed by a short extension to the greatest of ancient Mayan cities, Tikal, with its wealth of tropical birds.

One of the best-preserved colonial towns in the Americas, Antigua is at the center of the Antigua Important Bird Area, home to such range-restricted specialties as Pink-headed Warbler, Blue-throated Motmot, and Green-throated Mountain-gem. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Antigua is equally rich in cultural experiences, and our explorations will take us to sites including the vast art collections of Casa Santo Domingo and the Kakchikel fortress of Iximché, the last capital of the Maya kingdom.
Guatemala: Birds & Art in the Highlands, Page 2

Set in a vast rain forest, the pyramids and palaces of Tikal, site of our short post-tour extension, are a spectacular backdrop for such sought-after birds as Orange-breasted Falcon, Ocellated Turkey, and Gray-throated Chat.

March 1, Day 1: Arrival into Guatemala City; Transfer to Hotel Barceló. Participants arriving in Guatemala City’s La Aurora International Airport (airport code GUA) this afternoon, upon clearing customs and gathering luggage, will be met by our local agent and transferred to our comfortable hotel where a room will be reserved in your name. At a time to be announced, we will gather in the hotel lobby for an orientation followed by dinner.

Participants wanting to avoid the risk of misconnecting with the group or missing dinner should consider arriving into Guatemala City on or before February 28 and spending the night. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with any additional lodging arrangements.

NIGHT: Hotel Barceló, Guatemala City

March 2, Day 2: Birds and Art in Guatemala City; Transfer to Antigua. After an early breakfast in our hotel, we will drive about 20 minutes to a nearby park, where pine-oak woodlands offer easy and productive birding;
among the species we can expect here are Bushy-crested Jay, Gray Silky-flycatcher, Spot-breasted Oriole, White-eared Ground Sparrow, and Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridge.

After lunch, we will visit the National Museum of Archeology and Ethnology, which houses an impressive collection of Mayan art, ranging from sculpture, pottery, jewelry, arms, and tools, dating from 2000 BC to AD 1450.

Surrounded by 12,000-foot volcanic peaks, the delightful colonial town of Antigua is only 30 kilometers away. We will check in to our hotel in the late afternoon, then enjoy some free time for relaxing or strolling before dinner.

NIGHT: Hotel Los Pasos, Antigua

March 3, Day 3: Finca El Pilar and Colonial Antigua. We will have breakfast in Antigua, then drive 10 minutes to the private nature reserve El Pilar, just outside of town. El Pilar protects rich pine-oak forest at altitudes from 4,900 to 8,500 feet, home to Blue-and-white Mockingbird, Black-capped Swallow, Black-headed Siskin, Bar-winged and Black-vented orioles, and Singing Quail. The hummingbird feeders here attract the dramatic Rufous and Violet sabrewings, Green-throated Mountain-gem, and Azure-crowned, White-eared, and Rivoli’s Hummingbirds.

We will return to Antigua for lunch followed by a guided tour of the city’s jewels of colonial architecture.

NIGHT: Hotel Los Pasos, Antigua

March 4, Day 4: Finca Filadelfia; Visit with a Local Artist. We will leave the hotel early this morning to drive about 20 minutes to Finca Filadelfia, where we will board a UNIMOG for the ascent into the high cloud forest; we will have breakfast on the way up, including coffee grown on the Finca. Our destination is at 8,200 feet, where we can hope to see Amethyst-throated Hummingbird, Black Thrush, Golden-browed Warbler, Black-throated Jay, and Hooded Grosbeak.
Lunch at Finca Filadelfia will be followed by a tour of the coffee processing facility and a stop in San Felipe, the home of the artist Enrique Cruz. Cruz works in clay, creating intricately detailed polychrome sculptures depicting the wildlife and people of the Guatemalan highlands; his best-known works represent figures from Mayan legend, dressed in colorful traditional wear.

