

# WILD ABOUT TRAVEL - ECUADOR

## Andes to the Amazon birdwatching tour



**Best time to visit: Depends on area of your visit and weather (please ask)**

**13 Days Quito -Yanacocha - Tandayapa Valley & Mindo - Quito - Amazon - Quito**  
Discover the superb birds of the Ecuadorian cloud forest, from the bizarre Sword-billed Hummingbird to brilliantly-coloured and mesmerising Andean Cock-of-the-rock at their lek. Moving on to the steamy jungles of the Amazon rainforest, birdwatching is literally in the canopy from a suspended walkway. Observation towers offer great views of brightly coloured Cotingas, Aracaris and Tanagers. Explore channels by dugout canoe for close encounters of the prehistoric-looking Hoatzin and the scarce Orange-crested Manakin. You should also see Red Howler and Squirrel Monkeys with a background symphony of amphibians and cicadas. A short excursion by dugout and motorised canoe to the claylicks is well worth it. Here you might experience hundreds of parrots, or just a handful – in any event the forest walks can add plenty of species inc. Blue-crowned Trogon and Golden-headed Manakin. This birdwatching tour will be full of ornithological surprises. Be ready for species overload, in a pleasant way, and a desire to return, knowing that you have only just scratched the surface.



Sword-billed Hummingbird © V Perez



Beautiful Jay © V Perez



Pale-mandibled Aracari © V Perez



Amazon in a dugout canoe © J Thomas



Hoatzin © J Thomas



Blue and Yellow Macaw © V Perez

**Day 1: Flight** (excluded, but can easily be booked via the internet). Arrive at Quito International Airport where you will be welcomed by your driver and taken to a local hotel for the night. Meals: Payable directly.

### Day 2: Quito - Yanacocha - Bellavista

We recommend a 6 am start and your driver/guide will meet you at your hotel. The adventure begins as you leave Quito via the famous Nono-Mindo Road. Look for Yellow Grosbeak, Rufous-naped Brush-Finch, Green-tailed Trainbearer and Sparkling Violetear on the way to Yanacocha at 3,400m on the slopes of Volcan Pinchincha. Black-breasted Puffleg, an Ecuadorian endemic, has to be Yanacocha's most sought-after species. Scarlet-bellied and Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers, plus many other Tanager species add a real splash of colour. Ocellated Tapaculo and Rufous Antpitta are easier to hear than to see. Hummingbird feeders along the main Inca Trail attract many species inc. Sword-billed. Then journey along the Nono-Mindo road birding on the way. Check in at local lodge. (Box B & L), (D)

### Day 3: Bellavista/Tandayapa Valley area

Spend the whole day exploring the Bellavista / Tandayapa Valley area. Some of the speciality species include Beautiful Jay, Golden-headed and Crested Quetzal, Tanager Finch and Swallow-tailed Nightjar. Sickle-winged Guan, Grass-green & Flame-throated Tanagers, Purple-bibbed Whitetip and Red-billed Parrot are all likely. Return for second night at lodge. (B,L,D)

### Day 4: Bellavista - Mindo

It is only a short drive to Mindo and you will bird watch on the way. Altitudinal changes will offer some different species. Expect to see Pale-mandibled Aracari, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Masked Trogon, Orange-crowned and Thick-billed Euphonias, Black-cheeked and Powerful Woodpeckers, various Woodcreepers, Antshrikes, Leaf-tossers, Foliage-Gleaners,

Antbirds and Antpittas. Spend all day exploring local forest trails and birding from the roadside in the most productive habitats. Night at lodge in Mindo. (B) (L or Box L)

### Day 5 & 6: Mindo area inc. Milpe & Rio Silanche

Explore both areas. At Milpe target species inc. Club-winged Manakin, Chocó Toucan, Chocó Trogon, Glistening-green, Moss-backed and Rufous-throated Tanagers, Plumbeous Forest -Falcon, Esmeraldas Antbird, Pacific Tuftedcheek and the elusive Long-wattled Umbrellabird. Pacific Parrotlet, Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, Gray-and-gold Tanager and many others occur at Rio Silanche. Return to lodge in Mindo (B) (L or Box L).

### Day 7: Mindo - Refugio Paz De Las Aves - Quito

Today you will visit Angel Paz's private forest, well known for closeup views of Giant, Yellow-breasted and Moustached Antpittas, plus many other species inc. Andean Cock-of -the-rock. Leave in the afternoon for Quito. Night in local hotel. (B & Box L)

### Day 8-11: Quito - Coca - Sacha Lodge, Amazon

A short flight is req'd. to Coca, then journey along the Rio Napo in motorised canoe with a short walk and a final dugout canoe journey through narrow channels to the famous Sacha Lodge in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. Before you get there you might see Great or Common Potoo. Along the channels look for Hoatzin, Limpkin, Greater Ani, Orange-crested Manakin, Watch Many-banded Aracari, Spangled Cotingas, Blue and Yellow Macaw, Golden-collared Toucanet, Green and Gold and Opal-rumped Tanagers from the impressive canopy walk way and towers and on walks Black-faced, Plumbeous, White-shouldered and Sooty Antbirds (B on Day 8 – D on Day 11)

### Day 12: Sacha Lodge, Amazon - Coca - Quito

Journey back to Quito where you will be collected from the airport and transferred to your hotel. (B)

### Day 13: Quito

Transfer to airport for flight home. (B). **Tour ends**  
**Extensions available e.g. to Napo Wildlife**

**Price per person (Valid till Dec 2010) on twin-share basis for two travelling: \$2850/ three travelling: \$2480. Single room supplement: \$535. The booking of this itinerary is with Wild About Travel. Their booking terms and conditions apply.**

### Price includes:

All land transport, transfers to and from Sacha Lodge (excluding the flight) . Services of experienced driver/guide from Day 2 – 7 and trips into the Amazon rainforest (in max. group size of 8) with an experienced Sacha Lodge guide from Day 8 – 12. Accommodation and meals as specified (B = Breakfast, Box B = box/packed Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Pre-travel information. Entry to Refugio Paz De Las Aves with breakfast.

**Price excludes:** International flight. Internal flight . Quito -Coco-Quito (approx. \$131pp), International exit airport tax (\$41pp). Travel insurance. Park and sanctuary entrance fees (expect Yasuni National Park entrance fee to be \$25 pp + \$15pp entry (\$5 per site) at Yanacocha, Milpe and Rio Silanche). Some meals. Drinks, tips, laundry, phone calls and anything of a personal nature. Early check-in/Late check-out.

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