

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 01 ARRIVAL

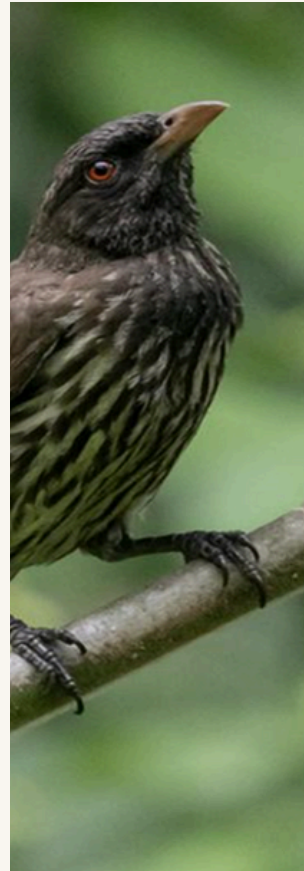
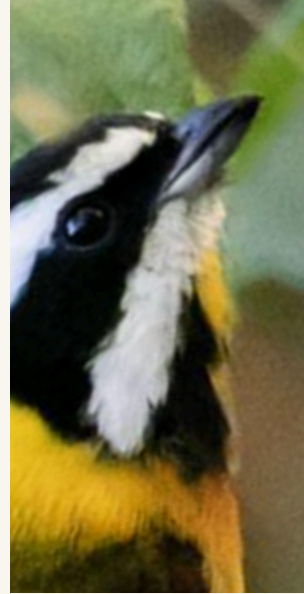
- Participants arrive in Santo Domingo, ideally by around 5pm.
- Overnight at Hotel El Mosquito.

DAY 02 NORTH TO SAN FRANCISCO AND RESERVA ZORZAL CACAO FACILITY

- Morning birding in Jardin Botánico and/or Colonial City.
- Late morning, north to San Francisco (2h drive). Visit Reserva Zorzal's chocolate processing facility.
- Overnight at Hotel Las Caobas in San Francisco.

DAY 03 VISIT RESERVA PRIVADA EL ZORZAL, RETURN TO SANTO DOMINGO

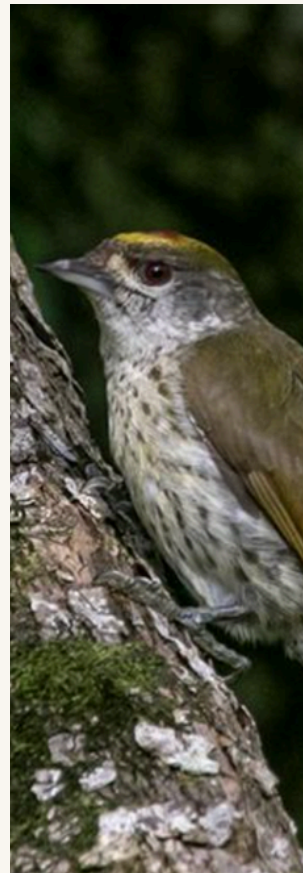
- 6 or 7am to Reserva Zorzal (1hr) to bird the regenerating forest for a dozen endemics, and winter migrants, including Bicknell's Thrush ([ebird list](#)). Visit the cacao plantation. Up to 40-50 species are possible locally, including Kentucky Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Bicknell's Thrush and common endemics.
- Late morning/midday return to Santo Domingo, birding along the way, possibly visiting Ebano Verde Scientific Reserve.
- Overnight in Santo Domingo, again at Hotel El Mosquito.



