



Birding Colombian Culture, this is a tour that offers a great amount of birds, including a chance for more than 25 Co-Iombian endemics.

stations, dozens of hummingbirds, beautiful reserves, various regions and types of habitats.

Then read the itinerary

FOR MORE INFORMATIONS **CONTACT US**

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BIRDING COLOMBIAN CULTURE

Itinerary and tour description

Day 1
Arrival Bogotá (2600mts)
Transfer airport / hotel

Day 2 Bogotá – Zipaquirá - Gold museum - Hotel (2650mts)

B/hotel L/route D/hotel

To start and adapt after a long flight from home, we will start a relaxed morning and we will have a chance few have on birding tours, we are going to take you to a very interesting place.

After one and a half hour ride (traffic depending) from Bogotá well arrive to Zipaquira salt Cathedral, the cathedral is located about 50 kilometers north of Bogota, is an underground church built in a tunnel deep inside a salt mine hundreds of feet below the ground. It was built in an area abandoned by salt mining; everything you see here is salt. On the way in we are going to pass few underground chapels.

After lunch and visiting this beautiful church we will head back to the old city of Bogotá to witness one of the most breathtaking museums of the world, Bogotá Gold Museum, and time permitting we will learn about one of the most famous artists in the world Fernando Botero then back to our hotel.

Day #3

Bogotá – Chingaza – Mundo Nuevo hummingbirds (2800-3200mts)

B/L on route D/Hotel

Departure to chingaza national park, a large park east of Bogotá. We'll be birding in a high elevation humid forest which protects the watershed of the capital city and holds interesting species of animals like spectacled bear,



amphibians, reptiles and plants. Here we will start our hunt for spectacular birds like, the threatened brown breasted Parakeet (Endemic), Glowing and Coppery-bellied Pufflegs, the endemic silvery throated spinetail, important near endemics like Blue-throated Starfrontlet, Bronze-tailed Thornbill, golden fronted redstart, pale breasted tapaculo, , sedge wren, coppery bellied pufleg, rufous browed conebill, an undescribed rufous antpitta, and other nice species like amethyst throated sunangel, black chested buzzard eagle, great sapphirewing, black billed mountain toucan, white chinned thistletail, white browed spinetail, stripe backed canastero and Blackheaded Hemispingus and more

On the way out we stop at la Calera (Mundo Nuevo) for other chances at amazing birds like the endemic brown breasted parakeet, plus black billed mountain toucan, torrent duck, Streak throated bush tyrant, black flowerpiercer, scarlet bellied mountain tanager, red crested cotinga, Andean siskin, smoky brown woodpecker and we will stop at a house where they have some hummingbird feeders to get better views and new birds like: blue throated starfrontlet, coppery bellied puffleg, plus green/black trainbearers, tyrian metaltail, sparkling/green violetears, sword billed hummingbird, mountain velvetbreast, sometimes purple backed thornbill, glowing puffleg, great saphirewing, shinning sunbeam, long tailed sylph, white bellied woodstar, gorgeted woodstar, lazuline sabrewing, mountain velvetbreast, amethyst throated sunangel etc.

Day #4 La Florida(2600mts)–Enchanted Garden(3000mts)-Honda(225mts)

B/L -on route-/D Hotel Honda.

Early morning we are trying for some Bogotá endemics in an urban park called la Florida in the search for Bogotá rail, apolinars wren, silvery throated spinetail, some near endemics like spot flanked gallinule, rufous browed conebill, and others like (American) Colombian coot, yellow hooded blackbird, subtropical doradito, noble snipe etc.



After lunch a little hummingbird paradise, a beautiful private house open to birders booking in advance, here we can have a cup of Colombian coffee or some tea while we get stunning views of some of the hummingbirds of the garden.

Some of them include the endemic: Indigo- capped Hummingbird, plus White-necked Jacobin, Brown, Green, and Sparkling Violetears, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Black-throated Mango, Gorgeted Woodstar, White-vented Plumeleteer, Crowned Woodnymph, Rufous-tailed, Steely-vented, hummingbirds etc. Plus some other birds who come to banana and seed feeders.

Drive to Honda where we spend the night.

Day #5 Bellavista (750mts) – Río Claro (273mts)

B/hotel or route L/route D/hotel.

Early we have breakfast and depart towards Bellavista for 1 hr, a small municipal reserve which protects water supply for the region, after 30 minute bus ride we start walking on an old stone/dirt road, spending most of the morning birding there. Our targets and some other birds we will try for: Sooty Ant Tanager(endemic), Beautiful Woodpecker(endemic), Whitemantled Barbet(endemic), plus chances of Western Striped, white-bearded, Golden-headed and White-bibbed Manakin and Black-bellied and Bay Wren.

