BIRDING TOURS COLOMBIA

16-days tour

CENTRAL & WESTERN ANDES ENDEMICS, WITH THE CAUCA VALLEY

Birding in Colombia along the core of the Central & Western Andes, with the Cauca Valley in between, searching for endemic species and specialties in lush montane & premontane forests, cloud forests, tree-line ecosystems & semi-dry tropical forests.

This tour sees an extraordinary collection of endemics, near-endemics & rare, uncommon species, including endangered Antpittas and Tapaculos, along with many beautiful Hummingbirds, Tanagers and Mountain Toucans.

This two-weeks tour (15 nights / 16 days) aims at seeing and enjoying the greatest number of endemic & near-endemic species within the most magnificent landscapes of the Central & Western Andes of Colombia, encompassing a wide range of ecosystems in a big altitudinal gradient. Tour itinerary covers thoroughly native forests within protected watersheds that supply water to the coffee region of the country. Additionally, birding takes place in the Pacific slope of the Western Andes, visiting key birding localities in the Mountain Chocó region, one of the most biodiverse regions in the world.

Tour itinerary has been carefully planned in order to cover the greatest number and variety of nature ecosystems in the western slope of the Central Andes and the Pacific slope of the Western Andes, from 4,200 to 13,100 ft (1,300 – 4,000 m). You will visit the very best nature reserves within the buffer zone of Los Nevados National Park, where many watersheds have been declared as Important Bird Areas (IBAs), holding some of Colombia’s rarest and most threatened species.

This tour includes Cerro Montezuma in the Tatamá National Park, arguably the best place on earth to bird Mountain Chocó, a complex and highly biodiverse region shared only by Colombia, Ecuador & Panama. The itinerary also includes the Yellow-eared Parrot reserves near the town of Jardin in the Western Andes, and Las Tangaras reserve in Carmen de Atrato.

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The tour provides a list of 684 plausible species! This includes 55 species of hummingbirds, 78 species of flycatchers, 123 species of tanagers, seedeaters & allies, 43 species of furnarids, 14 species of woodpeckers, 15 species of antpittas and 10 species of tapaculos! This is a huge kaleidoscope of feathered jewels!

The Tatamá National Park at the Western Andes of Colombia: seen from the baranda of Río Blanco’s lodge in the Central Andes. Within this amazing park lies Cerro Montezuma, arguably the best place in the world to see and enjoy Mountain Chocó endemics & specialties. Naturally, Cerro Montezuma is one of our favorite birding spots in Colombia.

THE ITINERARY AT A QUICK GLANCE:

Day 1: Arrival in Cali.
Day 2: Birding at La Minga Ecolodge & Bitaco forest in the Western Andes (all day).
Day 3: Birding Finca Alejandria & San Antonio Forest at Kilometer 18 (all morning); transfer to Buga, birding en route semi-dry forests at El Vinculo reserve.
Day 4: Birding scrublands at Sonso marsh (all morning); transfer to Cerro Montezuma in the afternoon, birding en route forests beyond Pueblo Rico.
Days 5 & 6: Birding Cerro Montezuma in the Western Andes (all day).
Day 7: Birding Cerro Montezuma (all morning); transfer to Otún-Quimbaya Wildlife Sanctuary in the afternoon.
Day 8: Birding Otún-Quimbaya (all morning); afternoon transfer to Manizales, birding en route Cameguadua marsh.
Day 9: Birding Los Nevados National Park (all day).
Day 10: Birding Río Blanco nature reserve (all day).
Day 11: Birding Río Blanco (all morning); midday transfer to Tinamú Birding Lodge, birding all afternoon.
Day 12: Birding at Tinamú nature reserve (early hours) & transfer to Jardín, visiting Cock-of-the-Rock Lek near town in the afternoon.

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Day 13: Birding the road to Ventanas Pass & Yellow-eared Parrot reserve in the Western Andes (all day).
Day 14: Birding above Jardín & Morro Amarillo (all morning); afternoon transfer to ProAves’s Las Tangaras Lodge at Carmen de Atrato.
Day 15: Birding Las Tangaras forest (all day).
Day 16: Birding Las Tangaras forest (all morning); afternoon transfer to Medellín airport in Rionegro, birding en route semi-dry forests at Bolombolo. Flights back home late this night or the following morning.

DETAILED ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrival in Cali’s international airport and transfer to hotel.

Tour takes advantage of international & domestic flights (American Airlines, Copa, Avianca, other companies) landing in the city of Cali, located in the southern end of the Cauca Valley. After immigration procedures and luggage pick-up, we will drive (45min) to a comfortable hotel in the city of Cali.

Day 2: Birding the iconic Bitaco forest at La Minga Ecolodge above Cali.

After an early breakfast, we will transfer (60min) to La Minga Ecolodge at Bitaco forest. This is a well preserved cloud forest in the Western Andes holding the endemics Multicolored Tanager (Chlorochrysa nitidissima), Colombian Chachalaca (Ortalis columbiana) and Chestnut Wood-Quail (Odontophorus hyperythrus). Also, the near-endemics Purple-throated Woodstar (Calliphlox mitchelli), Nariño Tapaculo (Scytalopus vicini) and Scrub Tanager (Tangara vitriolina).

We will bird along a 3Km private road covered by old secondary forest. This is a good opportunity for many specialties such as Sickle-winged Guan (Chamaepetes goudotti), Crested & Golden-headed Quetzal (Pharomachrus antisianus, P. auriceps), Yellow-vented Woodpecker (Dryobates dignus), Crimson-crested Woodpecker (Campephilus melanoleucus), Green-fronted Lancebill (Doryfera ludoviciae), White-throated Wedgebill (Schistes albogularis), Brown-billed Scythebill (Campylorhamphus pusillus), Tyrannine Woodcreeper (Dendrocincla tyrannina), Scaled Fruiteater (Ampheloiodes tschudii), Chestnut-breasted Wren (Cyphorhinus thoracicus), Flame-rumped Tanager (Ramphocelus flammigerus flammigerus), Metallic-green Tanager (Tangara labradorides), White-throated Quail-Dove (Zentrygon frenata) and Streak-capped Treehunter (Thripadectes virgaticeps). We will be attentive to spot other specialties such as the Tawny-breasted & Highland Tinamou (Notocercus julius, N. bonapartei), Ornate Hawk-Eagle (Spizaetus ornatus), Green-and-black Fruiteater (Pipreola riefferii) and Golden-winged Manakin (Masius chrysopterus).

The list of hummingbirds here is large, including Green & Tawny-tailed Hermit (Phaethornis guy, P. syrmatophorus), Western Emerald (Chlorostilbon melanonrys), Brown Violetear (Colibri delphinae), Lesser & Sparkling Violetear (Colibri cyanotus, C. coruscans), Tourmaline Sunangel (Helianthus exortis), Speckled Hummingbird (Adelomyia melanogena), Greenish Puffleg (Haplophaedia aureliae), Long-tailed Sylph (Aglaicoecerus kingi), Bronzy Inca (Coeligena coeligena), Buff-tailed Coronet (Boissonneauta flavescens), Booted Racket-Tail (Ocreatus underwoodii), Fawn-
breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*), Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*), White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*), Andean Emerald (*Amazilia franciae*) and Steely-vented Hummingbird (*Amazilia saucerottei*).

