

# Australia

## Blue Mountains, Cairns & O'Reillys

2022

Thursday 3rd - Monday 21st November (19 days)

Small group tour with Peter Taylor



The subtle pastel pinks and greys of the gorgeous Galah, a widespread species in New South Wales © tour participant Rupert Pye

Running in November, **Limosa's birding tour to eastern Australia** has all the ingredients for a classic wildlife trip to 'Down Under'. Featuring a host of Australian endemic birds and mammals, it is a journey that will take you from the beautiful Blue Mountains around Sydney, north to Cairns, where we thrill at the bird-rich rainforests of tropical North Queensland and the marvels of the Great Barrier Reef. The trip then concludes with the special magic of three nights at famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Lodge, in the scenic Green Mountains above Brisbane, so join our resident Aussie expert Peter Taylor for this exceptional Eastern Australia birdwatching tour!

### Highlights

- Everything from cockatoos and currawongs to kangaroos and Duck-billed Platypus
- Southern Cassowary, Golden, Satin and Regent Bowerbirds, Albert's and Superb Lyrebirds, Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, Noisy Pitta and Victoria's Riflebird
- Early morning birding cruise on the Lower Daintree River
- The beautiful Blue Mountains, north to the rainforests of tropical Queensland

- Day trip to Michaelmas Cay and the Great Barrier Reef
- The special magic of O'Reilly's Rainforest Lodge with daily 'muggings' by parrots and rosellas!
- Small group tour with a maximum of 7 participants
- Expertly led by Limosa's resident Australian bird guide and naturalist, Peter Taylor

### What's Included?

- Limosa Tour Leader
- 15 nights at comfortable hotels and wildlifelodges in Eastern Australia
- All main meals included with drinking water provided during the day
- Minibus transport
- Two great boat trips: Daintree River and the Great Barrier Reef
- All excursions, entry fees, permits, local guide fees, tour-based tips, and taxes

### Outline Itinerary

#### Days 1-2

Depart UK for Sydney

#### Day 3

Morning arrival in Sydney. We head to Royal National Park. Jamberoo (2 nights)

#### Day 4

Barren Grounds, Fitzroy Falls and Minnamurra Rainforest Centre

#### Days 5-6

We explore the beautiful Blue Mountains visiting the Three Sisters, Blackheath and Megalong Valley. Katoomba (2 nights)

#### Day 7

Bird specialities of Lithgow and Capertee Valley. Glen Davis (1 night)

#### Day 8

We return to Sydney and fly north to Cairns, in tropical North Queensland. We look for waders along Cairns' famous waterfront. Cairns (2 nights)

#### Day 9

Full day trip to Michaelmas Cay and the Great Barrier Reef

#### Days 10-11

We head into the Atherton Tablelands and visit the Lake Eacham crater lake. Evening looking for Duck-billed Platypus. Chambers Rainforest Lodge, Lake Eacham (2 nights)

## Day 12

We visit Centenary Lakes, Cattana Wetland and Redden Island. Mossman (1 night)

## Days 13-14

We enjoy an early morning birding cruise on the Daintree River and explore Daintree National Park and Mt Lewis. Kingfisher Park (2 nights)

## Days 15-17

Return to Cairns and fly to Brisbane and head up into the lovely Green Mountains to experience the magic of O'Reilly's. O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat (3 nights)

## Days 18-19

We depart Brisbane, arriving in the UK the next day.

## Tour Overview

Isolated from the rest of the world's landmasses for over 60 million years, evolution in Australia has taken a very separate path. Whilst the continent's two mammal groups, the kangaroos, wallabies, and other marsupials, plus egg-laying monotremes such as the Duck-billed Platypus, are rightly famous, just as remarkable is that almost half of Australia's regular bird species are found nowhere else - a greater proportion of endemic birds than any other country in the world.

Journeying from the southern temperate zones up into the northern tropics, our birding tour to Eastern Australia tour commences in Sydney, where a visit to beautiful Royal National Park should provide an excellent introduction to the birds of this island continent.

