



APLOMADO FALCON BY JON NELSON



BELIZE

BIRDING AND NATURE IN THE TROPICS OF BELIZE

8 days | Choose your dates

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary to look for Jabirus, Northern Jacanas, Boat-billed Herons, and more.
- Enjoy a talk by a Belize Audubon Society representative about local efforts to promote bird-based tourism in conservation and development.
- Have dinner and discussion with members of the community-based project on Scarlet Macaw conservation.
- Set your sights on over 330 bird species in the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, exploring open and forested habitats.
- Watch for forest species like Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and Northern Royal Flycatcher in the reserve at Pook's Hill.
- Learn about ancient Maya civilization at the Xunantunich archaeological site.

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*Supporting Audubon and its partners
in advancing sustainable development
in bird hot-spots*

Holbrook Travel is a supporting partner in Audubon and its partners' conservation work in Latin America and in the Caribbean. One key aspect of that work is the strengthening of **bird-based tourism** as a conservation and sustainable development tool. The tours developed from this initiative are designed to help protect key target areas along the flyways for migratory and local species. Initial sites are located in **Belize, Colombia, Guatemala, Paraguay and the Bahamas.**

These areas were selected by intersecting bird hot-spots with key **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)** where Audubon and their partners (Belize Audubon, Patrimonio Natural, Calidris, WCS, Vivamos Mejor, Guyra Paraguay and the Bahamas National Trust) are carrying out vital conservation work. By overlaying conservation work with the economic support that bird-based tourism brings, this program **strengthens local communities** and the **long-term conservation** of these areas.

Participants on these tours have a direct economic impact on local people and communities, help preserve IBAs, and nurture an emerging ecotourism industry. By visiting these sites with our trained guides, you **help protect threatened habitats** by supporting local conservation and local communities that benefit from tourism.

WHAT MAKES FLYWAY EXPEDITIONS DIFFERENT?



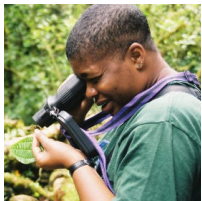
UNIQUE ITINERARIES

These birding itineraries are unique in that they are designed to help strengthen and support tourism in bird hot-spots and support conservation and local economic development. The initial program is focusing on nine sites in Belize, Guatemala, Paraguay and the Bahamas. The project is helping communities, local tour operators, and tourism boards attract bird watching tourists to the selected destinations and associated businesses. Participants will see the conservation activities first-hand and engage with the local community during their tours.



EXTENSIVE GUIDE TRAINING

Birding guides selected for the tours have taken part in comprehensive guide training in alliance with expert guides, local tourism authorities, and Audubon's local conservation partners. Guides are provided advanced levels of training which include bird identification, biology, ecology, and conservation alongside guiding ethics, group management, marketing, and business, plus basic English language where needed. Tours connect advanced regional guides with local guides to increase knowledge and capacity.



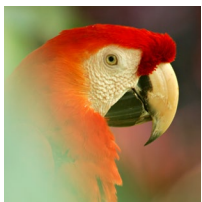
SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

The National Audubon Society project provides local guiding businesses with access to equipment, including binoculars, scopes, and guidebooks; improves trails and associated infrastructure; and offers basic business support such as marketing and customer service training. Participants on the tours will benefit from these improvements and help support the important economic incentive to promote conservation.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Travelers will learn about targeted environmental education and outreach programs carried out by Audubon and its partners. These include programs at local schools, using local birdlife as a hook to engage youth, and courses for adult, community, and women's groups, and alternative livelihood programs. Tours may include a talk with community members or a school visit where participants can exchange their passion for birding.



BIRD CONSERVATION

With greater local awareness and appreciation for ecosystems, the program supports priority endemic bird species including the critically endangered Scarlet Macaw, Resplendent Quetzal and Bahama Oriole, plus migrant species that rely on key migratory flyways like the Piping Plover, Wood Thrush and Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and other wildlife including the Jaguar, Maned Wolf and Rock Iguana.

Photos by Greg Basco, Christa Dillabaugh, Pelin Karaca, and Martin Van Lokven

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Supporting Audubon and its partners in advancing sustainable development in bird hot-spots

This bird-based tourism initiative is a key conservation tool being implemented by the National Audubon Society that links poverty reduction and economic development directly with nature conservation. By building capacity within communities, especially on the edge of protected areas or Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, and working with tour operators and local organizations to drive an interested market to support the initiative, we all can make a vast difference for conservation and reduce the loss of habitat and birds. Holbrook Travel is a proud supporter of this work, having pioneered conservation, local guide training, and community outreach in Costa Rica. Together, we aim to create a network of community-based birding destinations across the hemisphere that offer skilled local birding guides, improved site interpretation and lodging, and related goods and services tailored to the birding community.

