



HARPY EAGLE (HARPIA HARPYJA) BY BERNARD DUPONT, CC BY-SA 2.0



## PANAMA

HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY *Post-trip extension to Darién*

November 4 – 7, 2021

*Continue exploring the best of birding in Panama with this Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory three-day post-trip extension to Darién. Still marked by remote wilderness, Darién is a birder's paradise, and a haven for forest raptors like the Harpy Eagle and Crested Eagle. Set out into the forests of Darién National Park by boat and on foot to discover the abundant avifauna living among the trees. Plus, meet with a local indigenous community and get to know their way of life over a picnic lunch. The unique experience is made complete by your stay at Canopy Camp, Panama's only tented ecolodge, where you'll wake each morning immersed in the natural world, in the comfort of a safari-style tent.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Seek out the majestic yet reclusive Harpy Eagle in its natural habitat in Darién National Park.
- Bird the shores of the Chucunaque and Tuira Rivers from a dugout canoe, keeping watch for herons, egrets, ibis, kingfishers, and oropendolas.
- Learn about the daily life of the indigenous Emberá people in Nuevo Vigía community.
- Go into the heart of the forests of eastern Panama to look for forest raptors, antbirds, caracaras, macaws, tanagers, and more.
- Enjoy three nights' stay in Canopy Camp, a safari-style tented ecolodge with accommodations on raised platforms ideal for daily birding.

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



### NOVEMBER 4 - DARIÉN

Your guide will meet you bright and early (around 6:30 am) in the hotel lobby to head to Canopy Camp. Darién is truly an adventurous region of the world, so expect the unexpected and be prepared for excitement around every corner! Our guides know this region very well: where to find the regional specialties that live here, and how to dodge the ever-changing conditions from season to season. Arrive at the camp mid-afternoon. Check in and settle into your accommodation. Dinner and orientation this evening. *Overnight at Canopy Camp. (BLD)*

### NOVEMBER 5 - DARIÉN

Darién is a stronghold for Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, and holds Central America's largest population of this rare and majestic bird. If there is a site available to visit, whether it is a nest site or a fledged juvenile in a reliable location, we will set out in hopes of spotting one. The Harpy Eagle is our target for the day! Start very early, long before sunrise, and drive to Yaviza, at the end of the Pan-American Highway. Arriving at dawn in Yaviza, we will board a "piragua," a dugout canoe, and traverse the still waters of the Chucunaque and Tuirá rivers. The river edges offer shrub and grass habitat, as well as mudflats and beaches depending on the water level. There are plenty of birds to see along the riverside: Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga, Great Blue, Cooi, Little Blue, Tricolored, Striated and Capped herons, Snowy Egret, White Ibis, Green Ibis, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Pied Water-Tyrant, Bronzed Cowbird, Yellow-hooded Blackbird and both Crested and Black oropendolas. White-tailed Kite, Black-collared Hawk and Common Black-Hawk may be found cruising overhead. Upon arrival in El Real, we can scan the open areas for Spot-breasted Woodpecker and Great Potoo. We will meet a local truck and head south out of town past the airstrip, to the trailhead toward the border of Darién National Park. This trail is wide, traversing through lowland rainforest alongside a river. If very lucky, we may see Harpy Eagle or Crested Eagle, as both of these magnificent raptors roam the dense forests here. Hopefully after some success this morning, we'll rest and have a picnic lunch in the field, then continue to bird along the trail. Other large forest eagles, including Ornate Hawk-Eagle and Crested Eagle, can also be found in the area, as well as Gray-cheeked Nunlet, White-fronted Nunbird, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Agami Heron, Red-throated Caracara, Chestnut-backed Antbird (the eastern Panama race shows white

dots on the wings), Chestnut-fronted and Great Green macaws, Scarlet-browed Tanager and more. After lunch and a break, we will retrace our steps and start our way back to El Real, and then head back to Yaviza by river. Along the Pan-American Highway, we can scan for bird activity as the sun sets in the horizon.

*Overnight at Canopy Camp. (BLD)*

### NOVEMBER 6 - DARIÉN

Today, visit the Nuevo Vigia Embera indigenous community along the shores of the Chucunaque River. Have the opportunity to explore and learn about the culture of Darién, its people and their day-to-day life. Picnic lunch in the village and birding in surrounding areas. *Overnight at Canopy Camp. (BLD)*

### NOVEMBER 7 - DARIÉN

Group transfer to Panama City for flights home. Please book flights for 3 pm or later. (B)

## LAND PRICING

**\$2,035** (5 participants)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide for the duration of the program, carbon offset, and a donation to Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory.

Does not include international airfare, tips and gratuities, or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with flight arrangements if desired.

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

## THE FINE PRINT

*Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip, add \$220 per person. A \$400 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until June 22, 2021. Final non-refundable payment is due July 25, 2021.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit [holbrook.travel/hrbo-pnext21](http://holbrook.travel/hrbo-pnext21) or contact Debbie Jordan at 866-748-6146 or email [debbie@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:debbie@holbrooktravel.com)