



Return to the River of Raptors: HawkWatch x Hoffman in Veracruz, Mexico

Itinerary at a Glance

October 7 Arrive in Veracruz City

After arriving at the airport in Veracruz, meet the guides and head to the hotel, located along the Gulf Coast

October 8 Exploring the Coastal Lowlands

Hit the ground running by birding around the hotel and along the Gulf Coast in the morning. After traveling to Cardel, hawkwatch from Hotel Bienvenido before spending the evening on a boat ride along the La Antigua River, looking for waders, shorebirds, and more.

October 9 Raptors, Ruins, and More Coastal Lowlands

Search for forest, savanna, and wetland birds in Villa Rica in the morning before heading to the Quiahuiztlan Ruins to take in migrating raptors and waterbirds. Return to Hotel Bienvenido for more hawkwatching in the afternoon, followed by a visit to the Cempoala Ruins. Travel to Xalapa to begin the mountain portion of the journey.

October 10 Mountains & Museums

After an early morning breakfast, explore Macuiltepetl Ecological Park, a forested urban park located on an ancient volcano. In the afternoon, take a brief break from birdwatching to visit the world-renowned Museo de Antropologia to view the excellent Olmec (ancient Mexican culture) archaeological exhibits.

October 11 High-Elevation Birding

Hike through high-elevation pine woodlands in search of Slate-throated, Pine Flycatcher, Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch, and more. After lunch in the La Joya area, travel to higher elevation forests and/or desert habitats near Las Minas and/or Los Humeros for more birding.

October 12 Waterfalls & Hawkwatching

See the spectacular Texolo waterfalls as you search for resident hummingbirds (including the Violet Sabrewing), Bat Falcons, and many other forest birds in the Xico area. En route to Xalapa, stop for more birding at Rio Escondido and/or hawkwatching at Chichicaxtle.

October 13 More Hawkwatching and El Mirador Coffee Plantation

Tour a historic, certified, shade-grown coffee plantation in the morning. The diverse, mature forest is home to a variety of species, from trogons to toucans. After a special on-site meal, return to Chichicaxtle for more hawkwatching.

October 14 Wetlands & Grasslands

Head south to bird the Papaloapan River area, including the mangrove forests within the vast Alvarado Wetlands. Enjoy a two-hour boat ride, searching for Great Black and Black-collared hawks as well as an array of wading birds and mangrove forest specialties. If time permits, explore Las Barrancas Grasslands before returning to Veracruz City.

October 15 Grasslands & Wetlands

Explore the expansive Las Barrancas grassland/wetland located south of Veracruz City, in search of Fork-tailed and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Aplomado Falcon, Snail Kite, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, and more. In the afternoon, continue south for birding at Tlacotalpan before arriving at Hotel Playa Azul, a lakeside hotel, for the evening.

October 16 Nanciyaga Preserve & Los Tuxtlas Biological Reserve

Take a tour of Nanciyaga, a private reserve, home to beautiful scarlet Macaws. Then, travel to the northernmost rainforest in the western hemisphere at Los Tuxtlas Biological Reserve.

October 17 Rare Birds in the Rainforest

Explore the rainforest in search of the endemic Tuxtlas Quail-Dove and more. Located on the slope of an extinct volcano, it is full of rainforest diversity, including rare, elusive tropical raptors, such as Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Barred Forest- Falcon, Black Hawk-Eagle, and White Hawk.

October 18 Depart Veracruz City

With nothing on the itinerary today, you're cleared for an early flight home.