



## **VERACRUZ RAPTOR MIGRATION & BIRDING ADVENTURE**

**5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2024**

This exciting ten-day, nine-night trip promises to be a formidable experience due to the importance of the sites to be visited. Get to know the wonders of the Veracruz River of Raptors, a project promoted by Pronatura Veracruz A.C., which supports the conservation of birds of prey and their roosting sites along the most important migratory corridor in the world, with the help of experts in raptor migration.

During more than 35 years of monitoring, the Veracruz River of Raptors project has recorded 22 species of migratory raptors, not counting the huge groups of waterbirds and passerines. We also visit some sites of interest in Puerto de Veracruz and Xalapa where we find very diverse habitat and a large diversity of birds.

Veracruz has 528 species of birds in the whole state, and we have time to take in the beautiful landscapes and the impressive gastronomy of this amazing destination while enjoying this first class birding destination.

## Tour highlights:

A lot of effort has been taken in this tour to include unique destinations and opportunities, not found in other tours, and a strong emphasis on supporting local biologists, guides and organizations promoting an 'everybody' wins vision, where we start to address the question of how do we leave a place in better shape than we found it?

Birdlife and habitats in Mexico have huge pressure from local human activity, and traditional resort tourism. It is our thought that with carefully designed tourism, we can leave a very positive impact? This tour is our starting point in creating and finding a better way forward. We hope to further develop this vision with your help and participation in this adventure – we invite you to join us in Veracruz!

- ✓ Guaranteed window seat suitable for excellent comfort and scenic viewing based on group size
- ✓ Two local guides from start to finish; Zinthia, Paula and Pilar will be with you for different sections of the tour, 2 at all times.
- ✓ A total contribution of US\$1500.00 for three local programs focused on conservation and environmental education: Birds and Nature, Xocotitla and Veracruz River of Raptors. These donations are essential to keep the program running as none of them are funded by the government.
- ✓ Exclusive visit on boat to the Veracruz Reef Park, with the possibility to snorkel on site.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veracruz\\_Reef\\_System\\_National\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veracruz_Reef_System_National_Park)
- ✓ Boat trips to two mangroves: Arroyo Moreno (Veracruz area) and Chachalacas (Cardel area).
- ✓ Top raptor observations sites for migration: Observatorio de Aves de Chichicaxtle, Cardel and Miramar.
  - ✓ Visit Xocotitla, a private conservation area.
  - ✓ Visit sites of cultural and archaeological interest including Quiahuixtlan, Museum of Anthropology of Xalapa, Botanical Garden of Xalapa and other sites in Veracruz and Xalapa.
- ✓ Exclusive visit with breakfast to the Coffee Museum in Coatepec for birding, to learn how shade grown coffee provides habitat for birdlife. (Breakfast included in the cost of the tour).

## Details on TOP SIGHTS visited:

### Veracruz Reef Landscape

The historic city of Veracruz is the gateway to Mexico from the east, the place where the modern history not only of a nation, but of an entire continent began to be written. This modern and populous city is rich in biodiversity, close by we find wonderful mangrove swamps, coastal lagoons and estuaries that provide habitat for a great amount of wildlife & birdlife.



Among the sites to visit are the mangrove swamp of Arroyo Moreno, Mata de Uva beach and Cabezo Island, where we can observe birds, such as Laughing Falcon, Morelet's Seedeater and Masked Booby.

## Chichicaxtle Bird Observatory



The Dr. Mario Ramos Bird Observatory will be one of the main stops on this trip. From the first floor of the tower, you will be able to observe the most abundant raptor migration in the world. In addition, in the vicinity of the observatory, several species of interest such as Blue-grey Tanager, Bat Falcon and Buff-bellied Hummingbird can be observed. This space also has a bird-focused gift shop and is the venue for the environmental education workshops held in the community each year, as part of the

educational program of the Veracruz River of Raptors project.

## La Mancha

This impressive site for shorebirds and waterfowl will be one of the must-see stops for this expedition, thanks to its large and wide beach, as well as its connection to the Laguna La Mancha. This point alone has around 300 species, among which we could observe Muscovy Duck, Long-billed Curlew, Sandwich Tern, Olive-throated Parakeet, Blue-gray Tanager and others.



