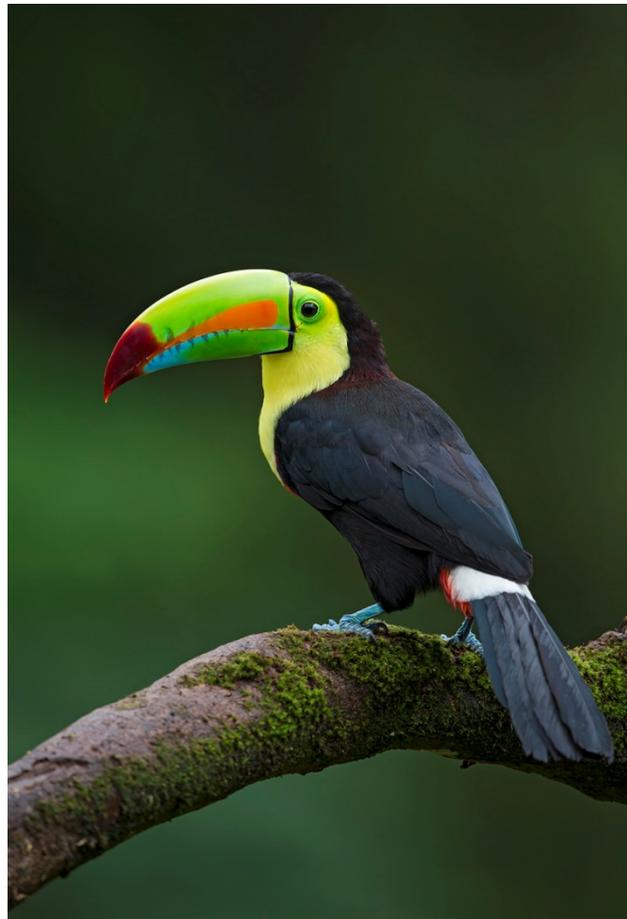




# *The Lodge at Pico Bonito*

**January 20 - 27, 2018 with Special Guest Leader John Schaust  
January 27 – February 3, 2018 with Special Guest Leader Adam Barnes**



Honduras is one of the least explored countries by birders in Central America. This tour will take you to the fantastic Lodge at Pico Bonito which is a member of the "Small Luxury Hotels of the World" for a week of birding along this incredible country's North Coast.

## Itinerary Overview

January 20/27: Arrival and Transfer to The Lodge at Pico Bonito  
January 21/28: Full Day at The Lodge at Pico Bonito  
January 22/29: Rio Santiago, Afternoon at The Lodge at Pico Bonito  
January 23/30: Aguan Valley and the Honduran Emerald  
January 24/31: Lancetilla Botanical Garden and Tela Beaches  
January 25/Feb 1: Cuero y Salado, Afternoon at The Lodge at Pico Bonito  
January 26/Feb 2: Cayos Cochinos  
January 27/Feb 3: Depart for Home

\*\*The order that we visit these incredible birding spots will depend on weather and might change during the tour\*\*

## Detailed Itinerary

### **January 20/27: Arrival & Orientation**

After meeting your guide at San Pedro Sula International Airport, we will transfer to the incredible Lodge at Pico Bonito. This highly acclaimed birding/rain forest resort is located on the edge of the 270,000 acre Pico Bonito National Park. If time allows, we will do some light birding around the lodge upon arrival.



Lovely Cotinga

### **January 21/28: Birding at The Lodge at Pico Bonito**

We will meet early for breakfast and a short orientation on the deck of The Lodge's Itzama Restaurant before birding around the extremely varied habitats of the lodge grounds. We will spend the morning hours covering areas of tropical, secondary and gallery forest and plantations areas along the Rio Coloradito including a stop at the famous Toucan Tower to look for Lovely Cotingas. You never know what you might find along these trails but highlights might include Masked and Black-crowned Tityras, Blue-crowned, Turquoise-browed and Tody Motmots, Keel-billed Toucan, Collared Aracari, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Black-cowled Oriole, Black-headed, Gartered, Collared and Slaty-tailed Trogons, Royal Flycatcher, Green, Shining and Red-Legged Honeycreepers, and 16 species of Hummingbirds including Crowned Woodnymph, Blue-throated Sapphire, Violet Sabrewing, Purple-crowned Fairy, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Brown Violet-ear, Green Violet-ear and White-necked Jacobin.

