

PANAMA

Cheepers! Exclusive

“PANAMAX” TOUR!

Darien, Chiriqui Highlands, Bocas del Toro

March 10 - 25, 2023

16 Days / 15 Nights \$5399*

Single Supplement \$1740

***Price includes 2 internal flights.**

***Price for group of 8; Surcharge will apply for smaller groups.**

This exclusive Panama tour is designed to give birders an opportunity to visit parts of the country not usually included in birding tours – the Darién, the Chiriqui Highlands, and Bocas del Toro. If you’ve visited Panama in the past but limited your birding to the Canal Zone and El Valle de Anton, you will be sure to see many lifers on this itinerary.

We’ll begin our adventure in Panama City, where we’ll spend one night before taking off for the Darien, as this entire eastern-most region of Panama is called. This area is perhaps the most diverse and species-rich region of Central America, long coveted by avid birders as an impenetrable haven for rare species, but now readily accessible by a highway extending through the spine of Panama right into the heart of this bird-rich land. During the first leg of this exciting tour, we will visit Canopy Camp in the Darien, staying for 4 nights in comfortable, large, safari-style tents, each with comfortable beds, private bathroom facilities with hot- and cold-water showers and flush toilets, electricity from solar panels, and fans. Each day of our Darien adventure will take us to a new birding spot, including sites where Harpy Eagle and Crested Eagle are possible, with recently fledged birds near nest sites. Some target species include Orange-crowned Oriole, Bare-crowned Antbird, Golden-green Woodpecker, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Stripe-throated Wren, Black-collared Hawk, Black-capped Donacobius, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, Large-billed Seed-Finch, Gray-cheeked Nunlet, White-headed Wren, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Pale-bellied Hermit, Spectacled Parrotlet, Dusky-backed Jacamar, Double-banded Graytail, King Vulture, among many others.

After 4 days in the Darien, we will drive back to Panama City where we will spend the night in a hotel near the airport to stage for an early morning flight to David in western Panama. From David, we will travel by minibus to the small town of Volcan, where we will spend the next four nights as we take day trips to nearby birding hotspots, including La Amistad International Park and Volcan Baru National Park. Species typical of the highlands that we hope to see include Resplendent Quetzal, Long-tailed and Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatchers, Flame-throated Warbler, Yellow-legged and Large-footed Finches, Scintillant and Stripe-tailed Hummingbirds, Violet Sabrewing, Orange-billed and Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrushes, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, and Flame-colored, Silver-throated, and White-winged Tanagers, to name but a few.

Our final stop on this amazing tour will be at the island paradise known as Tranquilo Bay. We will drive from Volcan to Punta Robelo where our Tranquilo Bay guides will meet us and take us by boat to the lodge. We’ll spend 4 nights at his idyllic lodge, with active Golden-collared Manakin leks and an observation tower near the lovely air-conditioned cabanas. In addition to birding the property, we’ll go by boat to various birding sites during our stay. Expect to see many new species, including Nicaraguan Seed-Finch, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron and many Kingfisher species as we drift along the Saropta Canal. Nesting Brown Boobies and Red-billed Tropicbirds are numerous on “Bird Island”. Other sites include a chocolate farm that features not only good birding but also good chances to see colorful poison dart frogs, and Popa Island, home to Snowy Cotingas. An afternoon of snorkeling, kayaking, or swimming is included in the itinerary for those who wish to enjoy the warm waters around the island.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1, March 10

Arrival in Panama City (PTY). You will take a free hotel shuttle to a hotel near the airport. The rest of today is at your leisure, with a welcome dinner at 6:30 PM.

O/N Riande Aeropuerto or Crowne Plaza (D)

Day 2, March 11



After an early breakfast at the hotel, our guide will pick us up at 6:30 AM to head to the Canopy Camp. As we drive along the Pan-American Highway, we will scan for roadside birds and open-field raptors including Savanna Hawk and Crested Caracara. At the bridge at Bayano Lake, a great opportunity awaits to see what can be found along the lakeside. This reservoir supports great amounts of water birds, including a large colony of Neotropic Cormorants, as well as Anhinga, Cooi Heron and the rare Bare-throated Tiger-Heron. We will scan the water's edge for Purple Gallinule, Pied Water-Tyrant, Smooth-billed Ani and Ruddy-breasted Seedeater. A short trail leading from the water's edge is a great place to search for Black Antshrike, Bare-crowned Antbird, Rufous-winged Antwren and Golden-collared Manakin. Just 10 minutes down the road at Río Mono Bridge, the surrounding forest is home to One-colored Becard, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Blue Cotinga, Pied Puffbird, Orange-crowned Oriole, Blue Ground-Dove and more. We will also scan the river below for Green-and-rufous Kingfisher and the elusive Fasciated Tiger-Heron. The forest edge and scrubby roadsides around Rio Torti offer

