



ECUADOR

Ecuador | Birding and Photography

with *John Winnie Jr.*

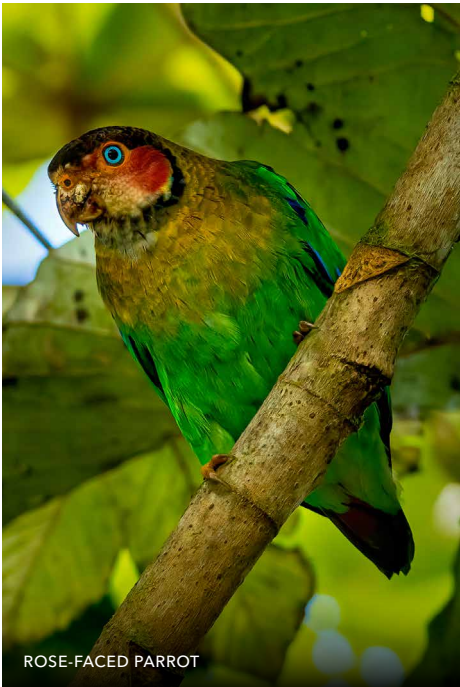
AUGUST 03, 2023 – AUGUST 16, 2023

Embark on an unforgettable journey across the breathtaking and diverse ecosystems of Ecuador. Join John Winnie Jr. on this 14-day adventure through the Andes Mountains and the Ecuadorian Amazon. Observe and photograph the abundant birdlife endemic to the Chocó and tropical Andes regions, as well as in the upper Amazon Basin. Stay at carefully selected lodges on both sides of the Andes that specifically cater to birders and bird photographers, and provide consistent encounters with tanagers, barbettes, toucanettes, aracari, trogons, and a wide range of hummingbirds.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Mindo across a variety of protected areas, including the Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve, Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve, and the famed Refugio Paz de las Aves, known as a haven for antpittas and Andean Cocks-of-the-rock.
- Bird the Mashpi-Amagusa Reserve for target species like the Rose-faced Parrot, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Chocó Vireo, Moss-backed Tanager, Indigo Flowerpiercer, and more.
- Marvel at the photography opportunities in Guango Lodge, a birders' paradise in Papallacta, and take the chance to relax in the famous thermal pools the area is famous for.
- Discover the fascinating low- and high-land bird species that inhabit the Amazon Basin as you hike through its rainforest trails and experience the superb local cuisine in between.

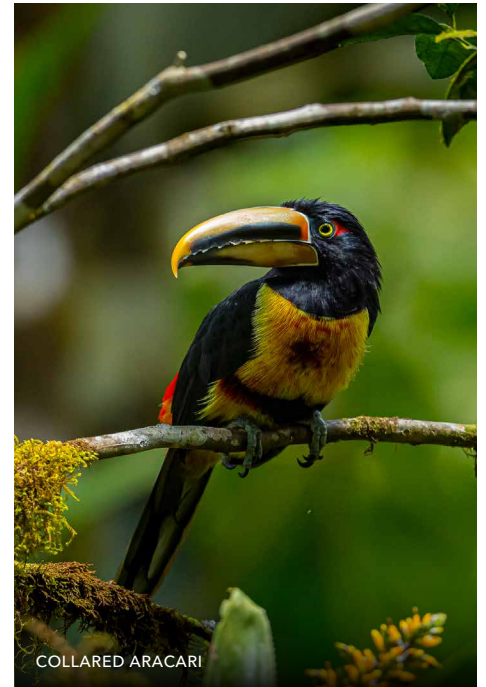




ROSE-FACED PARROT



GOLDEN-TAILED SAPPHIRE



COLLARED ARACARI

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 | THU | AUG 3 | PUEMBO

Upon arrival, you will be met and transported to the Puembo Birding Garden in Puembo for your overnight stay. Check-in is at 2 pm. The elevation in Puembo is approximately 7,740 feet.

PUEMBO BIRDING GARDEN

DAY 2 | FRI | AUG 4 | MINDO CLOUD FOREST

Following breakfast and orientation in the hotel restaurant, depart for Sachatamia Lodge in the Mindo Cloud Forest. Spend four days based out of this beautiful lodge that has excellent birding and photography opportunities on-site, including several feeding stations and more than 240 acres of preserved and recovered cloud forest. During the stay, take several trips to established and lesser-known birding sites in the area, including Balcón Tumpiki, Finca la Esperanza (for Andean Cock of the Rock), Mashpi-Amagusa, Alambi Cloud Forest, Café Pichincha, and Mirador Río Blanco. These sites were chosen to maximize the number of bird species we can see and photograph during our stay in the area, offering excellent possibilities for spotting tanagers, hummingbirds, aracari, toucanettes, and barbettes. Note that participants can opt out of any side trips and remain at Sachatamia to capitalize on the excellent birding and photography opportunities on the lodge's grounds. The elevation in the Mindo-Tandayapa area is approximately 5,600 feet with temperatures around 64 degrees during the day and cooler during the night.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

