



Sabrewing Nature Tours

Tranquilo Bay and Highlands

January 30 – February 12, 2020



Although many people have been to central Panama, the western part for the country is much less visited. This tour will take you to the incredible Tranquilo Bay Eco Adventure Lodge as well as the Chiriquí Highlands. This will allow us to bird from the islands of Bocas del Toro all the way to the high elevations in the Chiriquí region.

Itinerary Overview

January 30: Arrival and Transfer to Hotel in Panama City
January 31: Morning Flight to Tranquilo Bay and Birding on the Property
February 1: Fortuna Forest Reserve
February 2: Isla Popa and Tranquilo Bay
February 3: Changuinola River Valley
February 4: Finca de Cocoa “Chocolate Farm” and Tranquilo Bay
February 5: San San Pond and Sak Wetland
February 6: Full Day at Tranquilo Bay
February 7: Transfer to Mount Totumas with Birding en Route
February 8: Full Day at Mount Totumas
February 9: Full Day in Chiriquí Highlands
February 10: Full Day at Mount Totumas
February 11: Midday Return Flight to Panama City - Transfer to Hotel – Farewell Dinner
February 12: Flights Home

Detailed Itinerary

January 30: Arrival & Orientation

Welcome to Panama! You will be met at the airport and then driven to our hotel for the evening. We will have time to relax at the hotel before a welcome dinner. We have an early flight on day two, so we will want to get plenty of rest.

Overnight at Hotel in Panama City

January 31: Morning Flight to Bocas del Toro and Birding at Tranquilo Bay

We'll depart the hotel very early this morning in order to catch our flight to Bocas del Toro. Upon arrival in the islands, a representative from Tranquilo Bay will be waiting to transfer us to the lodge by boat.



Tranquilo Bay Eco Adventure Lodge is strategically located in the epicenter of national parks and protected reserves. This advantageous geographic position enables an efficient use of the archipelago's protected waters to reach otherwise inaccessible wildlife areas on the mainland and islands by boat. The lodge sits on 200-forested acres covering three distinct ecosystems, adjacent to Bastimentos Island National Marine Park, within the La Amistad UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The main lodge's veranda, private cabanas, and canopy observation tower provide elevated decks for a birds-eye view of the extraordinary wildlife found here. Several kilometers of hiking trails, in addition to the lodge's grounds, often provide encounters with Two-toed and Three-toed Sloths, White-faced Capuchin, Panamanian Night Monkeys, Nine-banded Armadillo, Spectacled Caiman, Central American Woolly Opossum, Grey Four-eyed Opossum, Northern Tamandua, Greater White-lined Bats, kettles of migrating raptors, Three-wattled Bellbird, Golden-collard Manakin (several leks), and hummingbird bathing pools.

The islands of Bocas del Toro are often called the “Galapagos of the Caribbean” due to endemism and species' differentiation. Each of the archipelago's islands, in addition to various points on the mainland, contain different morphs of the Strawberry poison dart frog species *Oophaga pumilo* which are heavily studied for their geographic variation. Panama's only known population of Stub-tailed Spadebill is found on the islands of Bocas and does not occur on the mainland. There is so much to see and do here that you're going to have trouble leaving.

We'll spend the rest of the day exploring this wonderful property. Our day will end watching the sunset over the islands before enjoying drinks, appetizers, and a fantastic dinner.

Overnight at Tranquilo Bay

February 1: Fortuna Forest Reserve

The Continental Divide of the Talamanca Range, between the provinces of Bocas del Toro and Chiriqui, is one of Panama's premier birding and wilderness areas. Today we will focus on the area known as Umbrellabird Road, between the Continental Divide and north of Fortuna Reservoir.

Fortuna Forest Reserve, established in 1976, is a species-rich area and part of BirdLife International Endemic Bird Area Costa Rica and Panama Highlands, EBA 020. The distinct avifauna in this globally important area include many regional endemics and restricted range species. Our visit here is sure to produce some outstanding birds with opportunities to see: Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, Red-faced Spinetail, Ashy-throated Chlorospingus, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Black and Crested Guans, Blue-and-Gold Tanager, Black-thighed and Black-faced Grosbeaks, and Golden-winged Warbler to mention a few.

