



THE VERY BEST OF COLOMBIA: THE ANDES AND CHOCÓ

17–30 NOVEMBER 2027
17–30 NOVEMBER 2028



Multicolored Tanager is one of our targets on this tour.

Overview

We invite you to view our revised Colombia Birding Tour: The Very Best of Colombia itinerary. This 14-day Colombia birding tour provides some of the best birding that Colombia has to offer and will explore many of the country's finest birding sites. We will visit the central Andes from the spectacular Los Nevados National Natural Park and the Rio Blanco Reserve in search of the most-wanted **White-capped Tanager**, **Ocellated Tapaculo**, **Masked Saltator** and **Buffy Helmetcrest** to the Otún-Quimbaya Flora and Fauna Sanctuary in search of the endemic **Cauca Guan** and the secretive **Hooded Antpitta**. At the bird-rich Tatamá National Park, where the western Andes meets the Chocó, we will search for a fine selection of Colombian birds, such as **Gold-ringed** (endemic), **Black-and-gold** and **Glistening-green Tanagers**, **Club-winged Manakin**, **Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer**, **Dusky Starfrontlet**, **Black Solitaire** and **Munchique Wood Wren**. We will then explore wetlands near the shores of the Cauca River in search of the endemic **Apical Flycatcher**, **Spectacled Parrotlet** and many classic aquatic species.



*The endemic **Gold-ringed Tanager** is a major target on this tour.*

Without doubt, another highlight of this birding tour will be the Pacific lowlands, where we will have the chance to look for the most-wanted **Toucan Barbet** and visit the San Cipriano Reserve where it is possible to find Chocó specials such as **Black-tipped Cotinga**, **Black-breasted Puffbird**, **Tawny-crested Tanager**, **Rufous-winged Tanager**, **Scarlet-and-white Tanager** and the unique **Sapayoa**. The Pacific lowlands are home to the sought-after **Ocellated Antbird**, **Rose-faced Parrot**, **Choco Toucan** and **Lita Woodpecker**. The humid forests above Cali are home to the **Multicolored Tanager**, one of the most beautiful tanagers in the world.

Colombia with its many diverse habitats is home to more bird species than any other country in the world. With the country's almost 2,000 bird species, be prepared to be in awe of its spectacular avifauna as we explore Colombia on this 14-day birding adventure. This tour can be combined with our [Santa Marta Escape](#) birding tour which takes place immediately after this tour and is centered around the endemic-rich Santa Marta Mountains in northern Colombia.

Detailed Itinerary (14 days/13 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Cali

Our tour will start in the city of Cali, which is our rendezvous point in Colombia. You will be met at Alfonso Bonilla Aragon International Airport and then transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: Hotel Dann Carlton, Cali (or similar)

Day 2. Finca La Florida and Alejandria

We will begin our tour visiting La Florida Reserve where we will spend the whole morning getting acquainted with many exciting Colombian bird species including the sought after **Multicolored Tanager**. The bird feeder here attracts the endemic **Chestnut Wood Quail** and sometimes **Little Tinamou** and **Scaled Antpitta**. Other birds to be seen in the area include **Chestnut-rumped Toucanet**, **Red-headed Barbet**, **Green Honeycreeper** and **Saffron-crowned**, **Golden-naped**, **Summer**, **Flame-rumped**, **Metallic-green** and **Golden Tanagers**.



We will hope for views of Chestnut Wood Quail in La Florida Reserve (photo Gilberto Collazos).

Afterwards, we will head to the famous Finca Alejandria, where we will look for hummingbirds such as **Long-tailed Sylph**, **White-booted Racket-tail** (a recent split from Booted Racket-tail), **Bronzy Inca** and **Blue-headed Sapphire**. Other species to search for here include the **Colombian Chachalaca** (endemic), **Black-winged Saltator**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Squirrel Cuckoo**, **Golden-headed Quetzal**, **Streak-capped Treehunter**, **Grey-breasted Wood Wren**, **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch**, **Russet-crowned Warbler**, **Montane Woodcreeper**, **Slate-throated Whitestart** and **Golden-winged Manakin**. If we are lucky **Common Potoo** may be seen at daytime roosts. Other hummingbird species on our radar here include **Greenish Puffleg**, **White-necked Jacobin**, **Fawn-breasted Brilliant**, **Steely-vented Hummingbird**, **Andean Emerald**, **Speckled Hummingbird** and **Green Hermit**. We will visit another private feeding station in the area where we should see similar birds, with the main target being **Blue-throated Sapphire**.

