

ITINERARY
PANAMA'S CANOPY TOWER
February 4-10, 2018
Canopy Lodge Extension, February 10-14, 2018



The Keel-billed Toucan is one of the iconic birds of the tropics. This individual was seen from the observation deck of the Canopy Tower, where we'll spend time watching toucans, raptors and other spectacular creatures during our stay. Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.

We include here information for those interested in the 2018 Field Guides Panama's Canopy Tower tour:

- a general introduction to the tour*
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour*
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings*

Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)*
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items*
- a reference list*
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour*
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour*

Long famous as the pathway between two oceans, the Isthmus of Panama is ecologically more important as the pathway between two vast continents. With forested mountains in east and west separated by the central lowlands, Panama constitutes both a land bridge for many species and a biogeographic barrier for others. Consequently, it is a rich mixing ground for various elements of the avifaunas of North and South America. Panama hosts more than 970 species of birds, and this short tour to the Canopy Tower, the *birder's* wonder of lowland Panama (we will, of course, visit the Canal), is designed as your pathway to about one-third of them.

One of the highlights of this tour, even for veteran Neotropical birders, is as likely to be the rewards of *becoming* a canopy-dweller, as it is the intimate views you will be able to get of a becoming assortment of feathered canopy-dwellers—from electric Blue Cotingas and Green Shrike-Vireos to splendid Black-headed Tody-Flycatchers, Brown-capped Tyrannulets, Fasciated Antshrikes, and perhaps a Philadelphia Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, or a kettle of Mississippi Kites. Our exhilarating site for the week will be the remarkable, award-winning Canopy Tower, a former radar installation located at the top of Semaphore Hill that has been transformed into a marvelous birding facility.



The attractive Gray-headed Tanager often joins other small birds at ant-swarms. Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.

Here our host for the week will be Raúl Arias de Para, the Panamanian conservationist who owns the Canopy Tower and who conceived its felicitous transformation. The hospitality and food are exceptional, and the library is notably replete with natural history volumes. All you will need to bring along is your copy of Angehr & Dean's *Birds of Panama: A Field Guide*, an excellent field guide that makes preparing for your trip all the more pleasurable. All six nights will be spent at the Tower, and there is no need to fight the Panama City traffic in order to visit most of the birding spots.

If you've never birded the American tropics, you'll find that little is quite as exciting as coming upon your first army ant swarm, attended—sometimes feverishly—by Ocellated, Bicolored, and Spotted antbirds, Plain-brown, Northern Barred-, Cocoa, and Black-striped woodcreepers, and Gray-headed Tanager; or a *Cecropia* tree full of frugivorous birds from Keel-billed and Yellow-throated (formerly Chestnut-mandibled) toucans to Red-capped and Blue-crowned manakins; and lethargic species like trogons, puffbirds, and motmots that sit almost motionless, seemingly content to watch forest life go by.

When not enjoying raptors from the deck level or mesmerized by the hummingbird feeders at ground level, or taking a look out over the canopy at the observation tower of the new Discovery Center near the beginning of the justly famous Pipeline Road, we'll make day trips from our canopy perch along the Continental Divide out Pipeline Road on the Caribbean slope in hopes of seeing Streak-chested Antpitta, Pheasant Cuckoo, Black-tailed Trogon, and with luck a raiding army ant swarm being attended by some

fascinating antbirds; or to the rich, semi-deciduous forest of Metropolitan Nature Park on the Pacific slope, home of Rosy Thrush-Tanager, Lance-tailed Manakin, and Rufous-and-white Wren as well as Yellow-green Tyrannulet, a Panamanian endemic.