Hummingbirds at the feeders are often joined by Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*), Masked, Rusty & White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa cyanea, D. sittoides, D. albilatera*).


The endemic **Colombian Chachalaca** (*Ortalis colombiana*) (VU) can be seen at the Bitaco forest, Kilometer 18, San Antonio forest & El Vínculo Reserve.

(Saltator atripennis), Slate-throated Redstart (Myioborus miniatus) and Orange-bellied Euphonia (Euphonia xanthogaster), among many others.

Lunch & dinner will be at the lodge.


This day, we will spend the first hours of the day searching for any missed species from the day before. Afterwards, we will drive to Finca Alejandria, where an amazing set of hummingbirds & tanagers come to feed on nectar & bananas. Among the hummingbirds we will look attentively for the scarce Blue-headed Sapphire (Hylocharis gracilis), and among the tanagers we will hope for second chances of the Multicolored Tanager (Chlororhysa nitidisissima). We will also bird along the forested road to Dapa, searching for key birds not seen the day before.

After lunch at a good typical restaurant, we will bird the San Antonio forest, with specialties such as Rufous-tailed Tyrant (Knipolegus poecilurus), and second chances for Colombian Chachalaca (Ortalis colombiana), Chestnut Wood-Quail (Odontophorus hypertyrhus), Streak-capped Treehunter (Thripadectes virgaticeps), Nariño Tapaculo (Scytalopus vicinior), Black-billed Peppershrike (Cyclarhis nigrirostris) and White-throated Quail-Dove (Zentrygon frenata). Also, Green-and-black Fruiteater (Pipreola riefferii), Golden-faced Tyrannulet (Zimmerius chrysocephalus), Golden-crowned Flycatcher (Myiodyastes chrysocephalus), Uniform Antshrike (Thamnophilus unicolor), Plain Antvireo (Dysithamnus mentalis), Southern Emerald-Toucanet (Aulacorhynchus albivitta), Azara’s Spinetail (Synallaxis azarae), Cinnamon Flycatcher (Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus), Smoke-colored Pewee (Contopus fumigatus), Barred Becard (Pachyramphus versicolor), Brown-capped Vireo (Vireo leucophrys), Glossy-black Thrush (Turdus serranus), Orange-bellied Euphonia (Euphonia xanthogaster) and others. Mix flocks here have tanagers such as Metallic-green (Tangara labradorides), Saffron-crowned (Tangara xanthocephala), Golden-naped (Tangara ruficervix), Blackcapped (Tangara heinei) & Golden Tanager (Tangara arthus), and the endemic Multicolored Tanager.

We will then drop down the mountain, crossing the city of Cali and heading north towards Buga. Just 10-minutes before reaching Buga, we will visit El Vinculo Nature Reserve, where a significant remnant of tropical dry forest has been preserved. We will use the nicely placed trails and inner roads to stroll leisurely in search of key endemics. Our main targets will be three Colombian endemics: the tiny Grayish Piculet (Picumnus granadensis), the Apical Flycatcher (Myiarchus apicalis) and the Colombian Chachalaca (Ortalis colombiana) (VU), but many other birds will also be high on our search list, such as the near-endemic Bar-crested Antshrike (Thamnophilus multistriatus), the nice Buff-necked Ibis (Theristicus caudatus), the beautiful Spectacled Parrotlet (Forpus conspicillatus) and the Rufous-naped Greenlet (Pachysylvia semibrunnnea).

El Vinculo reserve is also a good place to enjoy a wide variety of flycatchers, such as the Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher (Poecilotriccus sylvis), Yellow-olive Flycatcher (Tolmomyias sulphurescens), Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (Mionectes oleagineus),

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Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*), Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*), Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias griseiceps*) & Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*), among many others.

The endemic **Apical Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus apicalis*) can be seen at El Vínculo Reserve and Sonso marsh.

But there is a bunch of birds to enjoy besides endemics and flycatchers, such as the Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*), Gray-cowled Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajaneus*), Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*), Spot-breasted Woodpecker (*Colaptes punctigula*), Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*), Jet Antbird (*Cercomacra nigricans*), Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*), Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*), Cinereous Becard (*Pachyramphus rufus*), Crimson-backed Tanager (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*), Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*) and Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*), among others.

After birding El Vínculo we will drive to Buga for a good meal and comfortable stay at a nice colonial hotel.

**Day 4: Birding the gallery forests & scrubland at Sonso marsh; afternoon transfer to Cerro Montezuma.**

After a good breakfast, we will transfer to nearby Sonso marsh (only 10min away from the hotel). This is a very birdy site encompassing a diverse collection of habitats, including gallery forests, scrubland & wetland.

The Horned Screamer and a threatened resident subspecies of Cinnamon Teal will be high in the target list, along with Black-bellied & Fulvous Whistling-Duck. Glossy & Bare-faced Ibis are also present, along with Black-Crowned Night-Heron, Snowy & Great Egret, Cocoi Heron, Striated Heron, Little Blue Heron, Limpkin, Anhinga, Snail

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Kite, Purple Gallinule, Wattled Jacana, Black-necked Stilt and many other aquatic and riparian species.

But most interestingly, the semi-dry forests of Sonso Lagoon provide the right habitats for several endemics and specialties, giving us a second chance to see and enjoy the Grayish Piculet (E), Apical Flycatcher (E), Spectacled Parrotlet, Bar-crested Antshrike (NE), Cinereous Becard and Jet Antbird.

Also of interest are the Dwarf Cuckoo, Striped Cuckoo, Greater Ani, Pale-vented Pigeon, Common Potoo, Red-crowned, Spot-breasted & Lineated Woodpecker, Great Antshrike, Pale-breasted Spinetail, Yellow Oriole, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, Masked Cardinal & Oriole Blackbird (these two from introduced populations), among others.

After birding Sonso Lagoon we will head north towards Cerro Montezuma, cutting across the Cauca Valley, immersed on a landscape of sugar cane, grape, papaya & red pepper fields. Most of the afternoon will be on the road, as we need to climb the Western Andes again, dropping into the mountainous Pacific slope. Depending on our progress, we will make short birding stops along the road between Pueblo Rico and Montezuma, hoping to see the endemic Crested Ant-Tanager. Our arrival at Montezuma Lodge will be just before dark, between 5 – 6 pm, perhaps with enough light to enjoy the hummingbird feeders before dinner and rest.

**Day 5: Birding Cerro Montezuma (all day).**

Cerro Montezuma is one of the top four birding localities in Colombia. It rivals with Rio Blanco in the Central Andes (also visited in this tour), the Santa Marta Mountains and the Anichicayá Valley.

There is perhaps no better place on earth to bird for Mountain Choco endemics and specialties. A road climbs up the mountain, from the lodge to the top of Cerro Montezuma, where there is a telecommunication center and military base. Some years ago, this road was so bad that only horses & mules could get up there. But the communication companies needed to improve their facilities, and rebuilding required carrying heavy loads of construction material, thus, they improved the road greatly, to the point where it stands today: apt only to good 4x4s.

