Belize, Guatemala & Honduras

Ultimate



Jabiru by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Tiny Belize, the only English-speaking Central American nation, supports the highest density of Jaguar known to man and claims the world's second largest barrier reef. Our birding & wildlife tour begins in Belize at the famed Crooked Tree Sanctuary, where opportunities for many Yucatan endemics are plentiful. Waterbirds of all sorts abound, and there is a great chance to get up close and personal with the spectacular Jabiru, the largest flying bird in the New World! We then traverse to higher elevation for a time in the submontane wet forest, pine forest, and a unique opportunity for several highland specials including Slate-colored Solitaire, Black-headed Siskin, Rusty Sparrow, Montane Solitary Eagle, and a wonderful opportunity to see both Stygian Owl and the regal Orange-breasted Falcon.

Crossing into Guatemala, we take in the remarkable Mayan temple complexes and cities that dominate the region of Petén. Here we target such highly sought-after species as the remarkable Ocellated Turkey, Black-

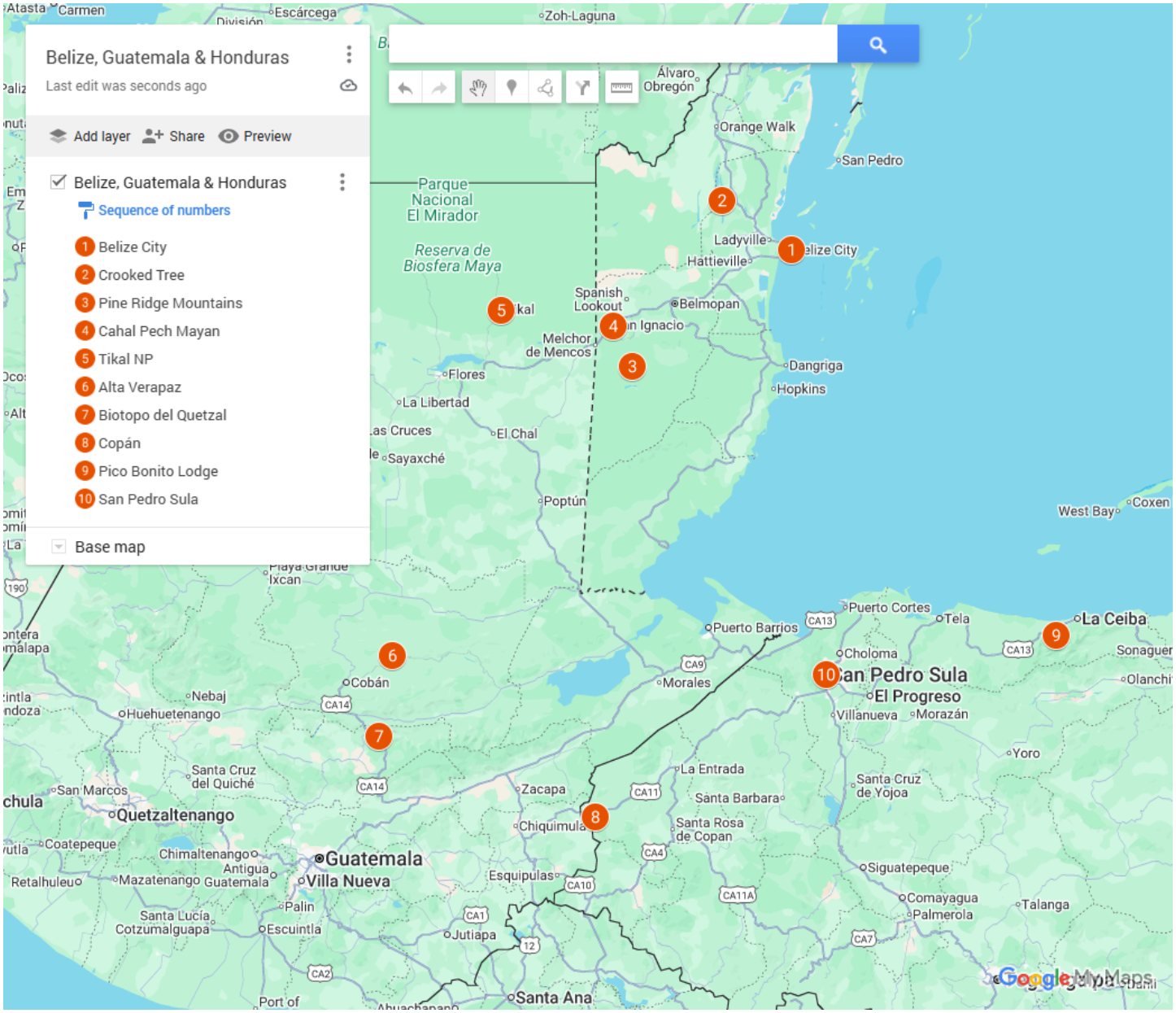
throated Shrike-Tanager, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Mayan Antthrush, Tropical Royal Flycatcher and the impressive Great Curassow! This northern Petén region of Guatemala is covered in extensive lowland rainforest harbouring many special birds of the Yucatan Peninsula and other more widespread forest species, most of which will represent new species for our tour. Not only is the birding superb, but mammal viewing and fascinating historical insights only add to our appreciation of the area. Leaving the Petén area behind, we head into the Guatemalan highlands to seek out Resplendent Quetzal, Azure-hooded, Bushy-crested and Unicolored Jays, Highland Guan, Green-throated Mountaingem, Guatemalan Pygmy Owl and Collared Trogon.