In the New South Wales Southern Uplands, the famous Barren Grounds heathland should be near the peak of its spring wildflower displays. The range-restricted Eastern Bristlebird and Pilotbird frequent this habitat and we will make a special effort to find the scarce Ground Parrot, a seldom seen species that is active primarily at daybreak and dusk. Climbing up into the beautiful Blue Mountains and Capertee Valley,



Regent Bowerbird, O'Reilly's © tour participant Bob Martin

Turquoise Parrot, Superb Lyrebird, Diamond Firetail and the endangered Regent Honeyeater are among a range of specialities we will look for along with flocks of rowdy and impressively big Yellow-tailed and Glossy Black Cockatoos.

Leaving Sydney, we next fly north to Cairns. This is one of Australia's top birding spots and the shorebirds, for example, are outstanding on the Waterfront, with everything from Great Knot to Beach Thick-knee.

Our visit to tropical North Queensland will include a trip out from Cairns to enjoy the marvels of Michaelmas Cay and the Great Barrier Reef, with amazing breeding seabirds and spectacular marine life.



We will also explore the bird-rich forests of the Atherton Tablelands for the likes of Golden Bowerbird, Tooth-billed Catbird and the iridescent Victoria's Riflebird, as well as looking for Southern Cassowary and the amazing Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher.

Victoria's Riflebird © tour participant Bob Martin

On another day, we plan to take a cruise on the Daintree River where the possibilities include Little Kingfisher and Great-billed Heron, before flying south to Brisbane where our tour concludes with three nights at the incomparable O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat.

The birding at this well-known location is simply superb and well-stocked feeders (not to mention inattentive birdwatchers with food in their hands!) attract

immaculate Regent and Satin Bowerbirds, along with crowds of colourful Crimson Rosellas and Australian King Parrots. With wallaby-like Red-necked Pademelons foraging on the lawn, it should be a spectacular end to our holiday.

Our resident Aussie guide **Peter Taylor** joined the Limosa team in 2008 and has since led all of our Australia tours. Pack your bags and join us for very best of Eastern Australia on this classic birdwatching tour to 'Down Under'!

## Daily Itinerary

### Days 1- 3:

#### FLY TO SYDNEY: ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

Our birdwatching tour to Eastern Australia commences with a flight to Sydney where we arrive on the morning of Day 3.

We will be met on arrival by our guide Peter Taylor and head for the Royal National Park which is the second oldest in the world and offers a gentle but excellent introduction to Australian birdlife. Avian specialities could include Rainbow Lorikeet, Red-browed Finch, Australian Magpie, New Holland Honeyeater and the dazzling Superb Fairywren.

Other exciting birds we should find in this massive park include raucous Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and gaudy Crimson Rosellas, along with numerous honeyeaters, wattlebirds and thornbills. We are likely to hear the astonishing whip-crack of the Eastern Whipbird from deep within the undergrowth, whilst regal White-bellied Sea Eagles soar overhead. *Night Jamberoo*

### Day 4

#### BARREN GROUNDS & MINNAMURRA RAINFOREST

Our birding begins in earnest today with a visit to Barren Grounds, where we have a chance of finding the remarkable Ground Parrot.

This highland area above the coastal escarpment is similar to a European heathland and should be nearing the peak of its wildflower displays. Some of the special birds we will look for include Eastern Bristlebird, Pilotbird and Southern Emu-wren.

Nearby is the Minnamurra Rainforest Centre, where we can follow the boardwalks through a range of rainforest environments and, with luck, may catch sight of Superb Lyrebirds that forage through the leaf litter on the forest floor.

Also present are Large-billed Scrubwrens, the aptly named Top-Knot Pigeon and Green Catbird that genuinely does *miaow!*

We plan to return at twilight when the uncommon Ground Parrot becomes active, and we might even be fortunate enough to see a Common Wombat or hear a Greater Sooty Owl. *Night Jamberoo*

### Days 5 - 6

#### THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Leaving Jamberoo, we head north towards the Blue Mountains, with our first planned stop being at the spectacular Fitzroy Falls in Morton National Park. Here we will hope to see flocks of rowdy Glossy and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, as well as Gang-gang Cockatoos and a host of smaller birds such as Beautiful Firetail, Leaden Flycatcher and Eastern Yellow Robin.

