



**PANAMA ESCAPE: AN EASY WEEK OF BIRDING FROM THE  
CANOPY TOWER LODGE**

**03 - 09 DECEMBER 2024**



*Yellow-throated Toucan is one of the most impressive species to be found near the Canopy Tower*

Our exciting 7-day trip to Panama is designed to explore one of the greatest birding hotspots in Central America, the famous Canopy Tower Lodge, where we will be based for the entire trip. This tour serves as a perfect introduction to neotropical birding, particularly for those who have never set foot in this magical part of the world. Our tour includes early starts (which you can opt out of if preferred) and full mornings for each day but we ensure the afternoons' activities are kept flexible, allowing for exploration of the lodge surroundings at your own leisure. Guests can use this time to search for more bird species, enjoy the lodge and observation deck, or as an opportunity for some personal photography at an easier pace. We invite you to discover Panama, spending the entire week in one fantastic destination (without the stress of overland travel across the country), and to enjoy our short, relaxed birding vacation.

Our tour focuses exclusively on exploring the surroundings of the Canopy Tower, including the popular Pipeline, Achiote, and Semaphore Hill Roads, the Rainforest Discovery Center Tower, and the Summit Ponds near the Gamboa Wetlands. Each day we will have the chance to enjoy the magnificent forest views from the impressive Canopy Tower observation deck. Being 50 feet (15 meters) above the ground, the deck provides a unique eye-level view of the canopy forest and canopy-dwelling bird species, all while enjoying our morning cup of coffee.



*The gorgeous **Green Honeycreeper**.*

During these seven days, we will look for species such as **Green Shrike-Vireo, Brown-hooded Parrot, Blue Cotinga, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Black-throated Trogon, White-tailed Trogon, Gartered Trogon, Black-breasted Puffbird, White-whiskered Puffbird, Collared Aracari, Keel-billed Toucan, Yellow-throated Toucan, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Semiplumbeous Hawk, Boat-billed Heron, Song Wren, Black-bellied Wren, Bay Wren, Ocellated Antbird, Spotted Antbird, Dot-winged Antwren, White-flanked Antwren, Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser, Grey-headed Chachalaca, Crimson-crested Woodpecker,**

**Cinnamon Woodpecker, Southern Mealy Amazon, Blue Dacnis, Green Honeycreeper, Blue-crowned Manakin and Red-legged Honeycreeper.** The hummingbird feeders attract species such as **White-necked Jacobin, Violet-bellied Hummingbird, Long-billed Hermit and Purple-crowned Fairy.**

In addition to birds, Panama offers some of the best chances to see other Neotropical wildlife such as **Brown-throated Sloth, Nine-banded Armadillo, White-nosed Coati, Central American Agouti, Geoffroy's Tamarin and Mantled Howler Monkey.**

### Itinerary (7 days/6 nights)

#### Day 1. Arrival and transfer to Canopy Tower Lodge

You will arrive in Panama City, meet our Birding Ecotours tour leader and be transferred to the famous Canopy Tower Lodge. We will spend the afternoon enjoying the lodge surroundings and, if time permits, the Summit Ponds, looking for species such as the elusive **White-throated Crane, Boat-billed Heron, Wattled Jacana, Rufescent Tiger Heron and Purple Gallinule.** Other birds include **Lemon-rumped Tanager, Palm Tanager, Crimson-backed Tanager and Black-striped Sparrow.** We might also have our first mammal encounters here with **Lesser Capybara and Brown-throated Sloth.**

Overnight: Canopy Tower Lodge, where we stay for the entire week



*We'll keep a lookout for army ant swarms where we hope to find birds such as **Spotted Antbird.***

## Day 2. Canopy Tower, Semaphore Hill and Summit Ponds

We will meet at the observation deck before dawn and while enjoying some coffee we will listen out for the early calls of **Barred** and **Slaty-backed Forest Falcons** emanating from the forest canopy, and will also try to detect the secretive **Green Shrike-Vireo** and the beautiful **Blue Cotinga**. Other birds include **Southern Mealy** and **Red-lored Amazons**, **Brown-capped Tyrannulet**, **Collared Aracari** and the striking **Keel-billed Toucan**. After breakfast, we will bird the famous Semaphore Hill, looking for **Rufous** and **Broad-billed Motmots**, **Slaty-tailed Trogon**, **Semiplumbeous Hawk**, **Plain-colored** and **White-shouldered Tanagers**, **Fulvous-vented Euphonia** and **Green Honeycreeper**. Before lunch, we will check the hummingbird feeders around the lodge entrance, hopefully enjoying views of **Blue-chested Hummingbird**, **Violet-bellied Hummingbird**, **White-necked Jacobin** and **Snowy-bellied Hummingbird**.