Leaving Guatemala behind, we move into Honduras, one of Central America's best-kept birding and wildlife secrets. A biodiversity hotspot, it supports more than 700 bird species and various habitats including over 30 separate cloud forests. We will first take some time to explore the remarkable Mayan archaeological site at Copán, once a major Mayan dynastic kingdom and of prime archaeological importance for its numerous, well-preserved hieroglyphic texts that adorn its remaining monuments. Our tour draws to a close at one of the most spectacular eco-lodges on the planet: Pico Bonito Lodge! The bird list will be as impressive as the grounds and cuisine, including such gems as Keel-billed and Tody Motmot, Keel-billed Toucan, Lovely Cotinga, Chestnut-coloured Woodpecker, Red-capped Manakin, White Hawk, King Vulture, Black-and-white Owl, and too many other fantastic species to list here! We shall also visit the Honduran Emerald Reserve in the Aguan Valley for one of the only true endemics to the region, the glittering little hummer after which the reserve is named.

The awesome birdlife throughout the tour is further augmented by the ease of travel, luxury lodges, super-friendly people, and fine cuisine, making this a thoroughly enjoyable birding adventure for both hardcore and casual birders alike!

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Belize, transfer to Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary**
Day 2	**Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary**
Day 3	**Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary to Pine Ridge Mountains**
Day 4	**Pine Ridge Mountains**
Day 5	**Cahal Pech Mayan Archaeological Site; transfer to Tikal, Guatemala**
Days 6 & 7	**Tikal National Park**
Day 8	**Tikal National Park to Guatemala Highlands of Alta Verapaz**
Day 9	**Biotopo del Quetzal**
Day 10	**Biotopo del Quetzal, transfer to Copán, Honduras via the Motagua Valley**
Day 11	**La Laguna Road & Copán Mayan Archaeological Site**
Day 12	**Copán to Pico Bonito Lodge**
Day 13	**Pico Bonito Lodge**
Day 14	**Day trip to Honduran Emerald Reserve**
Day 15	**Day trip to Lancetilla Botanical Gardens**
Day 16	**Pico Bonito Lodge to San Pedro Sula & final departure**


Belize, Guatemala & Honduras
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Sequence of numbers
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2 Crooked Tree
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Parque Nacional El Mirador
Reserva de Biosfera Maya
Orange Walk
San Pedro
Ladyville
Hattieville
Belmopan
Spanish Lookout
Melchor de Mencos
Dangriga
Hopkins
Flores
La Libertad
El Chal
Sayaxché
Poptún
West Bay
Coxen
Puerto Cortes
Tela
La Ceiba
Puerto Barrios
Choloma
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Yoro
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Birding sites in detail

Belize City lagoons. We'll make a quick stop at some fo the extensive lagoons for some relaxed introductory birding. We can expect to find a number of waders such as Spotted, Least and Western Sandpipers, Semipalmated and Grey Plovers as well as a good selection of waterfowl, herons, egrets and ibis.