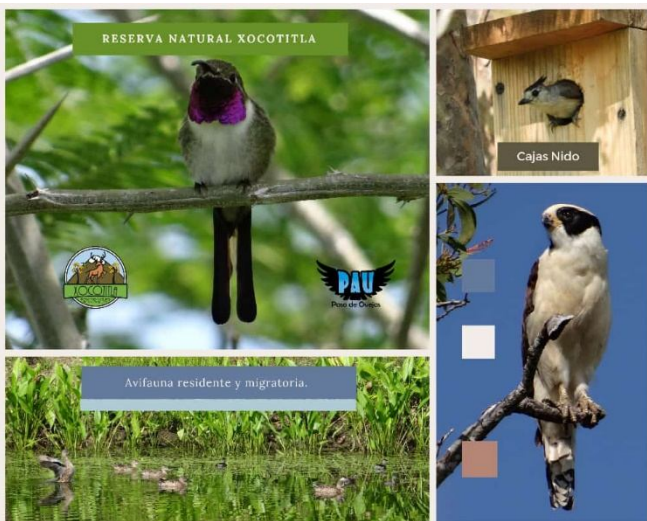
## Parque Ecoturístico Mirarmar Viveros



The Miramar Ecotourism Park is one of the monitoring stations of the Veracruz River of Raptors project since 2021. This site has a breathtaking view of the Sierra Madre Oriental and the imposing Gulf of Mexico.

The strategic location of this site allows us to appreciate the migration at a very short distance, being able to observe some individuals even at eye level. The journey to the site allows many species of birds to be seen in the vegetation like Moctezuma Oropendola, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Yellow-headed Parrot.

## Xocotitla



We will visit the private conservation area Xocotitla in search of the Mexican Sheartail, Tropical Mockingbird and Aplomado Falcon.

This site was formally constituted in 2016 but has more than 40 years of experience in the management and conservation of wild flora and fauna. It has some 206 bird species and is a resting place for migratory raptors in spring and fall.



## Villa Rica

A picturesque Mexican town located on the coast of Veracruz. Here we can observe coastal and aquatic birds. In addition, the ravine located near the coast will allow us to watch Altamira oriol, Amazon Kingfisher, Couch's Kingbird and others.

## Quiahuixtlán

The Archaeological Zone of Quiahuixtlán is a Totonaca settlement located very close to where Hernán Cortés founded the Villa de Rica de la Veracruz, the first Spanish town hall in Mexico, and where an alliance between the Totonaca peoples and the Spaniards was later made to conquer the Tenochca empire.

Besides the cultural richness of this place, the view it offers of the Gulf of Mexico identifies it as one of the ideal sites to observe the largest raptor migration in the world. This site gives you the opportunity to observe the birdlife the moment you wake up in the morning after getting a good night sleep.



## Xalapa

A picturesque city, now the capital of the state of Veracruz, founded in 1519 by Totonaca indigenous families and converted into a colonial town after the conquest. It is located in the area known as the great mountains, so the climate and the species of birds present are very different from those found on the coast. It is also a city with many bodies of water, beautiful gardens, parks and natural reserves of great environmental and social importance.



Among the sites to visit are the Museum of Anthropology, the Macuitempetl Ecological Park, the 'El Haya' Park, and the Francisco Javier Clavijero Botanical Garden. Some of the bird species possible to observe are: Mangrove Cuckoo, Graylag Goose, Azure-hooded Jay, and Long-billed Thrasher.

## Museo del Café

To end our tour in the best way possible, we will visit a coffee farm on the outskirts of the city of Xalapa. We will be able to walk around the site while bird watching and at the end we will have a delicious lunch and coffee tasting.

Café-tal Apan is a company that was founded in 2003 and is interested in the welfare of the people. Its philosophy has been to promote small-scale production, marketing and coffee culture in Mexico, paying fair prices for excellent beans and supporting producers who are responsible for the conservation of ecosystems.



## Your Guides & Hosts:

### Zinthia López Vázquez



Biologist with postgraduate studies in development, sustainability and tourism. She was part of the Veracruz Río de Rapaces team during the all of 2017 and 2018. Founder and first president of the network of women birders in Mexico, Amazilias. She is currently a field guide for birdwatching in Nayarit and Veracruz, Mexico and she works for Ocean Connectors Mexico.

### Paula Pineda

Naturalist, environmentalist, wildlife enthusiast and bird and nature watcher for 6 years. President and founder of Birds and Nature A.C., a non-governmental organization focused on promoting the knowledge and conservation of nature through bird watching, environmental education and citizen science. She is also a member of CONABIO's Urban Birds Program and Amazilias network.