**NIGHT: Hotel Los Pasos, Antigua**

**March 5, Day 5: Cerro Tecpán and Iximché.** We will drive an hour and a half northwest from Antigua to Cerro Tecpán, where we will have a restaurant breakfast before birding the high-elevation pine-oak forest in search of one of the most delightful birds in the Americas, the Pink-headed Warbler, found in western Guatemala and neighboring Chiapas and nowhere else in the world. The forest is also home to Blue-throated Motmot, Hooded Grosbeak, Mountain Trogon, and Rufous-browed Wren.

After lunch we will visit the archeological site of Iximché, near Tecpán. This fortress was still occupied by the Kakchikel people when the Spanish arrived in 1524. Dinner will be in Antigua.
March 6, Day 6: Cerro Alux and Casa Santo Domingo. After an early breakfast, we will drive 20 minutes to Cerro Alux, a forested watershed reserve. Among the birds that can be seen here are Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer, Crescent-chested Warbler, Chestnut-capped and White-naped brush finches, Green-throated Mountain-gem, Blue-throated Motmot, and Rufous-collared Robin. We will have lunch at a hillside restaurant, with feeders frequented by White-eared, Azure-crowned, Rivoli’s, and Berylline Hummingbirds and Rufous Saberwing.

On our return to Antigua, we will have the chance to visit the Casa Santo Domingo and its exhibitions of Mayan and colonial art.

March 7, Day 7: La Reunión. An early morning drive of 25 minutes will take us to La Reunión, at 3,900 feet elevation at the foot of the Fuego volcano. After a cup of locally grown coffee, we will bird the gardens and semi-humid forest here, where we hope to encounter Cabanis’s and Rufous-and-white wrens, White-eared and Prevost’s ground sparrows, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Fan-tailed Warbler, or Long-tailed Manakin. After lunch in the La Reunión restaurant, we will return to Antigua, where the late afternoon will be free for exploring on your own, shopping, or simply soaking up the atmosphere before we assemble for the final festive dinner of the main tour.

March 8, Day 8: Departure for Home or Begin Tikal Extension. Participants not continuing on the Tikal Extension will join the early group transfer to Guatemala City’s La Aurora International Airport (see below) which will arrive in time for various morning or afternoon flights home.
TIKAL EXTENSION
MARCH 8-11, 2019

March 8, Day 1: Antigua to Tikal via Yaxhá-Nakum-Naranjo National Park. We will make a very early 45-minute drive to Guatemala City’s La Aurora International Airport where we will board a flight to Flores in northern Guatemala. We expect to arrive at 7:00 a.m. and then drive to Yaxhá-Nakum-Naranjo National Park for lunch. The Mayan ruins of Yaxhá are among the most important archeological sites in the region; world-famous Temple 216 towers high above the forest canopy, giving views over Lake Yaxhá.

After lunch, we will complete our journey to Tikal, where we will check into our forest-edge hotel.

NIGHT: Jaguar Inn, Tikal

March 9, Day 2: Tikal. Rising out of the surrounding rainforest, the temple pyramids of Tikal are some of the most famous monuments in the Americas. We will take the entire day to explore these vast ruins and the rich birdlife resident here. More than 400 species have been recorded in the area, and Tikal is well known for such special birds as Orange-breasted Falcon, Ocellated Turkey, Black-throated Shrike-Tanager, Green-backed Sparrow, and Gray-throated Chat. We will also have a chance to get out after dark to look and listen for nightbirds.

NIGHT: Jaguar Inn, Tikal

March 10, Day 3: Morning in Tikal; Return to Guatemala City. We will spend this morning exploring Tikal, no doubt adding new and exciting birds to our list right up to the end. Time-permitting, we will visit the museums in Tikal’s visitor center before lunch and our drive back to Flores.

After our farewell dinner in Flores, we will fly back to Guatemala City where we will transfer to a nearby hotel for the night.
March 11, Day 4: Departure for Home. Transfers will be provided to Guatemala City’s La Aurora International Airport in time for various morning or afternoon flights home.