good opportunities to see Pacific Antwren, Double-banded Graytail and Little Cuckoo. At a lovely Panamanian restaurant in Torti, the hummingbirds at the feeders will no doubt capture our attention, as Long-billed Starthroat, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Black-throated Mango and more take their lunch as well.

After lunch, we will continue to the Canopy Camp and go to our luxury safari tents for a midday rest. If we arrive early enough, we will bird around the Camp grounds, including Nando's Trail. If our arrival is too late, we'll explore the grounds on another day. Yellow-throated and Keel-billed Toucans call from the towering Cuipo trees; Red-lored and Mealy Parrots fly overhead; White-bellied Antbird, Bright-rumped Attila, White-headed Wren and Golden-headed Manakin sing from the surrounding forests while Pale-bellied Hermit and Sapphire-throated Hummingbird visit the flowers around camp. Rufous-tailed Jacamar and Barred Puffbird are also seen frequently around the grounds. We will work our way into the forest on "Nando's Trail," in hopes of finding Tiny Hawk, Black Antshrike, Great Antshrike, Olive-backed Quail-Dove, Cinnamon Becard, Black-tailed Trogon, Double-banded Graytail, Gray-cheeked Nunlet, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, Royal Flycatcher and Russet-winged Schiffornis. We will also be looking for groups of Red-throated Caracara, King Vulture and Short-tailed Hawk overhead in the clearings. Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Plumbeous and Zone-tailed Hawks are also possible. In the open areas, the verbenas are full of hummingbird and butterfly activity, where we hope to see Violet-bellied Hummingbird, Pale-bellied Hermit, Long-billed Starthroat, Blue-throated Goldentail and if lucky, a stunning Ruby-Topaz Hummingbird feeding here. Spot-crowned Barbet, Olivaceous Piculet, White-headed Wren, Red-rumped Woodpecker and Streak-headed Woodcreeper are birds we may encounter.

There will be an opportunity during the week to explore the grounds of the Canopy Camp at night in search of nocturnal birds and mammals, including Black-and-white and Mottled Owls, Great and Common Potoos, Kinkajous, Central American Woolly Opossum and more!

O/N Canopy Camp (BLD)

Days 3 - 5, March 12 - 14

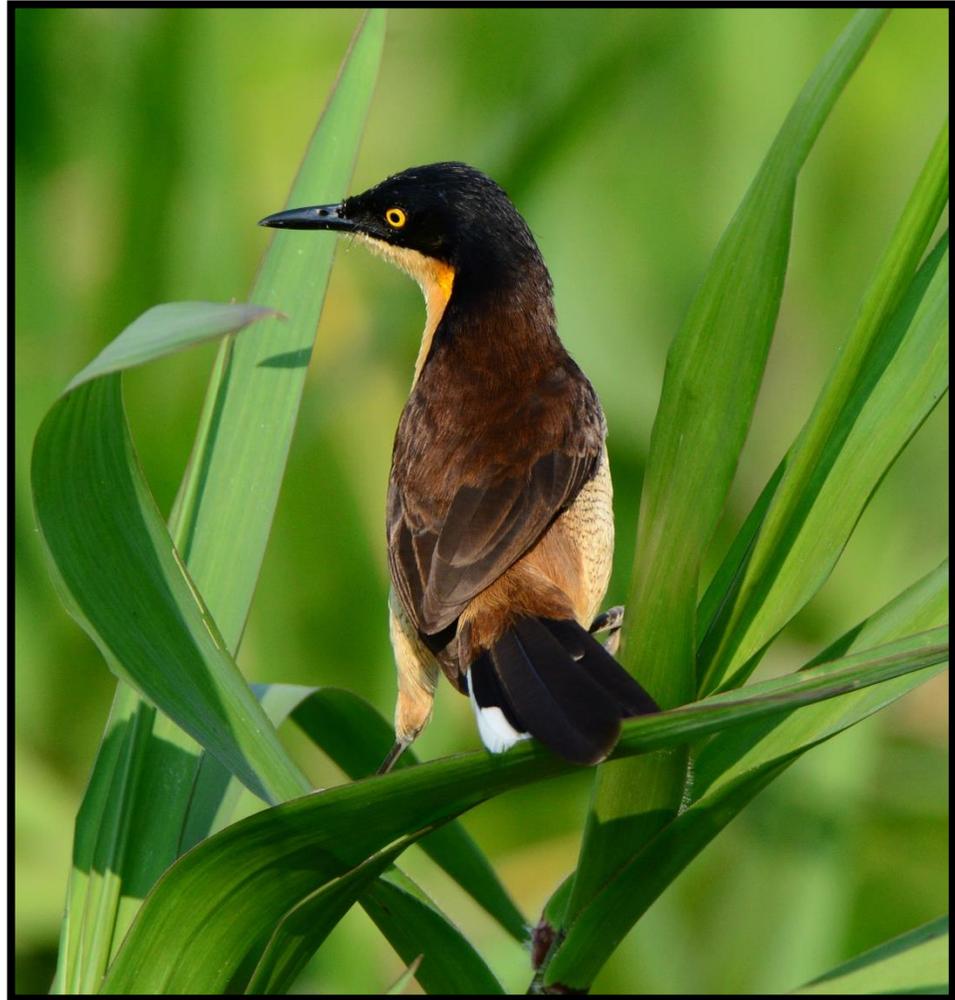
We will have 3 full days to explore the Darien in the vicinity of the Canopy Camp. Many day trips and half-day trips are available, and we will select the outings we want to take based on the advice of our guide, who will have knowledge of recent sightings, current weather forecasts, and road conditions. Outings that are available to us are described below:

