

**SOUTH AND COAST OF ECUADOR**  
**Birding tour**

**DAY 1: Guayaquil - Manglares Churute - Buenaventura Reserve:**

Today we will pick you at 5:30 am from your hotel in Guayaquil then drive to the Churute Mangroves Ecological Reserve, about 45 minutes away. This area is very interesting because there is a mix of lagoons, mangroves and semi humid forest, unlike anything else we'll see on the tour. It is arguably the best place in Ecuador to find the threatened Pacific Royal-Flycatcher along with a number of other key species including Red-billed Scythebill, Crimson-breasted Finch, Black-capped Sparrow, Jet Antbird, Collared Antshrike, Black-headed Antthrush, Western Fire-eye, Comb Duck, Baird's Flycatcher, Fasciated Wren, Blue Ground-Dove and Rufous-necked Wood Rail.

After lunch we will drive to Buenaventura which is 4 hours away and if time allowed, we can bird around the lodge and feeders. Night at Umbrellabird Lodge.

- Breakfast en route to mangroves
- Lunch around of the mangroves area.
- Dinner Umbrellabird Lodge.

**DAY 2: Buenaventura Reserve:** The reserve was created specially to protect the largest known population of the endemic El Oro Parakeet. We will search the beautiful mist-enshrouded forests for local species such Silvery Tanager, Ochraceous Attila, Song Wren, W, Northern Schiffornis, Speckle-breasted Wren, Brown-billed Scythebill, Golden-winged Manakin, Line-cheeked Spinetail, Slaty-winged Foliage-gleaner, Brownish Twistwing, Three-banded Warbler, Gray-backed Hawk, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Whiskered Wren and many other species.

At night we'll look for Black-and-white Owl just around the lodge. Night at Umbrellabird Lodge.

- Breakfast, lunch and dinner at Umbrellabird Lodge.

**DAY 3: Buenaventura Reserve – El Empalme – Jorupe Reserve:** Today we will spend a half morning at the Buenaventura Reserve looking for species we might miss the day before.

Then we will drive to Jorupe Reserve which is 5 hours away. Along the way we'll do some birding in the higher Tumbes forest looking for Elegant Crescentchest, White-headed Brush-Finch, Baird's Flycatcher, Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch, Tumbes Hummingbird, Tumbes Sparrow, Superciliated Wren, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker and others. Night at Urraca Lodge.

- Breakfast at Umbrellabird Lodge
- Lunch at El Empalme
- Dinner at Urraca Lodge

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**DAY 4: Jorupe Reserve:** Today we will spend a full day birding at Jorupe Reserve. We'll be looking for Pale-browed Tinamou, Ochre-bellied Dove, Whooping Motmot, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, White-edged Oriole, White-tailed Jay, Red-masked Parakeet, Blackish-headed Spinetail, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Slaty Becard, Watkins's Antpitta, White-edged and Yellow-tailed Orioles, Collared Antshrike, Plain Antvireo, Ecuadorian Piculet, Speckle-breasted Wren and Black-capped Sparrow. Owling can often be good, and we'll search for Peruvian Screech-Owl, Spectacled Owl and Buff-fronted Owl. Night at Urraca Lodge.

-Breakfast, lunch, dinner at Urraca Lodge.

**DAY 5: Sozoranga – Utuana Reserve – Catamayo – Vilcabamba:** After an early breakfast we will drive to Sozoranga where we'll search for Bay-crowned Brush-Finch, Chapman's Antshrike, Tumbesian Tyrannulet, Loja Hummingbird and Black-cowled Saltator. We will continue up the windy road to the Utuana reserve, where we look for scarce species like Gray-headed Antbird, Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner, Rusty-breasted Antpitta, Piura Hemispingus, and Jelski's Chat-Tyrant. The unbelievably cute Black-crested Tit-Tyrant is likely to be a highlight, and the hummer feeders here attract Purple-throated Sunangel and Rainbow Starfrontlet.

Then we continue to Catamayo where we'll look for Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Drab Seedeater and Band-tailed Sierra-Finch. Night at Hostería Paraiso Vilcabamba

-Breakfast and box lunch at Urraca Lodge

-Dinner at Hostería Paraiso Vilcabamba.

