



Birding Southern Ecuador: Endemics and Specialties

13 Days and 12 Nights

Day 1: Arrivals into Guayaquil

Upon your arrival in Guayaquil, you will be transferred to a local hotel for the night.

Day 2: Buenaventura and Choco Forest

Early drive to Buenaventura. Visiting first Manglares Churute Hotel. Once we've settled into our lodge, we'll begin our exploration of the Choco forests in search of the regional endemic birds that live here.

Days 3 & 4: Choco Forest

The forested hills of Buenaventura are now a reserve and protect a mixed avifauna of Choco and Tumbesian birds. The rare El Oro Parakeet, only discovered in 1980 will be one of our major targets (our tour is timed to coincide with the breeding season and we'll inspect favoured nesting areas), but other avian distractions include the strange Long-wattled Umbrellabird (one of two umbrellabirds possible on this tour), Club-winged Manakin and Grey-backed Hawk. Bay Wrens belt out their explosive song from the

undergrowth while passing flocks may include Pacific Tuftedcheek, Silver-throated and Rufous-throated Tanagers or a Chestnut-backed Antbird may slip through the understory almost unnoticed but for its simple but distinctive song. We'll also spend some time at the local hummingbird feeders where we should see plenty of Green Thorntails and Violet-bellied Hummingbirds. One patch of forest with feeders is particularly good for Emerald-bellied Woodnymph whilst Pale-mandibled Aracaris and Grey-headed Chachalacas often visit the bird tables near the lodge as well.



Days 5 & 6: Jorupe

After some final birding near Buenaventura we'll drive to Jorupe where we'll spend the next two nights. We'll concentrate on Tumbesian species such as Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Ecuadorian Piculet, Henna-hooded and Rufous-necked Foliage-Gleaner, Blackish-headed Spinetail, Watkin's Antpitta, Grey-breasted Flycatcher, Pacific Elaenia, Grey-and-Gold Warbler, Black-capped Sparrow and White-edged Oriole. The Grey-headed Antbird occurs nearby so we'll make a special effort to see this rare bird as well as Chapman's Antshrike, Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant, Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, Three-banded Warbler, Black-cowled Saltator and Bay-crowned Brush-Finch.

Day 7: Loja

Today we'll travel from Jorupe to Loja and we may be able to bird the Cajanuma section of the Podocarpus NP if we make good time travelling.

Day 8: Podocarpus National Park

Early birding in the Cajanuma area this morning within the limits of the Podocarpus National Park. We'll be in search of some of the birds of humid cloud forests here including Bearded Guan, Rainbow-bearded Starfrontlet, Grey-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant, Red-hooded Tanager, Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager, Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia and Plushcap. Later in the day we'll travel to Zamora where we'll spend three nights in easy reach of the Rio Bombuscaro.



Days 9 & 10: Podocarpus National Park

Two full days in the Bombuscaro area of the Podocarpus National Park. The mosaic of primary, premontane cloud forest and secondary growth allows a variety of species to be seen (the birdlist for the area boasts around 300 species). Bombuscaro is noted for two species in particular, the White-breasted Parakeet and Coppery-chested Jacamar. Whilst these birds will be our focus attention (last year we saw the parakeet from the balcony of our lodge!), there will be plenty more to keep us occupied with Lanceolated Monklet, Black-streaked Puffbird, Highland Motmot, Blue-rumped Manakin, Striped Manakin, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Ecuadorian Piedtail and Foothill Antwren all possible.



Days 11 & 12: Jocotoco Foundation Reserve

Today we'll drive to the Jocotoco Foundation Reserve of Tapichalaca where we'll spend two nights. Tapichalaca is famous for the recently described Jocotoco Antpitta and our chances of seeing this rare bird have been enhanced with the wardens feeding the antpittas with worms. We were greeted by a Chestnut-naped Antpitta waiting on the path near the feeding station on our last tour! The reserve is home to many desirable species though and time will be spent in search of White-capped Tanager, Orange-banded Flycatcher, Masked Saltator, Streaked Tuftedcheek and Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager. Hummingbirds visiting the feeders may include Flame-throated Sunangel, Rufous-capped Thornbill, Chestnut-breasted Coronet and Long-tailed Sylph.

Day 13 (Extension Day 1): Departures; Begin Key Endemics in Cajas and Yungilla Extension

Today we'll leave Tapichalaca for Loja, where participants can fly to Quito or Guayaquil.

Those clients participating in the Key Endemics in Cajas and Yungilla Extension will depart for Saraguro from Loja around midday.



Key Endemics in Cajas and Yungilla Extension

5 Days and 4 Nights

Day 13 (Extension Day 1): Saraguro and Acacana Mountain

From Loja drive to Saraguro with nice birding near Saraguro and the lower and higher elevations of Acacana Mountain.

Day 14 (Extension Day 2): Saraguro and Cajas National Park

Early morning birding Saraguro and then drive to and bird Cajas National Park. Highlands and temperate forest at Cajas NP. Late afternoon drive to Yungilla.

Day 15 (Extension Day 3): Yungilla Reserve

Morning Birding the Yungilla Reserve. Pale headed Brush Finch. Late afternoon transfer to Gualaceo.

Day 16 (Extension Day 4): Gualaceo Limón Road

Full day birding the Gualaceo Limón Road and then late afternoon, the group will drive back to Cuenca for the night.

Day 17 (Extension Day 5): Flights from Cuenca to either Quito or Guayaquil

From Cuenca, fly to Quito or Guayaquil to catch international flights home.

