



Sabrewing Nature Tours

Canopy Camp

June 14 – 22, 2019



Come to Panama with Sabrewing Nature Tours celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Canopy Family! The creation of Canopy Camp has provided incredible access to birding in Panama's Darién province. During our stay, we'll have the opportunity to visit many of the wonderful birding locations in this region. In addition to seeing some Darién specialties such as Gray-cheeked Nunlet and Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, we should also have the chance to visit an active Harpy Eagle nest. Don't miss out on this special offer to visit Canopy Camp!

Itinerary Overview

June 14: Arrival and Transfer to Riande Aeropuerto Hotel
June 15: Nusagandi Forest Reserve & Arrival at the Canopy Camp
June 16: "Nando's Trail" & Birding the Panamerican Highway to Yaviza
June 17: El Salto Road & Aruza Lagoons/Las Lagunas Road
June 18: Nuevo Vigia Embera Village
June 19: Quebrada Felix & Tierra Nueva Foundation
June 20: Quest for the Harpy Eagle (If a nest site or juvenile bird is available to visit)
June 21: San Francisco Reserve and Transfer to Riande Aeropuerto Hotel
June 22: Departure

(Locations could change due to local conditions)

Detailed Itinerary

June 14: Arrival and Transfer to Riande Aeropuerto Hotel

Welcome to Panama! Upon arrival at the airport, we'll transfer just a few minutes to the Riande Aeropuerto Hotel. We'll have a wonderful welcome dinner and prepare for our departure the next morning to Canopy Camp.

June 15: Nusagandi Forest Reserve & Arrival at the Canopy Camp



Black-capped Donacobius

We will pack up early and after breakfast at the Riande Aeropuerto Hotel, we will embark for Darién, making several stops along the way for birding of course! Heading east along the Panamerican Highway, we will scan the fields for Southern Lapwing, Savanna Hawk, and Crested Caracara. We will take a detour off the highway onto the El Llano-Carti Road, where we cross the Continental Divide and head into the foothills of the San Blas Mountains to Nusagandi, where lush humid Caribbean slope forest, full of new species awaits! Our main target here is the enigmatic Sapayoa, which lives along the creeks through these forests. Along the forest trails and in the open areas we will search for Sulphur-rumped, Rufous-winged, and Black-and-yellow Tanagers, White-eared Conebill, Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, the endemic Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, Blue-fronted Parrotlet, and Tawny-capped Euphonia. Carrying on along the highway, we will stop again along the shores of Bayano Lake and scan the edges for Cooi Heron, Neotropical Cormorant, Pied Water-Tyrant, Ruddy-breasted

Seedeater, and the rare Bare-throated Tiger-Heron. A small trail leading from the water's edge is a good place to try for Black Antshrike, Golden-collared Manakin, and Rufous-winged Antwren. At Rio Mono Bridge, we hope to find One-colored Becard, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Blue Ground-Dove, Blue Cotinga, Orange-crowned Oriole, Pied Puffbird, and more. We will scan the river below for Green-and-rufous Kingfisher and Fasciated Antshrike.

We'll stop to stretch our legs and have a delicious Panamanian lunch in Torti, just before the Darién Province border. The busy hummingbird feeders here attract Scaly-breasted and Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds, Long-billed Starthroat, and other common species. Then from here, we head to the Canopy Camp, arriving before dusk. Upon arrival, we will be shown to our tents and have some time to freshen up before dark, when we will meet in the lounge for appetizers, cocktails, and dinner! We will settle into our tents after a long day and doze off to the sounds of the forest around us.

June 16: "Nando's Trail" & Birding the Panamerican Highway to Yaviza

Yellow-throated and Keel-billed Toucans sound a morning chorus from the towering Cuipo trees beside the camp. Step out of your tent to a spectacular view of Darién! We will meet our guide early in the clearing and start birding! Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Black-crowned Tityra, Pale-bellied Hermit, Barred Puffbird, Olivaceous Piculet, White-headed Wren, Ruddy Pigeon, Black-tailed Trogon, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Spot-crowned Barbet, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, and Sooty-headed Tyrannulet can be found around the camp open areas. After breakfast in the open-air dining room, we will spend the morning birding "Nando's Trail", a wide, loopy trail through the mature secondary growth forest beside the camp! We will seek out Royal

Flycatcher, Black Antshrike, Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon, Tiny and Semiplumbeous Hawks, Great Potoo, Gray-cheeked Nunlet, White-fronted Nunbird, Double-banded Graytail, and Russet-winged Schiffornis. Golden-collared and Golden-headed Manakins lek throughout these woods! Lunch at Canopy Camp.