Agami Heron by Lev Frid

Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Situated on the shores of Belize's first RAMSAR site, we will be birding during the 'dry' season when the wetlands receive a huge influx of refuge-seeking, migratory water birds. Around our lodge, we hope to see Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Snail Kite, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Limpkin, Black-collared Hawk, Tropical Mockingbird, Yucatan and Yellow-headed Amazons, Rufous-breasted Spinetail, Northern Cardinal, Couch's Kingbird, Green-backed Sparrowand and Buff-bellied Hummingbird.

An early morning boat trip through the maze of lagoons and creeks will turn up several waterfowl in large numbers, none will be quite as 'large' as South and Central America's tallest bird, the Jabiru. We expect to see some of these impressive locals as they begin nesting. With some luck, our boat trip will also produce some of the much sought after, but shy species such as Sungrebe, Boat-billed Heron or Agami Heron. Other possible species include Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Rufous-naped Wood Rail, American Pygmy Kingfisher, and Laughing Falcon.



Yucatan Jay by Clayton Burne

This evening after dinner, we will head out to search for potoos, owls and nighthawks around the lodge.

Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary to Pine Ridge Mountains. Leaving the humid lowlands behind, we climb up to the Maya Mountains near the western border with Guatemala. Getting to the highest peaks in Belize means we traverse several bird-rich habitats en route, and our drive will thus be punctuated with regular birding stops. Further additions to our list could include the endemic Yucatan Jay, Yucatan Flycatcher, Grey-throated Chat (rare), Aplomado Falcon, Montane Solitary Eagle, King Vulture, White-fronted Amazon, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Keel-billed Toucan, Collared Aracari, Northern Bentbill, Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Pale-billed & Lineated Woodpeckers, Crimson-collared and Rose-throated Tanagers and Red-legged Honeycreeper.

Pine Ridge Mountains. We'll be paying particular attention to the unique Caribbean Pine ecosystem found here. Only a decade ago, nearly 80% of the forest was dead or dying after a Southern Pine Bark Beetle invasion. Fortunately, the intensive planting of millions of seedlings has reversed the damage, breathing new life into this important ecosystem. Our day's efforts should be rewarded with several otherwise difficult to rare species including Black Hawk-Eagle, Acorn Woodpecker, Green Jay, Yellow-tailed Oriole, Azure-crowned Hummingbird, Grace's and Rufous-capped Warblers, the Mesoamerican sub-species of Red Crossbill (a potential split), Red-lored Amazon, Rusty Sparrow, Plain Wren, Plumbeous Vireo, Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, and Orange-breasted Falcon. The reserve is also home to several very shy and rarely recorded cat species including Puma, Jaguar & Ocelot. Other mammals present include White-nosed Coati and the Baird's Tapir. We shall be making a special effort this evening to find the Stygian Owl, not only elusive but also steeped in Greek mythology!



Orange-breasted Falcon by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Cahal Pech Mayan Archaeological Site. The Mayan archaeological site at Cahal Pech is located on a hilltop, just 1 mile south of downtown San Ignacio in Belize's Cayo District. The name Cahal Pech (kah-hahl pech) means 'Place of Ticks'- a nickname given in the 1950's when cattle, laden with ticks, grazed in the area. Archaeologists currently believe that Cahal Pech was probably established by Maya from Guatemala during the Early Middle Pre-classic period, making it one of the oldest Maya settlements in Belize. Excavations have revealed seven interconnected plazas and various buildings including two ballcourts and the site's tallest temple structure. This forest boasts a great number of birds, including Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Blue-diademed Motmot, Collared Aracari and Rose-throated Becards.



Pale-billed Woodpecker by Julian Parsons

Tikal National Park. Believed to have supported over three million people at its peak, Tikal was once one of the major cultural, military and population centres of the Mayan civilisation. The Tikal temple complex and main city covers an area of more than 16 km^2 (6.2 $miles^2$) and includes about 3 000 structures; though the residential area of Tikal covers an estimated 60 km^2 (23 $miles^2$), all of which now falls within the 570 km^2 (220 $miles^2$) Tikal National Park. The city itself is believed to have supported up to 90 000 people but the site was abandoned in the latter part of the 10th century, mostly due to the lack of water – remarkably the city relied entirely on rainfall! For centuries it lay untouched as the rainforest regenerated and swallowed it up, covering all the temples and other buildings. Now much of the city has been restored, although thousands of structures are still buried under mounds

of dirt and covered in trees. Tikal was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979 and it now attracts thousands of visitors annually.