There is a big altitudinal gradient from the lodge (1,350m) to the top of Cerro Montezuma (2,600m), and birds reflect very well this change in altitude. Thus, one needs to think on the best way to cover the big gradient, with chances for seeing both the high altitude, mid altitude and low altitude species.

We will bird the higher sections of the mountain (from 2,300 to 2,600) on the first day, the mid-section (1,800 to 2,300m) on the second day, and the lower section (below 1,800m) on the third day, covering the entire altitudinal gradient.

With an early departure (5:00am) we will climb the mountain on a 4x4, reaching the height with the first sunlight. Our main targets are the endemics Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer, Munchique Wood-Wren and Dusky Starfrontlet. Birding will always be downhill, and our 4x4 will catch up with us every 30min or so, or immediately if it
starts to rain. Many birds are to be found as we leisurely stroll down the mountains, including the near-endemics Golden-fronted Whitestart, Nariño Tapaculo & Empress Brilliant.

Special birds from the high section include the Tanager Finch, Ocellated Tapaculo, Barred Parakeet, Andean Pygmy-Owl, Tourmaline Sunangel, Collared Inca, Golden-headed & Crested Quetzal, Rufous Spinetail, Streak-headed Antbird, Smoky Bush-Tyrant, Green-and-black Fruiteater, Barred Fruiteater, Plushcap, Grass-green Tanager, Spillman’s Tapaculo, Laviramide Mountain-Tanager and Bluish Flowerpiercer, among others. The Tawny-breasted Tinamou and White-faced Monklet are very scarce, but we have seen them in previous trips.

As the day progresses, we will move into the mid-altitudes (between 1,800 and 2,300m), hoping to see the endemics Gold-ringed Tanager, Tatama Tapaculo, Chestnut Wood-Quail (NT), Black-and-Gold Tanager and Crested Ant-Tanager. Also, the near-endemics Toucan Barbet (NT), Club-winged Manakin, Black Solitaire, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Choco Vireo (EN), Beautiful Jay (NT), Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Purplish-mantled Tanager, Glistening-green Tanager, Rufous-throated Tanager, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Dusky Bush-Finch, Yellow-collared Chlorophonia, Violet-tailed Sylph, Brown Inca, Velvet-purple Coronet, Uniform Treehunter, Bicolored Antvireo (VU), Yellow-breasted Antpitta and Rufous-breasted Flycatcher.

At mid-height there is a huge kaleidoscope of amazing birds, including true Mountain Choco endemics, such as the Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl, Greater Scythebill (NT), Scaled Fruiteater, Olivaceous Piha, Fulvous-dotted Trerunner, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Scaly-throated Foliage-Gleaner, Rufous-rumped Antwren, Yellow-breasted Antwren, Ochre-breasted Antpitta, Ornate Flycatcher, Fulvous-breasted Flatbilled, White-headed Wren, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, Olive Finch and Tricolored (Choco) Brush-Finch.


This day we will have our breakfast & lunch in the field, and will try to be back at the lodge at the end of the day by 5:00pm, with enough light and time to enjoy the many hummingbirds that visit the feeders & gardens. There will be good opportunities to see the Violet-tailed Sylph (NE), Purple-throated Woodstar (NE), Empress Brilliant (NE), Rufous-gaped Hillstar, Green-crowned Brilliant, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, Western Emerald, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Black-throated Mango, Booted Racket-Tail, Green Thorntail, Crowned Woodnymph, Andean Emerald, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Steely-vented Hummingbird and White-necked Jacobin.

Other birds at the gardens include Crimson-backed Tanager, Flame-rumped Tanager (of both types – Lemon-rumped & Flame-rumped, with presence of clear hybrids), Silver-throated Tanager, Guira & Golden-hooded Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Buff-
throated & Black-winged Saltator, Scrub Tanager (NE), Yellow-bellied Seedeater, Thick-billed Euphonia and others.

**Day 6: Birding Cerro Montezuma (all day).**

Logistics & timings for our second day at Montezuma will be similar to the first day, but we will concentrate on the mid-altitude birds that were missed on the first day. Again, after an early departure on our 4x4 we will climb the mountain, reaching 2,300m and birding our way down by foot. Breakfast & lunch will be in the field, and we will strive to be back at the lodge around 5:00pm.

**Day 7: Birding Cerro Montezuma all morning & afternoon transfer to Otún-Quimbaya Wildlife Sanctuary.**

On our final morning at Cerro Montezuma we will focus on the lower altitudes (below 1,800m), and will start birding by foot from the lodge. We will look for the endemics Grayish Piculet, Parker’s Antbird and Multicolored Tanager, and the near-endemics Choco Tapaculo, Black-headed Brush-Finch, Sooty-headed Wren, Scarlet-and-white Tanager, Dusky Pigeon and Bar-crested Antshrike.


More infrequent birds are the Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail, Highland Tinamou, Yellow-green Bush-Tanager, Tawny-throated Leaffosser, Rose-faced Parrot, Golden-collared Manakin, Red-bellied Grackle (E), Pavonine Cuckoo & White-tipped Sicklebill.

Not far from the lodge is the “Curva del Diablo”, with a gorgeous view of the Rio Claro gorge. In clear sunny days, this is the best spot to look for raptors soaring in the sky, including Ornate & Black Hawk-Eagle, Barred Hawk, Double-toothed Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, White-rumped & Short-tailed Hawk. On few occasions, we have seen King Vulture, Laughing Falcon and Barred Forest-Falcon. There are few reports of Orange-breasted Falcon (VU).

The Taiba River (first, closer to the lodge) and Rio Claro River (second) are home to the Torrent Duck and Fasciated Tiger-Heron. The fishing ponds and scattered trees near the lodge are good for Blackish Rail, Variable Seedeater, Russet-backed & Chestnut-headed Oropendola.

After lunch, we will transfer to our next destination, the nice Otún-Quimbaya Wildlife Sanctuary in the western slope of the Central Andes (4 hours drive). From Montezuma we will drive back to Pueblo Rico & Apia, dropping & cutting across the Cauca Valley, with a short climb to the city of Pereira. After crossing the city, we will take a gravel
road to Otún-Quimbaya Wildlife Sanctuary, lodging directly in the sanctuary. Time and weather depending, we will bird *en route* the Otún River for Torrent Duck, White-capped Dipper & Torrent Tyrannulet.

Night birding at Otún-Quimbaya can yield Rufescent Screech-Owl (*Megascops ingens colombianus*, previously held as Colombian Screech-Owl), Mottled Owl & Tropical Screech-Owl. Also before dark, Rufous-bellied Nighthawk and Band-winged Nightjar.

**Day 8: Birding Otún-Quimbaya Wildlife Sanctuary (all morning). Afternoon transfer to Manizales, birding *en route* Cameguadua marsh.**

This morning we will bird the lush pre-montane forest at the Otún-Quimbaya Wildlife Sanctuary, on smooth terrain. Once thought to be extinct but rediscovered in 1994, the endemic Cauca Guan thrives in the Ash tree plantations. Gladly, the place harbors healthy populations of Red-ruffed Fruitcrow and endemic Chestnut Wood-Quail. With luck, we may encounter a mix flock with the endemic Multicolored Tanager. In the undergrowth, we will look for the endemic Stiles’s Tapaculo, and we will pay attention for an opportunity to spot the near-endemic Moustached Antpitta.