After lunch at the lodge and a short rest, we will bird along the Lodge's loop trail. In addition to the Toucan tower at the trail's beginning, which we will stop at again, this route offers an elevated ridge platform, which overlooks the Rio Coloradito and surrounding forested slopes. We'll also visit observation Tower #3 along the way, set amidst an area of bird rich secondary forest and an overgrown plantation. White-collared and Red-capped Manakins occur at various locations here and Grey-headed Piprites may be seen as well. Both Keel-billed and Tody Motmots are frequently encountered along this route. Other species here include the Great Curassow, Crested Guan, Great, Little and Slaty-breasted Tinamous, Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser, Keel-billed Toucan, Collared Aracari, a host of Flycatcher species, including Royal Flycatcher, and many of the Trogon, Woodpecker, Woodcreeper, Tanager and Oriole species on The Lodge's 420+ species bird list. In addition to superb viewing from The Lodge's towers, this route passes several overlooks along the Rio Coloradito and sightings of many raptor species may occur. Great and Northern Potoo can be common here as well.

### **January 22/29: Rio Santiago Nature Resort**

We travel to the Rio Santiago Nature Resort which is quickly becoming known as the "hummingbird capital of Honduras". Although it is only 30 kilometers from the Lodge, it has many more hummingbirds! This 150-acre private rainforest preserve boasts a hummingbird list of nearly 20 species including, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Brown Violet-ear, Band-tailed Barbthroat, Violet Sabrewing, Crowned Woodnymph, Stripe-throated Hermit, Long-billed Hermit, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, White-bellied Emerald, and Scaly-breasted Hummingbird.

The trails around the property provide us the opportunity to do a little hiking and look for species such as Keel-billed Motmot, and various tanagers, trogons and euphonias.

We'll return to The Lodge at Pico Bonito for lunch and optional afternoon activities: visit the spa, spend time at the pool, relax in a hammock with a good book, hike to one of several waterfalls, or more birding around the property.

### **January 23/30: Aguan Valley and the endemic Honduran Emerald**

Today's adventure is a very special one as we will be traveling to the Aguan Valley in search of Honduras's only endemic species, Honduran Emerald. We will leave the lodge at 4am for our long drive. After a quick stop in Olanchito for breakfast, we'll make several birding stops along the road and at the Carrill Bridge on our way to the Honduran Emerald Refuge. Highlights along the road include Double-striped Thick-knee, Lesser Roadrunner, Lesser Ground-cuckoo, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, White-lored Gnatcatcher, White-throated Magpie-jay, Banded Wren, White-bellied Wren, and Stripe-headed Sparrow.



Honduran Emerald

Although the Honduran Emerald is endangered, it is quite common within its range and our chances of seeing this species are very good. Once we have finished up at the Honduran Emerald site, we will enjoy lunch at a private home near the preserve before heading back to the Lodge.

### **January 24/31: Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge**

Our morning will be spent at Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is named for the Cuero (Leather) and Salado (Salty) Rivers which meet the ocean here. It comprises over 35,000 acres of rivers, lagoons, mangroves, and forests that are home to diverse wildlife and a variety of birds exceeding 350 species.

In order to get to this refuge, we will catch a small motorized train that will take us to the refuge visitor's center. During the ride, we will look for raptors, wading birds, and edge-habitat specialists. The conductor is happy to stop to look for birds! Once at the visitor's center, we will board small motorized skiffs and explore the refuge from the water. Our expert boat handlers are also great spotters and will help to point out many species. Some of the highlights might include, Great Curassow, Agami Heron (rare), Boat-billed Heron, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Gray-necked Wood-Rail, Sungrebe, Collared Plover, American Pygmy Kingfisher, and Laughing and Bat Falcons.

We'll return to The Lodge at Pico Bonito for lunch and optional afternoon activities: visit the spa, spend time at the pool, relax in a hammock with a good book, hike to one of several waterfalls, or more birding around the property.

### **January 25/February 1: Lancetilla Botanical Garden and Tela Beaches**

Jardin Botanica Lancetilla is one of the most well-known birding locations in all of Honduras. This huge garden was created in 1925 by the United Fruit Company. Its original purpose was to serve as a site for the study of tropical fruit and wood tree that could be of commercial value. While some of that work does continue here, the site is much better known for its incredible birding opportunities. The current bird list reads like a who's who of tropical birds, and includes Motmots and Manakins, Woodcreepers and Warblers, Woodpeckers, Toucans, Tanagers, and scores of others. Thanks to this diversity, a typical day of birding here could yield: Little Tinamou, Common Black-Hawk, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Ruddy Crake, White-fronted and Red-lored Parrots, Squirrel Cuckoo, Black-headed, Gartered and Collared Trogons, Turquoise-browed and Blue-crowned Motmots, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Great and Barred Antshrike, Long-billed Gnatwren, and a host of other resident and migrant species.

We'll complete our morning at Lancetilla with lunch in the beach-side town of Tela, and return to The Lodge by late afternoon.

## January 26/February 2: Cayos Cochinos

One of the premier snorkeling locations of the world, the Cayos Cochinos are a group of 15 small remote islands about 10 miles from the shores of La Ceiba.