Overnight: Canopy Tower Lodge



*White-necked Jacobin* is one of the many hummingbird species which should attend the feeders.

## Day 3. Discovery Tower and Pipeline Road

We will have a full day on the famous Pipeline Road, enjoying the incredible avian diversity as we add to our ever-growing list. Target birds include species like **Black-breasted Puffbird**, **White-tailed**, **Gartered** and **Black-throated Trogons**, **Song Wren**, **Golden-collared Manakin**, **Purple-throated Fruitcrow**, **Great Jacamar** as well as **Fasciated** and **Black-crowned Antshrikes**. If we are lucky to find any army ant swarms, we might see the striking **Ocellated Antbird** and also **Spotted** and **Bicolored Antbirds**, with **Northern Barred** and **Plain-brown Woodcreepers** hopefully in attendance too. We will visit some hummingbird feeders and perhaps be entertained by species such as **Long-billed** and **Stripe-throated Hermits**, **Crowned Woodnymph** and if we are lucky **Rufous-crested Coquette**.

Overnight: Canopy Tower Lodge

#### Day 4. Pipeline Road and Canopy Tower Lodge

We will spend a full morning exploring the Pipeline Road in search of any species we may have missed during our previous day. We will have a relaxed, non-driving afternoon, enjoying birds close to the lodge from the observation deck or hummingbird feeders.

Overnight. Canopy Tower Lodge

#### Day 5 - 6. Achote Road and Canopy Tower Lodge

We shall spend two full mornings exploring the famous Achote Road looking for species such as **Slaty-tailed, White-tailed, Gartered and Black-throated Trogon, Collared Aracari, Black-breasted Puffbird, Keel-billed Toucan, Yellow-throated Toucan, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Black-striped Woodcreeper, Spot-crowned Barbet, Red-capped Manakin, Golden-collared Manakin, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Spotted Antbird, Dot-winged Antwren, Southern Bentbill, Fasciated Antshrike, Jet Antbird, Black-bellied and Bay Wrens, Blue Cotinga, White-whiskered Puffbird, Rufous Motmot and Brown-hooded Parrot.** The afternoons will entail some relaxed birding around the lodge, from the observation deck or around Summit Ponds.

Overnight. Canopy Tower Lodge



*White-whiskered Puffbird will be searched for along the famous Achote Road.*

**Day 7. Transfer to the airport to connect with international flight**

Today we will leave the Canopy Tower Lodge for Panama City's Tocumen International Airport, from where you can catch your connecting flights back home.

*Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.*

**Duration:** 7 days

**Limit (Group Size):** 4 – 8

**Dates:** 03 – 09 December 2024

**Start:** Panama City

**End:** Panama City

**Prices:** US\$TBC per person sharing, assuming 4 – 8 participants (2024)

**Single Supplements:** US\$TBC (2024)

**Price includes:**

Transfers from the airport to the lodge and back to the airport  
Six nights of accommodation at the Canopy Tower Lodge  
All meals (from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 7)  
Snacks and some drinks  
Unlimited bottled water in the tour vehicle, but not pricey bottled water from restaurants  
Land transportation  
Private Birding Ecotours leader  
Local guides  
Entrance and admission fees

**Price excludes:**

All flights  
Trip cancellation and medical insurance  
Laundry services  
Drinks  
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))

**Accommodation Notes:**

The Canopy Tower is a unique but rather small lodge which includes dining, observation levels, and lodging. Due to its small size, the Canopy Tower does not have an elevator, and sounds may occasionally be heard from other guests climbing the stairs in the evening. Additionally, we unfortunately cannot always guarantee participants a single room. For those who do require a single room, we encourage an early booking which will certainly help your chances. We will do our best to accommodate your requests, however we are subject to the capacity limits of the Canopy Tower.