



BELIZE & GUATEMALA

Neotropical Birds and Mayan Ruins: A Flyway Expedition

with Cayuga Bird Club

MARCH 30 – APRIL 7, 2024

In what are now the countries of Belize and Guatemala, the ancient Maya civilization once flourished, leaving behind cities, temples, pyramids, and observatories still standing, enshrouded in tree cover. Amid rainforests and valleys, archaeological sites tell the story of this culturally rich region while also providing habitat for a diversity of flora and fauna, including hundreds of bird species. As you seek out resident and migratory avifauna across a variety of ecosystems, you'll also gain a behind-the-scenes look at Audubon's current bird-based tourism initiatives and flyway conservation efforts in partnership with local community-based organizations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover both concentrated flocks and rare sightings of avifauna, such as the Jabiru, Yellow-headed Parrot, Yucatan Jay, and Yucatan Woodpecker, in the wetlands and pine savannas of Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Examine Maya history at the Tikal, Yaxhá, and Cahal Pech archaeological sites, and go birding amid the ancient structures and surrounding forests.
- Meet with members of the Petén Birding Association, a local group dedicated to birding, environmental education, and conservation through ecotourism.
- Hike the trails at Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Refuge, a tropical moist forest sheltering some 300 avian species, including trogons, tanagers, flycatchers, and the Yellow-billed Cacique.
- Learn about a community-based conservation project in the village of Red Bank aimed at saving and creating habitat for the Scarlet Macaw.
- Enjoy up-close encounters with some of the country's native fauna, including a pair of Harpy Eagles, at the Belize Zoo.



HIKING TRAIL IN COCKSCOMB BASIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

ITINERARY

DAY 1 | SAT | 30 MAR | ARRIVAL, BELIZE CITY

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred to Black Orchid Resort in Burrell Boom, about a 30-minute drive from the airport. Gather this evening with your guide for an orientation to the program, followed by a presentation on birding and conservation in Belize by a local expert. Enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel. Arrival to Belize City should be no later than 2:30 pm. Check-in starts at 2 pm.

DINNER

BLACK ORCHID RESORT

DAY 2 | SUN | 31 MAR | TIKAL

Start the day with birding around the hotel grounds to look for Ringed and Green Kingfishers. After breakfast, check out of the lodge and begin the transfer to Tikal, Guatemala. (Note: The journey will include a stop at the Belize/Guatemala border for an examination of our documents. Please have your passport readily available.) Once in Guatemala, stop to go birding at Yaxhá National Park, where we will meet up with the local Guatemalan guide who will join us during our time in Guatemala. Not as well-known as Tikal, Yaxhá is an important archaeological site that is gaining prominence as researchers delve deeper into its history. The area is part of the Yaxhá-Nakum-Naranjo National Park, which protects the archaeological sites as well as a large expanse of forest. Here, large flocks of several parrot species move through the area, including Red-lored, White-fronted, White-crowned, and (less often) Mealy Parrots. The nearby lake provides habitat for water birds as well as shorebirds during migration; in open savanna along the shores of the lake, Yellow-tailed Orioles can be found. In the forests of Yaxhá, find a diversity of woodcreepers, Slaty-tailed, Gartered, and Black-

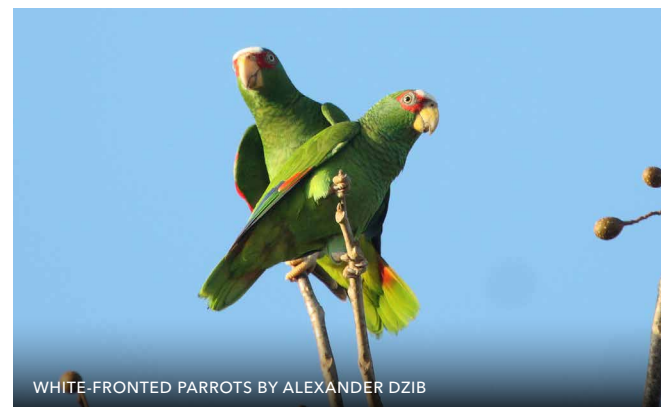
headed Trogons, hummingbirds, and tanagers. Considered the third largest ancient Maya city in the region, Yaxhá comprised more than 500 structures, including nine temple pyramids. There are fewer crowds than at Tikal, making it advantageous for birding. On the quiet trails, you may run across one of the four species of Tinamou-Great, Little, Slaty-breasted, and Thicket-or perhaps the hard-to-find Pheasant Cuckoo. After lunch, continue to Tikal National Park, arriving late in the afternoon. This evening enjoy dinner and talk with members of the Peten Birding Association.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

