

ITINERARY

PANAMA'S CANOPY TOWER & LODGE

Tour I: January 24 - February 1, 2027

Tour II: March 6 - 14, 2027



*Spot-crowned Barbet is a regional endemic that we'll likely see at the Canopy Lodge's feeders.
Photograph by participant Colleen Stubbs.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2027 Field Guides Panama's Canopy Tower & Lodge 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 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 tour to the Canopy Tower and the Canopy Lodge is designed as your pathway to one-third of them.

One of the highlights of this tour, even for veteran Neotropical birders, is as likely to be the reward of *becoming* a canopy-dweller. Atop the tower, intimate views may be obtained 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 Lesser Greenlet. Our exhilarating site for the first four nights will be the remarkable, award-winning Canopy Tower www.canopytower.com, a former radar installation located at the top of Semaphore Hill that has been transformed into a marvelous birding facility. We encourage you to visit the virtual canopy before visiting the actual canopy.

One of the wonderful things about staying at the Canopy Tower is the access it affords to one of the best birding locales in Central America, the Pipeline Road. The road is chock full of birds and winds through such high-quality forest that it is here that the Peregrine Fund and other biologists worked on a reintroduction program for the Harpy Eagle. It is also a good place to see several species of antbirds—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. Neither is it uncommon to encounter a *Cecropia* tree full of frugivorous birds like Keel-billed and Yellow-throated (formerly Chestnut-mandibled) toucans or Red-capped and Velvety (Blue-crowned) manakins; and lethargic species like trogons, puffbirds, and motmots that sit almost motionless, seemingly content to watch forest life go by.



Near the Canopy Lodge we'll watch for local specialties such as this White-tipped Sicklebill. The amazing bill is adapted for feeding on Heliconia and other flowers. Photograph by guide Sam Wilson.

The Canopy Lodge is located in the beautiful town of El Valle. This town, nestled in the crater of an old volcano, is home not only to some lovely little markets full of artisan crafts but also to gorgeous montane cloudforest. At the Canopy Lodge, each day is pleasantly cool early and late, and pleasantly warm mid-day. The habitats are varied, the birds diverse and numerous, the accommodations splendid and tastefully appointed, the food tasty and creative, and the pace moderate. The stream draws numerous species within a few feet of the dining area, including Sunbittern, Green Kingfisher, Northern Waterthrush, and possibly Neotropical River Otter (which caught a fish as we watched it race down the stream on a recent tour). Hummingbird feeders and banana feeders positioned in places where one can relax in hammocks or chairs while enjoying the birds and obtaining excellent photographs make for another carefully planned feature of the grounds. It's a superb birding spot and an exciting place for birders who have birded some in Middle America but are still looking for their first Tody Motmot or Rosy Thrush-Tanager, and for those who have birded widely but who are still looking for their first White-tipped Sicklebill or Black-crowned Antpitta while also looking to relax a bit.

At both the Tower and at the Canopy Lodge in El Valle our host will be Raúl Arias de Para, the Panamanian conservationist who conceived the felicitous transformation of the Tower and subsequently built the beautiful lodge in El Valle. The hospitality and food at both spots are wonderful, and the libraries are notably replete with natural history volumes. All you will need to bring along is your copy of *The Birds of Panama* by Angehr and Dean, an excellent field guide that makes preparing for your trip all the more pleasurable. We will spend four nights at the Tower, and then three nights in the peaceful climes of El Valle at the Canopy Lodge, which can also be visited at

www.canopytower.com/canopy-lodge.

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Moderate amounts of walking (1-2 miles in morning, 1-2 miles in afternoon), mostly on roads or wide dirt trails. Several walks require going up and down a moderate grade for a short distance. At and near the Canopy Lodge, there are several trails that are rather steep, uneven, and sometimes slippery.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will likely stand for long periods to observe flocks of birds. Participants will need to be able to climb in and out of safari-style trucks via secure fold-down ladders. 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. We will visit the Discovery Center Tower as well, which involves climbing a sturdy circular stairway going up about 100 feet to the top of the tower. At the Canopy Lodge the stairs are less challenging. On our day trip to Altos del Maria we will be walking paved roads that might include steep stretches of about 80-100 yards.
- **PACE:** Early starts (5:30-6:00 a.m. breakfasts) followed by birding until lunch. On some days, there is a break after lunch and optional afternoon birding. On one day, we'll spend the entire day on Pipeline Road and take a picnic lunch with us. There will be at least one nighttime excursion after dinner to look for birds and mammals, this usually lasts 1 to 1 ½ hours depending on our luck. One of the days at the Canopy Lodge will include birding at Altos del Maria from morning until mid-afternoon. We will have a picnic lunch on this day as well.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures range from the low 60s in the early morning (higher elevations) to the mid-90s F in lowlands and later in the day. Rain is a possibility, especially in the afternoon, and the climate is humid.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on occasion, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Except for our travel day between the Canopy Tower and Canopy Lodge, we stay and return to the same lodging each day so participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day.

