



THE VERY BEST OF COLOMBIA, PART II: SOUTHERN ANDES, AMAZONIAN FOOTHILLS AND LLANOS TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO OUR
COLOMBIA TOURS IN GENERAL](#)**

This itinerary has been designed to provide you with another incredible birding adventure which is complementary to our **[Very Best of Colombia: Santa Marta, Andes and Chocó](#)** birding tour. As Colombia is a large country, the fourth largest in South America, it is virtually impossible to see all of its highlights and enjoy all of its avian treasures in a standard 15- or 21-day trip. For this reason, we have decided to divide our 'Very Best of Colombia' tour into two different tours. The Very Best of Colombia, Part II will give you the chance to see other areas of this fabulous country. This trip will take you to the southern Andes in search of some incredible, range-restricted species such as the **Chestnut-bellied Cotinga** and **White-rimmed Brushfinch**. In addition, we will search for some classic and most-wanted Andean species such **Andean Condor**, **White-capped Tanager** and **Golden-plumed Parakeet**. We shall explore the Amazonian foothills where we will enjoy a plethora of colorful birds such **Coppery-chested**, **White-chinned**, **White-eared** and **Brown Jacamars**, **Plum-throated Cotinga**, **Amazonian Umbrellabird**, **Vermilion Tanager**, **White-throated Toucan** and **Golden-collared Toucanet**. We will end our trip in Los Llanos where we can enjoy great birds such as the localized **Pale-headed Jacamar** and **Orinoco Goose** and if we are lucky wildlife such **Anaconda**, or even the mighty **Jaguar**.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Our tour will start in Cali's Alfonso Bonilla Aragón International Airport (CLO) which can be reached by direct flights from all over Colombia, from some US international airports and from Panama City (Panama). Cali can be reached from Europe with a stop in Bogota. Please consult your travel agent to book your most convenient flight. Your tour leader will be waiting for you at Cali airport with a small board with the Birding Ecotours logo and we will then transfer you to your hotel. Please remember to keep your luggage tags, as they are required to exit the terminal at the Barranquilla airport. Please be aware that most international flights arrive in Cali in the afternoon, so we don't have any birding activities planned for the first day. In case you arrive on an early flight, you will be transferred to the hotel but may have to wait until check-in is available. For an early check-in you might be charged extra by the hotel; this cost is not included in the Birding Ecotours tour price.

When filling out the customs declaration form, please use this address for the hotel:

Hotel Hampton by Hilton Cali, Avenida Colombia #1A Oeste-35, Calí, Colombia

Phone: +57 (2) 4896000

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Our tour will end in Bogota after a wonderful 17 days in Colombia. After a final morning's birding we will transfer you to the Bogota El Dorado International Airport (BOG), from where you can catch international connections and flights back home.

DOMESTIC FLIGHT INFORMATION

There are three domestic flights on this trip, covering the Puerto Asis-Bogota and Bogota-Yopal-Bogota legs. These flights are not included in the Birding Ecotours tour price, but we will book them for you. To reach Bogota from both Puerto Asis and Yopal we will fly in small aircrafts where the luggage is limited to 15 kg (33 Ib) as checked luggage and 5 kg (11 Ib) as hand luggage.

Any excess baggage fees are not included in the tour price and will cost about US\$ 2 per kg (4.40 Ib). We will fly with EasyFly (www.easyfly.com.co) for the Puerto Asis-Bogota and Bogota-Yopal-Bogota routes, which we find to be the easiest airline covering these routes. We ask you to not book any flights before you confirm with Birding Ecotours.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE

We grade this trip as moderate. Most of the birding consists of walking along roads and birding near the vehicle but some of the walks lead slightly up and down hills in the paramos. There are two areas, in the lowlands of Los Llanos and Putumayo, where the vehicles cannot access and thus require full mornings of walking with high humidity and heat but all along flat gradients.

We need predawn starts on each day of the tour so you will have to be physically and mentally prepared for this. We normally spend the whole morning birding in the field, return to the lodge for lunch (followed by a little rest), before continuing our birding in the afternoon.

We have customized our tour so that we will be spending two or three nights at a few destinations, which minimizes the stress of packing and re-packing every day, however Colombia is a big country, and the tour includes some lengthy drives between destinations. These lengthy drives are however certainly not bland and they will allow us to enjoy the interesting countryside and maximize our chances for unexpected birds along the way. There will be long drives through the southern Andes along our way to Putumayo

We will stay at the best accommodations available, however not all lodges provide the full suite of facilities such as air conditioning or heating.

We think this trip might be difficult for people with back, walking, and balance problems or for those who are not used to a birding trip with the many early starts involved.

ATM

ATM machines are available in Cali, Popayan, Bogota, Pasto and Yopal but not in Putumayo. You can pay with credit card at [Hotel Hampton Cali](#), [Hotel Sumawasi](#), [Hotel Habitel Bogota](#), and [Hotel Hampton Yopal](#). Please be aware that credit cards are not accepted everywhere, especially in remote locations.

WEATHER

We ask you to be ready for all kinds of weather during this trip.

Putumayo, Pasto, Puerto Asis and Hato La Aurora in los Llanos are hot with temperatures reaching 30 – 37 °C (86 – 98 °F). Please pack clothes in which you feel most comfortable for this kind of weather. We highly recommend using sunscreen and a light-colored hat or cap. Please check [here](#) on what we recommend to pack for our birding tours.

Even when it is sunny in the mornings, the temperatures can be cool at night in Popayan. Similarly, the southern Andes can be warm in the mornings with temperatures often dropping to a chilly 16 °C (60 °F) at night. We can also expect some rain in this part of the Andes however certain flocks of birds are more active on rainy and overcast days.

Up in Paramo de Bordoncillo in the southern Andes, windy days may produce even colder temperatures, sometimes dropping to 5 °C (41 °F) in the night and early morning.

In Calí, high humidity and some rainy mornings should be expected with minimum night-time temperatures in Bogotá at around 10 °C (50 °F).

INSECTS

Insects and chiggers are expected in Los Llanos and the Amazonian foothills however we recommend that you bring insect repellent, wear loose-fitting long pants and long-sleeved shirts and keep insect repellent handy. Spraying your feet, socks, shoes, and the lower portion of your pants with insect repellent will help reduce chigger bites.

LAUNDRY

Laundry services are only available at Hampton Cali, Pasto, Putumayo (Hotel Sumawasii), Hotel Habitel in Bogota and in Hampton Yopal. Laundry fees are not included in the tour price.

ACCOMMODATION

Note on showers: Hotel Pakari (Mocoa x 2 nights) and Juan Solito (Llanos x 3 nights) do not provide hot showers however the weather is generally hot and humid.

TRANSPORT

We will have a private van for the whole tour with plenty of room for everybody. However, we might have to divide the group in two for the transfer from Yopal to Juan Solito Lodge. We will use open safari-style jeeps for our drives around Los Llanos which offer better views and photography chances.