JUNGLE LODGE

DAY 3 | MON | 01 APR | TIKAL

Enjoy a full day of birding in Tikal National Park, with lunch at a local restaurant in the 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



WHITE-FRONTED PARROTS BY ALEXANDER DZIB

within the park includes spider monkeys, margays, ocelots, jaguarundis, tapirs, howler monkeys, Ocellated Turkeys, coatis, and giant anteaters. Tikal, the ancient city around which the park was formed, is one of the most famous sites in Guatemala, with a long and mysterious history. The ruins are dominated by five enormous pyramidal temples, as well as an impressive network of causeways, aqueducts, and canals. Nearly 400 bird species have been recorded at Tikal, including many migrants that frequent the area during the North American winter, making the site an extraordinary backdrop for birding. Species here include the Collared Aracari, Northern Emerald-Toucanet, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Royal Flycatcher, Roadside Hawk, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Lesson's Motmot, Stripe-throated Hermit, Crested Guan, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Montezuma Oropendola, Brown-hooded Parrot, White-crowned Parrot, and Red-lored Parrot, among others. Tonight there will be optional owling near the lodge.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

JUNGLE LODGE



DAY 4 | TUE | 02 APR | SAN IGNACIO

Wake up early for birding in Tikal National Park. After breakfast, check out and say goodbye to our Guatemalan expert. Start the journey back to Belize (Please have your passport readily available). Lunch will be at a local restaurant in San Ignacio, followed by a visit to the Cahal Pech Maya archaeological site for birding. Afterwards, continue to Crystal Paradise Hotel to check in and have dinner.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

CRYSTAL PARADISE

DAY 5 | WED | 03 APR | MAYFLOWER NATIONAL PARK

This morning have breakfast and then transfer to Red Bank Village to see the Scarlet Macaws that are rebounding in this region. Visit with a local community member for lunch and a discussion about this important community-based project focused on Scarlet Macaw conservation. After the visit, continue to Bocawina Resort, situated in Bocawina Mayflower National Park. Dinner at the hotel.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

BOCAWINA RESORT

DAY 6 | THU | 04 APR | MAYFLOWER NATIONAL PARK

Depart early for a day of birding at Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, a tropical moist forest sheltering an abundance of biodiversity including 300-plus bird species. Walk along its extensive trail system on the lookout for trogons, tanagers, flycatchers, and maybe a glimpse of a Yellow-billed Caciue. The sanctuary is also recognized as the world's first designated jaguar reserve, so keen observers might even spot a paw print in the forest. In the late afternoon, return to the lodge and bird along the trails for various hummingbirds, woodcreepers, flycatchers, and tanagers, plus Pheasant Cuckoo, Green Honeycreeper, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Nightingale Wren, Green Shrike-Vireo, and White-winged Becard, among others.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

