

Belize: Three Great Lodges Species List | January 5-15, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Bryan Calk with local guides Isaias, Eduardo, and Steve. Our guests included Gary, Donna, Fima, Gennie, Tom, Jan, Ann, Bruce, Bill, and Jan.

From the day the group came together, the trip unfolded as a shared experience rooted in discovery, joy, and a growing sense of community. Owls and nocturnal outings definitely became a theme of the trip, with Spectacled Owls at day roosts, close encounters with Northern Potoo, Middle American Screech-Owl, Mottled Owl, a surprise bonus Stygian Owl, and satisfying looks at Black-and-white Owl. Boat rides stitched the landscapes together at Lamanai, none more memorable than gliding across rivers and lagoons after dark, stars overhead and reflected in the water, and spotlights revealed nightjars, bats, and Agami Heron.

Days were equally rich, blending wildlife, culture, and place. Trogons were a constant source of delight, from multiple species around Black Rock Lodge to unforgettable encounters at Lamanai, where Slaty-tailed, Gartered Violaceous, and Black-headed Trogons posed among ancient Maya ruins and village gardens. Cultural experiences deepened the trip's texture, especially the visit to the Chocolate Queen cacao operation, where the group traced chocolate from tree to tradition. The butterfly ranch added another layer, immersing everyone in a living kaleidoscope of morphos, heliconians, and glasswings while highlighting conservation and local livelihoods. Throughout it all, a sense of community was a through line, whether learning to make tortillas with women in Indian Church Village, cruising the lagoon together at sunset with drinks in hand, meeting Nick and Jessica at Tunich Ha, or ending and evening with music shared among friends. By the time departures arrived, the trip felt less like a tour and more like a temporary family formed around birds, boats, night skies, and the people who experienced them together.

BIRDS (266):

During the trip, 266 species were recorded of which XX were heard only, XX were endemic and XX were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 266 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Belize: Three Great Lodges | January 5-15, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS (11):

Common Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*) – seen on the last night at Tanager Rainforest Lodge
Jaguarundi (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi*) – ran across a harvested field and road near Spanish Lookout
Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) – running down the road in the Mountain Pine Ridge
White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*) – around Black Rock Lodge
Yucatán Black Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*) – heard calling around Black Rock Lodge; later seen across the river there; at the Lamanai Maya site a family group was observed with a sleeping infant while two adult males engaged in prolonged vocal exchanges; also heard calling around Tanager Rainforest Lodge
Central American Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*) – feeding on palm fruit above the ruins at Lamanai
Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) – around Black Rock Lodge and Belize Botanic Gardens; numerous around Tanager Rainforest Lodge
Deppe's Squirrel (*Sciurus deppei*) – visiting feeders at Tanager Rainforest Lodge and Black Rock
Greater Fishing Bat (*Noctilio leporinus*) – actively fishing ahead of the boat during spotlight safari
Proboscis Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*) – roosting on a small twig during spotlight safari
Northern Ghost Bat (*Diclidurus albus*) – white bat observed during spotlight safari

BUTTERFLIES & OTHER INVERTEBRATES (18+):

Black Witch (*Ascalapha odorata*) – Tunich Ha breakfast area
Mexican Red-rumped Tarantula (*Tliltocatl vagans*) – Spanish Lookout area
Great Southern White (*Ascia monuste*) – dump rice fields near Blue Creek
Orange-barred Sulphur (*Phoebis philea*) – dump rice fields near Blue Creek
Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*) – dump rice fields near Blue Creek
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) – Spanish Lookout area and others
Queen (*Danaus gilippus*) – Spanish Lookout area
Variable Cattleheart (*Parides erithalion*) – Lamanai maya site area
Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charithonia*) – Caracol
Erato Heliconian (*Heliconius erato*) – Belize Botanic Gardens
Sapho Heliconian (*Heliconius sapho*) – Tunich Ha gardens
Julia Heliconian (*Dryas iulia*) – Spanish Lookout area
Dirce Beauty (*Colobura dirce*) – Black Rock Lodge
Blomfield's Beauty (*Siproeta stelenes blomfieldia*) – fruit feeders at Black Rock Lodge
Guatemalan Crescent (*Anthanassa guatemalena*) – Tunich Ha gardens
Gray Cracker (*Hamadryas februa*) – Belize Botanic Gardens
Juno Silverspot (*Dione juno*) – Punta Gorda waterfront ornamental plantings
One-spotted Prepona (*Prepona laertes*) – Tunich Ha gardens, Chocolate Queen
Mexican Cycadian (*Rhetus periander*) – Mennonite-owned gravel pit with pine and wetland habitat

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (9):

Morelet's Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) – canals and ditches around Spanish Lookout; also seen while departing Lamanai by boat
Middle American Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon melanurus*) – on the road leaving Black Rock Lodge
Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) – along the drive into Black Rock Lodge; large male displaying at Blue Creek
Black Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura similis*) – Belize Botanic Gardens
Brown Basilisk (*Basiliscus vittatus*) – large male in a tree along the Blue Creek trail
Asian House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) – heard around lodge buildings at night; later seen well inside the women's co-op restaurant in Indian Church Village

Sheep Frog (*Trachycephalus vermiculatus*) – on the ground at the Lamanai archaeological site
Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*) – on the dock at Lamanai Outpost Lodge
Central American Gulf Coast Toad (*Incilius valliceps*) – active along canal edges near Spanish Lookout