Ocellated Turkey by Clayton Burne

During our time here, we should soon become acquainted with the more common denizens of this remarkable park, including flocks of unbelievably patterned and remarkably tame Ocellated Turkeys. This stunning gamebird is one of only two species of turkey and is restricted to the Yucatan Peninsula. Another gamebird species that is commonly encountered in flocks here is Plain Chachalaca, while we should also observe the impressive Great Curassow and Crested Guan during our time at Tikal. The strident yet melodious bubbling call of Montezuma Oropendola will be bursting around us as these attractive icterids prepare themselves for roosting in large flocks. Brown Jays will also be obvious, another common bird of open spaces. The pond area near our lodge holds some interesting birds including the nocturnal Boat-billed Heron (such a distinctive bird that it used to be considered the sole member of a unique family), Limpkins and if we are lucky, Ruddy Crake and Grey-necked Wood Rail. Here we can also observe the uncommon Morelet's Crocodile, another Yucatan endemic.

We will spend a full day exploring this remarkable city and temple complex in the company of a local historical guide who will describe the Mayan civilisation to us and explain the significance of Tikal and the buildings that we pass, as well as the way of life and religion of the Mayan people. At the same time, we will be on the constant lookout for new birds. It's an exciting feeling to have these grand ruins towering over us while birding through this reserve that teems with wildlife. In the late afternoon, we will climb to the top of the highest temple-pyramid in Tikal (measuring 70m (230ft) and completed in 731CE), in fact, the highest pre-Columbian structure in the Americas, and gaze out over an endless vista of tropical rainforests broken only by Mayan temples – a truly breath-taking experience that will no doubt be a lifelong memory! On top of this, we also stand an excellent chance of observing one of the world's rarest raptors, the dashing Orange-breasted Falcon!



Great Curassow by Stephan Lorenz

All the species mentioned under Yaxha are possible, and we will also keep an eye out for the shy Great Tinamou, Grey-headed Dove, Brown-hooded Parrot, rare White-fronted Amazon, Stripe-throated Hermit, Black-headed Trogon, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Plain Xenops, Tawny-winged, Northern Barred and Ivory-billed Woodcreepers, Plain Antvireo, diminutive Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet, purring Northern Bentbill,

cute Stub-tailed Spadebill, a variety of flycatchers including Ochre-bellied, Slate-headed Tody, Sepia-capped and the sought-after Northern Royal, both Rufous Mourner and the lookalike Rufous Piha, Red-capped and White-collared Manakins, Northern Schiffornis, the canopy dwelling Lesser and understory occupying Tawny-crowned Greenlets, Northern Rough-winged Swallow (the distinctive Ridgeway's subspecies), White-breasted Wood and White-bellied Wrens, White-bellied Emerald, active Trilling Gnatwren, Black-cowled Oriole, the localised Black-throated Shrike-Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Red-crowned and Red-throated Ant Tanagers and Blue Bunting.



Fulvous Owl by Alex Alvarado

The grounds around Tikal also teem with a host of North American migrant warblers, flycatchers, vireos, orioles, tanagers, and grosbeaks, with notable species including White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Wood, and Swainson's Thrushes, Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Kentucky, Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers, American Redstart, Ovenbird and both Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush.

Tougher species that we will be search for include the secretive Thicket and Slaty-breasted Tinamous (more likely to be heard than seen), the attractive Scaled and Short-billed Pigeons, Blue Ground Dove and Ruddy Quail-Dove, Canivet's Emerald, White-necked Puffbird, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Scaly-throated Leaftosser, Barred Antshrike, Dot-winged Antwren, Ruddy-tailed, Sulphur-rumped and Yucatan Flycatchers, Mangrove Vireo, Green and the localised Yucatan Jay, Green-backed Sparrow, Rose-throated Tanager, Black-faced and Blue-black Grosbeaks, the stunning yet tricky Grey-throated Chat, Blue Bunting and Yellow-billed Cacique. This region is also excellent for raptors, and we will keep an eye out for King Vulture, Black and Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Crested Eagle if we are extremely fortunate, Northern Crested Caracara, Grey, White, Roadside and Black-collared Hawks, Double-toothed, Plumbeous and Grey-headed Kites, Laughing Falcon, Barred and Collared Forest Falcons, and American Kestrel.



