



CLASSIC CHINA

Sichuan Province

May 1 – 21, 2027

China is vast almost beyond comprehension. This enormous country has a bird fauna in excess of 1400 species with some amazing endemics. Despite a tumultuous history, a giant population and a Hollywood inspired myth that there are “no birds in China” increasing numbers of world birders are visiting this country and taking in all it has to offer. VENT has offered tours to China since the late 1980’s and it is fair to say no country has modernized at such an extraordinary pace. Excellent roads and hotels combined with an array of protected areas and expert local guides, now make tours here more comfortable, time efficient and successful than ever before.

This tour explores several of the most important bird sites in the province of Sichuan, home to most of China’s endemic birds and many of the most ancient surviving Asian plants and animals. The tour will focus on the Wolong Reserve (made famous by George Schaller’s pioneering research into the Giant Panda), subtropical protected bird-rich forests of Labahe and Wawushan, the rolling grasslands and freshwater meadows of the eastern Tibetan plateau, (home to nesting Black-necked Cranes) and the stunningly beautiful Tangjiahe Reserve.

Our visit to the Middle Kingdom is timed to coincide with spring. The worst of the winter chills should be over, and many resident birds will be singing. Spectacular species such as Temminck’s Tragopan, Tibetan Snowcock, Blood, White Eared, Lady Amherst’s and Golden Pheasants are vocal and somewhat easy to see. At this time, large numbers of passage migrants are moving north to their breeding grounds, and this increases the exciting mix of birds we will encounter. Just about every species is in full breeding plumage and at their songful best. Plants and trees will be bursting into life, and for the botanists among us, there will be the added delight of seeing very different species in flower and even representatives of quite familiar families. Mammals, in hibernation throughout the cold winter months, will be emerging from their dens.

The food is good to very good, the Sichuan cuisine particularly tasty and served banquet style. The birding has also dramatically improved with better protection of forests and a total removal of firearms from the community, with the result that several species we could not have dreamed of seeing before are now possible from the roadside. Add to this a total ban on logging of native forests

and the impact of stricter laws, the effect is one of more birds and mammals that are less shy than they were in the 1990s. Many participants rated this tour as amongst their best ever wildlife trips!

May 1-3, Day 1-3: Arrival in Chengdu

Participants can take any of a number of connections departing the USA on May 1 and arrive at one of Chengdu's two international airports (TFU or CTU) on May 3. Upon arrival and after clearing customs, participants will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. On May 3 we will meet in the evening in the hotel lobby for a brief orientation followed by dinner.

Participants wanting to avoid the risk of misconnecting with the group or missing the initial group dinner should consider arriving in Chengdu one day early and spending the night. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with any additional lodging arrangements.

Chengdu is the 2,500-year-old capital of China's most populous and wealthiest province, Sichuan. This modern, vibrant city still has, tucked away in its hidden-most recesses, wonderful warrens of cramped little houses, and associated crowded alleyways and impromptu markets. There is one more relic of a now-vanished Chinese epoch to edify its inhabitants—one of the very few giant outdoor statues of Mao Tse-tung left in China. Approximately the size of France, Sichuan is located almost in the center of China. The great Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau bound the northern and western borders of Sichuan, while the eastern two thirds comprise the flat lowlands of the Red Basin, the "bread-basket" of China. Sichuan has a bird list of over 600 species, including two-thirds of China's endemics, in addition to some of the most spectacular birds on our planet.

NIGHT: Jinjiang Hotel, Chengdu

May 4, Day 4: Morning birding Chengdu; afternoon transfer to Longhua

In the morning, we will visit a couple of sites close to Chengdu where we will have our first real taste of Chinese birding. Some of the species we may encounter include Chinese Pond-Heron, Chinese Bamboo-Partridge, possibly the glamorous Amur Paradise-Flycatcher, Asian Tit, Collared Finchbill,

Light-vented Bulbul, Rufous-faced Warbler, the cute Black-throated Tit, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Swinhoe's White-eye, Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, White-browed Laughingthrush, Chinese Blackbird, Fork-tailed Sunbird, Yellow-billed Grosbeak, and Oriental Greenfinch.

From Chengdu, we will head south towards the town of Longhua in order to visit the nearby Tanshi Village. Here, in recent years, several blinds have been established by local photographers which allow for unparalleled viewing of a number of typically shy species. Our drive today takes us across vast, flat lands of intensive agriculture, the Red Basin. We should see characteristic species of the open country such as Black Drongo, White Wagtail, the beautiful Eastern Red-rumped Swallow and Long-tailed Shrike amongst the patchwork quilt of rice, beans and mustard.

NIGHT: De Sheng Hotel, Longhua

May 5, Day 5: Tanshi Village

Today we will enjoy a full day of birding in the vicinity of Tanshi Village, highlighted by visits to several different photography blinds. Each blind or hide should host a different variety of species including many cryptic or shy species that are rarely observed otherwise. Here we may be able to view at close-range, the highly localized and rare, endemic Sichuan Partridge, as well as several breathtaking species of pheasant including Temminck's Tragopan, Lady Amherst's and Silver pheasants, and the skittish Chinese Bamboo-Partridge.

At another blind, passerines can pose beautifully as they come into bathe and feed, with a wide range of possibilities like Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, Rufous-capped Babbler, Streak-breasted and Black-streaked scimitar-babblers, Dusky Fulvetta, striking Red-winged and Buffy laughingthrush, localized Emei Shan Liocichla, Red-billed Leiothrix, and Chinese Babax. The bamboo forests here also host a great diversity of parrotbills that we will be on the lookout for – Spot-breasted, Gray-headed, Golden, and Ashy-throated are all possible.

