

# Georgia Audubon Travel - 2022

**Location:** Oaxaca, Mexico

**Duration:** 9 days

**Dates:** January 2 (Sun) to January 10 (Mon)

**Group Size Limit:** 10

**Guides:**

- Adam Betuel - Georgia Audubon
- Eric Antonio Martinez - Mexico-Birding Tours

**Tour Price:**

- Atlanta Audubon Members- **\$3,900**
- Non Members (Includes a one-year Atlanta Audubon membership) - **\$3,950**
- Single supplement for non-shared hotel room: **\$750/person**

**Cost Includes:** All lodging, all ground transportation, all excursions, all meals, drinking water, all guiding services, any entrance fees, and most tips.

**Cost Does NOT Include:** Airfare, passport expenses, souvenirs, personal items (i.e. medicine), insurance, costs accrued in Mexico before or after the trip, alcohol or specialty drinks, tips for porters and housekeeping, tips for drivers or guide.

**Payments:**

1. \$500.00 due to reserve spot on trip
2. Half of cost (less \$500) due by July 1, 2021
3. Full payment must be made by November 1, 2021

**Cancellation:** In the event of tour cancellation due to weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other unforeseen emergency situations, a 100% refund will be given, less any expenses incurred by the tour operator. If notice of cancellation by the participant is received by June 30, 2021, a 100% refund of all payments made will be given less a \$50 processing fee. If notice of cancellation is received between July 1 2021 and October 31 2021, a 50% refund of the tour fee will be given. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are non-refundable.

**Number of bird species expected:** 200 to 250

**Noteworthy sites:** Monte Alban ruins, historic Oaxaca City, shade-grown coffee farm, pelagic boat trip

**Target Species:** Many state and regional endemics including Bridled Sparrow, Oaxaca Sparrow, Dusky Hummingbird, Gray-breasted Woodpecker, Ocellated Thrasher, White-throated Towhee, Orange-breasted Bunting, Slaty Vireo, Dwarf Vireo, and Blue Mockingbird. Other specialties include Red Warbler, Dwarf Jay, Lesser Roadrunner, Gray-barred Wren, and a good number of pelagic specialties. Additionally, we will look for many northern migrants including Painted & Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Magnolia Warbler, American Redstart, Nashville Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and many more.

**Pace/Walking Effort:** Moderate pace, easy walking. Typically flat terrain. Shorter hikes, often along roads. Trails will often be dry but not steep. You will spend a lot of time on your feet. Days will often be long though not overly strenuous. Occasionally we will have boxed meals on the bus due to early starts or lack of convenient restaurants. Frequent early starts (~5:30-6:00 AM) with returns to the hotel in the mid to late afternoon.



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**Money:** Mexico uses the Mexican Peso and it would be best to get local currency. One option is to change money at airport (in Mexico City) during the layover. Some banks do not charge fees at Mexican ATMS so you may want to withdraw cash in Mexico City or Oaxaca. Our local guide Eric will always have cash and can loan you pesos if needed. Some places will also accept cards.

**Tipping:** It is best to tip in pesos for service workers in Mexico. Tipping is completely up to each participant and is not obligatory. Here are some recommendations and things to consider when budgeting. 20-40 pesos per day (\$1 to 2 USD) is a fair amount for housekeeping. You can also consider tipping porters at hotels or airports. 20 to 40 pesos is a fair amount to consider for someone who helps you to your room and carries your bags. 10 to 20 pesos a bag at the airport.

- Tips for our in country guide and driver are more substantial and something you can give in dollars if you prefer.
- You can find information on tipping guides and drivers online but the general recommendations are:
  - Guide - \$10 to \$20 USD per day
  - Driver - \$5 to \$10 USD per day
  - These costs are per person in case you are travelling as a couple/group

**Photography:** Opportunities should be plentiful for birds and landscapes. Many habitats will be more open and easier than forested landscapes.

**Climate:** We will be visiting a range of altitudes and thus a variety of temperatures. We can expect temperatures as low as the 40's in the mountains and as hot as the 80's to 90's on the coast. Oaxaca City should be pleasant in the mid-70's. Most areas should be dry though rain/drizzle is possible in the mountains.

**Bugs:** Typically not too buggy. Humidity isn't too bad during this time of the year thus not as buggy. Chiggers are possible but not likely.

**Accommodations:** Good to excellent. We will only be staying at two hotels. This may make for longer day trips but will require less packing and moving around. Hotels should have typical amenities including WIFI though it may not meet US standards or may be confined to common areas. Possible hotels are:

- Oaxaca City - [Hotel Misiones de los Angeles](#)
- Hualtuco - [Hotel Misiones de los Arcos](#)

**Transportation within country:** The group will be in a large Mercedes Sprinter or Volkswagon Crafter with the luggage in the back.

**Water and snacks:** We encourage you to bring a reusable water bottle. All hotels will have a refill station and there will always be drinking water on the bus. Tap water is not safe to drink. Ice is typically safe but we will handle this on a location-to-location basis. Additional snacks or drinks desired away from meal times will be the responsibility of the trip participant.

**Field Guides:** Many field guides exist for Mexico but some are old or large. The leaders will have guides so you do not need to purchase a book unless you would like your own. Here are some things to consider.

- *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America* by Howell and Webb. 1995. Great book but pretty large and a bit dated.
- Your guide of choice for the U.S. Many birds we encounter will be migrants from the U.S. or do reach the U.S. in small numbers. A U.S guide to supplement a Mexican field guide could be a good idea

- Merlin - The Merlin app by Cornell has a downloadable pack to the birds of Oaxaca and Chiapas. It is a great resource and is like a localized field guide on your phone.

### Itinerary Outline:

Day 1: Arrive in Oaxaca City

Day 2: Teotitlan del Valle

Day 3: Benito Juarez National Park and pine-oak forest birding

Day 4: Las Guacamayas and arid scrubland

Day 5: Monte Alban and relocation to Hualtuco

Day 6: Pluma Hidalgo and shade-grown coffee farm visit

Day 7: Low Deciduous Forest

Day 8: Pelagic birding trip and most time in lowland forest

Day 9: Heading home

\*Lodging: Nights 1-4 in Oaxaca City, nights 5-8 in Hualtuco

### Tips for packing

- Layers
- Thin long pants and long sleeved shirts
- Fleece or jacket
- Rain gear
- Sturdy books (hiking shoes). Rubber boots not necessary. Waterproof is always preferable
- Sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)
- Bug spray
- Gloves and hat - It may be cold on a morning or two
- Motion sickness medication if necessary (pelagic boat trip, longer bus rides)
- Comfortable shoes for around hotel, town, or on boat
  - Boat trip will be warm and you likely can wear shorts and a t-shirt. Sun will likely be intense
- Binoculars
- Camera (if you want)
- Scope - Both guides (Adam & Eric) will have a scope. You only need to bring one if you want your own
- Medication
- Cell phone - Make sure to check with your provider on an international package
- Chargers & batteries
- Flashlight
- Water bottle
- Travel insurance documentation should you choose to purchase
- Passport
- Field guides (optional)