

COLOMBIA



Main Tour: Nov. 27 – Dec. 8, 2017
12 Days / 11 Nights
\$4995
Single Supplement \$400

Extension: December 8 – 15, 2017
8 Days / 7 Nights
\$2495
Single Supplement \$370

Combined Tour: November 27 – December 15, 2017
19 Days / 18 Nights
\$7390
Single Supplement \$740

Day 1, Nov. 27: Arrive in Bogota and transfer to Jardin Encantado

Morning arrival in Bogotá and drive to Jardín (roughly 70 km. - one hour drive). This area is located on the western edge of the Eastern Andean Range. Our target here would be mainly hummingbirds, with 27 species in the area. We would spend the following **two nights in Victoria**. We will reach a maximum altitude of 1,500 metres today.

O/N TBA (LD)

Day 2, Nov. 28: Rio Magdalena Valley IBA

We will spend a full day birding the Río Magdalena Valley, where the habitat corresponds to Tropical Wet Forest. This is one of Colombia's IBAs (Important Bird Areas), and there are roughly 150 species of birds, including 6 endemics. We will remain for the whole day at an altitude of roughly 700 metres.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 3, Nov. 29: Victoria to Libano

Today we will drive from Victoria to Libano (roughly 140 km), birding en route. We will spend time birding at Chacra de Guarinocito, roughly 27 km away from Victoria in the Río Magdalena area, where our goal is to explore other habitats, focusing partially on aquatic birds, including Horned Screamer. We'll spend the **night in Libano**. We will reach a maximum altitude of 1,400 metres today.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 4, Nov. 30: Libano to Rio Blanco

Today we'll go birding in a private reserve in the coffee plantations area, on the western slope of the Central Andean Range. Some bird species in this area come all the way from the Paramo, getting as low as the

Magdalena River area. This is where many of the Tolima specialties are usually found, with species including Tolima Dove and Yellow-headed Brush Finch. We will continue driving some 140 km., down to **Río Blanco**, and check into our hotel for the following **6 nights**. During our staying at the Río Blanco area, the average altitude will be 2,200 metres.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Days 5 & 6, Dec. 1 & 2: Río Blanco IBA

We will spend two days birding one of Colombia's main IBAs: Río Blanco. This is considered one of the three best birding spots in Colombia, boasting some 380 birds, including 13 endemic or near endemic species! We will explore the cloud forest here, looking for some astounding birds like Brown-banded, Bicolored and five other species of Antpittas, Rusty-faced Parrot, Masked Saltator and 33 species of hummingbirds. We will actually spend time at both hummingbird and antpitta feeders, thus having excellent opportunities not just for watching, but also for photographing many of these spectacular birds.

O/N TBA (BLD)



Day 7, Dec. 3: Parque Nacional Natural Los Nevados

Today we'll go birding in one of Colombia's most extreme habitats, the Paramo, at roughly 4,000 metres above sea level. We'll leave Río Blanco for Parque Nacional Natural Los Nevados in the morning, and spend the day birding along the way and in high altitude looking for some wonderful birds such as Andean Condor, Rufous-fronted Parakeet and Buffy Helmetcrest, to name but a few.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 8, Dec. 4: Villa María and environs

We will spend the day birding the Villa María area, particularly the shady understory in and around coffee plantations, looking for some of Caldas' specialties, including birds like Torrent Duck and Turquoise Dacnis.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 9, Dec. 5: Rio Blanco

We will spend the day birding the lowest areas of Río Blanco, particularly Recinto del Pensamiento, where besides visiting other feeders we'll walk along several trails adorned by a myriad of orchids, looking for sub-Andean forest birds. There are roughly 17 species of hummingbirds here, and chances are very good for Chestnut Woodquail.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 10, Dec. 6: Rio Blanco to Chinchina

Today we'll leave behind the Río Blanco area, and drive a short distance to the southwest, where we'll spend the following two nights at the Village of Chinchiná. On the way there, we will make a stop at Ecoparque Alcázares - El Arenillo, and spend time birding this wonderful sub-urban reserve with over 200 birds, including species like Greyish Piculet and Parker's Antbird. Chinchiná sits at 1,400 metres above sea level.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 11, Dec. 7: Chinchina

