



Belize

A Caribbean Birding Paradise

Tour Leader: Janice Travis

December 5-14, 2026

Itinerary Overview:

December 5: Arrival in Belize City - Transfer to La Milpa Ecolodge and Research Center

December 6-7: La Milpa Ecolodge and Research Center

December 8: La Milpa, Blue Creek Rice Fields - Transfer to Crooked Tree

December 9: Crooked Tree Sanctuary - Transfer to Black Rock Lodge

December 10-11: Black Rock Lodge and Caracol Archaeological Site

December 12: Blue Hole National Park - Transfer to Hopkins

December 13: Cockscomb Basin & Mayflower Bocawina National Park

December 14: Transfer to Belize International Airport

Detailed Itinerary:

December 5: Arrival in Belize City - Transfer to La Milpa Ecolodge and Research Center

Your guides will meet you at Belize International Airport. Once we have the full group, we will transfer to La Milpa Ecolodge and Research Center which is approximately 2.5 hours from the airport.

If time allows, we will spend some time birding around the lodge once we are settled in. We'll enjoy a wonderful dinner at the lodge and have plenty of time to relax after a day of travel.

Overnight: La Milpa Ecolodge



Great Curassow (female)

December 6-7: La Milpa Ecolodge and Research Center

We will spend the next two full days exploring the incredible habitat surrounding the lodge in the Rio Bravo Conservation Area. This dense broadleaf forest is one of the prime birding hotspots in Belize. We'll be searching for a number of special species including some Yucatan endemics such as Gray-throated Chat, Rose-throated Tanager, Ocellated Turkey, Yucatan Poorwill, and more. There are many trails for us to explore including trails around a fantastic unexcavated Mayan archaeological site. Some of the many highlights might include Lovely Cotinga, Crested Guan, Great Curassow, and Barred Forest falcon to name a few. This area is also the best location in Belize to spot the rare Crested Eagle!

The birding is also great right around our lodge, and we'll have some time for more relaxed birding here. Ocellated Turkeys and Great Curassows regularly stroll around the grounds while the feeders are visited by many species of hummingbirds and tanagers such as White-necked Jacobin, Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers, and Yellow-winged Tanager. This is truly a birders' paradise!

Overnight: La Milpa Ecolodge

December 8: Morning at La Milpa with an afternoon transfer to Crooked Tree

We'll spend the morning birding around Blue Creek Rice Fields looking for an assortment of water-birds. With the correct conditions, these rice fields can be full of many species of shorebirds, wading birds, and ducks. Some of the possible highlights here include the hulking Jabiru, White-tailed Hawks, and the impossibly long-tailed Fork-tailed Flycatcher.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher

After lunch at La Milpa, we'll depart for Crooked Tree. Upon arrival, we will get settled in and then spend the rest of the day birding the trails surrounding the lodge.

Overnight: Bird's Eye View Lodge

December 9: Crooked Tree and Black Rock Lodge

Early this morning, we'll board our boat to take a wonderful sunrise tour of the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. This area is an important habitat for both migratory and non-migratory birds and was named Belize's first RAMSAR site in 1998. During our time on the water, we'll be looking for a number of very special species including Jabiru, Snail Kite, Black-collared Hawk, Agami Heron, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Sungrebe, and the endangered Yellow-headed Parrot. The lagoons should be full of herons, egrets, waterfowl, and shorebirds as well. There will be many photography opportunities so don't forget your camera!



American Pygmy Kingfisher

Once we have finished birding at Crooked Tree, we will make our way to Black Rock Lodge in Mountain Pine Ridge where we will be staying for the next three nights. The lodge, set within Belize's Elijio Panti National Park, and situated along the Macal River with stunning views of Black Rock Canyon, provides great access to pristine rainforest habitat. Over 390 bird species have been recorded here! If time allows, we will do some birding around the lodge.

Overnight: Black Rock Lodge

December 10: Black Rock Lodge

We will spend today birding around Black Rock Lodge and Elijio Panti National Park. We'll be spending the day birding along a variety of trails and roads as well as at the lodge feeders. Early in the morning, we'll be looking for along list of woodland birds such Tody Motmot, Keel-billed Toucan, Collared Aracari, Northern Emerald-Toucanet, White-necked Puffbird, Tropical Royal Flycatcher, Pheasant Cuckoo, and so much more!

As raptors become more active by the late morning, we'll want to keep our eyes out for Black-and-

white and Ornate Hawk-Eagles, and White Hawk, all of which are truly spectacular birds. We'll also be targeting the rare Orange-breasted Falcon. After a great day of birding, we will be able to enjoy another delicious dinner at our lodge.

Overnight: Black Rock Lodge

December 11: Caracol Archeological Site

Today we will visit the remarkable Caracol archeological site. We'll leave early from Black Rock as the drive out to Caracol offers some amazing birding. Once at Caracol, we'll be exploring the largest archeological site in Belize, covering 30 square miles. The site includes five plazas, an astronomic observatory, and over 35,000 buildings that have been identified. The loftiest among them is a massive pyramid (Caana) capped by three temples that rises over 140 feet above the jungle floor.



Slaty-tailed Trogon

The birding at the archaeological site is incredible and many of the birds will be at eye-level! Some of the many highlights could include Scarlet Macaw, King Vulture, White-whiskered Puffbird, four trogon species, Keel-billed and Tody Motmots, and many, many more.

Overnight: Black Rock Lodge

December 12: Transfer to Hopkins with a birding stop at Blue Hole National Park

After breakfast we'll start on our way to Hopkins. Along the way, we'll make a stop at Blue Hole National Park. The reserve has lots of trails that provide an excellent opportunity for birding. Some of the birds that we expect to find out here include Spotted-Wood Quail, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Crested Guan, Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, Royal Flycatcher, Purple-crowned Fairy, Barred and Great Antshrikes, Orange-billed Sparrow, Northern Emerald-Toucanet, and more.

Once we are finished at Blue Hole, we'll make our way to Hopkins and The Colonial at Jaguar Reef where we will spend the next two nights.

Overnight: The Colonial at Jaguar Reef

December 13: Cockscomb Basin and Maryflower Bocawina National Park

Our day will start with birding in the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary. We'll be searching for an exciting list of birds such as Chestnut-headed Oropendola, White-collared Manakin, Crested Guan, Rufous-breasted Spinetail, Scarlet-rumped and Crimson-collared Tanagers, Orange-billed Sparrow, Dusky Antbird, Dot-winged Antwren, Black-faced Grosbeak, Hook-billed Kite, and many more.



White-collared Manakin

In the afternoon, we'll visit Mayflower Bocawina National Park, a fantastic nature reserve composed of more than 7,000 acres of exceptional tropical forest. Here we hope to find Tody and Keel-billed Motmots, Slaty-breasted and Little Tinamous, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Black-faced Antthrush, Black-and-white and Spectacled Owls, American Pygmy Kingfisher, White-winged and Cinnamon Becards, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, and Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet, to mention some of the many neotropical birds that inhabit this reserve.

After, we'll return to Hopkins and enjoy a wonderful farewell dinner to celebrate a fantastic trip!

Overnight: The Colonial at Jaguar Reef

December 14: Transfer to Belize International Airport

After breakfast, we will transfer back to Belize International Airport for everyone's flights home.

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Belize City, Belize: \$5,299

Single Supplement: \$750

Minimum Participants: 6

Maximum Participants: 10

Price Includes:

2 Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Belize

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from Belize City, Belize

Airport Taxes

Passport and Visa Fees

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Travel Insurance

Tips

Deposit:

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (September 6, 2026).

If you have an questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

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