After spending the night at Katoomba, the following morning we plan to explore around Mount Victoria,



Blackheath and Katoomba, where we hope to find some of the specialities of the region, including Superb Lyrebird, Rock Warbler and Satin Flycatcher.

We will then head down through lush rainforest to the open woodlands of the Megalong Valley where White-winged Choughs, a myriad of honeyeaters species and White-throated Treecreeper can be found. Satin Bowerbird also occurs in this region, and this will be the first of several chances to find a bower, where we will hopefully also be seeing the 'owner' in attendance, guarding his display of bright blue treasures. *Two nights Katoomba*

Satin Bowerbird © Dr Kevin Elsby, wildlifeontheweb.co.uk

### Day 7

#### CAPERTEE VALLEY, GLEN DAVIS

We will leave the Blue Mountains heading for Capertee, with intended stops at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds and Lake Wallace. Here there are chances of Blue-billed, Pink-eared and the very unusual Musk Duck amongst a good range of waterfowl.

The Capertee Valley is a stronghold for a number of rare bird species and the fabulous variety of specialities could include the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater. Other possibilities include Turquoise Parrot, Diamond Firetail, Hooded Robin, Speckled Warbler, Little Lorikeet, Black-chinned, Fuscous and Yellow-tufted

Honeyeaters, White-browed Babbler and many more.

After lunch, we will continue to explore the valley, arriving at a waterhole in the late afternoon to watch an array of honeyeaters, parrots and pigeons coming for their afternoon drink. There could also be good numbers of Eastern Grey Kangaroos, with Red-necked Wallabies and Wallaroos also possible as the setting sun turns the majestic cliffs golden red.

Our accommodation is at Glen Davis where we stay in a historic hotel, which has been beautifully renovated with amazing views of the towering escarpments of the Wollemi National Park. Not all rooms have private facilities, but the hotel is in such a magnificent setting that we think it is more than worth it. This is also the only way to experience sunset and sunrise in the valley and it gives us more chance of seeing kangaroos!

*Night Glen Davis*

## Day 8

### FLY SYDNEY TO CAIRNS, CAIRNS WATERFRONT

Today is mainly a travel day, so after an early walk around historic Glen Davis, we return to Sydney where we catch an early afternoon flight north to Cairns, in tropical North Queensland.

This is often considered to be at the centre of one of Australia's very best birding areas and depending on our flight schedule, there may be time for a quick visit to the famous Cairns waterfront after we arrive. This is a splendid place for waders and the possibilities include Terek and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Grey-tailed Tattler, Great Knot and both Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers. *Night Cairns*



Great Knot, Queensland © tour participant Bob Martin

## Day 9

### PELAGIC BOAT TRIP TO MICHAELMAS CAY & THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

We will take a cruise to the largest continuous stretch of coral on earth: the Great Barrier Reef. Passing Black-naped Terns, which appear gleaming white against the tropical blue sea, we plan to go ashore on Michaelmas Cay, a sandy islet crammed with breeding seabirds. There should be good numbers of Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies and with Brown Boobies and Great Frigatebirds overhead, this is a truly magical place.

Despite all the wonderful birds, the chance to snorkel over the reef or to view the vast range of underwater life from a glass-bottomed boat may be the 'ultimate experience' for some.

It will certainly be with great reluctance that we leave this window on to another world of multicoloured fish, corals and noddies and return to the mainland for dinner and a second overnight stay in Cairns. *Night Cairns*

**Days 10 - 11****ATHERTON TABLELANDS, LAKE BARRINE AND LAKE EACHAM**

Leaving coastal town of Cairns behind us, we will make the easy drive up into the Atherton Tablelands and visit the crater lakes of Lake Barrine and Lake Eacham. This rich volcanic area harbours some of the best rainforests in Australia where the trees are festooned with epiphytic ferns and mosses and mighty birdwing butterflies' flit through the shady understorey. There will be enormous strangler figs draping their roots over their host trees and the birds we will look for include Tooth-billed Catbird, the aptly named Golden Bowerbird and beautiful Wompoo Fruit Dove.

