SABREWING
NATURE TOURS



Mexico

Oaxacan Adventure

Tour Leaders: Whitney Lanfranco

January 8-18, 2028

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Itinerary Overview:

January 8: Arrival in Huatulco - Transfer to Hotel
January 9: Arrival in Huatulco - Transfer to Juchitan de Zaragoza
January 10: Ojo de Agua - Transfer to Huatulco
January 11: Pelagic Tour - Transfer to Finca Don Gabriel
January 12: Pluma de Oro - Transfer to Cabañas Puesta del Sol
January 13: San Jose del Pacifico
January 14: San Jose del Pacifico - Transfer to Oaxaca
January 15: Benito Juárez Eco-Touristic Center and Yagul Archaeological Site
January 16: Monte Alban and Mezcal Experience
January 17: La Cumbre Ixtepeji and Ex-Hacienda Aranjuez
January 18: Departure from Oaxaca

Detailed Itinerary:

January 8: Arrival in Huatulco - Transfer to Hotel

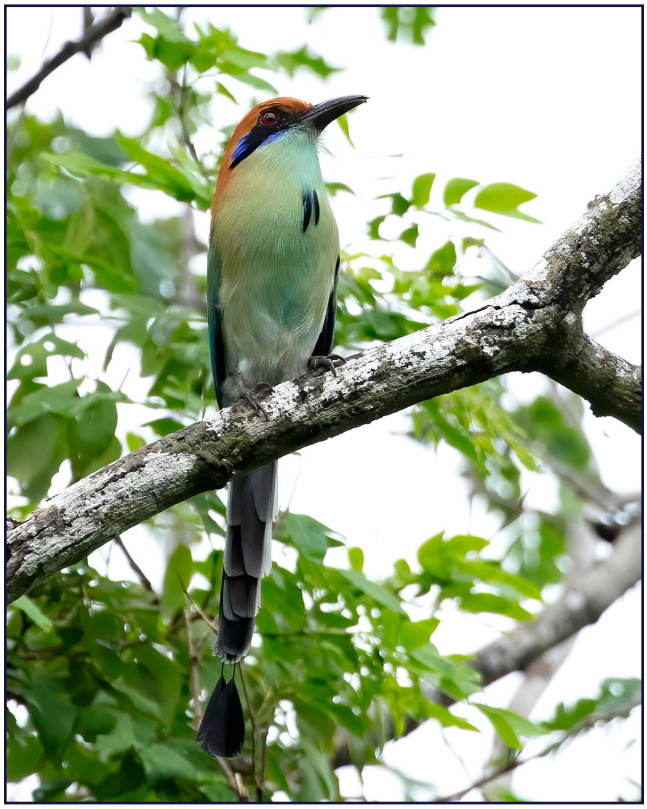
We will meet you at Huatulco International Airport and transfer you to your hotel. After check-in, if timing allows, we will go to a nearby spot to start our birding adventure before a delicious welcome dinner at a local restaurant.
-Overnight: Holiday Inn or Similar

January 9: Arrival in Huatulco - Transfer to Juchitan de Zaragoza

Huatulco National Park is one of the most biodiverse regions on Mexico's Pacific Coast, combining tropical dry forests with mangroves. We will begin our morning listening for Mottled Owls and Colima Pygmy Owls. As the sun rises, we will venture out into the network of trails looking for targets such as Citreoline Trogon, Orange-breasted Bunting, White-throated Magpie-Jay, Flammulated Flycatcher, Red-breasted Chat, and Russet-crowned Motmot.

We will return to the hotel for breakfast before transferring to Juchitan de Zaragoza, where we will bird Playa Santa María Xadani on Laguna Superior.