Birding the Pan-American Highway

We will head southeast and will bird the forests and swampy meadows along the road toward Yaviza, to the end of the Pan-American Highway. Black-billed Flycatcher, Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, Jet Antbird, Black Oropendola, Pied Water-Tyrant, Bicolored Hawk, Black-collared Hawk, Pearl Kite, White-tailed Kite, Limpkin, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, Black-capped Donacobius and Red-breasted Meadowlark can all be found as we head further into Darién.

El Salto Road

El Salto Road extends 6 km north from the Pan-American Highway and ends at the mighty Río Chucunaque. This open road and surrounding dry forest is a great place to search for regional specialties including Golden-green Woodpecker, Double-banded Graytail, Blue-and-gold and Chestnut-fronted Macaws, Black and Crested Oropendolas, Blue Cotinga, White-eared Conebill, Black-breasted Puffbird, Orange-crowned Oriole and the majestic King Vulture. A trail at the end of the road will take us into low-canopy forest, where we hope to find Bare-crowned Antbird, Pale-bellied Hermit, Olivaceous Piculet, Streak-headed Woodcreeper and Forest Elaenia.



Black-capped Donacobius

Tierra Nueva Foundation

Adjacent to EL Salto Road is the property of the Tierra Nueva Foundation. Fundación Tierra Nueva is a non-profit organization whose main mission is “working towards the sustainable development of people of the Darién Rainforest.” The property is the home of a technical school focusing on applications in agriculture. We will explore the trails of this large, forested property, in hopes of finding Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Yellow-breasted and Black-billed Flycatchers, Red-rumped Woodpecker, Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon, Cinnamon, Cinereous and One-colored Becards, White-eared Conebill, White-headed Wren and the magnificent Great Curassow. We will also search for the eastern race of the Chestnut-backed Antbird, which shows white spots on the wings.

Las Lagunas Road (Aguas Calientes) & Aruza Lagoons

This road extends 12 km south off the Pan-American Highway through open farmland, dry scrub and roadside habitat. The road eventually crosses a small stream and ends at small ponds. Along the roadsides, we hope to find Red-breasted Meadowlark, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, White-headed Wren, Smooth-

