



WESTERN ECUADOR – BIRDING TOUR



DAY 1: Yanacocha Reserve - Zurolooma – Reserve - Bellavista Lodge:

Early in the morning, we will pick you up from your hotel in Quito and drive to Zurolooma, located in the highlands on the slopes of the Pichincha Volcano at an elevation of 3,200 meters. Our main targets in this area include the Ocellated Tapaculo, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Ecuadorian Antpitta, Chestnut-naped Antpitta, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Masked Flowerpiercer, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, and Tyrian Metaltail.

After an exciting morning of birding, we will continue on to Yanacocha, where we will search for species such as the Scarlet-bellied, Hooded, and Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers, Spectacled Redstart, Gray-browed Brush-Finch, and Great Sapphirewing. Overnight at Bellavista Lodge.

DAY 2: Bellavista Lodge- Birdwatchinghouse:

Today, we will spend the morning birding at Bellavista, focusing on finding a diverse range of cloud forest species. Target birds include the Tanager Finch, Turquoise Jay, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, White-faced Nunbird, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Plushcap, Beautiful Jay, Ocellated Tapaculo, White -throated Quail-Dove, Russet-crowned Warbler, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Buff-tailed Coronet, Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant, and many others. Overnight at Bellavista Lodge.





DAY 3: Belavista Lodge-Refugio Paz de las Aves and Valle del Tandayapa Valley:

This morning, we will visit Refugio Paz de las Aves, a birding hotspot famous for its display of the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. Here, we also have excellent chances to observe several species of Antpittas, including the Giant, Moustached, Yellow-breasted, Ochre-breasted, and Chestnut-crowned Antpittas. Other notable species in this area include the Cloudforest Pygmy-Owl, Golden-headed Quetzal, Powerful Woodpecker,

Dark-backed Wood-Quail, and Rufous-breasted Antthrush.

After lunch, we will drive toward Tandayapa, making several birding stops along the way. Targets include the Beautiful Jay, Black Phoebe, Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant, Russet-crowned Warbler, Zeledon's Antbird, and Streak-capped Treehunter, with luck, the elusive Scaled Antpitta. We also hope to spot White-winged and Tricolored Brush-finches, Masked Trogon, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, Slate-throated White-start, Toucan Barbet and Golden-naped Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Red-headed Barbet, and Crimson-rumped Toucanet, among other specialties of this beautiful valley. Overnight at Septimo Paraiso Lodge.

DAY 4: Bellavista - Amagusa Reserve and Oilbird Cave:

Today, we will explore an easy dirt road that winds through lush cloudforest, home to an exceptional array of Chocó endemics—many of which are difficult to find elsewhere. Target species include the Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Moss-backed Tanager, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Glistening-green Tanager, and Buffy Tuftedcheek.

We will also search for other notable species such as the Uniform Treehunter, Black Solitaire, Esmeraldas Antbird, Ochre-breasted and Rufous-throated Tanagers, Red-faced Spinetail, and several foliage-gleaners including Scaly-throated, Buff-fronted, and Lineated. Additional possibilities include Chocó Vireo, Slaty Antwren, Tawny-breasted Flycatcher, and Cinnamon Becard. Overnight at Septimo Paraiso Lodge.





DAY 5: Septimo Paraiso - Río Silanche Bird Sanctuary - Milpe Bird Sanctuary:

Today we will have a full day birding in the lowlands looking for Blue-tailed and White-tailed Trogons, Olivaceous Piculet, Red-rumped, Cinnamon and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers, Tawny-crested, Scarlet-and-white, Rufous-winged and Bluewhiskered Tanagers, Scarlet-thighed and Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, Squirrel and Little Cuckoos, Plumbeous Hawk, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Cheeked-throated Antwren, White-bearded Manakin, Masked Tityra, Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Barred Puffbird and many other lowland species. Overnight at Septimo Paraiso Lodge.



DAY 6: Septimo Paraiso - Guayabillas Road:

Today, we will bird along the Guayabillas Road, making strategic stops to search for a variety of exciting species. Highlights may include the Scarlet-and-white Tanager, Yellow-green Tanager, Pacific Flatbill, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Russet Antshrike, Striped Woodhaunter, Black-tipped Cotinga, Emerald Tanager, Gray-and-gold Tanager, Brown-billed Scythebill, Baudo Guan, and many other forest specialties. Overnight at Septimo Paraiso Lodge.





DAY 7: 23 de junio - Quito:

Today, we will drive to the small village of 23 de Junio to visit a known lek of the remarkable Long-wattled Umbrellabird.

While in the area, we may also encounter Bronzewinged Parrot, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, and Olivecrowned Yellowthroat. In the afternoon, we will head to Milpe Bird Sanctuary, a hotspot for mid-elevation Chocó species. Target birds include Dusky-faced Tanager, Rufous-throated Tanager, Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner, Club-winged Manakin, Brown-billed Scythebill, Chocó Warbler, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, and more.

Later, we will gather for a farewell meeting with the Birding Explore team to celebrate the journey and share final highlights. Afterwards, we will transfer to Quito Hotel for the night.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- All ground transportation and a professional driver from the first to the last day of the tour.
- Accommodation in carefully selected lodges and hotels.
- Three meals per day throughout the tour (starting with lunch on the first day and ending with lunch on the final day).
- A private, bilingual birding guide for the duration of the tour.
- Optional domestic flight from Coca to Quito.
- VAT (Value Added Tax).

TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Gratuities for guides, drivers, and lodge staff.
- Personal expenses (e.g., souvenirs, phone calls).
- Laundry services.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Dinner on the final day.

