



14-Day Bird Tour on the Central and Western Andes plus Cauca Valley and Choco Bioregion



Multicolored Tanager by Johan Florez

This tour focuses on the best reserves in the Central and Western Andes, plus the Choco Bioregion, it visits varied ecosystems to have different bird species from each one, moving from Low montane to dry forest, highlands, and Paramo ecosystem to premontane forest and humid forest to Choco Bioregion and pacific lowlands. The reserves have suitable access, good accommodation; excellent birds, and warming attention. The birding guidance is personalized and flexible to make it a vivid experience.

Highlights of the Tour

- Birding in the best accessible and biodiverse areas of the Central and Western Andes.
- 20 Endemic bird species to be seen.

- Around 22 Near-endemic birds can be enjoyed.
- 8-10 Antpitta species, with excellent photo opportunities.
- Around 50 hummingbird species.
- More than 30 Tanager species.
- More than 350 potential bird species on your list.
- Birding in a wide altitudinal gradient: Meeting birding species from Dry forest to Paramo ecosystem.
- Birding in 5 exceptional National Parks, each one exhibiting particular bird species.
- While birding, breathtaking sceneries are open to being contemplated.
- Excellent connection and vibes with the tour leader, locals, and birds.

Itinerary

E: Endemic, Ne: Near-endemic

Day 0

Arrive in Medellín City, pick up, and transfer to a hotel.

Night: Hotel Mi Hotel San Diego or similar.

Day 1

La Romera reserve

Low Montane forest (1700 m / 5570 Ft – 15-23 °C / 59 – 73.4 °F)

In the morning visit this reserve located on Medellín's outskirts, spend the morning here then continue to an area near **the Cauca River (Dry forest)** for more birds, then **Jardín municipality (Western Andes)**.

Some species in the La Romera reserve: Red-bellied Grackle (E), Colombia Chachalaca (E), Yellow-headed Manakin(Ne), Southern Emerald Toucanet, Russet-backed Oropendola, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Rufous-naped Greenlet, Common Chlorospingus, Three-striped Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, Andean Motmot, Golden Tanager, and more.

Hotel to La Romera: 30 min drive.

La Romera to Cauca river area: 2-hour drive.

In the **Cauca River area** (Dry forest - 400 m / 1310 Ft – 25 °C / 77 °F)

The activity will focus on Antioquia Wren (E), Greyish Piculet (E), Golden-collared Manakin, Moustached Puffbird, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, and more; then continue to Jardín municipality (Western Andes).

Cauca area to Jardín municipality: 1:30 hour drive.

Night in Jardín: WR boutique Hotel.

Day 2

Yellow-eared Parrot Reserve

Highland Forest (2300 – 3000 m / 7550 - 9850 Ft – 10 - 17 °C / 50 – 62.6 °F)

This place is exceptional since in this area was rediscovered the Yellow-eared Parrot some years ago, which greatly impacted Colombian bird conservation. From that point, many other bird reserves were created along the country to protect another endangered bird species.

In the morning the birding is carried out along a road crossing the reserve, some of the species there are the Yellow-eared Parrot (E), Golden-fronted Redstart (Ne), Purplish-mantled Tanager (Ne), Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Grass-green Tanager, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, Lacrimose mountain Tanager, Grey-hooded Bush-Tanager, Black-capped Hemispingus, Superciliated Hemispingus, Slaty-back Chat-Tyrant, Mountain Cacique and many more.

Jardín to Yellow-eared Parrot reserve: 1-hour drive.

After a productive morning, return to the town of Jardín for lunch, in the afternoon visit **El Jardín de las Rocas** to have a real close-up of this iconic bird: The Andean Cock-of-the-Rock; it is the most comfortable place in Colombia to have a great pictures of this species, you can have them just a pair of meters in front of you.

Night: WR Boutique Hotel.



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock by Edwin A.

