

# NatureScape Tours

## Yucatan Peninsula: Birding the Land of the Maya

\* = Rare



**Impressive Mayan ruins—Chichen Itza's magnificent El Castillo pyramid and Tulum atop its oceanfront perch—natural beauty & colorful birds are a few of the Yucatan's attractions.**

Great Tinamou  
Little Tinamou  
Thicket Tinamou  
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck  
Fulvous Whistling-Duck  
Muscovy Duck  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Northern Pintail  
Green-winged Teal  
Ring-necked Duck  
Lesser Scaup  
Bufflehead  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
Plain Chachalaca  
Crested Guan  
Great Curassow  
Black-throated Bobwhite  
Spotted Wood-Quail  
Singing Quail  
Ocellated Turkey

Least Grebe  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Eared Grebe  
American Flamingo  
White-tailed Tropicbird  
Jabiru  
Wood Stork  
Magnificent Frigatebird  
Brown Booby  
Neotropic Cormorant  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Anhinga  
American White Pelican  
Brown Pelican  
Pinnated Bittern  
American Bittern  
Least Bittern  
Bare-throated Tiger-Heron  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Little Blue Heron  
Tricolored Heron  
Reddish Egret  
Cattle Egret



**An artist's palette of color shimmers on a male Ocellated Turkey. Just as showy are Northern Yucatan's breeding colony of American Flamingos.**







Green Heron

Agami Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Boat-billed Heron

White Ibis

White-faced Ibis

Roseate Spoonbill

Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture

King Vulture

Osprey

Gray-headed Kite

Hook-billed Kite

Swallow-tailed Kite

White-tailed Kite

Snail Kite

Double-toothed Kite

Plumbeous Kite

Black-collared Hawk

Northern Harrier



**Hérons, egrets & waterbirds abound in the mangroves & wetlands of the Yucatan. It may be difficult to believe, but Boat-billed Herons sound even more bizarre than they look!**

**The delicate markings of an adult Bare-throated Tiger-Heron bring an understated beauty to this colorful heron.**



Cooper's Hawk

Bicolored Hawk

Crane Hawk

White Hawk

Common Black-Hawk

Great Black-Hawk

Harris's Hawk

Roadside Hawk

Red-shouldered Hawk

Broad-winged Hawk

Gray Hawk

Short-tailed Hawk

White-tailed Hawk

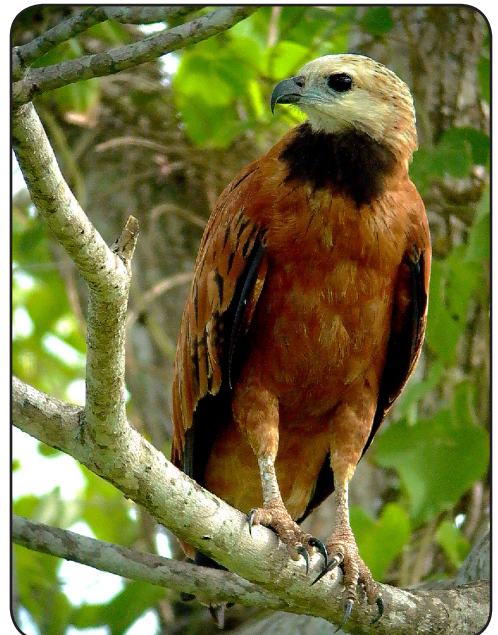
Zone-tailed Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

Black Hawk-Eagle

Ornate Hawk-Eagle

**Raptors are well represented across the Yucatan Peninsula with each habitat niche having its own specialties. Here are a few of my favorites: a male Hook-billed Kite soaring low over our heads; the secretive, yet colorful, Black-collared Hawk watches us from his hidden perch; and, following page, an elegantly patterned Laughing Falcon.**







Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle  
 Barred Forest-Falcon  
 Collared Forest-Falcon  
 Crested Caracara  
 Laughing Falcon  
 American Kestrel  
 Merlin  
 Aplomado Falcon  
 Bat Falcon  
 Peregrine Falcon  
 Ruddy Crake  
 Clapper Rail  
 Rufous-necked Wood-Rail  
 Gray-necked Wood-Rail  
 Sora  
 Spotted Rail  
 Purple Gallinule  
 Common Gallinule  
 American Coot  
 Caribbean Coot  
 Sungrebe  
 Limpkin

Sandhill Crane  
 Double-striped Thick-knee  
 Black-bellied Plover  
 Collared Plover  
 Snowy Plover  
 Wilson's Plover  
 Semipalmated Plover  
 Piping Plover  
 Killdeer  
 American Oystercatcher  
 Black-necked Stilt  
 American Avocet  
 Northern Jacana  
 Spotted Sandpiper  
 Solitary Sandpiper  
 Greater Yellowlegs  
 Willet  
 Lesser Yellowlegs  
 Whimbrel  
 Long-billed Curlew  
 Marbled Godwit  
 Ruddy Turnstone  
 Red Knot  
 Sanderling  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper  
 Western Sandpiper  
 Least Sandpiper  
 Pectoral Sandpiper  
 Dunlin  
 Stilt Sandpiper  
 Short-billed Dowitcher  
 Long-billed Dowitcher  
 Wilson's Snipe  
 Wilson's Phalarope  
 Laughing Gull  
 Ring-billed Gull



**Rare birds are always a treat to find. Two specialties of the 'Birding the Land of the Maya' tour are: at Coba, an adult Spotted Rail shows off its stunning plumage; coastal mangroves hold one of region's secretive rails—the charming Rufous-necked Wood-Rail.**



Herring Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Kelp Gull  
Brown Noddy  
Sooty Tern  
Bridled Tern  
Least Tern  
Gull-billed Tern  
Caspian Tern  
Black Tern  
Roseate Tern  
Common Tern  
Forster's Tern  
Royal Tern  
Sandwich Tern  
Black Skimmer  
Rock Pigeon  
Pale-vented Pigeon  
Scaled Pigeon  
White-crowned Pigeon  
Red-billed Pigeon  
Short-billed Pigeon  
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
African Collared-Dove  
White-winged Dove  
Zenaida Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Common Ground-Dove  
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove  
Ruddy Ground-Dove  
Blue Ground-Dove  
White-tipped Dove  
Gray-headed Dove

Caribbean Dove  
Ruddy Quail-Dove  
Olive-throated Parakeet  
Brown-hooded Parrot  
White-crowned Parrot  
White-fronted Parrot  
Yellow-lored Parrot  
Red-lored Parrot  
Mealy Parrot  
Yellow-headed Parrot  
Squirrel Cuckoo  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Mangrove Cuckoo  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
Striped Cuckoo  
Pheasant Cuckoo  
Lesser Roadrunner  
Smooth-billed Ani  
Groove-billed Ani  
Barn Owl  
Vermiculated Screech-Owl  
Great Horned Owl  
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl  
Mottled Owl  
Lesser Nighthawk  
Common Nighthawk  
Common Pauraque  
Yucatan Poorwill  
Yucatan Nightjar  
Northern Potoo  
White-collared Swift  
Chimney Swift  
Vaux's Swift

**After dark outings are always an adventure, one never really knows what might be encountered. The Yucatan Peninsula has a number of interesting nightbirds, a couple of owls and two endemic nightjars. A typical night's birding might find (left to right): Vermiculated (Guatemalan) Screech-Owl, Mottled Owl and Yucatan Poorwill.**







Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift  
 White-necked Jacobin  
 Stripe-throated Hermit  
 Green-breasted Mango  
 Mexican Sheartail  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
 Cozumel Emerald  
 Canivet's Emerald  
 Wedge-tailed Sabrewing  
 White-bellied Emerald  
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird  
 Buff-bellied Hummingbird  
 Cinnamon Hummingbird  
 Slaty-tailed Trogon  
 Black-headed Trogon  
 Gartered Trogon  
 Collared Trogon  
 Blue-crowned Motmot  
 Turquoise-browed Motmot  
 Ringed Kingfisher  
 Belted Kingfisher  
 Amazon Kingfisher



