



PHOTO BY MICHAEL GOLDMAN



COLOMBIA

BIRDING THE CENTRAL ANDES WITH CAYUGA BIRD CLUB

December 1 – 10, 2021

With over 1,900 avian species—more than any other country in the world—Colombia is a birder’s paradise waiting to be discovered. This 10-day program focuses on the highlights of the Central Andes region, famed for its high level of species diversity, including the Otún Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, Rio Blanco Reserve, and Los Nevados National Park. Explore Andean cloud forest, farmland, páramo, and wetland habitats in search of an array of tropical avifauna, including flycatchers, hummingbirds, tanagers, toucans, and more. Along the way, learn about conservation efforts to use birding as a sustainable development resource.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Seek out a variety of Colombia’s rare and endemic species, such as the Cauca Guan, Chestnut Wood-Quail, Crested Ant-Tanager, and Buffy Helmetcrest.
- Watch the antpitta feeders in Rio Blanco Natural Reserve, a designated Important Bird Area, and look for large mixed flocks in this area.
- Explore the cloud forest at a relatively new birding location, La Finca El Cortaderal, where a population of critically endangered Fuertes’s Parrot was discovered.
- Spend several days in and around the reserve at Otún Quimbaya, including great opportunities for owling at night.
- Look for Ultramarine Grosbeak, Orange-bellied Euphonia, and a variety of hummingbirds among La Romelia’s orange groves and bamboo thickets.

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ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DECEMBER 1 - PEREIRA

Arrive in Pereira and get settled into your hotel. Attend an orientation with your guide, either this evening or tomorrow morning, depending on flight schedules. Check-in starts at 3 pm. Elevation at Pereira: 4,629 ft. *Overnight at Sonesta Hotel Pereira. (D)*

DECEMBER 2 - OTÚN QUIMBAYA

After breakfast, check out and travel to Otún Quimbaya. Located on the western slope of the central mountain range, Otún Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary protects the middle basin of the Otún River and the Andean and high Andean forests surrounding it. The site has been reforested for more than 40 years, creating connectivity with the well-preserved forests of the upper part of Los Nevados National Natural Park and resulting in a biological corridor of great importance in the Central Andes. It is managed by the Yarumo Blanco Foundation, a national example of community- and bird-based tourism. All members of the foundation are local farmers who have made an unparalleled effort to make Otún one of the best sanctuaries in the country. This afternoon, search for birds on a little-used road or on the paths inside the forest. Look for Cauca Guan, Chestnut Wood-Quail, Torrent Duck, Colombian Screech-Owl, Emerald Toucanet, Hooded Antpitta, Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Flame-rumped Tanager, Scrub Tanager, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Multicolored Tanager, Crested Ant-Tanager, and White-capped Tanager—just a few of the 400 species that have been recorded here. It is also possible to see large Andean mammals, such as mountain tapir and sometimes spectacled bear. Otún is very good for owling, so you'll have the chance for night exploration each evening. Please note: Wi-Fi is not available at the lodge. Elevation at Otún-Quimbaya National Park/Central Andes: 5,250 - 5,900 ft. Temperature: 59-64 °F. *Overnight at Otún Quimbaya Lodge. (BLD)*



DECEMBER 3 - OTÚN QUIMBAYA

Spend a full day birding in the Otún Quimbaya reserve, with owling at night around the lodge. *Overnight at Otún Quimbaya Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 4 - SANTA ROSA DE CABAL

Continue birding in the Otún Quimbaya reserve and around the Otún River this morning, then visit the lowland wetlands of Camaguadua Reservoir to see aquatic species such as Bare-faced Ibis, Wattled Jacana, and flocks of wintering Blue-winged Teal. This afternoon, drive to Santa Rosa de Cabal and have

dinner at the beautiful Hacienda Santa Clara. Elevation at Santa Rosa de Cabal: 5,581 ft. *Overnight at Hacienda Santa Clara. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 5 - SANTA ROSA DE CABAL

Visit the cloud forest at La Finca El Cortaderal near Santa Rosa de Cabal municipality. This is a relatively new location for birding in the Central Andes; a population of critically endangered Fuertes's Parrot, also known as the Indigo-winged Parrot, was discovered here. The afternoon is at leisure to relax or explore the Andean cloud forest of the lodge's trail system. *Overnight at Hacienda Santa Clara. (BLD)*



DECEMBER 6 - LOS NEVADOS

Travel to Los Nevados area and bird the páramo, making stops along the way at various elevations. En route, visit La Romelia Reserve, considered a top spot by birders who also are looking for different cultural experiences. You will be able to visit various trails in the orange groves and forest edge, while a spectacular breakfast awaits you in the middle of your trip through the grove! Birding guides, also knowledgeable in orchids, are ready to show you the various spots on the trail best for viewing. There have been 188 species recorded here, including hummingbird gems such as White-necked Jacobin, Green Hermit, Black-throated Mango, Western Emerald, and Steely-vented and Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds. Among the orange trees, you may find the Ultramarine Grosbeak and the Orange-bellied Euphonia. In the *Guadua* (bamboo) thickets, it is possible to locate the Speckle-breasted Wren and the Jet Antbird. Once you arrive at the hotel, enjoy the hot springs at Termales del Ruiz before dinner. *Overnight at Termales del Ruiz. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 7 - LOS NEVADOS

