Belize, Guatemala & Honduras
Best of Central America
16th to 31st January 2019 (16 days)

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 Ant thrush, Northern 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!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

MAIN TOUR

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Day 1: Arrival in Belize and transfer to Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. After landing at Belize City International Airport, participants will be met and escorted to the luxurious Crooked Tree Lodge approximately an hour away. 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. If time permits, we hope to get in a few hours of late afternoon birding followed by dinner and some night birding. We can hope to see Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Snail Kite, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Limpkin, Black-collared Hawk, Tropical Mockingbird and Buff-bellied Hummingbird. This evening after dinner, we head out to search for potoos, owls and nighthawks during an evening birding exploration around the lodge.
Day 2: Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. We start birding in earnest this morning with an early morning boat trip through the maze of lagoons and creeks. While many of the waterfowl we see today will be present 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.

Day 3: Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary to Pine Ridge Mountains. We will spend a few hours attempting to clear up any missing species we may have missed such as Yucatan and Yellow-headed Amazons, Rufous-breasted Spinetail, Northern Cardinal, Couch’s Kingbird and Green-backed Sparrow before embarking on a stunning drive to our next destination. We climb from the humid lowlands 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. After another action packed day’s birding, we shall retire to our luxury lodging located in a private nature reserve.

Day 4: Pine Ridge Mountains. We will spend a full day birding amongst our diverse surroundings, paying particular attention to the unique Caribbean Pine ecosystem. 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 a number of 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 *mesamericana* 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 a
number of shy 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!

Day 5: Cahal Pech Mayan Archaeological Site and transfer to Tikal, Guatemala. 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 1950s 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.

After a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, we will then transfer to the great ancient city of Tikal for a two-night stay within the Tikal National Park. En route to Tikal, we will stop at several wetlands where we should add some additional birds to our list. These may include Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, Neotropic Cormorant, Black-necked Stilt, Northern Jacana, Wilson’s Snipe, Green and Ringed Kingfishers, Mangrove Swallow and a variety of gulls and terns.

Our afternoon arrival at Tikal will allow us some time to stroll around our eco-lodge and surrounds, including a productive pond. 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 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 Rufous-naped Wood Rail. Here we can also observe the uncommon Morelet’s Crocodile, another Yucatan endemic.
**Days 6 & 7: 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 cover an area of more than 16 square kilometres (6.2 square miles) and include about 3,000 structures; though the residential area of Tikal covers an estimated 60 square kilometres (23 square miles), all of which now falls within the 570 square kilometre (220 square miles) 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. Although much of the city has been restored, there are still thousands of structures 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.

We will spend the 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 sightings. Birds are abundant around the site, offering a differing suite of lowland rainforest denizens than previously recorded. We can expect to come across many of the following species: Crane Hawk, Olive-throated Parakeet, White-crowned Parrot, Red-lored and Mealy Amazons, Wedge-tailed Sabrewing, White-necked Jacobin, Purple-crowned Fairy, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Blue-diademed Motmot, White-whiskered Puffbird, the multi-coloured Keel-billed Toucan, impressive Pale-billed Woodpecker, Olivaceous, Strong-billed and army ant swarm-loving Ruddy Woodcreeper, secretive Mayan Anthrush, attractive Eye-ringed Flatbill, Bright-rumped Attila, the lovely Olive-backed Euphonia, Golden-crowned Warbler and Grey-headed Tanager (another ant swarm specialis). Tikal also supports healthy populations of the impressively loud Guatemalan Howler Monkey and agile Geoffroy’s Spider Monkey, which will no doubt entertain us. 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.

**White-collared Manakin by Adam Riley**

**Bushy-crested Jay by David Shackelford**
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 (of the distinctive Ridgeway’s subspecies), White-breasted Wood and White-bellied Wrens, White-bellied Emerald, the active Long-billed Gnatwren, Black-cowled Oriole, the localised Black-throated Shrike-Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Red-crowned and Red-throated Ant Tanagers and Blue Bunting.

The grounds around Tikal also teem with a host of North American migrant warblers, flycatchers, vireos, orioles 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.

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!

It’s an exciting feeling to have these grand Archaeological sites 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 731AD), 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 breathtaking 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! 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.