Green Honeycreeper by Bobby Wilcox

Mammals are prolific, and besides the howler and spider monkeys, we should observe inquisitive bands of White-nosed Coati, which occur here in great densities, Central American Agouti, Red Brocket Deer, and Grey Fox. Jaguar and other rare species occur, but we would be extremely lucky to observe any of these!

A nocturnal walk back to our lodge should provide us with Mottled Owl and, if we are fortunate, Middle American Screech and Black-and-white Owls, and possibly even Yucatan Poorwill.

Biotopo del Quetzal. This exciting cloud forest destination holds an impressive number of Resplendent Quetzal, which will be our primary target. Other species of interest include Green-throated Mountaingem, Northern Tufted Flycatcher, Unicolored Jay, Crescent-chested Warbler and Blue-crowned Chlorophonia. We'll also be hoping to connect with the handsome Azure-hooded Jay and Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush. In addition to the many resident specialties, there are huge numbers of overwintering songbirds in the area. One species that we can be on the lookout for is the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler that winters here in small numbers. In the evening, we'll try to find the reclusive Fulvous Owl or Bearded Screech Owl.



Resplendent Quetzal by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Copán. We'll spend some time at the famous Hacienda San Lucas, situated right next to the 'Las Sepulturas' archaeological site. This century-old property has been converted into a top-notch eco-lodge, constructed entirely without electricity and designed in such a way as to avoid any negative impact on the area's archaeological treasures. Located high above the Copán River, it overlooks the main archaeological site and is situated on a 300-acre tract of tropical forest. We will spend some of the morning exploring this remarkable area for its many avian and archaeological attractions.



Turquoise-browed Motmot by Adam Riley

On the birding front, some of the species we can search for here and in the surrounding trails include Grey and Zone-tailed Hawks, Red-throated and Olive-throated Parakeets, Turquoise-browed and Blue-diademed Motmots, White-throated Magpie-Jay, White-tipped Dove, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, White-collared Swift, Elegant Trogon, Collared Aracari, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, Streak-backed and Altamira Orioles, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Grey-breasted Martin, Rufous-capped Warbler, Rusty Sparrow and Yellow-winged Tanager.

On the actual hacienda property is a Mayan archaeological site known as Los Sapos ("The Toads"), an ancient Mayan symbol of rebirth and regeneration, it is thought that the site was once dedicated to women and fertility.

Time permitting, we may also do some birding along the Rio Copán (Copán River). Some of the many possibilities here include Lesson's Motmot, Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Rose-throated Becard, Spot-breasted Oriole, Rufous-backed Wren, Boat-billed and Social Flycatchers, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Blue-grey Tanager, Greyish Saltator and

numerous wintering warblers, including the beautiful Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, Chestnut-sided and Magnolia.

Motagua Valley. This arid environment in the Motagua Valley holds a small number of interesting species which we will search for on a private finca. One of our most wanted birds this morning will be Lesser Roadrunner, and we hope to connect with this secretive species. Another fascinating cuckoo occurs here, the secretive Lesser Ground Cuckoo, which will require some luck and patience. Russet-crowned Motmot is another stunning highlight while other specialties of the dry forest include Nutting's Flycatcher, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Rufous-naped Wren, Streak-backed Oriole, Stripe-headed Sparrow, and Varied Bunting. White-fronted Amazon may be seen flying overhead while soaring Black Hawk-Eagle is a possibility as the day heats up.



Russet-crowned Motmot by Lev Frid

La Laguna Road. Departing very early this morning, we will head into the highlands of the La Laguna San Francisco road. With a habitat of predominantly indigenous pine and oak interspersed with valleys of humid, broad-leaved forest, this area is excellent for numerous migratory warblers as well as a good selection of resident birds.

Some of the possibilities in this region include small flocks of Bushy-crested Jay, Common Black Hawk, White-collared and Vaux's Swifts, Azure-crowned Hummingbird and Sparkling-tailed Woodstar (Hummingbird), Emerald Toucanet, Elegant Trogon, Black-banded Woodcreeper, Greater Pewee, Hammond's Flycatcher, Plain Wren, Brown Creeper, Brown-backed Solitaire, Painted and Slate-throated Whitestarts (Redstarts), Rusty Sparrow, Hepatic and Flame-colored Tanagers, Elegant Euphonia, Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, Black-headed Saltator, Yellow-backed Oriole and Black-headed Siskin.

