



Sunrise Birding LLC
BIRDING & WILDLIFE TOURS
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PANAMA

DARIÉN CANOPY CAMP

with Diego Calderon

Pre-tour Extension

July 27 – August 1, 2025

If you've always wanted to visit the Canopy Camp in Panama's Darién Province, don't miss this chance! Contact gina@sunrisebirding.com to reserve your space!

The Darién Province in eastern Panama has long been regarded as one of the most diverse and species-rich regions in the Americas playing host to both Central American birds as well as South American species at the northern limit of their range. Renowned for rare and endemics species and nesting Harpy Eagles, access to this area has been limited. In 2013, with a new road and the fantastic Canopy Camp, birders can enjoy the avian specialties of this rich area in comfort.

Built in a shaded clearing adjacent to the tall forests of La Reserva Natural Filo del Tallo, the Canopy Camp incorporates the custom of Panama's Canopy Family offering the combination of comfortable accommodation, superb food and hospitality, and fabulous birding. The "camp" features permanent, well appointed, safari-type tents on raised metal platforms with



wood decking and private baths positioned right on the doorstep of fabulous avian offerings of the Darién lowlands including 25 species restricted to eastern Panama. The habitats here house so many species and emphasis will be given to indigenous birds special to the Darién lowlands.

Some of the birds possible to see at the Camp and in the surrounding areas include Golden-collared Manakin, Barred Puffbird, Black Antshrike, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Spectacled Parrotlet, Red-rumped Woodpecker, Beautiful Treerunner, Green-naped Tanager; Sooty-headed Wren, White-

headed Wren, Gray-cheeked Nunlet, Red-throated Caracara, Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Dusky-backed Jacamar, Double-banded Graytail, Viridian Dacnis, Black Oropendola, and the stunning Orange-crowned Oriole to name a few. Our itinerary will feature an excursion to look for the magnificent Harpy Eagle (details below).

CANOPY CAMP & ACCOMMODATIONS:

The unique Canopy Camp features luxury African safari-style tents including two Tent Suites and several Standard tents. Inside, the tents have a wood floor and screened windows with zip openings so they can close partially or completely. All of the tents have private bathroom facilities including shower, sink, and flush toilet. Both Tent Suites, one of which has a queen bed while the other has two twin beds, have more space than a standard tent.

The Camp's central building has a dining room, kitchen, and library (with a charging station for batteries, laptops, cameras, etc.), and a terrace overlooking the forest. Energy is provided by solar panels plus propane in the kitchen.



Visiting Darién is truly an adventure, so expect the unexpected and be prepared for excitement around every corner! Top local guides know well how to find the regional specialties that live here. The itinerary, therefore, is very flexible to our targets and current conditions. For sure, this will be a memorable trip with many birds and a unique experience in the wilderness of Darién!

ITINERARY

Please note that the itinerary is flexible and may change without prior notice due to weather, alterations in habitat or other conditions.

Day 1: July 27, 2025 -- Arrive Panama City

Plan to arrive anytime today in Panama City (Airport code: PTY). Take the free airport shuttle to the Riande Aeropuerto Hotel and meet the group for dinner.

Day 2: July 28, 2025 -- Travel to Canopy Camp

Your guide will meet you bright and early (around 6:30 am) at the Canopy Tower to head to the Canopy Camp, where you will stay for the following 4 nights. This is an all-inclusive tour with an active itinerary—daily morning and afternoon guided birding trips are included for the full duration of your Panama wildlife tour.

Days 3, 4, 5: July 29, 30, 31: Canopy Camp & surroundings

These days will feature birding in a variety of habitats in and around the Canopy Camp. Descriptions of the areas that may be visited are below. Your local guides will brief you on each day's plan. One day will be devoted to a search for the Harpy Eagle.

Day 6: August 1, 2025: Birding, then transfer to Canopy Tower for the start of the main tour.

Panama's National Bird: The Harpy Eagle

Darién is a stronghold for Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, and holds Central America's largest population of this rare and majestic bird. If there is a site available to visit, whether an active nest or a fledged juvenile in a reliable location, it will be included in the itinerary. Harpy Eagles live in remote mature forest, and a full-day trip may be required to visit the site available.

Please keep in mind that we can never guarantee the sighting of a **Harpy Eagle** (or anything in nature), even at a reliable site, but we will be sure to try if there is a chance! If there is no nest site or juvenile bird to visit, there is still always the chance to come across a Harpy Eagle during your stay. Over the past few years, we have had Harpy Eagle sightings at several of the birding sites we visit, including a few times at the Canopy Camp itself!

