



Photo by Debbie Sturdivant



GUATEMALA

with AUDUBON ALASKA

Flyway Expedition to Guatemala's Highlands

November 2-12, 2018



HIGH INTENSITY!

This program is for serious birders. Expect at least 6-8 hours of birding each day.

Guatemala is a richly diverse cultural center and a lush and vibrant paradise for birders. Set in the heart of Central America, it is one of the New World's prime migratory corridors. See firsthand many of the species Audubon hopes to protect through its ongoing conservation efforts. Experience National Audubon's Asociación Vivamos Mejor program based in Panajachel on Lake Atitlán, including a training program for Guatemalans to become birding and nature guides. Under their guidance, you'll explore a variety of habitats, seek out rare and endemic species, and meet with locals who are part of the Audubon bird-tourism initiative in Santiago Atitlán, a hub of Maya culture. Birders who choose to take this tour will enjoy the vast, natural riches while supporting the community and protecting a diverse ecosystem.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Bird the lower and upper trails at Los Tarrales, with the goal of seeing the Long-tailed Manakin's impressive courtship display.
- Visit Corazon del Bosque Reserve for the chance to see Mountain Trogon, Spotted Woodcreeper, White-naped Brush-Finch, and with luck, the uncommon Pink-headed Warbler.
- Explore San Juan Laguna, a village known for its many women's cooperatives, and meet some of the entrepreneurs who weave traditional textiles there.
- Visit with Asociación Vivamos Mejor (AVM), a private nonprofit development organization committed to improving the quality of life of rural communities surrounding Lake Atitlán.

For more information or to enroll, visit: holbrook.travellaudubonak-gu18



Support Audubon and its partners to advance sustainable development in bird hot-spots

Holbrook Travel is a supporting partner in Audubon's conservation work in Latin America and in the Caribbean. One aspect of that work is the strengthening of **bird-based tourism** as a conservation and sustainable development tool. As part of our **Flyway Expeditions** series, this program is designed to help protect key areas along the flyways for migratory and local species. As a participant on this trip, you'll have a direct economic impact on local people and communities, help preserve IBAs, and nurture an emerging ecotourism industry.

Learn more at holbrook.travel/flywayexpeditions

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

NOVEMBER 2 - ANTIGUA

Arrive at La Aurora International Airport in Guatemala City, Guatemala. *Please schedule your flight to arrive no later than 2:00 pm. Meet our local representative outside the airport after clearing immigration and customs and transfer to Antigua, about an hour away depending on traffic. This evening enjoy a welcome talk pertaining to your upcoming journey. *Overnight at Hotel Posada Don Rodrigo Antigua. (D)*

NOVEMBER 3 - LOS ANDES PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

After breakfast, travel to Finca El Pilar, a private reserve within a great pine-oak forest, full of excellent birding trails. Walk the trails looking for various species and visit the hummingbird feeders. In the afternoon, continue to Finca Los Andes, located at the southern slope of the Atitlán Volcano. The cloud forest that lies between the tea gardens and the coffee fields is abundant in wildlife, especially birds, among them the elusive Resplendent Quetzal. Los Andes is also home to the rare Cabanis's Tanager, also known as the Azure-rumped Tanager. This small, blue, exquisite bird's highly localized habitat is shared by hundreds of local and migrating species, including a host of hummingbirds, orioles, flycatchers, trogons and motmots. Sixty percent of the reserve is original forest, most of it along the slopes of the dormant volcano. In 2001, Los Andes was declared a private nature reserve, and it is a founding member of Guatemala's Association of Private Nature Reserves. The Reserve works closely with the residents to promote self-sufficiency, health and education. Present programs for conservation include artificial nests for the Quetzals. The reserve has a reforestation program approved by INAB (The National Forestry Institute), as well as eucalyptus forests planted for firewood. Coffee and quinine prunings also supply lumber and firewood. Financial and technical assistance are provided to buy and install efficient wood burning stoves in the workers' houses. Los Andes has its own hydroelectric plant, which generates all the power used on the estate. *Overnight at Finca Los Andes. (B)*

NOVEMBER 4 - LOS ANDES PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

Start today with birding at the reserve. Hummingbird feeders at the lodge may attract the Blue-tailed Hummingbird as well as Violet and Rufous Sabrewings. The rare Wine-throated

Hummingbird may also appear. Drive up to the higher forest above the tea plantations where the trails may offer sightings of the Resplendent Quetzal. Tody Motmots and Emerald-Toucanets, as well as deep forest species such as Singing Quail, Spotted Nightingale-Thrush and Scaled Antpitta are also present. Tonight after dinner, there will be an optional owling walk. *Overnight at Finca Los Andes. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 5 - LOS TARRALES RESERVE

Enjoy early morning birding around the lodge followed by breakfast. Afterwards transfer to Finca Los Tarrales, located a short distance from Finca Los Andes, on the flanks of the same mountain. However, the elevation and humidity profile differ and so does the bird life, with birds from both lowland and highland habitats, and good access to various types of forest. Los Tarrales ranges in altitude from 700 to 3,500 m (2,300 to 11,500 ft) and is home to diverse wildlife, including more than 340 bird species. The reserve is part of the Atitlán Important Bird Area, and harbors 21 regional endemic bird species, including Horned Guan, Highland Guan, Azure-rumped Tanager, and Blue-tailed Hummingbird. The abundance of migratory birds here, including Swainson's Thrush, Tennessee, Magnolia, and Black-and-white Warblers, Western Tanager, and Orchard Oriole, is impressive. It is a good place for raptors as well, including the Black Hawk-Eagle, and sometimes the gorgeous Black-and-white Owl. Morning and evening are great times for spotting commuting parrots, with four species of parakeets and parrots typically seen. During the two full days here, you will bird the lower and upper trails, and work on finding some great diversity of birds. Search for Long-tailed Manakins. During lunch take some time to enjoy the feeders where Orchard, Altamira, Spot-breasted and Baltimore Orioles come to feed along with Rufous-naped Wrens and Yellow-throated Euphonias. *Overnight at Finca Los Tarrales. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 6 - LOS TARRALES RESERVE