TOUR SIZE: Each section will be limited to 12 participants.

TOUR LEADERS: Rick Wright and Knut Eisermann

Rick Wright, a native of southeast Nebraska, studied French, German, philosophy, and life sciences at the University of Nebraska, where he worked in the bird collections of the State Museum and served as teaching assistant to Paul Johnsgard. After a detour to Harvard Law School, Rick took the M.A. and Ph.D. in German at Princeton University. His years as an academic included appointments as assistant professor of German at the University of Illinois, reader/scholar at Princeton University’s Index of Christian Art, and associate professor of medieval studies at Fordham University. Among his scholarly publications are two books on the Latin and German animal literature of the late Middle Ages. He is also the author of the American Birding Association’s field guides to birds of New Jersey and of Arizona, and of the Peterson Reference Guide to North American sparrows. A prolific contributor to the birding literature and a sought-after lecturer, Rick lives with his wife, Alison Beringer, and their chocolate lab, Gellert, in Bloomfield, New Jersey.

Knut Eisermann is a graduate of the University of Applied Sciences in Eberswalde, Germany, with a degree in conservation and landscape management engineering. He has lived in Guatemala since 1997, where he conducts ornithological research focused on distribution and natural history. He has organized a number of avian diversity inventories in northern Central America and coordinated the selection of Important Bird Areas in Guatemala. His publications include numerous articles and book chapters and an annotated list of the birds of Guatemala. Knut has led birding tours in Guatemala since 2003.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for Guatemala: Birds & Art in the Highlands is $3,395 per person in double occupancy from Guatemala City, Guatemala. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, tipping, park entrance fees, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Guatemala 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 Guatemala: Birds & Art in the Highlands is $450. 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.

The fee for Guatemala: Tikal Extension is $2,095 per person in double occupancy from Guatemala City, Guatemala. This includes all meals from lunch on Day 1 to dinner on Day 3, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, the flights between Guatemala City and Flores, tipping, park entrance fees, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Guatemala 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 Guatemala: Tikal Extension is $130. 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.

**REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT:** To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The initial deposit for this tour is $500 per person per section. If you would like to pay your initial deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, 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 the initial deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with American Express, MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at www.ventbird.com) should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

**PAYMENTS:** Initial tour deposits may be made by American Express, MasterCard, Visa, check, money order, or bank transfer. All other tour payments, including second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc., must be made by check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

**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, a cancellation fee of $250 per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be $100 per person. 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. **We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.**

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*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be $100 per person.

Upon cancellation of the transportation or travel services, where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not cancelled in violation of the terms and conditions of any of the contract for transportation or travel services, all sums paid to VENT for services not received by you will be promptly refunded by VENT to you unless you otherwise advise VENT in writing.

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.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with Redpoint Resolutions as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™**. Designed for all types of travelers, Ripcord is among the most highly regarded travel insurance programs available.

Critical benefits of **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance** include a completely integrated program with a single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims; **medical evacuation and rescue services** from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice; comprehensive travel insurance for **trip cancellation/interruption**, primary medical expense coverage, and much more. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available but must be purchased within 14 days of tour deposit.** Optional expanded insurance
coverage is available and includes items such as security evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or other security events, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” clause (must be purchased within 14 days of tour deposit). Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.

For a price quote, or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: ripcordrescuetravelinsurance.com/ventbird; or click the Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™ logo on our website (click Help and Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

**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. Please be sure to check with the VENT office prior to purchasing your air ticket to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. VENT cannot be responsible for any air ticket penalties.

**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.

**BAGGAGE:** In case your checked luggage is delayed, it’s recommended that you pack all documents, medications, a change of clothes, your binoculars, and toiletry items in a carry-on bag.