Today search for birds in Los Nevados National Park and explore the higher elevations, up to 13,000 feet. Some of today's specialties include Buffy Helmetcrest, Many-striped Canastero, White-chinned Thistletail, Tawny Antpitta, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, Stout-billed Cinclodes, Glossy Flowerpiercer, Andean Lapwing, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill. Greater Sapphirewing, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, and Black-thighed Puffleg. The park is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places in the country; the landscape is framed by snow-capped peaks that include three active volcanoes: El Ruiz, Santa Isabel, and Tolima. In addition to great birding, the flora is another draw, featuring an immensity of rare and unique species. *Overnight at Termales del Ruiz. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 8 - MANIZALES

This morning, depart for Hacienda El Bosque. The reserve is characterized by large patches of high Andean cloud forest mixed with livestock paddocks and potato fields. This area has recently become even more popular due to the incredible feeders made for antpittas, tanagers, and hummingbirds, and also because many species of mountain-tanagers and mountain-toucans tend to come to the surroundings of the main house. It currently boasts a bird list of over 120 species, including Purple-backed Thornbill, Crescent-faced Antpitta, Grey-bellied Mountain-Toucan, Golden-breasted Puffleg, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Ocellated Tapaculo, Black-collared Jay, Rufous Wren, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, Plushcap, and Capped Conebill. Elevation is 9,187 to 9,843 feet with unpaved roads and trails inside the reserve. Continue to Tinamú Reserve, where the Audubon International Alliances Program hosted a guide training program to prepare local guides for bird-based tourism. A community member will share this story in Spanish, with translation provided by your guide. After checking in, go hiking on the lodge trails. Elevation at Manizales: 6,913 ft. *Overnight at Tinamú Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 9 - MANIZALES

Spend more time on the trails at Tinamú. The Tinamú Nature Reserve is a mosaic of coffee with shade, secondary growth, and patches of native forest, and has feeders installed for different species. Inside the reserve, there is a network of trails with a medium level of difficulty that offers great opportunities to see birds not seen on the feeders. Some important species in Tinamú include Guira Tanager, Moustached Puffbird, Common Potoo, Golden-collared Manakin, Andean Motmot, Jet Antbird, Great Antshrike, Bay-headed Tanager, Scrub Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Grey-fronted Dove, Scaled Antpitta, Spectacled Parrotlet, Red-headed Barbet, and Colombian Chachalaca. *Overnight at Tinamú Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 10 - DEPARTURE

Spend your final morning birding in Río Blanco Natural Reserve, taking in the mixed flocks of birds utilizing the antpitta feeders in this humid tropical forest of the Magdalena Valley. The Río Blanco Reserve is an International Bird Area (IBA) in a cloud forest that belongs to the city of Manizales, protected for years to conserve the water resources that supply the city. No fewer than 450 bird species have been recorded here, many of them endemic and with ranges of restricted distribution. You may see Brown-banded Antpitta, Bicolored Antpitta, Agile Tit-Tyrant, Rusty-faced Parrot, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Slate-crowned Antpitta, Undulated Antpitta, Chestnut-naped Antpitta, Dusky Piha, and other species. In the afternoon, return to Pereira for your flight home. Elevation at Río Blanco: 7,217 - 8,530 ft. *(BL)*



LAND PRICING

\$3,450 (based on a minimum of 8 participants)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide for duration of program, bottled water on the bus, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/ Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

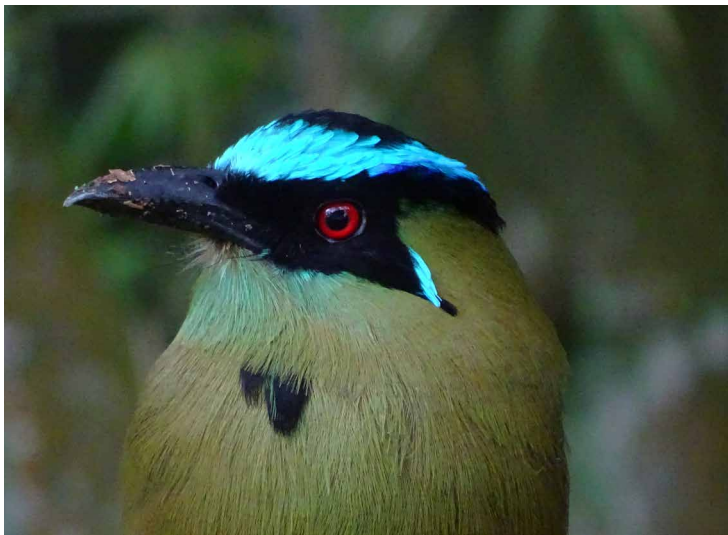
THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; single accommodations may be available at additional cost. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until August 28, 2021, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.

Please note: itineraries may be subject to change due to protocols and adjustments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the latest information regarding our COVID-19 policies, please visit holbrooktravel.com/covid19



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



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/cayuga-co21 or contact Debbie Jordan at debbie@holbrooktravel.com or 866-748-6146.