We stay at a superbly situated lodge located amidst pristine rainforest, where iridescent Victoria's Riflebirds display and Red-legged Pademelons graze on the lawns.

We plan to go spotlighting after dark to look for nocturnal mammals and birds but will also have a chance of seeing the shy and elusive Duck-billed Platypus, as it swims out along a favoured stream at dusk. *Two nights Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodge*

**Day 12****CENTENARY LAKES, REDDEN ISLAND, CATTANA WETLANDS & MOSSMAN**

We plan to start our day with a visit to Centenary Lakes which can be highly productive for a range of honeyeaters. We will also hope to find Orange-footed Scrubfowl which can sometimes be seen scratching about for food on the tangled forest floor.

Just north of the city, Redden Island, is a jewel of a reserve comprising mangroves, beaches and eucalypt woodlands. The lovely Rose-crowned Fruit Dove and Little Bronze-cuckoo are possible, and we have a good chance of finding the huge but secretive Great-billed Heron.

We also intend to visit Cattana Wetlands, a man-made system of interconnected pools where we may find our first Green Pygmy-geese as well as flocks of Metallic Starlings and Helmeted Friarbirds.

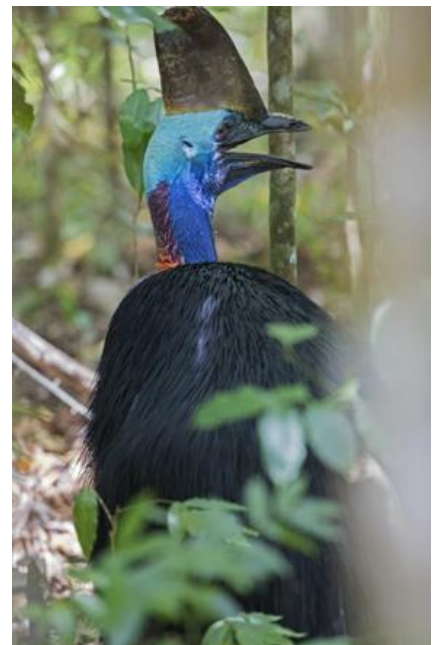
We then head to our accommodation in Mossman. *Night Mossman*

**Days 13 - 14****DAINTREE RIVER CRUISE AND KINGFISHER PARK, JULATTEN**

We begin with an early morning cruise on the Lower Daintree River which is a wildlife experience not to be missed. Our focus will primarily be on looking for Great-billed Heron, Papuan Frogmouth and Little Kingfisher but we may also see the massive Saltwater or Estuarine Crocodiles which frequent this river.....

After breakfast, we cross the Daintree River and search the forest on the northern side for the elusive and entirely unpredictable Southern Cassowary before heading inland towards our next destination, Kingfisher Park, at Julatten.

Southern Cassowary © tour participant Bob Martin



Named after the beautiful Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher that breeds in the grounds, Kingfisher Park is a comfortable retreat set within a patch of remnant rainforest. Boasting a remarkable list of birds, the likes of Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Lesser Sooty Owl, Emerald Dove, Pied Monarch and Yellow-breasted Boatbill are among more than two hundred species which have been recorded at or around the lodge.

Accommodation at Kingfisher Park is in comfortable but simply furnished cabins, each with a veranda looking out over the rainforest grounds. We spend two nights at this superb wildlife spot! *Two nights Julatten*

### Days 15 - 17

#### FLY CAIRNS-BRISBANE, O'REILLY'S RAINFOREST RETREAT

We depart Cairns around lunch time on a flight to Brisbane. Leaving the heat of Queensland's Gold Coast lowlands behind, we are soon climbing into the cooler upland rainforests of the bird-rich Lamington National Park where we will spend three nights staying at the world-famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in the beautiful Green Mountains.

