



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Toucan Barbet

Birding Northern Ecuador; a Week in Paradise

7 Nights/8 Days

The Bosque del Chocó in northwestern Ecuador is incredibly rich in flora and fauna. It is considered a biodiversity hotspot, boasting some of the greatest biodiversity in the world. This tour will visit different ecosystems throughout the Chocó ranging from 3,500 meters above sea level down to 300 meters.

The bird list in the Northwest alone includes approximately 747 species (a personal record held by your guide, Edison). There are around 1,200 plant species per square kilometer and more than 100 species of amphibians and reptiles in just a small area.

The Chocó Forest is restricted to northwestern Ecuador and southwestern Colombia. The species we will observe and photograph are unique, such as the Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Barbet Toucan, Moss-backed Tanager, Glistening-green Tanager, Rufous-throated Tanager, Chocó Toucan, Violet-tailed Sylph, and Empress Bristlenose, to name just a few.

We will be staying at the best lodge in the region, which provides an excellent place to rest after our daily expeditions, and the food is delicious.

On our short trip through the northwest, we'll see between 280 and 320 species of birds and some mammals such as tayras, South American coatis, Red-tailed Squirrels, and, with a bit of luck, the Spectacled Bear. We'll also visit many reserves, including the famous Paz de las Aves reserve, where Ángel Paz, the owner, was the first person to feed the famous Antpittas, and the renowned town of Mindo, which has won first place in Christmas bird counts for several years.

This is a very relaxed and easy tour for anyone to enjoy.

Tour Overview

Day 1: Arrival and night in Quito

Days 2 to 6: Septimo Paraiso, Mindo

Day 7: Return to Quito, night Quito

Day 8: Morning Antizana National Park, afternoon flights home

7 Night/8 Day Itinerary:

Day 1, Arrival:

Arrive Quito, where we will meet you at the airport and transfer to your hotel.

Lodging in Quito

Meals: Dinner

Day 2, to Zuro Loma and Septimo Paraiso:

Today, we will start early to drive to Zuro loma reserve and there we will enjoy how the local people start feeding the Chestnut-naped and Equatorial Antpittas, Barred Fruiteater, Andean Guan, Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch plus we will see and photograph the amazing

Sword billed Hummingbird, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Mountain Velvetbreast, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Tyrian Metaltail, Black-tailed Trainbearer and many more. We will enjoy a picnic lunch while taking in the grandiose montane vista, then we will begin the drive to Mindo via the Old Nono Mindo Road, birding along the way. This road offers spectacular views of the forest and excellent birding and photo opportunities with the possibility of such sought-after birds such as Torrent Duck and White-capped Dipper. After that we'll will drive to Septimo Paraiso Lodge in Mindo.

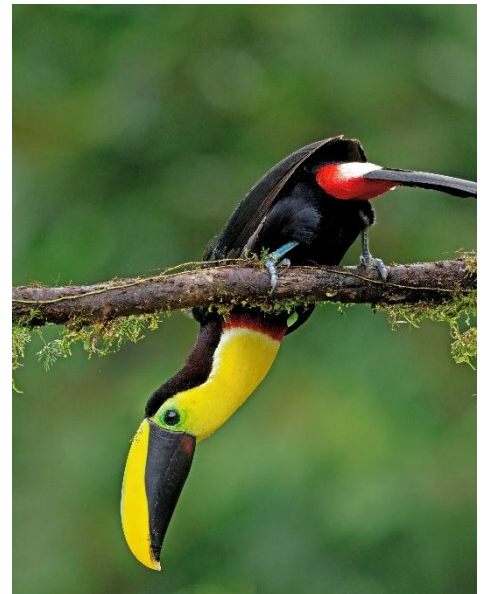
Lodging at Septimo Paraiso Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3, Silanche Reserve:

After an early breakfast, we will drive downslope to the Silanche Reserve. At 1000 feet, this is the lowest preserve we will visit, and we will spend a few hours at the Canopy Tower looking for Choco endemics such as Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, Rufous-winged and Blue-whiskered Tanagers, Scarlet-browed Tanager, Gray and Gold Tanager, Tawny-crested Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Milpe Bird Sanctuary in the afternoon to search for Choco endemics such as Moss-backed, Rufous-throated, and Glistening-green Tanagers, as well as Club-winged Manakin.

Lodging at Septimo Paraiso Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Choco Toucan

Day 4, Mashpi Reserve:

Today, we will have an early start to drive to Mashpi Reserve there we will look for Moss-backed, Glistening-green, rufous-throated tanagers, Velvet purple Coronet, Black solitaire, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Black Solitaire and many

more and then we will travel an hour's drive to the Oilbird Cave in hopes of seeing this enigmatic bird! Ecuador has the best place to see and photograph this beautiful and unusual bird.

Lodging at Septimo Paraiso Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5, Santa Rosa Reserve:

Today, we will visit Santa Rosa Reserve to photograph the endemic Plate-billed mountain Toucan, plus Gorgeted Sunangel and hoping to see and photograph the rare Hoary Puffleg plus 15 more species of hummingbird. We'll also be on the lookout for the Striped Treehunter, Tricolored or

Choco Brushfinch, Golden-headed Quetzal, Green and Black Fruiteater, Flame-faced, Blue-capped, Golden, Black-capped tanagers and many more birds.

After that we will drive to Punto Ornitológico where we will look for the Sunbittern, White-throated Crane, Green Thorntail, Choco Toucan and many more.

*Lodging at Septimo Paraiso Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 6, Long-wattled Umbrellabird:

Today is a special day and we'll be making a dedicated search for the endemic Long-wattled Umbrellabird at its lek. We'll also be on the lookout for others such as; Golden Headed Quetzal, Crested Guan, Choco Toucan, Pale-mandible Aracari and many more birds.

*Lodging at Septimo Paraiso Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



Long-wattled Umbrellabird

Day 7, Paz de las Antpittas:

Early this morning we will head to Paz de las Antpittas Reserve to observe the Andean Cock of the Rocks at their lek, where males assemble during the mating season and engage in competitive displays that attract females. Afterwards we will join Angel (the owner of the reserve) as he draws his "charges" in for breakfast Maria the Giant Antpitta, Willi the Yellow-breasted Antpitta, and Susan the Moustached Antpitta! We will enjoy our local breakfast and we will be birding around the reserve before heading back to Quito.

*Lodging in Quito
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 8, Antizana National Park and Departure:

After breakfast, we will head for Antizana National Park where we will search for Andean Condor, Black-faced Ibis, Paramo Pipit, Black-winged Ground Dove, and other paramo specialties like Andean Gull, Andean Lapwing, Giant Hummingbird, Many-striped Canastero, Andean Tit-Spinetail and many more.

We will drive to the airport on time so you can take your international flight home.

(You have to book an overnight flight)

Meals: Breakfast. Lunch

Included for the duration of this itinerary:

In-country transportation, bilingual bird/photo guide and driver fees, lodging, meals starting with dinner on the first day through lunch on the last day, entrance fees to all reserves visited.

Not Included:

Airport taxes, tips, souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, laundry, activities and accommodations not mentioned and other items of a personal nature.

Travel insurance:

We highly recommend you obtain travel insurance. In the event that you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you. For details, please see <https://www.naturalselectionstours.com/travel-insurance/>



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