

5402 Carew Street
Houston TX 77096

February 21, 2017

Mr. Brock Huffman
Chiapas Birding Adventures
110 West Nueva
San Antonio, TX 78204

Dear Brock:

Our trip through Chiapas for 10 days this month offered me a very special adventure with so many opportunities to learn about the history, diverse culture and natural resources of Chiapas. Although I am not a birder, I now have a real admiration for the keen observation skills, camaraderie and teamwork that birders develop, not only to identify birds, but also to protect the natural habitat. In addition, I'm a bit proud of the beginning skills that I picked up. You and your team were so supportive of this novice, offering encouragement and guidance when I showed interest. Birder or not, who can resist seeing scarlet macaws and toucans, listening to howler monkeys, and spotting crocodiles while experiencing firsthand the sights and sounds of the jungle.

One of the most important benefits of your company's tour came from having experts and experienced guides teaching me about the Mesoamerican history and culture. Having a regional archeologist spend the day with us at the Palenque archeological site, guiding us through the site and later the museum, was the one of the very best adventure learning experiences of my life. Traveling by river to the remote Yaxchilan archeological zone inspired the greatest awe of the trip, much like finding a hidden treasure that transcended time.

Most surprising was the incredible diversity of the land and the communities. The beauty of the highland lake country reminded me of my many trips to Washington State. San Cristobal, a colonial city, offers great dining, shopping, museums and history. The twisting roads down to mountain to Palenque gave us the chance to see indigenous villages with people wearing traditional clothing while going about their daily routines.

You and your guides knew that I wanted to improve my Spanish and patiently listened and responded to my attempts to communicate. They also answered any and all of my questions about life in the region. The range of accommodations, from elegant to rustic, provided me a look into the real world that is Chiapas.

I want to thank you so much for the thoughtful way in which you built our tour and for the development of your team. It's obvious that you know Chiapas intimately and we all benefitted from this very friendly and personalized trip.

I can highly recommend Chiapas Birding Adventures to birders and non-birders alike. I look forward to traveling with you again. Next time I want to bring my grandchildren!

Best Wishes,

Kay Swint



NOTE: Kay Swint recently retired as the Director of Patient Experience, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas.