Copán Mayan Archaeological Site. Our time here will be devoted to both a birding and archaeological tour of the Mayan City of Copán for its myriad of birding and archaeological attractions. This world-famous archaeological site is renowned for being among the best preserved of all the ancient Mayan constructions. Located near the Guatemalan border, Copán was once a major Mayan dynastic kingdom, which thrived between the 5th and 9th centuries A.D. Though smaller than the more famous Tikal and Chichen Itza sites to the north, it is of particular archaeological importance for its very well preserved hieroglyphic texts that adorn its ancient monuments. These numerous inscriptions convey many tales of past Mayan rulers and significant



Chestnut-colored Woodpecker by Adam Riley

historical and cultural events, leading scholars to conclude that the site was once a centre of immense culture and literacy. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1980, it is one of the most spectacular of all the ancient Mayan cities and we can expect to be blown away by the sights and structures that we will be exploring today.



Lovely Cotinga by Adam Riley

In addition, the area is also surrounded by some good forest, which in turn holds an array of Neotropical species that will no doubt keep us entertained during our time here. Aside from the species mentioned on day one, a trail that allows accesses to some deciduous forest here will afford us the opportunity to search for various additional dry and moister forest species such as Plain Chachalaca, Red-billed Pigeon, Red-throated (Green) Parakeet, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Streak-backed Oriole and Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, to mention just a handful.

Pico Bonito Lodge. The luxury eco-resort in the Parque Nacional Pico Bonito will be our base for the whole tour. Considered by National Geographic to rank among the world's top 50 eco-lodges and rated as a 'birder's paradise' by Audubon Magazine, Pico Bonito's well-manicured gardens and facilities offer us a chance to bird in absolute style!

Even while lounging in the hammocks on our wooden cabin decks or bathing in the alluring swimming pool, birds and other wildlife are always at hand. Around the lodge itself, we should enjoy close views of many interesting species including inquisitive pairs of Collared Aracari, numerous hummingbirds such as Band-tailed Barbthroat, Violet Sabrewing, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, White-necked Jacobin, Brown Violetear, and Crowned Woodnymph visiting the abundant flowers, Central American Agoutis scurrying across the lawns and even some impressive Basilisk Lizards.



Violet Sabrewing by Adam Riley

We will spend our time birding the lower reaches of the property. A canopy tower here offers panoramic views of the mountainous forest and with careful scanning, we hope to find the major target of the morning, the gorgeous Lovely Cotinga feeding amongst the treetops, as well as Keel-billed Toucan, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, an impressive 5 species of euphonia, various tanagers and numerous other canopy-associated species. We will also scan the skies above for soaring raptors that could include White Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle and the majestic King Vulture, and flocks of White-collared Swift.

Other species likely in the more open habit of the lower property and also in the lusher forested areas include Lesson's, Tody and Turquoise-browed Motmots, Pale-billed and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers, Wedge-billed and Cocoa Woodcreepers, Black-headed, Slaty-tailed, Gartered and Collared Trogons, Violet-headed

Hummingbird, Purple-crowned Fairy, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, White-breasted Wood Wren, White-throated Thrush, Giant Cowbird, Red-throated Ant Tanager, Olive-backed, Scrub, White-vented and Yellow-throated Euphonias, Variable and Morelet's Seedeaters and an array of overwintering North American migrants including various vireos, warblers, buntings and orioles.



Keel-billed Toucan by Adam Riley

We will also tackle a few trails leading through primary rainforest in the upper reaches of the reserve. High on our priority list are two difficult species of motmot, namely Keel-billed and Tody, though we may have secured good looks of the former by this stage. Other interesting species we hope to find include the reticent Tawny-faced Quail, Great and Slaty-breasted Tinamous, Slaty-tailed Trogon and, if we are very fortunate, Grey-headed Piprites. We should also add to our growing mammal list, with noisy troops of Central American Spider Monkeys occurring here in good numbers.

Night birding in the area can also be rewarding, with possibilities including Middle American Screech Owl, Mottled and Black-and-white Owls, Great Potoo and further mammal prospects including chances for the intriguing Grey Four-eyed Opossum.