DAY 04

NORTH SLOPE OF SIERRA DE BAHORUCO *(ba-o-rouk-o)*

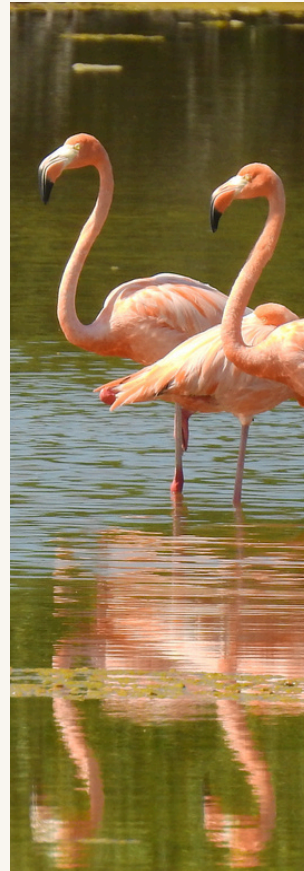
- Pick up at hotel in Santo Domingo at 8:00 am or earlier. Drive west to the northern slope of SdB (4-5hr). Bird Playa Caracoles near Azua, on the way ([eBird list](#)).
- Check in at Hotel Ramada in Duvergé. Eat lunch and pre-order dinner.
- Visit Lago Enriquillo near Baitoa ([eBird list](#)) to see the endemic Palm Crow and dry forest restoration by our partner, Grupo Jaragua.
- Early afternoon to Puerto Escondido/Rabo de Gato ([eBird list](#)) (450m) until sunset and early night birding (Hispaniolan Nightjar). Bird along the Rabo de Gato trail ([eBird list](#)). We'll start off with excellent birding along a strip of riparian habitat on the northern foothills of Sierra de Bahoruco. This place holds a wonderful mixture of high and lowland species. Both endemic Todies, Broad and Narrow-Billed can be found along with Hispaniolan Pewee, Black-Crowned Palm-Tanager, Greater Antillean Bullfinch, occasionally Bay-breasted Cuckoo and White-fronted Quail-Dove, Key West Quail-Dove, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Zenaida Dove, H. Parakeet, Olive-throated Parakeet, White-necked Crow, H. Oriole, H. Euphonia, Vervain hummingbird, H. Mango, H. Lizard Cuckoo, and many Neotropical wood warblers during migration season, ~ September to May. Before dinner we'll check the surrounding areas for Least Pauraque, H. Nightjar, and Burrowing Owl.



DAY 05 ZAPOTÉN MONTANE BROADLEAF FOREST, TRANSITIONAL FORESTS

- Early start, around 4:15 am to reach the cloud forest above Zapotén ([eBird list](#)) at daybreak. Breakfast in the field. A day packed with endemics. We will spend the morning looking for high-elevation specialties at 1200-1800 m.

- Target species are Western Chat-Tanager, La Selle Thrush, H. Highland-Tanager, possibly Bicknell's Thrush, H. Trogon, H. Euphonia, H. Spindalis, Green-tailed Ground-Tanager, Antillean Siskin, Golden Swallow, H. Emerald, Greater Antillean Elaenia (Hispaniola), Rufous-throated Solitaire, among others. We will work birding our way up to the edge of the pine forest for our first try finding H. Crossbill and the resident endemic subspecies of Pine Warbler. We'll have lunch in the field.
- Around midday, we start our slow descent until reaching lower elevation forest areas suitable for the H. Kingbird, Flat-billed Vireo, the elusive Bay-breasted Cuckoo, Key West Quail-Dove, Stolid Flycatcher, Zenaida Dove, H. Parrot and many Neotropical warblers. Back to camp around 4pm. After early dinner we will try for the Ashy-faced Owl, H. Nightjar, Least Pauraque and Northern Potoo.



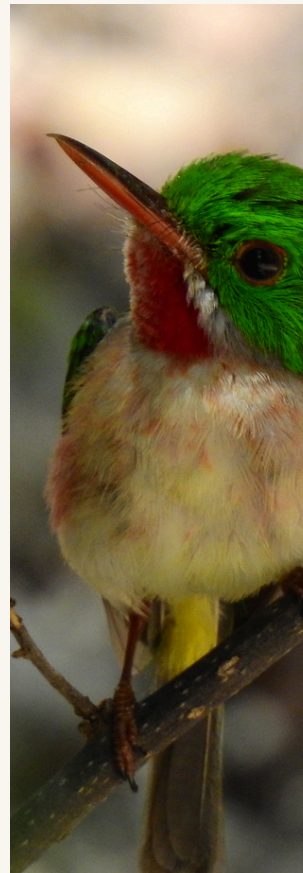
DAY 06 LOMA CHARCO AZUL, THEN TO BARAHONA