**DAY 6: Vilcabamba – Cerro Toledo – Tapichalaca Reserve:** The Cerro Toledo is covered with beautiful elfin forest. At this location we'll look for Neblina Metaltail, Masked Mountain-Tanager, Red-faced Parrots, Red-hooded Tanager, Bearded Guan, Loja Tapaculo, Mouse-colored Thistletail, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Golden-crowned Tanager, Pale-naped Brush-Finch, Black-headed Hemispingus, Glowing Puffleg, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Black-chested Mountain-Tanager and others. Night at Casa Simpson.

-Breakfast at Hostería Paraiso Vilcabamba

-Box lunch at Cerro Toledo

-Dinner at Casa Simpson.

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**DAY 7: Tapichalaca Reserve:** We will spend a full day birding at this premier reserve where the Jocotoco Antpitta feeds on worms and where the Jocotoco Foundation started. Other species we will look are White-capped Tanager, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Plushcap, Red-hooded Tanager, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Little Sunangel, Chestnut-naped, Undulated and Slate-crowned Antpittas, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Yellow-breasted Brushfinch, Barred Fruiteater, Black-capped Hemispingus, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant, Orange-banded Flycatcher, Bearded Guan, Chusquea Tapaculo and many other species.

After lunch we'll drive to lower elevation in search of Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Marañon Thrush, Buff-bellied Tanager, Black-faced Tanager, Lesser Elaenia and others. At night we'll search for White-throated Screech-Owl and Rufous-banded Owl. Night at Casa Simpson.

-Breakfast, lunch and dinner at Casa Simpson

**DAY 8: Zumba area for Marañon specialties:** This day we will explore the forests and areas surrounding Zumba town, in search of Red-headed Barbet, Marañon Spinetail, Great Kiskadee, Marañon Thrush, Yellow-browed Sparrow, Broad-winged Hawk, Black Phoebe, Social Flycatcher, Piratic Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, House Wren, Black-billed Thrush, Silver-beaked Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager, Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch, Yellow-bellied Seedeater, Black Vulture, Mottle-backed Elaenia, Blue-and-white Swallow, White-banded Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, Palm Tanager, White-necked Jacobin, Booted Racket-tail, Bananaquit, Streaked Saltator, Blue-black Grassquit, Dull-colored Grassquit, Slate-colored Grosbeak, Speckled Chachalaca, Ruddy Pigeon, White-tipped Dove, Smooth-billed Ani, Striped Cuckoo, Squirrel Cuckoo, Chestnut-collared Swift, Pale-tailed Barbthroat, Great-billed Hermit, Turkey Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Little Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, White-eyed Parakeet, Ash-browed Spinetail, Golden-headed Manakin, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, White-necked Thrush, Purple-throated Euphonia, Slate-throated Redstart, White-lined Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Buff-throated Saltator, Groove-billed Ani, White-collared Swift, Long-billed Starthroat and more species. Night at Casa Simpson.

-Breakfast, box lunch and dinner at Casa Simpson.

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**DAY 9: Tapichalaca Reserve – Copalinga Lodge:** Today we will spend a half morning looking for species we might missed the previous days, then we drive to Copalinga making a couple of stops for birding.

The first spot will be near Vilcabamba to look for Plumbeous Rail and Purple-collared Woodstar.

Then we drive along the Loja - Zamora old road where we'll search for Spot-winged Parrotlet, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Torrent Duck, Saffron-crowned Tanager, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Ecuadorian Tyrannulet, Lined Antshrike, Olivaceous Greenlet and Blue-browed Tanager.

We'll arrive in time to look the Hummingbird at the feeders. The species here are Violet-fronted Brilliant, Wire-crested Thorntail, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Green Hermit, Fork-tailed Woodnymph and others. Night at Copalinga Lodge.

- Breakfast and box lunch at Casa Simpson
- Dinner at Copalinga Lodge.

**DAY 10: Copalinga Reserve – Río Bombuscaro:** This reserve is on the eastern foothill close to the Cordillera del Condor.