SACHATAMIA LODGE

DAY 3 | SAT | AUG 5 | MINDO CLOUD FOREST

Continue the exploration of Mindo Cloud Forest.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

SACHATAMIA LODGE

DAY 4 | SUN | AUG 6 | MINDO CLOUD FOREST

Continue the exploration of Mindo Cloud Forest.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

SACHATAMIA LODGE

DAY 5 | MON | AUG 7 | BELLAVISTA CLOUD FOREST

Early this morning, drive to Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve and Lodge, with a stop along the way at Refugio Paz de Las Aves, where we will attempt to see and photograph three different species of antpitta with the help of "The Antpitta Whisperer," Angel Paz; he created the Refugio with his wife and sons. 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.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

BELLAVISTA CLOUD FOREST LODGE

DAY 6 | TUE | AUG 8 | BELLAVISTA CLOUD FOREST

Continue the exploration of Bellavista Cloud Forest.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

BELLAVISTA CLOUD FOREST LODGE

DAY 7 | WED | AUG 9 | PAPALLACTA

After some early morning birding and photography, drive over The Continental Divide to Guango Lodge, on the east slope of the Andes. 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 sylphs. Mixed species flocks of tanagers, woodpeckers, and jays also routinely forage on the grounds. Participants can opt for a side trip to the Papallacta Hot Springs for a soothing soak at an additional cost. The elevation in this area is approximately 9,360 feet.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

GUANGO LODGE

DAY 8 | THU | AUG 10 | PAPALLACTA

Continue the exploration of Papallacta.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

GUANGO LODGE

DAY 9 | FRI | AUG 11 | SUMACO

Continue traveling 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 rain forest. Because it sits at an intermediate elevation, about 4,900 feet above sea level, birds normally associated with both high and low elevations are often seen here. In addition, three bands of black-mantled tamarins (cute small monkeys) frequent the forests 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.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

WILD SUMACO LODGE

DAY 10 | SAT | AUG 12 | SUMACO

Continue the exploration of Sumaco.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

WILD SUMACO LODGE

DAY 11 | SUN | AUG 13 | SAN ISIDRO

Following breakfast and some morning birding and photography, depart for San Isidro Lodge. San Isidro sits just above the interface between cloud forest and Amazon rainforest and has a wide range of hummingbirds and insectivores that visit their feeders, as well as an extensive trail system for those who wish to wander about. It is likely to see jays, trogons, sylphs, and possibly owls, Potoo, and hawks here. Food is excellent at all of these lodges, but San Isidro in particular prides itself on outstanding cuisine. For those who want to take a break from photography and birding, there is a swimming pool where you can relax and work out any kinks earned from this busy tour.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

SAN ISIDRO LODGE

DAY 12 | MON | AUG 14 | SAN ISIDRO

Continue the exploration of San Isidro.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

SAN ISIDRO LODGE

DAY 13 | TUE | AUG 15 | PUEMBO

After morning birding and photography at San Isidro, head back to Puembo Birding Garden, arriving with some time for 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.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER

PUEMBO BIRDING GARDEN

DAY 14 | WED | AUG 16 | DEPARTURE

Remaining participants will be taken to the airport this morning for their flight home. Check-out is at 12:30 pm.

BREAKFAST



TYRIAN METALTAIL

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: 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. 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.



PHOTOS BY JOHN WINNIE JR



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

PRICING DETAILS

From \$4,595

Price includes:

- Meals, sightseeing, and activities as described in itinerary, including entrance fees
- Arrival and departure transfers based on individual flight schedules
- Private vehicle transportation and driver
- Full time expert birding naturalist guide for duration of the program
- Non-alcoholic beverages with meals
- Departure tax
- Carbon offset

Price does not include: international airfare, trip cancellation insurance, tips and gratuities, drinks purchased on own, items of a personal nature.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on a minimum of 8 participants in double occupancy.

A \$500 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to hold your space on this trip. This deposit is refundable 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellations after this date are non refundable

Please note: Your participation as a traveler indicates acceptance of Holbrook Travel’s Covid-19 protocols in place at time of travel.

Holbrook Travel strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance for medical emergencies while traveling and to protect your investment. Please note the purchase of Cancel for Any Reason Coverage or to exclude pre-existing conditions with Trip Cancellation coverage may require policy purchase within 10-14 days of your initial deposit, depending upon the provider.

Single room supplement \$255

Final payment due date: April 30, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO ENROLL:

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