Female endemic **Multicolored Tanager** (*Chlorochrysa nitidissima*) at Otún-Quimbaya Sanctuary.
Red-ruffed Fruitcrow (*Pyroderus scutatus*) seen on the road to Otún-Quimbaya Wildlife Sanctuary above Pereira: Here, a healthy population of this otherwise rare species shares the nice forests with the endemic - and once thought to be extinct - Cauca Guan (*Penelope perspicax*).

Key species include the near-endemic & vulnerable Hooded Antpitta, Sickle-winged Guan, near-threatened Wattled Guan, the endemic Crested Ant-Tanager along the ravines, near-endemic Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, and the rare Rufous-bellied Nighthawk flying on early mornings or late afternoon around the lodge.

Nice birds to look for include the Golden-headed Quetzal, Collared Trogon, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, White-capped Tanager, Golden-plumed & Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Speckle-faced & Bronze-winged Parrot. And among the hummingbirds, the Green-fronted Lancebill, Booted Rackettail, Bronzy Inca, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Western Emerald and White-throated Wedgebill.

We may bump into mixed flocks of birds skulking through the low shrubs and vine tangles, with a variety of spinetails, woodcreepers & allies, such as the Streaked Xenops, Montane & Lineated Foliage-gleaner, Streak-capped Treehunter, Strong-billed, Black-banded and Montane Woodcreepers. In the undergrowth, the Spotted Barbtail, Slaty & Azara’s Spinetail, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, White-naped (Yellow-throated) Brush-Finch, Three-striped & Russet-crowned Warbler.

Among the flycatchers we will seek for the very special Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant, Ashy-headed Tyrannulet, Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet, Variegated Bristle-Tyrant, Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant, Streak-necked, Yellow-olive, Golden-crowned, Pale-edged & Dusky-capped Flycatcher.

Our eyes will screen the forest edges for the beautiful Green Jay, Golden-olive & Acorn Woodpecker, and the Red-headed Barbet, and ears will be tuned for the distinctive calls of the White-winged Becard, Pale-eyed Thrush and Andean Solitaire. More melodious
calls will surely come from the Chestnut-breasted Wren, Chestnut–crowned Antpitta, Whiskered Wren and Gray-breasted Wood-Wren.

Among the aquatic and riparian birds, we will look for the graceful Torrent Duck, White-capped Dipper, Ringed Kingfisher, Torrent Tyrannulet and Black Phoebe.

After lunch we will head further north (2 hours drive) to Manizales, a splendid city engraved in the mid-elevations of the mountain and close to wonderful Rio Blanco and Los Nevados National Park.

On our way to Manizales, we will bird *en-route* the Cameguada marsh, a small but very productive wetland conveniently located at mid-distance between Pereira and Manizales.

Most deserved birds at Cameguadua marsh include the Grayish Piculet (E), Blackish Rail, the regionally rare Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, the awesome Great Antshrike, Slate-colored Seedeater, the near-endemic Bar-crested Antshrike and the beautiful Spectacled Parrotlet. The regrowth at the edges of the marsh is home to Striped & Dwarf Cuckoo, Spot-breasted & Lineated Woodpecker, Slaty & Pale-breasted Spinetail, Mouse-colored & Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Ruddy-breasted & Gray Seedeater, Thick-billed Seed-Finch, Grayish & Streaked Saltator, Scrub, Blue-necked & Bay-headed Tanager, and Yellow-hooded & Red-breasted Blackbird, among others.

Aquatic birds here include the Least Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Neotropical Cormorant, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Striated Heron, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron and the very abundant Bare-faced Ibis. The Ringed, Amazon & Green Kingfisher are also possible, as well as the Black-necked Stilt.

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This is a good place for enjoying the beauty of the Purple Gallinule, Pied Water-Tyrant, American Coot, Wattled Jacana and Common Gallinule. In addition, Black-bellied & Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Blue-winged & Cinnamon Teal, which are seasonally present.

After birding Cameguadua we will drive (45min) to Manizales, lodging at a nice hotel in the outskirts of the city.

The Blackish Rail (*Pardirallus nigricans*) is possible at Cerro Montezuma & Cameguadua marsh.

**Day 9: Los Nevados National Park & hummingbirds at Hotel Termales del Ruiz.**

Early morning we will drive (45min) up the mountain in the Central Andes, into the páramo ecosystems and elfin forests of Los Nevados National Park. Birding will take place along the park road, starting with a first stop at 3.300 meters. Through successive birding stops at key points along the road, we will ascend up to 3.960 meters – equivalent to 12,970 feet – which will be our highest point in the mountain.
Los Nevados National Park seen from the air: In front, Nevado del Tolima (conic), on the left Nevado de Santa Isabel (covered with a small cloud) and on the back right the big Nevado del Ruiz (5,400m). The conic Crater La Olleta (extinct, not active) lies further back in between Santa Isabel and Ruiz.

With proper attire for the low temperatures characteristic of páramo ecosystems, we will slowly stroll along internal roads hoping to find big specialties such as the endemic Rufous-fronted Parakeet, the very special Black-backed Bush-Tanager and the astonishing Golden-crowned Tanager, or even a soaring Andean Condor.

The nice Golden-crowned Tanager (*Iridosornis rufivertex*) often joins mix flocks along the road to Los Nevados.
We will be very attentive for special hummingbirds that do not attend the feeders at Hotel Termales del Ruiz, such as the marvelous & near-endemic Buffy Helmetcrest and the amazing Purple-backed Thornbill.

At Laguna Negra we will make a short but productive stop for the Andean Teal and Andean Duck. Soaring high in the sky we may see a Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle. More sporadically, Noble Snipe, Andean Lapwing and Plain-capped Ground-Tyrant are also present.

More likely, we will enjoy the Tawny Antpitta hopping around and the characteristic calls of the Rufous Antpitta, which is difficult to see but certainly possible with some patience. Road banks covered with dense vegetation are habitat for the Paramo Tapaculo and Black Flowerpiercer.

Within mixed flocks we will search attentively for the gorgeous Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Golden-fronted Redstart (NE), Red-crested Cotinga, Blue-backed Conebill, Glossy, Black & Masked Flowerpiercer, Pale-naped & Gray-browed Brush-Finch.

High-altitude Flycatchers at this transect include the Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Crowned Chat-Tyrant, White-throated & White-banded Tyrannulet.

The male **Buffy Helmetcrest** (*Oxypogon stubeli*) (E): Gorgeous high-altitude hummingbird, endemic to Colombia, seen here at Los Nevados National Park.

Along the road we will look for the Stout-billed Cinclodes and Brown-bellied Swallow nesting on cliffs. The Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, Paramo & Plain-colored Seedeater, Andean & Hooded Siskin can be seen along road fences and high pastures.
Typical species of páramo ecosystems are the Andean Tit-Spinetail, Many-striped Canastero, White-chinned Thistletail and Sedge (Grass) Wren.

