



OCELLATED TURKEYS BY ALEXANDER DZIB

# MEXICO

## Birding the Ruins of the Yucatán

10 DAYS | Choose your dates

*Pack your binoculars and embark on an intense birding adventure to the environmentally diverse Yucatán Peninsula.*

*Witness native birds soar above the stunning ruins of Chichén Itzá, Hochob, Becán, Oxtankah, Cobá, and other archaeological sites on this journey through the Maya world. Heads will turn at every point of this expedition as you look for a rainbow array of birds including hummingbirds, parrots, tanagers, flamingos, raptors, and many more.*

*From trail hikes to boat rides, birding enthusiasts will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of outdoor activities while learning about the history of the Maya and the birds that call the Yucatán Peninsula home.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy exceptional birding while visiting the walled city of Becán, once a Maya political, economic, and religious center.
- Watch for target species like the Hook-billed and Gray-headed Kites, Hawk Eagle, and the magnificent King Vulture.
- Embark on a boat ride on Bacalar lagoon, nicknamed “Lake of Seven Colors.”
- Search for avifauna in the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, home to approximately 350 bird species.
- Stroll through the Dr. Alfredo Barrera Marín Botanical Garden, established to protect Quintana Roo’s regional flora and fauna.
- Take a dip in cenote Yokdzonot, one of the largest cenotes of the Yucatán.

### WHAT’S INCLUDED?

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



UXMAL BY MAURIZIO COSTANZO



GREEN JAY BY ALEXANDER DZIB

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### DAY 1 - CANCÚN

Arrive at the Cancún International Airport in Cancún, Mexico. Transfer to the hotel and check in, followed by time at leisure. *Overnight at Courtyard Marriott Cancun.*

### DAY 2 - CHICHÉN ITZÁ

This morning meet in the hotel restaurant at 7 am for breakfast and a program orientation. Then transfer to the Dr. Alfredo Barrera Marín Botanical Garden. Established in 1982 to protect the regional flora and fauna of northern Quintana Roo, it is currently the only reserve of original forest in the area. In addition to a resident troop of spider monkeys, some of the species that can be spotted here include the Great Kiskadee, Boat-billed Heron, Cinnamon Hummingbird, White-fronted Parrot, Groove-billed Ani, and the Lesser Greenlet. After the visit, depart for Chichén Itzá, stopping en route for lunch. Check in and enjoy birding around the hotel garden and trails. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Mayaland. (BLD)*

### DAY 3 - CHICHÉN ITZÁ

Begin the day with a field trip to the Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve and go birding during a boat ride in the reserve's wetlands. Be on the lookout for American Flamingo, Muscovy Duck, Wood Stork, and Peregrine Falcon. There are high levels of plant and animal diversity in this important Ramsar site, including 523 registered plant species, 335 bird species (of which 179 are resident, 142 are migratory, and 14 are resident migrants), 95 reptile and amphibian species,

71 registered fish species, and 58 mammal species. The reserve's most famous resident is the colorful American Flamingo, which can be seen nesting in El Cuyo basin. Other types of birds commonly seen in the reserve include herons, storks, kingfishers, cormorants, coots, rails, and gallinules. Eat lunch at a local restaurant. Spend the rest of the afternoon birding on the hotel grounds. *Overnight at Hotel Mayaland. (BLD)*

### DAY 4 - UXMAL

Early morning birding. After breakfast, visit the Chichén Itzá ruins with a site lecture. The forests in and around the impressive archaeological complex are home to a variety of wildlife. Target species include the Yucatan Jay, Rose-throated Becard, Masked Tityra, Black-crowned Tityra, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, Scrub Euphonia, Yellow-throated Euphonia, and Social Flycatcher; endemic bird species include the Yucatan Woodpecker



MEXICAN SHEARTAIL BY ALEXANDER DZIB

and the Yucatan Parrot. This is also a good area to view migrant songbirds that winter in the region. Continue your field trip with a visit to Cenote Yokdzonot for swimming and a site lecture. Lunch at the cenote will be followed by time at leisure. Later transfer to Uxmal. Arrive at the hotel and check in. Enjoy a lecture, "Introduction to Birding in the Yucatán," before dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Maya Uxmal Resort. (BLD)*

#### DAY 5 - XPUJIL

After breakfast, check out and head to the ruins at Hochob. Hochob is a small but interesting Maya archaeological site that is an excellent example of the Chenes architectural style, which flourished from about AD 100 to 1000. Have lunch at a local restaurant and then continue to Xpujil. Check in at the hotel and have dinner. This evening, walk around the hotel gardens and keep your eyes open for Crested Guan and Great Curassow. *Overnight at Chicanna Ecovillage Resort. (BLD)*

