

# Southern Belize: Pristine & Wild

## With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures

March 13 – 21, 2021

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Naturalist Journeys, LLC





Join us for a Southern Belize birding tour to explore an enchanting blend of Mayan ruins, exquisite coastline, and lush tropical broadleaf and pine forests that are still wild enough to host jaguars, tapirs, and a colorful array of tropical birds. Belize is Central America's least populated country and we make your logistics for travel simple — from US gateway cities it's only a two hour flight! The welcoming Belizean people speak English (often with Spanish and Mayan as second languages), have a strong tradition of caretaking their country's natural heritage, and enjoy sharing their knowledge of the region's biodiversity. Some of the very best-trained wildlife and birding guides in Latin America live and work in Belize.

This is an incredible trip for biodiversity. Traverse several of Belize's distinctive ecoregions, focusing on the sub-montane Caribbean pine habitat that is lush with waterfalls in the rugged Maya Mountains, as well as lowland tropical pine forest, moist broad-leaved forest, and open savanna in the Cayo and Toledo Districts. We also spend a day visiting tropical riparian scrub, coastal mangrove, and seagrass environments north of Punta Gorda.

Enjoy seven nights at two of the country's most outstanding nature lodges with a night at the beach in-between, at Muy 'Ono's Hopkins Bay Resort. New in 2021! The chance to visit Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Preserve. Hidden Valley Inn is situated in a remote private nature reserve in the Mountain Pine Ridge area and boasts an extensive trail system; the Lodge at

## Tour Highlights

- Hike the Caribbean pine forests of central and southern Belize, one of the most unique and threatened habitats in Central America
- Bird at Central America's highest waterfall
- Interact with conservationists at Hidden Valley Inn, with the chance to observe seldom seen species like Orange-breasted Falcon and Solitary Eagle
- Witness one of the largest Mayan cities, only partly excavated, at the World Heritage Site of Caracol
- Enjoy early morning bird walks at the Lodge at Big Falls, searching for rarities such as Bare-crowned Antbird and Black-and-White Owl
- Look for tropical woodpeckers and woodcreepers at Nim Li Punit, an under-visited Mayan site with the largest collection of carved stelae in Belize
- Visit karst habitats of the San Felipe Hills, featuring broad-leaf tropical forest and reclusive understory species such as Nightingale Wren and Tody Motmot
- In coastal mangroves, look for Manatees, Neotropical River Otters, Howler Monkeys, and the reclusive Agami Heron
- Bird with Steven Choco, one of Central America's top guides
- NEW! In 2021, visit Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Preserve on the east side of the Maya Mountains, stronghold for Jaguar and other wildland species as well as fabulous birds

## Tour Summary

9-Day / 8-Night Southern Belize Nature Tour w/ Steve Choco & Peg Abbott

\$3990 from Belize City, Belize

Airport is Philip S. W. Goldson International (BZE)



Big Falls is strategically located in far southern Belize, along a languid river that hosts several bird species not encountered further north. Muy 'Ono's Hopkins Bay Resort is right on the ocean, adjacent to some premier birding lagoons. These lodges offer professional and knowledgeable staff, excellent cuisine, refreshing pools, and charming, comfortable, and quiet accommodations.

We invite you to join us for this in-depth exploration of a less-visited region of Southern Belize. Emphasis is on natural history, birding, forest ecology, Mayan heritage, and simple, relaxing fun.

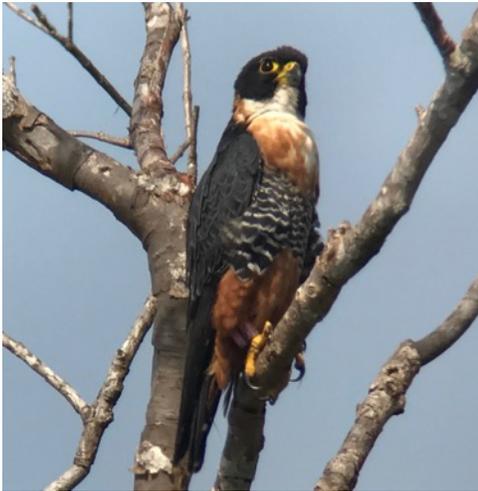
## Itinerary

### **Sat., March 13 Arrival in Belize | Transfer to Hidden Valley Inn**

After arriving in Belize City by early afternoon, we join our drivers for a three-hour drive (via Belmopan) to the striking 2,000-foot escarpment of the Mountain Pine Ridge, a picturesque highland area of south-central Belize. We plan to check in at Hidden Valley Inn in time for late afternoon refreshments and an evening meal. You may wish to arrive early to start your trip well-rested.

