**Oaxaca, Mexico: Tropics to Cloud Forest**

**October 25th – November 8th, 2020**

**Cost:** TBA (approx. $3,400 CAD) from Oaxaca. Flights from Vancouver to Oaxaca City approximately $600 CAN

Costs include all accommodation, meals, transportation and guide fees from Oct 25th to Nov 8th (14 nights). Does not include international flights to Oaxaca. Alcoholic drinks, gratuities and items of a personalized nature are not included. The tour is limited to six Nature Vancouver participants plus the two guides and is offered at an exceptional price and value. Satipo Tours feel strongly in providing personalized service and sharing our knowledge with others.

**Single Supplement**: $600 CAD **Deposit:** $400 at booking

**Tour Duration**: 14 days **Tour Starts Ends**: Oaxaca, Mexico

**Leaders:** Thomas Plath, Wildlife Biologist, R.P. Bio, Pablo Jost

**Overview**

Oaxaca is a birders paradise with the highest species list for any state in Mexico. Amongst the nearly 800 species are a high concentration of endemic birds including star birds such as Long-tailed Wood-Partridge, Blue-capped and Bumblebee Hummingbird, Golden, Dwarf and Slaty Vireo, Ocellated Thrasher, Dwarf and White-throated Jay, Aztec Thrush, Gray-silky Flycatcher, Red Warbler, Red-breasted Chat, Oaxaca and Bridled Sparrow, and Orange-breasted Bunting. North American migrants abound with many flycatchers, vireos, warblers and orioles and others in large mixed flocks. We will search for these and others in the varied and beautiful habitats of this amazing state.

Participants will be rewarded with an excellent assortment of temperate and neotropical species including many Mexican endemics, enjoy the famous pre-Columbian ruins of Yagul and Monte Alban, and taste the great cuisine of Oaxaca.

Accommodation is a mixture of hotels, Bed & Breakfast, Guesthouses and mountain cabins with emphasis on locations conducive to birding. The mountain cabins are surrounded by beautiful pine and pine-oak forest.

Birding and nature study will be conducted along roadsides and good trails into forest considered easy. Walks will be at a slow and leisurely pace that is best for locating birds and allowing nature study and photography. Transportation is air-conditioned mini vans or a single passenger van.

**Highlights**: 300+ species, West Mexican Chachalaca, Long-tailed Wood-Partridge, White-faced Quail-Dove, Lilac-crowned Parrot, Colima Pygmy-Owl, Bumblebee, Emerald-chinned, Garnet-throated and Blue-capped Hummingbird, Sparkling-tailed Woodstar, Russet-crowned Motmot, Mountain Trogon, Gray-breasted and Gray-crowned Woodpecker, Flammulated Flycatcher, Blue Mockingbird, Dwarf and White-throated Jay, Boucard’s and Grey-barred Wren, Gray Silky-Flycatcher, Russet Nightingale Thrush, Slate-colored Solitaire, Russet Nightingale-Thrush, Ocellated Thrasher, Dwarf and Slaty Vireo, Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo, Crescent-chested and Red Warbler, Red-breasted Chat, Yellow-winged and Red-headed Tanager, Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, White-naped Brush-Finch, Bridled Sparrow, Collared Towhee, Orange-breasted Bunting.

**Itinerary**

**Day 1 Sunday Oct 25:** Arrival in Oaxaca. Shuttle service to accommodation our accommodation at LaCupula B&B in Teotitlan on the outskirts of Oaxaca. We will have dinner together with introductions and briefing.

**Day 2 Monday Oct 26**: Following breakfast we visit one of Mexico’s National Monuments, the archaeological site of Yagul associated with the pre-Columbian ruins of Zapotec civilization and set in a spectacular elevated setting. Prior to entering the ruins (9 AM opening) we will walk the entrance road birding the desert scrub with big cacti. This is an excellent site for the endemics Beautiful Hummingbird, Grey-breasted Woodpecker, Boucard’s Wren and Bridled Sparrow.