Hotel Termales del Ruiz is located along the Old Road to Los Nevados, at 3,300 meters altitude. Besides providing a good lunch, the hotel has established nice gardens with a fabulous set of hummingbird feeders that are often visited by the near-endemics Black-thighed & Golden-breasted Puffleg, Tourmaline Sunangel, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Great Sapphirewing, Shining Sunbeam, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Mountain Velvetbreast, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Tyrian Metaltail and Viridian Metaltail.

We will drop down the mountain late afternoon, arriving at our hotel in Manizales for dinner and rest.

![Golden-breasted Puffleg](https://example.com/puffleg.jpg)  
Golden-breasted Puffleg (*Eriocnemis masquera*), a near-endemic high-altitude hummingbird that can be seen in Los Nevados National Park in this tour.

**Day 10: Birding Río Blanco (all day).**

We will leave our hotel in Manizales early morning, driving (45min) into Río Blanco’s watershed. This day, and the following morning, will be committed to bird the high and low elevations of Río Blanco nature reserve, an extremely bird-rich area protected by Aguas de Manizales, the city’s water supply company.

After an early breakfast, we will visit a series of antpitta feeding stations, where earthworms are offered to these graceful and seldom seen birds. The main figures here are the endemic and endangered Brown-banded Antpitta, the near-endemic and vulnerable Bicolored Antpitta, the beautiful Chestnut-crowned Antpitta and the small, semi-arboreal Slate-crowned Antpitta. The Gray-browed Brush-Finch and Green-and-black Fruiteater are graceful birds that have learned to take advantage of the Brown-banded Antpitta popularity, and they all come to feed on the earthworms. The Chestnut-naped Antpitta used to come to the feeders, but for some unknown reason it quit coming.
Thus, this antpitta needs to be searched the original way, as an inhabitant of dense undergrowth.

**Left:** The endemic Brown-banded Antpitta (*Grallaria milleri*). **Right:** Near-endemic & Vulnerable Bicolored Antpitta (*Grallaria rufocinerea*), seen both at Río Blanco (Manizales).

We will then stroll around the local road and trails, looking for a close encounter with rich mixed flocks, having a pretty good chance to enjoy beautiful and special birds such as the Crimson-mantled, Yellow-vented & Bar-bellied Woodpeckers, Black-banded, Tyrannine & Montane Woodcreepers.

Tanagers accompanying mixed flocks will likely include the Blue-capped, Berylspangled, Golden, Black-capped, Blue-and-Black & Grass-green Tanagers. Mixed flocks will also hold a wide array of Hemispingus and bamboo specialists, including the Black-capped, Superciliaried, Oleaginous & Black-eared Hemispingus. Furthermore, we may spot an assembly of beautiful Mountain-Tanagers, including the elegant Buff-breasted, Hooded, Blue-winged & Lachrymose Mountain-Tanagers. The Plushcap, a jewel of nature, may also be seen following mixed flocks.

Nice flycatchers that can be seen include the Black-capped Tyrannulet, Streak-necked Flycatcher, near-endemic Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Pale-edged Flycatcher and the very elegant Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant, among many others.

Among the Cotingas we may see the Green-and-black Fruiteater and Dusky Piha, and we will hear - or luckily see - a handful of Tapaculo species confined to dense thickets, mainly the Blackish, Spillman´s & Ash-colored Tapaculos.

Surely, we will invest special efforts for obtaining a good view of the astonishing Ocellated Tapaculo and much appreciated skulkers – the most amazing Flammulated Treehunter, the graceful Streak-headed Antbird and the always-beautiful Rufous Spinetail. Skulkers that are more abundant include the Sharpe’s & Rufous Wren. In addition, we will look for the very graceful Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher among bamboo tangles, in close proximity perhaps with the Slaty Brush-Finch, Montane Foliage-Gleaner, Mountain Wren and Gray-breasted Wood-Wren.
From left to right: The striking Ocellated Tapaculo (*Acropternis orthonyx*), Flammulated Treehunter (*Thripadectes flammulatus*) and Chestnut-naped Antpitta (*Grallaria nuchalis*) can be seen in Río Blanco and along the road to Ventanas Pass above Jardin.

Lunch will be at the “hummingbird house”, where more than 23 species of hummingbirds have been reported visiting the feeders and gardens. We will most probably see at least 12 of these species, among which are the Tourmaline Sunangel and Buff-tailed Coronet - the two most abundant species -, White-bellied Woodstar, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Collared and Bronzy Incas, Long-tailed Sylph, Speckled Hummingbird, Lesser and Sparkling Violetear. In the gardens we will see the White-sided Flowerpiercer and the gorgeous Masked Flowerpiercer.

In the afternoon, we will start our search for big Río Blanco specialties. Our targets include the rare Masked Saltator, Rusty-faced Parrot, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Powerful Woodpecker, Golden-headed Quetzal, Brown-billed Scythebill, Red-hooded Tanager, White-capped Tanager, Black-Collared Jay, Slaty Finch, Chestnut Wood-Quail (E), Pale-footed Swallow and Andean Guan.
The amazing White-capped Tanager (*Sericossypha albocristata*) can be seen in this tour at Otún-Quimbaya Wildlife Sanctuary, Rio Blanco & Jardin.

After dinner, we will go owling for White-throated Screech-Owl, Rufous-banded Owl and Stygian Owl. Also possible are the Common Potoo, Band-winged Nightjar, Lyre-tailed Nightjar and Rufous-bellied Nighthawk. Best chances for seeing the Andean Pigmy-Owl are at day.

By birding Rio Blanco we expect to become well acquainted with the rich mixed flocks that the tropics has to offer birdwatchers of all tastes, including the Pearled Treerunner, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Barred & White-winged Becards, Brown-capped Vireo, Black-billed Peppershrike, Montane Woodcreeper, Capped Conebill, Ashy-throated & Gray-hooded Bush-Tanagers, Black-crested & Russet-crowned Warblers and the graceful Golden-fronted Whitestart (NE).

The splendid cloud-forest has much to offer, and we will strive for seeing well birds such as the White-tailed & Black-capped Tyrannulet, Mountain Elaenia, Spotted Barbtail, Striped Treehunter, Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Smoke-colored Pewee, Smoky Bush-Tyrant, Yellow-bellied & Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, Pale-edged Flycatcher, Brown-capped Vireo, Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, Glossy-black Thrush, Bluish Flowerpiercer, Slate-throated Redstart, Yellow-bellied Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch and many others.

Surely, we will not leave Rio Blanco without enjoying special and very beautiful birds such as the Masked Trogon, Southern Emerald Toucanet, Mountain Cacique, Yellow-billed Cacique, Sickle-winged Guan and the more ubiquitous but always astonishing Andean Motmot.

Between the months of October and April, Rio Blanco hosts a large number of migrants, including the near-threatened Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler,
Blackburnian Warbler, American Redstart, Black-and-white Warbler and the nice Canada Warbler.

During these two days, all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) will be at Río Blanco lodge.

