

# Birding Ecotours



## COLOMBIA: MEDELLÍN AND BOGOTÁ ENDEMICS

11 - 23 MARCH 2022

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*Beautiful Woodpecker, one of the many endemics we will be searching for on this Colombian tour (photo Daniel Orozco).*

On the first part of this exciting Medellín and Bogotá endemics tour, we will arrive in the city of Medellín and immediately explore its surroundings to look for the endemic **Red-bellied Grackle** and **Stiles's Tapaculo** as well as the elusive **Yellow-headed Manakin**. From Medellín we will drive to the picturesque town of Jardín in the southwest region of Antioquia, which will be our base from which to explore the ProAves Yellow-eared Parrot Reserve to look for our main target, the Endangered (BirdLife International) **Yellow-eared Parrot**. Other target species in the area include **Tanager Finch**, **Rufous Antpitta**, **Purplish-mantled Tanager**, **Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia**, and with luck **Ocellated Tapaculo** and **Chestnut-crested Cotinga**.



*Tanager Finch* will be searched for in the ProAves Yellow-eared Parrot Reserve.

The dry area of Bolombolo in the Cauca Valley is where we hope to find the recently described endemic **Antioquia Wren** along with two other Colombian endemics **Apical Flycatcher** and **Greyish Piculet**.

We will also explore the Rio Claro Nature Reserve, where we will look for endemic species such as **White-mantled Barbet**, **Sooty Ant Tanager**, **Antioquia Bristle Tyrant**, and with luck **Beautiful Woodpecker**. Other birds in the area include the most-wanted **Northern Screamer**, **Magdalena Antbird**, **Bare-crowned Antbird**, **Moustached Puffbird**, **Saffron-headed Parrot**, **Russet-winged Schiffornis**, and **Citron-throated Toucan**.

The second part of the tour will allow participants to explore the eastern Andes near Bogotá in search of an incredible array of country endemics and regional specials such as **Bogota Rail**, **Green-bearded Helmetcrest**, **Blue-throated Starfrontlet**, **Silvery-throated Spinetail**, **Apolinar's Wren**, **Black Inca**, **Noble Snipe**, **Golden-bellied Starfrontlet**, **Indigo-capped Hummingbird**, **Grey-throated Warbler**, **Moustached Brushfinch**, **Rufous-browed Conebill**, and **Spot-flanked Gallinule**.

This tour can be combined with our comprehensive **The Very Best of Colombia, Part II: Southern Andes, Amazonian Foothills and Llanos** and **The Very Best of Colombia: Santa Marta, Andes and Choco** tours which immediately precede this tour.



*The stunning **Blue-throated Starfrontlet** is one of our targets at Observatorio de Colibries (photo Alejandro Grajales).*

### **Itinerary (13 days/12 nights)**

#### **Day 1. Arrival in Medellín and transfer to our hotel**

You will arrive at the José María Córdova International Airport serving Medellín from where we will be transferred to Sabaneta.

Overnight: Hacienda La Extremadura, Sabaneta

#### **Day 2. La Romera Ecological Park and transfer to Jardín**

We will have an early start to visit La Romera Ecological Park to look for the elusive **Yellow-headed Manakin** and the endemic **Red-bellied Grackle**. We also have a chance for the endemic **Stiles's Tapaculo**, which is often seen on our **The Very Best of Colombia: Santa Marta, Andes and Choco** tour. After our visit to La Romera we will head to the picturesque town of Jardín located at 1,750 meters (5,741 feet), and if time permits, we will visit what is perhaps the greatest **Andean Cock-of-the-rock** lek in the whole of South America.