Here is an idea of what a Harpy Eagle excursion entails:

Today we will start very early, before sunrise, and drive to Yaviza, at the end of the Pan-American Highway. Arriving at dawn in Yaviza, we will board a "piragua"—a dugout canoe—and traverse the still waters of the Chucunaque and Tuira rivers. The river edges offer shrub and grass habitat, as well as mudflats and beaches depending on the water level. There are plenty of birds to see along the riverside: Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga, Great Blue, Cocoi, Little Blue, Tricolored, Striated and Capped Herons, Snowy Egret, White and Green Ibises, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Pied Water-Tyrant, Bronzed Cowbird, Yellow-hooded Blackbird and both Crested and Black Oropendolas. White-tailed Kite and Black-collared and Common Black Hawks may be found cruising overhead.

Upon arrival in El Real, we can scan the open areas for Spot-breasted Woodpecker and Great Potoo. We will meet a local truck and head south out of town past the airstrip, to the trailhead at the border of Darién National Park! This trail is wide, traversing through lowland rainforest and alongside a river. If very lucky, we may see Harpy Eagle or Crested Eagle, as both of these magnificent raptors roam the dense forests here. Hopefully with some success this morning, we can rest and have a picnic lunch in the field, and continue to bird along the trail. Other large forest eagles, including Ornate Hawk-Eagle, can also be found in the area, as well as Gray-cheeked Nunlet, White-fronted Nunbird, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Agami Heron, Red-throated Caracara, Chestnut-backed Antbird (the eastern Panama race shows white dots on the wings), Chestnut-fronted and Great Green Macaws, Scarlet-browed Tanager and more. After lunch and a break, we will retrace our steps and start our way back to El Real, then head back to Yaviza by river. Along the Pan-American Highway, we can scan for bird activity as the sun sets.



In addition to the Harpy Eagle excursion, there are a variety of birding areas you may visit during your Canopy Camp Darién tour:

Bayano Lake Area & Torti Area

As we drive along the Pan-American Highway, we will scan for roadside birds and open-field raptors including Savanna Hawk and Crested Caracara. At the bridge at Bayano Lake, a great opportunity awaits to see what we can see along the lakeside. This reservoir supports great numbers of water birds, including a large colony of Neotropic Cormorants, as well as Anhinga, Cocoi Heron and the rare Bare-throated Tiger-Heron. We will scan the water's edge for Purple Gallinule, Pied Water-Tyrant, Smooth-billed Ani and Ruddy-breasted Seedeater. A short trail leading from the water's edge is a great place to search for Black Antshrike, Bare-crowned Antbird, Rufous-winged Antwren and **Golden-collared Manakin**. Just 10 minutes down the road at Río Mono Bridge, the surrounding forest is home to One-colored Becard, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Blue Cotinga, Pied Puffbird, Orange-crowned Oriole, Blue Ground Dove and more. We will also scan the river below for Green-and-rufous Kingfisher and the elusive Fasciated Tiger-Heron. The forest edge and scrubby roadsides around Rio Torti offer good opportunities to see Pacific Antwren, Double-banded Graytail and Little Cuckoo. At a lovely Panamanian restaurant in Torti, the hummingbirds at the feeders will no doubt capture our attention, as Long-billed Starthroat, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Black-throated Mango and more take their lunch as well; great hummingbird photo opportunities abound throughout this Panama wildlife tour!



Canopy Camp Grounds & Nando's Trail

Yellow-throated and Keel-billed Toucans call from the towering Cuipo trees; Red-lored and Mealy Parrots fly overhead; White-bellied Antbird, Bright-rumped Attila, White-headed Wren and Golden-headed Manakin sing from the surrounding forests; while Pale-bellied Hermit and Sapphire-throated Hummingbird visit the flowers around camp. Rufous-tailed Jacamar and Barred Puffbird are also seen frequently around the grounds. We will work our way into the forest on "Nando's Trail," in hopes of finding Tiny Hawk, Black Antshrike, Great Antshrike, Olive-backed Quail-Dove, Cinnamon Becard, Black-tailed Trogon, Double-banded Graytail, **Gray-cheeked Nunlet**, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, Royal Flycatcher and Russet-winged Schiffornis. We will also be looking for groups of Red-throated Caracara, King Vulture and Short-tailed Hawk overhead in the clearings. Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Plumbeous and Zone-tailed hawks are also possible.