Day 3

El Mirador del Roble birding

Highland Forest (2300 – 3000 m / 7550 - 9850 Ft – 10 - 17 °C / 50 – 62.6 °F)

Very early in the morning leave Jardín to the mountains to visit this place held for a lovely and humble farmer family who has been very committed to the conservation of the forest around their property; there, nice birds visit their house and they also attract some of them into the forest, some of the species around are Chami Antpitta (E), Chestnut-naped Antpitta, Green and Black Fruiteater, Long-tailed Sylph, White-bellied Woodstar, Tourmaline Sunangel, Sparkling Violetear, Lesser Violetear, Collared Inca, Brown Violetear, Buff-tailed Coronet, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, Inca Jay, Masked FlowerPiercer, Grey-browed Brush-Finch, Slaty Brush-Finch, and many more.

After a tasty lunch, continue to **the Central Andes to Manizales City.**

Jardín to Mirador del Roble: 1:40 hour drive.

El Mirador del Roble to Manizales city: 3:00 hrs drive.

Night: Hotel in Manizales [QUO Hotel Manizales](#) | [Hotel en Manizales](#) or similar.



Green-and-Black Fruiteater by Edwin A.

Day 4

Río Blanco reserve

Mist forest (2160m / 7086 Ft – 15 - 20 °C / 59 - 68 °F)

It is an iconic bird reserve in Colombia since it was one of the first places open for birding in the country; this place belongs to the Manizales City utility company which provides water to the city, it is located on the city outskirts and it is surrounded by a montane forest. Feeders and gardens around the lodge attract Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Bronzy Inca, Collared Inca, Speckled Hummingbird...and more.

Feeders into the forest: Brown-banded Antpitta (E), Bicolored Antpitta(Ne), Chestnut-capped Antpitta, Slate-crowned Antpitta, and Gray-browed Brush-Finch.

On trails: Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Masked Saltator, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Golden-headed Quetzal, Black-eared Hemispingus, Black-capped Tyrannulet, Barred Becard, Sharpe's Wren, Pearled Threerunner, White-throated Daggerbill, Masked Trogon, Capped Conebill, White-capped Dipper, and many more can be found.

Night: Hotel in Manizales [QUO Hotel Manizales](#) | [Hotel en Manizales](#) or one similar.



Masked Trogon by Edwin A.



Blue-winged Mountain Tanager by Edwin A.

Day 5

The Highlands

Highland forest and Páramo ecosystem (3300 – 4100 m / 10830 - 13450 Ft – -10 - 10 °C / 14 - 50 °F)

Early in the morning visit 3 places to work on high Andean species at

the top of the Central Andes: **Hacienda el Bosque, Los Nevados National Park, and Hotel Termales.**

Hacienda El Bosque

It is a dairy cattle farm that conserves almost half of its land to protect the highland forest around; here pretty good species are waiting to be enjoyed: Crescent-faced Antpitta (Ne), Equatorial Antpitta, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Barred Fruiteater, Scarlet-bellied mountain Tanager, White-throated Quail-Dove, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Purple-backed Thornbill, Shining Sunbeam, Mountain Velvetbreast, Buff-winged Startfronted, Tyrian Metaltail, Grass-Wren, Paramo Seed eater, Yellow-bellied Chat Tyrant...and many more.

Before midday continue to the Nevados National Park.

Hotel to Hacienda El Bosque: 1 hour drive.

Hacienda El Bosque to Nevados NP: 25 min drive.



Barred Fruiteater by Jhoan F.



Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan by Edwin A.

Nevados National Park

Here the birding is focused on the Paramo ecosystem, working on the unique birds of this land: Buffy Helmetcrest (E), Tawny Antpitta, Andean-Tit Spinetail, Grass Wren, Many-striped Canastero, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Stout-billed Cinclodes, and many more.



Buffy Helmetcrest by Edwin A.

