

ECUADOR

**Amazon Basin Extension
September 7 - 12, 2023**

\$TBA

Day 1, September 7: Travel to the Amazon Basin – Napo Wildlife Center

We will finish our main Ecuador tour at Wildsumaco on September 7. Those who are going home will return to Quito for international departures later that night or the next day. Those going on this extension will drive to Coca where we will board a large, motorized boat for a scenic two-hour trip down the Napo River. Upon arriving at the entrance to the National Wildlife Center Reserve, we will switch to smaller dugout canoes and will be paddled up the blackwater creek called Anangu Stream to the lake and lodge (no motorized transport is allowed on the creek or lake so that wildlife isn't disturbed). The lodge is owned and managed by native Quichua Indians on their own tribal land. This is the only way to access this remote and magical place; there are no roads in the area. For more information about Napo Wildlife Center, go to <http://www.napowildlifecenter.com>

During the canoe trip we might find some Amazonian specialties like Hoatzin, Swallow-winged Puffbird, Yellow-headed Caracara, Ladder-tailed Nightjar and even Amazonian Umbrellabird if really lucky. From the paddle canoe we will have great birding opportunities as we go slowly through forest. This part of the Amazon is home to a whopping 600 species of birds, and we hope to find a good number of them during our stay here.

O/N Napo Wildlife Center (BLD)



Days 2 - 4, September 8 - 10: Amazon Rain Forest

During our days at Napo Wildlife Center, we will be birding in several ecosystems which only occur lower than 300masl: **Terra Firme** and **Riparian forests**, **Várzea** and **Igapo flooded forests**, **River Islands** and **Parrot Clay Licks**. Each one holds its own related avifauna. Our day-by-day itinerary will be planned upon arrival at the lodge.

In Terra Firme forest: Antbirds are one of the main undergrowth groups typified by Black-spotted and Reddish-winged Bare-eyes; Bicolored, Hairy-crested, White-plumed, Sooty, and Lunulated Antbirds; Rio Suno, Long-winged, and Dougan's Antwrens, among others. Also inside the forest, more than 8 kinds of Woodcreepers are present, plus Ash-throated Gnateaters, Short-billed and Black-tailed Leaf-tossers, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Rusty-belted Tapaculo, Musician Wren, Marbled Wood-Quail, over 5 species of Tinamous, Yellow-billed Jacamar, and more. Several territories of Wire-tailed Manakin, Striped Manakin and other *piprids* are at hand. Nocturnal birds are well represented; among those there are Crested, Spectacled, Black-banded and Mottled Owls, Tawny-bellied and Tropical Screech-Owls, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, and both Common and Great Potoos.

From the Canopy: Ornate and Black Hawk-Eagles are not as rare as the (also possible) Crested and Harpy Eagles. The most numerous group here are the thraupids like Green, Purple and, sometimes, Short-billed Honeycreepers; Yellow-bellied Dacnis; and Masked, Paradise, Turquoise, and Flame-crested Tanagers. The green canopy contrasts with the colors of Plum-throated, Spangled and Purple-throated Cotingas. Fairly common are White-throated and Channel-billed Toucans, as well as Many-banded and Ivory-billed Araçaris. Seen mainly in flight are Chestnut-fronted, Red-bellied and Blue-and-yellow Macaws, Orange-winged Amazon, and White-eyed Parakeet. Other desired birds of the canopy are Golden-collared Toucanet, Black-bellied Thorntail, and Gould's Jewelfront

On River Islands: With luck, the spectacular Amazonian Umbrellabird, Horned Screamer, Roseate Spoonbill, and Rufous-headed Woodpecker can be seen from a canoe. Ladder-tailed Nightjar is common as well as some islands specialities like Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Lesser Hornero, Barred and Castelnau's Antshrikes, River Tyrannulet, Fuscous Flycatcher, Black-and-white Antbird, and Parker's, Plain-crowned and White-bellied Spinetails.

In Flooded Forest: The Ecuador near-endemic Orange-crested Manakin is present as well as Long-billed Woodcreeper. Agami Heron and Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Dot-backed Antbird, White-chinned Jacamar, Rufous-tailed Flatbill are not rare. The desirable Zigzag Heron is a good possibility.

O/N Napo Wildlife Center (BLD)

Day 5, September 11: Transfer Back to Quito

We will leave the lodge early in the morning, which just gives us short birding time, mainly from the dugout canoes. We will be transported back up the Napo River to Coca, and then to the airport for our flight back to Quito. On the way back to Coca we might be able to pick up some birds we may have missed before. At the airport in Coca we can get the last new birds just along the runway side grasses; Red-breasted Blackbird, Pearl Kite and Ruddy Ground-Dove are

relatively easy and Cattle Tyrant is a possibility. In the afternoon we will arrive in Quito, where you will check in at Hacienda Jimenita. We'll enjoy a farewell dinner this evening, and some people will most likely opt to leave this evening if they are on an airline that offers only red-eye flights back to the US. Everyone will have a room at the hotel to freshen up, rest, and pack for the journey home.

Overnight Hacienda Jimenita, Quito (BLD)

Day 6, September 12: Departure

Transfer to the Quito International Airport for those who did not fly out on the 16th.

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The price INCLUDES:

- All meals during tour (Lunch on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 6)
- Bottled water
- Transportation Coca – Napo Wildlife Center by boat
- Flight Coca - Quito
- All entry fees to reserves in itinerary
- All Lodging
- Expert bilingual Ecuadorian bird guide(s) during the entire trip (2 guides for groups of 10-12; 1 guide for smaller groups)
- Services of 2 ***Cheepers!*** Tour Leaders (Jim & Cindy Beckman)
- Transfers to and from the airport
- Farewell dinner in Quito
- Post-trip electronic version of final checklist
- Post-trip photo collection on flash drive or DVD

The price does NOT include:

- International airfare
- Tips (Suggested tip is \$10 per person per day for birding guide(s), \$5 per day for driver)
- Items of a personal nature, such as extra drinks, snacks, alcoholic beverages, laundry, souvenirs, etc.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Deposit of \$350 with registration. Balance is due with main tour payment on or before April 24, 2023.