With its fine network of forest trails, O'Reilly's offers excellent opportunities to see a whole range of rainforest specialities including Noisy Pitta, Green Catbird and Australian Logrunner.

This is wonderful bowerbird country, with the stunning black and gold Regent Bowerbird a fitting emblem for the lodge and the dark blue Satin Bowerbird that loves to adorn its bower with bright blue objects. Both species can be ridiculously easy to see at O'Reilly's as they often visit the feeding areas and may even perch on you!

It is almost impossible to avoid getting 'mugged' by hordes of colourful Crimson Rosellas and Australian King Parrots during the day and always make sure you keep any food items firmly under wraps!

Two of the local rainforest specialities are Albert's Lyrebird and Paradise Riflebird and we will hope to find both of these.



At slightly lower elevations, O'Reilly's dry eucalypt forests hold a wealth of new species including the almost surreal Glossy Black Cockatoo and the delightful Whiptail Wallaby.

After dark, we may also get an opportunity to see Sugar Gliders and there are good chances of Red-necked Pademelons.

The "O'Reilly's experience" is simply fabulous and richly deserves its reputation as one of the world's best birdwatching lodges.

After three fabulous nights here, we are confident that you will agree with us that there is no finer place to finish our classic Eastern Australia tour! *Three nights at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat*

Australian King Parrot at O'Reilly's © tour participant Bob Martin



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**Day 18****RETURN TO BRISBANE, FLY TO THE UK**

Following an early breakfast, we bid a reluctant farewell to O'Reilly's Rainforest Lodge and wind our way back down through the Green Mountains to Brisbane.

Bidding a final goodbye to Peter, we begin our journey back to the UK.

**Day 19****ARRIVAL IN UK**

Arrival back in the UK, where our birdwatching tour to Eastern Australia concludes.

**Trip Information**

**Group Size** 7 participants and 1 leader

**Birds** 270-310 species

**Mammals** 15-25 species

**Accommodation** We stay at a varied selection of comfortable Aussie hotels, motels, lodges and cabins. All rooms are en-suite except for our one night at lovely Glen Davis and two at Kingfisher Park, where all bedrooms are separate, but some bathrooms may be shared with another room.

**Meals** All main meals are included in the tour price, commencing with lunch following arrival in Australia on Day 3 and concluding with breakfast there on Day 18. Aussie food is good!

**Walking** Easy walking, no more than a mile or two at any one time. Sturdy thornproof walkingshoes or boots with corrugated soles for grip are recommended.

**Weather** November is the ideal time to visit Eastern Australia. The climate is tropical in the north (Cairns to Brisbane), where it is hot and sunny all year round (25-33C/77-91F). It can be humid at times, especially at the coast; typically cooler and more pleasant early and late in the day in the hills, as well as further south with temperatures in Sydney ranging from 16-23C (61-74F). November is one of the driest months of the year, but some rain is possible over the coast and hills.

**Ground Transport** by Toyota minibus or similar. Private coach transfers to and from O'Reilly's, where our birding excursions are on foot and/or in O'Reilly's own 'wildlife bus'.

**Boat Trips** Our tour cost includes two 'must-do' boat trips: a dawn wildlife cruise on the Daintree River and an all-day pelagic visit to Michaelmas Cay and the Great Barrier Reef.

**Flights Due** to the pandemic, it is proving extremely difficult to predict future flight prices and schedules, especially when a trip is scheduled for beyond the period when flights can be booked. As a result, we have taken the decision to price our holidays as excluding flights.

To keep the process as simple as possible for our clients, however, we are now working closely with a dedicated agent at Travel Counsellors who will be able to advise you on which flights we are recommending for each holiday, and he will be able to book these for you.

**Photos** Some wonderful photographic opportunities on this tour, especially at places such as O'Reilly's Rainforest Lodge.