Overnight: Hotel Hacienda Balandú, Jardín





*We hope to find the beautiful **Green-bearded Helmetcrest** near to Bogotá (photo Daniel Orozco).*

### Day 3. ProAves Yellow-eared Parrot Reserve

We will have a predawn start to explore the ProAves Yellow-eared Parrot Reserve in search of the extremely localized and rare **Yellow-eared Parrot**. We will arrive at dawn, and with a spotting scope, we will scan all nearby wax palms and known nest cavities to hopefully obtain views of this special parrot. Other birds in these cloud forest mountains include **Rufous Antpitta**, **Tanager Finch**, **Purplish-mantled Tanager**, **Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia**, **Plushcap**, **Ocellated Tapaculo**, **Barred Fruiteater**, **Black-capped Tyrannulet**, **Chestnut-naped Antpitta**, **Tourmaline Sunangel**, **Tyrian Metaltail**, **Black-collared Jay**, **Golden-headed Quetzal**, **Chestnut-breasted Wren**, and **Flammulated Treehunter**. If we are very lucky, we could find the elusive and seldom-seen **Tawny-breasted Tinamou** or even **Highland Tinamou**; both occur in the area, but the chances for sightings are slim. In the lower-lying areas we will check for **Chestnut-crested Cotinga**.

Overnight: Hotel Hacienda Balandú, Jardín

### Day 4. Bolombolo and transfer to Rio Claro

Today we'll have another early start to leave Jardín and head to Rio Claro. En route we will look for the recently described endemic **Antioquia Wren** in the dry area of Bolombolo in the Cauca Valley. Other birds here include the two Colombian endemics, **Apical Flycatcher** and **Greyish Piculet**. We will drive east of Medellín to spend the afternoon looking for **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**, **Pacific Antwren**, **Plain-colored Tanager**, **Scrub Tanager**, **Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher**, **Black-headed Brushfinch**, **Bar-crested Antshrike**, **Spectacled Parrotlet**, **Band-backed Wren**, and with luck the endemic **Beautiful Woodpecker**.

Overnight: Los Colores Ecoparque Hotel, Rio Claro

### Day 5. Rio Claro Nature Reserve

We will have a full day to explore the Rio Claro Nature Reserve, where we hope to get the seldom-seen **Saffron-headed Parrot**. Other birds possible here include the endemic **White-mantled Barbet**, **Moustached Puffbird**, the endemic **Magdalena Antbird**, **Bay Wren**, **Buff-rumped Warbler**, the endemic **Antioquia Bristle Tyrant**, **Black-bellied Wren**, **Dusky-faced Tanager**, **Blue-chested Hummingbird**, **Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant**, **Plain Xenops**, **Russet-winged Schiffornis**, **Striolated Manakin**, and **White-bearded Manakin**. In the afternoon, we will search some nearby wetlands, looking for **Northern Screamer** and other aquatic species.

Overnight: Los Colores Ecoparque Hotel, Rio Claro



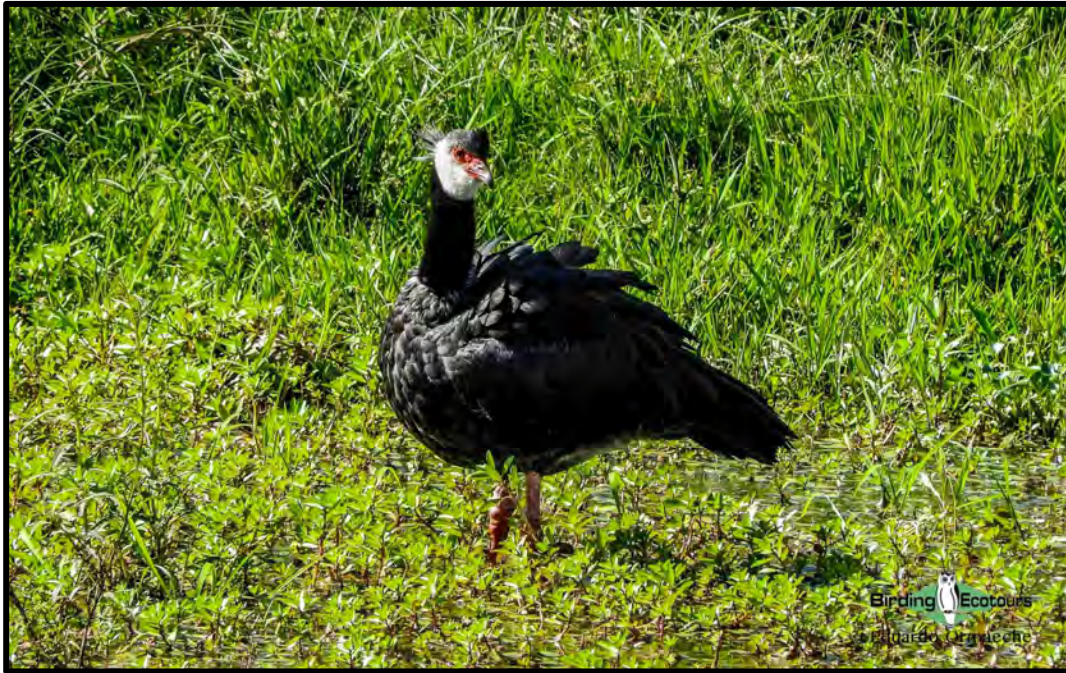
*Chestnut-naped Antpitta* can be seen in Colombian cloud forests.

