

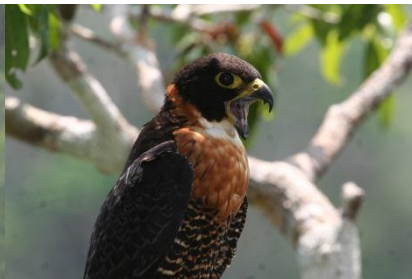
BELIZE RAPTOR TOUR
BELIZE RAPTOR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SECOND ANNUAL

10-17 DECEMBER 2012

Belize, formerly known as British Honduras, is truly an amazing country and a gem of Central America. It is the only English speaking country in Central America with a human population of fewer than 300,000, making it quite unique. Nearly 70% of the country is in its original state with nearly 45% protected through National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Areas, Forest Reserves, Nature Reserves, and Archaeological Sites. Belize has a wide variety of habitats and wildlife, and, as it is nearly the size of Massachusetts making it compact and easy to travel. Belize is a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts, birders, photographers, and anyone else who have an appreciation for the beauty of nature. It holds the highest density of the majestic jaguars and nearly 600 species of bird. Join us on this fantastic raptor tour for an opportunity to observe 40 species of raptors as well as other wonders and friendly atmosphere Belize has to offer.



Solitary Eagle



Orange-breasted Falcon



Harpy Eagle

This tour will be like no other trip you have been on! Along with observing many new species and viewing most of the country you will also get an educational enrichment through a series of lecture sessions. It will be led by raptor world authority, Bill Clark, the Belize Raptor Research Institute (BRRI) Founding Director, Ryan Phillips, and Blancaneaux Lodge Conservation Officer and Belize Raptor Research Institute Board of Director member, Roni Martinez. During the trip you will learn about the conservation efforts and research projects of BRRI and have a chance to observe nearly every species of raptor found in Belize. Proceeds from this tour will go to the conservation efforts of the Belize Raptor Research Institute, ultimately conserving species throughout the country and region. Be part of our conservation efforts and join us on this unique lifetime experience.

GENERAL ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrive, Belize City

Day 2: Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary

Day 3: Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary and Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area

Day 4: Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area and Blue Creek

Day 5: The Belize Zoo and Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve

Day 6: Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve, Hidden Valley Private Reserve and Thousand Foot Falls National Monument

Day 7: Rio Frio Cave and Caracol Archeological Site

Day 8: Depart, Belize City

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY1 (DECEMBER 10TH, MONDAY): BELIZE CITY

Arrive in Belize City. Transfer to Biltmore Plaza Hotel near the airport. Those that arrive early, raptor viewing around Belize City for **Common Black-Hawk, Snail Kite, Black-collared Hawk, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** and others. We will have an overview and introductions at the hotel. Biltmore Hotel

DAY 2 (DECEMBER 11TH, TUESDAY): BELIZE CITY AND CROOKED TREE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Depart Belize City to Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. We will look for **Laughing Falcon, Gray Hawk, Roadside Hawk, and White-tailed Hawk** along the road to Crooked Tree. After a lunch at Bird's Eye View Lodge we will take a boat cruise on the lagoon in search of **Black-collared Hawks, Snail Kites**, and a vast diversity of birds including the endangered Jabiru. Evening ID Session. Bird's Eye View Lodge.

DAY 3 (DECEMBER 12TH, WEDNESDAY): CROOKED TREE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AND RIO BRAVO AND MANAGEMENT AREA

Early morning boat safari on the Crooked Tree Lagoon. Depart for Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area. We will traverse over a large area of northern Belize, where we have opportunities to see species such as **Aplomado Falcon, Zone-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Hawk, Crested Caracara, and Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture**. Through current research Rio Bravo holds the highest density of Jaguars in the world, so this will be our best chance for Jaguars. Evening ID Session. La Milpa EcoLodge and Research Station.

DAY 4 (DECEMBER 13TH, THURSDAY): RIO BRAVO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AREA, LA MILPA ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, AND BLUE CREEK

Early morning walk through the sub-tropical broad-leaved forest to visit a **Bicolored Hawk nest** and to search for Crane Hawk, Collared Forest-Falcon, Barred Forest-Falcon, and Black Hawk-Eagle. After a Belizean breakfast we will visit La Milpa Archeological Site in search of the rare **Crested Eagle**, which has been observed over 40 times at this site. We will also search for **Bat Falcon, White Hawk, Double-toothed Kite, and Hook-billed Kite**. After La Milpa we will visit an **Ornate Hawk-Eagle nest**, which is arguably the most beautiful raptor in Belize. After lunch we will visit the Blue Creek Mennonite Settlement outside of Rio Bravo, which has an array of habitats and high raptor diversity. Evening ID Session. Optional owling after dinner for Mottled Owl, Black-and-white Owl, and Vermiculated Screech-Owl. La Milpa EcoLodge and Research Station.