Overnight: Dann Carlton, Cali (or similar)

Day 3. Anchicaya Road and Doña Dora feeders

Today we will visit the Doña Dora feeders, beyond the famous Kilometer 18, where we will have the chance to enjoy our first set of Chocó specials. In this area Pacific slope species reach their eastern extent and meet other more typical western Andes species. At the hummingbird feeders we normally find **White-whiskered Hermit**, **Green Thorntail**, **Empress Brilliant**, **Violet-tailed Sylph** and **White-tailed Hillstar**. The fruit feeders attract the most-wanted **Toucan Barbet**, which will be the main target of our visit. Other interesting species include **Black-headed** and **Choco Brushfinches**, **Crimson-rumped Toucanet**, **Grey-and-gold** and **Rufous-throated Tanagers** and **Sooty-headed Wren**. If neighboring trees are in fruit, we could find **Yellow-collared Chlorophonia**. After another fantastic day's birding, we will stay another night in the Cali area.

Overnight: Dann Carlton, Cali (or similar)



The brightly colored Toucan Barbet (photo Gilberto Collazos).

Day 4. San Cipriano Reserve and transfer to Buga

Today, we will have a very early start to travel to the San Cipriano Reserve, looking for Chocó specials such as **Stub-tailed Antbird**, **Black-breasted Puffbird**, **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis**, **Scarlet-browed**, **Blue-whiskered** and **Scarlet-and-white Tanagers**, **Spot-crowned Antwren**, **Dusky Pigeon**, **Barred Puffbird**, **Moustached Antwren**, **Chestnut-backed** and **Bicolored Antbirds** and if we are lucky, we could find the most-wanted **Ocellated Antbird**, **Rose-faced Parrot**, **Black-tipped Cotinga**, **Five-colored Barbet** and the prized **Sapayoa**. From here, we will transfer to Buga.

Overnight: Hotel Guadalajara, Buga (or similar)

Day 5. Sonso Lake and transfer to Cajamarca

We will have an easy morning visiting the Sonso Lake, looking for **Spectacled Parrotlet**, **Jet Antbird**, **Apical Flycatcher** (endemic), **Orange-crowned Euphonia**, **Common Potoo**, **Common Nighthawk**, **Fulvous Whistling Duck**, **Red-breasted Blackbird**, **Oriole Blackbird**, **Blackish Rail**, **Greyish Piculet** (endemic), several aquatic species and the secretive **Dwarf Cuckoo**. After 3-4 hours of birding, we will drive towards the town of Cajamarca in the foothills of the Tolima massive, a snow-capped mountain.

Overnight: Urapanes del Bosque, Cajamarca (or similar)



The gorgeous Indigo-capped Hummingbird.

Day 6. Fuertes's Parrot Reserve

Today we will have an early start to visit the Fuertes's Parrot Bird Reserve, one of the few places in the world where you can see the Critically Endangered and endemic **Fuertes's Parrot**. Another target of this reserve is the Endangered endemic, **Yellow-eared Parrot**, a scarce parrot which nests at high elevation. Wax palm trees are widespread in the reserve which offer better views and photography chances than those birds seen in Jardín de Antioquia (Medellín). The new Retorno de los Colibries feeding station offers super opportunities for Colombian endemics such as **Tolima Dove**, **Tolima Blossomcrown**, **Indigo-capped Hummingbird** and **Colombian Chachalaca**. Others to look for here include **Masked Trogon**, **Strong-billed** and **Montane Woodcreepers**, **Slaty Spinetail**, **Crimson-backed Tanager**, **White-throated** and **Crimson-rumped Toucanets**, **Andean Motmot**, **Olivaceous Piculet**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Inca Jay** and **Bar-crested Antshrike**.

Overnight: Urapanes del Bosque, Cajamarca (or similar)



Fuertes's Parrot; one of several parrot species we hope to see on this tour.