NIGHT: De Sheng Hotel, Longhua

May 6, Day 6: Morning at Longhua; afternoon transfer to Wawushan Nature Reserve

This morning we will spend a final session at one of the blinds hoping to add a few more species, before departing for Wawushan Nature Reserve (a roughly 4 hour drive to the north).

Birding at Wawushan is diverse as it allows us to access quality forests at a variety of altitudes in different rain shadows. Once we have settled into our accommodations, we will set off to explore the foothill zone.

NIGHT: Gong Tong Hotel, Wawushan

May 7-8, Days 7-8: Wawushan Nature Reserve

We will have two full days to take in the best Wawushan offers of forest birding. Located at the interface of the Oriental and Palearctic avifaunas, the forest sites we will visit in south Sichuan hosts a rich and fascinating selection of birds including four endemic species, Rufous-tailed Babbler, Emei Shan Liocichla, Gray-hooded Parrotbill and Emei Leaf-Warbler. The various families of Asian babblers are well represented here: Spotted, Elliot's, Black-faced, Barred and the rare, shy and spectacular Red-winged Laughingthrushes; Red-billed Leiothrix; Gray-hooded and David's Fulvettas; White-collared and Stripe-throated Yuhinas plus the tree-creeping Red-tailed Minla and rare old growth specialist Streaked Barwing. In addition, there is that most charismatic and sought-after group, the parrotbills. We have a chance for a variety of species that clearly evolved in the bamboo forests of central China. Great, Brown, Ashy-throated, Vinous-throated, Fulvous, Spectacled and Three-toed Parrotbills are all possible at Wawushan.

We will encounter an amazing variety of leaf-warblers in the genus *Phylloscopus*. It is possible that we will find over fifteen species during our stay in Sichuan. Species here include Claudia's, Kloss's, Sichuan, Ashy-throated, Large-billed and Buff-throated Warblers. We will also search for the little known Emei Leaf-Warbler, which has been described only in recent years. The considerably brighter Golden-spectacled Warbler complex reaches its zenith in this region of central China. There are four

species best identified by song and altitude. Breeding at the higher altitudes, we should find Bianchi's Warbler, while Gray-crowned Warbler and Marten's occur at middle elevations, with Alstrom's Warbler in the more subtropical forests. Flycatchers are well represented too, and some of the species we will try to encounter include Ferruginous, Rufous-gorgeted, Slaty-blue, Verditer and Gray-headed Canary Flycatchers; and Fujian Niltava.

There are plenty of other species to see. These include Chinese Bamboo-Partridge (heard frequently and occasionally seen); Chinese Sparrowhawk; Oriental Honey-buzzard; Speckled Wood-Pigeon; Gray-headed, Crimson-breasted, White-backed, Darjeeling and Bay Woodpeckers; Large Hawk, Hodgson's Hawk, Himalayan and Lesser Cuckoos; Collared Owlet (occasionally seen and frequently heard during the day); Asian House Martin; Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike; Long-tailed, Short-billed and the scarce Swinhoe's Minivet; Mountain Bulbul; Hodgson's and Sichuan Treecreepers; Himalayan Shortwing (a wonderful songster but often tough to see); the beautiful Golden and White-browed Bush-Robins; the unusual White-bellied Redstart; secretive White-tailed Robin; Spotted Forktail; Brownish-flanked, Aberrant and Yellowish-bellied Bush-warblers; the diminutive, elusive, very vocal Chestnut-headed Tesia; the showy Mrs. Gould's Sunbird; Russet Sparrow; Gray-headed Bullfinch; Blanford's, Vinaceous, Common, the rare Sharpe's and Dark-rumped Rosefinches; White-winged Grosbeak; and Yellow-throated Bunting. If circumstances permit, we will go out at night in search of nocturnal birds and mammals. Species we might encounter include Gray Nightjar and Oriental Scops-Owl.

NIGHTS: Gong Tong Hotel, Wawushan

May 9, Day 9: Morning at Wawushan Nature Reserve; afternoon transfer to Labahe

This morning we will have time for some final birding and mopping up of any remaining targets in the vicinity of Wawushan before we transfer to Labahe.

NIGHT: Lu Ming Hotel, Labahe

May 10, Day 10: Labahe Nature Reserve

After a comfortable night's rest and a typical Sichuan breakfast, we will venture out for a full day exploring the mid-elevation forests of Labahe Nature Reserve in search of the mystical Temminck's Tragopan; classy Lady Amherst's Pheasant; Brown and Fulvous Parrotbills; Pere David's, Fire-capped and Yellow-browed Tits; Elliot's Laughingthrush and hopefully the stunning Firethroat, along with many more interesting species.

The forests of Labahe will be full of calling warblers and flycatchers at this time of year, making their identification much more straightforward than usual. We have a chance of seeing Chinese and Pygmy Cupwings, tiny songsters that stay close to the forest floor; buzzing Brownish-flanked and Aberrant Bush Warblers; Ashy-throated, Bianchi's and Marten's Warblers; and Sichuan, Large-billed, Claudia's and Kloss's Leaf Warblers. Fulvettas and yuhinas, two very oriental families also have representatives here, including the stunning Golden-breasted Fulvetta. The endemic Slaty Bunting also calls the moist forests of Sichuan home, and we will be on the lookout for this beautiful bird.