Honduran Emerald Reserve. Today sees us making a very early start for a full day's birding in the Rio Aguan Valley. Situated in the rain shadow of the coastal mountain range, the habitat here is uniquely dry with cactus and euphorbia dominating. The reserve was established to protect our major target of the day, Honduras' only endemic, the lovely little Honduran Emerald – one of Central America's rarest and most range-restricted birds. While incredibly local, this tiny glittering green hummingbird is fairly common here, and we anticipate excellent views of this special species as it goes about looking for its daily supply of nectar in any open flowers. Our ride into 'Emerald country' as it is known can be equally rewarding, as a surprising number of bird species inhabit this desert-like habitat. Along the way, we will also visit localised wet areas within this arid region. Short stops may well produce Double-striped Thick-knee, Lesser Roadrunner and Lesser Ground Cuckoo (though both these tricky species will require a lot of luck!), Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, White-lored Gnatcatcher, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Canivet's Emerald, Spot-bellied Bobwhite, Banded Wren, White-bellied Wren, Stripe-headed Sparrow and Altamira Oriole amongst others.



Tody Motmot by Lev Frid

Lancetilla Botanical Gardens. Initially created as an agricultural research centre and experimental station by the United Fruit Company, the property rapidly expanded in size and



Honduran Emerald by Adam Riley

importance and is now the world's second-largest tropical botanical garden, boasting an exceptional collection of tropical plants from Central America and elsewhere. This includes a substantial selection of orchids and ornamental plants and even a protected area of tropical broad-leaved rainforest. Of course, with all the incredible plants and diversity of ecosystems to be found here, the gardens are a magnet for both resident and migratory birds, and a walk around the manicured grounds here will certainly keep us very busy.

Amongst the numerous Grey Catbirds, a number of colourful warblers may include Magnolia, Golden-winged and Black-and-white. We will also spend some time attempting to obtain decent views of the agoraphobic Ruddy Crake, for which this spot is rather renowned. Other expected species to look out for are Grey and Short-tailed Hawks, Plain Chachalaca, White-fronted and Red-lored Amazons, Black-headed, Gartered, Slaty-tailed and Collared Trogons, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Short-billed Pigeon, Blue Ground Dove, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Great and Barred Antshrikes, Squirrel Cuckoo, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Stripe-throated and Long-billed Hermits, Dusky Antbird, Long-billed Gnatwren. Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet and many other flycatchers and related species, Crimson-collared and Passerini's Tanagers, Buff-throated Saltator, Orchard Oriole and Black-striped Sparrow.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate. Target focussed trip, not suitable for dedicated photographers; inexperienced birders; or anyone with mobility or health challenges.
Birding Ease		Moderate, with lots of forest birding. Several skulkers and low-density targets. Garden & lodge birding typically easier offering good visuals of many species. Limited time to find all specialties, birding can be fast paced at times.
Accommodation		Comfortable, a few lodges are quite simple.
Walking / Trails		Mostly short walks on relatively flat ground. Some trails within forest can be narrow. Depending on weather conditions, some trails may be muddy & slippery.
Vehicles / Roads		Several drives, some long. Mostly sealed roads between towns, changing to dirt in remoter areas. Mountain passes and eroded dirt roads can be bumpy. Most roads are winding.
Photography		Average to good. Many species are seen within the forest or in the canopy. Some lodge have good feeder setups.
Annoyances		Winding roads can cause motion sickness, some small biting insects. The lowlands around Tikal, Guatemala & Belize can be hot and very humid.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 16;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- No tips or gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry, and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities are NOT included on this tour. If you feel that your leader/s have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18lb) for hand luggage.
- We will be birding some mountainous areas of Belize and Guatemala on foot along forest trails that can be steep and, depending on weather conditions, slippery. A generally good level of fitness is required for this tour.
- Even though distances from location to location are relatively short, there can be some long driving days due to the condition of some roads, as well as the mountainous nature of the areas we visit.
- It can be hot and humid with harsh sun in the lowlands, so please come prepared with hats and sun cream for protection. Humidity levels are high for much of the tour.
- Mosquitoes and tiny bloodsucking flies can be numerous at times, and it is advisable to pack a good supply of DEET or another effective insect repellent.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour begins in Belize City on day 1 with a group transfer to our lodge in the early afternoon. The tour will conclude after breakfast on day 16 with a transfer our lodge to the airport in San Pedro Sula.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport, Belize City (IATA: BZE) and Ramón Villeda Morales International Airport, San Pedro Sula, Honduras (IATA: SAP) are the main ports of entry and departure for this tour.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.