In the open areas, the verbenas are full of hummingbird and butterfly activity, where we hope to see Violet-bellied Hummingbird, Pale-bellied Hermit, Long-billed Starthroat, Blue-throated Goldentail and if lucky, the stunning Ruby-Topaz Hummingbird feeding here. **Spot-crowned Barbet**, Olivaceous Piculet, White-headed Wren, Red-rumped Woodpecker and Streak-headed Woodcreeper are other birds we may encounter. If desired, we can hike up the slope to stand in the shadows of two giant Cuipo trees.



There will be an opportunity during the week to explore the grounds of the Canopy Camp at night in search of nocturnal birds and mammals, including Black-and-white and Mottled Owls, Great and Common Potoos, Kinkajous, Central American Woolly Opossum and more!

Birding the Pan-American Highway

We will head southeast and bird the forests and swampy meadows along the road toward Yaviza, at the end of the Pan-American Highway! Black-billed Flycatcher, Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, Jet Antbird, Black Oropendola, Pied Water-Tyrant, Bicolored and Black-collared Hawks, Pearl and White-tailed Kites, Limpkin, **Spot-breasted Woodpecker**, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, Black-capped Donacobius and Red-breasted Meadowlark can all be found as we head further into Darién.



El Salto Road

El Salto Road extends 6 km north from the Pan-American Highway and ends at the mighty Río Chucunaque. This open road and surrounding dry forest are a great place to search for regional specialties including Golden-green Woodpecker, Double-banded Graytail, Blue-and-yellow and Chestnut-fronted Macaws, Black and Crested Oropendolas, Blue Cotinga, White-eared Conebill, Black-breasted Puffbird, Orange-crowned Oriole and the majestic King Vulture. A trail at the end of the road will take us into low-canopy forest, where we hope to find Bare-crowned Antbird, Pale-bellied Hermit, Olivaceous Piculet, Streak-headed Woodcreeper and Forest Elaenia.



Tierra Nueva Foundation

Adjacent to El Salto Road is the property of the Tierra Nueva Foundation. Fundación Tierra Nueva is a non-profit organization whose main mission is “working towards the sustainable development of people of the Darién Rainforest.” The property is the home of a technical school focusing on applications in agriculture. We will explore the trails of this large, forested property, in hopes of finding Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Yellow-breasted and Black-billed Flycatchers, Red-rumped Woodpecker, Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon, Cinnamon, Cinereous and One-colored Becards, White-eared Conebill, White-headed Wren and the magnificent Great Curassow. We will also search for the eastern race of the **Chestnut-backed Antbird**, which shows white spots on the wings.

Las Lagunas Road (Agua Calientes) & Aruza Lagoons

This road extends 12 km south off the Pan-American Highway through open farmland, dry scrub and roadside habitat. The road eventually crosses a stream and ends at some small ponds. Along the roadsides, we hope to find Red-breasted Meadowlark, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, White-headed Wren, Smooth-billed and Greater Anis, Muscovy Duck, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Southern Lapwing, Blue-headed Parrot, **Striped Cuckoo**, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers, Buff-breasted Wren, Bananaquit, Giant and Shiny Cowbirds, Crested Oropendola, and Laughing and



Aplomado Falcons. If we're lucky, we may get a glimpse of a Chestnut-fronted Macaw or a shy Little Cuckoo, both having been seen along this road. At the lagoons, we hope to find Pied Water-Tyrant, Capped Heron, the beautiful Yellow-hooded Blackbird and the extraordinary Black-capped Donacobius—this is great habitat for all these wonderful species.

Quebrada Felix

Quebrada Felix is nestled in the base of the Filo del Tallo Hydrological Reserve, and is just a short drive from the Canopy Camp. Surrounded by tall trees and mature lowland forest, we will walk the rocky stream in search of some of Panama's most wanted species, including Black-crowned Antpitta, Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser, Speckled Mourner, **Ocellated Antbird**, Rufous-winged and Moustached Antwrens, White-fronted Nunbird, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Royal Flycatcher and the endemic Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker. It is also a great spot to find Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Bicolored Antbird, Golden-crowned Spadebill, Double-banded Graytail and much more. Crested and Solitary Eagles have even been spotted here, a great testament to the mature forest of the area. Quebrada Felix is becoming a favorite spot among our guides and recent visitors!



