



## COLOMBIA: MEDELLÍN AND BOGOTÁ ENDEMICS

10 - 24 OCTOBER 2023

10 - 24 OCTOBER 2024

10 - 24 OCTOBER 2025



*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**.

The second part of the tour will allow participants to explore the eastern Andes, near Bogotá to visit unique bird reserves and exciting feeding stations 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**, **Cundinamarca Antpitta**, and **Spot-flanked Gallinule**.



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

### **Itinerary (15 days/14 nights)**

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

You will arrive at the José María Córdova International Airport located in Rio Negro, on the outskirts of Medellín, and stay in a comfortable hotel located a five minutes' drive from the airport.

Overnight: Hotel Movich, Rio Negro

#### **Day 2. Las Margaritas Reserve**

The tour will have an exciting start as we make an early visit to Las Margaritas Reserve looking for the endemic **White-mantled Barbet** and **Red-bellied Grackle**, both visiting the fruit feeders



in this new reserve. Other attractions of the reserve include both **White-bearded** and **Striolated Manakins** as well as the beautiful **Blue-naped Chlorophonia**. We will spend the full morning birding in the reserve and then head back to Medellín.

Overnight: Hotel Diez, Medellín



*White-bearded Manakin can be seen in Las Margaritas Reserve (photo Alejandro Grajales).*

### Day 3. Transfer to Jardín de Antioquia

Today we will head to the picturesque town of Jardín located at 1,750 meters (5,741 feet), and in the afternoon, we will visit what is perhaps the greatest **Andean Cock-of-the-rock** lek in the whole of South America. Other birds to find in this reserve include **Flame-rumped Tanager**, **White-naped Brushfinch**, **Colombian Chachalaca**, **Red-crowned Woodpecker**, **Bronze-winged Parrot**, **Palm, Bay-headed**, and **Scrub Tanagers**, **Red-headed Barbet**, **Inca Jay**, **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**, and **Andean Motmot**. Here we will have a second chance for **Red-bellied Grackle**. However the **Andean Cock-of-the-rock** is the star of the reserve with individuals active throughout the day and highly photogenic!

Overnight: Overnight: Casa Passiflora Boutique Hotel, Jardín

### Day 4. 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: Casa Passiflora Boutique Hotel



*We will visit ProAves **Yellow-eared Parrot** Reserve for its namesake species (photo Alejandro Grajales).*

### **Day 5. Bolombolo birding and transfer to Medellin**

Today we will have another early start as we leave Jardín and head to Medellin. 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**.

Overnight: Hotel Diez, Medellín

### **Day 6. Finding Antioquia Brushfinch**

We shall dedicate the day to look for the endemic and rare **Antioquia Brushfinch** in the Yarumal area which is one of the main targets of the trip. We will of course look for other special birds in the area. Later we will return to Medellin for another night.

Overnight: Hotel Diez, Medellín

### 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

species including the endemic **Indigo-capped Hummingbird** and **Ruby-topaz Hummingbird**. After another exciting birding day, we will arrive in Bogotá.

Overnight: Hotel Marriot Courtyard, Bogota

### Day 11. 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 Marriot Courtyard, Bogota



*Sword-billed Hummingbird — a neotropical dream bird!*

### Day 12. Chingaza Natural National Park, Guasca gravel pits, and Nuevo Mundo

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 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.*

<b>Duration:</b>	15 days
<b>Group Size:</b>	4 - 8
<b>Dates:</b>	10 - 24 October 2023 10 - 24 October 2024 10 - 24 October 2025
<b>Start:</b>	Medellín
<b>End:</b>	Bogotá
<b>Price:</b>	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)
<b>Single Supplement:</b>	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](#))