Laguna Superior is an inner coastal lagoon on the Pacific Ocean. The tropical deciduous and mangrove forest of Santa Maria Xandi makes it a haven for shorebirds and passerines. In addition to an abundance of shorebirds, we will also search for Magnificent Frigatebird, Roseate Spoonbill, Mangrove Warbler, Northern Jacana, Rufous-browed Pepper Shrike, Russet-naped Wren, and Stripe-headed Sparrow. After an excellent afternoon of birding, we will continue to our hotel in Juchitan.
-Overnight: Hotel Suites Regente



Russet-crowned Motmot

January 10: Ojo de Agua - Transfer to Huatulco

We will check out of our hotel and drive to Tolistoque Ojo de Agua. This destination offers birders a mix of riparian and semi-arid environments, sometimes with water from nearby farming areas. This ideal destination for riparian birding is where we will search for the stunning Rose-bellied Bunting, Citreoline Trogon, Plain-capped Starthroat, Turquoise-crowned Hummingbird, Beautiful Hummingbird, and White-lored Gnatcatcher.

After a morning of birding, we will head back to Huatulco, where we will have a refreshing lunch before continuing to bird at El Candelario Trail in hopes of finding West Mexican Chachalaca, Squirrel Cuckoo, Streak-backed Oriole, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Orange-fronted Parakeet, and other riparian bird species. We will return to Huatulco and check into our hotel before dinner.
-Overnight: Holiday Inn or Similar

January 11: Pelagic Tour - Transfer to Finca Don Gabriel

We will rise early and board a boat for a quick 5-hour pelagic trip in Huatulco National Park with opportunities to spot species like Wedge-tailed and Pink-footed Shearwaters, Black Storm-Petrel, Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies, and Pomarine Jaeger, among others. The pelagic is weather-dependent, and plans for other birding will be made if we can't get out for the pelagic.

After the pelagic, we will say goodbye to Huatulco and climb in elevation on our way to Finca Don

Gabriel, our hotel with a mountain view. We will check into the hotel and have lunch while admiring the stunning views. Then, we will head to Pluma Oro del Sur for birding before returning for dinner at the hotel.
-Overnight: Finca Don Gabriel

January 12: Pluma de Oro - Transfer to Cabañas Puesta del Sol

We will return to Pluma Oro del Sur in the morning to try our luck with nocturnal species such as Mexican Whip-poor-will and Middle American Screech-Owl. The habitat and birds will have changed now that we are in the highlands. We will spend our morning searching the pine-oak forests for species such as Red-headed Tanager, Blue-capped Hummingbird, Blue Mockingbird, Happy Wren, Golden Vireo, Spot-breasted Oriole, Golden-crowned Warbler, Northern Emerald-Toucanet, and Mexican Hermit.

We will then enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by a local family before checking out of our hotel and continuing to our next lodge, Cabanas Puesta del Sol. A lovely and well-maintained garden surrounds these charming mountain cabins. After checking in, we will bird the grounds in search of species such as Bumblebee, Garnet-throated, Rivoli's, and White-eared Hummingbirds, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, Mexican Chickadee, and Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer. After birding, we will enjoy a locally sourced dinner at the hotel restaurant.
-Overnight: Cabañas Puesta del Sol



Golden Vireo

January 13: San Jose del Pacifico

We will start the morning by birding on the hotel grounds before breakfast. Then, we'll will continue towards Camino El Manzanal. Amidst the pine-oak forests typical of the Sierra Norte, Cabañas Pues-

ta del Sol and El Mazanal Road provide excellent birding opportunities, where you can see species such as Red Warbler, White-throated Towhee, Gray-barred Wren, and Dwarf Vireo.

After a full morning of birding, we will return to Cabañas Puesta del Sol, where we will spend the day birding the grounds and recouping for the rest of our journey.
-Overnight: Cabañas Puesta del Sol

January 14: San Jose del Pacifico - Transfer to Oaxaca

We say goodbye to beautiful Cabanas Puesta del Sol and continue our journey to the bustling city of Oaxaca. Along the way, we will stop for lunch at a unique location featuring local cuisine and juices. Bring your wallets for a special opportunity to shop for whimsical carved animals known as Alebrijes.

