



Audubon TEXAS

BELIZE
March 7-16, 2014

Though small in size, Belize is ideal for birders; the population density is low and much of its land is protected. Join Audubon Texas on this 10-day exploration of the country's birding hotspots. Delve into the myriad habitats - including wetlands, Caribbean cays, primary rainforest, and pine savannah - that offer protection to a wide array of avifauna, all while discovering the natural and cultural history that make Belize unique in Central America and the world.

Program Highlights

Hike the multiple habitats of the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, established in 1984 by the Belize Audubon Society.

Visit the ruins of Lamanai, once a ceremonial center of the Maya civilization, and look for Collared Aracaris, Snail Kites, and tanagers.

See the rookeries at Man O'War Caye, a major nesting site for Magnificent Frigatebirds and also home to a community of Brown Boobies.

Explore Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, home to such species as the Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Keel-billed Motmot, and Crested Guan.

About Your Leader

Tania Homayoun joined Audubon Texas in July 2011 as the senior manager for conservation and education at the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center and served as its interim center director from September 2012 through February 2013. As senior conservation biologist, Tania is developing Audubon Texas' urban conservation initiative. The goal of her work is to develop programs and activities that support North Texas' unique biodiversity and encourage people to make their own communities and backyards bird and wildlife-friendly. Tania completed her PhD in conservation biology at the University of Minnesota, investigating the impacts of urban development on migrating landbirds through citizen science monitoring.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLBROOK TRAVEL



PHOTO BY KAREN STRAUS



BELIZE
March 7-16, 2014

Audubon TEXAS

Itinerary

MARCH 7 - CROOKED TREE

Upon arrival in Belize, transfer from the airport to Bird's Eye View Lodge. Enjoy dinner and an orientation this evening. Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (D)

MARCH 8 - CROOKED TREE

Early this morning take a boat trip on the lagoon for birding. Visit the Crooked Tree Sanctuary, which contains both wetland and terrestrial habitats, and learn about the Belize Audubon Society's role in the creation of this park. While here, be on the lookout for Northern Jacana, Sungrebe, and Jabiru, among others. This afternoon enjoy time to explore the area on your own. Talk with a local researcher or conservationist this evening. Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (BLD)

MARCH 9 - CROOKED TREE

Today travel by boat up the New River to the Maya ruins of Lamanai, with birding along the way. Lamanai, whose name means "submerged crocodile," was once a prominent ceremonial center of the Maya civilization. The surrounding forest is home to hundreds of species, such as the Collared Aracari, Snail Kite, flycatchers, and tanagers. Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (BLD)

MARCH 10 - SAN IGNACIO

Begin today with early birding. After breakfast travel to Pook's Hill Reserve. En route, stop at the Belize Zoo, which exhibits more than 125 native animals. Outside the zoo, watch for the Common Tody-Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Blue-gray Tanager, and Olive Sparrow. Settle in at Pook's Hill this afternoon and enjoy dinner at the lodge. Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)

MARCH 11 - SAN IGNACIO

Wake up today for early morning birding. Pook's Hill has been described as a "birder's paradise." Spot toucans, trogons, orioles, woodpeckers, and hawks, just to name a few. After breakfast head out for a hike in the primary rainforest of Pook's Reserve. After lunch go for a swim or inner-tubing on the Roaring River. Meet at the Maya plaza later this afternoon for a short talk about the archaeological history of the Pook's Hill site and the Maya people who lived in the valley. Take an optional night walk after dinner. Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)

MARCH 12 - SAN IGNACIO

After breakfast, head up through the rugged back roads of the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve to explore the pine savannah habitat. Travel to the beautiful Rio On Pools, which are a series of granite cascades flowing into refreshing pools that are perfect for a swim. Then visit the Green Hills Butterfly Ranch to discover the biodiversity of this small country's native butterflies. More than 200 bird species have also been recorded on the 100-acre property; watch for the dozens of hummingbirds that are attracted to feeders in the area. Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)

MARCH 13 - HOPKINS

Depart today for Jaguar Reef Lodge, stopping for exploration at the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as Jaguar Preserve. Hike through the towering jungle, making your way to one of the park's many impressive waterfalls. The reserve's varying ecosystems provide protection for such species as the Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Keel-billed Motmot, and Crested Guan. Enjoy a traditional Maya lunch at the Maya Center Mayan Museum. Then arrive at Jaguar Reef in the quaint fishing village of Hopkins with time to enjoy a cool drink on the beach. Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (BLD)

MARCH 14 - HOPKINS

Today take a boat trip to Bird Island, also known as Man O' War Caye, to see rookeries and go snorkeling. This bird sanctuary is a major nesting site for the Magnificent Frigatebird and is also home to a large community of Brown Boobies. Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (BLD)

MARCH 15 - HOPKINS

This morning enjoy a snorkeling excursion. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore the area. Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (BLD)

MARCH 16 - FAREWELL!

Depart in time to catch your flight back to Dallas. (B)



HOLBROOK
TRAVEL



BELIZE
March 7-16, 2014

Audubon TEXAS

Program Pricing

\$2,995

Price does not include international airfare, estimated at \$700 from Dallas.

The Fine Print

Cost is based on 10 participants in double occupancy. With the maximum of 12 participants the cost will be \$2,895. For a single room throughout the trip add \$695. A \$200 deposit is due with your enrollment to hold your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable until December 2, 2013 excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payment is due on December 2, 2013. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.



PHOTO BY BILL HILTON JR

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Debbie Sturdivant Jordan

866-748-6146

debbie@holbrooktravel.com

holbrooktravel.com/privategroups/audubontx



HOLBROOK
TRAVEL



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLBROOK TRAVEL