

## COLOMBIA BIRDING TRIP

Sep 19 to Oct 1, 2023

*Birding with:*

### **Ernesto Reyes and Rainforest Nature Tours**

*Colombia is a beautiful country because its landscape, its people, and its BIRDS!*

Colombia, one of the world's "megadiverse" countries, also has the world's biggest list of birds, with **1,966** avian species (more than any other country in the world) - a birder's paradise waiting to be discovered. Explore high-elevation mountains, dry forests, páramo, and coastal habitats in search of an array of tropical avifauna, including flycatchers, hummingbirds, tanagers, toucans, and more. Throughout your journey, meet members of the local community and learn about their conservation efforts. The country has nearly 20 percent of the world's total bird species, including 200 migratory species, 155 threatened birds, and 79 endemics. The richest groups are Hummingbirds with 165 species, 141 Tanagers and many Trogons, Chlorophonias, Parrots, Orioles, Toucans, and other special birds to observe and photograph. In addition, Colombia has almost 80 endemics and **135** nearly endemic bird species.

This trip focuses on the western part of the Central Andes, with elevations from 900m to 3400m above sea level. This is an area that concentrates many endemics and near endemics.

### **Birdwatching Program (Medellín, Manizales, Montezuma and Cali)**

#### **Day 1 - Sep 19: ARRIVING DAY: MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA**

Arriving day to Medellín – Hotel Terra Biohotel. Arrival at MDE Medellín International Airport. Transfer to Terra Biohotel at Medellín town, about 30 minutes from the Airport.

Overnight at Terra Biohotel. <https://terrabiohotel.com>. Dinner is not included.

#### **Day 2 – Sep 20: MEDELLIN BOTANICAL GARDEN**

A great introduction to the beauty of Medellín is a visit to the Botanical Garden, which has a great collection of plants from different areas, that provide great birdwatching (216 species reported) like Bare-faced Ibis, Chestnut-fronted and Scarlet Macaws, Sparkling Violetear, Saffron Finch, Yellow-grassland Finch, Vermilion Flycatcher. In the afternoon, we will visit Pueblito Paisa, a great cultural center to learn about the Coffee Culture, and other aspects of the "Paisas" the nickname of the inhabitants of this area in Colombia. Lunch at Pueblito Paisa. Dinner and overnight at Hotel Terra Biohotel. <https://terrabiohotel.com>

#### **Day 3 – Sep 21: EL JARDIN**

Early breakfast at the Hotel Terra Biohotel, and transfer to the beautiful community of El Jardín. Check

in at hotel Hacienda Balandú.

Lunch at El Jardín town, and an afternoon visit to the Cock of the Rock Garden. The lek will give us the chance to enjoy from close this beautiful specie. But also, Green Jay, Black-chested Jay, Crested Ant-Tanager, Scrub Tanager, and many other species arrive at the feeders on the property.

Overnight at Hacienda Balandú. <https://www.comfenalcoantioquia.com.co/personas/sedes/hotel-hacienda-balandu>

#### **Day 4 – Sep 22: RESERVA PROAVES: YELLOW\_EAR PARROT RESERVE**

Early breakfast at the hotel and drive on a bumpy road to Reserva ProAves (Yellow-ear Parrot Reserve) a great location with almost 500 species reported. We will walk the trails of the reserve as well as explore the hummingbird feeders, hoping to see species like the Yellow-ear Parrot, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Black-collared Jay, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Black-collared Jay, some Fruiteaters and Antpittas. Box Lunch. In the afternoon, we will do some birding at Alto de Ventanas, another wonderful Reserve, with maybe chances to see Ocellated Tapaculo, Tami Antpitta, and a lot more species.

Dinner and overnight at Hacienda Balandú.

<https://www.comfenalcoantioquia.com.co/personas/sedes/hotel-hacienda-balandu>

#### **Day 5 – Sep 23: MANIZALES**

Early breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Manizales (5 hours) Lunch on the way. Check in at Hotel Reserva Tinamú. Dinner at Tinamú Hotel. Overnight at Tinamu Hotel. <https://tinamubirding.com>

#### **Day 6 – Sep 24: TINAMU RESERVE - MANIZALES**

Early breakfast and full-day birding at Tinamú Reserve, a place in Manizales, nationally recognized as an ideal spot for photography and bird watching. Facilities were created to provide birdwatchers, ornithologists, and nature lovers from all around the world with an unforgettable experience. There have been registered 260 bird species distributed in 47 families. The most numerous families are flycatchers (Tyrannidae) with 35, tanagers (Thraupidae) with 21, warblers (Parulidae) with 16 species, and hummingbirds (Trochilidae) with 20 species.

Of the total of 260 species, 208 are resident, 33 are borealis migratory, 3 are endemic, and 2 near-endemic. The property has a blinder, and fruit and hummingbird feeders. Some of the target species here are Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*), Cocoa Thrush (*Turdus fumigatus*), and Tanager's family, the most appreciated by bird photographers! Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*), Blue-necked Tanager (*Stilpnia cyanicollis*), Crimson-backed Tanager (NE) (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*), plus 20 species de hummingbirds are pretty easy to photograph on the garden and trails at the Tinamú Natural Reserve Birding. Birds like: Brown Violetear (*Colibri delphinae*) Moustached Puffbird (*Malacoptila mystacalis*),

Charismatic Spectacled Parrotlet (*Forpus conspicillatus*) (NE), Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) and Scaled Antpitta (*Grallaria guatemalensis*) are too appreciate for birdwatchers and bird photographers!

