



HawkWatch International

Policies for International Tours

We're excited that you are interested in joining HawkWatch International for one of our educational and conservation-focused international tours. We are committed to creating safe, enjoyable, and meaningful experiences while also minimizing our environmental impact and respecting local communities. To ensure transparency and protect all parties, please carefully review the following terms and conditions.

NATURE OF TOURS

Our programs focus on observing birds and other wildlife in their natural environments. While we carefully design each itinerary to maximize opportunities for sightings, the behavior of wildlife is inherently unpredictable. Because of this, sightings cannot be guaranteed. In the interest of traveler safety, comfort, or improved viewing opportunities, we may modify the itinerary, accommodations, transportation, or other elements of the trip at our discretion.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Travelers are expected to:

- Follow the guidance of HawkWatch International tour leaders, including HawkWatch International staff and guides
- Respect wildlife, ecosystems, local communities, and fellow participants
- Disclose any relevant medical conditions and carry required medications
- Inform HawkWatch International in advance of any dietary restrictions or mobility needs

Vaccination Requirements

As a scientific organization, HWI strongly recommends that all tour participants vaccinate themselves against communicable diseases such as influenza, COVID-19, etc. If your tour involves travel to a jurisdiction with mandatory vaccination requirements, we will require proof of vaccination status prior to departure. This must be provided by the time the final payment is made.

Removals from Tour

We reserve the right to remove any participant from a tour if their behavior endangers themselves, others, wildlife, or the quality of the experience for other participants. **No refund will be issued, and any additional travel or accommodation costs resulting from removal are the participant's responsibility.**

PAYMENTS

All HawkWatch International (HWI) trips require payment to reserve your spot. Deposits are required for multi-day tours and field trips that cost more than \$500. Trips that do not meet these criteria require payment in full to reserve your spot.

Payments and Deposits

Payment and/or a deposit are due at registration and can be made by credit card or check. You may not use a donor-advised fund to pay for any portion of any trip.

Payment in Full

The remainder of your trip balance must be paid before the trip begins. Full payment can be made at any time but must be received at least two weeks before the start of the tour, or the date specified on the tour website, whichever is earlier.

If full payment is not received by the deadline, HWI reserves the right to cancel your spot and offer it to individuals on the waitlist.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

If you can no longer join a tour or field trip, please notify HawkWatch International immediately to initiate the refund process. Refunds vary based on the number of days until the trip departs. All cancellations must be submitted in writing.

More than 90 Days before Departure

Trips canceled more than 90 days before departure are eligible for a full refund, minus a \$100 processing fee.

60-89 Days before Departure

Trips canceled between 60-89 days prior to departure are eligible for a *full refund*, less any non-refundable and non-transferable reservation fees such as rental vehicles, lodging, meals, etc., if an alternate can be secured to take your place. All cancellations/transfers will incur a \$100 processing fee.

Less than 60 Days before Departure

Trips canceled less than 60 days before departure are eligible for a 50% refund, less any non-refundable reservation fees such as rental vehicles, lodging, meals, etc.

Transfer your Deposit to a Donation

If you cannot attend the field trip tour, you are always welcome to transfer your deposit or trip fee to a 100% tax-deductible donation. We will automatically issue you a tax receipt for any portion of your trip that is not refunded, as you will not receive any goods or services in exchange for your contribution.

Cancellations by HawkWatch International

We know how excited you are to go hawkwatching with us, so we promise to do everything in our power to avoid canceling your trip. If we do have to cancel a trip due to unforeseen circumstances (guide illness, extreme weather, minimum tour size not met, etc.), HWI will refund your deposit and/or payment in full, minus any non-refundable fees that cannot be recovered.

HawkWatch International is not responsible for costs incurred as a result of the trip, but not paid directly to HawkWatch International (e.g., airfare, travel immunizations, gear, travel insurance).

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Life happens. From illness to injury to job loss, we know there are reasons you might have to cancel your trip with limited notice. As a small nonprofit, we are unable to offer refunds outside our refund policy.

For this reason, we highly encourage you to consider purchasing private travel insurance that covers trip cancellation, delays, medical emergencies, evacuation, and loss of baggage. Visit **travelinsurance.com** or consult your insurance provider for more information.

CHANGES TO ITINERARY

HawkWatch International reserves the right to:

- Substitute comparable accommodations or transportation if the originally planned options become unavailable
- Alter the itinerary, tour dates, or trip leaders with or without advance notice

- Adjust the tour fee in response to unexpected changes in exchange rates, fuel costs, or vendor fees. In these cases, additional charges may apply, and participants will be notified as soon as possible.

We are not responsible for incidental expenses or consequential losses incurred in preparation for the tour (e.g., nonrefundable airline tickets, passport fees, travel insurance premiums, equipment purchases).

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

By participating, travelers voluntarily assume all risks associated with travel in natural and international environments, including but not limited to:

- Accidents, injuries, or illness in remote locations
- Exposure to wildlife or challenging terrain
- Transportation delays or failures
- Political or environmental instability

Participants agree to release and hold harmless HawkWatch International, its staff, contractors, and partners from liability for injury, loss, or damage, **except in cases of gross negligence.**

HawkWatch International advises all participants to review their existing health insurance to ensure sufficient coverage for activities outlined in the tour. **We highly recommend that this coverage include medical evacuation coverage in the event that you experience a medical emergency during the event.**

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

By submitting a deposit or payment for a tour, participants agree to the terms outlined below. A signed Liability Waiver will also be required prior to participation. HawkWatch International reserves the right to deny participation to any individual who does not agree to these terms.

QUESTIONS

For questions or clarification about these terms, please contact us at hwi@hawkwatch.org or (801) 484-6808.