Our tour is *limited to eight participants* in order to eliminate the confusion that sometimes ensues with a large group at the Canopy Tower. This way we are ensured of riding in the same Canopy vehicle when we travel to and from birding sites and of having a *better participant-to-ornithologist/guide ratio* in the field and at meals; this is especially valuable on our night drive in the Rainfomobile when everyone is able to be in the same open-air vehicle with the guide who is using the spotlight. As with all Canopy birding groups, ours are accompanied by a *local Tower guide* who has the most up-to-date knowledge of the area and is excellent at finding birds and quickly putting them in the spotting scope for everyone to see. Yet in a small group our Field Guides can more effectively impart a wealth of knowledge that is otherwise difficult to get from local guides who have not had the breadth and depth of Neotropical experience that characterizes all our Panama guides. And both guides have fewer folks to satisfy with scope views. It is more expensive for us to operate small groups to the Canopy Tower, and so our fee is somewhat higher than most of our competitors. However, based on the response from our clients—who remark on the pleasure they take in learning so much about what they encounter—this intimacy and expertise are well worth a slight premium.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace: This tour does not demand much physically and it will operate at a comfortable pace throughout. Participants should be able to walk up to two miles in a day at a “birder's” pace—mostly in short walks from the vehicle. Participants will need to be able to climb in and out of vehicles that have been adapted for open-air viewing and furnished with secure fold-down ladders to accommodate passengers. And in addition, the guest rooms at the Canopy Tower are on the second and third levels, the dining room on the fourth level, and the observation deck one further level up. There is no elevator, so participants should be able to manage these flights of wide, sturdy

stairs. Yet the acoustics of the Tower are magnificent, one might say (to put the best face on it). The alert reader will recognize the silent meaning embedded here: if you are a light sleeper, you may want to use earplugs (now provided by the Tower) since birders come and go at different hours, occasionally while you are trying to sleep!

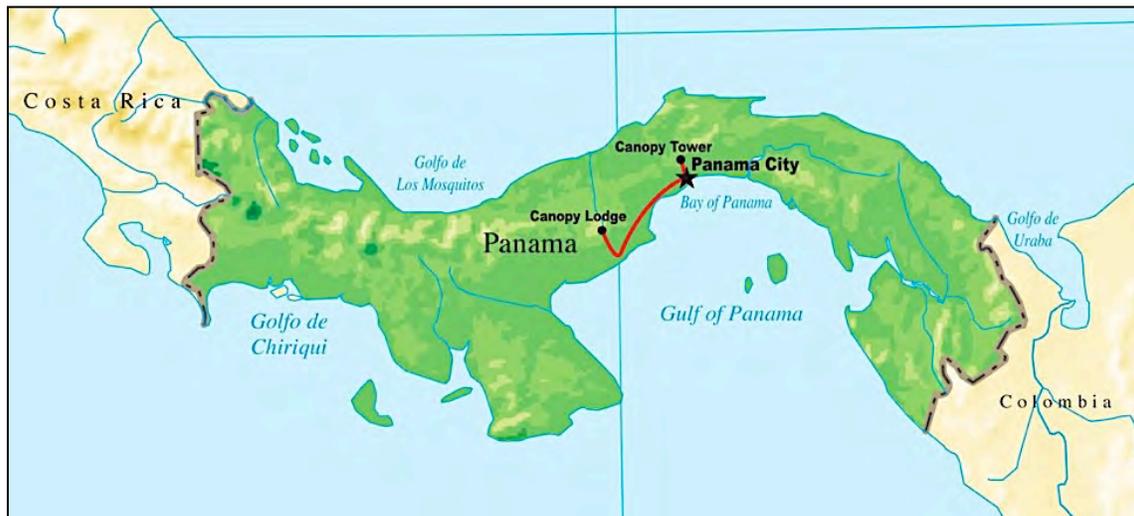
Most of our birding will take place along roads or wide tracks, and the viewing conditions are generally excellent. While the heat may slow us down some during the middle of the day, temperatures early and late in the day are pleasant, and it is usually comfortable inside the forest or in the breezy rooms. With this in mind it is important to be in the field early to catch the peak of the bird activity. You can count on several afternoon siestas and one longer day without a break except for our picnic lunch (on the all-day trip out Pipeline Road); outings are always optional, so one may elect to skip one to relax at the Tower. Our main purpose is for all to see well and enjoy a rich diversity of species, but emphasis will be given to indigenous birds special to Panama and to learning about representative groups of Neotropical birds rather than rarities to Panama. In this sense, this manageable tour makes an excellent introduction to the American tropics.