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 the guide.





One of the birds we'll watch and listen for along Pipeline Road is the beautiful Spotted Antbird. They are often found following army ant swarms, although they are not obligate ant followers. Photograph by guide Sam Wilson.

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 four 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 provides us a great shot at seeing the dazzling Blue Cotinga, sometimes feeding in the trees at eye-level!

We'll start early and have at least one full morning 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 (Violet) Crowned Woodnymph, Snowy-bellied (the endemic, nominate subspecies), Blue-chested, and Violet-bellied hummingbirds, White-vented Plumeleteer, and even a male Rufous-crested Coquette. Red-capped and Velvety (Blue-crowned) manakins 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 Double-toothed Kite, a troop of Coatis, or a mixed-species foraging flock, with antwrens, Spot-crowned Antvireo, woodcreepers, xenops, and flycatchers. 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.

El Valle—El Valle de Antón, located in bird-rich southeastern Coclé, was once seldom visited by birding groups. That has changed due to the efforts of Raúl Arias de Para, the conservationist and birder who transformed an old radar installation into the Canopy Tower and built the Canopy Lodge on his family property in El Valle. The Canopy Lodge duplicates the luxurious ambiance and amenities of the Canopy Tower in a cool environment. Our base of operations will be this 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, Chestnut-backed Antbird, and an assortment of hummingbirds and tanagers, including Rufous-crested Coquette, White-tipped Sicklebill, and Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, as well as Silver-throated, Emerald, Dusky-faced, and Tawny-crested tanagers, along with Rosy Thrush-Tanager. On our last morning at the Canopy Lodge we will make an early morning visit to the drier Pacific lowlands in search of Crested Bobwhite, Striped Cuckoo, Veraguan Mango and Mouse-colored Tyrannulet among other feathered residents of this habitat before having lunch at a beach house and continuing on to Panama City for the final night.



Near Altos del Maria, we'll look for the spectacular Black-crowned Antpitta. This bird is not actually an "antpitta", but is more closely related to the gnateaters, and it is a restricted range species, found in a narrow band of wet forest from Costa Rica to northern Colombia. Photograph by participant Colleen Stubbs.

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 vehicles, we'll head into the mountains over some steep roads. As the sun rises over the highlands ahead of us, spectacular mountains, vast valleys, and towering cliffs will be revealed. We will climb a ridge to our destination for the morning – an expansive area of cloudforest at 3500 feet above sea level. The morning birding will take us along some of the paved roads in the area.

We'll concentrate our efforts along the ridge above the village of Mata Ahogado – a ridge blanketed in an impressive shroud of mature cloudforest. Birding mostly from the roadside, we will search for Double-toothed and Gray-headed kites, White Hawk, Brown-hooded Parrot, Green Hermit, Northern Emerald Toucanet, Red-faced Spinetail, Spotted Barbtail, Russet Antshrike, Dull-mantled Antbird, Tufted Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Tyrannulet, Ochraceous Wren, and Black-and-yellow, Emerald, and Tawny-crested tanagers. Rarer species, including Snowcap, Brown-billed Scythebill, and the spectacular Black-crowned Antpitta, also occur in this area. Later in the morning, we will explore at least one trail that follows a small stream. Here, we'll have additional chances for secretive species of the forest interior. Because of the foothill altitude (up to 1200 meters, or 4000 feet), the temperatures frequently remain cool late into the day and mid-day birding can be surprisingly good. After a picnic lunch, we'll bird until mid-afternoon and then start back to the Lodge.