Hotel Termales

This place is surrounded by highland forest, there, you can also enjoy sulfur hot springs after a nice birding day, some of the birds around it are Rufous-fronted Parakeet (E), Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Black-thighed Puffleg, Viridian Metaltail, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Golden-crowned Tanager, Great Sapphirewing, Pale-naped Brush-Finch, Andean Guan, Golden-breasted Puffleg and more.

Nevados NP to Hotel Termales: 30 min drive.

Night: Hotel Termales - [Termales del Ruiz](#)

Day 6

Spend the morning around the hotel and in the Nevados National Park for species missed the day before. Before midday leave for Pereria City outskirts, lunch is taken at a road restaurant where there are chances for more birds.

Nevados NP to Pereira outskirts: 2.5 hours drive.

Night: Casa Hotel Kumanday



Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager by Jhoan F.

Day 7

Otún Quimbaya Sanctuary

Low montane forest (1600 – 1800 m / 5250 - 5900 Ft - 15-18 °C / 59 - 64.4 °F)

Spend the morning along the road crossing the Sanctuary, some of the good species there are Cauca Guan (E), Rufous-breasted Flycatcher (Ne), Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Torrent Duck, and more.

Lunch in the hotel and then continue to the Western slope of Western Andes - the Chocó Bioregion to Montezuma Lodge in Tatamá National Park.

Otún Quimbaya Sanctuary to Montezuma Lodge: 4- hours drive



Cauca Guan by Edwin A.

Days 8 and 9

Tatamá National Park

Super humid forest (1300 – 2600 m / 4265 - 8530 Ft – 12 -25 °C / 53.6 - 77 °F)

This is one of the top places in Colombia for birding, the lodge, Montezuma Rain Forest is run by a lovely family of farmers who are very committed to conservation and of course, birding.

The birding is focused on the precious Choco bioregion gems plus some Andean ones. On the reserve's road, there are good chances for some endemics: Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer, Gold-ringed Tanager, Black and gold Tanager, Munchique Wood-Wren, Crested Ant-Tanager; and some near endemics such as Velvet-Purple Coronet, Violet-tailed Sylph, Empress Brilliant, Brown Inca; Purplish-mantled Tanager, Tanager Finch, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, and more.



Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer by Edwin A.



Gold-ringed Tanager by Edwin A.

Others around: Olivaceous Piha, Tricoloured BruchFinch, Silver-throated, Beryl-spangled Tanagers and Black-capped Tanager, Ornate Flycatcher, Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia, and many more. Around the lodge gorgeous ones such as Purple-throated Woodstar, Purple-bibbed White Tipped, Green Thorntail, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Rufous-gaped Hillstar, White-necked Jacobin, Lemon-rumped Tanager, and many more.

Nights: Montezuma Lodge.

Day 10

This last morning here is spent in the lower part of the park and near the lodge. After lunch, on Montezuma Farm, leave for Buga municipality on the Cauca valley.

Montezuma to Buga: 4:30 hour drive.

Night: Hotel Guadalajara

Day 11

Laguna de Sonso

Dry forest and Wetlands of the Cauca River area (950 m/3116 ft - 26 C/78 °F)

This is one of the few remaining wetlands in the area, located on the **Cauca river banks**, it was designated as an IBA (Important Bird Area for Conservation) by **BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL**; it is a very active and comfortable birding place to enjoy birds as Apical Flycatcher(E), Horned Screamer, Spectacled Parrotlet, Blue-headed Parrot, Little Cuckoo, Great Antshrike, Jet Antbird, Slaty Spinetail, Vermilion Flycatcher, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Oriole Blackbird, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Crested Caracara, Neotropic Cormorant, Ringed Kingfisher plus many aquatic species.

Before midday leave for the Km 18 on Cali City outskirts in the Western Andes to finish the day there.

Sonso to Araucana: 2 hours drive.

Night: La Araucana Lodge - [Araucana Lodge](#) or similar.