### Pilar González



Marine biologist and bilingual nature tourism guide. She has collaborated as a counting assistant, accountant and banding station volunteer in the Veracruz Rio de Rapaces project for 8 seasons since 2010. Internationally she has been part of the scientific banding teams at New Mexico National Parks and CBR Costa Rica Bird Observatory.



# Detailed Itinerary

**DAY 1. OCTOBER 5TH, 2024**

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Meet & Greet at Veracruz Airport, then Welcome and check in to the hotel.

**8:00 TO 12:00 AM HOTEL MOCAMBO**

[https://www.tripadvisor.com.mx/Hotel\\_Review-g154245-d154841-Reviews-Hotel\\_Mocambo-Boca\\_del\\_Rio\\_Central\\_Mexico\\_and\\_Gulf\\_Coast.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com.mx/Hotel_Review-g154245-d154841-Reviews-Hotel_Mocambo-Boca_del_Rio_Central_Mexico_and_Gulf_Coast.html)



2 nights

**Birdwatching – 12:00 PM HOTEL MOCAMBO**



1 hour 30 minutes.

**Lunch - 1:30 PM RESTAURANTE VILLA RICA**



1 hour 30 minutes.

**Talk with Paula Pineda - Birds and Nature Director – 3:30 PM HOTEL MOCAMBO**



1 hour

**City Tour – 4:30 PM MALECON**



2 hours.

**Dinner– 6:30 PM GRAN CAFÉ LA PARROQUIA**

## DAY 2. OCTOBER 6TH, 2024

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Early breakfast or box lunch – **5:00 AM HOTEL MOCAMBO**



1 hour

Drive to Arroyo Moreno– **6:15 AM**



30 minutes

Boat trip and Birdwatching – **6:45 AM ARROYO MORENO**



4 hours

Lunch – **11:00 AM PARAISO**



1 hour 30 minutes

Drive to Puente Moreno – **12:30 PM**



15 minutes

**Birdwatching - 12:45 PM PUENTE MORENO**



3 hours

Drive to Hotel Mocambo – **3:45 PM**



15 minutes

Walk along the boulevard and dinner – **5:00 PM RESTAURANTE VENECIANO**



3 hours

Beach Bonfire (optional) – **8:00 PM**

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**DAY 3. OCTOBER 7TH, 2024**

Early breakfast or box lunch – **5:00 AM HOTEL MOCAMBO**



1 hour

Drive to Mata de Uva – **6:00 AM**



40 minutes

Boat trip and Birdwatching - **6:40 AM ISLA DE CABEZO**



5 hours

Lunch – **11:40 AM MATA DE UVA**



1 hour

Drive to Hotel Mocambo- **12:40 PM**



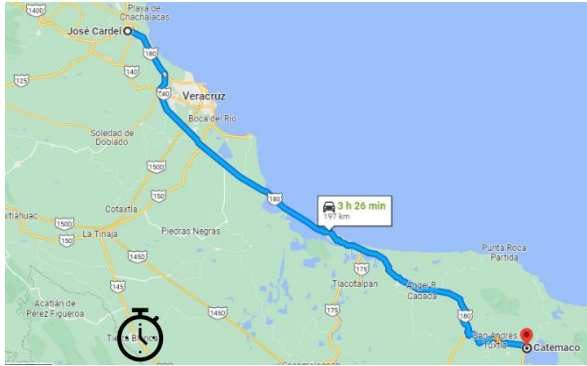
40 minutos

Packing and Check out- **1:20 PM HOTEL MOCAMBO**



2 hour 40 minutes

Drive to José Cardel – 4:00 PM



1  
hours


Check in- 5:00 PM HOTEL BIENVENIDO

[\(https://bienvenido.hotelesdeveracruzmxico.com/es/\)](https://bienvenido.hotelesdeveracruzmxico.com/es/)



 1 hour.  4 nights

Dinner – 6:00 PM LA BAMBA

 1 hour 30 minutes

## DAY 4. OCTOBER 8TH, 2024

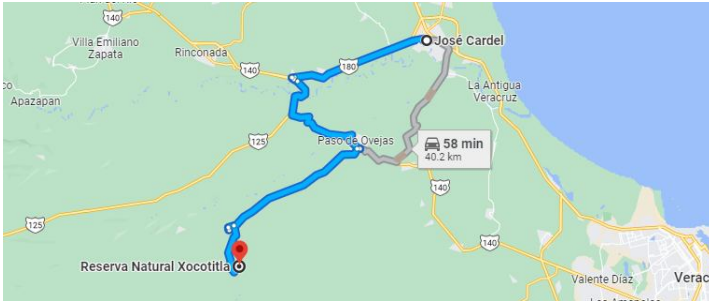
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Early breakfast or box lunch – **5:00 AM**