Day 7. Transfer to Montezuma

After some final birding in the area, we will transfer to Montezuma Ecolodge located in the foothills of the Tatama National Park, outside Pereira. This family-run property is the only accommodation in the area and although relatively basic it offers a nice experience in one of Colombia's main birding hotspots. This is another area where Pacific slope species meet Andean species range and is one of the few accessible Chocó areas. We will arrive in the afternoon with time to check in and enjoy hummingbird feeders where we might find species such as **Western Emerald**, **White-tailed Hillstar**, **Tawny-bellied Hermit** and the uncommon **Purple-bibbed Whitetip**.

Overnight: Montezuma Ecolodge, Montezuma

Day 8. Montezuma Ridge (top)

Today we will have an early start and a full day to explore the top of the Montezuma ridge at 8,530 feet (2,600 meters) above sea level, where we will look for **Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer** (endemic), **Munchique Wood Wren** (endemic), **Smoky Bush Tyrant** and **Collared Inca**. We will also look for incredible mixed-species flocks that make Montezuma famous, which often include **Gold-ringed** (endemic), **Glistening-green**, **Black-and-gold** and **Purplish-mantled Tanagers**, **Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia**, **Fulvous-dotted Treerunner**, **Spillmann's**, **Narino** and **Tatama Tapaculos**, **Montane Woodcreeper**, **Indigo Flowerpiercer**, **Ochre-breasted Antpitta**, **Bronze-olive Pygmy Tyrant**, **Handsome Flycatcher** and with luck, **White-faced Nunbird** and **Tanager Finch**. The hummingbird feeders below the ridge attract **Tourmaline Sunangel**, **Velvet-purple Coronet**, **Greenish Puffleg**, **Violet-tailed Sylph**, **Empress Brilliant** and **Brown Inca**. At night we will look for **Tropical Screech Owl** around the cabins.

Overnight: Montezuma Ecolodge, Montezuma



Black-and-gold Tanager; yet another Colombian endemic.

Day 9. Montezuma (mid-elevation) and transfer to Pereira

We will have another early start today, this time to focus on mid-elevation species in the Cajones sector of the park. Here we will look for **Orange-breasted Fruiteater**, **Crested** and **Golden-headed Quetzals**, **Uniform Treehunter**, **Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner**, **Uniform Antshrike**, **Bluish Flowerpiercer**, **Black-and-gold** (endemic) and **Rufous-throated Tanagers**, **Pacific Tuftedcheek**, **Choco Brushfinch**, **Choco Vireo**, **Golden-winged Manakin**, **Black-throated Tody-Tyrant**, **Yellow-collared Chlorophonia**, **Crested Ant Tanager** and with luck, **Black**

Solitaire, Scaled Fruiteater, Choco Vireo and **Beautiful Jay**. In the early afternoon we will leave the reserve and transfer to Pereira for the night in a comfortable hotel.

Overnight: Movich Pereira Hotel, Pereira (or similar)



The beautiful Yellow-collared Chlorophonia.

Day 10. Otún-Quimbaya Sanctuary and transfer to Manizales

Our predawn start will involve a drive from Pereira to the Otún-Quimbaya Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, where we will look for the endemic **Cauca Guan** and the secretive **Hooded Antpitta**. Other birds to look for here include **Red-ruffed Fruitcrow**, **Rufous-breasted Flycatcher**, **Chestnut-breasted Wren**, **Crested Ant Tanager** (endemic), **Andean Motmot**, **White-throated Toucanet**, **Stiles's Tapaculo** (endemic), **Streak-capped Treehunter**, **Sooty-headed** and **Torrent Tyrannulets**, **Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant**, **Whiskered Wren**, **White-capped Dipper** and **Torrent Duck**. After lunch we will drive to Manizales, our base for the next few days.

Overnight: Hotel Quo, Manizales (or similar)

Day 11. Rio Blanco Reserve

Today we will spend the morning visiting the Rio Blanco Reserve, paying particular attention to the three different antpitta stations of this reserve to look for **Bicolored**, **Chestnut-crowned**, **Brown-banded** and **Slate-crowned Antpittas**. The mixed-species flocks at Rio Blanco normally include **Blue-and-black**, **Grass-green** and **Blue-capped Tanagers**, **Blue-winged Mountain Tanager**, **Capped Conebill**, **Black-eared Hemispingus**, **Superciliaried** and **Oleaginous Hemispingus**, **Crimson-mantled Woodpecker**, **Pearled Treerunner** and **Green-and-black**

Fruiteater. Some understory species we will look for include **Rusty-crowned Tody-Flycatcher**, **Flammulated Treehunter**, **Streak-headed Antbird**, **Blackish Tapaculo**, **Russet-crowned Warbler** and **Grey-browed Brushfinch**. Other highlight species to look for at Rio Blanco include **Masked Saltator**, **Dusky Piha** and **White-capped Tanager**. Occasionally it is possible to find **Stygian Owl** at its daytime roost.