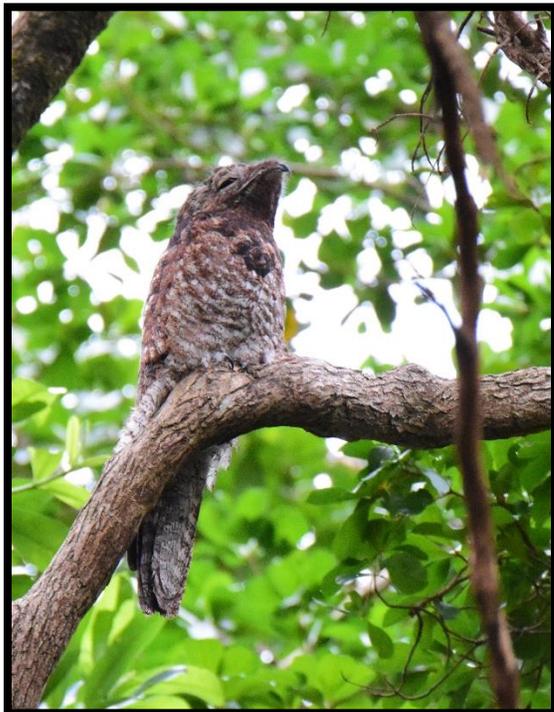
billed and Greater Ani, Muscovy Duck, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Southern Lapwing, Blue-headed Parrot, Striped Cuckoo, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Buff-breasted Wren, Bananaquit, Giant and Shiny Cowbirds, Crested Oropendola, Laughing Falcon and Aplomado Falcon. If we're lucky, we may get a glimpse of a Chestnut-fronted Macaw or a shy Little Cuckoo, both having been seen along this road. At the lagoons, we hope to find Pied Water-Tyrant, Capped Heron, the beautiful Yellow-hooded Blackbird and the extraordinary Black-capped Donacobius, a great habitat for all these wonderful species.

Quebrada Felix

Quebrada Felix—this newly discovered site awaits us to be explored! Quebrada Felix is nestled in the base of the Filo del Tallo Hydrological Reserve, and is just a short drive from the Canopy Camp. Surrounded by tall trees and mature lowland forest, we will walk the rocky stream in search of some of Panama's most wanted species. On this Panama wildlife tour, we will try for Black-crowned Antpitta, Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser, Speckled Mourner, Ocellated Antbird, Rufous-winged and Moustached Antwrens, White-fronted Nunbird, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Royal Flycatcher and our endemic, the Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker. It is also a great spot to find Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Bicolored Antbird, Golden-crowned Spadebill, Double-banded Graytail and much more. Crested and Solitary Eagles have even been spotted here, a great testament to the mature forest of the area. Quebrada Felix is becoming a favorite spot among our guides and visitors!



Spot-breasted Woodpecker



Great Potoo

Lajas Blancas

On this Panama wildlife tour, we eagerly explore the open areas and mixed forests of the area of Lajas Blancas. Lajas Blancas is the closest Embera Indigenous community to the Canopy Camp, a large community with a population of over 1000 residents. Just 15 minutes away, the area around the community boasts great birding and the opportunity to find many Darien specialties! After turning off the Pan-American Highway, we drive through pasture and open farmland—a great place to see One-colored Becard, Great Potoo, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, Black Antshrike and Black Oropendola. During the dry season, a bridge across the Chucunaque River provides us easy access to some mature secondary forest where Double-banded Graytail, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, White-winged and Cinnamon Becards, Cinnamon and Golden-green Woodpeckers, Manakins and others can be found. Beyond the community, the road continues and there is much more forest, including primary forest at its far reaches, waiting to be explored on your Panama wildlife tour.

Nuevo Vigia

We are off to Nuevo Vigia, an Embera indigenous community nestled north of the Pan-American Highway, surrounded by great secondary growth dry forest and two small lakes, all of which attract an enticing variety of birds. The community is accessible by "piragua", locally-made dugout canoes. As we coast along the Chucunaque and Tuquesa Rivers, we will keep our eyes and ears open for Chestnut-backed, Crested and Black Oropendolas, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Common Black Hawk, Yellow-tailed Oriole, Red-billed Scythebill, Capped and Cocoli herons, White Ibis, Greater Ani, Solitary Sandpiper and other water birds. We will spend the majority of the morning



Spectacled Parrotlet

birding a trail toward a small lagoon, a great place to see Black-collared Hawk, Bare-crowned and White-bellied Antbirds, Green Ibis, Gray-cheeked Nunlet, Spectacled Parrotlet, Black-tailed Trogon, Striped Cuckoo, Black-bellied Wren, Little Tinamou, Golden-green Woodpecker and Green-and-rufous Kingfisher! In the town of Nuevo Vigia, local artisans weave colorful decorative masks and plates out of palm fronds and carve cocobolo wood and tagua nuts into animals and plants, and we will have the opportunity to meet some of the community members and admire and purchase some of the beautiful

products they make by hand. We will enjoy a satisfying picnic lunch in the village, followed by more great birding around the riversides and scrubby habitat surrounding Nuevo Vigia before heading back to the Canopy Camp.