We will enjoy a picnic lunch while overlooking the beautiful vistas of Lake Fortuna. Typical species highlights might include: Azure-hooded Jay; Sulphur-winged and Barred Parakeets; Bay-headed, Rufous-winged, Flame-colored, White-winged, Carmiol's, Cherrie's, Hepatic, and Spangled-cheeked Tanagers; Slate-throated Redstart; Tropical Parula; Blue-and-White Swallow; Rufous-winged; Golden-olive, and Smoky-brown Woodpeckers; Elegant and Tawny-capped Euphonias; Slaty Flowerpiercer; Golden-bellied Flycatcher; and the gorgeous Orange-bellied Trogon.

Several raptors are possible including Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Barred Hawk, Great Black-Hawk, and Swallow-tailed Kite. More possibilities worth mentioning include Northern Emerald-Toucanet; Red-headed and Prong-billed Barbets; White-crowned and White-ruffed Manakins; Broad-billed Motmot; Green Thorntail, Snowy-bellied, Stripe-tailed, and Black-bellied Hummingbirds, and Rufous-crested Coquette. The strange Tayra, a weasel like Neotropical mammal with wrinkled facial skin, has been spotted in this area.

A relaxing boat ride back to the lodge might produce Brown Boobies, Black and Royal Terns, Willet, Mangrove Swallow, and Bottlenose Dolphins among others. We will arrive at the lodge in the early evening where we can discuss our lists and share the day's best photos over appetizers and drinks on the veranda followed by a tasty dinner.

Overnight at Tranquilo Bay

February 2: Isla Popa and Tranquilo Bay

Each of the islands in the Bocas del Toro archipelago has interesting wildlife and high levels of endemism, however, Isla Popa the second largest island in the chain, has more species of birds and mammals due to its close proximity to the mainland. A leisurely boat ride of about two kilometers will bring us to a dense gallery forest surrounded by the rich mangrove lagoons of nearby Isla Popa. We will bird watch in this phenomenal area by boat; peacefully enjoying flights of Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucans, Crimson-fronted Parakeets, Brown-hooded Parrots, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Golden-hooded Tanager, Plumbeous and Swallow-tailed Kites, Pale-billed and Lineated Woodpeckers, Mangrove Cuckoo, American Pygmy Kingfisher, and hopefully Snowy Cotinga. This mangrove lagoon has some beautiful Turtle Sea Grass where we can have good looks at sponges, starfish, urchins, and upside-down Jellyfish.

We'll return to Tranquilo Bay for lunch. After a siesta, we will spend the afternoon birding around Tranquilo Bay.

Overnight at Tranquilo Bay

February 3: Changuinola River Valley

After coffee, fresh tropical juices and a complete Panamanian breakfast, we will leave the dock at 6:00AM for a comfortable sunrise boat ride to La Escapada, a beautiful hobby farm on the mainland. The early birding here on site at this farm can be fantastic. As we pass down the dock, through the mature mangrove forest, Common Potoo, Green and Boat-billed Herons, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron might be seen. Birding an edge of forest just past the mangroves will hopefully produce Lovely Cotinga, Long-tailed Tyrant, Scarlet-thighed and Blue Dacnis, Brown Jays, Gartered Trogon, and several species of raptors.

From La Escapada our van will take us along the foothills stretching the coastline in one of Central America's narrowest migratory bottlenecks. Due to the mainland topography, the thermals channel the raptor migration down this beautifully rugged coastline. The number of kettles and flights can be sensational, with thousands of Swainson's and Broad-winged Hawks, Swallow-tailed and Plumbeous Kites, and Turkey Vultures being seen at a time. This area is also important for a diverse group of resident Neotropical raptors such as: Black Hawk-Eagle; White-tailed, Grey-headed, and Hook-billed Kites; White and Red-tailed Hawks; and the mighty King Vulture. We will enjoy a picnic lunch at an amazing overlook in the Caribbean foothills. This

beautiful vista of the low wet forest in the San San Pond Sak Wetlands will give us an excellent opportunity to scan the canopy for Lovely and Snowy Cotingas, as well as soaring raptors. We will take several side-roads today that branch out into indigenous villages where the Ngäbe practice sustenance farming along the Changuinola River. Here along forested edge, cocoa farms and patches of gallery forest we will search for Scarlet-rumped Cacique; Black-faced Grosbeak; Chestnut-colored, Rufous-winged, and Crimson-bellied Woodpeckers; Rufous-tailed Jacamar; Blue Ground-Dove; Northern Bentbill; Great Antshrike; Rufous and Broad-billed Motmots; and the rare Yellow-eared Toucanet. A short boat ride through “Dark Land” and “Dolphin Bay” will bring us back to the lodge in the early evening.