We have a full day to look for the following and more species: Golden-eared Tanager, Crimson-bellied Woodpecker, Red-crested Finch, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Yellow-bellied Dacnis, Blue-rumped Manakin, White-crowned Manakin, Lanceolated Monklet, Olive Finch, Dusky Spinetail, Pale-tailed Barbthroat, Variegated Bristle-Tyrant, Short-tailed Antthrush, Dark-breasted Spinetail, Gray-mantled Wren, Wing-barred Piprites, Black-faced Dacnis, Black-eared Fairy, Little Tinamou, Yellow-bellied Tanager and Green-and-Gold Tanager; also we'll look for Gray Tinamou that gets fed on one of the trails.

At dusk and night, we will look for Band-bellied Owl around the lodge. If we miss birds here, they should be seen the next morning. Night at Copalinga Lodge.

- Breakfast, lunch and dinner at Copalinga Lodge.

**DAY 11: Copalinga Reserve – Mi Paradise – Alto Nangaritza:** Today we will focus in the species we might missed the previous day and around 9 am we head to Mi Paradise, a small reserve which is the best place to see the Spangled Coquette.

The we drive to Cabañas Yankuan doing some stops along the way looking for Black-billed Seed-Finch, Rufous-sided Crake, Black Caracara, Thrush-like Wren, Black-capped Donacobius, Blackish Rail, Masked Tanager, Great Kiskadee and others. Night at Cabañas Yankuan.

- Breakfast and box lunch at Copalinga
- Dinner at Cabañas Yankuan

**DAY 12: Maycu Reserve:** This area in the lower foothills of the eastern Andes has come to prominence as the place to see the rare and unique Orange-throated Tanager. There is no easier place in the world to get this strikingly beautiful bird. Other key Targets: Golden-collared Toucanet, Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater, Ivory-billed Aracari, Great Jacamar, Masked Tanager, Purplish Jacamar, Blackish Pewee, Chestnut-crowned Gnateater, Opal-crowned Tanager, Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak, Black-faced Antbird, Fulvous-crested Tanager, Chestnut-headed Crake, Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle, Great-billed Hermit, Ornate Stipplethroat and Scaled Antpitta. Other possibilities here include: Black-eared Fairy, Lanceolated Monklet, Amazonian Trogon, Spot-backed Antbird, White-browed Antbird, Rusty-winged Antwren, Yellow-bellied Dacnis, Blackish Pewee, Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Zimmer's Antbird, White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant, White-throated Woodpecker, Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, Thrush-like Antpitta, Cinereous Tinamou, Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner, White-eyed Tody-Tyrant, Dark-breasted Spinetail, Red-stained Woodpecker, Wing-barred Piprites, Spot-winged Antbird, Jet Manakin, Olivaceous Greenlet, Pale-rumped Swift, Black-and-White Becard, Black Antbird, Gray-headed Kite, Duida Woodcreeper and Ocellated Woodcreeper. Night at Cabañas Yankuan.

- Breakfast, lunch and dinner: Cabañas Yankuan

**DAY 13: Tepuy (Table-top mountain) above Maycu Reserve:** Today we'll climb to one of the Tepuys above the Maycu reserve to look for Sharpbill, Royal Sunangel, Gray-rumped Swift, Glittering-throated Emerald, Amazon Kingfisher, Coppery-chested Jacama, White-throated Toucan, Black Caracara, Blue-headed Parrot, Ocellated Woodcreeper, Bran-colored Flycatcher, Long-tailed Tyrant, Social Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Dusky-capped Greenlet, White-thighed Swallow, White-banded Swallow, House Wren, White-necked Thrush, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Yellow-browed Sparrow, Orange-billed Sparrow, White-lined Tanager, Silver-beaked Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager, Palm Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Green-and-gold Tanager, Black-faced Dacnis, Green Honeycreeper, Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch, Red-crested Finch, Squirrel Cuckoo, Green Hermit, Amethyst Woodstar, Uniform Crake, Plumbeous Kite, Collared Trogon, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Lafresnaye's Piculet, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Little Woodpecker, Red-stained Woodpecker, Cinereous Antshrike, Pygmy Antwren, White-flanked Antwren, Rusty-winged Antwren, Hairy-crested Antbird, Plain-brown Woodcreeper, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner, Speckled Spinetail, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Masked Tityra, Foothill Schiffornis, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Spectacled Bristle-Tyrant, Ornate Flycatcher, White-lored Tyrannulet, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Violaceous Jay, Black-capped Donacobius, Black-billed Thrush, Epaulet Oriole, Shiny Cowbird, Flame-crested Tanager, Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, Orange-throated Tanager, Orange-eared Tanager, Yellow-bellied Tanager, Golden-eared Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Yellow-bellied Dacnis, Yellow-backed Tanager, Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak, Smooth-billed Ani, Roadside Hawk, Thick-billed Euphonia, Masked Tanager, Peruvian Warbling-Antbird, Little Tinamou, Plumbeous Pigeon and more. Night at Cabañas Yankuan.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner at Cabañas Yankuan.