As is customary on most of our tours, we will use playback, sensitively, with the aim of bringing into view otherwise difficult-to-see species—for example, furtive species, canopy species, nightbirds—or flock-leaders whose response will often attract a number of species at once. Often our local guides will imitate vocalizations to the same purpose.

The extension to the Canopy Lodge in El Valle de Anton is less demanding physically than the Canopy Tower at the lodge site, but a bit more demanding along the birding trails. The Canopy Lodge itself is constructed on two levels, and the dining area is on the ground level, so several flights of stairs on a daily basis are not an issue here. El Valle is located in a foothill area, so some up-and-down walking is inevitable; and two trails, though not of any great distance, are too steep for those who are not in excellent physical condition. When and if those trails are included in the day's activity (our daily itinerary remains somewhat flexible depending on the group's experience and on the weather), one can elect to stay back at the road and bird near the vehicles. The pace is relaxed and comfortable throughout.

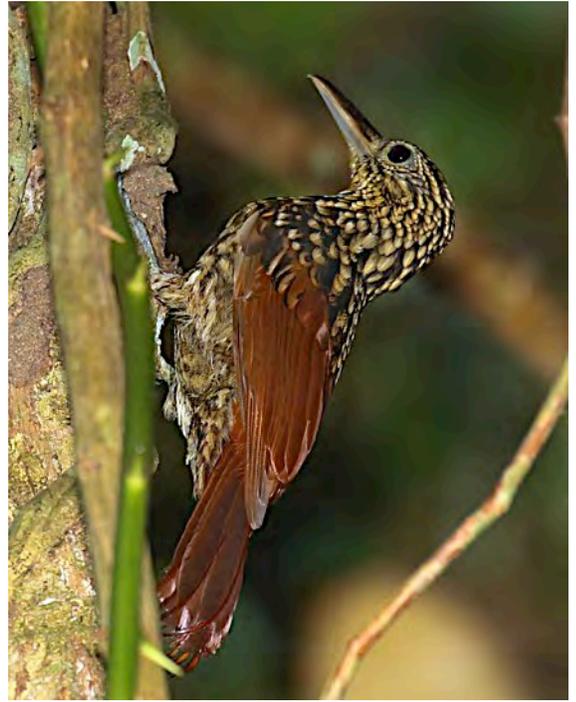
If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with one of the guides.

About the Birding Areas



Central Lowlands—Originally constructed for the laying and maintenance of oil and gas pipelines that span the isthmus, Pipeline Road transects what is probably the wildest forested area within the former Canal Zone. From its beginning near Gamboa, just north of the continental divide, Pipeline snakes through forested hills with clear-flowing streams for more than thirty kilometers, eventually to dead end in Gatun Lake. Only here, within the former Zone, is Jaguar reputed still to wander. Recognized as important in protecting the Canal watershed, the area transected by Pipeline has been designated by Panama as Parque Nacional Soberanía. Because the road is little traveled except by other naturalists or research scientists, walking various stretches of Pipeline is the ideal way to bird it. In addition, the Canopy Tower, where we will spend all six nights, puts us practically at the beginning of Pipeline Road and holds in itself—around the base of Semaphore Hill—a wealth of possibilities. As a consequence, we do not have the long drives from the city. Our staying in the Tower and our visiting the observation tower at the Discovery Center will virtually assure us of seeing the dazzling Blue Cotinga, often feeding in the trees at eye-level!