NIGHT: Lu Ming Hotel, Labahe

May 11, Day 11: Transfer to Wolong

We have a travel day today to make the journey north to Wolong. We leave the plains of the Red Basin and enter another world—one of towering rock-faces, spectacular crags, and beautiful, cloud-wreathed temperate forests. After turning off from the main highway about an hour's drive along the Pitiao River, we should begin to see some of the characteristic birds of this habitat. Typically, along the streams and rivers we should encounter the lovely White-capped Redstart alongside the smaller Plumbeous Redstart and much shyer Blue Whistling-Thrush; higher up we should find Brown Dippers acting like true water ouzels, foraging in midstream. In the afternoon we will arrive at Wolong and commence exploration of this famous site.

Wolong is one of those places that, at some time in your life, you just must visit; it is truly special. If nothing else, the drive up to Balang Shan Pass at 15,000 feet, surrounded by immense, towering,

snow-dusted crags and satin blue skies is “worth the price of admission.” Encompassing an area of about 770 square miles, Wolong is home to the largest remaining population of Giant Pandas in the world. While we have little chance of seeing the Giant Panda in the wild, we will seize the opportunity to see some rare and truly spectacular birds. From our base we will explore Wolong’s wonderland of moss- and lichen-draped fir woods, lit by flowering rhododendrons, and shrubby and spring-colored mixed deciduous woodlands, which resound with the barking calls of Golden Pheasants just behind our accommodations. This will also serve as our comfortable base as we spend two days visiting the infamous Balang Shan Pass nearby.

NIGHT: Si You Hotel, Wolong

May 12-13, Days 12-13: Balangshan and Wolong

At the highest altitudes, amidst some breathtaking mountain scenery, we will search among a mosaic of snow patches and scree slopes for the cryptic Snow Partridge, Tibetan Snowcock, Red-billed and Yellow-billed Choughs, Snow Pigeon, Grandala (the male is the most spectacular blue, seeming to glow against the snow), Alpine Accentor, Plain and Black-headed Mountain-finches, and the plump Red-fronted Rosefinch. We may also find the extraordinarily beautiful but endangered Chinese Monal as it forages among dwarf willows. This area is also known as a breeding location for the rare Wood Snipe. All things being equal, we have a chance to see three species of vulture, including the charismatic Himalayan Griffon, Bearded Vulture and, with luck, Cinereous Vulture.

At lower elevations, amongst the distinctive azalea scrub, we will look for White Eared-Pheasant, Koklass Pheasant and Temminck’s Tragopan. Slowly meandering down the road, surrounded by mountains that rise to over 19,000 feet and some of the most awe-inspiring panoramas on our planet, one sometimes marvels that this place is real. Amongst the numerous other interesting species that inhabit this fabulous reserve we may see Chestnut-throated Monal Partridge; Blood Pheasant; Large Hawk, Lesser and Himalayan Cuckoos; White-throated Needletail; Salim-Ali’s Swift; Long-tailed Minivet; Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike; Citrine (sensational in breeding plumage), Gray and White Wagtails; Olive-backed and Rosy Pipits (superb in breeding plumage); Gray-backed Shrike; Southern Nutcracker; Chinese Rubythroat; Firethroat (a serious skulker); Indian Blue Robin; Blue-fronted,

White-throated and Daurian Redstarts; Himalayan Bluetail; White-backed, Chestnut, Sichuan and Long-tailed Thrushes; the diminutive Pygmy and Chinese Cupwings; Chinese Babax; Elliot's, Barred and Giant Laughingthrushes; Chinese and White-browed Fulvettas; Green Shrike-Babbler; White-collared Yuhina; Chestnut-headed Tesia; Aberrant and Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warblers; and the poorly known Chestnut-crowned Bush-Warbler; Alpine, Yellow-streaked, Buff-barred, Sichuan, Large-billed, Claudia's and the recently described Chinese Leaf-warblers; the charming White-browed Tit-Warbler; Rufous-gorgeted, Slaty-backed and Slaty-blue Flycatchers; Rufous-vented, Sichuan, Gray-crested, and Sooty Tits; Sharpe's, Chinese White-browed, Himalayan Beautiful and Streaked Rosefinches; Gray-headed Bullfinch; Tibetan Serin; and Slaty Bunting. Mammals are not overly conspicuous here; however, increased protection in recent years has produced more frequent sightings of the peculiar Takin, in addition to Chinese Goral, Tufted Deer, Blue Sheep, Himalayan Marmot, the very handsome Yellow-throated Marten and Hog Badger.

NIGHTS: Si You Hotel, Wolong

May 14, Day 14: Transfer to Maerkang via Rilong and Mengbi Shan forest

Today we will travel north to Mengbi Shan. This drive through gorge country and old growth coniferous forest is spectacular, and we will be seeing interesting birds constantly. On previous visits, we have seen Long-tailed Rosefinch, Hill Pigeon, nesting Wallcreeper, Blue Rock-Thrush, Eurasian Crag-Martin, Willow Tit, Bearded Vulture, and Giant Laughingthrush. We will also have further opportunities to search for scarcer birds like White-browed Tit-Warbler and Chinese Rubythroat, that we will be keen to have under our birding belts. Eventually we will make it through to Mengbi Shan, which provides a good chance to see the scarce endemic Sichuan Jay, plus both White Eared and Koklass Pheasant, Pink-rumped Rosefinch and Maroon-backed Accentor. We will spend the night in Maerkang, where the Tibetan influence is striking.

NIGHT: Jiarong Hotel, Maerkang

May 15, Day 15: Mengbi Shan; afternoon transfer to Ruorgai

The stunning alpine country around Mengbishan hosts a similar array of species to Balangshan, and will give us a good opportunity to clean up any targets we may have missed. Some of the key birds include Chestnut-throated Monal Partridge; Salim Ali's Swift overhead; White-browed Fulvetta; the petite Himalayan Bluetail; and several species of rosefinch.

