



OCELLATED TURKEY

BELIZE & GUATEMALA

Neotropical Birds and Mayan Ruins

8 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **OCT - JUL**

In what are now the modern-day countries of Belize and Guatemala, the ancient Maya civilization once flourished, leaving behind a legacy of cities, temples, pyramids, and observatories. 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. Explore fertile wetlands, savannas, Caribbean pine forests, mountainous terrain, and more while seeking out resident and migratory avifauna. New and experienced birders alike will revel in this neotropical birding adventure.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover both concentrated flocks and rare sightings of avifauna in the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, such as the Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Black-collared Hawk, Neotropic Cormorant, and more.
- Look for highlight species, such as the Orange-breasted Falcon, Stygian Owl, Ocellated Turkey, and King Vulture.
- Observe the present wildlife that live within the ancient structures of temples, altars, ball courts and residential buildings of the Cahal Pech Mayan ruins.
- Visit the Belize Zoo for up-close encounters with some of the country's native fauna, including a pair of Harpy Eagles.
- Bird in the rainforest reserve of Cerro Cahuí Protected Biotope.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



BIRDING IN BELIZE BY DEBBIE JORDAN



TIKAL

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - CROOKED TREE

After arriving 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 evening birding exploration around the lodge. *Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (D)*



AMERICAN PYGMY KINGFISHER BY JAMES DIEDRICK

DAY 2 - 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 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. *Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - SAN IGNACIO

Wake up 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



HARPY EAGLE AT THE BELIZE ZOO BY LAURA HARE

at the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center, a refuge for 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 175 animals, with 45 species native to Belize. Have lunch at a local restaurant before birding in the Cahal Pech Mayan ruins. Afterwards, continue to Crystal Paradise Hotel to check in and have dinner. *Overnight at Crystal Paradise. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - SAN IGNACIO

Early morning transfer with boxed breakfast to Mountain Pine Ridge for a full day of birding. The oldest and largest protected forest in Belize, Mountain Pine Ridge Reserve spans 300 square miles and offers an alternative to the usual tropical forest ecosystems. Mountainous terrain and Caribbean pine forests serve as home to the Stygian Owl, King Vulture, Ocellated Turkey, Red-ored Parrot, and Blue-crowned Motmot, as well as the rarely seen Orange-breasted Falcon. After lunch at Hidden Valley Lodge, continue birding in the reserve before transferring back to your hotel. *Overnight at Crystal Paradise. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - TIKAL

Following breakfast, check out of the lodge and begin your transfer to Tikal, Guatemala. *Note: The journey will include a stop at the border between Belize and Guatemala to undergo Immigration/Customs procedures.* Once in Guatemala, stop to go birding along the trails at Biotopo Cerro Cahuí. Birds seen at this site include the Ocellated Turkey, King Vulture, Plain Chachalaca, Emerald Toucanet, Bicolored Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Then travel 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. *Overnight at Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - TIKAL

Enjoy a full day of birding in Tikal National Park. 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. An extraordinary backdrop for birding, 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 the Collared Aracari, Emerald



BLUE-CROWNED MOTMOT

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-ored Parrot, among others. Tonight there will be optional owling near the lodge. *Overnight at Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - BELIZE CITY

Last morning of birding before 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)*

DAY 8 - FAREWELL!

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

This program can be customized.

Binoculars are required for this program. We recommend wide angle binoculars, something within the range of 7x35, 8x40 or even 10x50 with good light gathering characteristics. Although light and comfortable, pocket binoculars don't work as well in low light conditions.

Participants should be in good physical condition and able to walk unassisted for several hours per day.

LAND PRICING

\$2,395 (12 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

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

Valid for travel in 2020.

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.

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.

MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. We hope that your experiences in Belize and Guatemala will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

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

