



The Birds of Western Belize & Tikal

5 nights / 6 days

Day 1: Arrive into Belize International Airport and meet our driver for transfer to Blancaneaux Lodge. Enjoy late afternoon birding on the property with our resident birding and natural history guides. Overnight at Blancaneaux Lodge. (D)

Day 2: A full day birding experience in the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve (MPR). We will visit 1000-Foot Falls, the nesting site of the Orange-breasted Falcon, Black and White Hawk-Eagles and King Vulture. We'll continue on to the Baldy Beacon observation point for stunning 360-degree panoramic views over the Bald Hills, MPR and the Chiquibul National Park. This is one of the few sites in Central America where it is possible to observe the extremely rare Solitary Eagle. We'll return to Blancaneaux Lodge via the roosting site of Stygian Owls for observation and to collect pellets for analysis. (B,L,D)

Day 3: A full day exploring the nearby broadleaf moist forest of the Noj Kaax Meen Elijo Panti National Park. We'll trek through pine ridge, transitional forest with large waterfalls and broadleaf moist forest. Our guides have documented 272 species in this region with species including Ocellated turkey, Great Curassow and Crested Guan. On our trek to Howler Hill we'll be able to observe many species of parrot, trogons, tanagers, flycatchers, warblers and seed eaters. Rare species such as the Keel-billed Motmot are also resident in this area. Howler Hill is a raptor 'hot spot' with Swallow-tailed and Plumbeous Kite, Laughing Falcon, White Hawk, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Black-Hawk Eagle, King Vulture and Barred Forest-Falcon all frequently observed. We'll return to the lodge by vehicle in the late afternoon. (B,L,D)

Day 4: After breakfast we transfer over the Belize/Guatemalan border to Blancaneaux Lodge's sister property La Lancha and arrive in time for lunch. La Lancha is beautifully situated on a steep rain forested slope overlooking Lake Petén Itzá. The lake is the second largest in Guatemala and a haven for bird life. In the afternoon we'll explore the shoreline and nearby Biotopo Cerro Cahui with our resident birding guide. Overnight La Lancha. (B,L,D)

Day 5: A full day birding in the Tikal National Park. We'll depart by vehicle after breakfast and drive for 45-minutes to this magnificent Maya site. Once at Tikal there is plenty of time to explore the many plazas, palaces and monolithic temples. Troops of noisy Howler and Spider Monkeys make their presence known as we wander between plaza groups. The temples tower above the canopy and provide superb vantage points for observing the many species of raptors at the site. Noisy Motezuma's Oropendula colonies hang their basket-like nests from Ceiba trees and Ocellated Turkey's strut the plazas in large groups. Blue-crowned and Tody Motmot as well as White-whiskered Puffbirds can all be seen here along with over 300 other species of birds, 200 of which nest within the National Park. We'll return to La Lancha in time to relax before dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 6: After an early breakfast we'll drive for 45-minutes to Flores International Airport for a 9:45am flight to Belize International Airport (arriving 10:45am) for onward connections. (B)

Pricing:

Rates are per couple sharing a Riverfront Cabana at Blancaneaux Lodge and a Lakeview Casita at La Lancha.

Winter Season: \$3655 US + \$458 US tax + \$146 US Ser. Charge

Summer Season: \$3345 US + \$414 US tax + \$125 US Ser. Charge

Trip Notes:

B = Full Cooked Breakfast; L = Lunch/Picnic Lunch; D = Dinner

Winter Season 2010: January 06th to March 29th; April 07th to April 30th; and December 01st to December 19th.

Summer Season 2010: May 01st to November 24th.