This afternoon we will drive north to the town of Ruorgai (often shown on maps as Zoige) on the eastern edge of the Tibetan plateau. The landscape and the birds will change as we follow the Mingjiang River toward its source via the Zhegu Pass. Forests give way to rolling grasslands and marshes, while the beautiful houses take on a distinctly Tibetan architecture. We will begin to encounter yak herders moving their herds to summer pastures—real Tibetan cowboys. We will also be on the lookout for some very special birds, perhaps none so revered as the Black-necked Crane. On previous tours we found up to 50 individuals and watched an exchange on the nest accompanied by wild trumpeting—a song befitting this vast landscape.

NIGHT: Tang Gu Te Hotel, Ruorgai

May 16-17, Days 16-17: Eastern Tibetan Plateau

We will spend two days exploring the Tibetan grasslands and freshwater lakes north and west of Ruorgai. We should see Ruddy Shelduck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Common Redshank, Common Cuckoo, Horned Lark, Oriental Skylark, the aberrant Ground Tit, Black Redstart, Père David's Laughingthrush, White-backed Thrush, Twite, Citrine Wagtail, and Tibetan Lark. Other Tibetan regional specialties we will be looking for include Black Stork, Upland Buzzard, Saker Falcon, Ferruginous Duck, Bar-headed Goose, Brown-headed and Pallas's Gull, Whiskered and Common Terns, Red Collared-Dove, Little Owl, Eurasian Eagle-Owl, Pale Sand Martin, Chinese Gray Shrike, Hodgson's Redstart, Rock Sparrow, Rufous-necked, White-rumped and Black-winged Snowfinch.

In the afternoon, we will head out from town towards some alpine scrub where, with luck, we may find the rare Przevalski's Pinktail, a representative of its own family. In addition, several other Tibetan

species can be found here, including Tibetan Partridge and the endemic White-browed Tit. We will also visit Flower Lake. This fascinating wetland always provides something of interest. Every visit is different depending on water levels and the population fluctuations of Alpine Pika. We have enjoyed excellent views of Steppe Eagle, Saker Falcon, Red-crested Pochard, Tibetan Sand-Plover, breeding plumaged White-winged Black Terns, Spotted Redshank and nesting White-rumped Snowfinch. Mammal watching can be interesting here with a host of carnivores attracted to the colonies of Alpine Pika and Himalayan Marmot. Over the years we have been lucky enough to see Pallas's Cat, Chinese Desert Cat, Leopard Cat, Tibetan and Red Fox, Wolf and Altai Weasel.

We will explore the boreal coniferous forests on the eastern edge of the plateau. This area is home to some difficult to find endemics including the giant Blue Eared-Pheasant and the cryptic Chinese Grouse. It will give us an opportunity to search for the striking Black Woodpecker; the beautiful Crested Tit-Warbler; endemic Przevalski's Nuthatch; Spectacled Parrotbill; range-restricted Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush; and the rare Three-banded Rosefinch.

NIGHTS: Tang Gu Te Hotel, Ruogergai

May 18, Day 18: Transfer to Tangjiahe via Lama Pass

From the lush alpine meadows of Ruogergai, today we will head east to the beautiful forested valley of Tangjiahe. This beautiful valley has revealed some fantastic birds and a great alternative site for visiting birders in recent years.

NIGHT: Tangjiahe Grand Hotel, Tangjiahe

May 19, Day 19: Tangjiahe

Our full day at Tangjiahe will be spent exploring the wooded slopes and river flats in search of the following species; Chinese Bamboo-Partridge; Golden Pheasant; Speckled Wood-Pigeon; the scarce and imposing Tawny Fish-Owl; tiny Speckled Piculet; White-backed, Crimson-breasted and Grey-headed Woodpeckers; Green Shrike-Babbler; the charismatic Eurasian Jay; rare Collared Crow;

endemic Sooty Tit; endemic Sichuan Treecreeper; Spectacled, Vinous-throated, Rusty-throated and Fulvous Parrotbills; Black-chinned Yuhina; David's Fulvetta; and our best chance at Slaty Bunting.

NIGHT: Tangjiahe Grand Hotel, Tangjiahe

May 20, Day 20: Morning birding at Tangjiahe; transfer to Chengdu

After a morning of birding along the road, we will make the return journey to Chengdu. As always, it is a shame to leave the mountains behind, but we will try to fit in a few birding stops on our way back through the Red River Basin where may encounter some of the more widespread lowland species.

Tonight, we will enjoy a final farewell dinner. It will be a great chance to reflect on our time in this picturesque region and some of the exhilarating birding it has to offer.

NIGHT: Jinjiang Hotel, Chengdu

May 21, Day 21: International departures

Transfers to the airport today.

ESSENTIAL TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR SIZE: This tour is limited to 8 tour participants. However, VENT reserves the right to increase the tour limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space is available

TOUR LEADER(s): This tour is led by **Max Breckenridge**.



Max Breckenridge: Born in the UK and raised in Sydney, Australia, Max Breckenridge discovered his passion for birds at age 12 during a 10-week family journey across Australia. That formative trip sparked a lifelong fascination with wildlife and wild places. After finishing school, he drove solo from Darwin to Broome, birding along the way, and spent a month volunteering at the renowned Broome Bird Observatory.

Max earned a Bachelor of Biodiversity & Conservation from Macquarie University in 2018 and has since explored nearly every corner of Australia, developing an exceptional eye—and ear—for its avian life. His adventurous spirit has taken him deep into remote regions such as Iron Range National Park on Cape York, where he camped under a tarp for two weeks in the wet season to study rare migrants from Papua New Guinea.