Lunch at the Reserve, and in the late afternoon we drive to Hotel Paraiso Verde, where we will stay for the next 2 nights

Dinner and overnight at Paraíso Verde. <https://www.paraisoverdemanizales.com>

### Day 7 – Sep 25: RIO BLANCO NATURE RESERVE

Early breakfast and full day birding Río Blanco Nature Reserve an undeveloped cloud forest nature reserve, where more than 500 bird species have been counted, including 3 of Colombia's 73 endemics, including Chestnut-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaria ruficapilla*) and Brown-banded Antpitta (*Grallaria milleri*), Chestnut-naped Antpitta (*Grallaria nuchalis*) and Slate-crowned Antpitta (*Grallaricula nana*), Golden-headed Quetzal (*Pharomachrus auriceps*), and a huge diversity of hummingbirds, like Long-tailed Sylph (*Agelaiocercus kingie*), Buff-tailed Coronet (*Boissonneaua flavescens*), Tourmaline Sunangel (*Heliangelus exortis*) and Andean Emerald (*Uranomitra franciae*), among many others like the Scaly-naped Parrot (*Amazona mercenarias*), Rusty-faced Parrot (*Hapalopsittaca amazonina*), Rufous-fronted Parakeet (*Bolborhynchus ferrugineifrons*) and Golden-plumed Parakeets (*Leptosittaca branickii*), Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan (*Andigena hypoglauca*) and Black-billed Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena nigrirostris*), Masked Saltator (*Saltator cinctus*) and Black-chested Mountain Tanager (*Cnemathraupis eximia*), Smoky Bush-Tyrant (*Myiotheretes fumigatus*), Flammulated Treehunter (*Thripadectes flammulatus*), Golden-rumped Euphonia (*Chlorophonia cyanocephala*) and more.....

Lunch at the Reserve, and return in the afternoon to the hotel.

Dinner and overnight at Paraíso Verde. <https://www.paraisoverdemanizales.com>

### Day 8 – Sep 26: HACIENDA EL BOSQUE TO TERMALES DE RUIZ

After breakfast, we will drive to Hacienda El Bosque, a place where the targets are Crescent-faced Antpitta (*Grallaricula lineifrons*), Equatorial Antpitta (*Grallaria saturate*) and, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan (*Andigena hypoglauca*). Lunch in the area. Later drive up to Los Nevados National Park, following a spine of snow-covered volcanic peaks, this national park provides some of the most stunning stretches of the Colombian Andes. This region is the highest elevation in our trip and we will be looking for the endemic Buffy Helmetcrest (*Oxygogon stuebelii*), and other species like Andean Teal (*Anas andium*), Andean Tit- Spinetail (*Leptasthenura andicola*). Making stops along the road, we'll look out for the Black-backed Bush-Tanager (*Urothraupis stolzmanni*), Stout-billed Cinclodes (*Cinclodes excelsior*), Tawny Antpitta (*Grallaria quitensis*) and the Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*).

Then, drive to the Termales del Ruiz, where we will have the chance to rest on the wonderful hot springs (Termales) in the property.

Dinner and overnight at Termales del Ruiz. <https://termalesdelruiz.com> (B, L, D)

**Day 9 – Sep 27: TERMALES DE RUIZ**

Breakfast at the Hotel, a full-day exploring Termales del Ruiz and La Gruta. Originally built in 1937, it is a slightly breathless 3,500 m.a.s.l location, with a stunning view over the valleys and mountains of the *páramo*. The true highlight of a visit to Termales is the wonderful birding opportunities it offers. These gardens are a haven for birds of all colors and shapes: toucans, tanagers, and large groups of parakeets, but the real birdy delight of Termales is the 10 species of hummingbird that come and visit the feeders set up in the main garden, including the Sword-billed hummingbird (*Ensifera ensifera*), the only bird in the world with a beak longer than his body; and the Rainbow-bearded Thornbill (*Chalcostigma herrani*) and Purple-backed Thornbill (*Ramphomicron microrhynchum*), Great Sapphirewing (*Pterophanes cyanopterus*), Buff-winged Starfrontlet (*Coeligena lutetiae*), Mountain Velvetbreast (*Lafresnaya lafresnayi*), Golden-breasted Pufflegs (*Eriocnemis mosquera*), Black-thighed Pufflegs (*Eriocnemis derbyi*), Viridian Metaltial (*Metallura williami*), and Shining Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis cupripennis*).

