

WILD ABOUT TRAVEL - ECUADOR

Cloud forest & Amazon birdwatching and wildlife tour



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

16 Days Quito –Yanacocha – Tandayapa Valley & Mindo – Refugio Paz De Las Aves – Quito – Amazon via Coca – Quito

Explore the cloud forest for vividly-coloured and sought-after species including Golden-headed Quetzal, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan and lekking Andean Cock-of-the-rock. Then a short flight and journey along the Napo River and you'll be taking in the splendour of the Amazon Rainforest. Explore channels by dugout canoe for Hoatzin, swim with Piranhas (optional!) and see brightly coloured Blue and Spangled Cotingas from canopy walkways and towers. Watch flocks of Parrots explode from a claylick. The sheer variety of birds is quite incredible and look out for some impressive mammals too – Red Howler, Golden Tamarin and 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 a hotel in Quito. Meals: Payable directly.

Day 2: 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 and one of many species of hummingbird you'll observe. 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 3: Bellavista/Tandayapa Valley Birdwatch locally around Bellavista. Species include Swallow-tailed Nightjar, Beautiful Jay and Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Tanager Finch, Plushcap and Crested Quetzal. (B, L & D)

Days 4 and 5: 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 the hummingbird feeders attract Booted Racket-tail, Velvet-purple Coronet and Violet-tailed Sylph. (B and L or box L)



Giant Otter © J Dale

Day 6: 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 a hotel in Quito. (B and box L)

Days 7-11: 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, and 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, White-shouldered and Plumbeous Antbirds. Mammals include Green Acouchi, Kinkajou, Black-mantled Tamarin, Pygmy Marmoset, Squirrel Monkey and White-fronted Capuchin. Look for Black Caiman at dusk. (All meals from B on Day 7 to B on Day 11)

Days 11-14: Napo Wildlife Centre and Yasuni NP After breakfast at Sacha you will leave for Napo Wildlife Centre where you will stay for four nights. More Amazon highlights – Anaconda, Zigzag, Agami and Capped Herons, Golden-headed Manakin, White-chinned Jacamar, Collared Puffbird, Giant Otter, Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth, Black Agouti, Red Howler and Golden Tamarin Monkeys are all possible plus much more. From a 40m tower 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 clay-lick is a must. Other species include Blue-crowned Motmot, Sapphire Quail-Dove and Common Piping-Guan. Stay in an exquisite cabañas overlooking Añangu Lake. (L on day 11 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



Golden-headed Quetzal © V Perez



Amazon canopy walkway © J Thomas



Parrot lick, Yasuni N.P. © A Davies



Pygmy Marmoset © Sacha Lodge

Price per person (Valid till Dec 2010) on twin-share basis for two travelling: \$3735. 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 Monday to avoid supplement. Services of an experienced driver/guide and excursions into the Amazon rainforest (in 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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