#### DAY 6 - XPUJIL

Take a field trip to Calakmul this morning for birding in the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and a site lecture on the architecture of the ruins. (A boxed breakfast will be provided.) This biosphere reserve is home to many endangered mammals and an impressive 350 bird species. It is part of the largest extension of tropical forest outside the Amazon basin. The top of the great pyramid in the archaeological complex offers a good vantage point to look for soaring raptors, such as Hook-billed and Gray-headed Kites, Hawk Eagles, and the magnificent King Vulture, which is the symbol of Calakmul. Other possibilities are regional endemic species like the Ocellated Turkey and Rose-throated Tanager, as well as vulnerable birds like the Great Curassow. After lunch return to Xpujil. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Chicanna Ecovillage Resort. (BLD)*

#### DAY 7 - CHETUMAL

After breakfast, visit Becán, once the political, economic, and religious center of the area known today as Rio Bec. The ruins are situated about four miles west of the town of Xpujil. One distinguishing characteristic of Becán is the presence of moats and protective walls surrounding the complex, a feature not commonly found in Maya cities. The pyramids and temples in Becán were built in clusters around three main plazas

and also include a small but well-preserved ball court. Some buildings still have remnants of the detailed facades that once graced their walls, offering insight into what the city must have looked like in its heyday. Explore the ruins and listen to a site lecture. Afterward, transfer to Chetumal, with lunch en route, and check in at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Fiesta Inn. (BLD)*

#### DAY 8 - TULÚM

After breakfast, transfer to Oxtankah for a birding field trip and a visit to the Oxtankah ruins with a site lecture. Oxtankah is the largest and most important pre-Hispanic city that has been discovered in the Bay of Chetumal. It is named after the many ramón trees (called "ox" by the Maya) that are found in the area.

The ramón tree can grow to more than 120 feet and provides habitat for a wide array of rainforest residents, making this an exceptional ecological and archaeological visit. Continue to Tulúm, a beautiful 700-year-old Maya walled city, stopping en route for lunch and a boat ride at Bacalar Lagoon. Also known as the "Lake of Seven Colors" because of its different shades of blue, Bacalar Lagoon is one of Mexico's hidden treasures. At the end of the day, arrive in Tulúm and check in at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Los Lirios. (BLD)*



TULÚM RUINS BY LISA PALMESE-GRAUBARD

#### DAY 9 - TULÚM

Today go on a birding field trip to the Cobá ruins, where you will also have a site lecture. At its peak occupation, Cobá is estimated to have had 50,000 inhabitants or more, in an area covering about 30 square miles. Cobá is located around two lagoons that attract many bird species, such as the Pied-billed Grebe, Great-tailed Grackle, and Limpkin. At the ruins, observe many beautiful birds in their natural habitat, including Yellow-winged Tanager, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Black-headed Saltator, Gartered Trogon, and the endemic Yucatan Woodpecker. This evening, wrap up with a farewell dinner at Don Cafeto. *Overnight at Hotel Los Lirios. (BLD)*

#### DAY 10 - DEPART

This morning, transfer to the airport for departure. (B)

*This program can be customized.*

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

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

### **\$2,335 (12 participants + 1 leader)**

Price includes activities, accommodations, meals as stated in the itinerary, local guide, and in-country transportation.

International airfare, gratuities, trip cancellation insurance, optional activities, items of a personal nature, and alcoholic beverages are not included.

Rate is based on double occupancy for participants; single supplements are available for an additional cost (limited availability). 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. Travel trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [travelinsured.com](http://travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.*

## 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 Mexico will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

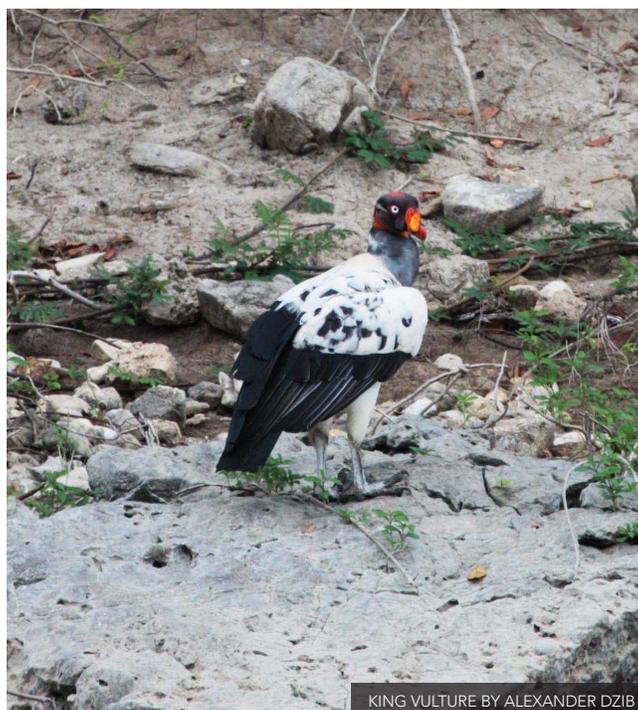
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