- A lighter day, but still a great destination. Early breakfast, then we will head out towards Loma Charco Azul ([eBird list](#)). This dry and transitional forest is home to the Bay-breasted Cuckoo and best place to find it in Sierra de Bahoruco. Later we will continue birding the surrounding areas to look for Flat-billed Vireo, Key West Quail-Dove, H. Lizard Cuckoo and any species that we missed the first days.
- After lunch, we will pack our bags and drive east an hour to the coastal town of Barahona, checking in around 4pm at [Hotel Quemaito](#), south of Barahona, right on the coast.
- If we missed the Ashy-faced Owl, we can try again before dinner. Otherwise we can bird the hotel grounds and scope along the coast from the cliff. With luck, we may spot a Black-Capped Petrel cruising off shore along the coast.



DAY 07 LAGUNA DE OVIEDO

- Surrounded by mangroves, palm groves, dunes and beaches, Oviedo Lagoon ([eBird list](#)) is a premier site for watching aquatic and low-land birds of the Dominican Republic.
- Early departure to the lagoon (1.25 h drive). A small boat will take us out on the lagoon's shallow hypersaline waters for a great opportunity to see large flocks of American Flamingos and migrant ducks up close. Also possible are Roseate Spoonbill, White-cheeked Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Least Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Sandwich Tern, Magnificent Frigatebird, White Ibis, Reddish Egret, Little Blue Heron, and an array of overwintering shorebirds.
- Around midday we'll return to our hotel in Barahona for a leisurely afternoon birding the grounds of the hotel, where we can find Hispaniolan Oriole, Palmchat, Antillean Palm Swift, Brown Pelican, Gray Kingbird, Hispaniolan Woodpecker, Hispaniolan Mango, and any seabirds cruising along the coast. Before dinner we would head out to look for the Ashy-faced Owl if missed in Puerto Escondido.



DAY 08 EASTERN BAHORUCO - MONTANE CLOUD FOREST, RETURN TO SD

- Early 5:30 am drive up to Cachote cloud forest (<1.5h), at about 1,100 m. The main target species will be the endemic Eastern-chat Tanager and the White-fronted Quail-Dove at a reliable spot for the if missed at Zapotén (Day 4). After finding our targets we'd go back to the hotel for a late breakfast, pack our luggage and return to Santo Domingo. If time allows, we could make a quick stop at the National Botanical Garden for the West Indian Whistling-Duck and Least Grebe.
- Overnight in Santo Domingo at Hotel El Mosquito or Villa Colonial.

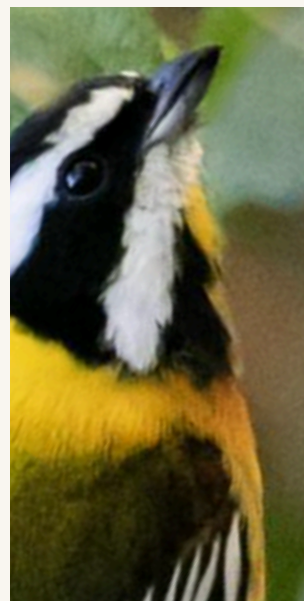


DAY 09 RETURN TO U.S. OR ONWARD TRAVEL.

- We will arrange for taxis from our hotel airport to the airport.
- See below for an optional trip extension to visit Los Hiatises, and see Ridgway's Hawk.

GENERAL THINGS TO KNOW AND CONSIDER, FROM IVÁN MOTA, OUR PROFESSIONAL GUIDE.

