



*Bee Hummingbird (Mellisuga helenae)*  
Photo by Julio Larramendi



## CUBA

### BIRDS IN FLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

*Zapata Swamp Biosphere Reserve*

February 18-25, 2018

*Please join us for the 5th Annual International Nature Photography Contest, held in the Zapata Swamp. At more than 1 million acres, the Zapata Swamp is one of the most extensive remnants of coastal Caribbean biodiversity left in the region. The area encompasses blue-water beaches, forests, rivers, lakes, flooded caverns, ponds and swamp prairies.*

*At this unprecedented time in Cuba's history, when U.S. travelers are flocking to see the island nation, this is an exciting opportunity to connect with resident photographers, learn about the country's fascinating natural areas and join like-minded people from all over the world who are as enthusiastic about nature and photography as you are!*

#### CONTEST HIGHLIGHTS

- Contestants may submit photos in the following categories: Birds in Flight; Endemic Birds; Non-endemic Birds; Nature.
- Photographers may submit up to five images in each category, with works made in the Zapata Swamp during the event.
- Images should be submitted in JPEG format (300 dpi resolution).
- Full computer stations will be provided for editing. Minor corrections may be made for color, definition, contrast, etc. Photomontages and manipulated images will not be accepted.
- The jury will include noted Cuban and international photographers, who will judge photos on content as well as artistic and technical quality.

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### FEBRUARY 18 - HAVANA

Upon arrival in Havana, meet your local guide and transfer to the hotel. You will have the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure. *Overnight at Comodoro Havana Hotel.*

### FEBRUARY 19 - ZAPATA

At 8:30 am, depart from Comodoro Havana Hotel to Playa Girón Hotel in Zapata Swamp. At 11 am, arrive at Playa Girón Hotel for check-in and registration. Lunch will be held at the hotel between 12 and 1:30 pm. The opening ceremony will start at 8 pm, where you will hear a lecture about Zapata Swamp National Park and Biosphere Reserve. Attend the jury's presentation and receive a briefing about the photo contest. At 8 pm, have dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Playa Girón Hotel. (BLD)*

### FEBRUARY 20 - ZAPATA

Depart for the trails at 6:30 am. You will visit two trails, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The trails to choose from are Sopillar, Las Salinas, Los Hondones, Enigma de las Rocas, Las Bermejas, and La Turba. Lunch will be at a local restaurant (International Diving Center Punta Perdiz). Return to the hotel at 6 pm. *Overnight at Playa Girón Hotel. (BLD)*

### FEBRUARY 21 - ZAPATA

Depart for the trails at 6:30 am. You will visit two trails, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The trails to choose from are Sopillar, Las Salinas, Los Hondones, Enigma de las Rocas, Las Bermejas, and La Turba. Lunch will be at a local restaurant (International Diving Center Punta Perdiz). Return to the hotel at 6 pm. *Overnight at Playa Girón Hotel. (BLD)*

### FEBRUARY 22 - ZAPATA

Depart for the trails at 6:30 am. You will visit two trails, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The trails to choose from are Sopillar, Las Salinas, Los Hondones, Enigma de las Rocas, Las Bermejas, and La Turba. Lunch will be at a local restaurant (International Diving Center Punta Perdiz). Return to the hotel at 6 pm. *Overnight at Playa Girón Hotel. (BLD)*

### FEBRUARY 23 - ZAPATA

In the morning you will have time to select your photo submissions and deliver them to jury. The deadline for photo entries is 1 pm. The Closing and Award Ceremony will start at 8:30 pm, and the launch of Birds in Flight 2019 will be announced. *Overnight at Playa Girón Hotel. (BLD)*

### FEBRUARY 24 - HAVANA

At 8 am, have breakfast at the hotel. At 9 am proceed to check out and transfer to Havana. Explore Old Havana on own during the remainder of the day. *Overnight at Comodoro Havana Hotel. (B)*

### FEBRUARY 25 - DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the Havana airport for your flight back to the U.S. (B)



Photo by John Hannan

## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$1,075**

*Cost is per person in single occupancy.*

*Double room credit is \$70 per person.*

*Additional night at Comodoro Havana Hotel: \$125*

Price includes accommodations, meals per itinerary with non-alcoholic beverages, in-country transportation, activities as mentioned, full-time guide, and Cuban visa.

Cost does not include international airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with your flight arrangements if desired.

## THE FINE PRINT

*A \$200 deposit and enrollment form are required by October 21, 2017 to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable minus a \$100 cancellation fee until November 15, 2017, 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](http://www.travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.*

*Please note that this event is sponsored and organized by a Cuban tourism operation and is different from our other programs. All activities, contest rules, guiding, etc., are established by the Cuban organizing entity. This is not an itinerary with a comprehensive series of sites and points of interest. Holbrook cannot make modifications to the program, as it is an event organized by an outside entity.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Sandy Schmidt at [schmidt@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:schmidt@holbrooktravel.com) or 877-907-5360 or visit [holbrook.travel/birdsinflight-cu18](http://holbrook.travel/birdsinflight-cu18)