Beautiful **Pearled Treecreeper** (*Margarornis squamiger*): a regular member of the very rich mixed flocks of birds in Río Blanco & Los Nevados National Park.

**Day 11: From Río Blanco to Tinamú Birding Lodge.**

This morning will allow us to search for any missed species from the day before. After lunch, we will drive down the mountain to Tinamú Birding Lodge, found at a much lower altitude (1,400 meters, or roughly 4,600 feet).

Tinamú Lodge hosts a dynamic second growth surrounded by pastures, coffee plantations, scrubland and scattered trees. It is a very birdy place, with a nice set of hummingbird & tanager feeders that attracts many birds.

Trails are nicely settled, and they hold many specialties, including the endemics Parker’s Antbird & Grayish Piculet. Also, Blue-lored Antbird, Gray-headed Dove, Moustached Puffbird, Bar-crested & Great Antshrike, Jet Antbird, Scaled Antpitta, Speckled-breasted Wren, Rufous-naped Greenlet, Golden-collared Manakin, Common Potoo, Scaly-breasted Wren, Cocoa, Streak-headed & Plain-brown Woodcreeper, among others.
The endemic **Parker’s Antbird** (*Cercomacroides parkeri*) can be seen at Tinamú Birding Lodge & Morro Amarillo.


A fair number of flycatchers & allies can be seen, including Sooty-headed & Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Yellow-olive Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Mouse-colored & Golden-faced Tyrannulet, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Cattle Tyrant, Rusty-margined & Streaked Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Dusky-capped Flycatcher, among others.

The forest is home to hummingbirds that do not attend the feeders, including the Stripe-throated Hermit, Rufous-breasted Hermit & Green Hermit. Hummingbirds that visit the feeders includes the White-necked Jacobin, Long-billed Starthroat, Black-throated Mango, White-vented Plumeleteer, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird and Steely-vented Hummingbird.

The nice bananas attract a wide diversity of birds, including Andean Motmot, Flame-rumped Tanager, Gray-headed Tanager, Hepatic & Summer Tanager, White-lined & Guira Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Scrub, Blue-necked & Crimson-backed Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Thick-billed Euphonia, Black-billed & Clay-colored Thrush.

Many other birds are found along the gravel road that leads to the reserve, including the rare Large-billed Seed-Finch and the beautiful Crested Bobwhite. Also, Pale-breasted & Slaty Spinetail, Thick-billed Seed-Finch, Yellow-faced & Blue-black Grassquit, Gray, Yellow-bellied & Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, among many others.

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Dinner and rest at Tinamu Lodge.

**Day 12: Morning birding at Tinamú Birding Lodge & afternoon transfer to Jardin, visiting the Cock-of-the-Rock lek near town.**

After a good breakfast and morning birding at Tinamu Lodge, we will drive (5-6 hours) to Jardin, a beautiful colonial town in the coffee belt. This will be the longest transfer, returning to the Western Andes further north. Lunch will be on a road restaurant, and we will aim to arrive at Jardin between 4 and 5 pm, visiting a Cock-of-the-Rock lek just three blocks away from central square. We will see the males making their displays and loud calls, but females can go unnoticed, hidden in dense foliage. Other birds that might show up in the lek area include the Crested Ant-Tanager (E), Scrub Tanager (NE), Blue-necked Tanager, Yellow-backed Oriole, Black-chested Jay and perhaps a roosting Tropical Screech-Owl in the bamboo stands. This night and the following night, we will lodge at a colonial hotel in town, conveniently located just one block away from the beautiful central square. Dinner will be at a good restaurant in town.

*Andean Cock-of-the-Rock (Rupicola peruviana sanguinolenta)*, photographed at the lek in Jardín.

**Day 13: Birding Ventanas´s Pass and the old road to Riosucio for the endemic Yellow-eared Parrot and others.**

This day we will bird a big altitudinal gradient (from 1,900 to 3,100 meters) along the road to Ventanas´ Pass. Starting with an early departure (5am), we will drive up the mountain for 1.5hrs, going beyond the pass, visiting Doña Lucía´s place. Lucía and her two sons (Martín & Octavio) have established a new site with antpitta feeding stations in the nice cloud-forest, where earthworms are fed to the elusive Chestnut-naped Antpitta (*Grallaria nuchalis*) and Slate-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaricula nana*). The site is an outstanding location for the endemic & endangered Yellow-eared Parrot (*Ognorhynchus icterotis*), and we expect to see them flying in groups as they move

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from their roosting sites to their feeding grounds. With luck, we might find the Yellow-eared Parrots feeding on a Drago tree (*Croton magdalenensis*), their favorite food.

Several species of parrots are also present, including the Speckle-faced Parrot (*Pionus tumultuosus*), Scaly-naped Parrot (*Amazona mercenaria*), Scarlet-fronted Parakeet (*Psittacula wagleri*) and Barred Parakeet (*Bolborhynchus lineola*). The Bronze-winged Parrot (*Pionus chalcopterus*) is frequently seen lower down the mountain, near town.

![Yellow-eared Parrot](image)

**Yellow-eared Parrot** (*Ognorhynchus icterotis – E & CR*) feeding on fruits of Drago (*Croton magdalenensis*, Euphorbiaceae) along the road to Ventanas Pass in Jardín.

We will bird the upper mountain by doing frequent stops along the gravel road as we head back in direction to Jardin. The road is surrounded by good forests, with a dazzling array of special birds, including the rare Chestnut-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rufaxilla*), whose favorite food are the fruits of the evergreen Dendropanax & Oreopanax shrubs & trees.

Birds that can be seen moving through the canopy & treetops include the Black-billed Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena nigrirostris*), Powerful Woodpecker (*Campephilus pollens*), Black-collared Jay (*Cyanolyca armillata*), Green Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*), Golden-headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*), Southern Emerald-Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus albivitta*), Mountain Cacique (*Cacicus chrysonotus*) and the rare Red-hooded Tanager (*Piranga rubriceps*). Other nice birds includes the Green-and-black Fruiteater (*Pipreola riefferii*), Barred Fruiteater (*Pipreola arcuata*) and Red-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*).
The very nice Red-hooded Tanager (*Piranga rubriceps*), a specialty bird of Andean cloud forests.

Mix flocks often carry a combination of tanagers, including Black-capped (*Tangara heinei*), Blue-and-black (*Tangara vassorii*), Beryl-splangd (*Tangara nigroviridis*), Metallic-green (*Tangara labradorides*), Saffron-crowned (*Tangara xanthocephala*) and Golden Tanager (*Tangara arthus*). These, often joined by Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*), Capped Conebill (*Conirostrum albifrons*), White-sided Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa albilatera*) and Masked Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa cyanea*).

Woodpeckers are well represented by the Golden-olive (*Colaptes rubiginosus*), Crimson-mantled (*Colaptes rivolii*) & Yellow-vented (*Dryobates dignus*) Woodpeckers.

Of special interest is the presence of near-endemics Tanager Finch (*Oreothraupis arremonops*), Purplish-mantled Tanager (*Iridosornis porphyrocephalus*) and Golden-fronted Redstart (*Myioborus ornatus*). Also, the nice Golden-crowned Tanager (*Iridosornis rufivertex*).