Day 12

El Descanso spot - Higher part of Anchicayá Valley

Humid Forest of Choco bioregion (1300 m / 4265 Ft – 25 - 30°C / 77 - 86 °F)

This area is very rich in biodiversity, it is along with Montezuma and Santa Marta mountains one of the top places in Colombia for birding; the birding is carried out mainly in el Descanso spot, a place held for a humble family who attracts many nice birds to their open backyard connected with the forest around. Some of the species there and along the road are Toucan Barbet (Ne), which used to nest on a tree behind the house; Black-headed Brush-Finch (Ne), Rufous-throated Tanager (Ne), Club-winged Manakin (Ne), White-whiskered Hermit, Green-thorntail, Red-headed Barbet, Sickle-winged Guan, Red-faced Spinetail, Masked Tityra, Green Honeycreeper, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Chestnut-headed Oropendola, and many more.



Toucan Barbet by Edwin A.

Night: La Araucana Lodge - [Araucana Lodge](#) or similar.

Day 13

San Cipriano Reserve - Pacific Lowlands

Humid forest (150-300 m / 492.1 - 984.2 ft - 25 C / 75.2 °F)

This reserve on the pacific lowlands have great surprises for you, such as Rose-faced Parrot, Stub-tailed Antbird, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Blue-whiskered Tanager, Scarlet-browed Tanager, Rufous-winged Tanager, White-tailed Trogon, Black-breasted Puffbird, Choco Toucan, Collared Aracari, Yellow-throated Toucan, Five-coloured Barbet, Spot-crowned Barbet, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Black-tipped Cotinga, Dusky-faced Tanager, Tawny-crested Tanager, Velvety Manakin, Masked Tityra, Rufous Motmot and more.

Hotel to San Cipriano 2-hours drive.

Night: La Araucana Lodge - [Araucana Lodge](#) or similar.

Day 14

La Florida Bosque de las Aves

Mist forest (2000 m/6561 ft - 18 C/64 °F)

This place attracts very nice species near the lodge surrounded by mist forest, so the last morning of the tour is exceptional since there are good chances for Chestnut-wood-quail (E), Multicoloured Tanager (E), Scaled Antpitta, Golden-naped Tanager, Saffron-crowned Tanager, Fawn-breasted Tanager, Beryl-spangled Tanager, Barred Becard, Streak Xenops, Chestnut-crowned Brush-Finch and many more.

At around midday leave for the airport of Cali to fly to Bogotá City.

The end of the tour full of nice birds and unforgettable birding experiences.

Includes

Complete logistics, full-time professional birding guidance, 3 local guides (Rio Blanco, Montezuma, and San Cipriano); overnight in Hotels, natural reserves (14 nights, double occupancy in all of them), food: From the breakfast of day one until lunch in day 14 (3 meals, drinks/day and water, snacks), ground transportation, transfers airport-hotels-airport, one domestic flight (Cali-Bogotá), travel insurance, fees entrances, and best

vibes.

Not included

Medical costs or hospitalization, excess baggage charges, laundry, calls, tips, or anything of a personal nature.

Methods of Payment: There are some options to make the first deposit: 30% of the total price and then the rest of the payment a pair of weeks before the tour begins: 70%

Wire Bank or Money transfer agencies

More information

Accommodation

In cities we stay in comfortable and well-located hotels, (HW, Wifi, AC available); lodges provide HW and Wifi. Singles accommodation depends on the availability. Do not hesitate to ask if you are interested.

Food

Most Colombian food is based on grains (beans, lentils, rice, etc), soups, potatoes, yucca, flesh (Beef, pork, chicken, and fish), steak, and salads. There is a variety of dishes from those found in the main cities of the country to the traditional of each region. For those vegetarians, we make arrangements to provide you with tasty dishes.

Drinks

Natural juice or soft drink is provided at dinner, and coffee or tea as well. Bottled water and snacks are provided in the field.