*The Keel-billed Toucan is one species that we'll likely see from the Canopy Tower.
Photograph by participant Colleen Stubbs.*

Itinerary for Panama's Canopy Tower & Lodge

Day 1. Arrival to Panama City. Please plan to arrive no later than 8:00 p.m. this evening. You'll be met at the Tocumen Airport and transferred to the Canopy Tower, 40-60 minutes away, depending on traffic. Night at the Canopy Tower.

Day 2. Canopy Tower and Semaphore Hill. Before and after a delicious breakfast beside singing Red-lored Amazons or croaking Keel-billed Toucans, the early morning will be spent enjoying birding the canopy from the Tower. We hope to see a male Blue Cotinga sitting up or feeding in nearby trees as well as a lovely Gartered Trogon. As the morning unfolds, raptors 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, 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. Night at the Canopy Tower.

Day 3. 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 Graceful Black-throated; three motmots; White-necked, Black-breasted, Pied, and White-whiskered puffbirds; Great Jacamar, Keel-billed and Yellow-throated toucans; Cinnamon Woodpecker; Black-crowned Antshrike and Spot-crowned Antwreos; Spotted and Dusky antbirds; Russet-winged Schiffornis and Speckled Mourner; Golden-crowned Spadebill; Cinnamon Becard; Velvety (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. Night at the Canopy Tower.

Day 4. 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 Brown-hooded Parrot, Pheasant Cuckoo, 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. Night at the Canopy Tower.

Day 5. Camino de Cruces National Park or Metropolitan Park in the morning; to Canopy Lodge. We will depart the Canopy Tower early this morning in order to visit some drier habitat forest before driving to the Canopy Lodge. Our choice between the two parks will depend on recent birding reports and traffic involved in getting there. 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, Panama Flycatcher, and Yellow-green Tyrannulet, one of Panama's ten or so endemic birds. Bird activity wanes by mid-morning, so we will plan to leave for the Canopy Lodge and arrive in time for lunch. After lunch we will bird the grounds of the Canopy Lodge and walk the road hoping for a fruiting tree that is attracting tanagers. We will likely also duck in to the forest along the stream in earch of some more secretive species. Night at the Canopy Lodge, El Valle.



*On recent tours, we've been lucky enough to find a Fasciated Tiger-Heron near the Canopy Lodge. They are generally uncommon, and prefer fast-flowing streams, unlike the Rufescent Tiger-Heron, which we may also see.
Photograph by guide Sam Wilson.*

Day 6. Canopy Lodge environs. This morning we'll bird the Las Minas Road or the Candelario 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 White-tipped Sicklebill, Green-crowned Brilliant, and the occasional Green Thorntail among the more common hummingbird species. The Candelario area can be good for mixed-species flocks and even Black-crowned Antpitta. The Las Minas area can be good for Northern Emerald- (Blue-throated) Toucanet, the distinct orange-bellied subspecies of Collared Trogon, Tawny-capped Euphonia, Mistletoe Tyrannulet, and Spotted Woodcreeper. After lunch, we will likely bird the Las Mozas area. 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. Depending on what we are still after, our afternoon destination is subject to change. Night at the Canopy Lodge, El Valle.

Day 7. Altos del Maria. After breakfast at the Lodge, we will head out in three SUV vehicles to Altos del Maria, a slowly evolving housing community beginning about 30 minutes from El Valle. The SUVs are needed to negotiate the steep paved roads that give us access to the cloud forest. We will park and walk stretches of road before moving to another area. After a morning of birding, we will have a picnic lunch at a small lake before checking some other areas. Night at the Canopy Lodge, El Valle.

Day 8. Morning at Juan Hombron; Playa Santa Clara; transfer to Panama City. The dry Pacific forest, brush, and coastal grassland and rice fields of Juan Hombron provide an interesting change of scenery from the humid foothill forest of El Valle, an hour away. Because the bulk of the population of Panama resides in Pacific western Panama, these

habitats have largely disappeared from the country. Representative species present at Juan Hombron include White-tailed Kites, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Crested Bobwhite, Plain-breasted and Blue ground-doves, Brown-throated Parakeet, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Lance-tailed Manakin, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Eastern Meadowlark, and Red-breasted Blackbird. Even the rare and declining Aplomado Falcon has been seen here.

The area is best birded in the cooler early morning temperatures. Sunscreen and water are essential as it is more open and generally considerably warmer than the foothill forest of El Valle. Birding here is from the roadside and adjacent trails. Once it begins to heat up beyond our pleasure zone, we will head to Playa Santa Clara for lunch before heading to Panama City for our final dinner. Night in Panama City.