We will spend the day birding the surroundings of Chinchiná, putting a special emphasis in the area of Camaguadua Dam - Lago Balsora, where we will focus on aquatic birds. This area is well known for birders the world over, and it is here where many Colombian rarities have been found, including recent sightings of Carib Grackle and Ring-necked Duck.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 12, Dec. 8: Transfer for flights home or continue on extension

If you are ending your time in Colombia today, you will transfer to Manizales for a flight to Bogota where you will catch your international flight home. If you are continuing on the extension, we'll leave Chinchiná and the state of Caldas behind today and drive roughly 45 kilometres south to **Otún Quimbaya**, in the state of Risaralda, where we'll spend **two nights**. But our main goal today is to go birding in the tropical dry forest area around Laguna La Esmeralda, where some 180 birds can be found, including rare specialties like Pacific Royal Flycatcher.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 13, Dec. 9: Otun Quimbaya Flora & Fauna Sanctuary

We will spend the day birding Otún Quimbaya Flora & Fauna Sanctuary, looking for specialties of the sub-Andean forest including birds like Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Andean Cock-of-the-rock and Cauca Guan among others. This reserve is also well-known for its mammal diversity with around 67 species dwelling in the forest.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 14, Dec. 10: Otun Quimbaya to Apia

We will leave behind Otún Quimbaya this morning, and drive roughly 95 km. to the northwest, all the way until the village of Apía, where we will spend the balance of the day birding the area of Cuchilla del San Juan. We will spend the **night in Apía**, at roughly 1,600 metres above sea level.

O/N TBA (BLD)



Golden-breasted Fruiteater



Flame-rumped Tanager

Day 15, Dec. 11: Parque Natural Cuchilla del San Juan

Today we will go birding in Parque Natural Cuchilla del San Juan, looking for specialties including Yellow-headed Manakin, Golden-breasted Fruiteater, Purple-throated Woodstar and Whiskered Wren to name but a few. Afternoon drive to **Montezuma Hill**, where we'll spend the following **three nights**.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Days 16 & 17, Dec. 12 & 13: Montezuma Hill area

We will explore Montezuma Hill for two days, including the Chocó Highlands, Laguna Madre Vieja and the higher Cauca River. Among other specialties, we will focus on finding wonderful birds like Gold-ringed and Black-and-gold Tanagers, Crested Ant Tanager and around 19 species of Pacific slope hummingbirds. While in this area, altitudes will range between 900 and roughly 2,000 metres above sea level.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 18, Dec. 14: Montezuma Hill to Buga

We will leave Montezuma behind this morning, and drive south, all the way to the area of Buga, where we will go birding at Laguna de Sonso, looking for different birds than the ones that we have seen before, including species like Northern Screamer and Apical Flycatcher. Other rare birds spotted here include Orinoco Goose and Scarlet Ibis. We will spend the night in a Lodge not far from Cali, in the Cauca Valley.

O/N TBA (BLD)

Day 19, Dec. 15: Finca Alejandria

We will spend the day birding the area of Finca Alejandria at Km. 18, where up to 14 species of tanagers can be easily spotted, including the endemic Multicolored Tanager. It is also here where chances are high for the magnificent Crested Quetzal and there are around 25 species of hummingbirds visiting the lodge feeders. **The tour ends in the late evening at the airport of Cali, where you will catch your homeward-bound flight.**

(BLD)

The price INCLUDES:

- All meals as indicated in itinerary
- Lodging
- All entry fees to national parks and reserves
- Expert bilingual bird guide during the entire trip
- Bottled Water
- Cheepers! tour leaders, Jim and Cindy Beckman
- Private transportation for all transfers and excursions
- Pretrip gift package, including customized checklist
- Post-trip electronic checklist and photo dvd

The price does NOT include:

- International and internal Colombia airfare
- Personal travel and medical insurance
- Drinks other than bottled water
- Tips
- Items of a personal nature, such as snacks, laundry souvenirs, etc