30 minutes

Drive to Paso de Ovejas - **5:30 AM**



1 hour

Birdwatching – **6:30 AM RESERVA NATURAL XOCOTITLA**



4 hours 30 minutes

Lunch – **11:00 AM RESTAURANT LOS PICHIS**



1 hour 30 minutes

Talk with Aurelio Molina, owner of the ADVC Xocotitla - **12:30 PM PASO DE OVEJAS**



1 hour

Drive to Chichicaxtle – 1:30 PM



20 minutes

Raptors migration – 2:50 PM **MARIO A. RAMOS OBSERVATORY**



3 hours

Drive to Cardel – 5:50 PM



10 minutes

Dinner – 6:00 PM **PAMBA TACOS**



1 hour 30 minutes

## DAY 5. OCTOBER 9TH, 2024

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Early breakfast or box lunch – **5:00 AM**



1 hour

Drive to El Viejón – **6:00 AM**



40 minutes

Birdwatching and raptors migration – **6:40 AM RANCHO MIRAMAR**



4 hours

Drive to Coto Cabana – **10:40 AM**



40 minutes

Lunch – **11:20 AM COTO CABANA**



1 hour 30 minutes

Boat trip and birdwatching – **12:50 COTO CABANA**



5 hours

Drive to Cardel – **5:50 PM**



20 minutes

Dinner – **6:10 PM HOTEL BIENVENIDO RESTAURAN**



## DAY 6. OCTOBER 10TH, 2024

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Early breakfast or box lunch – **5:00 AM**



1 hour

Drive to Villa Rica – **6:00 AM**



30 minutes.

Birdwatching – **6:30 AM VILLA RICA STUARY AND ROAD TO QUIAHUXTLAN**



3 hours 30 minutes



Visit to Quiahuixtlan – **10:00 AM QUIAHUXTLAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE**



1 hour

Drive to La Mancha – **11:00 AM**



20 minutes

Lunch – **11: 20 AM LA VECCHIA LOCANDA**



1 hour 40 minutes

Drive to Chichicaxtle – **1:00 PM**



25 minutes

Raptors migration and birdwatching– **1:25 PM MARIO A. RAMOS OBSERVATORY AREA AND ACTOPAN RIVER**



4 hours

Drive to Cardel – **5:30 PM**



10 minutes

Dinner – **6:00 PM TALLER GASTRONÓMICO RESTAURANT**



1 hour 30 minutes

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## **DAY 7. OCTOBER 11th, 2024**

Breakfast – **8:00 AM EL MANANTIAL**



1 hour 30 minutes

Raptors migration – **9:30 AM HOTEL BIENVENIDO TOWER**



2 hours 30 minutes

Check out and Lunch– **12:00 PM HOTEL BIENVENIDO**



2 hours

Drive to Puerto de Xalapa – **2:30 PM**



1 hour 30 minutes

Check in and time for rest – **4:00 PM HOTEL MISIÓN XALAPA**  
(<https://www.hotelesmision.com.mx/destinos/veracruz/hotel-mision-xalapa-plaza-de-las-convenciones/>)



2 hours



3 nights

Dinner– **6:00 PM LA PARROQUIA DE VERACRUZ**



1 hour 30 minutes

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### DAY 8. OCTOBER 12TH, 2024

Early breakfast or box lunch – **5:45 AM HOTEL MISIÓN XALAPA**



1 hour

Drive Parque Ecológico Macuitemetl – **6:45 AM**



15 minutes

Birdwatching – **7:00 AM PARQUE ECOLÓGICO MACUITEMETL**



4 hours

Lunch – 11:15 AM **MARISCOS BOCA DEL RÍO**



1 hour 30 minutes

Drive to Museo de Antropología de Xalapa – 12:45 PM



15 minutes

2 hour tour of Anthropological Museum - 1:00 PM **MUSEO DE ANTROPOLOGÍA**



15 minute Drive to Xalapa Town Center – 3:00 PM

Free time to explore downtown Xalapa – 3:30 PM **XALAPA**



2 hours

Dinner- **6:00 PM FLOR CATORCE**



1 hour 30 minutes

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**DAY 9. OCTOBER 13TH, 2024**

