



Photos by John Winnie Jr.



ECUADOR

BIRDING & PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE ECUADORIAN HIGHLANDS

with JOHN WINNIE JR.

August 10 - 22, 2019

Per square mile, Ecuador has the highest biodiversity in the world, including over 1,600 species of birds, many rare and endemic. Sample the amazing bird life of the mid- to high-altitude Andean cloud forest and Amazon Basin on this 13-day photography adventure. With assistance from an expert photographer, capture a variety of birds, including hummingbirds, jays, toucanettes, and tanagers, while experiencing this special selection of Ecuador's Andean ecosystems.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Photography guidance and review from an expert photographer.
- Explore diverse habitats at varying elevations in private reserves including Andean cloud forest at Mirador Rio Blanco, Mindo Cloud Forest and Bellavista, and east slope high elevation forests around Guango area lodges, along with Amazon Basin jungle species in Sumaco.
- Outstanding photographic and birding opportunities at lodges and reserves that specifically cater to ecotourists.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

AUGUST 10 - PUEMBO

Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to The Puembo Birding Garden in Puembo for overnight. The elevation in Puembo is approximately 7,740 feet. *Overnight at Puembo Birding Garden.*

AUGUST 11 - MINDO CLOUD FOREST

Following breakfast and orientation in the hotel restaurant, depart for Sachatamia Lodge, located in the Mindo Cloud Forest. Spend the next 4 days based out of this beautiful lodge that has excellent birding and photography opportunities on-site, including several feeding stations and over 240 acres of preserved and recovered cloud forest. During your stay, take several trips to established and lesser-known birding sites in the area, including Santavea Birding, Amagusa, Alambi Cloud Forest, Café Pichincha, and Mirador Rio Blanco. These sites were chosen to maximize the number of bird species we can see and photograph in the area and offer excellent possibilities for observing tanagers, hummingbirds, aracarís, toucanets, and barbets. The elevation in the Mindo/Tandayapa area is approximately 5,600 feet with temperatures around 64 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and cooler evening temperatures. *Overnight at Sachatamia Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 12 - MINDO CLOUD FOREST

Venture on a day trip to Mirador Rio Blanco for birding, photography, and lunch, followed by more birding and photography on the grounds of Sachatamia Lodge. *Overnight at Sachatamia Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 13 - MINDO CLOUD FOREST

Full day of photography and birding at Sachatamia Lodge and nearby sites. *Overnight at Sachatamia Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 14 - MINDO CLOUD FOREST

Full day of photography and birding at Sachatamia Lodge and nearby sites. *Overnight at Sachatamia Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 15 - BELLAVISTA CLOUD FOREST

Early this morning depart for the Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve and Lodge, with a stop along the way at Refugio Paz de Las Aves to try our luck at one of their spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-Rock leks. After visiting the lek, we'll attempt to see and photograph three different species of antpitta with the help of "The Antpitta Whisperer," Angel Paz, who with his wife and sons founded the Refugio. From here, proceed up to Bellavista and spend the rest of the day birding, taking photographs, and wandering about on the excellent trail system at this unique, high elevation reserve. Along with hummingbirds, tanagers and trogons, two mountain mammals, Tayra and Olinguito, regularly visit the lodge's bird feeders. *Overnight at Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 16 - BELLAVISTA CLOUD FOREST

Full day of photography and birding at Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve. *Overnight at Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 17 - SUMACO

This morning cross the continental divide and travel down into the Amazon Basin to Wild Sumaco Lodge. Sumaco has outstanding facilities, great hummingbird feeding stations right off the spacious main deck, and an excellent trail system for those who wish to explore the surrounding jungle. Because it sits at an intermediate elevation, about 4,900 feet above sea level, birds associated with both high and low elevations are often seen. In addition, three bands of Black-mantled tamarin (small monkeys) frequent the woods adjacent to the lodge, and are often seen visiting banana feeders in clear view from the main deck. Since this is in the Amazon rainforest, the climate is more humid and a bit warmer, averaging around 73 degrees Fahrenheit. *Overnight at WildSumaco Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 18 - SUMACO

Full day of birding and photography at Wild Sumaco Lodge and the surrounding area. *Overnight at WildSumaco Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 19 - PAPALLACTA

This morning, head north to the east slope of the Andes, traveling to Guango Lodge. Guango sits adjacent to the Papallacta River, in a steep mountain valley and is a paradise for birders and bird photographers. There are a couple of good, short hikes in the area, including a trail along the river where we may have the opportunity to see and photograph Andean Torrent Ducks. In addition, the lodge is surrounded by feeders that attract a wide range of hummingbirds, including swordbills and Long-tailed Sylphs. Mixed species flocks of tanagers, woodpeckers and jays also routinely forage on the grounds. The elevation in this area is approximately 9,360 feet. *Overnight at Guango Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 20 - PAPALLACTA

Full day of birding and photography at Guango Lodge and the surrounding area. *Overnight at Guango Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 21 - PUEMBO

Following lunch at Guango Lodge, return to the Puembo Birding Garden for some more birding and photography. Late this afternoon, enjoy an early farewell dinner, as some participants will be departing for the Quito airport for their flight home this evening. *Overnight at Puembo Birding Garden. (BLD)*

AUGUST 22 - DEPARTURE / ARRIVE HOME

Remaining participants will be transferred to the airport for their flight home. Check-out today is at 12 pm.

ABOUT YOUR LEADER

JOHN WINNIE JR. is an award-winning wildlife and landscape photographer whose work has been widely published in books, magazines, calendars, posters and postcards, including in Smithsonian, Canadian Geographic, National Wildlife, Discover, Montana Outdoors, Wildlife Conservation, and American Birds magazines. In addition, he authored and made the photos for the book, “High Life, Animals of the Alpine World,” and was co-photographer for the book, “The Rockies: Canada’s Magnificent Wilderness.” His work, including photos from many of the places his Holbrook tours will be visiting, can be seen at: <http://www.johnwinniejr.com>.

John is also a conservation ecologist and Associate Teaching Professor in the Ecology Department at Montana State University in Bozeman. He teaches a wide variety of subjects ranging from introductory biology, to upper division and graduate ecology, to intensive field biology classes. John’s students consistently rate him among the top professors at MSU, earning him a Teaching Merit Award in 2015. His conservation work and research have taken him from the remote Wakhan Corridor in Afghanistan while working for USAID and the Wildlife Conservation Society, to Tajikistan working for Panthera, to the wilds of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. Nature photography allows John to merge his two passions, photography and gaining understanding of the natural world, and these tours let him share these passions with you.



LAND PRICING

\$3,995

Cost is based on a minimum of 10 participants and includes meals, accommodations, activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide, and departure tax.

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

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. 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; for a single room throughout the trip add \$400 per person. 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 May 07, 2019, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



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



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travell/winnie-ec2019 or contact Sandy Schmidt at 800-451-7111 ext. 379 or Schmidt@holbrooktravel.com

PHOTOS BY John Winnie Jr.