

*Meleagris
ocellata*

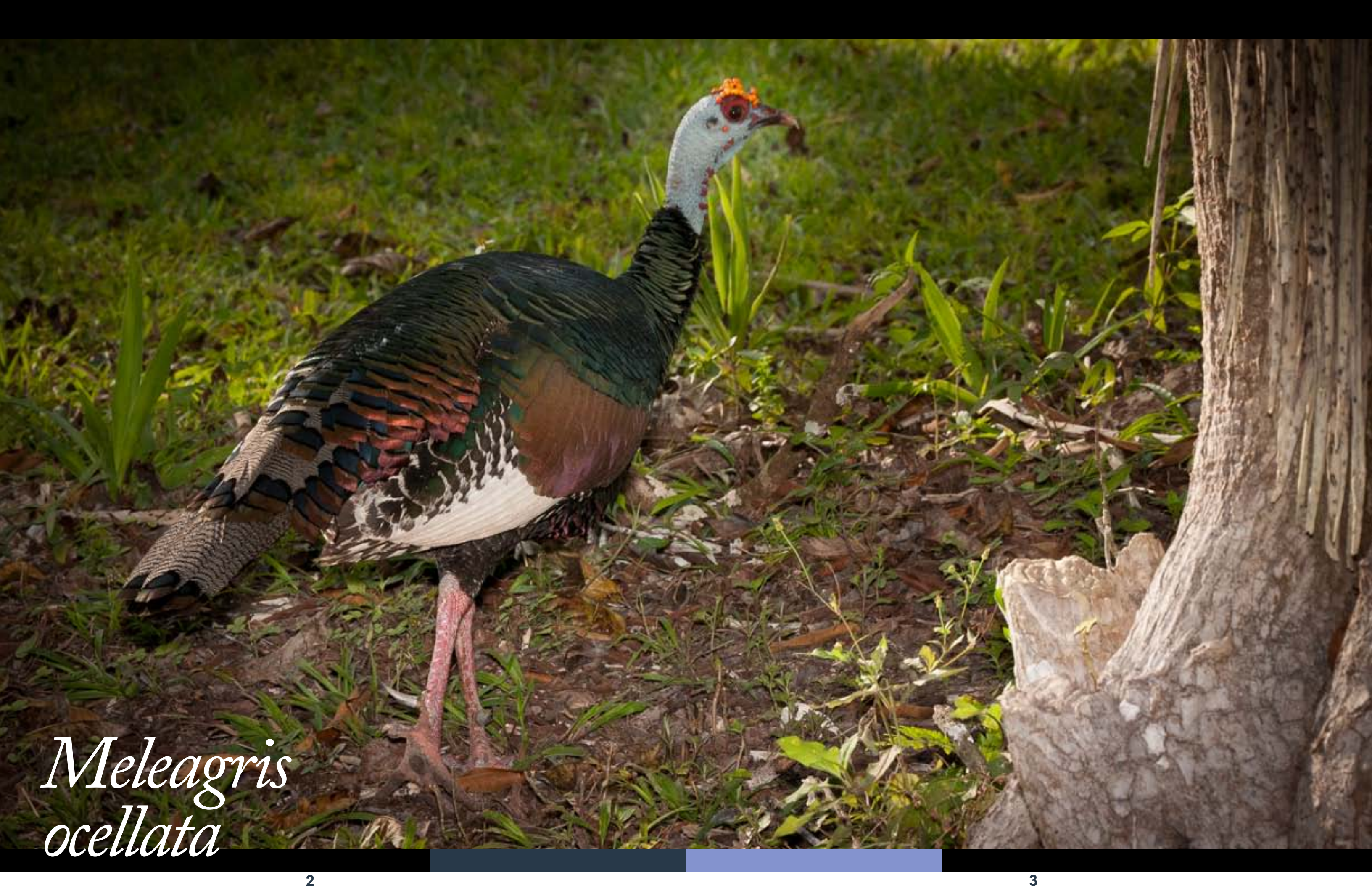


Natural Beauty at **Tikal**



More than Art & Archaeology

Tikal also offers Learning about remarkable flora & their fauna



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Meleagris ocellata

Tikal & Guatemala offer memorable flora and fauna, and this FLAAR Report is a photo essay to document one of thousands of plant species.

This tree is far more than just a pretty flowering tree: this tree produced one of the more popular and fragrant spices and flavoring of pre-Columbian Mesoamerica.

Tikal is also the home to molinillo, Rosita de cacao, another favorite spice of the Classic Maya. We have been searching for this tree for several years, and courtesy of biologist Mirtha Cano and her team of forest caretakers have located one molinillo tree. It had one single remaining flower the day we were there.

There are other plants at Tikal which were used for spice; other plants were basic food; other trees were used for constructing the homes and even palaces and temples. Yes, not all Classic Maya buildings were of stone. The graffiti of Tikal clearly show thatch-roofed buildings.

We hope you enjoy the views of the orange-red flowers. We put a lot of effort to get have the special macro and lighting equipment to Tikal the time of year that they flower.

If you are enjoying this color photo essay at home, we hope you will share this PDF of our web site, www.maya-ethnobotany.org with your family and friends.

We also offer comparable quality of photography of fauna: www.maya-ethnozoology.org.

We thank the administration of Parque Nacional Tikal

The photography is facilitated by the administration of the Parque Nacional Tikal. We appreciate the hospitality and have learned a lot about the local plants from biologist Mirtha Cano and her capable team who help take care of the forest.

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