**DAY 14: Cabañas Yankuan - La Herradura – Paquisha:** In the morning we will enjoy the proximity to our lodging site to look at some species up close.

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And after lunch we will drive to Paquisha where we'll look for Bluish-fronted Jacamar. Then we will drive above this valley where we'll bird the Santa Cecilia Trail in order to look for Spectacled Prickletail, Blue-browed Tanager, Subtropical Pygmy-Owl, Bar-winged Wood-Wren, Vermillion Tanager, Yellow-throated Tanager, Pale-eyed Thrush, Golden-headed Quetzal, Olivaceous Siskin and others. Night at Hostería Tierra Dorada.

-Breakfast and box lunch at Cabañas Yankuan

-Dinner at Hostería Tierra Dorada

**DAY 15: El Zarza Wildlife Refuge – Saraguro:** Today after an early breakfast we will drive to El Zarza Wildlife Refuge where we'll look for Subtropical Pygmy-Owl, Spectacled Prickletail, Equatorial Graytail, Blue-browed Tanager, Roraiman Flycatcher, Napo Sabrewing, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Emerald Toucanet, Chestnut-bellied Thrush and others. At around 3pm we drive to Saraguro town. Night at Hostal Achik Wasi.

-Breakfast Hostería Tierra Dorada

-Lunch at El Zarza

-Dinner at Hostal Achik Wasi.

**DAY 16: Saraguro – Cerro Acacana and Huashapamba – Cerro de Arcos:** Today we will birding at the Cerro Acacana near the Saraguro town where we'll search for Black-headed Hemispingus, Flammulated Treehunter, Bearded Guan, Andean Pygmy-Owl, Red-faced Parrot, Chestnut-bellied Cotinga, Masked Mountain-Tanager, Glowing Puffleg, Agile Tit-Tyrant and many other species. From Saraguro we will drive to Cerro de Arcos for about 3 hours where we'll spend the night. Night at El Refugio del Colibrí

Here we can look for Jameson's Snipe and Short-eared Owl. Night at El Refugio del Colibrí

-Breakfast and box lunch at Hostal Achik Wasi

-Dinner at El Refugio del Colibrí.

**DAY 17: Cerro de Arcos – Yunguilla – Cuenca:** Today we will search for the newest and hardly endangered hummingbird endemic to Ecuador, the Blue-throated Hillstar, along with a few other targets: Rufous-chested Tanager, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Mountain Caracara, Crescent-Faced Antpitta, Tawny Antpitta; Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch and the rarer Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant. Then we drive to the dry woodland and scrubby hillsides of Yunguilla Valley which is home to the critically endangered Pale-headed Brush-Finch, whose entire known population resides within this reserve. Night at Hotel Victoria.

-Breakfast and box lunch at Hotel Victoria

-Dinner at Hotel Victoria.

**DAY 18: El Cajas National Park – Guayaquil:** A short drive from Cuenca brings us to this beautiful park, which protects temperate forest and scrub, windswept paramo, patches of Polylepis woodland and pristine highland lakes. We will look for Andean Duck, Andean Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, the endemic Violet-throated Metaltail, Mouse-colored Thistletail, Tawny Antpitta, Andean Tit-Spintail, Many-striped Canastero, Stout-billed Cinclodes, Giant Conebill and others.

After lunch we'll do some birding stops along the Corona de Oro Road to search for Ecuadorian Tapaculo. Night at Hotel Victoria.

-Breakfast, box lunch and dinner at Hotel Victoria

**DAY 19: Ayampe – Guayaquil:** Today we will do birding along a road near Ayampe beach to search for Esmeraldas Woodstar and many other species.

This will be our last day and around midday we'll start our way to the Airport in Guayaquil.

-Breakfast at Hotel Victoria

-Lunch at Restaurant in route to Guayaquil.