**CLIMATE, CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR:** March in Antigua is very pleasant, with daytime highs near 80º and overnight lows around 55º F; rain is infrequent at this season, averaging only one day in the month, but you should bring a folding umbrella or compact rain poncho just in case. It can be misty and significantly cooler at some of the sites we visit at higher elevations, and a warm jacket, hat, and gloves may be welcome in the mornings. Otherwise, lightweight field clothing including long pants and long-sleeved shirts will be comfortable and appropriate. Sturdy, waterproof boots or hiking shoes are suitable for all of our birding walks; you may wish to wear lighter shoes on our museum visits and for city sightseeing. Rubber boots will not be necessary. The sun can be quite strong, and a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and strong sunscreen are essential.

Tikal is consistently 5-10º warmer during the day, and it often remains warm all night; the humidity can be expected to be high, and rain is somewhat more likely here than in the highlands. Waterproof footwear will come in handy, so to speak.

**EQUIPMENT:** Bring binoculars in good condition and, if you wish, a camera; many of the birds and mammals at Tikal are famously photogenic. Feel free to bring a spotting scope, though the leaders will also have scopes for the group to use. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and lip balm are highly recommended. A bottle for carrying water in the field is a good idea, though we will always have bottled water and other drinks available in the van. A belt pack or day pack will be handy for books, sunscreen, extra clothing layers, field guides, etc.

**CONDITIONS:** On the main tour, we will be staying in two hotels of good quality. Our birding and cultural activities will include walks of up to 2.5 miles on trails and sidewalks; none of the trails we use is particularly steep, but it is important to remember that we will be in the Central American highlands, at elevations up to 8,000 feet. That said, the physical demands posed by this tour are modest. Because we are based at a single hotel in Antigua, it is possible on some days to stay behind for the morning or the day to enjoy the city. Most of our days will start with an early breakfast in the hotel, followed by a short drive to a nearby birding site; lunch will be in restaurants near our field sites or back in Antigua. On most days we plan to have a break before dinner. Antigua has acquired the reputation of being a “foody” town, and has a wide range of good restaurants, from comfortable cafes to haute cuisine to imaginative takes on local specialties.
Guatemala: Birds & Art in the Highlands, Page 10

Our hotel for the Tikal Extension is less elegant but comfortable and clean with the advantage of being right on the edge of the second-largest rainforest in the world.

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Laundry service is available at Hotel Los Pasos in Antigua and the Jaguar Inn in Tikal.

MONEY MATTERS: Your tour fee covers most necessary expenses. However, you will want to have enough cash to cover personal expenses not included in the program, such as alcoholic beverages, taxi rides, gifts, laundry, gratuities, and personal items. Although US currency is accepted by some businesses, especially in Antigua, it is a good idea to withdraw some Guatemalan Quetzales from an airport ATM on arrival. ATMs are also available in Antigua.

DOCUMENTS: For U.S. citizens, a passport valid for at least six months beyond your planned stay is required to enter Guatemala. Non-U.S. citizens should check with their local Guatemalan Consulate or Embassy.

INTERNET ACCESS: WiFi is available at both hotels in Guatemala City and Hotel Los Pasos in Antigua. WiFi is available at the Jungle Inn in Tikal but limited by a slow satellite internet connection.

HEALTH: As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with vaccinations against a variety of preventable diseases, including the so-called Routine Vaccinations, which comprise the measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine and diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine. You should also be up to date with your Hepatitis A, or Immune Globulin (IG), and Hepatitis B vaccinations. Ask your physician whether she recommends vaccination against rabies, typhoid, malaria, or yellow fever.

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.

Those who are not fit for light to moderate physical activity, including those with physical disabilities that affect mobility and balance, heart or immune deficiencies, or other conditions associated with poor health, are advised not to join the trip. Comprehensive optional travel insurance is available and recommended. This coverage is available through your trip cancellation policy, if purchased through Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance. Please consult your insurance agent or existing policy, if in effect, for the terms and limitations of your existing coverage. Refer to the section on Trip Cancellation Insurance.