Located on the world's second largest barrier reef, these islands are part of the Bay Islands of Honduras. A true marine paradise, the Cayos Cochinos and their surrounding coral reef have been designated a protected biological reserve. The protected area covers approximately 190 square miles (490 square kilometers).

In addition to the incredible snorkeling, there are some birds that are commonly found on the islands but not on the mainland. Some of the species we might see are White-crowned Pigeon, Caribbean Dove, and Yucatan Vireo.



The Cayos Cachinos are reached by a 26-foot outboard motor boat. The Lodge provides fins, masks and snorkels. The snorkeling trip includes a fresh fish lunch at a Garifuna village on one of the islands. We'll return to the lodge around 2 pm to relax and prepare for our trip home the following day.

## January 27/February 3: Departure

If time allows, we will either spend some time on one of the towers or doing a short hike before breakfast. After breakfast, we'll transfer to San Pedro Sula for our flights home.

## Is Honduras a Safe Country to Visit?

While it is possible to find dispiriting information about security concerns while traveling in Honduras, it is important to recognize that reality and reputation aren't always aligned.

During Sabrewing's eight trips to Honduras, owner Rob Ripma has never faced any security issues. He has stayed in downtown San Pedro Sula, traveled on countless highways both during daylight hours and at night, and spent evenings birding and sightseeing on the pier in La Ceiba. Rob has even shared the beauty and adventure of this amazing country with his wife and many of his immediate family members during a recent holiday vacation trip.

While Rob feels that the country is safe, he still takes proper and smart precautions to avoid any unlikely issues, just as you would in any major city in the US. Every tour participant is met at the airport by local guides as well as by Sabrewing owner and experienced international guide, Rob Ripma. Sabrewing Tours do not travel at night and tour members always travel in a group with local guides and drivers. Stops for restrooms, food and other sundries are at known and safe locations.

The Lodge at Pico Bonito takes safety and security very seriously and has this to say about it "Here on Honduras' Caribbean coast we continue to enjoy the same safety and security that we've known for a long time. While Honduras is far from perfect, it remains 100% the tropical paradise with which you will fall in love. You are going to find Honduras to be a gentle and easy going country. Furthermore, at Pico Bonito we take all measures to ensure all guests feel safe and secure."

Here are some testimonials from recent trip participants:

### **Ted Meyer – Past President, Amos Butler Audubon Society**

My wife and I traveled with Sabrewing to Honduras and felt quite secure the entire time. We were greeted at the airport by the owner as soon as we left customs. Everywhere we went throughout the trip we were escorted. On one occasion, we were birding along a road and ran into a local law enforcement vehicle. The local guides knew them and they stayed with us an hour or so while we birded from the road and made a short excursion on foot.

The Pico Bonito Lodge has its own security as well. We took the normal precautions of any traveler to not leave valuables unattended or in plain sight. Sabrewing and the Pico Bonito Lodge were excellent and we were able to relax and enjoy the birds without any undue concern for our safety.

**Sue Gregg – Assistant Manager, Wild Birds Unlimited, Clearwater Crossing Shopping Center**

In January 2016, my friend and I went on a birding tour to Honduras with Sabrewing Tours. We had an incredible experience and would both love to go again. We landed in Tegucigalpa. We were met at the airport by Rob Ripma and his local guide, Alex.

While in Honduras we stayed at 3 different locations. I felt completely safe the entire trip. Rob and a local guide were with us the entire time and we felt well attended to. All our questions were answered and we learned much about the local communities and their traditions. We saw stunning birds from day one forward.

Pico Bonito was our last stop and the very best location. I cannot imagine any other Eco-resort topping it. The local tours were led by exceptional guides, the food was the best and atmosphere so relaxing. There was always something to learn or see, but if one wanted to relax, that was always an option too. While at the lodge I felt completely safe. In addition to Rob being available, the staff were there if you had a question or needed help.

Rob is an excellent leader. He has traveled enough to know what can happen and is always prepared. He looks after each traveler and seeks to make sure everyone has the best experience possible. You can't go wrong traveling with Sabrewing Tours.

## Trip Details

**Cost:**

Price per person (double occupancy), from San Pedro Sula, Honduras: \$2,699.00  
Single Supplement: \$475.00

**Minimum Participants:** 6

**Maximum Participants:** 12

**Price Includes:**

Expert Guides  
Ground Transportation in Honduras  
All Lodging  
All Meals  
Park Entrance Fees  
\$500 Donation to Friends of Holliday Park

**Price Does Not Include:**

Airfare to and from San Pedro Sula, Honduras  
Alcoholic Beverages  
Personal Items  
Tips

**Deposit:**

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (October 20, 2017).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact Rob at [robert.ripma@gmail.com](mailto:robert.ripma@gmail.com) or by phone at 317-748-4140.