Overnight: Hotel Quo, Manizales (or similar)

Day 12 Hacienda El Bosque

Today we will spend the full morning at Hacienda El Bosque, a private reserve which has become a mandatory birding and photography hotspot for birdwatchers visiting Colombia. Here we will have the chance to look for the sought after **Crescent-faced Antpitta**. Other targets include **Equatorial Antpitta**, **White-browed Spinetail**, **White-banded** and **White-throated Tyrannulets**, **Mountain, Rufous and Grass Wrens**, **Black-crested Warbler**, **Blue-backed Conebill**, **White-throated Quail-Dove**, **Grey-browed Brushfinch** and **Hooded Mountain Tanager**. While here we will also enjoy the lodge feeders which attract handsome species such as **Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan**, a big target for many visitors, and this reserve offers close up views of this species. Other interesting species seen here include **Andean** and **Sickle-winged Guans**. Hummingbirds will of course be high on our agenda here and include **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, **Tourmaline Sunangel**, **Buff-winged Starfrontlet**, **Mountain Velvetbreast**, **Shining Sunbeam** and many others.

Overnight: Hotel Quo, Manizales (or similar)



The striking Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan.



The cute Crescent-faced Antpitta in Hacienda El Bosque.

Day 13. Los Nevados National Natural Park

Today we will have an early start to explore the high elevation páramos below the snow-capped mountains. Outside the park we will look for **Buffy Helmetcrest** (endemic), **Andean Tit-Spinetail**, **Many-striped Canastero**, **Grass Wren**, **Tawny Antpitta**, **Plain-colored Seedeater**, **Plumbeous Sierra Finch** and **Stout-billed Cinclodes**. If we are lucky, we might see the mighty **Andean Condor** soaring above the mountains alongside the more common **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle**. We will try to locate the uncommon **Black-backed Bush Tanager** before returning to our hotel and enjoying its hummingbird feeders. These feeders attract species like **Great Sapphirewing**, **Buff-winged Starfrontlet**, **Mountain Velvetbreast**, **Black-thighed** and **Golden-breasted Pufflegs**, **Shining Sunbeam**, **Viridian Metaltail** and **Rainbow-bearded Thornbill**. Other species around the hotel include **Paramo Tapaculo**, **Glossy Flowerpiercer** and **Pale-naped Brushfinch**.

Overnight: Hotel Quo, Manizales (or similar)

Day 14 Transfer to Pereira and departure

Today we will transfer to Pereira domestic airport where we will say goodbye and catch domestic flights back to Cali, Bogota or Medellin from where you can take international flights back home.

Overnight: Not included

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 guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling or other factors.

Tour Details

Duration:	14 days
Group size:	4–8
Dates:	17–30 November 2027 17–30 November 2028
Start:	Cali, Colombia
End:	Pereira, Colombia
Prices:	US\$ 7,790 per person sharing, based on 4–8 participants (2027) US\$ 7,990 per person sharing, based on 4–8 participants (2028)
Single supplement:	US\$ 940 (2027) US\$ 990 (2028)

Please note that there are no single rooms available at Montezuma Ecolodge, the only accommodation providing access to this extraordinary birding area, for the 2 nights there.

Price includes:

All accommodation (except on Day 14)
All meals (except where indicated)
All ground transportation, including 4x4 transportation where needed
Admission fees to parks and reserves
Private tour leader
Local guides
Bottled water

Price excludes:

All airfares
Dinner on day 1 and on day 14 (apart from breakfast)
Private expenses (drinks, alcoholic drinks, laundry, any other personal items)
Tipping
Any activity not described in the itinerary
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))

Difficulty:

Moderate. This is not considered an arduous trip, but it does include early starts every day, long drives and some steep walks. We will face high elevation in the Central Andes in the Los Nevados National Natural Park at 13,450 feet (4,100 meters). The trip might not be easy for people with walking difficulties including back or knee problems as well as lack of stamina.