### Tour Extensions

Should you wish to extend your visit to Australia before and/or after our tour, this is easy to do. Internal flights are nowhere near as expensive as they once were and although Limosa does not offer 'tailormade' arrangements, Limosa Managing Director Chris Collins has spent many months exploring Australia and is happy to share his knowledge with you, so please don't hesitate to call us.

### Tour Cost

#### 2022 (19 days):

Land only cost: £5995

Single supplement: £995

Deposit: £1000

#### Cost includes

- Limosa Tour Leader
- 15 nights' accommodation in Australia
- All main meals
- Minibus transport
- Two boat trips: Daintree River cruise and Great Barrier Reef including Michaelmas Cay
- All excursions, local guide fees, permits, entry fees, tour-based tips, and taxes
- Limosa checklist of birds

#### Cost excludes

Flights, Insurance, Australian visa, drinks, airport meals, snacks and other personal expenses.

### About Your Guide

**Peter Taylor** Peter is 'our man in Australia'. Although originally from Stockport in the UK, Peter spent his teenage years at Adelaide in South Australia and has since birded extensively across this great continent. For more than twenty years he has lived in the tall timber country of Manjimup (south of Perth), in Western Australia which is a hotspot for endemic birds and plants. Having forsaken a comfortable career with the government to follow his true passion for birds and birding, Peter now works full-time as a naturalist and bird and wildlife tour guide.

A naturalised Australian, who emigrated as a child with his parents from the UK to Australia as a '£10 Pom' in the 1960s, he is the perfect guide for *Limosa's* tours "Down Under".

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## Financial Security

**Limosa Holidays** (which is a division of Birds and Wildlife Limited) has financial failure insurance provided by Travel Vault which fully protects you should Birds and Wildlife Limited cease trading.

All passenger bookings are fully insured including the initial deposit and balance payments. The policy also includes repatriation, arising from the cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements in the unlikely event of the insolvency of Birds and Wildlife Limited.

For full details please see <https://limosaholidays.co.uk/about/financial-protection/>

## How to book

Check availability on our website or with our office. We are happy to hold a provisional reservation for up to 7 days. After this, we require a booking form and deposit to confirm your place on a tour.

### Book online, by phone or by post

You can book and pay the deposit simply and securely via our website using the “Book this Tour” button on the relevant tour page. Telephone bookings must be confirmed in writing by completion of a booking form (available to download from our website) and emailed or posted to us.

Please be sure to read our booking conditions and general information prior to booking. Links to this can be found from the footer on every page of our website.

### When to book

Early booking is advised as all our tours have small group sizes and so they can fill very quickly; indeed, occasionally this can happen before we have even uploaded details to the website.

The number of single rooms is sometimes limited, and these are often taken quickly so we encourage you to plan ahead if you would like one.

When a trip becomes a ‘guaranteed departure’ early on, this also means that everyone can book flights which is advantageous for all.

### Last-minute bookings

We inevitably receive a few unexpected cancellations over the course of a season, so it is always worth enquiring about availability on any tour – even at short notice.

## Payments

- **Deposit:** the amount of booking deposit per person is shown alongside every tour. We accept deposit payments by electronic bank transfer (please ask for our bank details), UK debit/credit cards and cheques (made payable to *Birds and Wildlife Ltd* and drawn on a UK bank in GB£ sterling)
- **Balance:** full payment of the tour balance is due no later than 12 weeks prior to departure or 20 weeks in the case of certain tours and cruises. We will send you an invoice before the balance is due. We accept payments of balances by electronic bank transfer or cheque.
- **Payment by overseas customers:** These must be in GB£ Sterling and made by electronic bank transfer (please ask for our bank details).

- We do not accept cheques on US banks in US\$ or cheques in Euros or Eurocheque. For customers living outside of the UK and the European Economic Area, we can accept balance payments by Visa and MasterCard credit cards but with an additional charge of 3% to help offset credit card company charges.

**Late booking payments:** for us to guarantee hotel rooms etc, full payment is required at the time of booking (ie bookings made within 12 weeks of departure).