On the way, we keep our binoculars handy, scanning fencerows and utility lines for the first birds of the trip. Expect to see Tropical Kingbird, Vermilion and Social Flycatchers, Great Kiskadee, White-collared Seedeater, and Tropical Mockingbird, with Lesser Yellow-headed and Black Vultures soaring overhead. We also keep our eyes open for wading birds in the roadside wetlands and farm ponds as we move into the countryside, watching for Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, Wood Stork, and possibly a Roseate Spoonbill.

We soon arrive at Hidden Valley and our lodgings for the next three nights. The lodge is nestled in a private, impressive 7,200-acre nature reserve featuring open Caribbean pine habitat with scattered pockets of tropical broadleaf forest. Yellow-backed and Yellow-tailed Orioles often form the welcoming committee, with Acorn and Golden-olive Woodpeckers foraging in the nearby pines. The lovely gardens of the property support Melodious Blackbird, Green Jay, Ferruginous Pygmy-owl, Masked Tityra, Slaty-tailed Trogon, and Plain Chachalaca, as well as several hummingbirds, including Azure-crowned and White-necked Jacobin. Neo-tropical migrants overwinter here, too (including Arizona "Sky Island Specialties" such as Greater Pewee, Grace's Warbler, and Hepatic Tanager), and some or all of these should still be active when we arrive.



Each of the inn's luxurious cottages feature a fireplace and handmade mahogany and leather furniture, with full bath (including shower), comfortable bed, writing desk, screened windows, and Wi-Fi. We settle in, check out the swimming pool, and then meet at the main lodge for a delicious welcome dinner with our guides and traveling companions. We look forward to drifting off to the nocturnal sounds of the forest.

*Accommodations at Hidden Valley Inn (D)*

## **Sun., March 14 Mountain Pine Ridge**

While enjoying our first sunrise coffee of the trip, Brown and Green Jays, orioles, and raucous Plain Chachalaca may put on an energetic show at the feeding stations outside the lodge's dining room area, often competing with less aggressive species such as Ruddy Ground Dove, Gray-headed Pigeon, and Clay-colored Thrush for the seeds and fruit placed out each morning by the staff.

We head out after breakfast and take our bearings, initially exploring areas close to home on Hidden Valley's trails and nearby jeep tracks, keeping an eye out overhead for raptors such as Plumbeous and Swallow-tailed Kites as the morning warms. Moving away from the lodge grounds, the open pine and scrub vegetation likely has plenty of activity, and we scour the area for Rufous-capped Warbler, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, and Dusky-capped Flycatcher. A nearby pond has had pairs of Least Grebes in past years. Venturing into the hardwood forest below the inn is also often productive, and may reveal a range of resident tropical species, such as Collared and Black-headed Trogons, Pale-vented and Scaled Pigeons, various woodcreepers, or Lesser Greenlet.

After lunch we take a short, leisurely drive to Thousand-foot Falls, Central America's highest waterfall. Rusty Sparrow and Black-headed Siskin are typically among the first birds seen when we arrive, and the rarely



encountered Solitary Eagle (related to the Black Hawk) and Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle are recorded here each year. From the viewing platform we search the dense broadleaf forest cloaking the canyon for Orange-breasted Falcon, a species thought to have only 30 pairs remaining in this area of Central America. The Orange-breasted may be the most sparsely distributed falcon world-wide, yet its actual abundance and distribution is potentially obscured by confusion with the more common and similar-appearing Bat Falcon (a species we may see later). Hidden Valley Inn provides critical logistical support for conservation research being conducted on the Orange-breasted Falcon.

