

An update about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and our tours:

Sept 24, 2020

Dear Ventures Travelers,

As I am sure many of you are aware, COVID-19 continues to prevent and/or heavily impact most non-essential travel across the world right now, especially for Americans. As such, all our international tours planned through the end of this year are officially cancelled. We want to ensure our travelers that we will not proceed with any tour if we deem the health risk of travel too high or the potential of interruptions, delays, or disruptions too great, and unfortunately this all applies to most of the destinations we had planned to travel to. We of course view the health and safety of not just our clients, but all the citizens of the world, to be paramount, and this will continue to be our primary concern when making decisions about upcoming tours. If you are registered for a tour that has been cancelled, we will contact you separately with refund options.

Our brand-new 'Road Trips,' designed to provide the safest birding trip possible, planned for 2020 are all currently proceeding as planned, in addition to other US based tours planned for 2021.

Bearing in mind that this is still a situation that's evolving on a daily basis, all listed tours that have reached minimum registration will operate UNLESS:

- The situation changes adversely to the point we judge the health risk to our travelers to be above an acceptable level.
- The U.S. Department of State issues a Level 4 (highest level) travel advisory for any US State to which we have a departure scheduled.
- The government of a state to which we have scheduled a tour institutes a travel ban, mandatory quarantine, or other travel restrictions that preclude our ability to operate that tour.
- Our ground agents/partners in that state recommend we cancel.

Ventures Birding Tours remains a small company and we can therefore remain a bit flexible with respect to cancellations and final payment due dates through this difficult and uncertain period. We have amended our cancellation policy for all US-based tours departing between now and March 1, 2021 to as follows:

**IF WE CANCEL** a tour due to one of the above reasons or another unforeseen result of the pandemic, participants will have the option to either receive a full refund or move their payments to another tour departing in the next 2 years.

**IF YOU CANCEL** a tour that we intend to operate, you may move your payment to another tour departing in the next 2 years. Full refunds will also be available for cancellations **occurring at least two weeks prior to the date of departure**; for cancellations within the two-week period, a partial refund of up to the full tour price **minus the deposit** will be available.

We will continue to follow the situation closely via a number of sources, from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) World Health Organization (WHO), and John's Hopkins University, in addition to local knowledge from an array of local contacts that we work with. It is likely that COVID-19 will continue posing a hurdle for all of us in the travel industry for months, perhaps longer. Hopefully the situation improves as quickly as possible and we can all get back to doing what we love to do – enjoying fun,

small-group tours to the world's most unique and fascinating natural and cultural areas, free of worry. Until then, we will continue to make the most out of the situation!

We wish everyone good health in the months ahead and we hope to see you again soon.

Simon Thompson and the Ventures Birding family