Transportation

Depending on the size group we move on Van or 4x4 vehicles.
In Jardín and Montezuma, 4x4 vehicles are required.

Smoking

If you are a smoker we demand respect for those who do not, especially in the vehicles or when the group is gathered for meals, checklists, etc. If you are sharing a room with a nonsmoker, please do not smoke in the room. If

you smoke in the field, do so while being away and downwind from the group.

Entering COLOMBIA

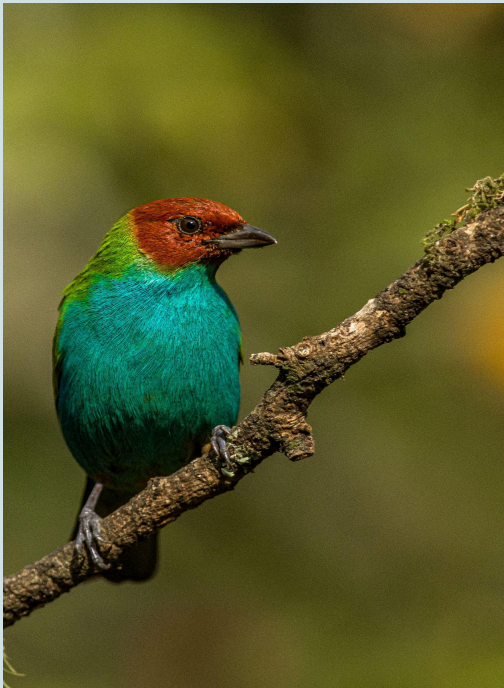
US citizens must present a passport valid at the time of entry and with at least one blank page for an entry stamp. No visa is required for US citizens visiting Colombia for 90 days or less. Visitors from other countries may need a visa; please contact your nearest Colombian embassy or consulate for further information.

Are you ready for unparalleled birding here? We are too, Colombia is open and prepared for your dream birding trip!

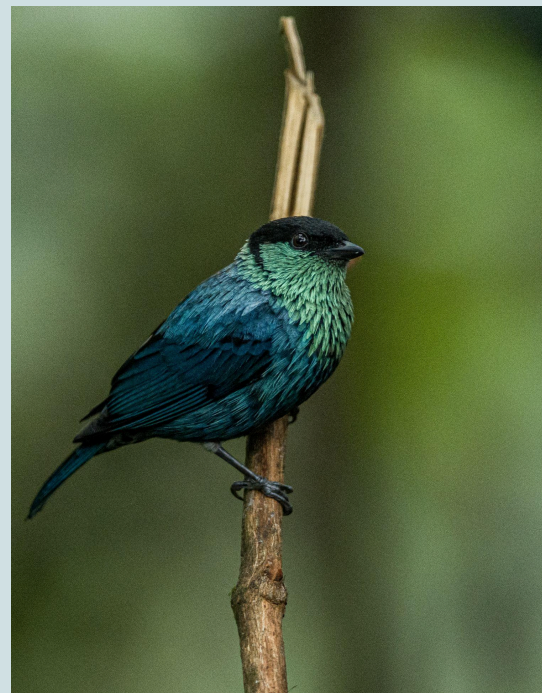
*More info will be sent once you decide to take this great tour

*if you have any questions or doubts, don't hesitate to ask nativebirdingcolombia@gmail.com or contact@nativebirdingcolombia.com

Let's join the Flock!



Bay-headed Tanager by Johan F.



Black-capped Tanager by Johan F.



Crested-Ant-Tanager by Edwin A.



Black Solitaire by Edwin A.



Taiwanese group on action!



Tatamá National Park - Choco Bioregion



Native Birding Colombia Tours

Medellín-Colombia - Carrera 58 A # 53-164 Int 201

(57) 3207212508 (57) 3132380160

www.nativebirdingcolombia.com

contact@nativebirdingcolombia.com

nativebirdingcolombia@gmail.com