



ECUADOR BIRDING ADVENTURE THE AMAZON TO THE ANDES

Join us on a birding tour through one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth, as we journey from the dense Amazon rainforest to the stunning landscapes of the Eastern and Western slopes.

DAY 1: Quito Airport – Coca Airport - Sani Lodge:

After breakfast, we will head to Quito Airport for your flight to the city of Coca, where a representative from Sani Lodge will be waiting to welcome you. From there, you'll transfer to a riverboat for a scenic journey along the Napo River, leading you to Sani Lodge, where you'll spend the night surrounded by the Amazon's natural beauty.



DAYS 2 and 3: Sani Lodge:

At Sani Lodge, a local guide will lead us on unique wildlife experiences, including birdwatching from the canopy tower, canoe rides to spot monkeys and water birds, forest hikes, and a visit to the clay lick to see parrots and macaws. At night, we'll explore the forest in search of nocturnal creatures. Overnight at Sani Lodge.





DAY 4: Sani Lodge -Coca Port:

Early in the morning, we will take a boat to Coca Port with a box lunch provided. There, you'll meet your bilingual birding guide and begin the journey to Wildsumaco Lodge. Along the way, enjoy roadside birding before arriving at the lodge—your base for the next two nights. Expect to arrive around 5:00 PM, with dinner served at approximately 6:30 PM. Overnight at Wildsumaco Lodge.



DAY 5: Wildsumaco Lodge:

After breakfast, we will set out in search of a variety of remarkable bird species, including Gray-mantled and Coraya Wrens, Deep-blue Flowerpiercer, Napo Sabrewing, Brown and Sparkling Violetears, Green Hermit, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Wire-crested Thorn-tail, Booted Racket-tail, Violet-fronted Brilliant, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Many-spotted Hummingbird, and many more.

In the afternoon, we will explore the Antpitta trail where we have a good chance of spotting both Plain-backed and Ochre-breasted Antpittas. Later, relaxing around the lodge and observing the hummingbird feeders can be equally rewarding.

After dinner at 6:30 PM, we will venture out in search of nocturnal wildlife. Using a high-powered torch, we will look for mammals such as Margay, Opossums, Kinkajou, and Night Monkeys.

Wildsumaco offers an impressive array of target species, including several Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail, Blackish Rail, Scaled Pigeon, Military Macaw, Spot-winged Parrotlet, and various owls such as the Vermiculated (Foothill) Screech-Owl, Rufescent Screech-Owl, and Band-bellied Owl.





The lodge is also known for its incredible diversity of hummingbirds—too many to name—along with other highlights such as Coppery-chested Jacamar, Black-streaked Puffbird, Chestnut-tipped and Golden-collared Toucanets, Yellow-throated Toucan, Rufous-breasted and Lafresnaye's Piculets, Crimson-bellied Woodpecker and Red-billed Scythebill.

Other notable species include Chestnut-crowned Gnateater, numerous flycatchers (including the Yellow-throated Spadebill), and Fiery-throated Fruiteaters, Gray-tailed Piha, Gray-mantled and Musician Wrens, Wing-banded Wren, Blue-naped, Chlorophonia, Bronze-green Euphonia, and colourful tanagers such as the Orange-eared, Golden-eared, and Paradise Tanagers. We may also encounter Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, Olive Finch, and manakins

like the Blue-rumped and White-crowned. Overnight at Wildsumaco Lodge.

DAY 6: Wildsumaco Lodge - Guacamayos Ridge - San Isidro:

In the morning, you'll check out of Wildsumaco Lodge as we continue our journey toward San Isidro Lodge. About 1.5 hours into the drive, we'll stop at Guacamayos Ridge—an excellent birding hotspot. Target species here include White-throated Screech-Owl, Swallow-tailed Nightjar, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Flammulated Treehunter, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, the rare Greater Scythebill, Barred Antthrush, Ocellated Tapaculo, Handsome Flycatcher, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Green-and black and Black-chested Fruiteaters, Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer, Chestnut-bellied Thrush, and colorful tanagers such as Vermilion, Blue-browed, Rufous-crested, and Grass-green Tanager. Lunch can be taken en route, but likely at Guacamayos. We'll then continue to San Isidro Lodge, where we will spend the night.





DAY 7: San Isidro Lodge:

After breakfast at San Isidro Lodge, we'll begin a full day of birding in the surrounding area, known for its rich biodiversity and specialty species. Target birds include the majestic Black and-chestnut Eagle, the distinct Black-banded ("San Isidro") Owl, Rufous-banded Owl, and another chance to spot the elusive Andean Potoo and Rufous-bellied Nighthawk. Other highlights may include Oilbird, Crested and Golden-headed Quetzals, Crimson-mantled and Powerful Woodpeckers, Streak-headed (Long-tailed) Antbird, and several antpitta species such as Chestnut-crowned, White-bellied, and Slate-crowned.

