



All photos by John Winnie Jr.



## ECUADOR

### BIRDING & PHOTOGRAPHY IN SOUTHERN ECUADOR

with JOHN WINNIE JR.

August 2 – 14, 2020

*Southern Ecuador has been relatively overlooked as a birding destination, yet is teeming with avifauna due to the region's unique combination of habitats. The great diversity of vegetation found here has resulted in a high concentration of restricted-range birds, leading Bird Life International to designate the Chocó and Tumbesian regions as Endemic Bird Areas. Explore several life zones and seek out rare and endemic species on this 13-day exploration. With assistance from professional photographer John Winnie Jr., capture images of a variety of birds, from hummingbirds and jays to toucanets and tanagers, while experiencing this special selection of ecosystems.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Receive photography guidance and review from an expert photographer.
- Locate and identify birds and other wildlife with naturalist and expert birder Edwin Perez.
- Explore diverse habitats at varying elevations in public and private reserves, including: deciduous, moist lowland forest and mangrove estuaries at Manglares Churute Reserve; lowland tropical rainforest and foothill forest at Buenaventura Reserve; dry forest at Jorupe Reserve; and high-elevation humid temperate forest at Tapichalaca Reserve.
- Visit the Chocó and Tumbesian bioregions to witness recent discoveries, rare birds, and regional endemics.
- Enjoy outstanding photographic and birding opportunities at lodges and reserves that specifically cater to ecotourists.

# ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## AUGUST 2 - GUAYAQUIL

Upon arrival at the Guayaquil International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for overnight. Please note check-in time is 2 pm. *Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde.*

## AUGUST 3 - BUENAVENTURA RESERVE

Drive one hour from Guayaquil to visit Manglares Churute Reserve, 121,082 acres of deciduous, moist lowland forest and mangrove estuaries. Birding time will be around three to four hours at three different stops, looking for Striated Heron, Snail Kite, Northern Crested Caracara, Eared Dove, Striped Cuckoo, Pacific Hornero, Amazilia Hummingbird, Whooping Motmot, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, Common Tody-Flycatcher, and Chestnut-throated Seedeater, among others. Continue driving around two and a half hours toward the Buenaventura Reserve, located near Piñas and Zaruma in the subtropical area of El Oro province. The area is renowned for being one of the richest ornithological sites in Ecuador. It protects a narrow zone of cloud forest habitat on the otherwise seasonally dry west slope of the Andes in southern Ecuador. This reserve is home to the El Oro Parakeet and El Oro Tapaculo, both of which are endangered species endemic to Ecuador. Other important birds include the Long-wattled Umbrellabird, Club-winged Manakin, Song Wren, and Rufous-headed Chachalaca. *Overnight at Umbrellabird Lodge. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 4 - BUENAVENTURA RESERVE

Morning birding and photography at the lodge. Spend the rest of the day in Buenaventura. This 4,151-acre private reserve sits between 1,805 and 3,609 feet above sea level. It contains two important ecosystems, lowland tropical rainforest and foothill forest. The reserve is considered the southernmost region of the Chocó center of endemism and has an influence of the dry Tumbesian center as well. Common birds seen in this area are Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Bran-colored Flycatcher, Ochraceous Attila, Cinnamon Becard, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Ecuadorian Thrush, Fasciated Wren, Buff-throated Saltator, Scrub Blackbird, White-whiskered Puffbird, Speckle-breasted Wren, Pacific Royal Flycatcher, Yellow-tufted Dacnis, Guira Tanager, Orange-crowned Euphonia, Gray Hawk, Black-striped Sparrow, and Brownish Twistwing. *Overnight at Umbrellabird Lodge. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 5 - BUENAVENTURA RESERVE

Continue with a full day of birding and photography in the Buenaventura Reserve. *Overnight at Umbrellabird Lodge. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 6 - JORUPE RESERVE

Spend the morning birding in Buenaventura, then drive for approximately five hours to Jorupe Reserve near the town of Macará on the Peruvian border. Stop for birding on the way and look for specialties such as Watkins's Antpitta, Black-cowled Saltator, White-tailed Jay, White-edged Oriole, and others. Arrive at Jorupe Reserve late in the afternoon. *Overnight at Urraca Lodge. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 7 - JORUPE RESERVE

Jorupe is a 2,600-acre private reserve and is one of the last surviving dry forests in the southwest of Ecuador, all within the Tumbesian center of endemism. Among the specialties here are Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner, and the West Peruvian Screech-Owl. Other specialties seen in the area are Red-masked Parakeet, Pacific Parrotlet, Tumbes Swift, Gray-chinned Hermit, Long-billed Starthroat, Ecuadorian Trogon, Ecuadorian Piculet, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Blackish-headed Spinetail, Red-billed Scythebill, Collared Antshrike, Tumbesian Tyrannulet, Pacific Elaenia, Tumbes Pewee, Gray-breasted Flycatcher, Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, Slaty Becard, White-tailed Jay, Gray-and-gold Warbler, Black-and-white Tanager (seasonal), Black-capped Sparrow, White-edged Oriole, Yellow-tailed Oriole, and Saffron Siskin. *Overnight at Urraca Lodge. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 8 - JORUPE RESERVE

Continue with a full day of birding and photography in the Jorupe Reserve. *Overnight at Urraca Lodge. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 9 - TAPICALACA RESERVE