Birding and Nature in the Tropics of Belize

On this exciting 8-day expedition to Belize, set your sights on 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 primary and secondary tropical moist broadleaf forest at Cockscomb Basin and Pook's Hill, and in private reserves, a botanical garden, and along the Macal River Valley. This trip is a prime reflection of the birds the National Audubon Society hopes to protect through its ongoing conservation efforts. Participate in several talks with members of the local community about these efforts, the training programs, and other activities that promote birding tourism as a viable option for local economic development.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



NORTHERN JACANA BY FRANCESCO VERONESI

DAY 1 - CROOKED TREE

Upon arrival in **Belize City**, you will be met outside baggage claim and transferred to **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 tens of thousands of birds congregate here, taking advantage of abundant food resources in the wetlands. This evening have dinner with a Belize Audubon Society representative and then hear a talk about developing bird-based tourism as a conservation and sustainable development tool in Belize. *Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (D)*

DAY 2 - CROOKED TREE

Today, head out onto the extensive waterways of Crooked Tree's 44,000-acre Ramsar wetlands to see a mix of herons, ibis, Roseate Spoonbills, Northern Jacanas, Boat-billed Herons and Jabiru. After lunch, explore the pine savannas on the search for the near-endemic Yucatan Jay, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Yellow-headed and Yellow-lored Parrots, Aplomado Falcon, Canivet's Emerald, and Yucatan Woodpecker. An evening walk will be available for those who hope to catch up with a Common Pauraque, Mottled Owl, or Tody Motmot. *Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - STANN CREEK

Spend the morning birding at Crooked Tree by boat (if water conditions allow). After lunch, set out for **St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park**, with a brief stop at **Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary** to look for the rare Blue and Slate-colored Seedeaters. At St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park, meet with tour guides who support the park to discuss birding and conservation efforts in the region. In the late afternoon, explore

Mayflower Bocawina National Park, located in the southern district of Stann Creek and consisting of over 7,100 acres of lush jungle, refreshing waterfalls and ancient Mayan sites. More than 200 species of birds have been identified in the area, including Great Curassow, Crested Guan, Keel-billed Motmot, and Great Tinamou. Check in at the Bocawina lodge and enjoy a hearty dinner. *Overnight at Bocawina Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - STANN CREEK

Depart early for a day of birding at **Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary**, a tropical moist forest sheltering an abundance of biodiversity - including 300+ bird species. Walk along its extensive trail system on the lookout for trogons, tanagers, flycatchers, and maybe a glimpse of a Yellow-billed Cacique. 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. *Overnight at Bocawina Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*



GREEN HONEYCREEPER BY SANFORD M SORKIN

DAY 5 - STANN CREEK

Continue birding within the 128,000 acres of forest in the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary. This afternoon, visit **Red Bank Village** to see the Scarlet Macaws that are rebounding in this region. Visit the Scarlet Macaw Bed and Breakfast for dinner and discussion with representatives from this important community-based project focused on Scarlet Macaw conservation. *Overnight at Bocawina Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - ROARING RIVER

Spend the morning in the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary exploring trails not covered in the previous days. In the afternoon, drive to Pook's Hill Lodge for late afternoon



AGAMI HERON BY DOMINIC SHERONY

birding. **Pook's Hill** is situated within a private reserve, located at the foothills of the Maya Mountains in the Cayo District of Belize, and alongside the Roaring River. Birding right from the lodge, the meadow, and on the riverside is exceptional. There are often good sightings of trogons, motmots, and toucans. With over 300 birds recorded at Pook's Hill, it's also possible to see less common species, such as the Spectacled Owl, Emerald Toucanet, and Tody Motmot. This evening, explore the social and economic factors associated with conservation: engaging local people in the conservation and the habitat protection process. Later, an optional night walk may yield Black-and-white or Spectacled Owls. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - ROARING RIVER

This morning, explore the trails of the private preserve. Agami Heron, Pheasant Cuckoo, Tody Motmot, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Northern Royal Flycatcher, Gray-headed and Crimson-collared Tanagers are among the many forest species known in the area. In the late morning, transfer to the San Ignacio area to explore the ruins at Xunantunich, as well the Belize Botanical Gardens and trails at duPlooy's Jungle Lodge in the Macal River Valley. Return to Pook's Hill. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - DEPART

After early morning birding, the group will transfer to the airport for flights back to the U.S. Please make sure flights depart after 12:00 pm. *(B)*



COCKSCOMB WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

PROGRAM PRICING

\$2,795 (based on 12 participants and 1 leader)

\$2,985 (based on 10 participants and 1 leader)

Cost includes accommodations, activities, and meals as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide, part-time apprentice guides, and a donation to National Audubon to support the program.

International airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2020.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. 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. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

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.

