

Birding Ecotours



COLOMBIA: MEDELLÍN AND BOGOTÁ ENDEMICS

10 - 24 OCTOBER 2024

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*The endemic **White-mantled Barbet** should be seen at feeding station on this Colombian birding tour (photo Alejandro Grajales).*

On the first part of this exciting Medellín and Bogotá endemics birding tour, we will arrive in the city of Medellín to explore the recently created Margaritas Private Reserve to look for a feast of colorful and endemic species such as **White-mantled Barbet**, **Red-bellied Grackle**, the recently split **Striolated Manakin**, **White-bearded Manakin** and **Blue-naped Chlorophonia**.

From Medellín we will travel to the Yarumal area to look for the recently described and poorly known **Antioquia Brushfinch**. This rare Colombian endemic was described as recently as 2007, based on museum specimens, with its natural habitat only discovered in 2018. We will devote the whole day to finding “*Gorrión Paisa*”, the brushfinch’s Colombian name.

We will then leave Medellín and head towards 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**, **Chami Antpitta** (recently split from the Rufous Antpitta complex), **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**.

Day 7. Transfer to Rio Claro Reserve

We will then drive east of Medellín to spend the morning 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**. 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**.

Overnight: Los Colores Ecoparque Hotel, Rio Claro



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

Day 8. 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 9. Full day birding Bellavista Reserve

Today we will visit the Bellavista Reserve located one and a half hours from Honda. Here we will have great chances to see several 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 also have more chances to maximize on species such as **Beautiful Woodpecker, Black-crowned Antshrike, Black-faced Antthrush, and Antioquia Bristle Tyrant**. After a great day of birding, we will return to our comfortable hotel.

Overnight: [Hotel Boutique Posada las Trampas](#)

Day 10. Laguna el Tabacal and El Jardín Encantado

Today will be another early start as we leave Bellavista 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

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 Nuevo Mundo for the endemic **Flame-winged Parakeet**.

Overnight: Hotel Marriot Courtyard, Bogota

Day 13. Laguna Chisacá at Páramo Sumapaz and Tangara Camp

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**.

Later we will visit the recently created Tangara Camp where we should get awesome views of the endemic **Golden-bellied Starfrontlet**. We will then return later in the afternoon to Bogotá.

Overnight: Hotel Marriot Courtyard, Bogota



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

Day 14. Finding Cundinamarca Antpitta

Today we will focus on the secretive and endemic **Cundinamarca Antpitta** which has been attending worm-feeder stations in recent years, not too far from the classic Monterredondo sector of the huge Chingaza National Natural Park. 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 Marriot Courtyard, Bogota



*The cute and colorful **Blue-naped Chlorophonia** may be seen throughout this tour.*

Day 15. Departure

Today your international flights will depart from Bogotá International Airport where our fantastic fifteen 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.

Duration:	15 days
Group Size:	4 - 8
Dates:	10 - 24 October 2024 10 - 24 October 2025
Start:	Medellín Bogotá
End:	
Price:	US\$6,640 per person sharing, based on 4-8 participants (2023) US\$6,950 per person sharing, based on 4-8 participants (2024) US\$TBC per person sharing, based on 4-8 participants (2025)
Single Supplement:	US\$780 (2023) US\$790 (2024) US\$TBC (2025)

Price includes:

All accommodation as described above, or similar
 All meals (plates a la carte, fixed menus, and field meals)
 Private transportation
 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](#))