Early breakfast or box lunch – **5:45 AM HOTEL MISIÓN XALAPA**



1 hour

Drive to Parque “El Haya” – **6:45 AM**



15 minutes

Birdwatching- **7:00 AM PARQUE “EL HAYA”**



2 hours

Birdwatching- **9:00 AM JARDÍN BOTÁNICO FRANCISCO JAVIER CLAVIJERO**



2 hours

Lunch – 11:30 AM ESTANCIA LOS TEJAQUETES



1 hour 30 minutes

Birdwatching- 1:45 PM PARQUE NATURA



3 hours 15 minutes

Drive to Hotel Misión Xalapa and Free time – 5:00 PM



1 hours 30 minutes

Dinner – 6:30 PM CAFÉ TAL APÁN



1 hour 30 minutes

**DAY 10. OCTOBER 14TH, 2024**

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Early breakfast– 5:45 AM



1 hour

Drive to Coatepec - 6:45 AM



45 minutes

Birdwatching – 7:30 AM ROUTE TO COATEPEC



1 hours 30 minutes

Coffee Tour, Birdwatching and Lunch – 9:00 AM **MUSEO DEL CAFÉ**



3 hours

Drive to Xalapa- 1:00 PM



1 hour

Check out- 2:00 PM **Hotel Misión Xalapa**



1 hour

Drive to Puerto de Veracruz- 3:00 PM



2 hours

Farewell and drop off at airport or hotel - 5:00 PM **Puerto de Veracruz**

**Thankyou for supporting this adventure!**

### **For your information**

- ✓ The meeting point will be in Puerto de Veracruz, Veracruz on Saturday, October 5th, 2024, at a point confirmed between us (airport, hotel, etc.) and at a time between 8 am and 11 am (local time).
- ✓ The tour will end on Saturday October 14th, at 5:00 PM, Port of Veracruz with a drop off at a hotel or the airport as per your wishes.
- ✓ Accommodation will be in hotels as shown in the above itinerary - 3 stars, if you need an extra night at the hotel we can arrange this for you.
- ✓ The weather can be hot and humid (Up to 33°C/91F), mosquitoes and other insects can be present in some of the areas and it may rain, so it is recommended to bring long-sleeved but cool clothing, as well as insect repellent, field shoes and a sun hat.
- ✓ Bringing your own binoculars is important.

### **Cost of Adventure:**

**US\$4,395.00 per person sharing Single Supplement US\$350.00**

**(Canadian \$5,995.00 per person sharing Single Supplement C\$500.00)**

### **Included**

- ✓ Meet and greet at Veracruz Airport and transfer to hotel
- ✓ All ground transportation with an experienced driver in a comfortable vehicle
- ✓ 9 Nights Lodging
- ✓ Snacks, mixed soft drinks, coffee, tea and water during the day
- ✓ All admission fees
- ✓ Two local guides throughout the entire tour
- ✓ Liability insurance cover by Thona Seguros for adventure tourism
- ✓ Breakfast in the coffee museum in Coatepec
- ✓ The company of Timothy Jackson during the tour, Timothy is a seasoned Africa tour guide and tour designer with over 20 years experience, he has supported Zinthia, Pili and Paula in the development & vision of this adventure. ([www.JacksonsAfricanSafaris.com](http://www.JacksonsAfricanSafaris.com))



## Excluded

- ✓ All Meals (we suggest bringing approximate 700 USD to cover all meals & drinks)
- ✓ Drinks in restaurants
- ✓ International flights
- ✓ Required Personal travel insurance
- ✓ Activities not mentioned
- ✓ Laundry
- ✓ Staff and guides gratuities

NOTE: The Itinerary may change depending on weather and bird watching opportunities. However, the plan will be most of the sites listed below will be visited by the group.

For the booking of your place on this tour and for more information contact:

Mexico: Biol. Zinthia López Vázquez

+52 4431895168

[zinthia.lopez.vazquez@gmail.com](mailto:zinthia.lopez.vazquez@gmail.com)

## Terms & Conditions

Any cancellation of a booking by a Client or Agent, must be in writing and shall only be effective upon its acknowledged receipt by the Company. The date on which the Company receives the correspondence, or a company recognized Agent, will determine the cancellation charge, if any.

Cancellation charges will be incurred as follows:

All cancellations must be made in writing. Cancellation of your trip will result in the loss of your 30% deposit. After 90 days before your departure, cancellation fees are as follows:

89-75 days – 50% of tour total price

75-30 days – 70% of tour total price

after 30 days – 100% of total tour price – No Refund

**Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.** There is no refund should you leave the adventure early for any reason and no refund for any unused services.