

**Optional pre-tour extension to
Northwestern Guatemala – Ocellated Quail, Goldman's Warbler & More
Feb 28 – Mar 2, 2024**

Itinerary:

Day 1: Wed, Feb 28 - Arrival in Guatemala City

Welcome to Guatemala! Arrive today at La Aurora International Airport (GUA). It is about a three-hour flight from most USA gateway cities to Guatemala. Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel in the city, a short 10-minute drive away, where we will have dinner and chat about the next few days. ***Night at Clarion Suites Hotel, Guatemala City.***

Day 2: Thu, Feb 29 - Northwestern region

After breakfast we take a 30-minute flight to Xela (airport code: AAZ) (short for Quetzaltenango city) and then drive to the town of Huehuetenango, located in the northwest region of the country. In the district of Huehuetenango, we find the Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, the highest mountain range of non-volcanic origin in Central America. These high mountains are an excellent place to find some of the most difficult birds specialties of the regions of Chiapas and Western Guatemala, like Ocellated Quail. In general these highlands are great for birding, and we could also encounter Black-capped Siskin, Pine Flycatcher, Steller's Jay as well as the Garnet-throated Hummingbird, among others. We will arrive in the afternoon to the town of Todos Santos Cuchumatán to spend the night. After dinner we have an optional outing to search for Unspotted Saw-whet Owl near our lodging. ***Night Hotel Puerta al Cielo.***

Day 3: Fri, Mar 01 - Sierra de los Cuchumatanes

Today is a day with a very specific objective, we will go after one of the most local species of Guatemala, the endemic and very range-restricted Goldman's Warbler. It is confined to specific areas at high elevations in a park located in the Sierra de los Cuchumatanes (located at 10,000-12,000 feet above sea level). While searching for the warbler, we will also have chances to find the rare Ocellated Quail and Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridge, plus more widespread species like Crescent-chested Warbler, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Yellow-eyed Junco, Rufous-collared Robin, Red Crossbill, and Northern Flicker. We also have chances for Pink-headed Warbler. After a few hours, we will continue our trip to the town of Huehuetenango, where we will spend the night. ***Night at Fuente Real Hotel or similar.***

Day 4: Sat, Mar 02 – Back to Guatemala City

After breakfast we catch our return flight from Xela back to Guatemala City, where we will link up with our ***'Best of Guatemala'*** Venture, Mar 2-12.

Itinerary subject to change based upon weather/local conditions and the advice of our local guides/contacts.