Day 9. Flights home from Panama City. Our hotel is located only a few minutes from the international airport, and flights home can be arranged for any time today.

About Your Guides

Tour I:

John Coons combines birding excellence with a natural ability as a tour guide. He has been leading tours since 1985. Since then, his great group skills, attention to detail, easy laugh, and unfailing sense to spot (and remember!) what's fascinating in things large and small have brought delight to innumerable Field Guides participants on tours from the High Arctic to the tip of South America and throughout Australasia.

When not on tour, John enjoys exploring and birding the remote mountains, canyons, and mesas of his home in northern Arizona. His ambition of developing a completely sustainable yard of native wildflowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs is an unending goal that consumes more time than expected each spring and summer.

“John Coons did a fantastic job to ensure that all participants saw every species (with very few exceptions). His ability to hear, identify, and locate birds seemed magical.” H.P., Arizona: Birding the Border

Tour II:

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 peak 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.

“Chris was a fantastic guide - he brought a supreme birding knowledge and wealth of guiding experience along with patience and a sense of humor. He made the trip fun as well as informative.” R. H.; Panama's Canopy Lodge.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete tour schedules for John and Chris; just click on their photos.

Our group will also be accompanied by a local Canopy Tower or Canopy Lodge guide.

Financial Information

FEE: \$5,750 per person from Panama City

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1525 (Single rooms may not be available at the Tower. Please see the ACCOMMODATIONS section below.)

DEPOSIT: \$575 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 28, 2026 (Tour I); September 7, 2026 (Tour II)

LIMIT: 8

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour 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 wide, 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 due to its limited capacity (7 guest rooms). Please contact your tour manager to check availability. Single rooms are typically available at the Canopy Lodge. These are slightly smaller than the double-occupancy rooms and each has a private bath.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: This tour begins and ends in Panama City, Panama (Tocumen International Airport, PTY).

Arrival: Panama City (PTY) on January 24 (Tour I) or March 6 (Tour II), by 8:00 PM.

Departure: Panama City (PTY) on February 1 (Tour I) or March 14 (Tour II), at any time.

Please wait to purchase airline tickets until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate. At that time, we'll be glad to assist with your flight arrangements at no service fee.

DOCUMENTS: Be sure to verify the latest entry requirements for each country you will visit or transit.

Passport: A valid passport is required for international travel. It should be in good condition, valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date, and have at least one blank page for each country on your itinerary.

Visa: U.S. and Canadian citizens are not required to obtain a visa for a short tourist visit. Non-US citizens should consult the consulates of each destination for current entry requirements.

You will be issued a **tourist card** by the airline to complete before arrival; please keep it in a safe place, as you may need to present it upon departure.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: **The tour fee is \$5,750 for one person in double occupancy from Panama City.**

It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 8, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 9, 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 alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The single supplement is \$1,525 for those requesting a single room. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

Please note: Single rooms may not be available at the Canopy Tower due to its limited capacity (7 guest rooms). Single rooms are typically available at the Canopy Lodge. These are slightly smaller than the double-occupancy rooms and each has a private bath. You may choose to stay in a double room for an additional charge of \$400. For the nights in Panama City, single rooms will be assigned and are included in the listed single supplement.

TOUR REGISTRATION: **To register for this tour, please contact us at fieldguides.com/contact-us/.** Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please send your deposit of \$575 per person; see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or by July 28, 2026 (Tour I); September 7, 2026 (Tour II).** We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 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.

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. **Please note: we have limited this tour to just 8 participants, plus the Field Guides leader(s) and a local guide, to ensure the best overall experience and satisfying birding on narrow trails. This affects the tour fee slightly, but we believe the intimacy and expertise are well worth it.**

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 full payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the full tour fee is non-refundable, which would include the full deposit if the final payment has not yet been paid. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation 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 that 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 airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to protect your investment in case of injury or illness to you or an immediate family member before or during a trip. Because we must remit early and substantial deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer refunds for cancellations outside of our Cancellation Policy. If a participant is unable to join or continue a tour due to illness, all related expenses will be their responsibility, and no refunds can be issued for missed days. Please wait to purchase insurance until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate, as most policies are non-refundable.

For full details, visit our Trip Cancellation Insurance page at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/>.

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 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. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible 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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