Passionate about conservation, Max has worked extensively with BirdLife Australia, contributing to the recovery of the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater through monitoring and captive-release programs. When not guiding, he continues to travel widely throughout the Old World in pursuit of birds and new experiences. Max now lives on Lake Macquarie, north of Sydney, with his partner, Fernanda.

TOUR COSTS & PAYMENT INFORMATION

TOUR FEE: \$8,120 per person based on double occupancy or \$8,825 for a person requiring single accommodation. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 3 through breakfast on Day 21, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, all ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does **not** include airfare to nor from the starting/ending city; however, flights within the tour (if any) are included. The fee also excludes laundry, personal expenses, and other items of a personal nature. For information about gratuities, please see the “TIPPING” sub-section below. If the minimum group size is not met, each participant will be charged a small-group supplement—shared equally and communicated in advance—to allow the tour to proceed.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: You may register for this tour through the VENT [website](#) or by calling our office (512-328-5221). The initial deposit for this tour is \$1,000 per person. At 180 days VENT

will collect a second deposit that brings the total deposit amount to 40% of the tour price. We accept MasterCard and Visa for both deposits.

PAYMENTS: All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard or Visa), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days (January 1, 2027) prior to the tour departure date.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two 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.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: Tour prices are based on the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If rates change drastically, it may be necessary to impose 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 have been passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

FUEL SURCHARGES: Our prices are based on fuel prices at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TIPPING: An important part of the value of a VENT tour is knowing that tips for local service providers at our destinations—restaurant staff, hotel staff, drivers, local guides, and various other support staff—are included in your tour fee. If you would like to offer any of your local guides an additional tip, \$5 to \$10 a day is a common amount.

Tips for your VENT tour leader(s) are **not** included, but it is customary to tip one or both if you feel that you have received exceptional service. To assist in your planning, we recommend tipping your VENT tour leader(s) \$15 to \$20 per day, or the equivalent of approximately 2–4% of the tour fee.

If you plan to give tips by cash, they should be given directly to your tour leader at the end of the tour and **not** sent to the VENT office. Some of our tour leaders use mobile payment applications

such as Venmo, PayPal, and Wise. If you would like to use this method, please ask your tour leaders directly whether they can accept tips through such an application.

We emphasize that tipping is optional and that these amounts are only recommendations. The amount you decide to tip is based entirely on your experience and at your discretion.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

CANCELLATION BY PARTICIPANT:

- **More than 120 days prior to the tour start date:** A refund of all monies paid will be issued, less 50% of the deposit (including initial and second deposit)
- **120 days or fewer prior to the tour start date:** No refund will be provided.
- **Optional add-ons:** Some tours offer optional add-ons that are designated as non-refundable. Any such add-ons are clearly identified as non-refundable at the time of booking. By selecting and purchasing an optional add-on, the participant acknowledges and accepts its non-refundable status. Fees paid for non-refundable add-ons are not refundable under any circumstances, regardless of when the tour is cancelled.

This cancellation policy applies to all participants and all tours (Pre-Tours and Extensions are considered self-contained tours separate from the main tour). Because unexpected events can occur, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance.

CANCELLATION BY VENT:

If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant.

If VENT cancels or delays a tour or any portion of a tour as a result of any Force Majeure event, VENT will use its reasonable best efforts to refund any payments on the balance of the tour fee to participant; provided that, VENT will have no obligation to provide a participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to a participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement. A ***“Force Majeure”*** event means any act beyond VENT’s control, including,

without limitation, the following: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

This VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy does not apply to air tickets purchased through VENT or to any special arrangements, such as additional hotel nights, that fall outside of the services described in the tour itinerary.

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

MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE/PROTECTION REQUIREMENT: This tour visits remote locations where immediate access to primary medical care may not be available. **For this reason, travel insurance/travel protection which covers you for emergency evacuation is required for participation on this tour.** This coverage is included in the **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™** program. Alternatively, comparable service can be obtained through **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist** plan. If you choose not to purchase insurance/travel protection through Ripcord or Medjet, you are required to obtain it through another provider. Please refer to the TRAVEL INSURANCE/TRAVEL PROTECTION section for additional information.

SUGGESTED OPTIONS: 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 Travel Protection** as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend its comprehensive **Ripcord** plan, which includes a medical evacuation benefit. With this in mind, it is important to note that medical evacuation is not offered by Redpoint as a stand-alone policy or benefit. For travelers not interested in comprehensive travel insurance, VENT recommends **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist®**

plan. Medjet is not an insurance company, and Medjet Assist is not an insurance product; rather, Medjet is a membership-based air-medical transport company specializing in moving hospitalized travelers from an admitting hospital to a medical facility of choice. Medjet does not provide medical evacuation service from the point of injury or illness; yet, the MedjetAssist plan offers robust enough travel protection to satisfy the medical evacuation insurance requirement in place for many VENT tours.