There is plenty of time for a siesta in the early afternoon during the hottest part of the day. We will reconvene again to continue birding this fantastic part of Panama! In the afternoon we will drive to the very end of the Panamerican Highway, scanning and stopping for birds along the road. Here we will search for various regional specialties and other fascinating species including Black Oropendola, Black Antshrike, Spectacled Parrotlet, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Laughing Falcon, Pearl Kite, and Black-collared Hawk. Marshy roadsides along the highway are a great place to find Pied Water-Tyrant, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, Limpkin, and more. Arriving at the end of the highway, the bustling frontier town of Yaviza will give us a feel for daily life in the Darién. The cemetery in town is a great place to look for tanagers, motmots, and flycatchers, and Bicolored Wrens have recently nested here. After a cold drink and a snack, we will head back to the Camp. Dinner at Canopy Camp.



Gray-cheeked Nunlet

After dinner, we will grab our spotlight and search the grounds for owls and other nocturnal wildlife. Central American Pygmy-Owl, Tropical Screech-Owl, Spectacled, Black-and-white, Mottled, and Crested Owls, and Common and Great Potoos may be heard and we'll try our best to call them in. Nocturnal mammals are common here, and we'll scan for eyeshine of Kinkajou, Olingo, Western Night Monkey, and Central American Woolly Opossum, among others!

June 17: El Salto Road & Aruza Lagoons/Las Lagunas Road

We will awake for an early breakfast just after dawn as the birds start their morning chorus. Then we'll board the Canopy Camp's birdmobile and head to El Salto Road. This 6-km long road extends northeast off the Panamerican Highway and for the first 2 kilometers, is bordered by mature secondary forest. Here we will scan the roadsides and forest for Orange-crowned Oriole, Blue Cotinga, Crane Hawk, Golden-green Woodpecker, Double-banded Graytail, Black-breasted Puffbird, White-eared Conebill, and Blue-and-yellow and Chestnut-fronted Macaws. Harpy Eagle has even been seen here! At the end of the road, we will walk a short trail through a dense thicket in hopes of finding Bare-crowned Antbird, Pale-bellied Hermit, Bay Wren (eastern Panama race), Olivaceous Piculet, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, and more. Lunch at Canopy Camp.

We have a full afternoon of birding ahead of us as we explore the open fields and roadside thickets of Las Lagunas Road, ending at the Aruza Lagoons. This wonderful matrix of habitats attracts a great diversity of birds, including Giant Cowbird, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Little Cuckoo, White-headed Wren, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Red-breasted Blackbird, Yellow-breasted and Dark-billed Flycatchers, Greater Ani, Muscovy Duck, Striped Cuckoo, and other open area birds. White-eared Conebill, Great Antshrike, and Gray-cheeked Nunlet are also possibilities here along the scrubby roadsides. We will try to call for Dwarf and Gray-capped Cuckoos at a small patch of forest. The Aruza Lagoons is a large wetland bordered by cattle farms, where we will hopefully find Black-capped Donacobius, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, Gray-breasted Crake, Pied Water-Tyrant, Capped Heron, and Amazon and Green-and-rufous Kingfishers. As dusk approaches, we will make our way back to the Canopy Camp for cocktails and dinner.

June 18: Nuevo Vigia Embera Village

Today we have a full day of natural and cultural exploration! After an early breakfast at the Canopy Camp, we head towards the town of Las Peñitas. There we will grab our gear and board dugout canoes called "piraguas," and start our journey along the Chucunaque River to Nuevo Vigia, an Embera village nestled north of the Panamerican Highway. Along the river, we will scan for Green Ibis, Yellow-backed and Yellow-tailed Orioles, Crested and Black Oropendolas, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Ringed, Amazon, and Green kingfishers, Gray-lined Hawk, and other riverside birds. We will turn up the Turquesa River and stop at a known spot for Dusky-backed Jacamar, a rare and range-restricted species! Hopefully with some luck we will see this amazing bird. A trail along the riverbank is a great place to call for Bare-crowned Antbird, Little Tinamou, and Red-billed Scythebill.

Nuevo Vigia sits along the banks of the river, surrounded by mature secondary forest, ponds, and forest lagoons to explore! Around the village, we will scan the open areas for Spectacled Parrotlet, Black Oropendola, Striped Cuckoo, and Chestnut-fronted and Blue-and-yellow Macaws. The community maintains a small trail system through the forest, which leads us to a tranquil forest lagoon. Golden-headed Manakin, Double-banded Graytail, Royal Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Nunlet, and many

other forest birds are likely. At the lagoon we hope to see Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, and Capped and Agami Herons! We will head back to the village and find a shady spot to have lunch.