Additional species to look out for include, Barred Becard, Black-billed Peppershrike, Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia, Flame-faced and White-capped Tanagers, and Subtropical Cacique.

We will also keep an eye out for mammals such as the Black Agouti, Kinkajou, Mountain Tapir, and—if we're lucky—the rare Giant Anteater. Overnight at San Isidro Lodge.

DAY 8: San Isidro - Guango Lodge:

In the morning, we will continue birding with a focus on key target species. Highlights may include Torrent Duck, a variety of hummingbirds—most notably the striking Sword-billed Hummingbird—as well as Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Dusky Piha, Whitecapped Dipper, Blue-backed Conebill, Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager, Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager, Black-capped Hemispingus, Plushcap, Northern Mountain Cacique, and both Palenaped and Slaty Brush-Finches.



If you missed any of your target species at Papallacta the previous day, today offers another opportunity. Key species in the area include Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Blue-mantled Thornbill, Viridian Metaltail, White-chinned Thistletail, Tawny Antpitta, Red-crested Cotinga, Giant Conebill, Golden-crowned Tanager, Masked and Black-chested and Mountain-Tanagers. Overnight at Guango Lodge.





DAY 9: Guango Lodge - Papallacta pass:

After breakfast at Guango Lodge, we will head to the Papallacta Pass area to search for White-chinned Thistletail, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Purplebacked Thornbill, Red-crested Cotinga, Giant Conebill, Variable Hawk, and more. This open, high-altitude páramo ecosystem offers an excellent opportunity to spot the elusive Spectacled Bear—often easier to observe here than in the dense cloud forests. After lunch, we will continue birding in the Papallacta region, with a focus on species like Andean Pygmy-Owl, Crowned Chat-Tyrant, Crescent-faced Antpitta, and Yellow-billed Pintail around the Papallacta Lagoon. We'll also keep watch for another chance to see the Spectacled Bear. Overnight at Guango Lodge.

DAY 10: Guango - Antisana Reserve - Bellavista Lodge:

Today we'll explore the highlands of the Antisana Ecological Reserve, a spectacular páramo ecosystem rich in birdlife. Our main targets include the majestic Andean Condor, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Cinereous Harrier, Andean Ibis, Carunculated Caracara, Andean Gull, Giant Hummingbird, Andean Lapwing, Tawny Antpitta, Many-striped Canastero, Andean Tit-Spinetail, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Páramo Pipit, and Black-winged Ground-Dove, among many other high-altitude specialists. After a rewarding day of birding, we will head to Bellavista Lodge for the night.





DAY 11: Bellavista Lodge - Birdwhatching House:

Today we will spend the morning birding around Bellavista Lodge, a hotspot of biodiversity in the cloud forest. Our main targets include the elusive Tanager Finch, striking Turquoise Jay, and the powerful Strong-billed Woodcreeper. We'll also be on the lookout for White-faced Nunbird, Cinnamon Flycatcher, and the iconic Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan. Other key species we hope to encounter include Plushcap, Beautiful Jay, Ocellated Tapaculo, White-throated Quail-

Dove, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Buff-tailed Coronet, and Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant, among many others that inhabit this rich montane ecosystem. Overnight at Bellavista Lodge.

DAY 12: Bellavista Lodge - Refugio Paz de Las Aves and Valle del Tandayapa Valley:

Today we'll visit the renowned Refugio Paz de las Aves, one of Ecuador's most iconic birding destinations. This reserve is famed for its reliable sightings of the spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-Rock and an impressive array of antpittas, including Giant, Moustached, Yellow-breasted, Ochre-breasted, and Chestnut-crowned Antpittas. We will also be on the lookout for other special species such as the Cloudforest Pygmy-Owl, Golden-headed Quetzal, Powerful Woodpecker, Dark-backed Wood-Quail, and Rufous-breasted Anthrush.



After lunch, we will make our way toward Tandayapa, birding along the way. Strategic stops may yield sightings of the elusive Beautiful Jay, Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant, Zeledon's Antbird, Streak-capped Treehunter, and Strong-billed Woodcreeper. With luck, we might even encounter the shy Scaled Antpitta.

Other highlights in this beautiful Andean valley may include White-winged and Tricolored Brushfinches, Slate-throated Whitestart, Toucan Barbet, Golden and Golden-naped Tanagers, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Red-headed Barbet, Crimsonrumped Toucanet, and many more forest gems. Overnight at Septimo Paraiso Lodge.