If time allows, we may also visit nearby King Vulture Falls. As the name suggests, this is a roosting area for the imposing King Vulture, second only to the Condors among New World vultures in overall mass and wingspan. We hope to get good looks as they return from soaring on the thermals along the escarpment. After another enjoyable dinner, we listen for Stygian Owls, one of the rarest owls in Central America.

*Accommodations at Hidden Valley Inn (B,L,D)*

## **Mon., March 15 Barton Creek Cave Reserve or Caracol Mayan Ceremonial Center**

*Participants have their choice of two activities today. We will confirm which you prefer before departure.*

### **Option One: Barton Creek Cave Reserve**

After another satisfying breakfast at Hidden Valley, we head out for Barton Creek Cave Reserve. We take the opportunity to bird on the way, with over 300 species having been recorded from the foothills between Hidden Valley Inn and our destination. Our local guides at Hidden Valley determine our birding itinerary this morning, steering us to local hotspots based on recent sightings. On a sunny day, 50 species or more can easily be seen along our route. Highlights may include Blue-gray and Yellow-winged Tanagers, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Blue Ground Dove, Roadside Hawk, Olive-throated Parakeet, Red-lore Parrot, Blue Bunting, Barred Forest-Falcon, Rose-throated Becard, Squirrel Cuckoo, and Black-cowled Oriole (just to name a few!).

Situated not far from the Mennonite community of Barton Creek are the cool, dark caverns of Barton Creek Cave. The Barton Creek Cave system extends over four miles, featuring impressive stalagmites and stalactites and a navigable underground stream. Recent studies at the cave have provided considerable information regarding the importance of caverns within Maya culture.

The cave entrance is one of the few places where Ridgeway's Rough-winged Swallow, a rare, cave-nesting subspecies of the more familiar Northern Rough-winged, is often observed. We also watch for flycatchers near vegetation along the emerging Barton Creek — Least, Ochre-bellied, Social, Yellow-olive, and Sepia-capped are all here — as well as Tropical and Couch's Kingbirds on the fences. Bright-rumped Atilla, Northern Bentbill, and the easily overlooked Eye-ringed Flatbill are also possible in the mid-canopy riparian understory. During our visit we glide through the cave in canoes to study this archeological wonder. Using hand-held spotlights provided by



our guides we observe large and colorful rock formations and cultural artifacts that are centuries old. Barton Creek Cave has been identified by Mother Nature Network (MNN.com) as one of the nine “most beautiful and unusual caves” in the world, with its “domed chambers placing it alongside the world’s best cave destinations.”

After returning to Hidden Valley, the late afternoon is at our leisure, with happy hour and dinner to follow. *Accommodations at Hidden Valley Inn (B,L,D)*

### **Option Two: Caracol Mayan Ceremonial Center**

After coffee and a quick bite this morning, we leave Hidden Valley early for the Vaca Plateau to reach Caracol during the cool of the day — the best time for birding and exploration of the site. En route we move from the well-drained granitic soils that favor pines to limestone substrates that give rise to broad-leafed forest, resulting in a significant change in avifauna. The birding on the drive is excellent, and we could have our first looks at Keel-billed Toucan, Ocelated Turkey, and possibly Laughing Falcon as we descend into the lower woodlands. At the river that divides the Mountain Pine Ridge from the rest of the Maya Mountains, we may even have a chance to glimpse the rare Scarlet Macaw (though we have a better chance for this later, during our stay at Big Falls).

Staying at Hidden Valley provides ready access to Caracol, a Mayan site within the remote Chiquibul National Park that rivals Guatemala’s Tikal in size and scope. Although loggers discovered the site in 1938, only in the last three decades has it been renovated and opened to visitors. Walking the area today, we find a marvelous blend of nature and history, with lush broad-leafed forests intertwining and surrounding five plazas, numerous stelae, pyramids, hieroglyphics, and an astronomy observatory. Particularly stunning is the temple of Caana, or “Sky Palace;” at nearly 140 feet it is one of the tallest Mayan structures known. The Mayans of Caracol were at the peak of their influence during the latter part of the Classic Period, approximately 400 – 850 A.D. We explore both forest trails and Mayan ruins, learning about the latest discoveries at Caracol, quite likely the city from which Tikal in Guatemala was conquered in 562 A.D.



