



BIRDING TOUR ECUADOR: THE AMAZON – CLAY LICK AND GIANT OTTERS

12 – 17 October 2019



The highly sought-after **Sunbittern** should be encountered on this Amazon tour.

Ecuador's Yasuní National Park is one of the most diverse places on earth, spanning nearly 2.5 million acres of lush rainforest. The Ecuadorian Amazon is home to more than 600 bird species. We have developed this 7-day itinerary to provide you with the best birding experience in the Amazon. The comfortable Napo Wildlife Center will be our base for a week of birding and adventure in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. Some of the key species in the forest around the Napo Wildlife Center are **Black-necked Red Cotinga, Plum-throated Cotinga, Hoatzin, Sungrebe, Agami Heron, Zigzag Heron, White-throated Toucan, Golden-collared Toucanet, Grey-winged Trumpeter, Crested Owl, White-plumed Antbird, Bicolored Antbird, Lunulated Antbird, and Pavonine Quetzal**. In addition the number of parrots on the clay lick such as **Scarlet Macaw, Orange-cheeked Parrot, Dusky-headed Parakeet, Southern Mealy Amazon, Yellow-crowned Amazon, and White-eyed Parakeet** will be a treat.

The Napo Wildlife Center offers also good opportunities to see wildlife such as **Giant Otter, Black Caiman, and Napo Saki** monkey.

This trip can be combined with our following **Northern Ecuador: Birding Paradise** tour, which is followed by our **Galápagos: Natural History Extravaganza** tour.

Itinerary (6 days/6 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Quito

After arriving at Mariscal Sucre International Airport in Quito you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: San Jose de Puenbo, Quito

Day 2. Flight to Coca and transfer to Napo Cultural Center

We will transfer to the airport for a domestic flight to Coca (officially known as Puerto Francisco de Orellana), and after arrival we'll transfer by motorized canoe for two hours on the Napo River to the entrance of the Añangu River, where we will bird for about two hours before getting to our lodge. We expect to see here several aquatic species, such as **Rufescent Tiger Heron, Sungrebe, Wattled Jacana, Limpkin, Hoatzin, Collared Plover, Red-bellied Macaw, Capped Heron, Anhinga, Snail Kite, Grey-necked Wood Rail, Amazon Kingfisher, Green Kingfisher, Ringed Kingfisher, Yellow-headed Caracara, Swallow-winged Puffbird, Lineated Woodpecker, and Crested Oropendola**. Before we continue our trip to the Napo Wildlife Center we will look for of the main target of this trip, the handsome **Black-necked Red Cotinga**. We will stay the first night at Napo Cultural Center to have a good opportunity to be at the parrot clay lick at first light.

Overnight: Napo Cultural Center, Coca

Day 3. Parrot clay lick and transfer to the Napo Wildlife Center

Today we will have an early start to visit the parrot clay lick, where we can watch several species of parrots coming every day. Usually we can observe here **Southern Mealy Amazon, Yellow-crowned Amazon, Dusky-headed Parakeet, Blue-headed Parrot, Orange-cheeked Parrot, Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet, Cobalt-winged Parakeet, Chestnut-fronted Macaw**, and the impressive **Scarlet Macaw**. In addition to the parrots we can find other attractive species, such as **Spangled Cotinga** and **Plum-throated Cotinga**. Then we will transfer to the Yasuní National Park, looking for **Greater Ani, Orange-backed**

Troupial, Black-capped Donacobius, Turquoise Tanager, Paradise Tanager, White-throated Toucan, Yellow-billed Jacamar, Bat Falcon, Red-throated Caracara, Southern Lapwing, King Vulture, Plumbeous Pigeon, and Blue-throated Piping Guan.

Then we will arrive at the comfortable Napo Wildlife Center. In the evening we will try to find some night birds, including **Common Potoo, Great Potoo, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Spectacled Owl, and Crested Owl.**

Overnight: Napo Wildlife Center

Days 4 – 5. Napo Wildlife Center

We will have two full days to explore the lush Amazon rainforest and the diverse habitats that it holds. During these two days we will have pleasant boat rides along the river and oxbow lakes, use a canopy tower, and do selective walks along the Amazon trails. We will focus on several species such as **Undulated Tinamou, Great Jacamar, Brown Nunlet, White-chested Puffbird, Spotted Puffbird, Collared Puffbird, Pavonine Quetzal, Amazonian Trogon, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Wire-tailed Manakin, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Ringed Woodpecker, Scaly-breasted Woodpecker, Orange-crested Manakin, Slate-colored Hawk, Duida Woodcreeper, Lemon-throated Barbet, Many-banded Aracari, and Purplish Jacamar.** In addition we hope to see **Bicolored Antbird, Sooty Antbird, Lunulated Antbird, White-plumed Antbird, Silvered Antbird, White-shouldered Antbird, and Dot-backed Antbird.**

Some hard-to-find species such as **Buckley's Forest Falcon, Grey-winged Trumpeter, Grey-bellied Hawk, Zigzag Heron,** and the rare **Harpy Eagle** are only occasionally seen around Napo Wildlife Center. However, we might still have a chance with a bit of luck. Other common exciting wildlife sightings include the most-wanted **Giant Otter, Golden-mantle Saddleback Tamarin, Common Woolly Monkey, Napo Saki, Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin, and Ecuadorian Squirrel Monkey.**

Overnight: Napo Wildlife Center

Day 6. Transfer to the Coca airport and flight to Quito

After a final couple of hours birding the lodge grounds we will transfer to Coca to connect with our domestic flight back to Quito, where hotel accommodation for the night and transfer to the airport are included, as most international flights from Quito leave in the early hours of the morning. This allows you to get some rest and a shower before catching your next flight.

Our Northern Ecuador: Birding Paradise – Antpitta and Hummingbird Extravaganza starts this afternoon from Quito, so you can easily combine these two tours.

Overnight: San Jose de Puembo, Quito

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors.

Duration: 6 days

Group size: 4 - 8

Date: 12 October – 17 Oct 2019

Start: Quito

End: Quito

Price: US\$4817 per person sharing

Single Supplement: US\$1080

Price includes:

Domestic flight (Quito – Coca – Quito)

Transfer to and from the airport

Accommodation

Private guide

Private vehicle

Admission fees

All meals

Price excludes:

Any activity or service on day 1 (if arriving in the morning)

Personal health and trip cancellation insurance

Drinks and alcoholic drinks

Personal expenses such as laundry, minibar expenses, internet access, phone calls, etc.

Gratuities