



**SOUTHERN ECUADOR – A FEAST OF ENDEMIC:
TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



Jcotoco Antpitta, one a number of antpitta species to be expected on this tour.

**PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO
ALL OUR ECUADOR TOURS**

This southern Ecuador birding holiday is focused on finding many of Ecuador's bird endemics and we will also target a number of regional endemics which are not easily targeted in neighboring Peru. Starting on the Pacific coast of Ecuador, we will explore wetlands and shrimp farms enjoying some classic species such as **Horned Screamer**, plenty of waterbirds and some secretive species such as **Brown Wood Rail**. In the Chocó woodlands of Buenaventura Reserve, we will look for endemics such as **El Oro Parakeet**, **El Oro Tapaculo** and other amazing species such as **Long-wattled Umbrellabird**, **Toucan Barbet**, **Club-winged Manakin**, and **Choco Toucan**. The Tumbesian zone of Jorupe will provide star species such as **Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner**, **Grey-backed Hawk**, **Tumbes Hummingbird**, and **Watkins's Antpitta**. Elsewhere on this tour, we will target other incredible species such as **Jocotoco Antpitta**, **Neblina Metaltail**, **Flame-throated Sunangel**, **Andean Cock-of-the-Rock**, **Grey Tinamou**, **Spangled Coquette** and **Coppery-chested Jacamar**. Another great pair of targets are the rare **Orange-throated Tanager** and handsome **Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher**. We will end the trip by exploring the southern Andes looking for high-elevation species such as the endemic **Purple-throated Sunangel**, **Violet-throated Metaltail**, **Giant Conebill**, and with luck the most-wanted **Crescent-faced Antpitta**.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Our tour will start and end in the Ecuadorian city of Guayaquil. You can reach Guayaquil's José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport with direct flights from the USA (including Miami and New York), Spain, the Netherlands and Panama. You might wish to consult your travel agent to book your most convenient flight (and feel free to [contact us](mailto:info@birdingecotours.com) if you want guidance). Please e-mail (info@birdingecotours.com) us before you book any flights, as the information shown here is just an initial guide. Your tour leader will be waiting for you at Guayaquil Airport and will then transfer you to your hotel. Please remember to keep your luggage tags, as they are often required to exit the terminal at Guayaquil Airport. Please be aware that most international flights arrive in Guayaquil in the afternoon or evening, so we do not have any birding activities planned for the first day. In case you arrive on an early flight, you will be transferred to the hotel where you may have to wait until check-in is available. For an early check-in you might be charged extra directly by the hotel; this cost is not included in the Birding Ecotours tour price. In case you want to organize any birding activities for the first day, we can arrange this with the local guide or the tour leader, at an extra cost.

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

Hotel Unipark, Clemente Ballén 406 y Chile, Guayaquil, Guayas 090313

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Our tour will end in Guayaquil after a wonderful 19 days and 18 nights in Ecuador. On the last morning your tour leader, or one of our tour representatives, will transfer you to Guayaquil Airport from where you can connect with your international departure.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE

We qualify this trip as moderate. Although most of the birding will involve pleasant walks along undulating roads, we will encounter some steep trails (which can get muddy at times) in the Paramo and in tropical forests. We will also enjoy relaxed birding around the lodge grounds and we will get to enjoy hummingbird and antpitta feeders at a few lodges too. To access certain special feeding stations and key birding territories (for **Jocotoco Antpitta**, **Grey Tinamou**, **Long-wattled Umbrellabird**, **El Oro Parakeet** and **El Oro Tapaculo**) some hiking is required. We will explore Amazon Rainforest trails at the Yankuam Reserve where trails may be uneven and we may encounter obstacles such as fallen logs, which are relatively easy to pass. Please let us know if you require further information on this topic or further descriptions of rainforest trails and terrain.

This southern Ecuador birdwatching tour does not require any domestic flights. However, there are a few lengthy drives when traveling from one lodge to the next, with full days of birding along the road, usually only arriving at our lodges in the late afternoon. In some of the areas we visit, the roads may be in poor shape. This tour is not as easy and upmarket as our [northern Ecuador tour](#) but the quality of birds and the wonderful landscapes make the trip worthwhile.

Keep in mind that we need to be awake very early in the mornings, and pre-dawn starts are in order each day. Please be prepared to have early starts on each day.

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 early starts involved.

ATM MACHINES & PAYMENT METHODS

We suggest you draw any cash (US dollars) you may need for this trip at the ATMs at Guayaquil Airport. Please bear in mind that we will stay in several remote reserves where there are no ATMs available.

[Unipark Hotel](#), [Hosteria Dos Chorreras](#), and [Grand Hotel Victoria](#) accept credit card payment for extra services. Buenaventura, Urraca, Yankuam, Copalinga and Tapichalaca do not accept credit cards. US dollars are widely accepted as Ecuador's official currency.

ALTITUDE

We will reach our highest elevation of the trip at the [Cajas National Park](#), at 13,100 feet (4,000 meters). Please ask your doctor if you have any medical conditions that might be affected by visiting high elevations. Spending a few hours at high elevation is not normally a problem, but some minor symptoms might appear, such as a slight headache and mild dizziness. A regular Paracetamol (400 mg), taken two hours before we reach

this elevation, should help prevent any headache trouble. A light meal the night before normally aids with digestion on the day at altitude.

WEATHER

We ask you to be ready for all kinds of weather on this trip. Guayaquil, the Chocó forests and the Amazonian foothills (Yankuam and Copalinga) can be hot and humid with temperatures often reaching 86°F (30°C). Chocó forests are probably one of the most humid areas in the world and we will also likely experience rainfall in these areas, however, the rain is not likely to adversely affect our birding here. Areas such as Cuenca and Tapichalaca can be cold with temperatures reaching 46°F (8°C).

LAUNDRY

Laundry services are available at all lodges. Please note that laundry fees are not included in the tour price

INTERNET

Wi-Fi is available in Guayaquil, Cuenca, Loja, Hostería Dos Chorreras and Tapichalaca. While internet is very limited or non-existent at Buenaventura, Copalinga, Urraca, and Yankuam. You might consider purchasing a SIM card at Guayaquil Airport on the day of your arrival – the network provider CLARO is a good option and offers great coverage.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please consult your tour leader when using flash photography, as it is banned in many reserves along our route. Failure to comply with flash photography regulations could lead to our removal from the reserve.

Even though bird and wildlife photography is welcome on all our tours, these trips are designed as birding tours, and so we ask you to photograph without jeopardizing other participants' experience of the tour and without compromising our travel schedule. We invite you to read our [expectations and rules for group tours](#), in particular Point 6, which refers to photography.

Please note that when at hummingbird and antpitta feeders, we are not allowed to alter or change the environment, even though we may want to make it look more natural.

MEALS

Most of the meals on this tour will include fixed menus at lodges and hotels where you should always have a vegetarian option. If you do have any special dietary preferences, please let us know in advance.

TRANSPORT

For groups of 4-8 we will have a private van for our whole tour, with plenty of space for everybody.



We will use a large, spacious van for our southern Ecuador birding tour.