The birding at Caracol is extraordinary and we hope to see Montezuma Oropendula, several parrots (including White-crowned, Brown-headed, and Red-lored), all three species of Belizean motmots (Lesson's, Tody, and the rare Keel-billed), Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Collared Aracari, and the colorful Crimson-collared Tanager. In late winter Keel-billed Motmot are courting and can be quite vocal, so we have a fair chance to find this rare gem! The area also supports Great Curassow and Crested Guan. The exceedingly rare Lovely Cotinga, perhaps Belize's most colorful songbird, is occasionally observed here, and scarce raptors such as Ornate and Black Hawk-Eagles have also been reported from Caracol.

Finding mammals like White-nosed Coatimundi, Kinkajou, Deppe's Squirrel, and Mexican Black Howler Monkey (considered by some to be the most endangered of the 15 known species of howler monkeys), is an important part of our tour.

After our picnic lunch we head back to the inn, stopping along the way at the Rio Frio Cave (well regarded by birders) with its quiet pools and impressive formations. The shaded forest trails leading to the cave offer the chance to observe seldom seen understory species such as Orange-billed Sparrow and White-throated Robin, as well as both Red-throated and Red-crowned Ant Tanagers (not often seen together) and possibly Plain Xenops, a tiny acrobatic species that gleans insects from the underside of leaves.

Upon our return to Hidden Valley we relax or stroll the lodge grounds for the rest of the afternoon, and then meet to review our bird list for the day before enjoying another excellent dinner.  
*Accommodations at Hidden Valley Inn (B,L,D)*

## **Tues., March 16 Hidden Valley Inn | The Ocean at Hopkins Bay**

We depart Hidden Valley after breakfast, making our way to the coast. NEW! this year, we break up the drive south with a night at the beach, giving us time to bird a primo lagoon and the dynamic Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Preserve.

We drive directly to be there by lunch, giving you some free time to swim and unwind in this lovely location. About 4PM we meet expert guide Steven Choco coming up from the Lodge at Big Falls to meet us. He takes us to a marvelous lagoon not far from the hotel where we should get good looks at large wading birds such as Jabiru, Woodstork, Roseate Spoonbill, and various herons and egrets. There may be smaller waders and shorebirds and a chance for secretive rails.

Dinner is at the resort.

Accommodations at the Muy 'Ono Hopkins Bay Belize Resort (B,L,D)



### **Wed., March 17 Cockscomb Basin | Lodge at Big Falls**

We get up early, pack up and store our gear, then head to Cockscomb Basin. We bird some of the more open areas outside the reserve, have breakfast at a favorite local spot, then continue into the preserve, starting at the visitor center for the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary. Even a short visit to Cockscomb can be very productive for birds, with the chance to see forest and scrub species such as Short-billed Pigeon, Red-capped and White-collared Manakins, Lesser Greenlet, and possibly even Green Honeycreeper (among many others). Open areas around the visitor center may yield views of Boat-billed Flycatcher, Ovenbird, Groove-billed Ani, Variable Seedeater, and Golden-fronted Woodpecker.

Farther in to the reserve, we hope to find the incomparable Lovely Cotinga, Keel-billed Motmot, Great Curassow, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Royal Flycatcher, Scale-breasted Leaf-tosser and other ground-dwelling birds (perhaps accompanying an antswarm!), Red-capped and White-crowned Manakins, and possible Barred or Collared Forest Falcons. Overhead we watch for Black Hawk Eagle and other soaring raptors.

After a great morning of birding, we have lunch, pick up our gear back at the hotel, and head south, expecting to reach Big Falls by late afternoon.

The Lodge at Big Falls is located on the forested banks of the Rio Grande River (kayaks provided for leisure time). As with our previous stay, this is one of the very best birding lodges in Belize, with attractive grounds, a beautiful



swimming pool, and excellent accommodations that include hardwood interiors, sparkling bathrooms, comfortable furnishings, and fully screened windows.