We'll start early and have at least two full mornings, and perhaps more, to bird Pipeline. When the first sunlight floods the tall trees, parrots, toucans, and puffbirds sit up, and hummingbirds start to feed. A single flowering tree could attract Crowned Woodnymph, Snowy-bellied (the endemic, nominate subspecies), Blue-chested, and Violet-bellied hummingbirds, or a White-vented Plumbeateer. Red-capped Manakins and Blue Dacnis are often found feeding at the same fruiting tree, which may also attract aracaris, trogons, and Bright-rumped Attila. One never knows what surprises are waiting around the next bend: perhaps a perched Ornate Hawk-Eagle, a Plumbeous Hawk, a troop of Coatis, or a mixed-species foraging flock, with antwrens, Spot-crowned Antwren, woodcreepers, a xenops, and foliage-gleaners. What we would most like to find along Pipeline is a large, active army ant swarm, for the phenomenon of army ant followers is one of the most fascinating of tropical ecology. A number of species of birds feed primarily on insects disturbed by army ant raids. Some, considered obligate army ant followers, are rarely seen away from ant swarms, even when feeding young! One such species in Panama is the Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo, a terrestrial, bronze-and-green cuckoo with an enormous bill which it snaps, Roadrunner-like, as it forages for lizards and large insects in the path of the swarming ants. While we might not encounter such a prize on Pipeline, our chances for finding at least a small swarm are good. And even a small swarm can be very impressive, with attendant antbirds and woodcreepers seemingly tame, so preoccupied are they with foraging. The most characteristic army ant followers of the Panama lowlands are Northern Barred- and Plain-brown woodcreepers, Bicolored, Spotted, and Ocellated antbirds, and Gray-headed Tanager. Sometimes a Barred Forest-Falcon will make regular visits to a swarm, perhaps not only for large insects, but for an occasional unwary bird.



The Black-striped Woodcreeper is found in humid lowland forests. Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.

El Valle (Canopy Lodge extension)—El Valle de Anton is located in bird-rich southeastern Coclé. Due to the efforts of Raul Arias de Para, the conservationist and birder who transformed an old radar installation into the Canopy Tower, the Canopy Lodge, its sister accommodation, duplicates the luxurious ambiance and amenities of the Canopy Tower in a cool environment. Our base of operations will be this attractive lodge nestled under the watchful eye of an extinct volcano and within sight of the protected forests of Cerro Gaital Natural Monument. Along the trails around the lodge and at the Natural Monument we expect to see a variety of foothill species; high on our list will be Tody Motmot, Dull-mantled Antbird, Rufous-browed Tyrannulet, and an assortment of hummingbirds and tanagers, including Rufous-crested Coquette, White-tipped Sicklebill, and Snowcap, as well as Silver-throated, Emerald, Dusky-faced, and Tawny-crested Tanagers.

Itinerary for Panama's Canopy Tower

Day 1, Sun, 4 Feb. Arrival. If you are joining the tour from home, you should plan to arrive into Tocumen, Panama's International Airport, no later than 8:00 p.m. this evening. You'll be met at the airport and transferred to the Canopy Tower, about forty minutes to one hour away, depending on traffic. All nights will be spent away from Panama City in the forest at the Canopy Tower!

Day 2, Mon, 5 Feb. Canopy Tower and Semaphore Hill. Before a delicious breakfast beside singing Red-ored Parrots or croaking Keel-billed Toucans, the early morning will be spent enjoying birding the canopy from the Tower. We hope to see adult male Blue Cotingas sitting up or feeding in nearby trees as well as a lovely Gartered Trogon. As the morning unfolds, we should see raptors lifting out of the forest, catching the thermals as the day begins to heat up. And, we should be able to see that always-pesky Green Shrike-Vireo.

Then, it's down from the Tower for a stroll down Semaphore Hill in the richness of lowland rainforest. Along the way we will be looking for manakins, motmots, puffbirds, Great Jacamar, and mixed-species flocks, to mention a few. After lunch and some time off, we'll visit a nearby marsh for numerous other species, particularly those habitués of more open country and edge.