This is one of the hardest places for the endemic Antioquia Bristle-Tyrant. Commoner birds include: Clay-colored Thrush, Black-capped Antshrike, Red-rumped Woodpecker, ochre-belllied and Sepia-capped Flycatchers

Lunch on route and arrival in the afternoon to our charming lodge Rio Claro. Depending on guests we can use the afternoon to get into the cueva de los condores for the weird looking oilbird, or we can bird the lodge area for other endemics.



Day #6 Río Claro (273mts)

B/hotel L/hotel D/Hotel.

All day Rio Claro reserve, we start from the lodge walking around the area and try a trail behind the lodge, this morning could be very rewarding with birds like: Antioquia bristle tyrant (endemic), beautiful woodpecker(endemic), Magdalena antbirds (endemic), barred puffbird, saffron headed parrot, long tailed tyrant, fasciated tiger heron, orange chinned parakeet, citron throated toucan, grey checked nunlet, Andean immaculate antbird, crested owl etc.

Lunch at the lodge, in the afternoon we will have another go for the suspects we missed in the morning.

Day #7 Río Claro (273mts) – El Peñol/Guatapé(2135mts) – Medellín(1500mts)

B/L -on route-/D/ Hotel

1 hour after departing from our hotel we stop for breakfast at portal de los frijoles, then we keep going for 130 hrs, to El Peñól de Guatapé

The "Peñol Rock" (La piedra del Peñol) that borders a man made lake, this rock formation was formed around 70 million years of age, this formation takes place along the Antioquia Rock Base (batolito de antioquia), 70 million years old.

The rock is around 200 meters high, and it has 2/3 of its height below ground, this beautiful rock can be visible from the surrounding countryside.

We will be able to climb the rock (649 steps) following a safe stairway to get to the top, where spectacular scenery await for us followed by a cold drink.

Also we have a chance to visit two monasteries, that belong to the "Benedictinos". This monks sometimes receive and share with visitors.



Lunch in guatapé, city tour and Back to the city of Medellin to our hotel.

Day #8
Day #8
Botero Plaza (1500mts) – Pueblito Paisa(1500mts)

B/hotel L/on route D/Hotel.

We will start our drive after breakfast towards the center of Medellin now a very safe city and one of the most interesting, entrepreneurial cities of Latin America.

Here we will have a short stop in the old plaza where giant bronze sculptures that have been previously housed in museums of Paris, New York, and Madrid.

In this park they are set to public to see and enjoy. Time permitting we will visit the museum and surroundings, after lunch we head towards Pueblito Paisa a small town set over a 80mts mountain where they represent the beauty of the small towns of farmers around the city of Medellin and their culture.

Back to the hotel to relax and prepare to our next birding days.

Afternoon we are going to take the Medellin cable car system to see some of the historical comunas, here we are going to share with local people their past stories, their present and their culture.

Day #9 La Romera(1500mts) – Tangaras Reserve(1500/1800mts)

B-L/on route D/Lodge.

This 181 hectare reserve is located very close to the city in the municipality of Sabaneta , this forest is a remnant of the forests located in the region many years ago, in this humid forest we have an amazing chance to see jewels of the region like Yellow headed manakin, red bellied grackle (endemic), stile's tapaculo (endemic), Colombian chachalaca (endemic), bar crested antshrike, greenish puffleg, scrub tanager, pale naaped brushfinch,



marble faced bristle tyrant, rufous tailed tyrant, rufous naped greenlet, saffron crowned tanager etc.

After a morning with great birds we head out towards tangaras reserve, located south east of the city on a 3 ½ hr bus ride, traffic depending.

Las Tángaras Bird Reserve was created in October 2009 to protect the habitat of two endemic bird species: The Golden-ringed tanager (Bangsia aureocinta) and the Black-and-gold tanager (Bangsia melanochlamys). The Municipality Carmen de Atrato signed the memorandum of understanding to be part of the Alliance for Zero Extinction Colombia in October 2010.

Location and Area:

Las Tangaras Bird Reserve is one of the most diverse and important tropical forest sites on earth, and will protect a great elevational gradient – from 1,250 to 3,400 meters above sea level. This area protects the watershed of the Rio Atrato (proaves)

Overnight at the reserve

Day #10 Tangaras Reserve(1500mts)

B L/on route D/Lodge.

All day birding at the reserve, after breakfast we get on 4 wheeler jeeps to drive for 25 minutes to our start point.