The long stretch of intact forest around and below the hotel is home to Red-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rubrocristatus*), four species of Chat-tyrants: Crowned Chat-tyrant (*Silvicultrix frontalis*), Chestnut-bellied Chat-tyrant (*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*), Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrant (*Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*), and Yellow-bellied Chat-tyrant (*Silvicultrix diadema*). And many other species like the Gray-breasted Mountain-toucan (*Andigena hypoglauca*), Grass Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*), Superciliaried hemispingus (*Thlypopsis superciliaris*), Golden-fronted Redstart (*Myioborus ornatus ornatus*), Capped Conebill (*Conirostrum albifrons*), Pearled Treerunner (*Margarornis squamiger*), and many more.

Dinner and overnight at Termales del Ruiz. <https://termalesdelruiz.com>

**Day 10 – Sep 28: MONTEZUMA RAINFOREST**

After breakfast, we will drive to Montezuma (5 hours' drive) Lunch on the way and check in at Montezuma Rainforest, a simple but cozy Lodge, owned by a local family that also serve as the guides, with great and unique species.

Dinner and overnight at Montezuma.

**Day 11 - Sep 29: MONTEZUMA RAINFOREST**

Breakfast and a full day at Montezuma.

The Montezuma Road is known to be one of the best birding areas in Colombia and should be on everybody's itinerary. This private reserve on the edge of Tatamá National Park will offer the possibility to observe some endemic species like Munchique Wood-wren (*Henicorhina negreti*), Bluish Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa caerulescens*), as well other unique species like Powerful Woodpecker (*Campephilus pollens*), Purplish Mantled Tanager (*Iridosornis porphyrocephalus*), Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys*), and hummingbirds like Rufous-gaped Hillstar (*Urochroa bougueri*), Purple-bibbed Whitetip (*Urosticte benjamini*) and Velvet Purple Coronet (*Boissonneaua*

*jardini*). More than 600 species of birds have been recorded along this road, including specialties like Bicolored Antvireo (*Dysithamnus occidentalis*), Dusky Starfrontlet (*Coeligena orina*), Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium nubicola*), Grayish Piculet (*Picumnus granadensis*), Yellow-breasted Antpitta (*Grallaria flavotincta*), Greater Scythebill (*Drymotoxeres pucheranii*), Fulvous-dotted Treerunner (*Margarornis stellatus*), Orange-breasted Fruiteater (*Pipreola jucunda*), Choco Vireo (*Vireo masteri*), Beautiful Jay (*Cyanolyca pulchra*), Black Solitaire (*Entomodestes coracinus*). Tanagers are especially well represented with dozens of species recorded, including the endemic Gold-ringed Tanager (*Bangsia aureocincta*), Black-and Gold Tanager (*Bangsia melanochlamys*), Tanager Finch (*Oreothraupis arremonops*), Multicolored Tanager (*Chlorochrysa nitidissima*), Crested Ant-Tanager (*Habia cristata*), Blue-winged Mountain Tanager (*Anisognathus somptuosus*), Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa gloriosissima*) and Indigo Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa indigotica*).

Box lunch and dinner at Montezuma Lodge.

Overnight: Montezuma Rainforest Ecolodge.

### Day 12 – Sep 30: BUGA LAGOON TO CALI

Early birding, breakfast, and departure to Cali (5,5 hours) Lunch on the way. Stop at Buga Lagoon, looking for shorebird species like Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*), Cooi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*), Horned Screamer (*Anhima cornuta*), Rufous-necked Wood-rail (*Aramides axillaris*), Snail Kite, Kingfishers, and another species. Check-in at Sonesta Hotel.

Dinner and overnight at Sonesta Hotel. [www.sonestacali.com](http://www.sonestacali.com) **Day 13 – Sep 30 CALI - COLOMBIA**

After breakfast, we will drive to the site known as Cloud Forest Cali Km 18. The targets here are Yellow-vented Woodpecker (*Dryobates dingus*), Russet-crowned Warbler (*Myiothlypis coronate*), Multicolored Tanager (*Chlorochrysa nitidissima*), Metallic-green Tanager (*Tangara labradorides*), Saffron-crowned Tanager (*Tangara xanthocephala*), Southern Emerald-Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus albivitta*), Blue-naped Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia cyanea*), Azara's Spinetail (*Synallaxis azarae*) and hummingbirds like White-booted Racket-tail (*Ocreatus underwoodii*), Fawn-breasted Brilliant (*Heliodoxa rubinoides*). Lunch in the area. Return to hotel.

Dinner and overnight at Sonesta Hotel. [www.sonestacali.com](http://www.sonestacali.com)

Day 14 – Oct 1: Departure day from Cali Colombia. Breakfast and transfer to the Airport.

**PRICES:** \$ 4,680 USD for Double Occupancy  
\$ 4,980 USD for Single Occupancy

### The cost will cover the following:

- In-country transportation and driver through the duration of the trip
- Professional bilingual specialized bird guide
- All lodging

- All meals while in Colombia, except for one dinner on arrival day in Terra Biohotel.  
<https://terrabiohotel.com>
- Entrance fees

**Not included:**

- Airfare
- Tips for housekeeping, driving, alcoholic beverages, or tips in restaurants.
- Luggage fees and airport departure tax

Contact info:

Email: [zapatarail2014@gmail.com](mailto:zapatarail2014@gmail.com)

Email: [info@costaricarainforestexperience.com](mailto:info@costaricarainforestexperience.com)