*We'll watch for Black-tailed Trogon along Pipeline Road.
Photograph by participant Paul Thomas.*

Day 3, Tue, 6 Feb. Pipeline Road. We'll devote this morning to an introduction to the legendary Pipeline Road. We'll start with a visit to the hummingbird feeders and the observation tower at the new Discovery Center situated only about two kilometers out the road. When it starts to warm up, we'll head back down to the cover of the forest. Among the many possible species on this rich, largely untraveled road are five trogons, including Black-tailed and Black-throated; three motmots; White-necked, Black-breasted, Pied, and White-whiskered puffbirds; Keel-billed and Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) toucans; Cinnamon Woodpecker; Black-crowned Antshrike and Spot-crowned Antwreio; Spotted and Dusky antbirds; Golden-crowned Spadebill; Brownish (Twistwing) and Royal flycatchers; Cinnamon Becard; Blue-crowned and Golden-collared manakins; Bay and Black-bellied wrens; and Fulvous-vented Euphonia. We hope to encounter an army ant swarm somewhere along the way. Watch out! This is when it gets good.

After lunch at the Tower and some time off, we'll bird parts of the Old Gamboa Road and Summit Pond, where the possibilities include Boat-billed Heron (often nesting there), American Pygmy and Green-and-rufous kingfishers, Jet Antbird, and possibly a day-roosting Spectacled Owl, as well as other species.

Day 4, Wed, 7 Feb. Metropolitan Nature Park. Morning will find us visiting the best city park in Panama, if not the best in Central America. Here Pacific slope species make their home among the expanse of dry understory and scattered canopy. Species we'll be searching for include Lance-tailed Manakin, Rufous-and-white Wren, Rosy Thrush-Tanager, Golden-fronted and Scrub greenlets, Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrants, and Yellow-green Tyrannulet, one of Panama's some ten endemic birds.

After returning to the Tower for lunch and some time off, we'll visit Miraflores Locks to observe the Canal in operation. An optional owling trip after dinner down Semaphore Hill may yield a Mottled, Crested, or Spectacled owl or a Great or Common potoo. We may also see Kinkajou, Olingo, a sloth or two, Night Monkey, and other nocturnal mammals.

Day 5, Thu, 8 Feb. Pipeline Road. We'll spend what is sure to be a wonderful morning on Pipeline Road, taking a picnic lunch with us from the Tower and managing to get farther out than we did on our day of introduction. This will enable us to pursue birds more frequently encountered in the low foothills, like Sunbittern, Brown-hooded Parrot, Pheasant Cuckoo, Carmiol's (Olive) and Tawny-crested tanagers, some exciting raptors, a raiding army ant swarm, Streak-chested Antpitta, and perhaps a Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo! It will be one of the most exciting days of the trip.

Day 6, Fri, 9 Feb. Canopy Tower, Pipeline Road. On this, our last morning, we will remain flexible. We may wish to visit Pipeline Road once more to focus on species we've missed or check out the Old Gamboa Road a bit further. We'll return to the Tower for a nice lunch, after which we will visit an area dictated by our wishes and needs, perhaps the road down Semaphore Hill, the Ammo Dump Pond, or Gatun Lake.

Day 7, Sat, 10 Feb. Departure. After an early breakfast at the Tower (for those who have mid-morning or later flights), we'll transfer to the Panama International Airport for our flights home. For those being picked up before dawn for an early morning flight, we will have said our farewells after dinner the previous night! *Buen viaje!*

Itinerary for Canopy Lodge Extension

Day 1, Sat, 10 Feb. Transfer to the Canopy Lodge, El Valle. After a pleasant breakfast at a civilized hour, we will be picked up at our hotel for the two-hour drive to the lovely Canopy Lodge. Upon arrival, we will get into our rooms then reassemble to see what is visiting the stream running in front of the dining area and to enjoy the remarkable show at the banana feeders and the sugar water. Bring your cameras! After lunch and a little time off, we will visit El Chorro refuge.

The birdlife and the flora are especially rich and diverse because the area has been a wildlife refuge for some years. We will bird the trails around the waterfall where it is possible to see Green and Stripe-throated hermits, Broad-billed Motmot, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, and Tawny-crested and Dusky-faced tanagers. Some prized species have been sighted here, such as White Hawk, the diminutive Tody Motmot, White-tipped Sicklebill, and Sunbittern. Often a Mottled Owl can be found roosting in the area. This trail and the nearby road will also offer good possibilities of seeing Brown-hooded and Blue-headed Parrots, Squirrel Cuckoo, Fasciated and Great antshrikes, Black-faced Antthrush, White-ruffed Manakin, Black-chested Jay, and Buff-rumped Warbler.



