

## **Dominican Republic February 10-18, 2023**

### **Itinerary:**

**Please plan to arrive in Santo Domingo on February 10. Rooms are reserved at The Crowne Plaza in Santo Domingo. There is no hotel shuttle, but it's only a 30 min taxi ride from the airport. Dinner and the hotel tonight are included in the tour cost.**

#### **Day 1 (February 11) Santo Domingo**

Morning birding at the National Botanical Gardens in Santo Domingo, then making our way west to Sierra de Bahoruco with lunch and an afternoon visit to the Las Salinas salt pans for shorebird observation en route. Night spent at a small comfortable hotel in the town of Barahona.

#### **Day 2 (February 12) Cachote Cloudforest**

Early morning drive up to Cachote cloud forest for birding, then come back down to Barahona for lunch, and continue making our way to the area of Puerto Escondido for afternoon birding at the Rabo de Gato Trail, then check into the nearby Villa Barrancoli Birding Lodge for the night.

#### **Day 3 (February 13) Zapoten Cloudforest**

Early start and drive up to Zapoten Cloudforest for early AM birding, then drive back down to the mountain for lunch, then free time to rest after checking into a small comfortable hotel in the nearby town of Duverge, followed by late afternoon and night birding in the area of Puerto Escondido, then spend the night at the hotel in Duverge.

#### **Day 4 (February 14) Puerto Escondido**

Another productive day and night in the area of Puerto Escondido. Activities for this day will depend on the species seen and still missing. We will bird at the top sites in the area and go after any species that we might have missed previously. Night birding in the early evening again and then stay at the hotel in Duverge one final night.

#### **Day 5: (February 15) Santo Domingo**

Early AM birding at Loma Charco Azul nature trail in Puerto Escondido, followed by a visit to the shores of Lake Enriquillo National Park to look for **Hispaniolan Palm Crow** before having lunch on the road and going on the 4 hour drive back to Santo Domingo. Stay at a comfortable and charming hotel in the Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo for the night.

#### **Day 6: (February 16) Los Haities National Park**

Pick up and departure from your hotel to drive 3 hours to Los Haitises National Park, once we arrive we enjoy a private boat ride through the mangroves and around the shores and small islands of the park in search of **West Indian Whistling Duck** and other shore/sea birds, followed by a typical Dominican lunch at the eco lodge where we will spend the night. After lunch you have free time to rest or bird and enjoy the property on your own before we go looking for the Ashy Faced Owl at around 6 PM.

**Day 7 (February 17)****Santo Domingo**

Breakfast at the lodge followed by morning birding and looking for the **Ridgeways Hawk** and other species nearby, after which we have lunch in the village of Sabana de la Mar, then look for shorebirds nearby and drive back to Santo Domingo in the afternoon. where we visit a Hispaniolan Parakeet roost in the Colonial Zone of the city before dropping you off in Santo Domingo and end the tour. Night in Santo Domingo

**Day 8 (February 18)**

After breakfast we will head to the airport for our flights home.

*\*Order of days in itinerary may change if logistically necessary*

***\*\*\*SPECIAL COVID MEASURES: Our guides in the DR are fully vaccinated and we are committed to the best health practices possible. Beyond our always present philosophy of small private tours which take our clients away from the crowds and off the beaten path, be assured that social distancing from other tour groups will be practiced. Team members will regularly have their temperatures taken and must wear face coverings throughout the duration of your tour. Also, our vehicles are thoroughly sanitized before and after every tour.***