DAY 5 (DECEMBER 14TH, FRIDAY): THE BELIZE ZOO AND MOUNTAIN PINE RIDGE FOREST RESERVE

Depart La Milpa after an early breakfast. On the drive to The Belize Zoo we have an opportunity to see many bird species. We will tour The Belize Zoo and have close-up views of Harpy Eagles, King Vultures, Ornate Hawk-Eagles, Common Black-Hawks, Spectacled Owls, Jaguars, and many native species of Belize. After a lunch at the infamous Cheers Restaurant we will depart to Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve. We will make a stop at the only known Crested Caracara nest in Belize. Once we reach the broad-leaved forest foothills we will search for **Gray-headed Kite, Black Hawk-Eagle, Short-tailed Hawk, Great Black-Hawk, and Gray Hawk**. When we reach Mountain Pine Ridge we will search for Solitary Eagle, King Vulture, Black-and-White Eagle, Merlin, and Orange-breasted Falcon. During sunset we will view King Vultures returning to their roost site for the evening. Evening lecture on the Belize Raptor Research Institute. Hidden Valley Inn.

DAY 6 (DECEMBER 15TH, SATURDAY): MOUNTAIN PINE RIDGE AND THOUSAND FOOT FALLS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Early morning visit to Howler Hill (named for its troop of Howler Monkeys) for **Forest-Falcons, White Hawk, hawk-eagles, Solitary Eagle**, and many species of birds. After breakfast we will visit a raptor hotspot site with a

nice lookout after visiting a known roost site of a pair of **Stygian Owls**. In the afternoon we will visit the stunning Thousand Foot Falls National Monument (the tallest waterfall in Central America), where a pair of **Orange-breasted Falcons nest**. After the falls we will visit the area with the only known **Solitary Eagle nest** throughout its range. We will also search for the resident subspecies of the Red-tailed Hawk. Optional night radio-tracking of the rare Stygian Owl. Hidden Valley Inn.

DAY 7 (DECEMBER 16TH, SUNDAY): CARACOL ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

We will start with any early breakfast before departing for the largest Mayan site in Belize, Caracol. We will first visit Rio Frio Cave for **Bat Falcon, White Hawk, and Crane Hawk**. Along the scenic drive to Caracol we will stop for all raptors, as we have a chance to observe a wide variety of species, including **Harpy Eagle, Double-toothed Kite, all three species of hawk-eagle, and Great Black-Hawk**, just to name a few. We will spend the day in the field visiting various raptor sites to reach our goal of 35 diurnal raptor species. During our farewell dinner we will compile our results and share our stories. Hidden Valley Inn.

DAY 8 (DECEMBER 17TH, MONDAY): DEPARTURE

Depart Hidden Valley Inn for the Belize airport.

COST:

Double Occupancy is \$2,399 per person

Single Occupancy is \$2,799 per person

COST INCLUDES:

Room and board, 3 meals per day, transportation to and from the international airport, transportation during the workshop, entrance fees, guide fees, and conservation fee. Does not include airfare to Belize or adult beverages.

PARTICIPANTS:

8-12 persons

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel



Best Western Belize Biltmore is a full service Caribbean style hotel situated in the quiet and serene residential area of Bella Vista on the northern outskirts of Belize City. This Belize hotel is perfect for meetings and conferences, and easily accessible on the Mundo Maya route, between Mexico and Guatemala on the Northern highway. It is 3 miles from downtown Belize City and 7 miles from Phillip Goldson International Airport.

Website: <http://www.belizebiltmore.com/>

Bird's Eye View Lodge



For more than 14 years, Bird's Eye has been honored to serve bird watchers and nature lovers who have come to visit the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary from as far away as the United States, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, England, Wales, Scotland, France, Germany, Austria, Holland, Venezuela, and South Africa! The family ran lodge is a haven for bird and nature enthusiasts. Located on the shores of the Crooked Tree Lagoon, they offer you not only good birding, but the comfort of a cozy lodge with all the amenities you would want.

Website: <http://www.birdseyeviewbelize.com/home.htm>

La Milpa EcoLodge and Research Station



The La Milpa EcoLodge and Research Center lies nestled deep in the forests of northwestern Belize only 2.5 hours by road from Belize City and 1.15 minutes by road from Orange Walk Town. This lodge is located only three miles from the third largest archaeological site in Belize. Programme for Belize's La Milpa Ecolodge and Research Center is promoted as the 'Birder's Paradise of Belize' for which it has become renowned and respected. La Milpa EcoLodge uses state-of-the-art "green technology", featuring 100% solar powered energy. Accommodations include private baths with hot and cold running water, and charmingly rustic and private thatched-roof cabanas.

Website: http://www.pfbelize.org/tourism/?page_id=16

Hidden Valley Inn



Hidden Valley Inn, a Luxury Life Style hotel with only 12 rooms, is located on a 7,200 acres private reserve in the Mountain Pine Ridge, Cayo District in Belize. This intimate eco resort offers quality accommodation, fine gourmet food and attentive service in a natural environment unspoiled by man. The flora, wildlife and bird watching here are truly unique in the region. Hidden Valley Inn is one of the most established and luxurious resorts in the Mountain Pine Ridge, in Cayo. Guests staying at this intimate luxury Boutique hotel enjoy exclusive access to over 90 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails as well as many secluded crystal pools and waterfalls set in a tropical rainforest. Situated in the Maya mountains in the Cayo District, this cozy forest

lodge also serves as a convenient base for visiting the various scenic and historical attractions of the area.

