



**NORTHERN ECUADOR – HUMMINGBIRD AND ANTPITTA  
EXTRAVAGANZA: TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



*Toucan Barbet – one of the many beautiful species we'll search for in northern Ecuador.*

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

This northern Ecuador trip is perhaps the finest birding trip in all of South America, both in terms of infrastructure, birding facilities and the amazing quality of birds on offer. There is no other area in Ecuador where you will be able to enjoy hummingbird feeders that will provide you stunning views of jewels such as **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, **Giant Hummingbird**, **White-booted Racket-tail**, **Ecuadorian Piedtail** and **Velvet-purple Coronet**, to name a few. You will also be able to visit antpitta feeding stations where it is possible to see **Giant Antpitta**, **Moustached Antpitta**, **Ochre-breasted Antpitta**, **Rufous Antpitta**, **Chestnut-crowned Antpitta**, **Tawny Antpitta**, **Plain-backed Antpitta**, **Yellow-breasted Antpitta** and **White-bellied Antpitta**. We shall enjoy colorful species such as **Plate-billed Mountain Toucan**, **Moss-backed Tanager**, **Glistening-green Tanager**, **Toucan Barbet**, **Crimson-rumped Toucanet**, **Yellow-throated Toucan**, and classic Andean species such as **Andean Condor**, **Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe** and **Torrent Duck**. We will also be targeting a number of secretive specials such as **Ocellated Tapaculo** and even **Banded Ground Cuckoo**.

#### **ARRIVAL INFORMATION**

Our tour will start and end in the city of Quito, Ecuador's capital city. You can reach Quito's Mariscal Sucre International Airport (UIO) with direct flights from the USA, Spain, the Netherlands and Panama. Please [e-mail](#) us before you book any flights, as the information shown here is just an initial guide. You might wish to consult your travel agent to book your most convenient flight, and please feel free to [contact us](#) if you need any further guidance. Your tour leader will meet you at Quito Airport (waiting for you with the Birding Ecotours logo clearly displayed) and will then transfer you to your comfortable hotel. Please remember to keep your luggage tags, as they are normally required to exit the terminal building at Quito Airport. Please be aware that most international flights arrive in Quito in the afternoon or evening, and as such, we do not have any birding activities planned for the first day. If you arrive on an early flight, you will be transferred to the hotel but may have to wait until check-in is available (usually in the early afternoon). 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.

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

**Hotel José de Puenbo, Manuel Burbano S7-150 y San Fernando Puenbo, Quito, Ecuador**

#### **DEPARTURE INFORMATION**

Our tour will end in Quito after a wonderful 17 days and 16 nights in northern Ecuador. On the last morning your tour leader, or one of our tour representatives, will arrange your transfer to Quito Airport from where you can catch your flight home.

## PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE

We qualify this trip as moderate, with most of the birding consisting of walking along roadsides, although some of these walks may lead up and down hills. We shall, however, also face some steep trails on the eastern and western slope of the Andes and some of these trails can get muddy at times. Some people have described the up and down walking as being difficult. We do 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 morning starts. However, we will spend quality time sitting and enjoying hummingbird and antpitta feeders and looking for birds around our lodges.

Keep in mind that (as is usual on most birding trips) we need to be awake very early in the mornings, and pre-dawn starts are in order each day. We normally spend the whole morning birding in the field, return to the lodge for lunch, and then provide a little rest before continuing our birding in the afternoon. Your guide will sometimes invite you to look for owls at night, but this is an optional activity that you can skip if you feel tired. Some people prefer to rest, skipping birding in the afternoon; this can be done at those lodges when we are staying more than one night. When we do birding stops while traveling from location to location, people who feel tired do not have to follow the group and can remain in the vehicle. This trip does not have any particularly long drives nor does it require taking any domestic flights.

Roads can be very bumpy and rocky which can pose problems especially for people with back problems.

## ATM MACHINES & PAYMENT METHODS

ATMs will be very limited on this tour. The most convenient place to draw money (Ecuador's official currency is US dollars) would be at Quito Airport, before the start of the tour. There is an ATM in Bancos near Mindo, which can be visited in case of emergency, however not all international cards are accepted here. Please read the section regarding money and currency exchange in our [general information for all Ecuador tours](#).

[Sachatamia Lodge](#), [Hotel José de Puenbo](#) and [Termas de Papallacta](#) accept credit card payment for extra services. [Guango](#), [Cabañas San Isidro](#) and [WildSumaco](#) Lodges do not accept credit cards.

## ALTITUDE

We will reach our highest elevations on this tour at [Papallacta Pass](#) at 14,700 feet (4,500 meters) above sea level. Please consult with your doctor if you have any medical conditions that may be aggravated by spending time at high elevations. Spending a few hours at high elevation is not normally a problem, but some minor symptoms might appear, like a slight headache and mild dizziness. A regular Paracetamol (400 mg), taken two hours before we reach this elevation, should prevent any headache trouble. We suggest you avoid eating a large dinner on the previous evening before reaching altitude, as this will help with digestion. Quito city is located at 9,350 feet (2,850 meters) above sea level.

**WEATHER**

We ask you to be ready for all kinds of weather on this trip. The Chocó forests, below Mindo, are humid and warm, reaching a maximum of 82°F (28°C) and a minimum of 59°F (15°C) at night. Chocó forests are probably one of the most humid natural areas in the world, and during our stay here, we will likely experience some rainy days, which should, however, not impact our birding. Quito has a minimum temperature of 57°F (14°C). The eastern slope of the Andes, with the exception of WildSumaco, has areas that are cold at night. The coldest area of our trip is likely to be the Papallacta Pass where the temperature descends to 41°F (5°C).

**LAUNDRY**

Laundry services are available at all lodges on this northern Ecuador trip however please note that laundry fees are not included in the tour price.

**INTERNET**

Wi-Fi is available in Quito, Mindo and Termas de Papallacta, while internet is very limited or non-existent at Guango, Cabañas San Isidro and WildSumaco. You might consider purchasing a SIM card at Quito airport on the day of your arrival.

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

When photographing at hummingbird or antpitta feeders, we are not allowed to alter the environment in any way – even though you may want to create a more natural environment for photography.

**MEALS**

Most of the meals will be fixed menus at the lodges and hotels where you will always have a vegetarian option. Please let us know about any dietary preferences in advance.

**TRANSPORT**

We will have a private van for the whole tour with plenty of room for everybody.



*An example of the private van that we use for this bird tour.*

