



*Conservation Education, Avian Research, Raptor Rescue & Collaboration with Others*

**Thrill to the Miracle of Migration  
Return to Panama with Hawks Aloft!  
October 13 – 28, 2027  
Trip Itinerary**

**Day 1: Arrival in orientation & Canopy Tower Observation Deck (5 nights).** On arrival at the airport, our driver will transfer you to Canopy Tower atop Semaphore Hill in Soberanía National Park. Relax with a drink in the dining area, then head to the Observation Deck for eye-level views of the rainforest canopy with expansive views of the hill country and possibly thousands of migrating raptors. Spot toucans, parrots, tanagers, hawks, monkeys, sloths, hummingbirds at the feeders, ships on the Panama Canal, the Centennial Bridge, and miles of forest. Dinner at Canopy Tower.

**Note: In the event of significant raptor migration, plans may be changed to take in the river of raptors above.**

**Day 2: AM: Canopy Tower & Semaphore Hill Road**

Meet your guide at the Observation Deck for early morning birding with coffee, tea, and juice in hand. From this canopy vantage point, you may spot honeycreepers, parrots, toucans, manakins, tanagers, flycatchers, and impressive raptors like King Vulture and Black Hawk-Eagle. After breakfast, explore forest birds during a walk down Semaphore Hill Road. This shady, flower-lined route offers excellent forest and edge birding, including puffbirds, antshrikes, trogons, motmots, jacamars, and multiple hawk species. During migration, warblers can be abundant. Return to the Tower for lunch.

**PM: Ammo Dump Ponds & Environs (15 min. from Canopy Tower).** Ammo Dump Ponds, just past Gamboa en route to Pipeline Road, are one of the best spots to see the elusive White-throated Crake and many other waterbirds. Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Wattled Jacana, Purple Gallinule, Least Grebe, and American Pygmy-Kingfisher are regulars, as are Greater Ani, Whooping Motmot, Yellow-tailed Oriole, Southern Lapwing, Anhinga, several flycatchers, and even Olivaceous Piculet.

**Day 3: AM: Pipeline Road Entrance (20 min. from Canopy Tower).** Visit Pipeline Road via an open-air vehicle, one of the world's premier birding sites and the best place in central Panama for forest birds. You may find Masked Tityra, Rosy Thrush-Tanager, Squirrel Cuckoo, antshrikes, antbirds, trogons, manakins, wrens, flycatchers, and more. During migration, warblers, grosbeaks, and tanagers can be especially abundant. Return to Canopy Tower for lunch.

**PM: Summit Gardens/Harpy Exhibit (10 min. from Canopy Tower).** With a focus on recreation, education, and conservation the gardens showcase Panama's tropical diversity. It's excellent for migratory warblers and forest-edge birds, including Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Blue Cotinga, Laughing Falcon, several hawks, flycatchers, greenlets, caciques, and cowbirds. It's also one of the best spots to find the hard-to-see Streak-headed Woodcreeper. The park features an exhibit on the Harpy Eagle, Panama's national bird, highlighting its cultural importance.

**Day 4: AM: Plantation Trail (5 min. from Canopy Tower).** We head to Plantation Trail, an easy rainforest trail that follows a small creek and is a reliable place for Golden-crowned Spadebill, with Black-chested Jays often near the entrance. Look for multiple antbirds, motmots, trogons, puffbirds, hummingbirds, woodcreepers, woodpeckers, wrens, antwrens, manakins, flycatchers, caciques, and occasionally specialties like Great Jacamar or the endemic Yellow-green Tyrannulet. Return to Canopy Tower for lunch.

**PM: Chagres River/Gamboa Feeders (15 min. from Canopy Tower).** After lunch, we visit Gamboa to watch the lively fruit feeders, where honeycreepers, tanagers, euphonias, seedeaters, motmots, and chachalacas are common, along with agoutis beneath the tables. We continue to the Chagres River and nearby forest edges for excellent riverside birding. Possible sightings include Amazon, Green, and American Pygmy Kingfishers, wood-rails, herons, jacanas, grebes, terns, pelicans, cormorants, trogons, antshrikes, wrens, flycatchers, caciques, and occasionally specialties like Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon or Blue Cotinga. Return to Canopy Tower for dinner.

**Day 5 AM: Summit Ponds/Old Gamboa Road (10 min. from Canopy Tower).** Old Gamboa Road and the Summit Ponds are excellent for Canal Zone specialties. Here, we look for multiple herons and kingfishers, along with flycatchers, swallows, falcons, woodcreepers, and striking woodpeckers. Old Gamboa Road's diverse habitats produce Blue Ground Dove, Great Antshrike, Jet Antbird, Royal and Black-tailed Flycatchers, manakins, and Rosy Thrush-Tanager, plus orioles, elaenias, caracaras, and more. Spectacled Owl is even possible at known roost sites. Return to Canopy Tower for lunch.