Overnight at Tranquilo Bay

February 4: Finca de Cocoa “Chocolate Farm” and Tranquilo Bay

After birding from the lodge’s terrace with Panamanian coffee and a casual breakfast a little later than usual, we will take a calm 20-minute boat ride through Dolphin Bay to Buena Esperanza. The collection of tropical flora found at this location represents the best plants and therefore, butterflies in the archipelago. A superb water garden and natural creek running through the property also attract many species of mammals, reptiles, and multi-colored amphibians. The psychedelic green and black poison dart frogs, *Dendrobates auratus*, can be prolific with sufficient moisture. The landowners, who live onsite, protect this beautiful piece of mainland forest, by using the property to operate an artisanal chocolate farm. Cacao trees, grown to produce organic chocolate, thrive under the shade of the forest canopy. Under this stunning canopy we will be searching for Slaty-tailed, White-tailed, and Gartered Trogons; Purple-throated Fruitcrow; Black-chested Jay; Pale-billed Woodpecker; Pied Puffbird; Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant; Montezuma and Chestnut-headed Oropendolas; Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucans; Cocoa Woodcreeper; and many more species. Mammal sightings might include Bottle-nosed Dolphin, Mantled Howler Monkey, Kinkajou, Three-toed and Two-toed sloths, squirrels, and Greater White-lined Bats. After returning to Tranquilo Bay for lunch and a hammock siesta, birding excursions to the canopy observation tower, forest trail system, and hummingbird bathing station will be available options.

Overnight at Tranquilo Bay

February 5: San San Pond and Sak Wetland

Today will be a tranquil day of “birding by boat” within several lush, coastal, wetland habitats. San San Pond Sak Wetlands is a designated Ramsar site, as well as, part of the La Amistad UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The area is rich with abundant habitats including Atlantic wet lowland forest, *Raphia* palm swamp, fresh water river course, ocean impact beachfront, and mangroves. Access to this verdant wildlife area will be via boat through the historic Snyder Canal, as birds conveniently fly through the gallery forest back and forth across the waterway. After the Snyder Brothers finished construction in the late 1890s, the canal was used to transport bananas from the Changuinola River Valley, to the protected waters of Almirante Bay at Boca del Drago, where they were loaded onto transport ships. Panama’s first canal was vital in establishing The United Fruit Company, and the very beginnings of what would become, “The Banana Republic”.

This is an excellent place to find many lowland bird species, northern and altitudinal migrants, raptors, and shorebirds. All six species of kingfishers known to the Americas can be found here and we will be watching closely for regional endemics like the diminutively distributed Nicaraguan Seed-Finch, White-collard Manakin (Almirante race), Olive-backed Euphonia, Black-cowled Oriole, Canebrake Wren, and Three-wattled Bellbird. Also possible are Masked Duck, Common Gallinule, Least Bittern, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Potoo, Northern Jacana, and Bare-throated Tiger-Heron. Raptor sightings might include Yellow-headed Caracara; Bat, Laughing, and Peregrine Falcons; Osprey; and Pearl Kite. From the high branches of fruiting trees down to the grassy and shrubby edge, we might find Passerini’s and Golden-hooded Tanagers, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Red-breasted Blackbird, Buff-throated Saltator, Groove-billed Ani, Squirrel Cuckoo, chatters of Olive-throated Parakeets, Streaked and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and the tiny Common, Black-headed and Slate-headed Tody-Flycatchers.

With any luck, mammal sightings might produce Mantled Howler Monkey, Crab-eating Raccoon, White-nosed Coati, Neotropical River Otter, West Indian Manatee and Bottlenose Dolphin. Soropta Beach, important for migrating and resident shorebirds, is also a nesting ground for Leatherback and Hawksbill sea turtles, in addition to Green Iguanas, Basilisk Lizards, Common Boa Constrictor, Spectacled Caiman, and American Crocodile. Here on the beach, we will enjoy a picnic lunch with fresh sea breeze and shorebirds. This vibrant river mouth and beachfront might produce Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers; Wilson’s, Collared, and Semipalmated Plovers; Ruddy Turnstones; Sanderlings; Least, Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers; Common and Lesser Nighthawks; Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs; four species of tern; and Roseate Spoonbill.

In the afternoon, sea conditions permitting, we will pass just two miles offshore to a breathtaking rookery and reserve known as Swan's Caye, for beautiful close-up looks at Panama's only known breeding colony of Red-billed Tropicbirds, as well as, Brown Boobies and Magnificent Frigatebirds. We will return to the lodge in the late afternoon.

