



Golden-hooded Tanager
by Ann and Rob Simpson

BELIZE & GUATEMALA

NATURE, CONSERVATION & NEOTROPICAL BIRDS

December 1-8, 2018



On this exciting 8-day expedition to Belize & Guatemala, look for hundreds of neotropical species with the help of our expert guides. Enjoy birding in the pine savannas and wetland habitats of Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, in the mountainous terrain and Caribbean pine forests of Mountain Pine Ridge Reserve, at Cahal Pech Mayan Ruins and in private reserves. Participate in several talks with members of the local community about conservation efforts, the training programs for birding guides, and other activities to promote birding as a viable economic alternative. Learn about the country's rich history and enjoy wonderful Belizean food and culture.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the waterways of Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, a 44,000-acre Ramsar site, to see Jabiru, Black-collared Hawk, herons and more.
- Learn about local conservation efforts and meet the people who make it happen.
- Visit the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center, a safe haven for rescued wildlife and community education programs since 1983.
- Set your sights on over 400 bird species in Tikal National Park, 54,610 acres of protected rainforest.
- Learn about Ancient Maya Culture while birding at Cahal Pech ruins.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DECEMBER 01 - CROOKED TREE

Upon arrival in Belize City, meet your guide and transfer to Crooked Tree. Arrive at Bird's Eye View Lodge and check in. Enjoy an orientation to the program before dinner at the hotel. This evening search for potoos, owls, and nighthawks during an nighttime birding exploration around the lodge. *Overnight at Birds Eye View Lodge. (D)*

DECEMBER 02 - CROOKED TREE

Today, set out for a full day of birding activities in the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Bird along the lagoon and its tributaries in search of Wood Stork, Jabiru, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Black-collared Hawk, Snail Kite, Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga, Limpkin, and American Pygmy Kingfisher. After lunch, spend the rest of the afternoon birding in Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Visit with a Belize Audubon Society representative to learn about their work. *Overnight at Birds Eye View Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 03 - ROARING RIVER

Rise early to participate in early morning birding before returning to the lodge for breakfast. Afterward, check out and depart for San Ignacio, stopping en route at the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center, a refuge for a number of wild animals since its founding in 1983. The organization was born from an effort to provide a safe haven for a number of wild animals that, ironically, had been used in the making of documentaries about tropical forests. The zoo and its education center encompass 29 acres of tropical savanna and house more than 125 animals native to Belize. Have lunch at a local restaurant. Settle in at Pook's Hill, which has been described as a "birder's paradise," then spend the afternoon learning about the Maya civilization while birding at Cahal Pech ruins. *Overnight at Pook's Hill. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 04 - ROARING RIVER

Early morning transfer, with boxed breakfast, to Mountain Pine Ridge for a full day of birding in the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve, in search of local specialties. Mountainous terrain and Caribbean pine forests serve as home to the Stygian Owl, King Vulture, Ocellated Turkey, Red-lore Parrot, and Blue-crowned Motmot, as well as the rarely seen Orange-breasted Falcon. After lunch at Hidden Valley Lodge, continue birding in the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest before transferring back to Pook's Hill. *Overnight at Pook's Hill. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 05 - TIKAL

Following breakfast, check out of the lodge and begin the transfer to Tikal, Guatemala. The trip will include a stop at the border between Belize and Guatemala to undergo Immigration/Customs procedures. Stop en route for birding at Biotopo Cerro Cahuí and stroll through the reserve. Birds seen at this site include: Ocellated Turkey, King Vulture, Plain Chachalaca, Emerald Toucanet, Bicolored Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Afterward, continue the journey up to Tikal National Park. The 54,610 acres of

rainforest in and around Tikal protect a wide range of insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, and plant life. Some iconic wildlife found within the park includes spider monkeys, margays, ocelots, jaguarundis, tapirs, howler monkeys, Ocellated Turkeys, coatis, and giant anteaters. Presentation by a local conservation organization, to be determined. *Overnight at Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 06- TIKAL

Enjoy a full day of birding in Tikal National Park. Tikal is home to 410 bird species, in addition to some 50 migrant species that frequent the area during the North American winter. Recorded species include: Collared Aracari, Emerald Toucanet, American Pygmy-Flycatcher, Eye-ringed Flatbill Flycatcher, Royal Flycatcher, Roadside Hawk, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Blue-crowned Motmot, Stripe-throated Hermit, Crested Guan, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Montezuma's Oropendola, Brown-hooded Parrot, White-crowned Parrot, and Red-lore Parrot, among others. *Overnight at Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 07 - BELIZE CITY

Final birding outing, before a late morning departure for Belize City, with lunch en route. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy a farewell dinner. *Overnight at Radisson Ft. George (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 08 - FAREWELL!

Transfer to the international airport for flights back to the U.S. (B)

LAND PRICING

\$2,725 (12 participants)

Land cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation, full-time guide, donation to NRF and carbon offset.

Does not include gratuities, alcoholic beverages, items of a personal nature or international airfare, estimated at \$975 from Madison. Other departure cities available.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy. Single rooms may be available for an additional \$435. 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 August 28, 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

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