About Redpoint Travel's Ripcord Plan

Ripcord is a completely integrated travel insurance program with single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims. Critical benefits include comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, medical evacuation from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice; medical expense coverage, death of pet, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or political or security reasons, waiver for pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, and a "Cancel for Any Reason" benefit. Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.*

For a price quote or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: [Ripcord Travel Insurance](#); or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help > Preparation and Insurance > Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

*To be eligible for the pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver and the optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) upgrade, you must purchase your policy within 15 days of making your first trip payment. The CFAR benefit provides reimbursement for 75% of covered costs, and increases the policy premium by approximately 50%. Policies may be purchased either for the full value of the tour fee at the time of deposit or in segments as individual tour payments are made (deposit, second deposit, final balance, additional arrangements, etc.). The "pay as you go" approach reduces up-front expense and ensures that the amount paid toward your full policy premium is in proportion to the amount paid toward the full tour fee. If you choose to "pay as you go," you must cover each deposit or payment within 15 days, and insure all non-refundable trip costs in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Redpoint considers COVID-19 illness as any other seasonal respiratory illness. Providing only a positive Covid-19 test result will likely not be considered a covered event per the terms and conditions of the company's policy. Redpoint maintains a [Coronavirus FAQ page](#) on its website that addresses questions and concerns travelers may have regarding COVID-19 and Redpoint's policy. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of relevant topics.

About Medjet's MedjetAssist Plan

MedjetAssist is a membership program that functions like AAA for motorists. The company's primary service is air medical transport. Critical benefits of MedjetAssist include a staff on call and ready to provide assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; all-expenses-paid air medical transport in the United States and internationally to medical facility of choice, regardless of medical necessity; repatriation of remains; and no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

For travelers under 75, MedjetAssist may be purchased as Short-Term Memberships of 8, 15, 21, and 30 days, or Regular Annual Memberships from 1 to 5 years. For travelers 75–84, Medjet offers a Diamond Membership that is the same program but with a few additional conditions.

For a price quote or to purchase MedjetAssist, please visit: [Medjet.com/VentBird](https://www.Medjet.com/VentBird) or call 1-800-527-7478. Pricing is based on type and term of membership.

GETTING THERE & REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

AIR TRAVEL: 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. Per person fees apply for each set of travel arrangements: \$50 domestic; \$75 international.* Many of our travelers choose to make their own air travel arrangements, but we emphasize the benefits to using our services. If you book your air arrangements yourself, Victor Emanuel Travel is unable to provide support in managing any flight delays and/or cancellations that could occur before and during a tour. When you purchase air tickets through Victor Emanuel Travel, our staff has ready access to your air ticket record and can provide assistance as problems arise. 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 held responsible for any air ticket penalties.

*An air ticket will be purchased by Victor Emanuel Travel on behalf of the traveler with the traveler's consent. A purchase is considered final upon receipt of payment. If a ticket is subsequently reissued at the behest of the traveler (i.e. voluntary change of plans), the same fee rates apply for the reissue process, in addition to any fees that may be charged by the airline.

BAGGAGE: Please limit baggage to one piece of luggage and one carry-on. The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. Please consult your pre-departure materials and/or airline to find out specific weight restrictions.

As a precaution against lost luggage, we suggest that you pack a change of clothes, toiletries, medications, important travel documents, optics, and any other essential items in your carry-on bag. Due to ever-changing circumstances in the government's attempts to improve airport security, we recommend that you check the website of the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](https://www.tsa.gov) for information pertaining to permissible carry-on items.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

PASSPORTS: A passport valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure from China is required.

VISAS: Visas are required for U.S. citizens traveling to this destination. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your consulate or embassy for the most accurate guidance. For further information, you may wish to contact the Chinese consulate nearest you or Travel Document Systems (www.pinnacletds.com/vent on the web or 888-838-4867 by phone), a company which handles visa procurement. For further information, you may wish to contact the Chinese consulate nearest you or Travel Document Systems (www.pinnacletds.com/vent on the web or 888-838-4867 by phone), a company which handles visa procurement.

IMPORTANT: The visa details above are current for U.S. citizens as of July 27, 2026. Because entry requirements can change without notice, we kindly remind all participants to double-check the

latest information before traveling. Travelers using non-U.S. passports are responsible for confirming any entry requirements that apply to their home country.

CLOTHING: General clothing information

- **Warm Head Covering:** Fleece or knit hat
- **Casual field clothes**
- **Shower Shoes:** Flip flops or water shoes
- **Warm Jacket or Coat:** For cooler temperatures
- **Layered Clothing:** for cooler temperatures
- **Gloves**
- **Scarf**
- **Long/Tall Socks:** Long enough to tuck into pants
- **No Bright Colored Clothing**
- **Thermal Underwear**

FOOTWEAR: Sturdy hiking boots are Essential.

EQUIPMENT: Having the right equipment makes the travel experience more enjoyable. Below is a list of items that will ensure you are well-prepared:

- **Sunglasses**
- **Flashlight or Headlamp**
- **UV & Polarizing Filters:** For cameras at higher elevations
- **Small Daypack**
- **Handiwipes/Tissues**

Binoculars: We strongly recommend you bring a pair of good binoculars of 8x32, 8x42, or 10x42 magnification. Please do not bring mini-binoculars of any kind. Some people like them because they are small and lightweight; but they have an extremely small field of view and very poor light gathering power. You will find that 8x32 binoculars are compact and light enough.

Spotting Scopes: Your tour leaders will have scopes available for group use throughout the trip, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

DESTINATION INFORMATION & LOCAL CONDITION

CLIMATE & WEATHER: At the time of our visit (May), and because of the wide range of altitudes (400 to 15,000 feet) that our tour covers, we will encounter a wide range of temperatures, including cold and damp, snow, and almost certainly some rain. There may be occasionally hot conditions with very bright sunshine, which typically in the mountains (because of the increased radiation) causes sunburn more readily than one supposes. At this time of year, Chengdu is typically warming and becoming increasingly humid. At the high passes it can be bitterly cold if windy conditions prevail. Gloves and warm clothes are essential here.