The forest undergrowth is home to a dazzling arrange of skulkers, such as Flammulated Treehunter (*Thripadectes flammulatus*), Azara’s Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*), White-browed Spinetail (*Hellmayrea gularis*), Rufous Spinetail (*Cinnycerthia unirufa*), Sharpe’s (Sepia-brown) Wren (*Cinnycerthia olivascens*), Gray-browed Brush-Finch (*Arremon assimilis*) and Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorrhina leucophrys*).

Mix flocks are often composed by Pearled Treerunner (*Margarornis squamiger*), Streaked Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes boissoneautii*), Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*), Mountain Wren (*Troglodytes solstitialis*), Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*), Black-capped Hemispingus (*Kleinothraupis atropileus*), Superciliaried Hemispingus (*Thlyopsis superciliaris*), Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager (*Cnemospicus rubrirostris*), Blue-capped Tanager (*Thraupis cyanoccephala*), Slaty Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes schistaceus*), Citrine Warbler (*Basileuterus luteoviridis richardsonii*), Black-
crested Warbler (*Myialthys nigrocristata*) and Russet-crowned Warbler (*Myialthys coronata*).

Also on mix flocks, special birds include Lachrymose Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus lacrymosus*), Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus*), Grass-green Tanager (*Chlorornis riefferi*) and Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager (*Dubuisia taeniata*). More loosely, the Masked Trogon (*Trogon personatus*), Andean Solitaire (*Myadestes ralloides*), Andean Motmot (*Momotus aequatorialis*), and Glossy-black Thrush (*Turdus serranus*).

Special birds also include the Tawny-breasted Tinamou (*Nothocrercus julius*), Sickle-winged Guan (*Chamaepetes goudotii*), Andean Guan (*Penelope montagnii*), Andean Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucium jardini*), Brown-billed Scythebill (*Campylohrampus pusillus*) and Tyrannine Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla tyrannina*). The Undulated Antpitta (*Grallaria squamigera*) and Rufous Antpitta (*Grallaria rufula*) are often heard. There are few reports for Wattled Guan (*Aburria aburri*), Giant Snipe (*Gallinago undulata*), and Munchique Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina negretti*).


Also from the mountain tops are the Ocellated Tapaculo (*Acropternis orthonyx*), Spillmann’s Tapaculo (*Scytalopus spillmanni*) and Blackish Tapaculo (*Scytalopus latrans*).

Forests lower down the mountain provide the best chance for the endemic Red-bellied Grackle (*Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster*), near-endemics Rufous-breasted Flycatcher...
(Leptopogon rufipectus) & Bar-crested Antshrike (Thamnophilus multistriatus), Striped Treehunter (Thripadectes holostictus), Whiskered Wren (Pheugopedius mystacalis), Scrub Tanager (Tangara vitriolina), Flame-rumped Tanager (Ramphocelus flammigerus flammigerus), Hepatic Tanager (Piranga flava), Fawn-breasted Tanager (Pipraeidea melanonota), Bay-headed Tanager (Tangara gyrola), Blue-necked Tanager (Tangara cyanicollis), Russet-backed Oropendola (Psarocolius angustifrons), Scarlet-rumped Cacique (Cacicus uropygialis) and Yellow-backed Oriole (Icterus chrysater).

The endemic & endangered Red-bellied Grackle (Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster) can be seen in Jardin & Las Tangaras reserve during this tour.

Raptors are very secretive in tropical mountains, but this mountain harbors Black-and-Chestnut Eagle (Spizaetus isidori), White-tailed Hawk (Geranoaetus albicaudatus), Road-side Hawk (Rupornis magnirostris), Sharp-shinned (Plain-breasted) Hawk (Accipiter striatus), Pearl Kite (Gampsonyx swainsonii) and boreal migrant Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus). Falcons are represented by the Crested Caracara (Caracara cheriway), American Kestrel (Falco sparverius), Yellow-headed Caracara (Milvago chimachima) and Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus).

**Day 14: Birding at forests above Jardin & Morro Amarillo. Afternoon transfer to ProAves’s Las Tangaras Lodge in Carmen de Atrato (Pacific slope of the Western Andes).**

Birding this day will take place at forests near Jardin for any missed species from the day before. Breakfast will be in a traditional town coffee shop (called “cafeteria”) near the hotel.

After birding the forests above Jardin, we will drive shortly (20min) to Morro Amarillo (1,700 – 1,900m), a small hill above town, with shaded coffee farms and small forest fragments. This is a birdy place, with second chances for four endemics: Colombian Chachalaca (Ortalis columbiana), Yellow-eared Parrot (Ognorhynchus icterotis),
Parker’s Antbird (*Cercomacroides parkeri*) & Grayish Piculet (*Picumnus granadensis*). It is also a good place for Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*), Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Dryobates fumigatus*), Scaled Antpitta (*Grallaria guatimalensis*), Moustached Puffbird (*Malacoptila mystacalis*), Red-headed Barbet (*Eubucco bourcierii*), Black-chested Jay (*Cyanocorax affinis*), Bar-crested Antshrike (*Thamnophilus multistriatus*), Black-capped Tanager (*Tangara heinei*), Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) and Scrub Tanager (*Tangara vitriolina*).

Other birds that can be seen here are the Black-and-white Seedeater (*Sporophila luctuosa*), Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Spinus xanthogaster*), Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivaceus*), Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatina jacarina*), Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*), Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*), Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus aurantirostris*), Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythrops*), White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) and Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*).


Northern migrants like to winter on shaded-coffee plantations, including Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*), Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*), Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*), Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*), Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*), Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia aestiva*) and Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*). Other migrants present here are the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) and Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).

After visiting Morro Amarillo, we will transfer to ProAves’s Las Tangaras Lodge in Carmen de Atrato. This is a 4hr drive, heading northwest to Ciudad Bolivar and further climbing the Western Andes, finally dropping in the Pacific slope to 1,400 meters. Lunch will be at a good restaurant, either in Jardin or Ciudad Bolivar.

We expect to arrive at Las Tangaras Lodge late afternoon, with enough time to enjoy the birds that come to the feeders and gardens. Hummingbirds visiting the feeders include Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*), Brown Violetear (*Colibri delphinae*), Purple-throated Woodstar (*Calliphlox mitchelli*), Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*), Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*), Andean Emerald (*Amazilia franciae*) and Steely-vented Hummingbird (*Amazilia saucerottei*).

Some of the birds that come to feed on the bananas are the Red-crowned Woodpecker (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*), Russet-crowned Oropendola (*Psarocolius angustifrons*), Andean Motmot (*Momotus aequatorialis*), Black-billed Thrush (*Turdus ignobilis*), White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*), Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus
flammigerus flammigerus), Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*), Bananquit (*Coereba flaveola*) and Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*), among others.

**Day 15: Birding Las Tangaras nature reserve (all day).**

The forest at Las Tangaras reserve is 45min away from the lodge, through a gravel road that gradually ascends to 1,750m on a small ridge, dropping on the other side to 1,300m. The road traverses the forest, and it provides excellent and easy birding. There is a trail that goes to a nice remnant of primary forest, where some of the best birding takes place. New trails have been recently opened, and there is a very nice set of hummingbird feeders that provide excellent opportunities for birders & photographers.

