

NORTHWESTERN ECUADOR ANYTIME: ANTPITTAS, TANAGERS, COCK-OF-THE-ROCK, TOUCANS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND MYSTERIOUS CLOUD FORESTS.

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS



A week's birding holiday in north-western Ecuador makes for an excellent combination with other destinations in the country and of course, as a trip in its own right.

Ecuador's bird diversity is famous, and this region, with its rapid changes of elevation, can offer well over 550 species of potential sightings. In the Tandayapa Valley alone (where Bellavista is located), over 330 species have been recorded!

ITINERARY: *Note: these hours are approximate except for the pick up hour.*

Day One:

Departure at 5:30 AM from your hotel in Quito. We will bird the Nono road out to Bellavista, stopping at Yanacocha Reserve and looking for flocks as we travel. Among target species: Black-backed Grosbeak, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Black-breasted Puffleg, Torrent Duck, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager.

Next we'll visit Alambi reserve for a spectacular array of hummingbirds.

Afternoon bird in and around Bellavista, with our first view of the wide variety and surprising numbers of hummingbirds at the feeders. Among the many species of hummingbirds, we look for Gorgeted Sunangel, Brown Inca, Booted Racket-tail, and Violet-tailed Sylph.



Day Two:

A full day to bird in and around Bellavista Reserve. We will concentrate on the roads that cross the reserve and bird various of the many trails in Bellavista. Among target species: Grass green Tanager, Toucan Barbet, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Cloud-Forest Pygmy-Owl and Giant Antpitta.



Day Three:

An early start to Mindo valley, to visit an active Cock-of-the-Rock lek with the spectacle of the bright red males' courtship activities! The rest of the day will be spent looking for birds of this lower elevation. Among target species: Cock-of-the-Rock, Choco Toucan, Rufous-crowned Antpitta, and Glistening-green Tanager.



AM: Day Four:

Day trip to lower Tandayapa Valley. The valley is so steep that as you drop about 200 meters in only 3 km, you find new species of birds! Among target species: White-faced Nunbird, Narino Tapaculo, Scaled Antpitta, and White-capped Dipper.

Day Five:

We will concentrate in the Mindo valley and Los Bancos area. Among target species: Esmeraldas Antbird, Rufous-rumped Antwren, Broad-billed Motmot, ChocoToucan, Pale-mandibled Aracari, Pacific Tuftedcheek

Day Six:

Los Bancos region, Milpe and Silanche areas. Among target species: Brown-billed Scythebill, Spotted-nightingale Thrush, Choco Warbler, Glistening-Green Tanager and Moss-backed Tanager. Chestnut-mandibilled Toucan, Chestnut-throated Antwren, Choco Vireo, Crested Owl.

Day Seven:

AM birding for additional species and PM return to Quito.

End of our services.



GALLERY



Accommodation



What to bring:

- T-shirts or comfortable blouses/shirts
- Sweater or fleece for the evenings
- Quick drying trousers (blue jeans not recommended)
 - Lightweight socks
 - Change of clothes
 - Sunhat and sunscreen
 - Rain poncho (a few available if needed)

- Camera
- Rubber boots are provided – to size 47 (few pairs in large sizes)
- Binoculars recommended (available for rent)
- Water bottle for hikes
- Small daypack for hikes
- Flashlight and batteries
- Plastic bags to protect camera, etc

What is included:

- All meals, starting with breakfast Day 1, and finishing with lunch at day 7.
- 5 nights standard accommodation at Bellavista, 1 Night Mirador Rio Blanco
- Private Guide Service
- Access to 700-hectare Reserve
- Private transportation.
- All visits described on itinerary



What is not included:

Drinks, tips, exclusive guide or transport service, personal items, other services.

Note: Hiking routes are flexible.

Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve & Lodge
Office: Jorge Washington E7-25 y 6 de Diciembre
Phones: +593 223 2313 ; +593 290 1536
Quito-Ecuador
info@bellavistacloudforest.com
WWW.BELLAVISTACLOUDFOREST.COM