Before dinner, we may spot Russet-naped Wood-Rails and scampering agoutis on the open lawns fronting the main lodge building, which has a breezy, covered porch, Wi-Fi access, and comfortable seating — perfect for relaxing with an afternoon drink or morning coffee, while watching Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds at the feeders or pondering your bird list.

Also similar to Hidden Valley, The Lodge at Big Falls offers the advantage of outstanding birding right on site, and it's possible to spot species such as Gartered Trogon, Yellow-billed Cacique, Gray-headed and Golden-hooded Tanagers, Grayish Saltator, and Red-throated Ant-Tanager literally steps from your cabin door. Specialties like the shy Bare-crowned Antbird and Rufous-breasted Spinetail (the latter the most northerly species of this largely South American group) are regularly recorded within earshot of the main lodge, while the immediately adjacent Rio Grande River provides habitat for four of Belize's five kingfisher species (i.e., Green, Amazon, Belted, and Ringed), which can be seen without leaving the property.

This evening we discuss activities for the coming days, go over our species list, and listen to the eerie calls of the Common Pauraque as the sun sets before dinner. It's been a full day and many of us retire early in preparation for tomorrow's activities. Over the next three days we have the chance to bird and explore in a range of habitats, from savanna grasslands and coastal forests and mangroves, to interior forests and swamps.

*Accommodations at The Lodge at Big Falls (B,L,D)*

## **Thurs., March 18 Local Toledo District Birding**

With such excellent birding right on our doorsteps, it's hard to resist getting up at the crack of dawn to head right out. Coffee is ready ahead of breakfast, and a walk around the compound is sure to be productive. Our guide, Steven Choco (Belize's 2017 Birding Tour Guide of the Year), takes us on two early morning bird walks. This morning we plan to bird around the lodge property. The lodge sits on thirty acres within a long meander of the Rio Grande and includes riparian, secondary growth forest, disused agricultural land, orchard, and meadow habitats. Species we search for include Black-faced Antthrush, Barred Antshrike, Great Antshrike, Bare-crowned Antbird, Black-and-white Owl, Crimson-collared Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, Black-crowned Tityra, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, and Stub-tailed Spadebill.

After an excellent breakfast, we head out with Steven Choco again for some birding off the lodge grounds. Considering our long day on the road yesterday, we plan for shorter trips today, with less time in vehicles and more time outdoors. Depending on what's being seen at the time of our visit, we may head to Blue Creek Village or a similar site (Forest Home), both featuring mature broadleaf and gallery tropical forests with riparian understory habitats.



Birding at both sites can be excellent, with important species in field and forest edge habitats including Striped Cuckoo, Bronzed and Giant Cowbirds, Plain-breasted Ground Dove, Blue-black Grassquit, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and Scrub Euphonia. The gorgeous Crimson-collared Tanager and closely related Passerini's Tanager (the latter a specialty for southern Belize) are also both found along the road into Blue Creek (as well as on the lodge grounds at Big Falls). Less common raptors such as Gray-headed and Double-toothed Kites are also sometimes seen here, together with the common Roadside Hawk.

Birding mature forests in these areas can yield a number of intriguing mid-canopy and understory species, including Lesson's Motmot, Little and Great Tinamou, Collared Trogon, White-breasted Wood Wren, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Red-capped Manakin, Black-crowned Antshrike, and the seldom seen Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher. Along the forest margins we look for Collared Aracari, as well as White-whiskered Puffbird and Rufous-tailed Jacamar, the latter species typically sitting motionless for extended periods as they wait for large insect prey.

We head back to Big Falls for lunch, scanning roadside ditches on the way for Bare-throated Tiger-Heron. Lunch is at the lodge, or possibly at Coleman's Café in Big Falls village, with excellent Belizean cuisine and a largely local clientele. This afternoon we relax, with staff available for kayaking on the Rio Grande adjacent to the lodge. Before sunset we have the option to visit what is known as the "Dump Rice Field," an expanse of rice paddies and swamps located a short drive from the lodge. The road passing through sits on an elevated causeway, with side tracks leading into the marshy areas.

