

GUATEMALA BIRDING TOUR

"WESTERN HIGHLANDS & TIKAL"



LAKE ATITLAN

FLYWAY BIRDING TOURS

invites you on an exciting birding trip to explore Guatemala's rich avian diversity. Witness spectacular birds, breathtaking landscapes, and immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and history of this beautiful country. Join us for an unforgettable journey that promises discovery and learning about the intricate ecosystems and vibrant communities that make Guatemala an exceptional destination for birders

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Antigua (Hotel TBD)

All participants should arrange flights into La Aurora International Airport (GUA) in Guatemala City, with arrivals preferably before 4:00 PM. A group transfer from the airport to Antigua, approximately a 1.5-hour drive, will be provided. Upon arrival in Antigua, you will check into your accommodations and have time to relax after your journey. In the early evening, we'll meet at the hotel for introductions, a comprehensive trip overview, and a welcome dinner. This will be an opportunity to meet our expert guides and fellow participants, as well as discuss the schedule and expectations for the days ahead.

Overnight in Antigua.

Day 2: Tecpán (Albergues Tecpán)

After breakfast, we depart for our first birding destination, Finca El Pilar, located approximately 1 hour from Antigua. This private conservation project features trails and gardens that attract a variety of bird species. Highlights here include Rufous Sabrewing, Berylline Hummingbird, and Bar-winged Oriole, which can be observed around the hummingbird feeders and gardens.

Continuing the journey, we drive to Tecpán, stopping at Caleras Chichavac to explore the highland pine-oak forest. The area is known for its diversity of bird species, including Pink-headed Warbler, Guatemalan Pygmy Owl, and Mountain Trogon. The landscape and cooler highland climate offer an excellent introduction to Guatemala's endemic birdlife. Driving time to Tecpán: ~1 hour.

Overnight in Tecpán.

GUATEMALA BIRDING TOUR

Day 3: Tecpán (Albergues Tecpán)

The day begins with birding around the lodge, targeting species such as Greater Pewee, Rufous-browed Wren, and Blue-and-white Mockingbird. These endemics thrive in the surrounding forest, providing an immersive experience for participants.

Later, we travel to higher elevations along the road to Finca El Espinero. At nearly 8,000 feet, this area is ideal for spotting Amethyst-throated Mountain-Gem, Golden-cheeked Warbler, and Gray Silky-Flycatcher. The terrain and subtropical highland climate provide diverse habitats for birding. Return to Tecpán in the evening. Driving time: ~1 hour.

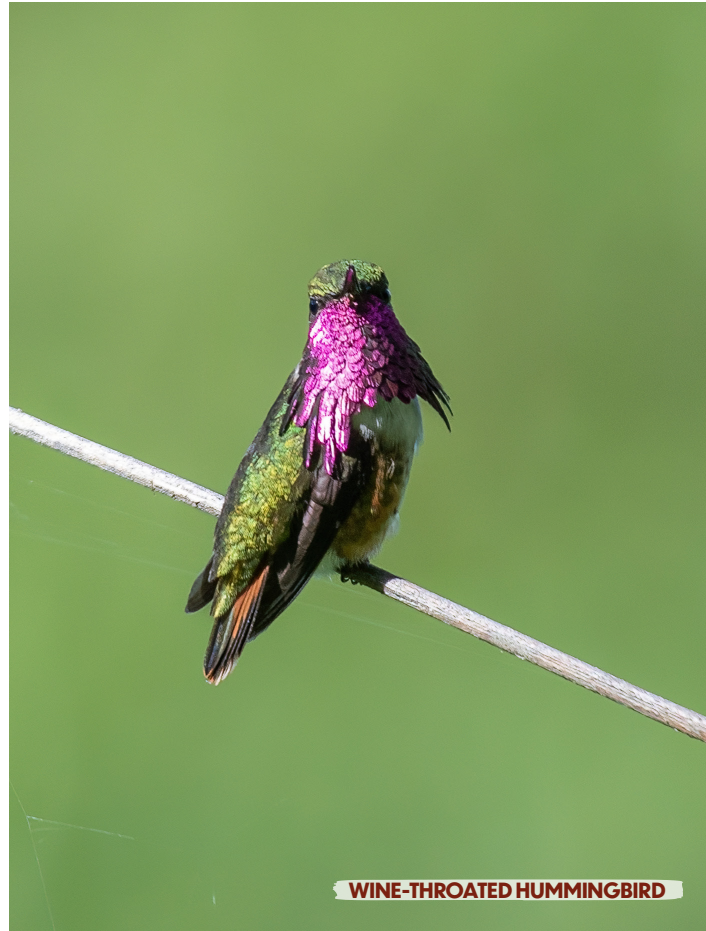
Overnight in Tecpán.

Day 4: Lake Atitlán (Hotel El Bambú)

Today, we head toward Lake Atitlán, one of Guatemala's most scenic destinations. Along the way, we stop at Parque Regional Municipal Chuiraxamolo, located about 2 hours from Tecpán. The park offers opportunities to see unique species such as Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo, Crescent-chested Warbler, and Black-capped Swallow.