From this place we start birding and walking up a semi steep wide trail, taking it easy and birding we head to the top of the mountain where staff will bring our lunch, in this trail we can find interesting Choco restricted species like, toucan barbet, black chinned mountain tanager, purplish mantled tanager, glistening green tanager, Nariño tapaculo, choco tapaculo, choco tyrannulet, olivaceus piha, crested ant tanager (endemic), gold ringed tanager (endemic), black and gold tanager (endemic), Choco vireo, beautiful jay, and more, we bird after lunch the way down and back to the jeeps to get to the hummingbird feeders for suspects like violet tailed sylph, purple bibbed white tip, brown inca, empress brilliant, velvet purple coronet, white tailed hillstar, purple throated woodstar etc.



Back to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

Day #11

Tangaras Reserve(1500mts) – Jardin(1750/1900mts)

B-L/on route D/town.

Time permitting we can hire jeeps to do another morning around the reserve and leave as soon as possible to the municipality of Jardín in the afternoon a picturesque little town worth a visit. The town is the place with the most accessible and close to get to the birds, Andean cock of the rock lek.

We will have dinner and we will spend our night at the town of Jardín.

Day #12

Tangaras Reserve(1500mts) – Jardin(1750/1900mts)

B L/on route D/Town.

After a quick cup of coffee we get on 4 wheeler jeeps and start to move to the top of the mountain where our main target awaits, Yellow eared parrot.

The **Yellow eared Parrot Bird Reserve** was established on May 6th, 2006, in order to ensure survival and to promote conservation actions targeting populations of Yellow-eared Parrot (Ognorhynchus icterotis) and Wax Palma (Ceroxylon quindiuense), national tree of Colombia and in danger of extinction, areas of Jardín, and Riosucio and Antioquia, Caldas, Colombia.

Location and Area:

It is located in the village of Ventanas, an hour's journey from the Township of Jardín, (Antioquia) on the road that links this municipality with Riosucio, Caldas. It has an area of 465 acres and has altitudes ranging from 1,900 to 2,600m above sea level is classified by the Alliance for Zero Extinction as an AZE site. (See Map).

Biological Significance:

The most important birds for conservation are the Yellow-eared Parrot (Ognorhynchus icterotis) and the Dusky Starfrontlet (Coeligena orina),



among others. The wildlife is rich and varied, with mammals such as the spectacled bear (Tremarctos ornatus) and deer. Within the characteristic vegetation of the reserve stocks of the Wax Palm (Ceroxylon quindiuense) can be found and a species of Passion Flower endemic to the area of Jardín (Passiflora jardinensis). (proaves)

After trying for this spectacular bird, we have a chance to have boxbreakfast in a local house with some hummingbird feeders that attract, sword billed hummingbirs, long tailed sylph, mountain velvetbreast, tourmaline sunangel, buff tailed coronet etc. After eating we start moving with the jeeps along the road doing stops and taking short walks to get more interesting species of the region.

Few targets include: Tanager finch, grass green tanager, chestnut crested cotinga, golden headed quetzal, white capped tanagers, wattled guan, rufous breasted flycatcher, black billed mountain toucan, chestnut breasted wren, flammulated treehunter, citrine warbler, barred fruit eater, green and black fruiteater, rufous crowned tody flycatcher, scarlet rumped cacique, black collared jay, black and chestnut eagle, very rare but possible chestnut bellied flowerpiercer (endemic), dusky starfrontlet (endemic), an array of tanagers like, lacrimose mountain, hooded mountain, purplish mantled, saffron crowned tanager etc.

Lunch on the way or late lunch in town is possible, if we couldn't see the cock of the rock Lek the day before we will try again after arriving to town

Day #13 Jardín(1500mts) – Manizales Hacienda Venecia(2160mts)

B/hotel L/on route D/Venecia.

Breakfast 6 am and departure to finca el paraiso in the morning for some birding and then drive across the cauca river trying the endemics we missed, after lunch in route we start our 4 hr journey to Manizales, a half a million people city, and very close, to one of our favorite reserves, Rio Blanco.



We will spend the night in a pretty coffee hacienda called Venecia.

Río Blanco is a nature reserve managed by the local water management, located from 2150 – 3700masl, in the central cordillera, and less than 30 minutes from the main city of Manizales, this cloud forest its known to be one of the most diverse areas in the country protecting 4932 hectares.

Day #14 Hacienda Venecia (2160mts) – Río Blanco – Hacienda Venecia

B-L/on route D/Hotel

Today we will explore the reserve, and we will witness something impossible to see in the past, An antpitta feeding station, here we have a chance to see, brown banded, bicolored, chestnut crowned, slate crowned and sometimes we even get a green and black fruiteater at the feeders. After the show we start birding along a road close to the lodge, here we are going to have open views and chances to see other species like: Masked saltator, collared inca, flammulated treehunter, hooded antpitta, long tailed sylph, speckled hummingbird, collared inca, bronzy inca, rufous banded owl, plushcap, rusty faced parrot, scaly naped amazon, bar bellied woodpecker, red hooded tanager, rufous headed pigmy tyrant, barred becard, tyrannine woodcreeper, white capped dipper, ash colored tapaculo, golden fronted whitestart (endemic), dusky piha, yellow billed cacique and many more including, warblers, tanagers etc

We will spend all day at the reserve, and then head to town for dinner and overnight.

