

Explore Colombia's spectacular bird diversity, from the high Andes to the Caribbean coast.

Day 1 - Bogotá

Arrival. Meet & greet at the airport and short transfer to a hotel near the airport.
Overnight: Bogotá (airport area)

Day 2 - Chingaza buffer (Bosque Guajira) + Feeders

Early departure to the buffer zone of Chingaza National Park (often called Bosque Guajira). Targets include Brown-breasted Parakeet (E), Glowing & Coppery-bellied Pufflegs, Silvery-throated Spinetail (E), near-endemics Blue-throated Starfrontlet, Bronze-tailed Thornbill, plus Golden-fronted Redstart, Pale-breasted Tapaculo, Sedge Wren, Rufous-browed Conebill, Muisca Antpitta, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Great Sapphirewing, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, and more.

Afternoon at a hummingbird feeding station (e.g., Sword-billed Hummingbird, White-bellied Woodstar). Overnight in Bogotá

Day 3 - Bogotá Savanna endemics and Magdalena Valley

Morning in a local wetland/park for Apolinar's Wren (E), Bogotá Rail (E), Silvery-throated Spinetail (E), plus Spot-flanked Gallinule, Rufous-browed Conebill, etc. After lunch, drive into the Magdalena River basin to our next lodge. Overnight: Magdalena Valley area

Days 4 - Río Claro Reserve

Private reserve birding for Magdalena Antbird (E), Antioquia Bristle-Tyrant (E), Beautiful Woodpecker (E); with luck Sooty Ant-Tanager (E), Blue-crowned Manakin, Dusky-faced Tanager, Colombian Chachalaca (E), Band-backed Wren, and possible White-mantled Barbet (E).
Overnight: Río Claro area

Day 5 - Río Claro and Medellín (Sabaneta)

Second morning at Río Claro to refine targets, then transfer to Sabaneta (Medellín area).
Overnight: Sabaneta

Day 6 - Andean foothills, Cauca Valley and Jardín

Morning park near Medellín for Red-bellied Grackle (E); chances for Yellow-headed Manakin, Greenish Puffleg, seasonal North American warblers, and typical cloud-forest species. Continue to the Cauca River corridor to look for Antioquia Wren (E), Grayish Piculet, and local form of

Apolinar's Wren. Arrive Jardín. Overnight: Jardín

Day 7 - El Roble feeders & high Andean forest

Early 4x4 to El Roble (ca. 2 hours). At Lucia's feeders: Chestnut-naped Antpitta, Slate-crowned Antpitta, Chami Antpitta (E); in forest: mountain-toucans and mixed flocks. Key specialty in the area: Yellow-eared Parrot (E). (A local small wild cat—oncilla—is occasionally seen; sightings are never guaranteed.) Return to Jardín.

Overnight: Jardín

Days 8 - Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek and Manizales

Dawn visit to an exceptionally accessible Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek just outside town, then transfer to Manizales with birding stops en route.

Overnight: Manizales

Day 9 - Río Blanco Reserve

"Antpitta day": usually Brown-banded Antpitta (E), Bicolored Antpitta, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, and the trickier Slate-crowned Antpitta. Seasonal close views of Green-and-black Fruiteater. Possible non-feeder bonuses: White-capped Tanager, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Plushcap, Powerful Woodpecker, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher. Seed/feeders may attract Blue-capped Tanager, Slaty Brushfinch, Buff-breasted & Blue-winged Mountain-Tanagers (presence varies by season). Hummer feeders: White-bellied Woodstar, Long-tailed Sylph, Bronzy/Collared Inca, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Speckled Hummingbird, etc.

Overnight: Manizales

Day 10 - Hacienda El Bosque

Private dairy farm turned conservation hotspot. First site to offer Crescent-faced Antpitta at worms; also Equatorial Antpitta, Barred Fruiteater, frequent Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan ("grape-eater"), and forest birds like Golden-crowned Redstart, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, Purple-backed Thornbill.

Overnight: Termales

Day 11 - Los Nevados NP / Termales del Ruiz

High páramo birding: Andean Tit-Spinetail, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, White-chinned Thistletail, Many-striped Canastero; with luck Rufous-fronted Parakeet (E) and Buffy Helmetcrest (E).

Afternoon feeders at the lodge: Lachrymose & Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers; hummers like Great Sapphirewing, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Mountain Velvetbreast, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Tyrian/Viridian Metaltails, Black-thighed Puffleg, Shining Sunbeam.

Overnight: Manizales

Day 12 - Central Andes and Caribbean coast

Morning birding. Drive to Pereira for flight to Santa Marta (northern coast) drive to Riohacha 3 hrs birding on route.

Overnight: Riohacha Taroa

Day 13 - La Guajira desert scrub

Day trip to La Guajira for specialties: Vermilion Cardinal, Orinocan Saltator, White-whiskered

Spinetail, Chestnut Piculet, Inezia flycatchers, Dark-faced Grassquit, tocujo sparrow and more.
Overnight: Riohacha Taroa

Day 14 - Los Flamencos Sanctuary and Sierra Nevada

Birding in Los Flamencos for shorebirds, American Flamingo, Dwarf Cuckoo, Blue-fronted Parrotlet, Buff-necked Ibis, Bare-eyed Pigeon, Scarlet Ibis, terns & gulls.

After lunch, ascend to El Dorado Lodge (Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta).

Overnight: Mountain house.

Days 15 & 16 - Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta endemics

Two full days for a long list of endemics: Santa Marta Warbler, Santa Marta Antpitta, White-tailed Starfrontlet, Santa Marta Parakeet, Santa Marta Brushfinch, Sierra Nevada Brushfinch, Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant, Rusty-headed Spinetail, Santa Marta Tapaculo, Santa Marta Toucanet, Santa Marta Screech-Owl, and more.

Overnights: Mountain House

Day 17 - Down to Santa Marta and fly to Bogotá

Descent with birding stops, afternoon flight to Bogotá for farewell dinner.

Overnight: Bogotá

Day 18 - Departure

Scheduled airport transfer.

Flight out.

bird
ECUADOR