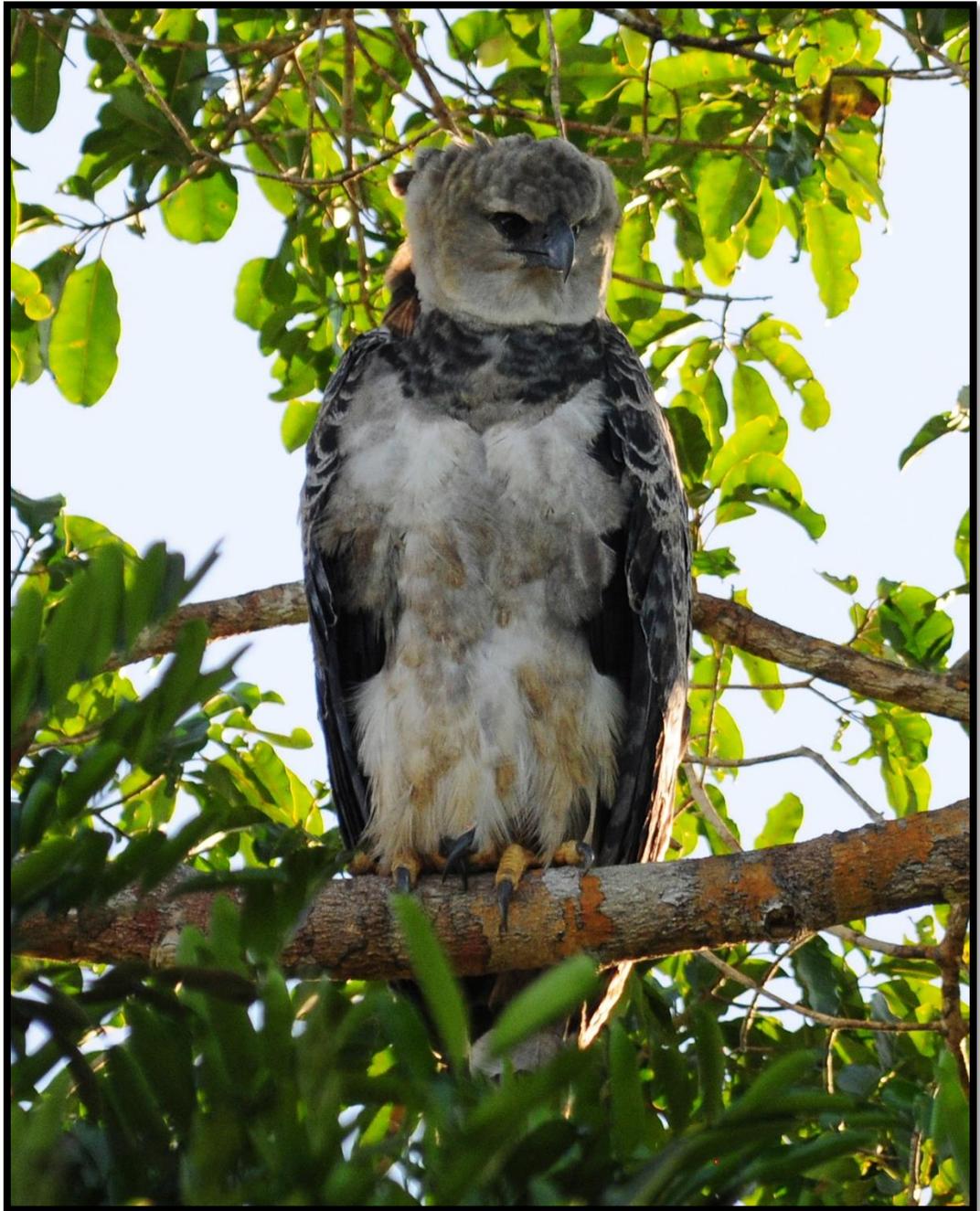
Aligandi

Aligandi is a huge area with unique scrub forest and much to be explored. We head out from the Camp toward the end of the Pan-American Highway, taking a turn prior to reaching Yaviza. Along the roadsides here, we scan for Red-breasted Blackbird, Striped Cuckoo, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Thick-billed Seed-Finch, American Kestrel and other open area birds. A Great Green Macaw nest is tucked up in the canopy of a huge Cuipo tree, visible from the road, and if lucky, an adult or a chick may be seen poking its head out of the cavity. At Finca Doncella, we continue on foot along the road through the scrub forest, seeking out Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Bat Falcon, Giant Cowbird, Orange-crowned Oriole, Red-billed Scythebill, White-eared Conebill and mixed feeding flocks. It is possible to see the macaws as they fly over while we further explore the area.