CONDITIONS: This very special tour will provide a thorough cross-section of most of Sichuan's accessible habitats at a pace that permits us to properly absorb the landscapes, culture, birds, and other natural history. There will be time to stop and stare, take photographs, and explore at your own leisure. Our tour will undoubtedly be intensive in the sense that every day we will be in the field, often walking at a leisurely pace or driving. Daybreak is around 5:40 a.m. in Sichuan at this time of year, and we will therefore have some very early starts (often at 5:00 or 5:30 a.m.) to catch the best of the early morning birding. This is often THE time to see such spectacular pheasants as Golden Pheasant and Temminck's Tragopan. We often have a leisurely breakfast later in the morning and/or lunch in the field. These are very enjoyable affairs that give us time to relax and contemplate the morning's gifts. However, we are not always in a position to return to a lodge for a nap in a bed (many take a nap during a drive), and we usually reach our lodge during the late afternoon, taking it easier at that end of the day than at the start.

We will of course certainly concentrate on the specialties, but so few are the opportunities to see many of the birds of Sichuan elsewhere that most species will be "specialties" for most

participants, and we will enjoy them all. In general, it can be said that alpine forest birding can be amongst the toughest in the world. At some moments we will hear many species, but it will take quite some patience and time to finally get an open view of those difficult to see species. On the other hand, the birding can be overwhelming as well with flocks containing up to 30 species of birds in one singular flock! We cross some high passes and spend several nights over 10,000 feet, but we will generally sleep lower than the high points during the day, and we will plan our activities with thin air in mind (e.g., mostly birding gentle slopes or down the road). There may be a few optional, short, energetic activities, but those who don't undertake these will still be amid birds.

We will be ascending to elevations above 10,000 and as high as 15,000 feet (driving over passes). However, we will acclimate ourselves by ascending in small increments daily. Most ascents will be by vehicle, and we will then work a given area by walking downhill; however, there will be times when there is no option but to walk uphill. At high altitudes, we will almost always be walking along a road and at a very slow pace, so this should not be a matter of concern for anyone in moderate to reasonable condition. Those with heart or respiratory concerns should contact their doctor prior to departure. Clients have taken the medication Diamox to minimize the impact of altitude, but this is a diuretic and medical advice should be sought.

FOOD & WATER: It is advisable to bring some protein or granola-type bars, dried fruit and nuts or other snacks, as snacks are not always available. Most of our meals will be traditional Sichuan cuisine. Sichuan cuisine consists of many varied vegetable-rice and meat dishes all prepared hot and tasty. We try to provide a mixture of spiced and unspiced food as our restaurants dictate. The food is a major highlight. If you cannot operate chopsticks, you should bring your own cutlery as it can be difficult or impossible to find in rural Sichuan. Tap water is not considered safe to drink in China, including Sichuan. Participants are advised NOT to drink tap water or untreated water placed at the table unless advised by your tour leader. Bottled water will always be available. Participants should not eat uncooked foods such as meat or vegetables, or food that has cooled and/or been sitting in the open, permitting flies to settle. Unpeeled fruit is fine, provided you wash the exterior first in clean water.

CURRENCY & SPENDING: Participants are advised to carry sufficient funds in cash (U.S. dollars) or to utilize ATM machines that are widely available at airports or larger cities. Most hotels and banks can change money. The bank notes need to be in good condition. The VENT leader normally changes into Yuan at the airport in Chengdu. You will only need a nominal amount to cover laundry, souvenirs and other items of a personal nature.

ELECTRICITY: China uses 220 volts, 50 cycles, AC. Common plug types are A, C, and I.

INTERNET ACCESS: Wi-Fi connections are available at most of the hotels at which we stay and generally work. Cell phone connections are also generally reliable, sometimes even in surprising places in the countryside. Using the internet in China as a foreigner requires a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to access blocked sites like Google, Facebook, and WhatsApp, as well as using essential local apps like WeChat for daily tasks, with the easiest setup being a pre-arrival eSIM or local SIM/VPN combo for constant access. You must download and test your VPN *before* entering China, as VPN sites are blocked within the country, and rely on local apps like WeChat for payments and navigation.

LANGUAGE: Mandarin Chinese is the official language. English is only infrequently spoken away from tourist areas.

TIME: 13 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Laundry service is available at most of the hotels we stay in.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH: VENT follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for standard travel precautions, which includes vaccination against a variety of preventable diseases. Among these so-called Routine Vaccinations are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult travelers), and Varicella (Chickenpox). You should also be up-to-date with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

If you are taking personal medication, prescription or over-the-counter, 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.

COVID-19: We continually emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. Although VENT no longer maintains any of its COVID-era prevention protocols, we strongly recommend best practices for protecting yourself and your fellow travelers against COVID-19 illness. These measures include receiving the primary series vaccinations for those eligible, staying “Up to Date” with COVID-19 booster shots, wearing high filtration N-95 or KN-95 masks when in airports and on airplanes, and avoiding risky social settings in the lead-up to your tour. These recommendations are firmly rooted in CDC guidance for avoiding COVID-19.

SUN EXPOSURE: The sun’s ultraviolet rays are dangerous under prolonged exposure (sometimes only a matter of minutes), even in winter and early spring. Anytime you are outdoors you will want to protect your skin, including your lips, eyes, nose, and ears. A severe sunburn is potentially very painful and 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 ultra-violet blocking, polarized sunglasses.

BITING INSECTS: On occasion we may encounter biting black flies or mosquitos.

INSECT REPELLENTS: There are insect repellents for the skin and an insect repellent used to treat clothing that should not be applied to the skin.