Day #15

Hacienda Venecia(2160mts) – Los Nevados National Park(2800-4000mts) – Hacienda Venecia (17° C - 24 ° C)

B-L/on route D/Venecia

Breakfast on the field and lunch at termales del ruiz.



Parque Nacional Natural Los Nevados is a <u>national park</u> located in the Central Cordillera of the Colombian Andes.

This park is known for its 5,300-metre-high (17,400 ft) volcano Nevado del Ruiz.

This is one of the 55 protected areas in Colombia, and holds a variety of ecosystems, the idea its to go high up the mountain to get targets such as the (endemic) buffy helmetcrest, and more incredible birds like: black chested mountain tanager, black headed hemispingus, grey breasted mountain toucan, chance for the (endemic) rufous fronted parakeet, mountain avocetbill, golden breasted pufflegs, rainbow bearded thornbill, great saphirewing, white browed spinetail, paramo tapaculo, black backed bush tanagers and more.

After an amazing morning and lunch we will head towards Hacienda Venecia, a beautiful coffee state located close to Manizales with 100 years of tradition, a place with great experience in growing, picking, roasting great quality coffee. Around the hacienda extensive coffee crops we can see forest, fresh water streams which allow native flora and fauna to roam the area.

Overnight at Venecia coffee lodge farm.

Day #16 Hacienda Venecia (Coffee Tour) / Salamina Caldas.

B – L / Venecia, D / salamina hotel.

In the morning after a nice hacienda breakfast, bring your binoculars because we are heading out to experience the real Colombian Coffee experience: A private coffee tour.

Starting at the Coffee Saloon, a typical building built on bareque, bamboo, and materials from the region, then we start learning about the history, origin, distribution, varieties, growing, harvesting, processing, roasting, aromas, and learning all we need to know about this amazing plant and why the region has been chosen as a UNESCO world heritage site.



On our coffee walk we have the chance to see some of the 117 species recorded around the state.

After Lunch in the hacienda we say goodbye to this beautiful location and start our way to the colonial town Salamina home of the wax palm trees and incredible scenery.

Salamina is a town and municipality in the <u>colombian department</u> of <u>Caldas</u>. It is located north of the department and has a township called San Felix. It was declared a national monument and historic heritage of mankind. Overnight at Casa de Lola Garcia.

Day #17 Salamina Caldas – San Felix View Point (Wax Palms)

B /hotel L/on route D/Hotel.

The pretty Salamina town was founded in 1825 by Fermin Lopez, Juan de Dios Arantzazu, Francisco Marulanda and others. Salamina is known as the "city of light" because has produced many poets, musicians, actors and writers. It is also known as "Mother of Nations" because it was one of the centers from where the founders and first settlers of Neira, Aranzazu, Manizales, Santa Rosa de Cabal, Pereira, Armenia, among others parted. It was elevated to a municipality in 1861.

It has a population of about 20,000 inhabitants, an area of 40,354 hectares and an average temperature of 22°C. Its economy is based on coffee and raise livestock and dairy.

Depending on our guests we can hire a local jeep to take us to San Felix a sweet little town about an hour ride up the mountain from Salamina.

There you can have a cup of hot chocolate or coffee before going just ten minutes further into potato growing fields and rolling green hills where the famous huge wax palm trees grow (Ceroxylon quindiuense), the national plant of Colombia, and now home to a new population of the endemic Yellow eared parrots.



The views are just stunning and visiting the community of San Felix is something really special.

We head back to Salamina for lunch and we start a short city tour.

The historic center of Salamina has some of the most well-preserved colonial arquitecture typical to the region, as well as the typical houses. The town itself is beautiful, you can walk around taking loads of photos, admiring the views, balconies, carved doors, local coffee producing life, jeeps stacked high with people and sacks of local products, mules carrying sacks of coffee on both sides, campesinos coming in from nearby fincas to sell their coffee beans to the federation of coffee growers etc!

Día 18:

Pereira Airport - Bogotá.

B/hotel

Transfer from Salamina to Pereira 3hrs by car to get on our international conecting flights to Bogotá.

or to join the extension.

#ASK FOR OUR SUPERB ENDEMICS, TRIP EXTENSION.

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