Overnight at Tranquilo Bay

February 6: Full Day at Tranquilo Bay

Today after enjoying some early morning birds from the canopy observation tower or the lodge's veranda, we will have a casual breakfast including highland coffee and fresh tropical fruit juices. Following our full breakfast, we will enter the forest trail in search of Chestnut-backed Antbird, White-flanked and Dot-winged Antwrens, Black-crowned Antshrike, Red-throated Ant-Tanager, Tawny-crested Tanager, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, and the geographically misplaced Stub-tailed Spadebill. After a short hike we will arrive at Pineapple Hill, a small elevated clearing at the forest's edge, which is an important forage area for a multitude of Neotropical and migratory species. This is an excellent place to get good looks at feeding birds like Golden-collared and Red-capped Manakins; three species of honeycreepers; Passerini's, Scarlet, White-lined, and Summer Tanagers; Baltimore Oriole; Band-tailed Barbthroat; Green-breasted Mango; White-necked Jacobin, Purple-crowned Fairy; Scaled Pigeon; Double-toothed Kite; Roadside Hawk; and the hard to see White-throated Crake. Once we are ready to move on, another forest trail will take us to a Golden-collared Manakin lek. During the mating season, from about December-August, active courts in each lek should have displaying males. Further along this trail will bring us to an area of high forest canopy, where Three-wattled Bellbirds like to spend midday. When the sun is a little strong, this canopy specialist likes to perch underneath the leaves in the cooler shade, presenting a nice opportunity with less backlighting for the photo enthusiast. On the way back to the lodge, to enjoy a homemade lunch in comfort, we will search the forest floor for the famous Isla Bastimentos red Poison dart frog. This morph of *Oophaga pumilio*, is studied onsite by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute who are researching its evolutionary traits.

After a short siesta, we can focus our efforts in the mangrove forest looking for several species of herons, Green Ibis, Common Black Hawk, all six kingfishers known to the Americas, Mangrove Cuckoo, Whimbrel, Willet, Prothonotary Warbler, and the resident Yellow Warbler or "Mangrove Warbler" whose males exhibit a stunning rufous hood. In the evening we will climb the canopy tower to watch from a bird's-eye view, the pandemonium of Red-lored and Mealy Parrots paired up and returning home, as groups of chattering Blue-headed Parrots join in the chorus. Some previous guests have dubbed these daily flights "The Invasion of Tranquilo Bay." We will also have a good chance of up-close looks at White-crowned and Scaled Pigeons; Black-crowned and Masked Tityras; Lineated and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers; Blue-gray, Palm, and Plain-colored Tanagers; White-vented Euphonia; and scores of flycatchers. Once we watch the beautiful tropical sun set over the Talamanca Range, we can walk back to the lodge for hard earned drinks, appetizers, and a delicious meal.

Overnight at Tranquilo Bay

February 7: Transfer to Mount Totumas with Birding en Route

After a delicious Panamanian breakfast, we will leave the dock at 6:00AM and travel by boat to the town of Punta Robalo on the mainland. Today we will be birding in the Palo Seco Protection Forest, 167,000 hectares, that is one of the most vital areas of La Amistad Biosphere Reserve. This incredible area consisting of wet Atlantic forest, foothills, and watersheds, is part of BirdLife International's Endemic Bird Area Central American Caribbean Slope, EBA019. It is a hotbed for restricted range species and altitudinal migrants, like the Three-wattled Bellbird, and is one of the most important protected areas in the Neotropics. Snowy Cotinga, Chestnut-colored and Cinnamon Woodpeckers, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Crimson-collared, Speckled, Emerald, and Silver-throated Tanagers, Lattice-tailed Trogon, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, Green Hermit, Slaty Spinetail, Dull-mantled Antbird, and Band-backed and Black-throated Wrens are all possibilities on the outing. We will also make every effort to see the elusive Lanceolated Monklet. Other lowland specialties might include Brown Jay, White-crowned Parrot, White-collared Seedeater, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Cinnamon and White-winged Becards, Long-billed Gnatwren, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Black-and-Yellow Tanager, Buff-rumped Warbler, Torrent Tyrannulet, Crimson-fronted Parakeets, and Red-fronted Parrotlet. Mammal sightings in the area might include sloths, Mantled Howler Monkeys, Red-brocket Deer, squirrels, and several species of bats.

Once we are finished birding for the day, we'll transfer to Mount Totumas for the next part of our adventure.