- We will try for 30 out of 34 possible endemic species, following eBird/Clements checklists and the most recent taxonomic update. Please keep in mind that most of what are considered our specialty birds can be very secretive, hard to find and are listed as threatened or endangered. Some species have small populations sparse in areas of suitable habitats.
- Cúa Birding closely adheres to birding ethics. We do our best to find all of the species for you while causing minimal stress to the birds. We may use playback, but sparingly, especially during breeding season. As far as we can, we keep track of species movements and seasonality.
- Planned birding locations may change at any point during the tour due to weather, road conditions, safety concerns, etc. The leader(s) would determine what's the best alternative. Rain in the forecast would not be a reason to cancel the trip unless it is a safety concern; i.e., tropical storm. Local heavy rain is common in the tropics and could delay our schedule for the day, we'll resume once it's safe to do so.
- The pace of the tour is between easy and moderate. We won't have challenging steep climbs or downhill,



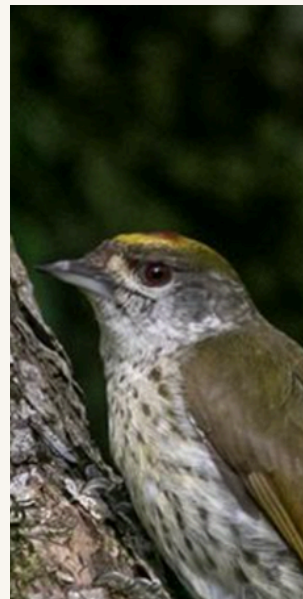
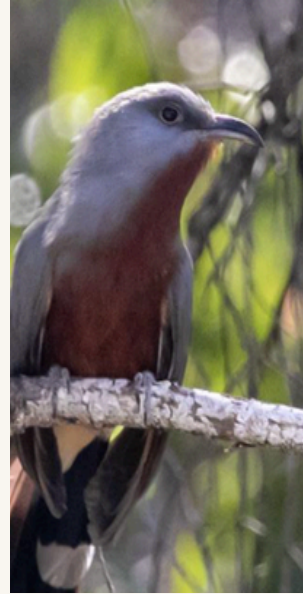
and the walks are not too difficult. Trails range from paved roads, to relatively even dirt roads, rutted trails and occasionally muddy terrain. We expect to drive a couple rough roads to reach Zapotén and Cachote. We will conduct night walks for owls safely.

****THIS IS A NON-SMOKERS OR VAPERS TOUR****

WHAT TO BRING?

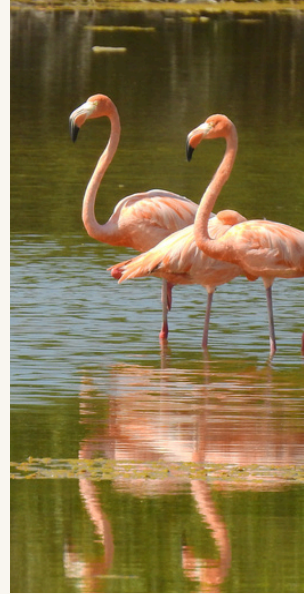
Please pack light if possible, we might have limited room in the vehicle to accommodate large luggage. Apart from light field clothing (preferably long-sleeve shirts and long pants), here are our recommendations:

- Hiking/trekking shoes with good ankle support.
- Light rain jacket or poncho.
- Personal water bottle.
- Sunscreen.
- If bug repellent is a must for you, **please avoid DEET**. Plant-based (Eucalyptus) or with Picaridin as the active ingredient, with low scent is strongly recommended. **Note: Your tour leader is very sensitive to strong fragrances and DEET. You don't need to bathe in repellent, a light coat should be enough to keep bugs away. Long pants and a long sleeve shirt instead would do the job nicely!**
- Binoculars
- Sturdy shoes
- Flashlight or headlamp.
- Reusable water bottle.
- Rubber sandals (e.g. tevas or chacos) for the beach.
- Copy of your passport, could be digital.
- Any special medications, most over-the-counter are available in the DR.



- Electricity plugs and voltage are the same as the U.S. at 120v.
- Water is treated, but we can't guarantee it's always safe to drink out of the tap unless filtered, but for bathing, etc. is perfectly fine.

**If you are feeling under the weather before or during the trip, please consider that we will be a dozen people riding together in a bus or smaller vehicles for just over a week. One sick person with a contagious virus or disease can negatively affect the health of the whole group, and compromise someone that might have a weaker immune system. For any questions and concerns please feel free to send me an email.



ivan.lacuabirding@gmail.com | cuabirding.com |
[instagram.com/lacuabirding](https://www.instagram.com/lacuabirding)

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