

WINGS COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Updated: 10 May 2021

VACCINATIONS: Tour participants and leaders will be required to have completed the full course of an approved COVID-19 vaccine at least two weeks prior to the start of the tour. **An exception to this rule will be made for those medically unable to receive this vaccination. Please plan to be tested for Covid within three days of tour start and provide a doctor's note regarding the vaccination issue.*

Proof of vaccination should be provided to the WINGS office before departure and carried with you on tour. An image on your mobile phone is sufficient.

Many travel insurance policies do not cover COVID-19-related illnesses or expenses. Please note that should a participant be unable to continue with their tour due to a COVID-related reason, all costs associated with isolating and/or later rejoining the tour are the participant's responsibility.

If testing is required at the end of a tour to re-enter your home country, those costs are not included in the tour price (but we will make sure that the group has the opportunity to get the testing done).

PRIOR TO THE TOUR

- In the two weeks leading up to the tour please continue to practice standard CDC health protocols by avoiding as much as possible public places such as restaurants and bars.
- If you have not already done so, we recommend getting a seasonal flu shot at least two weeks or more prior to tour departure to reduce the possibility of exhibiting COVID-like symptoms during the tour.
- Consider getting a COVID-19 test done within 72 hours of tour departure, whether you are vaccinated or not. Many airports now offer this service for free.
- Participants should expect simple health screenings traveling to or while on tour, especially if there are flights included within the tour. On a few tours it is likely you'll need to present proof of a completed COVID-19 vaccination. Some communities may require a very recent negative COVID test. Regardless, you might be required to retest in arrival. If you exhibit signs of illness, you might be quarantined. The WINGS office will let you know if your tour appears to have any of these requirements.

ON-TOUR PROTOCOL: Tour participants will be in close proximity during much of the tour and are encouraged to exercise health practices as set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The leader will remind participants to follow guidelines for the good of the group.

- **For tours starting before and up to 1 June:** *Mask wearing will be required in many situations on tour, such as while in the vehicles, indoor public areas, public wildlife-watching blinds, and other settings as directed by your leaders.*
- **For tours starting after 1 June:** The CDC recommendations for vaccinated travelers are updated regularly and we will follow the most recently published guidance. Mask-wearing may be required at times on this tour, such as while in indoor public areas, and otherwise as directed by your leaders. Per evolving CDC guidelines for vaccinated travelers we do not intend to require mask-wearing in situations involving only the group, except where local guidelines might require it or in situations where a driver or someone in close contact with the group is unvaccinated. You must follow the tour leader's directives.
- *It is your responsibility to advise the leaders if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.* Leaders also will monitor the group. Typical symptoms include a dry cough, fever, trouble breathing, and a loss of smell or sense of taste. If you exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, you will be separated from the group until you have been tested and receive a negative result. It's worth noting that you may be required by local regulations to self-isolate.
- *Please wear a mask that conforms to basic standards:* surgical masks (replaced regularly), N95 or KN95 masks (without vents), dust masks, and certain homemade or store-bought masks. The leaders will have extra surgical masks if needed. Please do not use face coverings with unreliable protection, such as face shields (unless accompanied by an approved mask), vented masks, buffs, scarves or handkerchiefs.

WINGS LEADERS WILL PLAN FOR AND FOLLOW (AT A MINIMUM):

- Keeping fresh airflow as much as possible while in vehicles.
- Avoiding crowds in common birding areas as much as possible while still getting good looks at our bird targets.
- Determining appropriate dining situations considering location, options, cultural standards, etc. In some situations, this may include takeout meals to be eaten in participants' own rooms. Please note that some meals may be eaten indoors.
- Using hand sanitizer at mealtime. Participants should bring their own bottle of hand sanitizer or hand wipes for incidental use.
- Sanitizing/disinfecting common touch surfaces such as vehicle door handles and the tour leader's scope at least once per day, if not more often.