**Day 8: Tikal National Park to Guatemala Highlands of Alta Verapaz.** After an early breakfast, we will transfer to the highlands of Alta Verapaz. Today is mostly a travel day, but we hope to spend some time birding the grounds of our well-appointed hotel after arriving. With a little luck, we may be able to entice a Guatemalan Pygmy Owl into view or find Collared Trogon, Bushy-crested Jay and Rufous-browed Peppershrike amongst many others.
**Day 9: Biotopo del Quetzal.** An early start will see us birding the Los Ranchitos Private Reserve where a single hike often produces over 100 species! We have an excellent chance of finding a number of mid-elevation cloud forest species such as the highly desirable Resplendent Quetzal, Green-throated Mountain Gem, Highland Guan and Slate-colored Solitaire as well as the rather tricky Black-headed and Spotted Nightingale-Thrushes, Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner, Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser, Northern Nightingale-Wren and Shining Honeycreeper. Both Azure-hooded and Unicolored Jays will no doubt add further colour and boisterousness to proceedings.

**Day 10: Biotopo del Quetzal and transfer to Copán, Honduras.** We have a few more hours around our lodgings before setting off for Honduras. We should arrive in the Copán area in the early afternoon, where we will break for lunch prior to some afternoon birding 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.

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) in the late afternoon. Some of the many possibilities here include Blue-diademed 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.

**Day 11: La Laguna Road and Copán Mayan Archaeological Site.** 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.

After what should be an excellent morning’s birding, we will return for a hearty lunch in the little village of Copán Ruinas. The rest of the afternoon will then be devoted to a combined 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 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.

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 access 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. After this very exciting and informative afternoon, we will then return to our now familiar accommodations for a well-deserved meal and a good night’s rest.

**Day 12: Copán to Pico Bonito Lodge.**
After breakfast, we depart on a long drive to our final destination of the tour, a luxury eco-resort in the Parque Nacional Pico Bonito - our base for the next 4 nights. 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.

**Day 13: Pico Bonito Lodge.** Following an early breakfast, we will spend the morning 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 lush forested areas include Turquoise-browed Motmot, 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 White-collared Seedeaters and an array of...
overwintering North American migrants including various vireos, warblers, buntings and orioles.

Breaking for lunch, we will then head off to 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, in particular, 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.

**Day 14: Day trip to 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.

**Day 15: Pico Bonito to San Pedro Sula via Lancetilla Bot. Gardens and final departures.** Today we will depart early and drive to the lovely Lancetilla Botanic Gardens near the coastal town of Tela. Initially created as an agricultural research centre and experimental station by the United Fruit Company, the property rapidly expanded in size and 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.

Lunch will be had at a local restaurant, following which we will then continue with our explorations of the area until the late afternoon, when we will return to our lodge to freshen up before our final celebratory dinner together.

Day 16: Pico Bonito Lodge to San Pedro Sula and final departures. This morning our Honduran adventure comes to an end and we will transfer to the San Pedro Sula airport for our onward flights homeward bound.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:
Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:
- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 16;
- All lodgings as per itinerary;
- Ground transportation mentioned in the itinerary;
- Reserve entrance fees;
- Gratuities for local guides and services; and
- Guiding services of local guides and Rockjumper tour leader.

This excludes:
- Any airfares;
- Any beverages;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

IMPORTANT NOTES:
a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however 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 (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.
b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.
c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.
d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated
Rockjumper leader at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping:
As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader. If, therefore, you feel that he has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip him.

Please note:
- 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 the mountainous areas of Guatemala on foot along forest trails that are steep and, depending on weather conditions, sometimes slippery. A generally good level of fitness is required for this tour,
- 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.
- Accommodation throughout the trip is quite comfortable and a variety of western and local cuisines are available throughout the tour.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:
This tour does not include ANY airfares. The tour will begin in Belize City on day 1 with a transfer to Crooked Tree Lodge. Although day 1 is scheduled as an arrival day, you are advised to arrive before 14:00 should you wish to start birding in the afternoon. The tour will conclude after breakfast on day 16 with a transfer from Pico Bonito Lodge to Ramón Villeda Morales International Airport, San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

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.

FLIGHTS:
Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport, Belize City (IATA: BZE) is the main port of entry for international flights into Belize and is well serviced by international airlines. The tour concludes at Ramón Villeda Morales International Airport, San Pedro Sula, Honduras (IATA: SAP) and is equally well serviced by a number of international airlines. Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.