Overnight at Mount Totumas

February 8: Full Day at Mount Totumas

Our first morning will be spend on the Big Tree Loop Trail. This trail is of moderate difficulty and allows us to observe the transition from mature 2nd growth forest to primary forest. This trail consistently rewards guests with great views of any of the three monkey species, quetzals, trogons, bellbirds, coatis and tracks of big cats. The section with primary forest has stunning ancient trees that create cathedral acoustics where the song of the Black-faced Solitaire invariably inspires the listener. Highlights may include Three-wattled Bellbird, Resplendent Quetzals, and Flame-throated Warbler. After lunch, we'll spend time in the gardens around the lodge and along the Quetzal Trail. Highlights this afternoon might include up to 12 species of hummingbirds, Yellow-thighed Finch, Black-faced Solitaire, and Long-Tailed Silky Flycatcher.

Overnight at Mount Totumas

February 9: Full Day in Chiriquí Highlands

Today we will be visiting a traditional Panamanian coffee farm, Finca Hartmann. The Hartmann's have been protecting much of the surrounding forest near the border of Costa Rica to help produce their shade-grown coffee since 1940. Here, we will be searching for possible looks at the gorgeous but scarce Turquoise Cotinga. Highlights at the feeding station include Red-headed Barbet, Bay-headed, Speckled, Spangle-cheeked, and Golden-hooded Tanagers, and Yellow-throated Toucan. After we finish at Finca Hartmann, we will visit Ojo de Agua at 1500 meters. This area has excellent forest with primary trees and nice trails. Highlights here include Fiery-billed Aracari, Streak-breasted Treehunter, and Spot-crowned Woodcreeper,

Overnight at Mount Totumas

February 10: Full Day at Mount Totumas

This morning, we take an easy short loop trail that starts in riparian habitat in 2nd growth forest and then opens into the upper meadows with stunning views of Mount Totumas and La Amistad National Park. The forest bordering the meadows is situated in a micro climate that is draped with the bajareque mists that fall from the gap on the northern slopes of Mount Totumas. The epiphytes in this area are abundant and stunning. Bromeliads and orchids along with ferns, moss, and lichen cover the entire surface of the trees and branches. Highlights could include Spotted Barbtail, Resplendent Quetzal, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Sulphur-winged Parakeet, Black Guan, and Chiriqui Quail-Dove.

In the afternoon, we visit some middle elevation forests looking for specialties such as White-winged and Bay-headed Tanagers, Elegant Euphonia, Fiery-billed Aracari, Crimson-fronted Parakeet, Lesson's Motmot, Masked Tityra, Elegant and Spot-crowned Euphonias, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, and Acorn Woodpecker.

Overnight at Mount Totumas

February 11: Midday Return Flight to Panama City - Transfer to Hotel – Farewell Dinner

As we transfer for our flight to Panama City from David, we'll spend some time birding in the lowlands. Possible highlights include Orange-chinned and Brown-throated Parakeets, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, and several species of hummingbirds such as White-crested Coquette, Scaly-breasted, Charming, Blue-throated Goldentail, and the Veraguan Mango. We'll take a midday flight to Panama City and transfer to our hotel close to the international airport for our flights home the following day.

Overnight at Riande Aeropuerto Hotel

February 12: Flights Home

Trip Details

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Panama City, Panama: \$3,999

Single Supplement: \$800

Price Includes:

Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Panama

Flights within Panama

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from Panama City, Panama

Passport and Visa Fees

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Deposit:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (October 30, 2019).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact Rob at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com or by phone at 317-748-4140.

Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:

Sabrewing Nature Tours acts only as an agent for the various independent suppliers that provide hotel accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, activities, or other services connected with this tour. Such services are subject to the terms and conditions of those suppliers. Sabrewing Nature Tours and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or any other incident which may be caused by the negligence, defect, default of any company or person in performing these services. Responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, local laws, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the tours/trips arranged by Sabrewing Nature Tours. Individual travelers are responsible for purchasing a travel insurance policy, if desired, that will cover some of the expenses associated with the loss of luggage or personal effects.



Sabrewing Nature Tours

REGISTRATION Tranquilo Bay and Chiriquí Highlands 2020

Participant 1:

Name (As it appears on Passport)

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

Passport Number – Expiration - Country of Origin

List current health and physical limitations: _____

List any allergies: _____

List any medications: _____

List any dietary restrictions or preferences: _____

In Case of Emergency Please Notify:

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Participant 2:

Name (As it appears on Passport)

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

Passport Number – Expiration - Country of Origin

List current health and physical limitations: _____

List any allergies: _____

List any medications: _____

List any dietary restrictions or preferences: _____

In Case of Emergency Please Notify:

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Sabrewing Nature Tours

Terms, Conditions, and Waiver

TERMS: To register for a tour or workshop please complete the above registration form and sign below to acknowledge the terms. Send this form along with you Tour/Workshop Registration Form and your deposit or full tour amount to Sabrewing Nature Tours (SNT) at the below address. Registrations will be processed on a first come first served basis. We will place your name on the waiting list if your tour is full.