The local artisans weave beautiful baskets, plates, and masks from dried palm leaves, colored with natural dyes from the forest plants and fruits, and carve cocobolo wood and tagua nuts into animals from the area. You are welcome to admire and purchase these Darién handicrafts, directly from the artisans themselves. After our visit at the village, we will continue to explore the trails and open areas of this fantastic area of Darién! Dinner at Canopy Camp.

June 19: Quebrada Felix & Tierra Nueva Foundation

We have another exciting morning ahead of us! We will be birding at Quebrada Felix, along the edge of the Filo del Tallo Hydrological Reserve. As we make our way to the border of the forest, we pass through open fields where Blue-headed Parrot, Plumbeous Kite, Orange-crowned Oriole, and Crane Hawk are commonly seen, among others. A short trail will lead us to a winding streambed through tall canopy mature forest. As we walk slowly along the rocky creek, we will listen and watch for Black-crowned Antpitta, Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser, White-fronted Nunbird, the endemic Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, Speckled Mourner, Rufous-winged Antwren, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Fasciated Tiger-Heron, and Golden-crowned Spadebill. Even the rare Solitary Eagle has been seen here! We are sure to have a great morning. Lunch at Canopy Camp.



Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker

This afternoon, we are off to Tierra Nueva Foundation. The foundation operates a technical high school focusing in applications in agriculture and sustainable farming in Darién. The large property hosts a variety of habitats including mature secondary forest where we will walk a short trail to look for Golden-green Woodpecker, Spot-crowned Barbet, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon, Cinereous Becard, White-eared Conebill, Bay Wren, Black-bellied Wren, Chestnut-backed Antbird (eastern race which shows white spots on the wings), the magnificent Great Curassow, and King Vulture, among others. Dinner at Canopy Camp.

June 20: Quest for the Harpy Eagle (If a nest site or juvenile bird is available to visit)

The Harpy Eagle is our target for the day! We will start very early, long 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: Neotropical Cormorant, Anhinga, Great Blue, Cocoi, Little Blue, Tricolored, Striated, and Capped Herons, Snowy Egret, White Ibis, Green Ibis, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Pied Water-Tyrant, Bronzed Cowbird, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, Crested and Black Oropendolas. White-tailed Kite, Black-collared Hawk, and Common Black-Hawk 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 toward 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, 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 the horizon.

(If there is not a nest site or juvenile bird that we can visit, we will bird somewhere else in the Darién for the day. There are many amazing birding destinations in the area!)

June 21: San Francisco Reserve and Arrival at Canopy Tower

We will have some time before breakfast to enjoy the Canopy Camp birds one last time—families of White-headed Wrens jaunt around the forest edges and Scaly-breasted and Violet-bellied hummingbirds visit the nectar feeders. After breakfast, we will say

our goodbyes to the Canopy Camp and make our way back toward Panama City. Along the way, we will stop at San Francisco Nature Reserve, a privately-owned forest reserve protecting 1,300 acres. The reserve serves as a wildlife refuge and protects the headwaters of the major rivers in the area. Open fields, ponds, marshland, and streams, mature secondary and even pockets of primary forest are found in the reserve, and it is home to hundreds of species of birds. We will walk the wide road and check out some of the forest trails for Sirystes, Bare-crowned Antbird, White-fronted Nunbird, Great Jacamar, Russet-winged Schiffornis, Royal Flycatcher, Rufous Piha, Central American Pygmy-Owl, Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, the endemic Yellow-green Tyrannulet, Boat-billed Heron, Blue and Plain-breasted Ground-Doves, and many others. Even the rare Wing-banded Antbird has been recorded here! We will have lunch in Torti, and with full stomachs, make our way back to Panama City and the Riande Aeropuerto Hotel.

June 22: Departure

The Riande Aeropuerto Hotel will provide a shuttle to the airport for your flights home.

Trip Details

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Panama City, Panama: \$2,499

Limited single rooms are available for no additional single supplement.

Price Includes:

Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Panama

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

International Airfare

Visa and passport fees

Airport taxes

Alcoholic beverages

Personal items

Tips

Travel insurance

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 (March 14, 2019).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact Rob at robert.ripma@gmail.com or by phone at 317-324-8505.



Sabrewing Nature Tours

Canopy Camp – June 2019 REGISTRATION

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 and 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 and 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.