We will check into Hotel Misión de Angeles (our home for the rest of the tour) and bird the grounds before going out into the city for our first taste of Oaxaca's famous cuisine.
-Overnight: Hotel Misión de Angeles

January 15: Benito Juárez Eco-Touristic Center and Yagul Archaeological Site

We will depart early for Presa Piedra Azul (Blue Rock Dam), which combines mixed forests and a riparian ecosystem surrounded by water. This blend of habitats is ideal for many birds, including Bridled Sparrow, White-throated Towhee, Hooded Yellowthroat, Slate-throated Redstart, Black-vented Oriole, Hepatic Tanager, Curve-billed Thrasher, Black Phoebe, Great Kiskadee, and Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater.



Bridled Sparrow

We'll continue to the Benito Juárez Eco-touristic Center for more birding in the dense pine and oak forests. The pristine high-altitude ecosystems offer stunning views and provide habitat for many bird

species, including Dusky Hummingbird, Red Warbler, Dwarf Jay, Collared Towhee, Mountain Trogon, and Olive Warbler.

We'll have lunch at a wonderful local restaurant before heading to the Yagul Archaeological Site to continue our birding. Located in the semi-arid region of Oaxaca, Yagul features patches of xerophytic scrub vegetation interspersed with cacti and small trees. This ancient site provides shelter for several notable bird species, including the Gray-breasted Woodpecker, Vermilion Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, and Blue-black Grassquit. It is also a great place to observe the Rufous-capped Warbler, which thrives in the dry shrublands surrounding the ruins.

We will return to the hotel for a short break and then venture back into the city for another delightful culinary experience.
-Overnight: Hotel Misión de Angeles

January 16: Monte Alban and Mezcal Experience

We will begin our morning at the UNESCO World Archaeological Heritage site of Monte Alban, located in the central valley of Oaxaca. There, we will enjoy a walk along the Ecological Trail, where dry forests and shrublands around the archaeological site offer birders the chance to see species like the Ocellated Thrasher, Blue Mockingbird, and Pileated Flycatcher. The area is also home to the Slaty Vireo, Elegant Euphonia, Gray Silky-flycatcher, and migratory species such as the Western Tanager and Townsend's Warbler.

We will return to Oaxaca to have lunch in a local restaurant and then enjoy a special cultural activity. Besides being known for its cuisine and endemic birds, Oaxaca is also the epicenter of mezcal culture. The agaves from which this liquor is derived thrive in the sunny, arid regions around the city. The word "mezcal" translates to oven-cooked agave! We will spend the afternoon at Mezcal Don Agave, learning the distilling process and getting a little sample of the local spirit.
-Overnight: Hotel Misión de Angeles

January 17: La Cumbre Ixtepeji and Ex-Hacienda Aranjuez

It's our last day of birding in Oaxaca, and we will make it count by starting at La Cumbre Ixtepeji. Located within the Sierra Norte, this road boasts lush pine-oak forests and sections of cloud forest, making it a rich environment for bird species. Birds we hope to encounter include Dwarf Jay, Gray-barred Wren, Aztec Thrush, and more opportunities for photos of Red Warbler.

We will stop at Colibrí Restaurant for breakfast, where the lovely deck and gardens provide opportunities for Blue-throated Mountain-gem, Rivoli's Hummingbird, and Collared Towhee.

We'll bird our way back to Oaxaca for lunch and spend our afternoon at Ex-Hacienda Aranjuez. This

historical site is surrounded by semi-arid landscapes and cultivated fields, attracting various birds adapted to open habitats. Oaxaca Sparrow is commonly seen in this area.

We will then return to our hotel before one final dinner in one of Oaxaca's fine restaurants.
-Overnight: Hotel Misión de Angeles

January 18: Departure from Oaxaca

After breakfast, we will say our goodbyes and transfer to Oaxaca International Airport.



Orange-breasted Bunting



Gray-breasted Woodpecker

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy) from Huatulco to Oaxaca, Mexico: $5,699
Single Supplement: $800

Minimum Participants: 6
Maximum Participants: 10

Price Includes:

Expert Guides
Ground Transportation in Mexico
All Lodging
All Meals
Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to Huatulco and from Oaxaca
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 (October 10, 2027).

If you have any 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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