

WILD ABOUT TRAVEL - ECUADOR

Cloud forest, high Andes & Amazon birdwatching tour



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

16 Days Quito – Papallacta & Antisana – Quito – Yanacocha – Tandayapa Valley & Mindo – Refugio Paz De Las Aves – Quito – Amazon via Coca – Quito
Explore the cloud forest for vividly-coloured Tanagers, Quetzals and lekking Andean Cock-of-the-rock. Search for the mighty Andean Condor to tiny Ecuadorian Hillstar in the cooler high Andes. Then a short flight and journey along the Napo River and take in the splendour of the Amazon Rainforest. Explore channels by dugout canoe for Hoatzin and many other bright and more cryptic species, see brightly coloured Blue and Spangled Cotingas from canopy towers and flocks of Parrots exploding from claylicks. The sheer variety of birds is quite incredible and look out for some impressive mammals too – Red Howler and Night Monkeys, Pygmy Marmoset etc.

Day 1: Flight to Quito excluded (but easily booked via the internet). Arrive Quito International Airport where you will be welcomed by your driver. If time permits enjoy a ½ day tour of this city World Heritage Site. Night at hotel in Quito. Meals: Payable directly.

Day 2: Quito – Papallacta area

Depart early for drive to Papallacta. Species might include Andean Condor, Carunculated Caracara, Giant Hummingbird, Torrent Duck and Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager. Spend the night at Guango Lodge (Box bfast with L & D)

Day 3: Guango Lodge area

Explore locally for Sword-billed Hummingbird, Tourmaline Sunangel, White-bellied Woodstar, Turquoise Jay, Andean and Sickle-winged Guans. Night at same local lodge. (B, L & D)

Day 4: Guango Lodge – Antisana – Quito

Head back to Quito via Antisana to look for the rare Black-faced Ibis as well as Ecuadorian Hillstar, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Andean Lapwing and Stout-billed Cinclodes. Night in Quito. (Box bfast)

Day 5: Quito – Yanacocha – Tandayapa Valley

Leave early via the famous Nono-Mindo Road. Your first stop will be Yanacocha, situated on the slopes of Volcan Pinchincha at 3,400 m. Before you get there look out for the colourful Southern Yellow Grosbeak, Green-tailed Trainbearer and listen for Tawny Antpitta in roadside scrub.

Yanacocha's most sought-after species has to be Black-breasted Puffleg – an Ecuadorian endemic, just one of many species of hummingbird you'll see. Black-chested Mountain-Tanager and many other Tanagers add colour. Ocellated Tapaculo and Rufous Antpitta are easier to hear than to see. Your journey continues along the Nono-Mindo road birding on the way. Check-in at Bellavista Lodge with excellent birding along roadside and local trails. (Box bfast with L & D).

Day 6: Bellavista/Tandayapa Valley

Birdwatch locally all day around Bellavista. Species include Swallow-tailed Nightjar, Beautiful Jay and Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Tanager Finch, Plushcap and Crested Quetzal. (B, L & D)

Days 7 and 8: Mindo area

After a final morning at Bellavista take the short drive to Mindo. At lower altitude you will experience different birds. Nights at local lodge where the endemic Pale-mandibled Aracari feeds in the grounds and Booted Racket-tail, Velvet-purple Coronet, Violet-tailed Sylph Hummingbirds visit the feeders. (B and L or box L)

Day 9: Mindo – Refugio Paz De Las Aves – Quito

In the early morning visit the famous Angel Paz Reserve in search of Giant, Yellow-breasted and Moustached Antpittas. Drive back to Quito in the afternoon. Night at hotel in Quito. (B and box L)

Days 10-13: Quito – Coca – Sacha Lodge, Amazon.

A short flight is required to Coca, then journey along the Rio Napo by 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 Cotinga, Blue and Yellow Macaw, Golden-collared Toucanet, Green and Gold plus Opal-rumped Tanagers from the canopy walk way and towers. Walk trails for Black-faced, Plumbeous and White-shouldered Antbirds. (All meals from B on Day 10 to B on Day 13)

Days 13-15: Napo Wildlife Centre and Yasuni NP

After breakfast at Sacha you will leave for Napo Wildlife Centre where you will stay for two nights. More Amazon highlights – Anaconda, Zigzag and Capped Herons, White-chinned Jacamar, Collared Puffbird, Golden Tamarin Monkey and Giant Otter are all possible plus much more. From a 40m tower you will check the canopy for both Scarlet and Red-bellied Macaw and you might see Crested Eagle or Harpy Eagle if you are lucky. A visit to a parrot claylick is a must. Stay in exquisite cabañas overlooking Añangu Lake. (L on day 13 to B on day 15).

Day 15: Napo Wildlife Centre – Coca – Quito

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

Day 16: Quito

Transfer to airport for flight home. (B). **Tour ends**



Andean Cock-of-the-rock © V Perez



Choco Trogon © V Perez



Amazon canopy walkway © J Thomas



Parrot lick, Yasuni N.P. © A Davies



Green-crowned Woodnymph © J Thomas

Price per person (Valid till Dec 2010) on twin-share basis for two travelling: \$4095. 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 & Napo Wildlife Centre (excluding the flight). Note: Arrival at Sacha Lodge should be on a Friday and departure to Napo on a Monday to avoid supplement. Services of an experienced driver/guide and excursions into the Amazon rainforest (in a max. group size of 8). Accommodation and meals as specified (B = Breakfast or Box B = box/packed Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Pre-travel information.

Price excludes:

International flight. Internal flight Quito –Coca –Quito (approx. \$131pp). International exit airport tax (\$41pp). Travel insurance. Park and sanctuary entrance fees (expect \$25 pp. at Yasuni National Park \$5 pp. at Yanacocha and \$10 pp. at Refugio Paz De Las Aves. Some meals. Drinks, tips, laundry, phone calls and anything of a personal nature. Early check-in / late check-out.

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