



## **EASTERN SLOPE OF ECUADOR BIRDING TOUR**

### **DAY 1: -Quito - Antisana Ecological Reserve- Guango Lodge:**

We will pick you up from your hotel in Quito in the morning and head towards the scenic highlands of the Antisana Ecological Reserve. This unique páramo ecosystem offers excellent opportunities to observe a wide variety of Andean bird species. Our birding targets include the majestic Andean Condor, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Cinereous Harrier, Andean Ibis, Carunculated Caracara, and Andean Gull.



As we explore the area, we will also look for highland specialties such as the Giant Hummingbird, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Andean Lapwing, Tawny Antpitta, Many-striped Canastero, Andean Tit-Spinetail, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, Páramo Pipit, and Blackwinged Ground-Dove, among many others. After an enriching day of birding, we will continue to Guango Lodge, where you'll spend the night surrounded by cloud forest beauty and more birding opportunities.

### **DAY 2: Guango Lodge- Papallacta pass:**

After breakfast at Guango Lodge, we will set out toward the Papallacta Pass, a highaltitude zone rich in birdlife and remarkable Andean scenery. Our main birding targets in this area include the elusive White-chinned Thistletail, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Purple-backed Thornbill, Red-crested Cotinga, Giant Conebill, and Variable Hawk. This open páramo ecosystem, located above the tree line, also offers one of the best chances to spot the Spectacled Bear—a rare and iconic mammal of the Andes. The relatively unobstructed terrain makes sightings more feasible here than in denser cloud forests.





After lunch, we will continue exploring the Papallacta area, focusing on both birding and continued efforts to spot a Spectacled Bear. Additional bird species we will search for include the Andean Pygmy-Owl, Crowned Chat-Tyrant, Crescent-faced Antpitta, Purple-backed Thornbill, and Yellow-billed Pintail, particularly around the picturesque Papallacta Lagoon. We will return for another overnight stay at Guango Lodge, surrounded by the serenity of the Andean cloud forest.



cloud forest and its incredible birdlife.

### **Day 3: Guango -Queztal Eco Lodge - San Isidro:**

We will begin the day with a rewarding morning of birding around the Guango Lodge area, renowned for its rich biodiversity and excellent montane forest species. Target birds include the striking Torrent Duck, Andean Guan, and a dazzling variety of hummingbirds.

Other key species we will look for are the Grey-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Dusky Piha, White-capped Dipper, Blue-backed Conebill, Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager, Grey-hooded Bush-Tanager, Black-capped Hemispingus, Plushcap, Northern Mountain Cacique, and Pale-naped Brush finch.

After a productive morning, we will check out of Guango Lodge and continue our journey to the beautiful San Isidro Lodge, where we will spend the night surrounded by the lush

### **Day 4: San Isidro Lodge:**

After breakfast at San Isidro Lodge, we will spend the day exploring the surrounding cloud forest in search of its rich and unique biodiversity. The San Isidro area is known for its excellent birding opportunities, with key target species including the impressive Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Wattled Guan, and the enigmatic Blackbanded ("San Isidro") Owl, along with Rufous-banded Owl and a second chance to spot the elusive Andean Potoo.

Additional avian highlights include Rufous-bellied Nighthawk, Oilbird, Crested and Golden-headed Quetzals, Masked Trogon, Andean (Highland) Motmot, Crimsonmantled Woodpecker, Powerful Woodpecker, Streak-headed (Long-tailed) Antbird, Chestnut-crowned, White-bellied, and Slate-crowned Antpittas, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, Barred Becard, Black-billed Peppershrike, Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia, Flame-faced Tanager, White-capped Tanager, and Subtropical Cacique.





We will also keep an eye out for notable mammals such as Black Agouti, Kinkajou, and with luck, the Mountain Tapir or even the extremely rare Giant Anteater.

Overnight stay at San Isidro Lodge, immersed in the tranquility and biodiversity of the eastern Andes.



## **Day 5: San Isidro Lodge- Guacamayos Ridge- Wildsumaco Lodge:**

After breakfast, we will check out of San Isidro Lodge and drive approximately 1.5 hours to the renowned Guacamayos Ridge, a biodiverse hotspot along the eastern slope of the Andes.

This area offers a chance to see a wide range of sought-after species, including

White-throated Screech-Owl, Swallow-tailed Nightjar, Black-billed MountainToucan, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Flammulated Treehunter, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, and the very rare Greater Scythebill.