**PM: Chagres River N./Gamboa Grounds (15 min. from Canopy Tower)**

Along the riverbanks and forest edges, resident birds include Amazon, Green, and American Pygmy Kingfishers, Whooping Motmot, Cinnamon Woodpecker, and Cinnamon and White-winged Becards. Other possibilities include wood-rail, herons, jacana, crane, Anhinga, and even Rosy Thrush-Tanager.

**Canopy Camp| October 18th - 23rd, 2027(5 nights).**

**Panama's National Bird: The Harpy Eagle!**

Darién is home to Central America's largest Harpy Eagle population. If a nest or fledged juvenile is accessible, it will be included in the itinerary, though sightings can never be guaranteed. Even without a planned visit, Harpy Eagles are sometimes spotted at several local birding sites, including Canopy Camp.

**Day 6 Bayano Lake & Transfer to Canopy Camp Darien (5 hours from Canopy Tower).** Depart early for Canopy Camp Darién, a roughly 5-hour drive with birding stops along the way. Along the Pan-American Highway, we'll watch for roadside birds and raptors like Savanna Hawk and Crested Caracara. Our first stop is Bayano Lake, where waterbirds such as Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga, Cocoi Heron, and Bare-throated Tiger-Heron can be seen, along with Purple Gallinule, Pied Water-Tyrant, Smooth-billed Ani, and Ruddy-breasted Seedeater. Nearby trails may reveal antbirds and Golden-collared Manakin. At Río Mono Bridge, the forest offers Blue Cotinga, Pied Puffbird, Orange-crowned Oriole, Blue Ground Dove, One-colored Becard, while the river may hold Green-and-rufous Kingfisher or Fasciated Tiger-Heron. Lunch in Tortí features hummingbirds like Long-billed Starthroat, Sapphire-throated, and Scaly-breasted Hummingbirds. We arrive at Canopy Camp Darién before dusk. Dinner at Canopy Camp concludes the day, followed by an orientation for the days ahead.

**Search for an active Harpy Eagle Nest – Date TBD. Depending on weather and location of known active nests, one day will be spent visiting the location of a Harpy Eagle nest.**

**Day 7 Canopy Campgrounds & Nando's Trail.** Meet before dawn with a hot drink to enjoy the birds—toucans, parrots, antbirds, wrens, singing manakins, and hummingbirds. Rufous-tailed Jacamar and Barred Puffbird are common. After breakfast, we'll explore Nando's Trail, searching for antshrikes, quail-doves, trogons, flycatchers, and forest birds, while scanning for raptors like Red-throated Caracara, King Vulture, Short-tailed Hawk, and occasionally Ornate Hawk-Eagle.

**PM: Birding the Panamerican Highway to Yaviza.** After lunch, enjoy hummingbirds at camp or a siesta before birding forests and swampy meadows. Look for antbirds, oropendolas, hawks, kites, woodpeckers, caciques, and meadowlarks. After dinner search for owls, potoos, and nocturnal mammals. End the day with a checklist of sightings.

**Day 8 AM: El Salto Road & Tierra Nueva Foundation (30 minutes from Canopy Camp).** After an early breakfast, we'll bird El Salto Road, a 6 km stretch to the Río Chucunaque. Open road and dry forest here offer specialties like Golden-green Woodpecker, macaws, oropendolas, Blue Cotinga, King Vulture, puffbirds, and cone-bills. A trail at the road's end may reveal antbirds, piculets, woodcreepers, and forest flycatchers. Mid-morning, we visit the Tierra Nueva Foundation, exploring trails for Streak-headed Woodcreeper, flycatchers, woodpeckers, becards, Great Curassow, and the eastern Chestnut-backed Antbird. Lunch at Canopy Camp.

**PM: Las Lagunas Road & Aruza Lagoons (1 hour from Canopy Camp).** This afternoon we'll bird the 12 km road to Las Lagunas, passing farmland, scrub, and ponds. Look for meadowlarks, woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, kingfishers, herons, parrots, anis, cowbirds, oropendolas, and falcons, with occasional macaws or Little Cuckoo. At the lagoons, search for Pied Water-Tyrant, Capped Heron, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, and Black-capped Donacobius. Return to Canopy Camp at dusk, spotting Common Pauraque and Tropical Screech-Owl along the way.

**Day 9 Quebrada Felix (30 minutes from Canopy Camp).** **AM:** After an early breakfast at Canopy Camp, we'll explore a newly discovered site in the Filo del Tallo Reserve. Walking along the rocky stream in mature lowland forest, we'll search for Black-crowned Antpitta, antbirds, antwrens, nunbirds, woodcreepers, Royal Flycatcher, the endemic Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, kingfishers, tiger-herons, and even eagles. Lunch at Canopy Camp.

**Day 10 AM: Lajas Blancas (15 minutes from Canopy Camp).** This afternoon we'll bird the open areas and forests around Lajas Blancas, the nearest Embera community to Canopy Camp. Along pastures, farmland, and the Chucunaque River, we may see becards, woodpeckers, flycatchers, manakins, jacamars, antshrikes, Great Potoo, and Black Oropendola. The road continues into mature secondary and primary forest for more Darien specialties. In the afternoon, we will return to Panama City, staying overnight at the Airport Hotel.