Green Kingfisher  
 American Pygmy Kingfisher  
 White-necked Puffbird  
 Rufous-tailed Jacamar  
 Emerald Toucanet  
 Collared Aracari  
 Keel-billed Toucan  
 Acorn Woodpecker  
 Black-cheeked Woodpecker  
 Yucatan Woodpecker  
 Golden-fronted Woodpecker  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
 Ladder-backed Woodpecker  
 Smoky-brown Woodpecker  
 Golden-olive Woodpecker  
 Chestnut-colored Woodpecker  
 Lineated Woodpecker  
 Pale-billed Woodpecker  
 Scaly-throated Leaf Tosser  
 Rufous-breasted Spinetail  
 Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner  
 Plain Xenops  
 Tawny-winged Woodcreeper  
 Ruddy Woodcreeper  
 Olivaceous Woodcreeper  
 No. Barred-Woodcreeper  
 Ivory-billed Woodcreeper  
 Streak-headed Woodcreeper  
 Barred Antshrike  
 Plain Antwren  
 Dot-winged Antwren  
 Dusky Antbird  
 Mexican (Black-faced) Antthrush  
 Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet  
 Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet  
 Greenish Elaenia  
 Caribbean Elaenia



**Humid forests produce a number of tropical bird families, without being overwhelming—conditions that make our Yucatan tour a perfect introduction to tropical birding! Clockwise from above/left: toucans—colorful Collared Araçari; woodcreepers—ant swarm following Ruddy Woodcreeper; ground antbirds—secretive Mexican (Black-faced) Antthrush; motmots—dapper Blue-crowned Motmot.**





**An odd flycatcher to be sure, Bright-rumped Attila is more often heard than seen. The Yucatan is home to a number of endemic birds, here are three named for the region: understated Yucatan Vireo, richly colored Cozumel Vireo and flashy Yucatan Jay.**

Yellow-bellied Elaenia  
 Ochre-bellied Flycatcher  
 Sepia-capped Flycatcher  
 Northern Bentbill  
 Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher  
 Common Tody-Flycatcher  
 Eye-ringed Flatbill  
 Yellow-olive Flycatcher  
 Stub-tailed Spadebill  
 Royal Flycatcher  
 Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher  
 Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher  
 Eastern Wood-Pewee  
 Tropical Pewee  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
 Acadian Flycatcher  
 Alder Flycatcher  
 Willow Flycatcher  
 White-throated Flycatcher  
 Least Flycatcher  
 Eastern Phoebe  
 Vermilion Flycatcher  
 Bright-rumped Attila  
 Rufous Mourner  
 Yucatan Flycatcher  
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher  
 Great Crested Flycatcher  
 Brown-crested Flycatcher  
 Great Kiskadee  
 Boat-billed Flycatcher  
 Social Flycatcher  
 Streaked Flycatcher  
 Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher  
 Piratic Flycatcher  
 Tropical Kingbird  
 Couch's Kingbird

Eastern Kingbird  
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher  
 White-collared Manakin  
 Red-capped Manakin  
 Black-crowned Tityra  
 Masked Tityra  
 Thrush-like Schiffornis  
 Gray-collared Becard  
 Rose-throated Becard  
 White-eyed Vireo  
 Mangrove Vireo  
 Cozumel Vireo  
 Yellow-throated Vireo  
 Blue-headed Vireo  
 Warbling Vireo  
 Philadelphia Vireo  
 Red-eyed Vireo  
 Yellow-green Vireo  
 Yucatan Vireo  
 Tawny-crowned Greenlet  
 Lesser Greenlet  
 Green Shrike-Vireo  
 Rufous-browed Peppershrike  
 Brown Jay  
 Green Jay  
 Yucatan Jay  
 Horned Lark  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
 Ridgeway's (Northern) Rough-winged Swallow  
 Southern Rough-winged Swallow  
 Purple Martin  
 Gray-breasted Martin  
 Tree Swallow  
 Mangrove Swallow  
 Bank Swallow  
 Barn Swallow  
 Cliff Swallow