After lunch we will visit the famous Teotitlan weaving market, followed by a pre-dinner walk through temperate oak scrub only minutes from our accommodation. This habitat is home to several excellent endemics. Overnight LaCupula B&B Teotitlan

**Day 3 Tuesday Oct 27:** An early morning walk in arid temperate scrub a short distance from our Bed & Breakfast in Teotitlan del Valle should could give us star endemics like Ocellated Thrasher, Dwarf Vireo, Oaxaca and Bridled Sparrow. Following breakfast we drive up into the Sierra Madre Oriental birding en route to our mountain cabins.

The pine forests surrounding our self-catering accommodation will be our first taste of montane birding. Many of the birds will be familiar to North Americans however are augmented by species typical of southern pine and pine-oak forests: Mexican Violetear, Blue-throated Mountain-Gem, Mountain Trogon, White-striped Woodcreeper, Tufted and Pine Flycatcher, Greater Pewee, Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo, Mexican Chickadee, Gray-barred Wren, Brown-backed Solitaire, Gray Silky Flycatcher, Olive and Red Warbler. Overnight Centro Ecoturistico Cabanas Neveria, Cruz de Madrono.

**Day 4 Wednesday Oct 28:** All morning will be spent birding the montane pine forest for specialties of the Sierra Madre Oriental on the numerous recreational trails in the area. Following lunch we head for our accommodation located off route 175 outside Oaxaca City, stopping for lunch and groceries for our guesthouse stay. If time allows we will visit some birding areas nearby for any scrub species missed. Overnight Casa Al Pie de la Sierra, Oaxaca City.

**Day 5 Thursday Oct 29:** An early start will allow us time to look for the specialties of La Cumbre: Long-tailed Wood-Partridge, and both Dwarf Jay and Grey-barred Wren accompanying the flocks of Steller’s Jay. Other species to look for include Mountain Trogon,Strong-billed and Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Mexican Chickadee, Black Thrush, Scott’s Oriole, Hermit Warbler, Red-faced Warbler and if lucky Aztec Thrush. Lunch will be near La Cumbre at a restaurant boasting hummingbird feeders. Overnight La Cumbre or Casa Al Pie de la Sierra, Oaxaca City.

**Day 6 Friday Oct 30:** Today we take the long drive (5.5 hrs) to the Atlantic lowlands town of Tuxtepec stopping en route (if time and weather allows) to bird roadside cloud and rich pre-montane forest between kilometer posts 95 and 40 above the town of Valle Nacional. Some of the good birds here include Garnet-throated and Bumblebee Hummingbird and Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer at roadside flower beds, and Unicolored Jay, Slate-colored Solitaire, Black Thrush, and Common Chlorospingus in the forest. Overnight at Villa Blanca Suites, Tuxtepec.

**Day 7 Saturday Oct 31:** The largely deforested humid Atlantic lowlands hold some specialties in the remaining forested limestone ridges near the town of Tuxtepec. An early morning picnic breakfast by these ridges will allow us to search for Canivet’s and White-bellied Emerald, Rufous-breasted Spinetail, White-bellied and Sumichrast’s Wren, Yellow-winged Tanager and many others in this species-rich area. The second growth, and hedgerows support good numbers of North American migrants and the remaining forest widespread tropical species including Toucans, Motmots, Trogons, Woodcreepers, Foliage-gleaners, Antbirds and others.

Mid-morning we head upslope to bird Camino Plan de las Flores (hotspot). Lower slope forest birds of this area include: Stripe-throated Hermit, Black-crested Coquette, White-bellied Emerald, Azure-crowned and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Gartered and Collared Trogon, Keel-billed Toucan, Golden-fronted and Golden-olive Woodpecker, Black-cowled Oriole, White-winged Tanager, Crimson-collared and Yellow-winged Tanager, and Morelet’s Seedeater. Following lunch we head further upslope for more cloud forest birding before returning to our accommodation. Overnight Hotel Verdi or at Valle Nacional.

**Day 8 Sunday Nov 1:** Today is mainly a driving day back to Oaxaca City stopping en route to stretch our legs by searching for any target species missed, and stopping at a restaurant en route with hummingbird feeders. The drive is approximately 5.5 -6 hrs. Overnight Hotel Hacienda, Oaxaca City.