Key species here include Sora, Ruddy and Uniform Crake, Purple Gallinule, White-throated Flycatcher, Least Bittern, Short-talked Hawk, Limpkin, and Common Tody-Flycatcher. Dinner this evening is at the lodge.

*Accommodations at The Lodge at Big Falls (B,L,D)*

## **Fri., March 19 Nim Li Punit & San Felipe Hills**

After grabbing coffee, juice, and a roll, our early morning birding outing today with Steven Choco focuses on the Nim Li Punit Mayan site, located just six miles from the lodge. Nim Li Punit, which is Kekchi Maya for "Big Hat," dates from the Mayan Classic Period that flourished from the 5th through the 8th Century AD and consists of three distinct plazas and several step-pyramids. In 2015, the second largest carved jade artifact in Belize was discovered here. The site itself is set high in mature forest with fantastic views east across the coastal plain to the cayes in the Gulf of Honduras.

The area offers some very good birding, including several woodpeckers (Lineated, Pale-billed, Smokey-brown, and potentially Chestnut-colored) and woodcreepers (Streak-headed, Wedge-billed, and Ivory-billed), as well as



various migrant warblers and vireos. Other possible highlights include White-crowned Parrot, Keel-billed Toucan, White-throated Thrush, Hook-billed Kite, Red-legged and Green Honeycreeper, Bat Falcon, Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet, Blue Grosbeak, Montezuma Oropendola, and Rose-throated Becard.

We return for breakfast, and then head out for the San Felipe Hills, a karst landscape about 12 miles from the lodge. Our goal is to bird across an orange grove (Belizean orchards are not the manicured settings we're used to at home, and can actually be great for birding), and eventually arrive at the karst limestone foothills of San Felipe that rise to a height of around four hundred feet. As the ground slopes upwards we enter a broadleaf forest. We look for some of the most difficult to locate species in Belize, including Tody Motmot, Rufous Piha, Rufous Mourner, Northern Schiffornis, Nightingale Wren, Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser, White-winged Becard, Tawny-crowned Greenlet, and Northern Barred Woodcreeper. As the day heats up we return to the lodge for a break — swimming or kayaking, or perhaps a good book and a shady spot are all possibilities!

We gather on the lodge porch this evening to update bird lists and review the day, and after dusk we may get lucky and hear (or even see) one or more of the resident Black-and-white Owls, which previously nested on the lodge grounds (and were recorded here in 2017 and 2018). We should also see Common Pauraque and Lesser Nighthawk flitting across the dusky sky before we head inside. Dinners at Big Falls are excellent, often featuring fresh seafood and Belizean beef, with local fruits and vegetables — a perfect end to the day.

*Accommodations at The Lodge at Big Falls (B,L,D)*

## **Sat., March 20 Guide's Choice | Chocolate Tasting | Farewell Dinner**

Our last full day of the trip is already here, and it's a good one. We can rise early if we wish, grab coffee ahead of our sit-down breakfast, and bird the lodge grounds.

Today we leave our route up to Steven Choco — knowing what species we have had good encounters with and what might be lacking, we will choose the most productive sites. We may seek out coastal mangroves or visit another lush forest site. March is the best month for warblers soon bound for northern homes are bright in breeding plumage. We look for Yellow-throated, Chestnut-sided, Kentucky, and perhaps Palm Warblers.

A treat today worked into our plans is a visit to the Ixcacao Chocolate farm for a classic Mayan lunch, where you can try an amazing chocolate liquor, and everyone raves about chocolate tastings afterwards! The meal last year was voted one of the best of the trip, a small family run place, with a small shop to buy products.

We should arrive back at Big Falls by mid-afternoon, in time for a last dip in the pool, and possibly some final afternoon birding along the Rio Grande River.



We enjoy a festive farewell dinner at the lodge this evening before heading home tomorrow.  
*Accommodations at The Lodge at Big Falls (B,L,D)*

## Sun., Mar. 21 Departures

Our adventure comes to an end today. This morning we drive the 30 minutes to Punta Gorda and board a Tropic Air, Mayan Air, or similar carrier for our flight back to Belize City. To ensure a smooth connection, please plan your international flight to depart after noon.