PANAMA'S NATIONAL BIRD: THE HARPY EAGLE

Darién is a stronghold for Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, and holds Central America's largest population of this rare and majestic bird. If there is a site available to visit, whether it be a nest site or a fledged juvenile in a reliable location, it will be included in the itinerary. We can keep you informed as your trip gets closer. Please consider that we can never guarantee the sighting of a Harpy Eagle (or anything in nature), even at a reliable site, but we will be sure to try if there is a chance!

If there is no nest site or juvenile bird to visit, there is still always the chance to come across a Harpy Eagle during your stay. Over the past few years, we have had Harpy Eagle sightings at several of the birding sites we visit, including a few times at the Canopy Camp itself!



Harpy Eagle

Day 6, March 15

We will depart the Canopy Camp very early this morning in order to allow plenty of time at our birding destination, San Francisco Nature Reserve, a private forest reserve owned and managed by the St. Francis Foundation, covering 1,300 acres in eastern Panama Province. The San Francisco Reserve was established in 2001 by Father Pablo Kasuboski, an American priest from Wisconsin who came to Panama in 1988. The reserve serves as a wildlife refuge and protects the headwaters of the main rivers of the area. The foundation created by Padre Pablo, as Father Kasuboski is called, also works on infrastructure development in the area by building and maintaining aqueducts, roads, schools and churches. In fact, the St. Francis Foundation built and maintains the largest private rural aqueduct in all of Panama and Central America. The reserve has a variety of habitats including primary, secondary and riparian forests, forest edge, fields, farmland, ponds and wetlands. During our morning here, we will explore some of the different habitats along the short road that enters the reserve. We will hope to find Red-breasted Meadowlark, Barred Puffbird, Long-tailed Tyrant, Blue Cotinga, Laughing Falcon, Royal Flycatcher, Dusky-faced Tanager, Buff-rumped Warbler, Yellow-green

Tyrannulet, Blue Ground-Dove, Plain-breasted Ground-Dove, and if we're very lucky, a Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle soaring overhead or a Wing-banded Antbird along the trails. We'll have lunch in Torti before continuing to Panama City, with arrival at our hotel near the airport in time for dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

O/N Riande Aeropuerto or Crowne Plaza (BLD)

Day 7, March 16

This morning we will take the hotel shuttle to the airport for an early flight to David, where we will meet Ito, our guide for the next four days. Upon arrival in David, we will spend some time birding near the airport, where a wide variety of species can be seen. Brown-throated Parakeet, Pearl Kite, Yellow-crowned and Red-lored Parrots, Black-hooded Antshrike, Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, Veraguan Mango, Mangrove Warbler, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher are but a few of the possibilities. Our next stop will be in a moist valley near Cuesta de Piedra. Cherrie's Tanagers are abundant here, along with White-collared Swifts and Lesser Goldfinches. Snowy-bellied and Charming Hummingbirds feed on some of the plentiful flowers in the area, often joined by Brown Violet-ear. Near the stream, we might find Buff-rumped Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush in the undergrowth while the nearby shrubs and trees host other migrating warblers. Wrens, Tyrannulets, Furnarids, Manakins, and other bird families are all well represented in this lovely area. We'll stop for a pizza lunch in Volcan and then continue to a lovely B&B called Cielito Sur, just outside of town, to check in. It will be difficult to take advantage of the opportunity for a midday rest because the bird activity outside your door will be too distracting. Violet Sabrewing, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Green Violet-ear, and White-throated Mountain-gem are among several species of hummingbird that frequent the well-stocked feeders. A myriad of species visit the fruiting trees in the gardens, including Silver-throated and Flame-colored Tanagers, among others.



Violet Sabrewing

O/N Cielito Sur (BLD)

Day 8, March 17

After an early breakfast, we will travel into La Amistad International Park (jointly protected by Panama and Costa Rica). As we enter the park, which was heavily damaged by a flood several years ago, we should notice some of the more common and obvious species of the park, such as Yellow-thighed Finch, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch, and Magnificent Hummingbird. Endemism is high in this Important Bird Area (IBA) and we will make special efforts to see many birds restricted to the Chiriqui/Talamanca Range. We are not only referring to the well-camouflaged "LBJ"s like Zeledonia or the skulking Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, but also to some of the most gaudy birds in the world, like the Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Collared Redstart, and the Flame-throated Warbler. La Amistad is our best chance for finding the breathtakingly gorgeous Resplendent Quetzal. We will enjoy a packed lunch inside the park and continue birding in the afternoon, taking full advantage of our day here.