Birds at Las Tangaras are similar to those of the low & middle sections of Cerro Montezuma, and as such, Las Tangaras provides second chances for many of the endemics, near-endemics & key species of mountainous Choco bioregion.

We will aim our birding for second chances of the following endemics: Chestnut Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus hyperythrus*), Yellow-eared Parrot (*Ognorhynchus icterotis*) (seasonally present), Tatama Tapaculo (*Scytalopus alvarezlopezi*), Black-and-gold Tanager (*Bangsia melanochlamys*), Gold-ringed Tanager (*Bangsia aureocincta*), Crested Ant-Tagner (*Habia cristata*) & Red-bellied Grackle (*Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster*).

Las Tangaras as an excellent place to see many Mountain Choco endemics and specialties, including the Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium nubicola*), Toucan Barbet (*Sennornis ramphastinus*), Yellow-breasted Antpitta (*Grallaria flavotincta*), Nariño Tapaculo (*Scytalopus vicinior*), Orange-breasted Fruiteater (*Pipreola jucunda*), Choco Vireo (*Vireo masteri*), Beautiful Jay (*Cyanolyca pulchra*), Sooty-headed Wren (*Pheugopedius spadix*), Black Solitaire (*Entomodestes coracinus*), Black-chinned Mountain-Tagner (*Anisognathus notabilis*), Purplish-mantled Tanager (*Iridosornis porphyrocephalus*), Glistening-green Tanager (*Chlorochrysa phoenicotis*), Rufous-throated Tanager (*Ixothraupis rufigula*), Olive Finch (*Arremon castaneiceps*), Tricolored (Choco) Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes tricolor*) & Dusky Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus semifuscus*).
Beautiful Purplish-mantled Tanager (*Iridosornis porphyrocephalus*), a near-endemic and near-threatened species, present at the road to Ventanas in Jardín & Las Tangaras.


Mistletoes are the favorite food for Chestnut-breasted & Yellow-breasted Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys, C. flavirostris*). Also, for the Club-winged Manakin (*Machaeropeterus deliciosus*) & Golden-winged Manakin (*Masius chrysopterus*).

Raptors are represented by Barred Hawk (*Morphnarchus princeps*), White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*) and Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*).

Other birds include Fasciated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*), Masked & Collared Trogon (*Trogon personatus, T. collaris*), Southern Emerald-Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus albivitta*), Crimson-rumped Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*), Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Dryobates fumigatus*), Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubiginosus*), Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) and Rusty-winged Barbtail (*Premnornis guttuliger*).

The feeders in the forest attract Violet-tailed Sylph (*Aglaiocercus coelestis*), Brown Inca (*Coeligena wilsoni*), Velvet-purple Coronet (*Boissonneaua jardini*), Booted Racket-tail (*Ocreatus underwoodii*), Rufous-gaped Hillstar (*Urochroa bougueri*), Purple-bibbed Whitetip (*Urosticte benjamini*), Empress Brilliant (*Heliodoxa imperatrix*), Purple-throated Woodstar (*Calliphlox mitchellii*) and Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*). In the trails it is possible to see Tawny-bellied Hermit (*Phaethornis syrmatophorus*) and Green-fronted Lancebill (*Doryfera ludovicia*).

There are records for Bicolored Antvireo (*Dysithamnus occidentalis*) and Yellow-green Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus flavovirens*), but both species are very rare.

The splendorous male **Flame-rumped Tanager** (*Ramphocelus flammigerus flammigerus*) will be seen and enjoyed in several localities along the tour.

**Day 16: Birding Las Tangaras nature reserve (all morning). Afternoon transfer to Medellín, birding en route semi-dry forests at Bolombolo. Night flights back home from Medellín’s international airport (after 10:00pm) (or alternatively, with overnight at hotel nearby the airport at client’s expense, w/ flight back home the following day).**
The last full morning for birding will take place at Las Tangaras reserve, searching for any missing species from the day before.

Lunch will be at the lodge, and we will depart immediately after lunch heading to Medellin’s international airport (located 50min outside the city, in Rionegro). This transfer to the airport implies approximately 5.5hrs driving non-stop, but we will make a one-hour birding stop at Bolombolo.

The semi-dry forests of Quebrada Sinifana in Bolombolo are home to an interesting set of birds, including the endemics Antioquia Wren (*Thryophilus sernai*) and Grayish Piculet (*Picumnus granadensis*). Also, the endemic Apical Flycatcher (*Myiarchus apicalis*) is possible here, albeit very rare.

![Image of a bird](image)

The endemic **Greyish Piculet** (*Picumnus granadensis*) is a real jewel for its minute size.


Dinner will be on a restaurant along the road. We expect to arrive in Rionegro before 8:00pm.

Participants should arrange for a late night flight departure (10:00pm or later), be that a direct flight back home, or a domestic flight to Bogota with connections back home the
same night or the following day. For an overnight stay in Bogota, we recommend using Hotel Habitel (at client’s expense).

Alternatively, participants can overnight near Medellin’s airport in Rionegro (at client’s expense; Hotel Santiago de Arma is recommended) with outbound flights the following morning.

**TOUR SIZE:** Limited to eight (8) participants.

**TOUR LEADER:** Daniel Uribe, Fabio Arias or José Luna.

**PRICE:**

US $5,500 per person, for a group of two (2) participants.

US $4,750 per person, for a group of three to four (3-4) participants.

US $4,300 per person, for a group of five to eight (5-8) participants.

Single supplement costs US$525, covering all nights (15) of tour.

Price includes ground transportation, lodging, all meals (from breakfast on day 1 to dinner on final day of the tour), entrance fees to all parks & reserves, daily water intake and guidance.

Price does not include international nor domestic flight tickets, alcoholic drinks or beverages in addition to those served in meals, laundry and personal expenses.

**BOOKING:** To book a tour, we require a 50% deposit with 60 days in advance. The other 50% should be paid 30 days prior to the first day of the tour.

**PAYMENT:** Payment must be done by wiring money to our bank in Colombia (Bancolombia). An instruction sheet will be emailed with the indications for wiring money. This is an easy and fast procedure.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If cancellation is made 45 days or more before the tour departure date, we will refund your money minus a cancellation fee of US$500 per person. If cancellation is made fewer than 45 days before tour departure, no refund will be available. Please have in mind that refunding might be affected by changes in foreign currency exchange rates. The client will be solely responsible for any refunding costs or surcharges imposed by banks or money exchange procedures.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All efforts will be done to comply with the specified itinerary, sites and attractions. However, Birding Tours Colombia reserves the right to introduce variations in the itinerary, services (lodges, restaurants, guides) and sites at short notice, if need arises due to unpredictable events. In all cases, we will preserve attractions and

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activities as much as possible and special efforts will be done to maintain the same quality and characteristics that have been offered.

Abbreviations used:

E = Endemic
NE = Near Endemic
NT = Near Threatened
VU = Vulnerable
EN = Endangered
CR = Critically Endangered

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