Website: <http://www.hiddenvalleyinn.com/>

LEADERS:

Bill Clark

Bill is a researcher, photographer, author, and lecturer with more than 45 years of experience working with birds of prey, including 5 years as Director of National Wildlife Federation's Raptor Information Center. He is presently writing a raptor field guide for Mexico and Central America and will show plates for this guide during the tour. He has published numerous articles on raptor subjects; has traveled extensively world-wide studying, observing, and photographing raptors; and regularly leads raptor and birding tours and workshops, both home and abroad, with his company, Raptours. Bill has been living in the Rio Grande Valley since 2002.



He regularly teaches evening and weekend courses on raptor field identification and biology, in the USA and Canada, and frequently presents lectures on raptor subjects. Bill is a coauthor of the *Photographic Guide to North American Raptors* and the completely revised Peterson series guide, *Hawks*. He has written a raptor field guide for Europe, and is writing another for Africa. Bill had set up and for over 30 years had coordinated the Cape May Raptor Banding Project in New Jersey. Bill has a personal goal to see and take photographs of all of the world's diurnal raptors.

Ryan Phillips

Ryan is the Founder and Executive Director of the Belize Raptor Research Institute. The founding of BRRRI represented the culmination of one of Ryan's lifelong goals of creating a conservation organization. After graduating from the University of California at Davis in Wildlife, Conservation Biology and Fisheries with a specialization in Ornithology he moved to Belize to work for The Peregrine Fund on the Harpy Eagle Restoration Project. He spent extensive time in Central America and has conducted research in Belize for 7 years. Ryan has been involved in many conservation projects and currently teaches in California at De Anza College in the Environmental Studies Department, as well as being the Co-Principal Investigator for the field projects of the Wildlife Corridor Technician Program.



Roni Martinez

Roni, a native of Belize, worked as a natural history guide at Blancaneaux Lodge in Belize from 2004 until 2009. It was there that he developed a passion for birds and other wildlife, as well as their conservation. In 2009, Roni became Blancaneaux's first Conservation Officer. As a result of this position, he works along with many different researchers and conservation NGOs, who share the same vision. Currently, his work involves research and collaboration on several projects with species such as jaguars: birds, especially macaws and raptors: and bats. His work with other conservation organizations, such as serving on the Board of Directors of the Belize Raptor Research Institute and Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD), has been crucial in maintaining a proactive effort in conserving biodiversity and wildlife habitat in Belize.



CANCELLATIONS:

Your deposit will be returned, minus a \$100 administration fee, if you have to cancel your reservation for unavoidable reasons prior to August 1, 2012. Full refund, minus the administrative fee, will be given after September 1, 2012 only if we can fill the vacated slot. If the slot cannot be filled, the Belize Raptor Research Institute will return only that portion of the fee covering personal costs. You may want to consider purchasing travel insurance. **The tour is subject to cancelation if there are inadequate registrations.**

TERMS:

The Belize Raptor Research Institute (BRRRI) reserves the right to alter this itinerary as necessary or to cancel the tour prior to departure, with full refund to participants. BRRRI assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may occur by reason of malfunction or as a result of sickness, weather, strike, or theft. BRRRI reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour at any time. No smoking will be permitted in the van, or at meals, or with the group in the field.

REGISTRATION:

Please fill out the registration form below and return to Ryan Phillips with the required fee per person or the deposit per person as soon as possible to assure a place on the tour. Tour is limited to 12 participants. Payments in full are due by September 1, 2012.

Mail to 1298 W Hacienda Ave Campbell, CA 95008

Or

Email to Ryan Phillips at harpiabz@yahoo.com

PAYMENTS:

Upon registration a \$250 deposit is due to hold your place. 50% of the total tour cost is due by August 1st and the tour must be paid in full by September 1st.



BELIZE RAPTOR
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

1298 W Hacienda Ave
Campbell, CA 95008 USA

Belize Raptor Tour 2012 Registration Form

(Registration limited to first 12 registrants)

Please register me (us) for the Belize Raptor Tour December 10-17, 2012

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE DAY _____ EVENING _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my check made payable to **Belize Raptor Research Institute** for the full amount of \$(US) 2,399 per person (Double occupancy).

Enclosed is my deposit of \$250 per person made payable to **Belize Raptor Research Institute**. I will send the remaining \$ 2,149. per person before September 1, 2012 and 50% (\$1199.50) before August 1, 2012

I desire a single room. Single supplement fee of \$ 400.00 per person is also included.

My roommate will be _____

I need a roommate. (If it is not possible to arrange a roommate, a single-supplement fee may be charged.)

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: DAY _____ EVENING _____ Email _____

IF YOU HAVE ANY MEDICAL CONDITION THAT THE TRIP LEADER SHOULD BE AWARE OF, PLEASE SEND THIS INFORMATION ON A SEPARATE SHEET