O/N Cielito Sur (BLD)

Day 9, March 18

Today we will explore the forests of the Los Quetzales Trail at the Baru Volcano National Park. Because of its importance in preserving unique elements of the flora and fauna, UNESCO has declared this area a Biosphere Reserve. Amidst the moss-covered, epiphyte-laden trees of the cloud forest, we may spot Buffy Tufted-cheek, Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager, Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, Black-faced Solitaire and Large-footed Finch, to name but a few. Flowering bushes by the trail may yield White-throated Mountain-gem, Stripe-tailed, Scintillant, and Volcano Hummingbirds, and if the trees near the entrance to the trail are bearing fruit, we should find Resplendent Quetzal and Blue-throated Toucanet.

O/N Cielito Sur (BLD)

Day 10, March 19

The Mount Totumas Cloud Forest Reserve is our destination today. After another delicious breakfast at our B&B, we will drive to Mount Totumas Lodge, where we will enjoy beautiful views and excellent birding. We hope to find Three-wattled Bellbird, Black Guan, Crested Guan, Highland Tinamou, and some of the 15 species of hummingbird reported in the area, including some that are not too common in other places: Magenta-Throated Woodstar, Brown Violetear, Fiery-Throated Hummingbird, and Long-Billed Starthroat. Of course, no one will complain if we sight a few more Resplendent Quetzals on our last day of birding in the highlands, and we have good chances of seeing many more species, including Northern Emerald Toucanet, Red-faced Spinetail, Dark Pewee, Slate-throated Redstart, White-winged Tanager, Black-faced Solitaire, White-naped Brushfinch, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Streaked Xenops, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Barred Parakeet, Chiriqui and Buff-fronted Quail-Doves, White-throated Spadebill, and, with some luck, Silvery-throated Tapaculo, to name but a few. Lunch today will be in the lodge's restaurant.

O/N Cielito Sur (BLD)



Resplendent Quetzal



Emerald Tanager

Day 11, March 20

We will drive from Volcan to Punta Robalo today, with several strategic birding stops along the way, including Fortuna Road, Antenna Road, la Verrugosa, and Wili Mazu. We'll search for Blue-and-gold Tanager, White-bellied Mountain-gem, Emerald Tanager, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, and Azure-hooded Jay, among others. We'll have lunch along the way, arriving in Punta Robalo in mid to late afternoon. There, our guides from Tranquilo Bay will meet us, and we will board a boat that will take us to Tranquilo Bay on Bastimentos Island. We'll check in and go to our lovely cabanas and learn a bit about the property before doing a bit of birding from the tower.

O/N Tranquilo Bay (BLD)

Day 12, March 21

This morning we will explore the Tranquilo Bay property with our expert naturalist guide, who will take us to some of the best spots on the island for birds and other wildlife. We might go up to the observation tower first thing in the morning or head straight to the Golden-collared Manakin leks. Whatever our route, we're sure to find a good number of spectacular bird species.

After lunch, we will take a short boat trip to a nearby chocolate farm. Here, we will bird the forest and search for some of the many poison dart frogs that inhabit the area. We may see a demonstration of how chocolate is made from the cacao beans, if the group is interested.

In the late afternoon, just before the sun sets, we will likely return to the observation tower to watch as birds return to their roosts for the night. After dinner, we'll watch for the Panamanian Night Monkeys that come to feed on bananas near the dining room.

O/N Tranquilo Bay (BLD)



Black and Green Poison Dart Frog

Day 13, March 22

Today we will enjoy a leisurely full day of birding as we cruise down the Soropta Canal. This waterway was once used to move bananas to market and is now kept open by locals. We might encounter Ringed, Green, Amazon, and Green-and-rufous Kingfishers, an assortment of herons and egrets, multiple raptors, and many passerines that inhabit the mangrove forest. At the end of the canal, we will walk on a Caribbean beach where we will search for shorebirds, seabirds, and nighthawks that frequently roost on driftwood there. Before returning to the lodge, we'll venture out to Swan Caye, commonly known as "Bird Island", to watch Red-billed Tropicbirds and Brown Boobies as they fly in and out of their nests. We will enjoy some time in the late afternoon exploring the grounds of the lodge, including the observation tower at the lodge, where we're likely to see parrots coming in to roost at dusk, among many other species.