Sun Exposure – The sun’s ultraviolet rays are damaging to the eyes and skin with prolonged exposure. Any time you are outdoors you will want to protect your skin, including your lips, eyes, nose, and ears. Severe, potentially very painful sunburn is possible whatever the temperature or cloud cover, and it will affect your level of enjoyment. Always protect yourself when outdoors and be sure to bring an ample supply of high-SPF sunscreen and lip balm. We strongly recommend the use of ultraviolet-blocking, polarized sunglasses.

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 800-CDC-INFO (232-4636), or you can check the 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).

In general, we recommend that you consult your doctor before taking any immunizations. Health requirements change frequently and often vary from district to district within a country. No vaccinations are required to enter Guatemala.

Zika Virus – This tour visits an area or areas where Zika virus is known to occur or could occur; however, we believe the risk to VENT travelers is extremely low. The Zika virus is a mosquito-borne infection transmitted by
mosquitos of the genus *Aedes*, and is related to other tropical diseases: Dengue, Yellow Fever, and West Nile virus. This type of mosquito bites during the day and typically is found in areas of dense human habitation where sanitation and drainage of standing water is poor. Zika virus presents the greatest threat to women of childbearing age. For others who become infected, the effects are usually nonexistent to mild, although some people exhibit symptoms such as mild fever, rashes, joint and muscle pain, and red eyes. If infected, the best treatment is plenty of rest, nourishment, and other supportive care. There is no vaccine to prevent or cure the disease; however, Zika virus is not contagious and, therefore, cannot be transmitted through air, food, or water.

Your safety is our highest priority, and we want to emphasize that the best way to avoid Zika virus (and other mosquito-borne diseases), is to take appropriate precautions in avoiding mosquito bites:

- Stay informed about the Zika virus
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, socks and shoes, and a hat*
- Use effective insect repellents (those containing DEET) and reapply regularly

*We strongly recommend the use of Insect Shield® clothing. Insect Shield is a process by which clothing is treated with an EPA-approved formula of the insect repellent permethrin. Such clothing is highly repellent to insects and provides durable and long-lasting protection, even after dozens of washings. Outdoor wear with Insect Shield protection includes name brands such as Ex Officio and Tilley, and can be purchased at outdoor recreation stores such as REI and from a variety of online retailers. In lieu of Insect Shield clothing, you should consider treating your clothes with permethrin, which has the same effect, and that can be purchased at outdoor recreation stores and from a variety of online retailers.

For the latest information and news about Zika virus, please visit the website of the CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/zika/

**INSECT PROTECTION:** Mosquitoes (Culicidae), black flies (Simuliidae), horse and deer flies (Tabanidae), and chiggers (Trombiculidae) are the most common buggers in Guatemala. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts are the best protection against bites from mosquitoes, black flies, as well as horse and deer flies. Chigger bites (larvae of Trombiculidae mites) can cause very unpleasant reactions of the skin including intensive itching. The larvae are microscopic and most are invisible to the naked eye. Different species live in grassy habitats, scrub, and forest understory (e.g. under palm leaves). Bites happen especially on body parts with tightly fitting cloths. Spraying shoes, socks, and the end of trouser legs with an insect repellent containing DEET helps to a large degree to prevent chiggers boarding your body and thus their bites.

**MISC:**

- Departure Tax - US $30 (included in the price of your air ticket)
- Electricity – 120 Volts
- Language - The official language is Spanish.
- Time – Mountain Standard Time

**SUGGESTED READING:** A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

Howell, S., and S. Webb. 1995. *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America.* Oxford: Oxford University Press. An important reference, but inevitably out of date in some details. The book is quite heavy, and most species that also occur north of the Mexican border are not illustrated, making it necessary to supplement this title with one of the standard “North American” (US and Canada) field guides.


**TIPPING:** Tipping (restaurant staff, porters, drivers, 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 tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

**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 on May 30, 2018 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.