Depart from Jorupe toward the Tapichalaca Reserve, approximately a six-hour drive. Tapichalaca encompasses humid temperate forest between 5,900 and 10,170 feet above sea level, with a high level of endemism in its flora and fauna. It was here that the recently discovered Jocotoco Antpitta was found. *Overnight at Casa Simpson Lodge. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 10 - TAPICALACA RESERVE

Spend the morning birding in the Tapichalaca Reserve. In addition to the Jocotoco Antpitta, other specialties include the Bearded Guan, Golden-plumed Parakeet, White-capped Tanager, and White-faced Nunbird. In the afternoon, drive about 45 minutes toward Valladolid and enter the northern part of the Marañon center of endemism to look for specialties such as the Blackish Rail, Marañon Thrush, and Silver-backed Tanager. *Overnight at Casa Simpson Lodge. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 11 - TAPICALACA RESERVE

Continue with a full day of birding and photography in the area. *Overnight at Casa Simpson Lodge. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 12 - BUENAVENTURA RESERVE

Begin your return toward the Buenaventura Reserve, driving approximately five hours. Enjoy various stops en route for birding. Arrive at the lodge in the afternoon. *Overnight at Umbrellabird Lodge. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 13 - GUAYAQUIL

Morning birding and photography at the lodge. After lunch, drive approximately four hours back to Guayaquil. Once at the hotel, have some free time to freshen up before an early farewell dinner, as some of you will have red-eye flights departing late tonight. *Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 14 - DEPARTURE

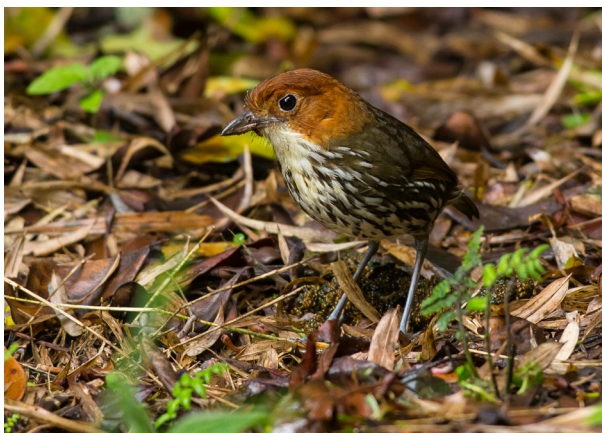
This morning (or late the prior evening), you will be transferred to the Guayaquil International Airport for your flight home. Check-out time today is noon. (B)



## 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

**\$3,955**

Cost is based on a minimum of 8 participants and includes meals, accommodations, activities and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, in-country private transportation, full-time guide for the duration of the program, bottled water on the bus, departure tax, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, alcoholic beverages, gratuities, or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with flight arrangements if desired.

## 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.

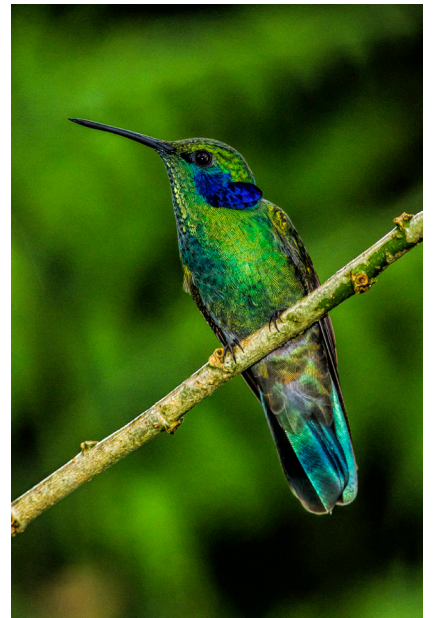
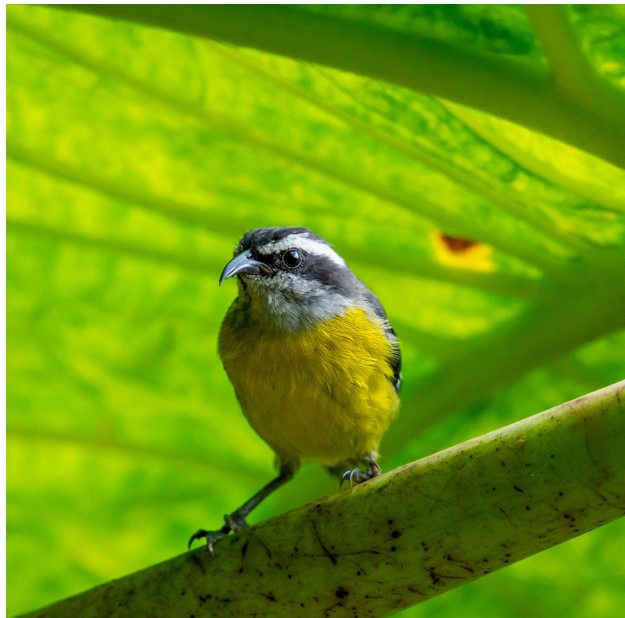
## THE FINE PRINT

*Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$340 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 April 29, 2020, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.*



*This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](http://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)*





**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL**

Visit [holbrook.travel/winnie-ec20](https://holbrook.travel/winnie-ec20) or contact Sandy Schmidt at 877-907-5360 or [schmidt@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:schmidt@holbrooktravel.com)