



ECUADOR BIRDING

CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY

March 23 - 31, 2018



Ecuador offers a world of contrasts and is listed among the countries with the greatest number of bird species in the world. Join Clearwater Audubon Society for a journey to some of Ecuador's top birding hotspots. From abundant hummingbirds and tanagers and Chocó endemics, Ecuador is a spectacular destination for birding.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit productive birding hotspots and wildlife areas, such as Mindo Loma and the Milpe Bird Sanctuary.
- Seek out regional endemic species like Plumbeous Forest-Falcon, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan and the Glistening-green Tanager.
- Explore the Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve and its 250 species of birds and 32 hummingbirds.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual expert birding guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offset



Mindo, Ecuador Cloud forest Photo by Ayacop

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

NOTE: This trip will average 6-8 hours a day of birding and covers high elevations. Some of the steeper trails may be rather strenuous.

MARCH 23 - PUEMBO

Upon arrival in Quito, you'll be met by your guide and transferred to the hotel. *Overnight at Rincón de Puenbo.*

MARCH 24 - MINDO

Depart from the hotel early in the morning. En route to Mindo, visit Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve. Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve sits over two major valleys and covers a large range of altitudes (4,750 to 7,210 ft.) with several different habitats. Alambi has a recorded list of 250 species of birds and 32 hummingbirds seen either at the feeders or in the reserve. Later continue your trip through the Nono Mindo Eco Road. Located in the Tandayapa Valley, this cloud forest is part of the Chocó Endemic Bird Area of Northwest Ecuador, with lovely panoramic views and lots of birds including the Andean Cock of the rock. Arrive in Mindo in the afternoon. *Overnight at Sachatamia. (BLD)*

MARCH 25 - MINDO

Early this morning visit Mindo Loma Reserve for birding along the road and at Mindo Loma. Mindo Loma is a medium altitude (4,590 ft.) private cloud forest located between Nanegalito and the road to Mindo. It has 17 acres of primary and secondary recovering cloud forest. It may be possible to see the Velvet-purple Coronet, Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, and the Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager. Lunch on site, then return to the lodge in the afternoon. *Overnight at Sachatamia. (BLD)*

MARCH 26 - MINDO

This morning visit Milpe Bird Sanctuary, located in the subtropical rainforest. Milpe Bird Sanctuary covers 49 acres with an altitudinal range of 3,350 to 3,770 ft. Located in the Chocó Andean foothills in a Birdlife International defined Important Bird Area (IBA) Los Bancos Milpe, birding guides consider this one of the finest sites in all of Ecuador. Many of the most spectacular Chocó endemics are protected here, including Plumbeous Forest-Falcon, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Glistening-green Tanager, Chocó Trogon, Club-winged Manakin, and Long-wattled Umbrellabird to name just a few. This site is also known for sightings of the rare Moss-backed Tanager. Continue to Mirador Río Blanco for lunch. This place is a birder's dream and great for seeing tanagers. In the afternoon return to the lodge. *Overnight at Sachatamia. (BLD)*

MARCH 27 - ANTISANA

Depart from Mindo early in the morning and travel to the Sangolquí Valley with a birding stop at Calacalí. The dry scrub at Calacalí is home to species such as the Tufted Tit-tyrant, Black-tailed Trainbearer, Golden-rumped Euphonia, and the vulnerable White-tailed Shrike-tyrant. Afternoon to enjoy the Hacienda. *Overnight at Hacienda La Carriona. (BLD)*

MARCH 28 - COSANGA

Full morning birding along the trails at Antisana Ecological Reserve. Located between the Andes and the Amazon lowlands, the privately owned Antisana Ecological Reserve's 297,000 acres has varied ecological zones ranging from páramo to lowland (18,886 ft.) to lowland rainforest. More than 70 bird species can be found here, including the Andean Condor, Giant Hummingbird, Carunculated Caracara, Black-faced Ibis, Speckled Teal, Andean Duck, Silvery Grebe, Slate-colored Coot, Andean Gull, Andean Lapwing, and Aplomado Falcon. The snow-capped Antisana Volcano is the fourth highest peak in Ecuador with an altitude of 18,900 ft., adding to the breathtaking Andean scenery that can be enjoyed along the trails. In the afternoon, continue to Cabañas San Isidro. This private reserve forms an important bridge between the Antisana and Gran Sumaco Reserves, and the area boasts a bird list of about 330 species, many of which are more easily found here than anywhere else in the country. *Overnight at San Isidro Lodge. (BLD)*

MARCH 29 - COSANGA

Explore the area accompanied by your guide. San Isidro Lodge is situated at about 6,726 ft. above sea level, but the trails lead through elevations ranging from 7,874 ft. all the way down to 6,069 ft., making this an ideal base to observe Andean birds from the lower reaches of the temperate zone down into the heart of the subtropical zone. Among the rarities here are Highland Tinamou, Bicolored Antvireo, Peruvian Antpitta, and White-faced Nunbird. Commonly spotted species include Powerful Woodpecker, Smoky Bush-Tyrant, Inca Jay, Black-billed Peppershrike, Wattled Guan, and Glossy-black Thrush. Look for Sickle-winged Guan, Masked Trogon, Andean Motmot, Streak-capped and Striped Treehunters, Long-tailed Antbird, Slate-crowned Antpitta, Black-chested Fruiteater, Pale-footed Swallow, and a variety of colorful tanagers among the mixed understory. *Overnight at San Isidro Lodge. (BLD)*

MARCH 30 - PUEMBO

After breakfast, check out of San Isidro and continue to Guango Lodge. Located about one hour away from San Isidro, Guango lies at an elevation of about 8,858 ft. on Ecuador's eastern slope, close to the hot springs of Papallacta. This area is classified as humid temperate forest, a habitat distinctly different from San Isidro and is characterized by its more stunted trees, thicker canopy, cooler climate, and different bird and plant composition. The hummingbird feeders here are especially popular, with some of the more noteworthy species being Mountain Velvetbreast, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Tourmaline Sunangel, Golden-breasted and Glowing Pufflegs, Mountain Avocetbill, and White-bellied and Gorgeted Woodstars. Other birds of particular interest that are seen regularly include the Andean Guan, Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan, Turquoise Jay, Scarlet-bellied, Lacrimose, Buff-breasted and Hooded Mountain-Tanagers, Gray-hooded Bush-Tanager, Black-headed, Black-capped and Black-eared Hemispingus and Slaty Brush-Finch. Enjoy lunch at Guango and in the afternoon continue the drive back to Puenbo, near the Quito airport. This evening reflect on the journey during a farewell dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Rincon de Puenbo. (BLD)*

MARCH 31 - DEPARTURE

Transfer to the airport for the flight home. (B)

LAND PRICING

\$2,550

Cost includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, activities, in-country transportation, donation to CAS and full time birding guide.

Does not include gratuities, items of a personal nature, or international airfare, estimated at \$650 from Tampa (as of March 2017).

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$250 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable until December 18, 2017 excluding a \$100 cancellation fee, at which time non-refundable final payment is due in full. Progress payments accepted. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Debbie Sturdivant Jordan at 866-748-6146 or debbie@holbrooktravel.com or visit <http://holbrook.travel/clearwaterec>