The deposit for this trip is \$1,000 per participant. Deposits and all signed forms are required to secure registration of your spot on the tour. Deposits are refundable less a 20% processing fee ONLY if the spot can be filled with another participant at the full tour price. Deposits received after a tour has filled will be returned and your name will be placed on a waiting list. Payment in full is due at least 90 days prior to the start of the tour. Registrants who have not paid their remaining balance will forfeit their deposit and their place on the tour. Payment by personal check is strongly preferred. If you would like to pay with a credit card, additional fees will apply. We strongly suggest you consider trip insurance to cover you in the event of a medical or other emergency that would prohibit you from joining the tour.

The activity level required for each tour will be described on the tour page. If in doubt please contact SNT to determine if a tour is right for you. Any physical or medical concerns including allergies and/or dietary restrictions should be communicated to SNT. All tours will be non-smoking during group activities including but not limited to meals, slide programs, vehicle travel and when birding/photographing in close proximity to other participants. Tour groups will be kept small for the enjoyment of all participants. Target group sizes are listed in each tour description on our web site. SNT reserves the right to exceed the target group size by no more than one participant.

Tours will be held regardless of weather conditions. Severe weather may dictate informal discussion and/or a slide program while we wait for the weather to break. Tours will begin at the scheduled time. Tardiness may result in missing the boat, or van so to speak. There are no guarantees in nature. Tours are designed to coincide with excellent nature viewing opportunities. Decisions will be made daily to determine where the group should be to maximize opportunities. Deviation from the scheduled itinerary may be necessary.

It is imperative that all participants follow rules and suggestions set forth by the leaders and/or local guides. Failure to comply could pose a safety risk to you or other tour participants. For the safety of all clients we reserve the right to restrict access to tour functions at any time.

Airfare is NOT included in the price of the tour unless otherwise noted on the tour page. Registered participants will receive more specific details of what to bring as well as a more detailed outline of what can be expected on the tour upon payment in full and no later than 60 days prior to the start of the tour.

Photo tour participants wishing to get the most from their tour will have a working knowledge of their camera equipment prior to the tour. Suggestions on exposure modes, camera settings and a variety of techniques will be verbalized throughout the tour. Do bring your camera's manual. Every camera is unique in its operation thus it is impossible to know every feature of every camera model. Participants will be put in the best locations to take advantage of the light, wind, and habitat. We will work to improve compositions and make suggestions to vary your perspective that will improve your resulting images. Participants will also learn techniques to successfully capture action and behavior images.

Waiver: I am aware that certain risks and dangers are inherent to nature travel and photography and may occur during a Sabrewing Nature Tours event and that such risk and dangers cannot be eliminated without diminishing the quality of the workshop/tour for which I have registered. Risks include but are not limited to theft or other loss of equipment or personal belongings; illness, injury, accident or death; travel hazards by air, boat, automobile or other vehicle; exposure to elements and other forces of nature and acts of God; both native and non-native wildlife, insects and flora as well as political, civil or military disturbance, strike, quarantine, government restriction and terrorist threat. I understand on or off trail hiking can present risk of falls that may result in damage to camera equipment, or significant personal injury or death. I understand Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for inclement weather and cannot and does not guarantee subject matter will be available for photography on any given date or location. I further understand I am solely responsible for additional expenses incurred by me due to medical emergency or other travel delays, including but not limited to the expense of extra nights lodging or flight itinerary changes. I voluntarily assume all risks and will hold Sabrewing Nature Tours, its partners and cooperating agents, the workshop leader(s), any and all co-leaders, assistants and other participants harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, claims, debts, and demands which arise in connection with the tour. The terms hereof shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for my heirs, administrators, and executors, and for all members of my family, including any minors accompanying me. In the event a lawsuit is filed, the enrolling participant agrees to do so solely in Hamilton County in the State of Indiana.

I have read and agree with the above terms and conditions.

Participant 1: Signature _____

Date _____

Participant 2: Signature _____

Date _____

Please complete forms, sign the second form, and send them with your deposit or full tour amount.