

Birding Oaxaca, Mexico

October 7 – 18, 2026



MEXICO-BIRDING
TOURS



Oaxaca, the birdiest state in Mexico, with its wide variety of habitats and elevations make this the richest of all the Mexican state in terms of its birds. We will cover a third of the area, but we will certainly be in one of the most productive areas of the state.

Geography and Route

Our trip will cover 5 major areas for birding, the Valle of Oaxaca, the Sierra Juarez, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, the Southern Sierra, and the gorgeous coast. The three major cities we visit will be Oaxaca, Tehuantepec, and Huatulco, with 2 nights in cabins in the mountains of the southern Sierra of Oaxaca as we travel between areas.

Climate and Terrain

Oaxaca city is located in a Valley at approximately 5,000 ft, and surrounded by mountains (Sierra Juarez) that go up to 10,000 ft. The temperatures in the valley are from 55 to 78 F. Up in the Mountains (La Cumbre and San Jose del Pacifico) it will be around 40 F early in the morning but quickly warming up. At the coastal areas near Huatulco and Tehuantepec the temperatures will be around 95F on a hot day, however most of the trip will have very pleasant conditions around 59-77F.

In general, the tour will involve fairly easy walking on roads and good paths, but they can be uneven and slightly uphill. We will take our time and do our best to avoid strenuous climbs. We will be at significant altitude on several days, so we'll take things easy there. Most important is keeping hydrated, and limiting sun exposure while having a lot of fun!



©Monte Alban Archaeological site

Itinerary:

Day 1. Wed, Oct 7 - Arrival to Oaxaca International Airport (OAX), meeting and dinner in hotel. *Overnight in Oaxaca city.*

Day 2. Thu, Oct 8 - Early in the morning we will enjoy a nice breakfast and then head east in the valley of Oaxaca, and bird in thorn scrub, with some of the species of interest include Boucard's Wren, Dusky hummingbird, Gray-breasted Woodpecker, Bridled Sparrow, Black-vented Oriole, and Berylline Hummingbird. As the day warms up we will move to other areas and enjoy a nice lunch, and afterwards during the heat of the day we will check out a demonstration of rug weaving in Eric's home village: Teotitlan del Valle. Before heading to the hotel, we will do some more afternoon birding, and then head back to Oaxaca city. *Overnight in Oaxaca City*

Day 3. Fri, Oct 9 - After our breakfast we will drive up the Sierra Norte and reach an elevation of 9,000 ft, where we will be birding in temperate habitat amongst pine and oaks. The temperatures here in the morning can be in the mid 40's so a jacket might be wise to have. The species of interest here include the gorgeous Red Warbler, Dwarf Jays, Gray-barred Wrens, Collared Towhee, and chances for Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer and Chestnut-sided Shrike Vireo. In the quiet hours of the day we will check out a nice restaurant and continue with some evening birding before heading to the Hotel in Oaxaca city. *Overnight in Oaxaca city*



©Boucard's Wren

Day 4. Sat, Oct 10 - After a revitalizing breakfast and coffee we will head north into the oak scrub where our main targets will be some of the most elusive species of the area. We will be looking for the striking Ocellated Thrasher, the well named Oaxaca sparrow, Slaty Vireo, Blue Mockingbird, and chances for other great birds. Then we will check out other areas and enjoy a nice lunch, and devoting time to some evening birding before heading back to Oaxaca for a nice supper in downtown Oaxaca. *Overnight in Oaxaca city.*

Day 5. Sun, Oct 11 - Today we will combine some archaeology, birding and traveling. After our usual breakfast we will head to the archaeological site of Montel Alban for some casual birding, and once the site is open we will go in and admire the most important pre-Columbian site in the state. This is a good area for some interesting birds such as Rock and Canyon Wrens, as well as Orioles and hummingbirds. After this we will drive to a restaurant where we will also have the opportunity to see few more birds, followed by a 4 hour drive to the mountain town of San Jose del Pacifico at 10,000ft, where we will spend two nights in nice cabins. *Overnight in San Jose del Pacifico*

Day 6. Mon, Oct 12 – Today we will bird in pine oak forest near the town of San Jose, at high altitude this montane area of pine forest hosts some interesting species such as Brown-backed Solitaire, Bumblebee Hummingbird, Hooded Yellowthroat, and if we get lucky we may find the very elusive White-throated Jay. *Overnight in San Jose del Pacifico.*