Lajas Blancas

On this Panama wildlife tour, we eagerly explore the open areas and mixed forests of the area of Lajas Blancas. Lajas Blancas is the closest Embera community to the Canopy Camp, a large town with a population of over 1000 residents. Just 15 minutes away, the area around the community boasts great birding and the opportunity to find many Darién specialties! After turning off the Pan-American Highway, we drive through pasture and open farmland—a great place to see One-colored Becard, Great Potoo, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, Black Antshrike and Black Oropendola. During the dry season, a bridge across the Chucunaque River provides us easy access to some mature secondary forest where Double-banded Graytail, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, White-winged and Cinnamon Becards, Cinnamon and Golden-green Woodpeckers, manakins and others can be found. Beyond the community, the road continues and there is much more forest, including primary forest at its far reaches, waiting to be explored on your Panama wildlife tour.



Aligandi

Aligandi is a huge area with unique scrub forest and much to be explored. We head out from the Camp toward the end of the Pan-American Highway, taking a turn prior to reaching Yaviza. Along the roadsides here, we scan for Red-breasted Meadowlark, Striped Cuckoo, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Thick-billed Seed-Finch, American Kestrel and other open area birds. A Great Green Macaw nest is tucked up in the canopy of a huge Cuipo tree, visible from the road, and if lucky, an adult or a chick may be seen poking its head out of the cavity. At Finca Doncella, we continue on foot along the road through the scrub forest, seeking out Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Bat Falcon, Giant Cowbird, Orange-crowned Oriole, Red-billed Scythebill, White-eared Conebill and mixed feeding flocks. It is possible to see macaws flying over as we further explore the area on this Panama wildlife tour.

Again, please note that the itinerary is flexible, and may change without prior notice due to weather, alterations in habitat, road or other conditions.



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July 27 – August 1, 2025

Tour cost: US\$1895.00 per person/double occupancy from Canopy Tower, Panama

Single supplement: US\$295.00

Deposit: \$500.00 per person

Includes: Group airport transfers, lodging, until breakfast on the last day, bilingual professional guides, natural fruit juices, sodas, wine at dinner time, WIFI, entrance fees to national parks as mentioned in the itinerary, snacks and beverages during all outings.

Not included: International airfare, passport/visa fees, departure taxes, insurance, drinks, tips, and items of a personal nature such as: laundry, telephone, beverages that are not included, or gratuities for portage or personal services.

Contact gina@sunrisebirding.com to reserve your space!



Sunrise Birding LLC, PO Box 274, Cos Cob, CT 06807

TOUR REGISTRATION/RELEASE FORM Date: _____

To register for a tour, please read and agree to Sunrise Birding LLC **Terms and Conditions of Booking, Responsibilities and Assumption of Risk.** Then complete and sign this Tour Registration/Release Form and return it a deposit for each passenger to Sunrise Birding LLC. **Please note that we are only accepting travelers who are fully vaccinated for Covid-19 for our tours.**

How did you hear about this tour?

___ Magazine Ad in _____

___ Internet search _____

___ Facebook _____

___ From a friend _____

___ Other: _____

Please reserve _____ space(s) on the _____ TOUR

Today's Date: _____ Tour Dates: _____

Enclosed is my deposit of \$ _____ (Please check tour description for amount due)

___ I am requesting single accommodation (single supplement required).

___ I have a roommate/Name: _____ Rooming: Twin (2 beds) ___ Double (1 bed)___

___ Please provide a roommate. If none is available, I will accept a single and will pay the single supplement charge.

Passenger 1:

Full Legal Name as it appears on your Passport:		Passport Number (international tours only):	
Expiration Date (international tours only):		Country of Origin (international tours only):	
Street:		City:	State/Zip:
Email:		Date of Birth:	
Home Phone:		Daytime Telephone:	
Occupation/Past occupation if retired:			
Emergency Contact (Name/Tel./Relationship i.e., spouse, brother, sister, etc.)			
Primary Physician (Name/Tel.)			
COVID VACCINE:		DATES:	
Special needs/dietary restrictions:			

Passenger 2:

Full Legal Name as it appears on your Passport:		Passport Number (international tours only):	
Expiration Date (international tours only):		Country of Origin (international tours only):	
Street:		City:	State/Zip:
Email:		Date of Birth:	
Home Phone:		Daytime Telephone:	
Occupation/Past occupation if retired:			
Emergency Contact (Name/Tel./Relationship i.e., spouse, brother, sister, etc.)			
Primary Physician (Name/Tel.)			
COVID VACCINE:		DATES:	
Special needs/dietary restrictions:			

Have you participated in other organized, overnight birding tours? Yes No Details: _____

Goals/expectations for this tour: _____

This request for registration is made subject to "Sunrise Birding LLC Terms and Conditions of Booking, Responsibilities and Assumption of Risk" AND the Agreement to Release and Indemnify in this document. Please read this entire document and our Terms carefully. All registrants must sign this release. Your registration can not be confirmed until your deposit is received and this agreement is signed.