### Day 6. Birding the Magdalena Valley and Laguna de Guarinocito

Today we will focus our efforts on any targets we might have missed on the previous day. We will also look for the endemic **Sooty Ant Tanager**. Later we will transfer to Laguna de Guarinocito, a roughly two-hour drive from Honda. There we will take a relaxing boat ride to explore the lagoon and look for aquatic species such as **White-faced** and **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**, **Limpkin**, **Striated Heron**, **Large-billed Tern**, **Bare-faced Ibis**, **Boat-billed Heron**, **Ringed Kingfisher** and **Green Kingfisher** however our main target will be the most-wanted **Northern Screamer**. Other species that can be seen in the area include **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Pied Water Tyrant**, **Black-capped Donacobius**, **Yellow-chinned Spinetail**, **Greater Ani**, **Dwarf Cuckoo**, and **Black-collared Hawk**.

Overnight: Hotel Boutique Posada las Trampas





*The most-wanted Northern Screamer should be seen in the Magdalena Valley*

### Day 7. Birding Bellavista Reserve and transfer to Bogotá

Today we will visit the Bellavista Reserve located one and a half hours from Honda. Here we will have great chances to see a number of endemic and range-restricted species such as **Velvet-fronted Euphonia**, **White-mantled Barbet**, **Colombian Chachalaca**, **Golden-hooded Tanager**, **Black-faced Dacnis**, **Collared Aracari**, **Ruddy Quail-Dove**, **Red-rumped Woodpecker**, **Orange-billed Sparrow**, **Scrub Greenlet**, **Black-chested Jay**, **Black-bellied Wren**, **Rufous-capped Warbler** and **Spectacled Parrotlet**. We will have more chances to maximize on species such as **Beautiful Woodpecker**, **Black-crowned Antshrike**, **Black-faced Anthrush**, and **Antioquia Bristle Tyrant**. After a great day of birding, we will head to Bogotá and be transferred to our comfortable hotel.

Overnight: Hotel Habitel, Bogotá

### Day 8. Birding La Florida Park and the Hummingbird Observatory

Today will explore La Florida Park near Bogotá airport where we should have our first chances for the endemic **Bogota Rail** and **Silvery-throated Spinetail** and the near-endemic **Rufous-browed Conebill**. Later we will drive to La Calera, where we will spend the afternoon enjoying hummingbirds in the amazing *Observatorio de Colibríes*. This private house offers one of the finest hummingbird feeder gardens in Colombia and you should be able to witness jewels such as the exquisite **Blue-throated Starfrontlet**, **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, **Green-tailed Trainbearer**, **Black-tailed Trainbearer**, **Glowing Puffleg**, **Coppery-bellied Puffleg**, **Mountain Velvetbreast**, **Longuemare's Sunangel**, and **White-bellied Woodstar**. The surrounding area might produce the skulking **Pale-bellied Tapaculo**.

In the late afternoon, we will return to Bogotá to check into our hotel where we will enjoy dinner and our nightly checklist session.

Overnight: Hotel Habitel, Bogotá



*Mountain Velvetbreast* — one of the many hummingbird species we should encounter on this tour.

