



Honduran Emerald Hummingbird

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The Lodge at Pico Bonito

## **Emerald Hummingbird Excursion to the Rio Aguan Valley**

**\$125 per person including lunch (2 person minimum)**

Less than 15 miles south of The Lodge's lush, thickly rain forested slopes, the dense foliage gives way to pine, and then to open, arid, almost desert-like, tropical dry forest. It is within this unique, highly endangered habitat, characterized by cactus, roadrunners and hot sun, that Honduras' one endemic bird species, the brilliant green, Honduran Emerald Hummingbird, makes its home.

Rarely receiving more than 30 inches of rain per year, the Honduran Emerald's habit formerly encompassed much of the Rio Aguan Valley, a once pristine plain of nearly 3000 square kilometers. Today, due to decades of unchecked cattle ranching and uncontrolled clearing and burning for agriculture, the hummingbird's dry forest sanctuary is limited to a few small, isolated islands of habitat.

The Lodge at Pico Bonito offers a low impact tour into the Honduran Emerald's sanctuary, which is ideally suited for serious birders wishing to glimpse this rare species in its native habitat. The tour is also attractive to guests who want to experience and enjoy more of the incredible natural diversity that makes Honduras a naturalist's paradise.

At all times of year, our chances of seeing the Honduran Emerald are excellent. While highly endangered, the birds are happily quite common within their remaining native habitat and can often be easily photographed or filmed at a close distance with minimum impact.

Among the variety of species we may see along the way are: the Hook-billed Kite, Thicket Tinamou, Double-striped Thick-knee, White-fronted Amazon, Lesser Roadrunner, Lesser Ground-cuckoo, Beardless Tyrannulet, Ash-throated and Nutting's Flycatchers, Long-tailed Manakin, White-lored Gnatcatcher, White-throated Magpie-jay, Banded Wren, White-bellied Wren, Stripe-headed Sparrow and Altamira Oriole.

Be prepared for a full day. Guests depart The Lodge at 5:00 am, enjoy lunch in the nearby town of Olanchito and typically return to The Lodge for dinner before 5:00 PM.