After lunch in Santa Clara or San Juan La Laguna, we continue birding at Cerro Paquisis, where participants can search for Belted Flycatcher and Bushy-crested Jay. We arrive in Santiago Atitlán in the evening. Total driving time: ~4 hours.

Overnight in Santiago Atitlán.



WINE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD



Day 5: Lake Atitlán (Hotel El Bambú)

The morning is dedicated to birding at Mirador Rey Tepepul, a local reserve overlooking the lake. Target species include White-faced Quail-Dove, Azure-rumped Tanager, and Emerald-chinned Hummingbird. The trails here vary in difficulty, accommodating a range of participant abilities. In the afternoon, we visit the Mesoamerican Permaculture Institute (IMAP), where participants can learn about biodiversity conservation and agroecology. Birding highlights include the Slender Sheartail and White-faced Ground-Sparrow. The day concludes with a return to the hotel. Driving time: ~1–2 hours.

Overnight in Santiago Atitlán.

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PINK-HEADED WARBLER



Day 6: Los Tarrales Reserve (Hotel El Bambú)

A full day of birding awaits at Los Tarrales Natural Reserve, located approximately 1.5 hours from Atitlán. This private reserve boasts a variety of ecosystems, including cloud forest and pine-oak forest. Target species include the Resplendent Quetzal, Golden-browed Warbler, and Highland Guan.

Trails at Los Tarrales vary from easy

walks to steeper climbs, catering to different levels of activity. Return to the hotel in the evening. **Overnight in Santiago Atitlán.**

Day 7: Antigua (Hotel TBD)

Today, we travel back to Antigua, stopping at Los Robles to bird en route. This site provides another chance to observe the regional endemic Belted Flycatcher and Ocellated Quail. Driving time to Antigua: ~3 hours.

The afternoon is free for participants to explore Antigua's historic sites, including its churches, plazas, and cobblestone streets. Birders can also enjoy city gardens, which are home to species like Azure-crowned Hummingbird and Cinnamon-bellied Saltator.

Overnight in Antigua.

Day 8: El Remate (Hotel Casa de Don David)

A short domestic flight takes us to Flores, followed by a drive to Cerro Cahui, where birding opportunities include Maya Anthrush, Green-backed Sparrow, and Wedge-tailed Sabrewing. The scenic Lake Peten-Itza is the backdrop for the evening, with our hotel conveniently located near Tikal National Park. Driving time in Flores: ~1 hour.

Overnight in El Remate.

Tikal National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of the most significant remnants of the ancient Maya civilization. Located in the heart of the Guatemalan rainforest, this sprawling archaeological complex covers over six square miles and features towering temples, ceremonial platforms, and plazas that were once central to Maya culture. Beyond its historical significance, Tikal is renowned for its rich biodiversity, making it a prime location for birding enthusiasts.



GUATEMALA BIRDING TOUR

OCELLATED TURKEY



Day 9: Tikal National Park (Hotel Casa de Don David)

Spend a full day exploring the archaeological wonders and trails of Tikal National Park. Known for its blend of history and biodiversity, the park offers chances to spot Ocellated Turkey, Orange-breasted Falcon, and White-bellied Emerald. Guided walks will also cover the history of the Mayan civilization. Return to the hotel in the evening.

Overnight in El Remate.

Day 10: Departure

Enjoy a final morning of birding around the hotel, focusing on local specialties. Travel back to Flores for a domestic flight to Guatemala City. Participants should schedule international departures from La Aurora International Airport (GUA) for early afternoon to allow for smooth transitions.

Included in the program:

- Professional Naturalist & Birding Guide services throughout the program.
- Coach transportation throughout the program
- All meals indicated starting with dinner day 1 to breakfast on day 10
- All lodging in standard double occupancy (single supplement available at extra cost).
- All entrance fees and excursions.
- Domestic flights
- Purified Water.
- Gratuities

Not included in the program:

- Airline ticket - Travel insurance - Alcoholic beverages - Personal expenses

ORANGE-BREASTED FALCON



Tour Difficulty and Conditions – Guatemala

This tour is rated easy to moderate, with a mix of short walks and longer outings on uneven, sometimes steep terrain, particularly in cloud forest and volcanic foothill habitats. Elevations range from sea level to over 7,000 feet (2,100+ m), with cool to mild temperatures in the highlands and warmer, more humid conditions in lowland areas such as Tikal.

Participants should be prepared for early starts, occasional long drives, and variable trail conditions—from paved paths to dirt and forest trails. Accommodations are comfortable and well-located for birding access, though some sites are remote and may have limited amenities. This tour is well-suited for participants in generally good health who are comfortable with moderate walking and diverse climates.

GUATEMALA BIRDING TOUR

PRICE PER PERSON

DOUBLE \$----

SINGLE \$---

DATES:

STBD

GROUP SIZE:

10 BIRDERS

MAX.

FOR MORE INFO:

info@flywaybt.com



LOCATIONS

1- ANTIGUA

2- TECPAN

3- SANTIAGO ATITLAN

4- TIKAL



flywaybirdingtours.com