DAY 13: Septimo Paraiso - Río Silanche Bird Sanctuary - Milpe Bird Sanctuary:

Today we will enjoy a full day of birding in the lowland forests, exploring the rich diversity of this vibrant ecosystem. Target species include Blue-tailed and White-tailed Trogons, Olivaceous Piculet, and an exciting trio of woodpeckers: Red-rumped, Cinnamon, and Black-cheeked.

We will also search for colorful tanagers such as Tawny-crested, Scarlet-and-white, Rufous-winged, and the striking Blue-whiskered Tanager. Other highlights may include Scarlet-thighed and Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, Squirrel and Little Cuckoos, and the elusive Plumbeous Hawk.

Additional species we hope to encounter include the majestic Guayaquil Woodpecker, Checker-throated Antwren, White-bearded Manakin, Masked Tityra, Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Barred Puffbird, and many other lowland forest specialists. Overnight at Septimo Paraiso Lodge.

DAY 14: Septimo Paraiso - Guayabillas Road:

Today we will explore the Guayabillas Road, making several strategic stops along the way to search for a variety of sought-after species. Key targets include the striking Scarlet-and-white Tanager, Yellow-green Tanager, Pacific Flatbill, and the elusive Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo. We'll also be on the lookout for Russet Antshrike, Striped Woodhaunter, and the elegant Black-tipped Cotinga.

Other exciting possibilities include Emerald Tanager, Gray-and-gold Tanager, Brown-billed Scythebill, and with luck, the rare and localized Baudo Guan, along with many other species typical of this biodiverse region. Overnight at Septimo Paraiso Lodge.





DAY 15: Septimo Paraiso - 23 de junio - Guaycapi Lodge:

Today we will head to the small village of 23 de Junio, where our main objective will be observing the impressive Long-wattled Umbrellabird at its lek—an unforgettable highlight of any birding trip. In addition to this iconic species, we may also encounter Bronzewinged Parrot, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, and Olive-crowned Yellowthroat in the surrounding area. Overnight at Guaycapi Lodge.

DAY 16: Guaycapi - Amagusa Reserve:

Today we will explore a scenic dirt road that winds through lush Chocó cloudforest, offering access to some of the region's most sought-after endemics. This area is one of the best places to see species that are difficult to find elsewhere, such as Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Moss-backed Tanager, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Glistening-green Tanager, and Buffy Tuffedcheek.

We will also search for a variety of other special species, including Uniform Treehunter, Black Solitaire, Esmeraldas Antbird, Ochre-breasted and Rufous-throated Tanagers, Red-faced Spinetail, and several foliage-gleaners: Scaly-throated, Buff-fronted, and Lineated. Additional targets include Chocó Vireo, Slaty Antwren, Tawny-breasted Flycatcher, and Cinnamon Becard. Overnight at Guaycapi Lodge.





DAY 17: Guaycapi Lodge - Yanacocha Reserve - Zuroloma Reserve - Quito:

Early in the morning, we will drive to Zuroloma, located in the highlands of the Pichincha Volcano at an elevation on of 3,200 meters. Our birding targets in this area include the striking Ocellated Tapaculo, the unique Swordbilled Hummingbird, Ecuadorian Antpitta, Chestnut-naped Antpitta, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Masked Flowerpiercer, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, and Tyrian Metaltail.

After a rewarding morning of birding, we will continue to Yanacocha Reserve. Here, we will search for Scarlet-bellied, Hooded, and Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers,

as well as Spectacled Redstart, Gray-browed Brush-Finch and Great Sapphirewing.

Later, we will gather for an optional farewell meeting with the Birding Explore team, a chance to share highlights and memories from the journey.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Private transportation on and professional driver throughout the entire tour, from the first to the final day.
- Expert bilingual birding guide from Day 4 to Day 10, offering in-depth knowledge and personalized support.
- Private bilingual naturalist guide at Sani Lodge from Day 1 to Day 4, specializing in Amazonian flora and fauna.
- Comfortable accommodation at carefully selected lodges and hotels throughout the tour.
- Domestic flight from Quito to Coca, providing swift and scenic travel into the Amazon.
- All applicable VAT taxes included.





TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Accommodation in Quito on the first night. (We are happy to assist with bookings once you select your preferred hotel).
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Tips for guides, drivers, and lodge staff.
- Private bilingual birding guide at Sani Lodge. (Available upon request; please let us know if you'd like to include this service).
- Personal expenses, such as laundry, souvenirs, or additional snacks.
- Dinner on the final day.

