



**COLOMBIA UNCOVERED: SOUTHERN ANDES, AMAZONIAN
FOOTHILLS AND LLANOS – TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



Chestnut-bellied Cotinga is one of the star specials we hope to find on this tour (photo Daniel Orozco).

**PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO OUR
COLOMBIA TOURS IN GENERAL**

This itinerary has been designed to provide you with another incredible birding adventure which is complementary to our **Very Best of Colombia: Santa Marta, Andes and Chocó** birding tour. As Colombia is a large country, the fourth largest in South America, it is virtually impossible to see all of its highlights and enjoy all of its avian treasures in a standard 15- or 21-day trip. For this reason, we have decided to divide our 'Very Best of Colombia' tour into two different tours. This Colombia Uncovered birding tour will give you the chance to see other areas of this fabulous country. This trip will take you to the southern Andes in search of some incredible, range-restricted species such as the **Chestnut-bellied Cotinga** and **White-rimmed Brushfinch**. In addition, we will search for some classic and highly sought-after Andean species such as **Andean Condor**, **White-capped Tanager** and **Golden-plumed Parakeet**. We shall explore the Amazonian foothills where we will enjoy a plethora of species such as **Coppery-chested**, **White-chinned**, **White-eared** and **Brown Jacamars**, **Plum-throated Cotinga**, **Amazonian Umbrellabird**, **Vermilion Tanager**, **White-throated Toucan** and **Golden-collared Toucanet**. We will end our trip in Los Llanos where we can enjoy great birds such as the localized **Pale-headed Jacamar** and **Orinoco Goose** and if we are lucky wildlife such as **Anaconda**, or even the mighty **Jaguar**.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Our tour will start in Cali's Alfonso Bonilla Aragón International Airport (CLO) which can be reached by direct flights from all over Colombia, from some US international airports and from Panama City (Panama). Cali can be reached from Europe with a stop in Bogotá. Please consult your travel agent to book your most convenient flight. Your tour leader will be waiting for you at Cali Airport holding a small sign with the Birding Ecotours logo and we will then transfer you to your hotel. Please remember to keep your luggage tags, as they are required to exit the terminal at the Cali airport. Please be aware that most international flights arrive in Cali in the afternoon, so we don't have any birding activities planned for the first day. In case you arrive on an early flight, you will be transferred to the hotel but may have to wait until check-in is available. For an early check-in you might be charged extra by the hotel; this cost is not included in the Birding Ecotours tour price.

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

[Hotel Dann Carlton Cali](#), Carrera 2 # 1-60, El Peñón, Cali, Valle del Cauca, Colombia,
phone: +57 (602) 8862000

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Our tour will end in Bogotá after a wonderful 17 days in Colombia. After a final morning's birding we will transfer you to the Bogotá El Dorado International Airport (BOG), from where you can catch international connections and flights back home.

DOMESTIC FLIGHT INFORMATION

There are three domestic flights on this trip, covering the Puerto Asís–Bogotá and Bogotá–Yopal–Bogotá legs. These flights are not included in the Birding Ecotours tour price, but we will book them for you. To reach Bogotá from both Puerto Asís and Yopal we will fly in small aircraft where the luggage is limited to 15 kg (33 lb) as checked luggage and 5 kg (11 lb) as hand luggage.

Any excess baggage fees are not included in the tour price and will cost approximate US\$ 6 per kg (4.40 lb). We will fly with Clic Air (www.clicair.com.co) for the Puerto Asís–Bogotá and Bogotá–Yopal–Bogotá routes, which we find to be the easiest airline covering these routes. We ask you to not book any flights before you confirm with Birding Ecotours.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE

We grade this trip as moderate. Most of the birding consists of walking along roads and birding near the vehicle, although some walks involve gentle ascents and descents in the páramos. There are two areas, in the lowlands of Los Llanos and Putumayo, where the vehicles cannot access and thus require full mornings of walking in hot, humid conditions, though the terrain is mostly flat.

We need predawn starts on each day of the tour so you will have to be physically and mentally prepared for this. We normally spend the whole morning birding in the field, return to the lodge for lunch (followed by a little rest), before continuing our birding in the afternoon.

We have customized our tour so that we will be spending two or three nights at a few destinations, which minimizes the stress of packing and re-packing every day, however Colombia is a big country, and the tour includes some lengthy drives between destinations. These lengthy drives are, however, far from dull and they will allow us to enjoy the interesting countryside and maximize our chances for unexpected birds along the way. There will also be long drives through the southern Andes on our way to Putumayo.

We will stay at the best accommodations available, however not all lodges provide the full suite of facilities such as air conditioning or heating.

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 the many early starts involved.

ATMs

ATMs are available in Cali, Popayán, Bogotá, Pasto and Yopal but not in Putumayo. You can pay with credit card at [Hotel Hampton Cali](#), Hotel Sumawasi, [Hotel Habitel Bogotá](#) and [Hotel Hampton Yopal](#). Please be aware that credit cards are not accepted everywhere, especially in remote locations.

WEATHER

We ask you to be ready for all kinds of weather during this trip. Putumayo, Pasto, Puerto Asís and Hato La Aurora in Los Llanos are hot with temperatures reaching 30–37 °C (86–98 °F). Please pack clothes in which you feel most comfortable for this kind of weather. We highly recommend

using sunscreen and a light-colored hat or cap. Please check [here](#) on what we recommend to pack for our birding tours.

Even when it is sunny in the mornings, the temperatures can be cool at night in Popayán. Similarly, the southern Andes can be warm in the mornings with temperatures often dropping to a chilly 16 °C (60 °F) at night. We can also expect some rain in this part of the Andes however certain flocks of birds are more active on rainy and overcast days.

Up in Páramo de Bordoncillo in the southern Andes, windy days may produce even colder temperatures, sometimes dropping to 5 °C (41 °F) at night and in the early morning

In Cali, high humidity and some rainy mornings should be expected with minimum night-time temperatures in Bogotá at around 10 °C (50 °F).

INSECTS

Insects and chiggers are expected in Los Llanos and the Amazonian foothills. As such, we recommend that you bring insect repellent, wear loose-fitting long pants and long-sleeved shirts and keep insect repellent handy. Spraying your feet, socks, shoes, and the lower portion of your pants with insect repellent will help reduce chigger bites.

LAUNDRY

Laundry services are only available at [Hampton Cali](#), Popayán, Putumayo ([Hotel Sumawasi](#)), [Hotel Habitel](#) Bogotá and in Hampton Yopal and Hotel Juan Solito. Laundry fees are not included in the tour price.

ACCOMMODATION

Note on showers: Hotel Pakari (Mocoa, 2 nights) and [Juan Solito](#) (Llanos, 3 nights) do not provide hot showers however the weather is generally hot and humid.

TRANSPORT

We will have a private van for the whole tour with plenty of room for everyone. However, we might have to divide the group in two for the transfer from Yopal to Juan Solito Lodge. We will use open safari-style jeeps for our drives around Los Llanos which offer better views and photography opportunities.