Other highlights may include Barred Antthrush, the striking Ocellated Tapaculo, Handsome Flycatcher, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant, Green-and-black and Black-chested Fruiteaters, Chestnut-bellied Thrush, and an array of colorful tanagers such as Vermilion, Bluebrowed, Rufous-crested, and Grass-green Tanagers.

Lunch will be flexible and can be taken wherever suits the group, though it's most likely to be enjoyed near the Guacamayos area.

In the afternoon, we will continue on to Wildsumaco Lodge, where we'll settle in for an overnight stay amidst the lush, bird-rich foothill forests.

## **Day 6: Wildsumaco Lodge area:**

This morning, we will explore the Antpitta Trail, where we will focus on locating two elusive and highly sought-after species: the Plain-backed Antpitta and the Ochrebreasted Antpitta. With luck and patience, we will get great views of these secretive forest dwellers.

In the afternoon, we will spend time birding around Wildsumaco Lodge itself. The lodge's gardens and hummingbird feeders are extremely productive, offering excellent opportunities to observe a dazzling array of hummingbirds—too many to name, but always a highlight of the area.

After dinner at around 6:30 PM, we will set out for a night walk, using a highpowered torch to search for nocturnal wildlife. This is one of the best chances to spot rare and shy mammals such as the Margay, Kinkajou, Night Monkey, and Opossums.





Throughout the day, we will also be on the lookout for some of Wildsumaco's key bird species, including Black Hawk-Eagle, several Forest-Falcon species, Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail, Blackish Rail, Scaled Pigeon, Military Macaw, Spot-winged Parrotlet, Vermiculated (Foothill) Screech-Owl, Rufescent Screech-Owl, and Bandbellied Owl.

Other exciting possibilities include Coppery-chested Jacamar, Black-streaked Puffbird, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, and Golden-collared Toucanet.

Overnight at Wildsumaco Lodge, surrounded by the sounds and sights of the tropical foothill forest.



### **DAY 7: Wildsumaco Area:**

After breakfast, we will spend the day birding in the richly diverse surroundings of Wildsumaco Lodge, one of Ecuador's top birding destinations in the eastern foothills.

Target species for the day include striking canopy dwellers like the Yellow-throated Toucan, Rufous-breasted Piculet, Lafresnaye's Piculet, and the impressive Crimsonbellied Woodpecker. We will also search for elusive forest specialists such as the Black-billed Treehunter, Red-billed Scythebill, Lined Antshrike, Russet Antshrike, White-streaked Antwren, Foothill Antwren, Plain-winged Antwren, Yellow-breasted Antwren, and Blackish Antbird.

More forest-floor favorites include Western Fire-eye, Short-tailed Antthrush, and two highly sought-after antpittas: the Plain-backed and Ochre-breasted Antpitta. We may also encounter the Chestnut-crowned Gnateater, a charismatic understory species.

The area is also rich in flycatchers (including Yellow-throated Spadebill) and holds spectacular Fruiteaters like the Scarlet-breasted and Fiery-throated Fruiteater, along with Gray-tailed Piha.

Additional highlights may include Rufous-naped Greenlet, Gray-mantled Wren, Musician Wren, and Wing-banded Wren. Mixed flocks may bring views of colorful species such as Golden-collared Honeycreeper, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Bronzegreen Euphonia, Orange-eared Tanager, Golden-eared Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, and Olive Finch.

We will also keep an eye out for Blue-rumped and White-crowned Manakins, both of which inhabit the lower and mid-levels of the forest.

Overnight at Wildsumaco Lodge, surrounded by the vibrant sounds and colors of the Andean foothills.





## **DAY 8: Wildsumaco Lodge – Quito:**

After a rewarding final morning of birding, we will begin our journey back to Quito. You will be dropped off at your hotel of choice in the city or at the Quito airport, depending on your travel plans.

Note: Later in the evening, you are invited to join an optional farewell gathering with the Birding Explore team—a relaxed opportunity to reflect on the highlights of the trip, share memories, and say goodbye to fellow birders and guides.



## **TOUR INCLUDES:**

- Private transportation with a dedicated driver from the first to the last day of the tour
- Three meals per day throughout the tour (starting with breakfast on Day 1 and ending with lunch on the final day)
- Expert bilingual birding guide from Day 1 through Day 8
- Accommodation at all lodges and hotels during the tour
- All applicable VAT (Value Added Tax).

## **TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Accommodation in Quito on the first night (we can arrange this upon your selection of a preferred hotel)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Tips and gratuities
- Personal expenses
- Dinner on the final day