Continue birding in the Los Tarrales Private Reserve. The reserve is private and self-sustained; costs for its conservation are covered from income generated in the zone, (coffee, ornamentals, and honey) and through tourism services. Sixty Maya Kaqchikel families live within the protected area, working in coffee and/or ornamentals production, as forest rangers and in tourism. Several enthusiastic and knowledgeable local guides will help you spot wildlife, specifically birds, and explain the production of coffee and ornamental plants. Los Tarrales is providing social services for the people living within

the protected area. A private primary school is run in order to ensure the children's education. Classes in nature, science, and conservation are included in the educational program. *Overnight at Finca Los Tarrales. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 7 - SANTIAGO, LAKE ATITLÁN

Following morning birding, transfer to the town of Santiago Atitlán in time for lunch. In the afternoon, there will be opportunities to see a few new species. With some luck, you may glimpse the uncommon Slender Sheartail hummingbird or the unique looking Prevost's Ground-Sparrow. Santiago Atitlán is a hub of Maya culture and there may be an opportunity to meet some locals who are part of the Audubon bird tourism initiative. The National Audubon Society has partnered with Asociación Vivamos Mejor (AVM), a private nonprofit development organization committed to improving the quality of life of rural communities surrounding Lake Atitlán. AVM focuses on Sustainable Watersheds and Resiliency to Climate Change as a strategy for promoting sustainable development. Along with the primary group leader, each location will have a local guide involved. *Overnight at Hotel Bambú. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 8 - SANTIAGO, LAKE ATITLÁN

This morning enjoy birding at Parque Mirador del Rey Tepetul, a 3,500-hectare park of mostly forest with a wide altitudinal range. Although new to the bird tourism scene, this park has great birds, including the Yellow-naped Parrot, Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, and the Azure-rumped Tanager. In the afternoon, transfer to San Juan La Laguna. San Juan La Laguna is a wonderful village with an incredible number of women's cooperatives and women's groups. The groups do fine weaving of textiles, with natural dyed fabrics, on the traditional back strap loom and, less frequently, the Spanish floor loom. This afternoon we will have time to explore the village. *Overnight at Hotel Bambú. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 9 - SANTIAGO, LAKE ATITLÁN

Bird tourism is also new to the San Juan La Laguna area. Seek out the rare and gorgeous Belted Flycatcher along the lower slopes of a volcano. You may also come across the Lesser Roadrunner and other dry forest species, such as Prevost's Ground-Sparrow. Participants who are up for the challenge can try the hike to Volcán San Pedro, and the chance to see the Horned Guan. The hike to find the Horned Guan is very difficult and strenuous, and not for everyone, nor does it guarantee a sighting of the rare bird. *Overnight at Hotel Bambú. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 10 - PANAJACHEL

In the morning venture out for a boat ride to Parque Tzankujil to San Marcos La Laguna, which has excellent dry forest and the opportunity to spot the showy Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird. This is also a great spot for wintering warblers, resident orioles including the Bar-winged Oriole, the Bushy-crested Jay, and even the skulking Blue-and-white Mockingbird. Spend the morning here birding, have lunch and then travel to Panajachel. This afternoon is free to enjoy some shopping or relax and take in views of Lake Atitlán from

the hotel. Before dinner meet a representative of Asociación Vivamos Mejor and learn more about their work with local communities surrounding Lake Atitlán. *Overnight at Hotel Posada Don Rodrigo Panajachel. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 11 - GUATEMALA CITY

This morning visit Corazon del Bosque, a reserve located higher up in the oak-pine forest zone. The star bird at Corazon del Bosque is the gorgeous and uncommon Pink-headed Warbler. While looking for the warbler you might survey the Mountain Trogon, Spotted Woodcreeper, Yellowish Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Wren, Olive Warbler, Crescent-chested Warbler, White-naped Brush-Finch and the local form of the Yellow-eyed Junco, which many consider a separate species: the Guatemalan Junco. After our visit, head to Guatemala City and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant en route. Arrive in Guatemala City in the late afternoon, followed by free time and then a farewell dinner at the hotel. *Hotel Radisson (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 12 - FAREWELL!

Transfer to Guatemala City Airport to take your flight home. Breakfast will be available depending on your flight time. *(B)*

LAND PRICING

\$2,700 per person

With the maximum of 12 participants the price will be \$2,525. Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation, bottled water on the bus, full-time guide, and carbon offset. Your participation supports Audubon Alaska and National Audubon's International Alliances Program.

Does not include international airfare, estimated at \$1,200 from Anchorage, gratuities for guide or driver, alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on 10 participants in double occupancy; a limited number of single rooms may be available for an additional cost. A \$200 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 July 30, 2018 at which time non-refundable final payment is due. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/audubonak-gu18 or contact Debbie Sturdivant Jordan at 866-748-6146 or debbie@holbrooktravel.com

PHOTOS BY

Photos by Debbie Sturdivant Jordan, Sandy Schmidt