



Green Honeycreeper Canopy Family

Spring Migration in Panama with Landmark Conservancy



April 16 - 23, 2025

Panama Canal Zone, Panama

Trip Summary

Panama is a small, beautiful country that plays an extraordinary role on the global conservation stage. The nation's serpentine landmass connects North and South America, providing a tropical mixing ground for species from both continents. The result is a biological treasure trove, earning Panama a spot on the roster of Earth's mega-diverse countries. With 1,002 bird species recorded, Panama's bird list exceeds that of Canada and the United States combined.

As a land bridge between two oceans, Panama funnels millions of migratory birds north and south during migration. Nowhere is the passage of migratory birds more evident than in the Panama Canal Zone, the narrowest part of the country.

This adventure is designed to experience the peak of spring bird migration from the comfort of an extraordinary ecolodge. The beautiful, well-protected rainforests of the Panama Canal Zone are among the most accessible in Central America. Prepare for frequent encounters with northbound migrants – warblers, vireos, flycatchers, swallows and raptors. With luck, we'll witness the passage of thousands of Mississippi Kites returning from South American winter haunts or marvel at tree tops thick with hundreds of migrating Eastern Kingbirds. Our explorations will also serve as a delightful introduction to the rich birdlife of the neotropics. Toucans, trogons, motmots, parrots, and antbirds are abundant and easily observed.



The Canopy Tower

Accommodations

The Canopy Tower, home base for our entire trip, is a former US Air Force radar tower converted into a delightful eco-lodge. Situated on a high hill within Soberania National Park, it offers commanding views of surrounding forests and the Panama Canal.

The lodge has eleven rooms, each with a private bathroom. Each room also has a unique view of the forest canopy right outside your window. The tower's top floor offers a 360-degree panoramic sweep of the adjacent national park. It serves as the lodge's dining area and library.

Birding from the roof of the lodge - a morning ritual - is nothing short of extraordinary. Close encounters with a procession of gaudy birds occur daily. Cameos from tree-top wildlife areas are a regular occurrence. Monkeys (four species), sloths (two species), anteaters, and porcupines are possibilities. Kinkajous and Olingos visit under the cover of darkness.

Logistics

The tower will serve as our home base for eight days and seven nights. Delicious meals emphasizing locally grown food are prepared daily by lodge staff. We'll spend the week exploring nearby birding hotspots with our Panamanian guide. Private Canopy Tower vehicles will provide transportation to and from the sites. Each day will entail hiking on quiet, paved roads or established forest trails. Due to local topography, some hikes will be moderately strenuous.

Weather: The weather will vary from warm (mid-80s) to hot (low 90s). Nighttime temperatures will drop into the 60s. April is the dry season in Panama, but occasional rain may occur.

Note:

- Be prepared to climb several flights of steps daily while staying at the Canopy Tower.
- The tower does not have air conditioning. Nighttime temperatures are pleasant.



Birds from NW WI that migrate to Panama (Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Baltimore Oriole)

The Basics

Dates: April 16-23, 2025

Tour Leader: The trip will be led by veteran tour leader and conservationist Craig Thompson.

Group Size: 11 plus a local Panamanian guide (trip will run with a minimum of 8).

Price: \$2795/person, double occupancy. Single rooms are not available.

The price includes all ground transportation including transport to and from Tocumen International Airport, all meals, park entrance fees, and guide services.

The trip fee also includes a \$500 donation to Landmark Conservancy. This donation helps support Landmark's mission of "Conserving Wisconsin's natural legacy for everyone, forever." Some of the birds you will see in Panama have a home in northwest Wisconsin in the summer months and Landmark works to ensure critical habitat is protected in perpetuity.

Not included: International airfare to and from Panama, airport departure fee, alcoholic beverages, gratuities, or items of a personal nature.

A deposit of \$500/person is required to register and reserve a space on the trip. This deposit shall be submitted to Landmark Conservancy and serves as the tax-deductible portion of the payment.

The balance of \$2295 per person shall be paid directly to 'Firefly Conservation Company' **by August 9th, 2024.**



Three Toed Sloth

To register:

Send a check for \$500 to Landmark Conservancy, Attn: Kristin Thompson, 500 E. Main St., Suite 307, Menomonie, WI 54751. Include your name, mailing address, phone number and email.

Payment in full: The tour balance of \$2295 per person shall be remitted via check to “Firefly Conservation Company” by **August 9th:**

Craig Thompson
Firefly Conservation Company
W6396 Riverview Drive
Onalaska, WI 54650

Cancellation Policy:

- Cancellation more than 90 days before departure: \$100 cancellation fee; remaining tour balance is refunded.
- Cancellation 90 – 0 days before departure: 100% of tour price is forfeited.

Questions?

Contact Craig Thompson at “Thompson.crgd@gmail.com”