### **Canopy Lodge| October 24th - 28th, 2027 (5 nights)**

**Day 11 ARRIVAL, ORIENTATION, CANOPY LODGE GROUNDS & FEEDERS.** Our driver will transfer you to Canopy Lodge in El Valle de Antón, nestled in the cloud forests of Cerro Gaital at 2,400 ft. Enjoy a drink and snack in the dining area, and start birding the grounds and feeders, where tanagers, honeycreepers, woodpeckers, motmots, hummingbirds, saltators, and orioles are common. Dinner at Canopy Lodge.

### **Day 12 AM: LAS MINAS TRAIL (20 MIN. FROM CANOPY LODGE).**

We visit Las Minas, a top trail for Panamanian birds with ridge-top views where both oceans are visible on clear days. Look for grass-finches, tanagers, trogons, woodpeckers, manakins, swifts, hummingbirds, raptors, and specialty species like Black-crowned Antpitta and Black-headed Antthrush. Return to Canopy Lodge for lunch.

**PM: CARA IGUANA (15 MIN. FROM CANOPY LODGE)** . After lunch and a rest, we bird Cara Iguana Trail in Pacific dry forest, seeking Panama specialties like flycatchers, manakins, wrens, Rosy Thrush-Tanager, motmots, gnatwrens, antbirds, tinamous, Potoo, owls, and Bat Falcon. Hummingbirds include Garden Emerald, Long-billed Starthroat, and White-vented Plumeteer; migrating warblers may also appear. Dinner at Canopy Lodge.

**Day 13 AM: LA MESA ROAD (15 MIN. FROM CANOPY LODGE).** We bird La Mesa Road, a mix of secondary forest, pastures, and overgrown fincas. Look for barbet, becards, dacnis, tanagers, antvireo, woodcreeper, toucanet, flycatchers, pygmy-tyrant, trogon, and hummingbirds like White-tipped Sicklebill, Rufous-crested Coquette, Crowned Woodnymph, and Black-throated Mango. Lunch at Canopy Lodge.

**PM: MATA AHOGADO ROAD (15 MIN. FROM CANOPY LODGE).** We spend the afternoon birding along the scrubby roadsides. Good birds found here are Rosy Thrush-Tanager, Black-headed Saltator, Great Antshrike, White-ruffed Manakin, White-thighed Swallow, White-bellied Antbird, Tody Motmot, and hummers such as Long-billed Starthroat, Rufous-crested Coquette and, when the Inga is in bloom, Snowcap!

**Day 14 AM: Cerro Gaital (20 min. from Canopy Lodge).** Visit Cerro Gaital (3,500') in Cerro Gaital Natural Monument's cloud forest. Birds here include guans, toucanets, trogons, barbets, antthrushes, antvireos, tanagers, seedeaters, warblers, hummingbirds, and raptors, with rare Scaled Antpitta and Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo possible. Return to Canopy Lodge for lunch. (BLD)

**Day 14 PM: Valle Chiquito (20 min. from Canopy Lodge.)** Visit Valle Chiquito, following a forested road crossed by two rivers. At Río de Jesús, we look for Green Kingfisher and Sepia-capped Flycatcher, and visit a colony of Chestnut-headed Oropendolas. Along the way, possible sightings include motmots, vireos, orioles, antbirds, doves, caciques, hawks, manakins, flycatchers, tinamous, hummingbirds, and several wren species. Dinner at Canopy Lodge.

**Day 15 Departure: Breakfast at the Lodge & Transfer to Panama City**

*Please note this itinerary may change without prior notice due to weather, alterations in habitat or other conditions.*

**Your Trip Leader: Gail Garber**, Executive Director, discovered her passion for birds 30 years ago. Since then, she has dedicated her life to avian studies, education, and other aspects of Hawks Aloft. She has traveled extensively for birding and leads birding tours within the US and to New Zealand, Brazil, Iceland, Ecuador, Peru, and Costa Rica.

In addition to your Hawks Aloft guides, we've requested our favorite Canopy Family guides to accompany us on our journey.

### **Pricing**

Cost includes meals, accommodations, guide gratuities and itinerary activities. Does not include airfare, alcoholic beverages, or incidental expenditures (e.g. souvenirs). Travel insurance strongly recommended.

Cost based on double occupancy: \$6,850. Single Supplement: \$918.

Deposit: \$700.00 (due at registration)

Reservations submitted beyond the final payment deadline noted below will require full payment to enroll. 120 or more days before departure: \$300 cancellation fee; remaining balance is refunded. 119 – 96 days before departure: Full deposits of \$500 is forfeited. 95 - 0 days before departure: 100% of program price is forfeited.

Final payment due date: June 25, 2027

Please visit <http://hawkaloft.org/member-events/> for registration and more information.