**Day 9 Monday Nov 2:** Monte Alban is the most important archaeological site of the Valley of Oaxaca, and a World Heritage property. The morning will be spent admiring this impressive pre-Hispanic site show-casing the changes of a region inhabited by a succession of the Olmec, Zapotec and Mixtec peoples. Several sought-after endemics occur in the scrub surrounding these ruins. Following lunch we again drive up into montane forests however this time into Sierra de Miahuatlan, an extension of Sierra Madre Del Sur and hosting several sought-after endemics. Our self-catering cabins are in a spectacular setting surrounded by pine forest. Overnight Refugio Terraza de la Tierra.

**Day 10 Tuesday Nov 3:** Following breakfast we bird en route to Glamping Finca Margarita, located on the humid lower slope of Sierra de Miahuatlan. The tropical and semi-tropical deciduous forests is home to several endemics and many birds including: Crane and Short-tailed Hawk, Long-billed and Plain-capped Starthroat, Golden-crowned Emerald, Blue-capped Hummingbird, Beryline and Cinnamon Hummingbird, Mottled Owl, Collared Trogon, Northern Emerald-Toucanet, Gray-crowned Woodpecker, Bat Falcon, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, Rose-throated Becard, Greenish Elaenia, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Golden Vireo, Happy Wren and Banded Wren, White-throated and Rufous-backed Thrush, Scrub Euphonia, Rusty Sparrow, and Yellow-winged Cacique. Overnight at Glamping Finca Margarita.

**Day 10 Wednesday Nov 4:** Situated in beautiful habitat Glamping Finca Margarita is the place to be for the birds of the rich lower slopes. Many great birds can be seen at our “glamorous” camping area and all morning will be spent searching for them. Particular attention will be given to finding the endemic White-throated Jay and Fan-tailed Warbler. In the afternoon we drive to our comfortable accommodation located adjacent Huatulco NP, the largest protected parcel of dry thorn forest in the state. Overnight at Vivienda Villa, Huatulco.

**Day 11 Thursday Nov 5**: The early morning and late afternoon hours will be spent birding the dry thorn forest of Huatulco NP for specialties like West Mexican Chachalaca, Lesser Ground-Cuckoo, Colima Pygmy-Owl, Citreoline Trogon, Russet-backed Motmot, Pale-billed and Lineated Woodpecker, Lilac-crowned and White-fronted Parrot, Flammulated Flycatcher, Bell’s Vireo, White-throated Magpie Jay, White-lored Gnatcatcher, and Rufous-naped Wren. Mid-day will be spent relaxing at our accommodation. Overnight Vivienda Villa.

**Day 12 Friday Nov 6:** Another morning of birding Huatulco NP will help in locating some of Mexico’s prettiest birds. Effort will be made to ensure we see gems like Red-breasted Chat, Orange-breasted and Blue Bunting. In the afternoon we drive upslope back for some more tropical deciduous birding. Overnight Refugio Terraza de la Tierra.

**Day 13 Saturday Nov 7:** Following a morning birding on the lower slopes of the Sierra we drive back to Oaxaca (5.5 hours) for a celebratory dinner together on our last night. Overnight at Azul Cielo Hostel located in the historic old town and one of the most picturesque neighborhoods in the city.

**Day 14 Sunday Nov 8**: Flight home.

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**Trip Booking**:

To reserve the trip we require a $400.00 per person deposit. When we receive a deposit further trip specific information will be forwarded. The balance of payment is 180 days before your trip departure. Payments are accepted through personal cheque or money transfer to Thomas Plath Environmental Services or Thomas Plath.

**Cancellation and Refund**:

We receive your notice of cancellation more than 180 days prior to your trip departure: you will receive 100% of your refund; and between 120-180 days you receive 50% of your final payment.

Please note: Nature Vancouver reserves the right to cancel your trip at any time, purchasing cancellation insurance on your flight is essential. This policy protects us from unforeseen emergency events i.e. sickness, death in family.