BOCAWINA RESORT

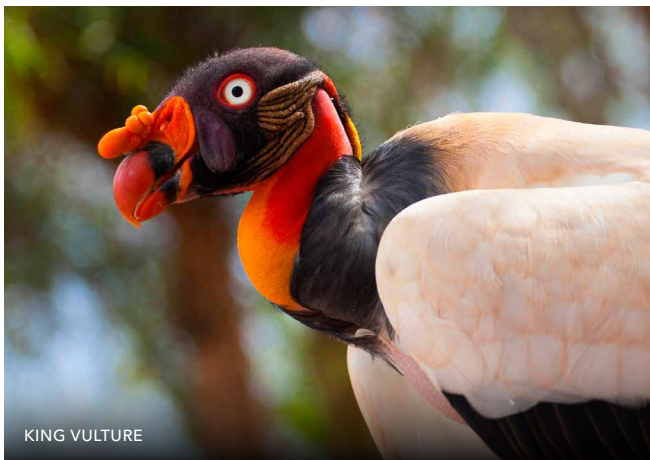
DAY 7 | FRI | 05 APR | CROOKED TREE

Early morning birding at around Bocawina Resort, have breakfast then check-out and depart for the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center. Situated upon 29 acres of tropical savanna, the zoo exhibits more than 150 animals representing over 45 species, all native to Belize. Residents include orphaned, rescued, and rehabilitated animals, as well as those born at the zoo or sent as donations from other zoological institutions. Here, have the opportunity to see the critically endangered Yellow-headed Parrot, Aplomado Falcon, White-tailed Hawk, and Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary and settle in. Before dinner, enjoy a talk on Yellow-headed Parrot research and conservation efforts in Belize. (Note: This talk might take place at the Belize Zoo, depending on the expert's schedule.) This evening, search for potoos, owls, and nighthawks during an evening birding exploration around the lodge.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

BIRD'S EYE VIEW LODGE





DAY 8 | SAT | 06 APR | CROOKED TREE

Today, enjoy a full day of birding activities in the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Established in 1984 to protect resident and migrant birds, the sanctuary is managed by the Belize Audubon Society and encompasses a network of inland lagoons, swamps, and waterways. During the dry season (November-May), tens of thousands of birds congregate here, taking advantage of abundant food resources in the wetlands. 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 the sanctuary. The pine savannas provide an opportunity to see near-endemic Yucatan Jay, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Yellow-headed and Yellow-lored Parrots, Aplomado Falcon, Canivet's Emerald, and Yucatan Woodpecker. Gather tonight for a farewell dinner at the lodge.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

BIRD'S EYE VIEW LODGE

DAY 9 | SUN | 07 APR | FAREWELL!

Transfer to the international airport for flights back to the US. Check-out is at 11 am.

BREAKFAST

ABOUT FLYWAY EXPEDITIONS

Holbrook Travel is a supporting partner in Audubon and its partners' conservation work in Latin America and in the Caribbean. Participants on these tours have a direct economic impact on local people and communities, help preserve IBAs, and nurture an emerging ecotourism industry.

Visit holbrooktravel.com/flyway to learn more.



ABOUT YOUR LEADER



Jody Enck started birding as a small boy growing up on a farm in Pennsylvania. Since then, he continues to learn more and more about birds and birders. Jody especially loves bird-watching in his back yard and learning what the local residents are up to. He is a closet lister, with more than 550 species seen in the U.S. and nearly

2,000 throughout the Americas. He has a background in wildlife biology and social science. In 2016, he founded the Sister Bird Club Network, which links birders and clubs throughout the Western Hemisphere by raising awareness of the conservation needs of the neotropical migratory birds we all love.

PRICING DETAILS

\$3,675

Price includes:

- Accommodations in double occupancy, meals and activities as described in itinerary, including entrance fees
- Full-time birding guide for duration of the program
- Private vehicle transportation and driver
- Arrival and departure transfers based on individual flight schedules

Price does not include: international airfare, travel/trip cancellation insurance, tips/gratuities, drinks purchased on own, passport fees, or other items of a personal nature.

Single room supplement: \$575

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on a minimum of 10 participants in double occupancy. A \$350 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to hold your space on this trip. The deposit is refundable less \$100 cancellation fee until 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations after this date will result in loss of full deposit.

Holbrook Travel strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance for medical emergencies while traveling and to protect your investment. Please note the purchase of Cancel for Any Reason Coverage or to exclude pre-existing conditions with Trip Cancellation coverage may require policy purchase within 10-14 days of your initial deposit, depending upon the provider.

Final payment due date: December 26, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO ENROLL:

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