## Guides Steve Choco & Peg Abbott



Raised in the local Kek'chi Maya community, Steve Choco is one of the top local guides in Belize, and a great resource for visitors exploring on this Southern Belize nature tour. Steve developed his love of nature and his early fascination with wildlife during camping trips with his grandfather in the Belizean bush. Recognized today for his unparalleled birding skills, Steve was the 2017 recipient of the prestigious National Tour Guide of the Year award, given annually by the Belize Tourism Board. Naturalist Journeys relies on Steve and other experts to ensure high quality birding (and cultural) experiences for travelers.



Peg Abbott is the owner and lead guide of Naturalist Journeys, LLC. She has been designing, guiding, and organizing natural history tours for more than 25 years, working for the National Audubon Society and other organizations before launching Naturalist Journeys, LLC in 1998. Her work has taken her from Alaska to Africa and Argentina, as well as many other locations around the world. She has conducted research on several bird and mammal species and keeps a close interest in Yellowstone and Mexican wolf reintroduction projects. Her interests include all aspects of natural history and geology. After 20 years in and around the Yellowstone area, Peg relocated in 2003 to the birding mecca of Portal, AZ.

*Naturalist Journeys, LLC is an equal opportunity service provider and committed to the goal of ensuring equal opportunity for all in employment and program delivery.*

## Cost of the Journey

### Plan Ahead!

Protect yourself with Allianz Travel Insurance. Please note, starting in January 2017, Naturalist Journeys pays 100% of your flight carbon offset.

### Travel Information

Please plan to make air travel plans only after the minimum group size has been reached. Please arrive in Belize City at the Philip SW Goldson International Airport no later than 2:00 PM on or before March 13.

Plan to depart on AFTERNOON flights homeward on March 21 to make time for the morning flight back to Belize City from Punta Gorda – allowing for check-in for International flights, times are best after 1PM.



### Cost of the Journey

Cost of the main tour is \$3990 DBL / \$4555 SGL per person, based on double occupancy, from Belize City.

Cost includes: all accommodations; all meals as stated in the itinerary; group airport transfers; ground transportation within Belize; domestic flight at the end of the journey; professional guide services; park, preserve, and other activity fees; lodge tips; and miscellaneous program expenses.

Tour price does not include: roundtrip airfare to and from Belize City or items of a personal nature such as laundry, portage, telephone charges, or alcoholic beverages. Gratuities for your local lodge guides in Belize are not included, these are at your discretion, but highly appreciated and recommended.

### Photo Credits

Golden-hooded Tanager, Peg Abbott (PA); Slaty-tailed Trogon (F), PA; Jabiru, Barry Ulman (BU); Birding Belize, PA; Black Howler Monkey, PA; Roseate Spoonbills, Betty Andres (BA); Striated Heron, Narca Moore-Craig (NMC); Fork-tailed Flycatcher, PA; Acorn Woodpecker, Greg Smith; Great Kiskadee, Bud Ferguson; Slaty-tailed Trogon with fruit, PA; Violet Saberwing, Sandy Sorkin (SS); Masked Tityra, PA; Green Jays, Bob Behrstock; Orange-breasted Falcon, Pat Lueders; King Vulture, Doug Greenberg (DG); Barton Creek Cave, MNC; Stygian Owl, DG; Squirrel Cuckoo, SS; Black-cowled Oriole, Naturalist Journeys Stock (NJS); Blue-gray Tanager, PA; Birding Caracol, NMC; Great Curassow, SS; Keel-billed Toucan, DG; Muy 'Ono Hopkins Bay x3 courtesy of hopkinsbaybelize.com; Tody Motmot, PA; Olive-backed Euphonia, SS; Black-faced Grosbeak, SS; Crested Guan, SS; The Lodge at Big Fall, courtesy thelodgeatbigfalls.com; Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, SS; Ringed Kingfisher, BU; Birding Big Falls, Bob Meinke (BM); Blue-black Grassquit, SS; Roadside Hawk, Naturalist Journeys Stock (NJS); Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Tom Dove (TD); Agami Heron, Lori Conrad; Magnificent Frigatebirds, NJS; Altamira Oriole, TD.