©Red Warbler

Day 7. Tue, Oct 13 - Today we have a marvelous sample of geography as we make our way down toward the coast. While this is a travel day, winding through the mountains, we break it up with a few birding stops along the way and enjoy the scenery of the Sierra Madre de Sur, one of the three great mountain ranges of Mexico. We will have lunch in the mountains near the coast and then continue. We arrive and enjoy settling in Huatulco, take a swim (?), and get ready for dinner. *Overnight in Huatulco.*

Day 8. Wed, Oct 14 - Located along the Pacific coast the area of Huatulco host some extraordinary species of flora and fauna. After our very early breakfast we will enjoy the low deciduous forest where some possible species include Red-breasted Chat, Citreoline Trogon, Russet-crowned Motmot, Golden-cheeked Woodpecker, Happy Wren, and Turquoise-crowned Hummingbird. The temperatures at sea level in this habitat can reach up to mid 90's, thus at mid-day when the heat is strong and bird activity is slow we will take a break, and then resume birding in the evening before dinner. *Overnight in Huatulco.*

Day 9. Thu, Oct 15 - Today will be a sea day, and after our breakfast we will board a boat and go offshore. The continental shelf in coastal Oaxaca is only about 5-6 miles from the shore so it's rather easy to get some extraordinary pelagic birding, including Black and Least Storm Petrels, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Galapagos Shearwater, Pink-footed shearwater and chances for Boobies, Jaegers and many other cool birds. Later we will enjoy lunch at a nearby beach and take a break. In the evening we will have an early dinner and go out for some nocturnal species, some possible birds include Mottled Owl, Pacific screech Owl, and chances for Buff- collared Nightjar and Pauraque. *Overnight in Huatulco.*

Day 10. Fri, Oct 16 - After our early breakfast we will drive up into the mountains north of Huatulco, and explore this area of Coffee Plantations and tropical semi-deciduous forest that hosts some extraordinary endemics, including the very restricted Blue-capped Hummingbird, Red-headed Tanager, Wagler's (Emerald) Toucanet, Gray-crowned Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Emerald, and chances for Mexican Hermit. Then we will enjoy a nice meal at a coffee finca and continue our birding as we make our way back to the hotel. *Overnight in Huatulco.*



©Blue-capped Warbler

Day 11. Sat, Oct 17 – Today, **if time allows**, we will do some casual birding in the area for any missing species, or explore the Copalita River mouth, or possibly a walk into the Huatulco National Park again. Then we will load up and drive back to Oaxaca, on the new high, about a 6hr drive. We will finish the tour with a late dinner and get ready for the next day's departures.

Overnight in Oaxaca

Day 12. Sun, Oct 18 - Departure from Oaxaca International Airport (OAX)

NOTE: Flights can be VERY limited, and only served by a couple airlines, so booking should be done now.

The trip includes:

- Guide
- Hotel
- Vehicle and driver
- All meals and beverages (Alcohol additional)
- Transfers from airport to hotels and vice versa
- Fees to protected areas, national parks and archaeological sites
- Local reserve guides when required
- Boat, fuel, and Captain for the mini pelagic
- Water in Van

Trip Does NOT Include

- Airfare/Travel to meeting airport
- Tips to guides
- Alcoholic drinks
- Snacks
- Personal Incidentals

Trip Fee:

Double: \$4,995

Single: \$5,595

Max Persons: 8

MEXICO-BIRDING TOURS



© This map shows the areas where we will overnight as well as the road we will follow. The yellow arrow is where we start the trip, the blue one where the trip ends. The red arrow is our overnight in cabins, and the green line the road we will follow.

Our Guide:

Eric Antonio Martinez was born in Oaxaca, Mexico. At the age of eight his passion for birds was born, which led him to travel throughout his entire country in search of endemic birds and regional specialties. In 2008 he spent two seasons at the Long Point Bird Observatory in Ontario, Canada, monitoring bird migration; he also worked at the Navopatia field station in southern Sonora Mexico and was part of a bird banding team at the Pemex Bird Observatory in Veracruz Mexico. He now owns Mexico Birding Tours which is one of the few Mexican-owned birding companies, and leads tours in Oaxaca, Chiapas, Veracruz, the Yucatan peninsula, Baja California, and central México.