Sunbittern is a possible species on the Canopy Lodge Extension. Photo by guide Chris Benesh.

Days 2-3, Sun-Mon, 11-12 Feb. El Valle. Today we'll bird the Las Minas Road or the Cerro Gaital Trail, both of which begin at the main road in La Mesa, only a short distance from the Lodge. Leading through prime cloudforest habitat, these tracks start out flat and wide. Flowering trees along the trail attract Green-crowned Brilliant, White-tailed Emerald, and the occasional Green Thorntail among the more common hummingbird species. The Gaital area can be good for Barred Hawk, Red-fronted Parrotlet, and Ochraceous Wren. The Las Minas area can be good for Emerald (Blue-throated) Toucanet, Orange-bellied Trogon, Tawny-capped Euphonia, White-throated Spadebill, Spotted Woodcreeper, and even Black-crowned Antpitta! After lunch, we will bird the Cara Iguana Trail. Here, we will seek some of the specialties of the dry Pacific forest, for example: White-bellied Antbird, Lance-tailed Manakin, Rufous-and-white Wren, and the beautiful Rosy Thrush-Tanager.

The following day will find us visiting the Altos del Maria. Set in the mountains on the continental divide east of El Valle, the Altos del Maria provide a spectacular birding venue near the Canopy Lodge. Departing early in the morning in 4x4 SUVs we will concentrate our effort along the ridge above Mata Ahogado. This ridge is blanketed in an impressive shroud of mature cloudforest. Birding mostly from the roadside, we will search for some of the characteristic species of this cloudforest including White Hawk, Orange-bellied Trogon, Spotted Woodcreeper, Red-faced Spinetail, Spotted Barbtail, Russet Antshrike, Spot-crowned Antvireo, Tufted Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Tyrannulet, White-ruffed Manakin, Ochraceous Wren, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, Pale-vented Thrush, and Black-and-yellow, Dusky-faced, and Tawny-crested tanagers. While birding the road we'll keep a sharp eye out for the exquisite Snowcap and Purple-throated Mountain-Gem, both at the extreme eastern edge of their range. We'll also be on the lookout for Double-toothed and Gray-headed kites, Green Thorntail, Emerald (Blue-throated) Toucanet, Rufous-browed Tyrannulet, White-throated Spadebill, Eye-ringed Flatbill, and White-throated Thrush. Rarer species including Plumbeous Hawk, Brown-billed Scythebill, and the spectacular Black-crowned Antpitta also occur in this area. Later in the morning, we'll explore at least one trail, perhaps including a fairly steep, but well-maintained path to a lookout. Here we will have additional chances for secretive species of the forest interior. In late morning, we will descend to a river, where we will enjoy a picnic lunch and a little more birding in search of new species that are still possible. Because of the high altitude of this site (up to 1200 meters or 4000 feet), the temperatures frequently remain cool late in the day and mid-day birding can be surprisingly good. Nights at Canopy Lodge.

Day 4, Tue, 13 Feb. Return to Panama City. Since this will be our last morning, we'll decide just where to concentrate our efforts today after taking stock of how we're doing birdwise and which birds we'd like to pursue further. Recent tours have made productive visits to the Pacific lowlands near Juan Hombron for a variety of species including Aplomado Falcon, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Plain-breasted Ground-Dove, Veraguan Mango, and a slew of flycatchers.

After lunch, we'll head on to Panama City to check in to our hotel. We plan to arrive by 5:00 p.m.

Day 5, Wed, 14 Feb. Departure. *Buen viaje!*

About Your Guide

Chris Benesh grew up studying natural history in California, where he was inspired by his father to take up birding as a teenager. After earning a degree in zoology from UC Santa Barbara in 1987, Chris moved to Austin to join the Field Guides staff. Since then, his life has undergone a wonderful transformation. The intervening years at Field Guides have taken him to many corners of the world and across both the Arctic and Antarctic circles!