O/N Tranquilo Bay (BLD)



Snowy Cotinga

Day 14, March 23

This morning will give us the opportunity to swim, snorkel, or kayak in the warm waters surrounding Bastimentos Island. Snorkelers will visit some excellent reefs and will also have the opportunity to visit Jellyfish Lagoon as part of their morning activities. Kayaks are available for those who would rather spend the afternoon kayaking around the island, and for those who prefer to not spend time on or in the water, there will be a free morning to explore the grounds on your own, revisiting some of your favorites spots (such as the manakin lek or tower) or just relaxing on your front porch. After lunch, we will go back out in the boats for some birding around Isla Popa, the best site to spot the elusive Snowy Cotinga, just one of the many birds that can be spotted while drifting around the island.

O/N Tranquilo Bay (BLD)

Day 15, March 24

We will enjoy the last morning at Tranquilo Bay at leisure, with time to revisit our favorite places on the property, such as the Manakin leks or the observation tower, or to just relax on our front porches or in our air-conditioned rooms. We will depart for Bocas Town after lunch, catching an afternoon flight back to Panama City. Upon arrival at the Albrook Airport, we will be transported across the city to a hotel near the Tocumen International Airport and enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

Hotel Riande Aeropuerto or similar (BLD)

PLEASE NOTE: Plans for the final day are subject to change if negative Covid tests are still required at the time of our travel. If that happens, we would need to leave Tranquilo Bay on an earlier flight to allow time for a rapid test at or near the airport before going to our hotel.

Day 16, March 25

We will take the hotel shuttle to the Tocumen International Airport for our flights home, with each participant departing the hotel at a time that is most convenient for him/her. You will need to be at the airport 2.5 – 3 hours prior to your scheduled departure flight. A buffet breakfast is included with your hotel room; service begins at 6:00 AM. If you must leave the hotel earlier than 6:00 AM, you will need to buy your own breakfast at the airport. Hotel checkout time is 12:00 PM (noon). If needed, you may be able to get a late check-out form the hotel, but it cannot be guaranteed. The hotel will store your luggage and you can relax in the lounge or restaurant until the appropriate time for departure if you need to leave later than noon (or 1:00 PM if you get a late check-out).

End of tour (B)

PRICING DETAILS

Price includes:

- ~ Lodging
- ~ All meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)
- ~ All land transportation within Panama
- ~ Internal flights, Panama City – David and Bocas del Toro – Panama City
- ~ Airport transfers via hotel shuttles on day 1 and day 16
- ~ Airport transfer from Albrook Airport to our airport hotel
- ~ Entrance fees
- ~ Expert bilingual birding guides
- ~ Tips drivers, lodging staff, and local assistants
- ~ Services of a substitute *Cheepers!* tour leaders, Errol de Beer, our partner in South Africa
- ~ Pre-trip gift package including customized checklist
- ~ Post-trip electronic group checklist and digital photo collection

Price does NOT include:

- ~ International airfare to Panama City
- ~ Alcoholic drinks (Exceptions: wine with dinner at Canopy Camp, all drinks are included at Tranquilo Bay)
- ~ Travel insurance
- ~ Tips for guides (recommended rate is \$10 per day per person)
- ~ Expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, extra drinks and snacks, etc.
- ~ Covid testing

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Deposit of \$800 with registration. Balance is due on or before November 10, 2022.

Checks should be made payable to **Cheepers! Birding on a Budget** and mailed with the registration form to:

Cheepers! Birding on a Budget
Post Office Box 385
Spring Valley, OH 45370

Cancellation policy:

Cancellation should be made in writing (email or snail mail)

More than 6 months prior to departure – full refund of deposit

Between 4 and 6 months prior to departure – 50% refund of deposit

Less than 4 months prior to departure – No refund of deposit

If cancellation occurs after full payment is made, a refund will be given only if the vacant spot is filled.

Trip insurance is highly recommended.

You can compare insurance coverage and prices at the following websites:

www.quotewright.com

www.insuremytrip.com

Cheepers! Birding on a Budget LLC reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary if the need should arise due to unforeseeable circumstances such as weather, landslides, and other natural phenomena, as well as suggestions by local guides in order to take advantage of an unusual birding opportunity.