### Passports and Visas

For UK passport holders your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the last day of the tour.

Current entry requirements for UK citizens travelling abroad can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

### Health and Vaccinations

For full and up to date information on vaccines visit <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries> and select your destination country.

General information on travel vaccinations and a travel health checklist is also available on the NHS 'Fit for Travel' website. You may then wish to contact your health adviser or pharmacy for advice on other preventive measures and managing any pre-existing medical conditions while you are abroad.

### Your safety and travel advice

An unavoidable aspect of travelling abroad is the risk it may pose to your safety and security. The best advice on current risks is provided by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

To assess and protect against any risks in your chosen destination, we strongly advise that you refer to the relevant FCDO travel advice both prior to booking and regularly before you travel. This information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.

"Travel aware" is a travel safety campaign run by the FCDO and another useful resource and details can be found at <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk>.

### Travel Insurance

**Good travel insurance is essential before setting off on any overseas trip.** In common with all responsible tour operators, it is a condition of booking that all clients are fully and adequately insured before travelling with us.

Be aware that some destinations may require you to produce proof of comprehensive travel insurance (eg a valid insurance certificate) at Immigration on arrival in the country, so you should carry your documentation with you.

Your travel insurance should cover against cancellation, curtailment, missed departure, delay, personal accident, death, loss of baggage and valuables (see note below), personal liability and legal expenses.

Most importantly, your insurance must cover you fully in respect of medical care and repatriation should you become too ill to continue with the tour, including the cost of emergency evacuation by helicopter or air

ambulance should this be necessary.

Note that passenger liability insurance covering the transportation that we hire, particularly in less developed countries, may be inadequate; it is, therefore important that your insurance cover includes sufficient provision for your dependents in the event of an accident.

**We recommend that you obtain travel insurance as soon as possible after booking your holiday** to ensure you are fully protected in the event of unexpected cancellation prior to departure. You must inform your insurers of any pre-existing medical conditions (including those of persons not necessarily travelling but upon whom your holiday may depend) that may require treatment during a period of overseas travel or might cause you to cancel the trip.

Once you have arranged your insurance, please be sure to send us the following essential details: name and contact details of your insurance provider, your policy number, expiry date and your insurers 24hr emergency assistance number.

### **Important things to note about insurance**

Travel insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover for valuable optical equipment, which is often best protected under your own household insurance policy. If in doubt, ask your insurers for advice prior to travel.

Most travel insurance policies limit the amount of cover, typically up to a maximum tour cost of £5000 per person. If the tour you are booking exceeds this amount, additional cover can usually be provided upon payment of an additional premium. We recommend all travellers check their individual policy limit to ensure the full cost of their holiday is covered.

### **Arranging your insurance**

Due to UK government legislation, we are not allowed to offer or recommend travel related insurance. Premiums can vary widely according to your age, needs, health, choice of destination and other factors, while many people nowadays have annual travel insurance cover.

## **General Information**

[www.limosaholidays.co.uk](http://www.limosaholidays.co.uk)

Our website gives easy access to detailed tour itineraries (tour info packs), trip reports, trip photos and the latest Limosa News.

### **Special diets & other requests**

We pass on all such requests to the hotels and other suppliers, and do our best to ensure (but, of course, cannot guarantee) that your needs will be met. Please be sure to tell us about these (in as much detail as possible) at the time of booking, to allow good time to make the necessary arrangements.

### **Smoking and vaping**

Almost all our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. For the enjoyment and comfort of all, we ask that smokers refrain from smoking in proximity to the group and respect our no smoking policy in the vehicle, at mealtimes and when watching wildlife.

### Any questions?

If you have any questions, please email us at [tours@limosaholidays.co.uk](mailto:tours@limosaholidays.co.uk) or call the office and we will do our best to assist you.

Our office is open 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday. In the event we are unable to take your call, please leave a message on our answerphone (24 hrs) and we will contact you as soon as we can.

***Thank you for your interest in our tours. We do hope that you will be able to join us.***