Chris takes an interest in nearly anything that flies, and you might catch him sneaking a peek at a passing aircraft or stopping to examine a butterfly or odonate. You might also notice him getting especially excited at the sighting of a rare or wonderful mammal (heck, he can get excited about a squirrel).

Chris's passion for education has led to his serving on the Arizona Bird Committee, leading the occasional workshop, presenting at birding conventions, and—we must add—thoroughly explaining in admirable detail the nuances of flycatchers to tour participants and colleagues alike. These days, most of his "down time" is spent at home in Tucson watching his two wonderful kids, Sean and Linnea, grow.

*"I'd travel with **Chris Benesh** anywhere, any time. He is calm, pleasant, and good-humored and not only brilliant at finding and spotting birds, but also equally brilliant at ensuring that every member of the group gets a great look at the bird." B.M., Arizona's Second Spring*

Your tour will be accompanied by a local Canopy Tower or Canopy Lodge guide.

Visit <http://fieldguides.com/guides> and click on a photo for Chris's complete tour schedule.

Financial Information

FEE: \$3150 from Panama City

EL VALLE EXTENSION: \$1850

DEPOSIT: \$325 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: October 7, 2017

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$750 for main tour (Single rooms may not be available at the Tower. Please see the *ACCOMMODATIONS* section below.)

LIMIT: 8

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for these tours is Ruth Kuhl. Ruth will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

ACCOMMODATIONS: The guest rooms at the Canopy Tower are on the second and third levels, the dining room on the fourth level, and the observation deck one further level up. **There is no elevator, so participants should be able to manage these flights of sturdy stairs.** If you are a light sleeper, you may want to bring earplugs since birders come and go at different hours, occasionally while you are trying to sleep! While there is no air-conditioning at the Tower, there are fans in every room and the temperature is usually quite comfortable.

Single rooms may not be available at the Canopy Tower. The single supplement would allow you to occupy a larger double room with a private bath as a single participant. Should an alternative “guide room” that shares a bath with 4 other rooms be available, you may be able to occupy it as a single for a *discount* of \$250 off the tour fee (no single supplement would be due). These restrictions are due to the small guest capacity (7 regular guest rooms) of the Tower. Please contact your tour manager to check availability.

Single rooms are available at the Canopy Lodge at no additional charge. These are slightly smaller than the rooms used for double occupancy and each has a private bath. Should you prefer to stay in one of the larger double rooms, you may do so for an additional charge of \$450. In both instances, single rooms will be assigned for the night in Panama City.

DOCUMENTS: US Citizens traveling by air to and from Panama must present a valid passport when entering or re-entering the United States. You will be issued a tourist card by the airline to be filled out before arrival.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Panamanian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Please call our office for the best fare from your home. Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets.

Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client’s responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$3150 for one person in double occupancy from Panama City. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 6, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 7, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Panama, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the main tour is \$750 to occupy a double room with a private bath as a single participant. Single rooms may not be available at the Canopy Tower. Should a “guide room” that shares a bath with 4 other rooms be



*The Canopy Tower is a very unique accomodation! Guest rooms are on the second and third levels, and there is an observation deck on the top.
Photo by guide John Rowlett.*

available, you may be able to occupy it as a single for a discount of \$250 off the tour fee. These restrictions are due to the small guest capacity (7 regular guest rooms) of the Tower.

The fee for the **Extension** is \$1850 for one person in double occupancy from Panama City. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 4, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 5, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Panama, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

Single rooms are available at the Canopy Lodge for no additional charge. These are slightly smaller than the rooms used for double occupancy and each has a private bath. Should you prefer to stay in one of the double rooms, you may do so for an additional charge of \$450. In both instances, single rooms will be assigned for the night in Panama City.

TOUR LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, one seat in the van or bus will be taken by the guide in training. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$325** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by October 7, 2017. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When

consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at www.fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.htm and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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