

# ECUADOR

## Amazon Basin Extension

September 9 - 14, 2024

**\$2897\***

**Single supplement \$1000**

**\*Price is based on a group of 8 – 12.**

**\*Small-group surcharges will apply for smaller groups; amount will vary.**

**\*Price includes 2 expert birding guides plus local guides for groups of 8–12.**

**\*Price includes 1 expert birding guide plus local guide for groups of 4-7.**



### **Day 1, September 9: Travel to the Amazon Basin – Napo Wildlife Center**

We will finish our main Ecuador tour at Wildsumaco on September 9. 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 board a large, motorized boat for a scenic two-hour trip down the Napo River. Upon arriving at the entrance to the Napo Wildlife Center Reserve, we will switch to smaller dugout canoes and will be paddled up the blackwater creek 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 boat trip we can find some Amazonian specialties like 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.

### **O/N Napo Wildlife Center (BLD)**

#### **Days 2 - 4, September 10 - 12: 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 to 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, 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 Gnatcatchers, 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, 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 Antshrike, River Tyrannulet, Fuscous Flycatcher, Black-and-white Antbird, Parkers, 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 13: Transfer Back to Quito**

We 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 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 rare chance (that we saw on the boat dock on a previous tour!). 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 14: Departure**

Transfer to the Quito International Airport for those who did not fly out on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

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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) with groups of 8 or more
- 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 boatmen)
- Items of a personal nature, such as extra drinks, snacks, alcoholic beverages, laundry, souvenirs, etc.

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

Deposit of \$500 with registration. Balance is due with main tour payment on or before April 26, 2024.

***Cheepers! Birding on a Budget LLC reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary if the need should arise due to unforeseeable circumstances such as weather, landslides, and other natural phenomena, as well as suggestions by local guides in order to take advantage of an unusual birding opportunity; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible if the need to make changes arises. Lodging is subject to change based on availability.***