### **Day 9. Chingaza Natural National Park, Guasca gravel pits, and Bioandina Reserve**

We will have a full day to explore the paramo ecosystem of Chingaza Natural National Park, the famous Guasca gravel pits, and the Bioandina Reserve. Our targets will include **Bronze-tailed Thornbill**, **Pale-bellied Tapaculo**, **Golden-crowned Tanager**, **Rufous-browed Conebill**, **Tawny Antpitta**, **Agile Tit-Tyrant**, **Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager**, **Black-chested Mountain Tanager**, **Black-headed Hemispingus**, **Ochre-breasted Brushfinch**, and **Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant**. There is also a low possibility of **Tawny-breasted Tinamou**.

We will also check the area adjacent to the Bioandina Reserve for the endemic **Flame-winged Parakeet**.

Overnight: Hotel Habitel, Bogotá





*Golden-crowned Tanager* — another spectacular tanager species we'll be targeting!

#### Day 10. Laguna Chisacá at Páramo Sumapaz and Chicaque Natural Park

We shall visit the Laguna Chisacá in the Páramo Sumapaz to look for the endemic **Green-bearded Helmetcrest** and the endemic **Apolinar's Wren**. This place also offers good chances for **Noble Snipe**, and on the way out, we will look for the endemic **Silvery-throated Spinetail**. We might have to deal with some city traffic to get into the Chicaque Natural Park, where we will look for the endemic **Golden-bellied Starfrontlet**. We'll switch our vehicle for a 4x4 jeep to drive into the heart of Chicaque Natural Park, where we expect to see the endemic **Black Inca** and **Moustached Brushfinch**. We will return late in the afternoon to Bogotá.

Overnight: [Hotel Habitel](#), Bogotá

#### Day 11. Laguna el Tabacal and El Jardín Encantado

Today will be another early start as we leave Bogotá to visit the Laguna el Tabacal. Here we will look for the endemic **Grey-throated Warbler** as well as other species such as **Rosy Thrush-tanager**, **Rusty-breasted Antpitta**, the endemic **Velvet-fronted Euphonia**, **White-bellied Antbird**, **Rufous-naped Greenlet**, **Slaty Spinetail**, **Sooty-headed Wren**, **Striolated Manakin**, and the elusive **Ruddy Quail-Dove** among many others. Later we will move to El Jardín Encantado, a private house, where we will be overwhelmed with the number of hummingbird species including the endemic **Indigo-capped Hummingbird** and **Ruby-topaz Hummingbird**. After another exciting birding day, we will return to Bogotá.

Overnight: [Hotel Habitel](#), Bogotá



### Day 12. Monterredondo

Today we will focus on the Monterredondo sector of the huge Chingaza National Natural Park, where we will do our best to obtain views of the endemic and elusive **Cundinamarca Antpitta**. Even though we will focus all our efforts on this elusive and most-wanted species, the area also offers many other good birds including **Flavescent Flycatcher**, **Black-crested Warbler**, **Slaty Brushfinch**, **Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet**, **Grey-hooded Bush Tanager**, **Rusty-winged Barbtail**, **Andean Siskin**, **Moustached Brushfinch**, and **Andean Pygmy Owl**, to name just a few. We will then return to Bogotá for our last dinner and checklist session and celebrate a great adventure together.

Overnight: Hotel Habitel, Bogotá

### Day 13. Departure

Today your international flights will depart from Bogotá International Airport where our fantastic thirteen days of Colombian birding will conclude.

*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. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.*

<b>Duration:</b>	13 days
<b>Group Size:</b>	3-8
<b>Dates:</b>	11-23 March 2022 11-23 March 2023
<b>Start:</b>	Medellín
<b>End:</b>	Bogotá
<b>Price:</b>	US\$4,875 per person sharing, based on 3-8 participants (2022) US\$4,990 per person sharing, based on 3-8 participants (2023)
<b>Single Supplement:</b>	US\$750 (2022) US\$770 (2023)

#### Price includes:

All accommodation as described above, or similar  
All meals (plates a la carte, fixed menus, and field meals)  
Private transportation including a 4x4 jeep at Chicaque  
Admission fees to parks, reserves, and feeding stations  
Private birding guide

Local guides  
Bottled water in the vehicle

**Price excludes:**

All flights  
Private expenses such as laundry, telephone, internet, room service and minibar expenses, drinks, alcoholic drinks, water for sale in hotels  
Any activity not described in the itinerary  
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))