



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



White-tailed Hawk

Fall Birding in Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley

In deep south Texas, where the Rio Grande River reaches the sea, the habitat and wildlife are more typical of Tamaulipas, Mexico than anything in the United States. The region's oak and mesquite thorn forests host iconic Green Jays, Great Kiskadees, and Altamira Orioles. Lush wetlands teem with shorebirds, waders and waterfowl, while the coastal dune scrub and tidal marshes are patrolled by Aplomado Falcons, Crested Caracaras, and White-tailed Hawks. Join us and discover firsthand why all US birders eventually flock to The Valley.

6 Nights/7 Days

6 Nights/7 Days Itinerary (subject to change based on weather & rarities)



Altamira Oriole



Green Jay



White-tipped Dove

Day 1:

Arrival at McAllen (MFE) airport
Pickup at McAllen airport at 5:00 pm
Check in at Holiday Inn Express
Dinner in Harlingen
Night Harlingen

Day 2:

Continental breakfast at hotel
Birding at Laguna Atascosa NWR
Picnic lunch
Birding at Resaca de La Palma
Dinner in Harlingen
Night Harlingen

Day 3:

Continental breakfast at hotel
Birding at World Birding Center
South Padre Island
Lunch at Joe's Oyster Bar in Port Isabel
Birding at Zapata Boat Launch / coastal dune scrub
Dinner at Nana's Taqueria
Check in at Alamo Inn B&B
Night McAllen

Day 4:

Continental breakfast at hotel
Birding at Estero Llano Grande State Park
Picnic lunch
Birding at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park
Dinner in McAllen
Night McAllen

Day 5:

Continental breakfast at hotel
Birding at Quinta Mazatlan
Picnic lunch
Birding at Santa Ana NWR
Dinner in McAllen
Night McAllen

Day 6:

Continental breakfast at hotel
Early morning departure to drive to Western Zone
Birding at Salineño Wildlife Preserve
Lunch at Rancho Cafe in Roma
Rarity revisit
Dinner in McAllen
Night McAllen

Day 7:

Continental breakfast at hotel
Check out at Alamo Inn B&B
Drop off at McAllen airport at 9:00 am.

Highlight Species:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Greater White-fronted Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Mottled Duck, Inca Dove, White-tipped Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Common Pauraque, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Black Skimmer, Morelet's Seedeater, Neotropic Cormorant, White-tailed Kite, White-tailed Hawk, Gray Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Ringed Kingfisher, Green Kingfisher, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Crested Caracara, Aplomado Falcon, Red-crowned Parrot, Green Parakeet, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Vermilion Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbird, Couch's Kingbird, Green Jay, Chihuahuan Raven, Clay-colored Thrush, Sprague's Pipit, Olive Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Hooded Oriole, Altamira Oriole, Audubon's Oriole, various shorebirds, wintering warblers.

RARE / VAGRANT Masked Duck, Northern Jacana, Hook-billed Kite, Crimson-collared Grosbeak, Rose-throated Becard, Tamaulipas Crow, Tropical Parula, Golden-crowned Warbler, Blue Bunting, Red-billed Pigeon.

Effort & Pacing:

Moderate: Fair amount of walking with frequent breaks to observe birds and occasional feeder sits. Some flat surfaces and minor elevation gains, uneven or rocky terrain possible, 1-3 hours on your feet, moderate periods away from vehicle.

Included in this itinerary:

Meals beginning with dinner on arrival day and ending with breakfast on departure day, guided birding and interpretation, lodging for stated days of tour, ground transportation, airport-hotel RT transfer, entrance fees to parks, recreation areas, & feeder stations, full five-gallon water cooler each day.

Not Included:

Flights, Laundry service, Cellular charges, alcoholic beverages, room service, additional hotel charges/damages, personal snacks, travel insurance, anything else not specifically stated as included.

Travel insurance:

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. In the event that you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you.



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