**Endemic to the Yucatan Peninsula, Black Catbird is easily found on Cozumel Island and in coastal thickets on the mainland.**

**Gray-crowned Yellowthroat can be found in grassy thickets throughout the Yucatan. This one was outside our hotel in Cuba.**



Cave Swallow  
 Band-backed Wren  
 Yucatan Wren  
 Spot-breasted Wren  
 White-browed (Carolina) Wren  
 "Southern" House Wren  
 "Cozumel" House Wren  
 Sedge Wren  
 White-bellied Wren  
 White-breasted Wood-Wren  
 Long-billed Gnatwren  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
 White-lored Gnatcatcher  
 Tropical Gnatcatcher  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 Eastern Bluebird  
 Veery  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush  
 Swainson's Thrush  
 Wood Thrush  
 Clay-colored Thrush  
 White-throated Thrush  
 American Robin  
 Gray Catbird  
 Black Catbird  
 Tropical Mockingbird  
 Cozumel Thrasher  
 European Starling  
 American Pipit  
 Cedar Waxwing  
 Ovenbird  
 Worm-eating Warbler  
 Louisiana Waterthrush  
 Northern Waterthrush  
 Blue-winged Warbler  
 Golden-winged Warbler  
 Black-and-white Warbler  
 Prothonotary Warbler  
 Swainson's Warbler

Tennessee Warbler  
 Orange-crowned Warbler  
 Nashville Warbler  
 Gray-crowned Yellowthroat  
 Kentucky Warbler  
 Common Yellowthroat  
 Hooded Warbler  
 American Redstart  
 Cape May Warbler  
 Cerulean Warbler  
 Northern Parula  
 Magnolia Warbler  
 Bay-breasted Warbler  
 Blackburnian Warbler  
 Yellow Warbler  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler  
 Blackpoll Warbler  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler  
 Palm Warbler  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Yellow-throated Warbler  
 Prairie Warbler  
 Black-throated Green Warbler  
 Golden-crowned Warbler  
 Wilson's Warbler  
 Yellow-breasted Chat  
 Bananaquit  
 Gray-headed Tanager  
 Black-throated Shrike-Tanager  
 Crimson-collared Tanager  
 Western Spindalis  
 Blue-gray Tanager  
 Yellow-winged Tanager  
 Green Honeycreeper  
 Red-legged Honeycreeper  
 Grayish Saltator  
 Buff-throated Saltator  
 Black-headed Saltator  
 Blue-black Grassquit



**Tropical forests often hold surprisingly colorful birds, the Yucatan is no different: a common attendee at ant swarms, a male Red-throated Ant-Tanager hunts for his next meal; found in moist forests of the south, this male Black-faced Grosbeak enjoys a few ripe berries for breakfast; one of the flashier Yucatan specialties, a male Gray-throated Chat.**

White-collared Seedeater  
Thick-billed Seed-Finch  
Yellow-faced Grassquit  
Grassland Yellow-Finch  
Olive Sparrow  
Green-backed Sparrow  
Botteri's Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Lark Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Rose-throated Tanager  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
White-winged Tanager  
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager  
Red-throated Ant-Tanager  
Black-faced Grosbeak  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Gray-throated Chat  
Blue-black Grosbeak  
Blue Bunting  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Painted Bunting  
Dickcissel  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Melodious Blackbird  
Great-tailed Grackle

Shiny Cowbird  
Bronzed Cowbird  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Giant Cowbird  
Black-cowled Oriole  
Orchard Oriole  
Hooded Oriole  
Yellow-backed Oriole  
Yellow-tailed Oriole  
Orange Oriole  
Altamira Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
Yellow-billed Cacique  
Montezuma Oropendola  
Scrub Euphonia  
Yellow-throated Euphonia  
Olive-backed Euphonia  
Lesser Goldfinch  
House Sparrow  
Tricolored Munia

**Just to prove  
that you are  
in the tropics,  
Black-mantled  
Howler Monkeys  
can be heard—  
and sometimes  
seen—in the  
humid forests  
of the region.  
An auditory and  
visual highlight!**