Insect repellents for the skin are commonly available in three forms:

- **DEET:** (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide): A chemical compound that is marketed under various brand names (OFF!®, Cutter™, Ultrathon™, etc.) and offered in a variety of formulations including sprays, lotions, time-release preparations, and disposable wipes. The formulations will state a percentage of the active ingredient DEET on the packaging. DEET may be applied

to exposed skin directly and/or sprayed on clothing. Please be careful when applying DEET as it can damage plastics and lens coatings.

- **Picaridin:** A synthetic formulation that is derived from piperine, a substance found in plants that produce black pepper.
- **Herbal insect repellents:** Various mixtures of organic ingredients such as oils from eucalyptus, citronella, cedar, and other herbs. The herbal repellents are more difficult to categorize because of the difference in ingredients from one brand to another. There is considerable variation in their effectiveness.

Insect repellent for clothing is marketed in one approved formulation:

- **Permanone® (Permethrin):** is an odorless spray-on repellent that may be used for pre-treatment of clothing, gear, and tents. It should not be used directly on the skin or sprayed on clothing while it is being worn. The pre-treatment process requires a number of hours to complete and must be done outdoors, so it is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment must be repeated more often than commercial treatment using Insect Shield® technology. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online.
- **Insect Shield® apparel:** Clothing pre-treated with Permanone is made by a variety of manufacturers. It is available for purchase from some sporting goods suppliers. The clothing is advertised as retaining its repellency for up to 70 washings.

The US EPA offers a search tool to help choose a repellent that is best for a particular situation. For example, some repellents work for mosquitoes, but not for ticks.

<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/which-insect-repellent-right-you>

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 Georgia. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), 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).

SUGGESTED READING & TRIP PREPARATION

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.

FIELD GUIDES

Birds

McKinnon, J. and K. Phillipps. *A Field Guide to the Birds of China*. Oxford. O.U.P. 2000. This is the only field guide that covers all the species we are likely to see on this tour.

Liu Yang & Chen Shuihua. *Birds of China*. Princeton Field Guides. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2024.

Mammals

Andrew T. Smith, Yan Xie, Robert S. Hoffmann, Darrin Lunde, John MacKinnon, Don E. Wilson, W. Chris Wozencraft. *A Guide to the Mammals of China*. Princeton Field Guides. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010.

History & Culture

Ji Zhao. *The Natural History of China*. Collins. London, 1990. A beautifully illustrated book with lots of very useful information on geography, vegetation communities, plants and animals. A separate section provides additional details of some China's more important reserves, including Wolong.

Ma Tianjie. *In Search of Green China*. Polity Press, 2025. Explores China's 30-year journey to clean up its environment, covering everything from Beijing's air pollution to river restorations and the political forces driving its green transition.

CLO Apps

eBird. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Among the largest and most successful citizen science projects in existence, eBird is an essential tool in promoting bird study and conservation. Among a range

of benefits, eBird allows users to keep a variety of lists in a single application. When taxonomic splits are incorporated, lists are automatically updated. Additionally, trip leaders can share daily lists, so one only need accept a shared list and it will upload to your files. Highly recommended.

Merlin Bird ID. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Merlin is an app designed as a birding coach for beginning and intermediate birdwatchers. Excellent for use in the field, Merlin asks the observer a series of questions about his or her bird sighting, including date and location, and color, size, and behavior of a bird. Merlin then processes the viewer's responses to present a shortlist of possible identifications, from which the user can choose the likely bird. Species profiles include a brief physical description, photographs, and sound samples. The Photo ID feature allows anyone with a camera to snap a photo and obtain a list of suggestions. Merlin's Sound ID feature allows identification of birds through audible recognition. To use Merlin, download the app and the appropriate regional "pack." Highly recommended.

TERMS, CONDITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., a Texas corporation, and/or its agents (together, "**VENT**") act only as agents for the participant 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 participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in airfare or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the participant, as tour rates only provide for arrangements for the time stated.

VENT reserves the right (i) to substitute hotels of similar category, or the best reasonable substitution available under the circumstances, for those indicated and (ii) to make any changes in the itinerary that are deemed necessary by VENT or which are caused by third party transportation schedules (i.e. railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, etc.).

VENT reserves the right to substitute leaders or guides on any tour. Where VENT, in its sole discretion, determines such substitution is necessary, it will notify tour participants.

VENT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure with or without cause or good reason. See the VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy set forth above.

Tour prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on July 27, 2026 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change thereto.

VENT reserves the right to decline any participant's Registration Form and/or refuse to allow any participant to participate in a tour as VENT deems reasonably necessary, in its sole discretion. VENT also reserves the right to remove any tour participant from any portion of a tour as VENT deems necessary, in its sole discretion, reasons for such removal include but are not limited to, medical needs, injury, illness, inability to meet physical demands of a tour, personality conflict or situations in which such removal is otherwise in the best interest of the tour, the tour group and/or such participant. A participant may also voluntarily depart from a tour. If a participant is removed from a tour or voluntarily departs from a tour, such participant will be responsible for any expenses associated with such removal or departure, including but not limited to, transportation, lodging, airfare and meals, and VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any such removed or departed participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by such participant.

Baggage is carried at the participant's risk entirely. No airline company, its employees, agents and/or affiliates (the "**Airline**") is to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not on board the Airline's aircraft. The participant ticket in use by any Airline, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the Airline and the purchaser of the tickets and/or the participant. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for VENT tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airlines Reporting Corporation.

View the complete [Terms and Conditions](#) on our website.

Tour Code 20270501

Rev: 06/1/26 – MB

Rev: 07/27/26 SE/DE

Publish Date: 7/28/26