Second page must be signed and returned with registration

AGREEMENT TO RELEASE AND INDEMNIFY

NAME(S): _____ **TOUR:** _____

Each registrant named on this form requests to participate in the tour listed thereon. Therefore, to the extent permitted by applicable law, each registrant knowingly and voluntarily waives, releases, saves, holds harmless and indemnifies Sunrise Birding, LLC of Branford, Connecticut with a mailing address of P.O. Box 274, Cos Cob, CT 06807, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys and contractors, past, present and future, and its respective heirs, legal and personal representatives, successor and assigns (collectively "Released Parties"), and all of its respective properties, assets and interests ("Released Property") from any and all claims, actions, causes of action, demands, rights, damages, costs losses, liabilities, expenses, compensation, controversies, disputes, obligations, debts, dues and liens whatsoever, on account of, or in any way arising out of, any and all known and unknown, foreseen or unforeseen loss of life or personal injury, loss or damage to property, and the consequence thereof, directly or indirectly, resulting from, incident to, in connection with, or arising out of that registrant's participation in the tour(s) (collectively, "Claims"). It is my/our intention that this agreement to release and indemnify shall apply to all of the claims without limit and, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, regardless of whether founded, in whole or in part, on any negligent act or omission of any of the released parties.

I/we understand **and agree** that Sunrise Birding, LLC has no liability for my personal medical expenses **and/or medical care**. I/we certify that I/we am in good health and physical condition and do not have any physical disability, medical condition or other limiting factor that would create a hazardous situation for myself/us or other passengers. Further, I/we understand that certain risks are inherent in the activities to be undertaken by me/us, including snorkeling, swimming, hiking, climbing ruins, boat travel, travel to remote locations, contact with wildlife or hazardous plants, and that inclement weather and unavailability of first aid or emergency medical treatment as well as other unknown or unanticipated risks may occur such as war or terrorism, and I/we accept full responsibility for such specified inherent risks and those not specifically identified.

I have read, understand, and accept Sunrise Birding's deposit, cancellation and refund policies and terms and conditions as described in the tour itinerary and accompanying documents. I/we have read and understand this Agreement to Release and Indemnify, which contains the entire and final agreement relating to the subject matter hereof. Its terms shall be binding on me/us and on my/our heirs, legal representatives and assigns. Liability under this Agreement to Release and Indemnify shall be joint and several. If any provision of this Agreement to Release and Indemnify is determined to be void, unenforceable, ineffective or against public policy, that provision shall be disregarded and deemed removed from this Agreement to Release and Indemnify and shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Agreement to Release and Indemnify.

I/we understand that tour prices for both land and air can vary due to supplier charges, currency fluctuations, park fees, and other increased costs and that the cost of this tour is subject to change to reflect such variations. I/we have been advised of obtaining insurance coverage for trip cancellation, medical assistance, and baggage loss. I/we understand and accept all terms and conditions and the undersigned's signature below is evidence of this acknowledgement. The receipt of this signed form and your tour deposit shall be deemed to be consent to the above conditions. This agreement to release and indemnify shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the state of Connecticut. Venue for enforcement of this release and indemnity agreement shall be in New Haven County, Connecticut.

This request for registration is made subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement to Release and Indemnify included in this document. Please read this entire document carefully. All registrants must sign this release. Registration cannot be confirmed until your deposit is received and this agreement is signed. Registration and/or attendance imply agreement with the terms and conditions of the Agreement to Release and Indemnify included in this document.

I have read, understand, and agree to all of Sunrise Birding LLC Terms and Conditions of Booking, Responsibilities and Assumption of Risk and the Agreement to Release and Indemnify included in this document:

Passenger 1 Signature:	Date:
Print Name:	

Passenger 2 Signature:	Date:
Print Name:	

Return completed and signed form with deposit check made payable to Sunrise Birding LLC. Mail to: Sunrise Birding, LLC, PO Box 274, Cos Cob, CT 06807 Questions? Contact Gina Nichol at gina@sunrisebirding.com Phone: 1.203.453.6724