## REGISTRATION - Honduras

January 20-27     January 27 – February 3

### Participant 1:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (As it appears on Passport)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Passport Number – Expiration - Country of Origin

List current health and physical limitations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List any allergies and medications: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List any dietary restrictions or preferences: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency Please Notify:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Participant 2:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (As it appears on Passport)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Passport Number – Expiration - Country of Origin

List current health and physical limitations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List any allergies and medications: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List any dietary restrictions or preferences: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency Please Notify:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# Sabrewing Nature Tours

## Terms, Conditions, and Waiver

**TERMS:** To register for a tour or workshop please complete the above registration form and sign below to acknowledge the terms. Send this form along with you Tour/Workshop Registration Form and your deposit or full tour amount to Sabrewing Nature Tours (SNT) at the below address. Registrations will be processed on a first come first served basis. We will place your name on the waiting list if your tour is full.

The deposit for this trip is \$1,000 per participant. Deposits and all signed forms are required to secure registration of your spot on the tour. Deposits are refundable less a 20% processing fee ONLY if the spot can be filled with another participant at the full tour price. Deposits received after a tour has filled will be returned and your name will be placed on a waiting list. Payment in full is due at least 90 days prior to the start of the tour. Registrants who have not paid their remaining balance will forfeit their deposit and their place on the tour. Payment by personal check is strongly preferred. If you would like to pay with a credit card, additional fees will apply. We strongly suggest you consider trip insurance to cover you in the event of a medical or other emergency that would prohibit you from joining the tour.

The activity level required for each tour will be described on the tour page. If in doubt please contact SNT to determine if a tour is right for you. Any physical or medical concerns including allergies and/or dietary restrictions should be communicated to SNT. All tours will be non-smoking during group activities including but not limited to meals, slide programs, vehicle travel and when birding/photographing in close proximity to other participants. Tour groups will be kept small for the enjoyment of all participants. Target group sizes are listed in each tour description on our web site. SNT reserves the right to exceed the target group size by no more than one participant.

Tours will be held regardless of weather conditions. Severe weather may dictate informal discussion and/or a slide program while we wait for the weather to break. Tours will begin at the scheduled time. Tardiness may result in missing the boat, or van so to speak. There are no guarantees in nature. Tours are designed to coincide with excellent nature viewing opportunities. Decisions will be made daily to determine where the group should be to maximize opportunities. Deviation from the scheduled itinerary may be necessary.

It is imperative that all participants follow rules and suggestions set forth by the leaders and/or local guides. Failure to comply could pose a safety risk to you or other tour participants. For the safety of all clients we reserve the right to restrict access to tour functions at any time.

Airfare is NOT included in the price of the tour unless otherwise noted on the tour page. Registered participants will receive more specific details of what to bring as well as a more detailed outline of what can be expected on the tour upon payment in full and no later than 60 days prior to the start of the tour.

Photo tour participants wishing to get the most from their tour will have a working knowledge of their camera equipment prior to the tour. Suggestions on exposure modes, camera settings and a variety of techniques will be verbalized throughout the tour. Do bring your camera's manual. Every camera is unique in its operation thus it is impossible to know every feature of every camera model. Participants will be put in the best locations to take advantage of the light, wind, and habitat. We will work to improve compositions and make suggestions to vary your perspective that will improve your resulting images. Participants will also learn techniques to successfully capture action and behavior images.

**Waiver:** I am aware that certain risks and dangers are inherent to nature travel and photography and may occur during a Sabrewing Nature Tours event and that such risk and dangers cannot be eliminated without diminishing the quality of the workshop/tour for which I have registered. Risks include, but are not limited to theft or other loss of equipment or personal belongings; illness, injury, accident or death; travel hazards by air, boat, automobile or other vehicle; exposure to elements and other forces of nature and acts of God; both native and non-native wildlife, insects and flora as well as political, civil or military disturbance, strike, quarantine, government restriction and terrorist threat. I understand on or off trail hiking can present risk of falls that may result in damage to camera equipment, or significant personal injury or death. I understand Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for inclement weather and cannot and does not guarantee subject matter will be available for photography on any given date or location. I further understand I am solely responsible for additional expenses incurred by me due to medical emergency or other travel delays, including but not limited to the expense of extra nights lodging or flight itinerary changes. I voluntarily assume all risks and will hold Sabrewing Nature Tours, its partners and cooperating agents, the workshop leader(s), any and all co-leaders, assistants and other participants harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, claims, debts, and demands which arise in connection with the tour. The terms hereof shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for my heirs, administrators, and executors, and for all members of my family, including any minors accompanying me. In the event a lawsuit is filed; the enrolling participant agrees to do so solely in Hamilton County in the State of Indiana.

**I have read and agree with the above terms and conditions.**

Participant 1: Signature

Date

Participant 2: Signature

Date

**Please complete forms, sign the second form, and send them with your deposit or full tour amount.**