

RIO QUIJOS ECOLODGE

Ecuador Tel/WhatsApp 0939707753 or 0984572020

International Tel/WhatsApp 011-593-939707753

rioquijosecolodge@gmail.com



About Bird Watching in Ecuador

Ecuador is one of the best places in the world for bird-watching. With approximately 1,600 species, counting resident species and migrants, no nation in the world has as great a diversity of birdlife in as small an area as Ecuador. The country holds approximately one-sixth of the world's bird species in an area about the size of Colorado, allowing us to share more different species in a week or two than you could enjoy just about anywhere else.

Our bird watching focuses specifically on the eastern part of the country - from the eastern peak of the Andes, the gateway the "Oriente" region of Ecuador. From cloud forests to rainforest, the Oriente of hosts some of the planet's biodiversity "hot spots," with a greater diversity of birds than just about anywhere else in the world.

About Our Trips

Our trips are full-service trips and include private transportation, a multi-lingual guide, lodge based accommodations and meals. Count on rising early for full days of bird watching. Some days are specific to one zone, but other days include traveling to multiple zones that host varying species. We work to minimize travel between zones to maximize time enjoyed spotting birds. Following is a full 12-day itinerary. We also provide custom itineraries from one to multiple days.

BIRD WATCHING ITINERARY- 12 DAYS

DAY 1

Fly into Mariscal Sucre International Airport and transfer to Hotel San Carlos in Quito.

DAY 2

After breakfast we depart to explore the famous birds of the Oriente of Ecuador - heading up to the Pappallacta Pass at 14,000, then into the alto plano and finally the Cayambe Coca National Park.

Birds to be seen:

Black-chested Boddard-eagle
Red Rumped Bush-Tyrant
Bar Bellied Woodpecker
White-chinned Thistletail
Many-striped Canastero
Rainbow-bearded Thornbill
Viridian Metaltail
Giant Conebill
Paramo Seedeater
Chestnut-winged Cinclodes
Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager
Plumbeous Sierra-finch

After exploring the alto pano we will explore the area surrounding Pappallacta Lagoon with the possibility to see:

Andean Teal
Yellow-billed Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
Neotropical Cormorant.

After this we will have a box lunch while taking in the beauty of the Andean landscape. From Pappallacta, we will travel to the Cayambe Coca National Park. Here you will find local species of birds such as:

Masked-mountain Tanager
Agile Tit-Tyrant
Spectacled Whitestart
Ash-colored Tapaculo
Tawny-Rumped Tyrannulet

From the Cayambe Coca National Park, we will finish drive down to 5,000 feet and the RioQuijos EcoLodge. This will be our base for the next few days, as there are over 275 different species of birds to identify in this specific area.

DAY 3

Morning starts early, with 6AM coffee and early morning exploration of the birds around the lodge.

Early morning birds include:

Torrent Ducks
Squirrel Cuckoo
White-collared Swift
Speckled Hummingbird
Long-tailed Sylph
Bronze Inca
Booted Racket-tail hummingbird
White-tailed Hillstar Hummingbird
Violet-fronted Brilliant Hummingbird
We return for a satisfying breakfast at the lodge dining room. After breakfast we will spend the day exploring the nature trails attached to the RioQuijos EcoLodge.

Throughout the wooded trails the trails, you will continue to observe famous birds of the Oriente, including:

Green Inca Jay
Blue and White Swallow
Andean Solitaire
Swainsons Thrush

Black-billed Thrush
Russet-backed Oropendola
Saffron-crowned Tanager
Golden-collared Honeycreeper
Andean Cock-of-the-Rock
Sunbittern

We wind down the day with a drink on the veranda, dinner at the lodge, and a good night's sleep.

DAY 4

We get up at 5:30, just before day break. Taking a boxed breakfast along, we set out for a very special day. Our destination is a Gallo de la Pena lek. Leks are the place where the male Gallo de Pena birds meet to participate in a competitive exhibition for the attention of the females. We will spend half a day observing the birds in the high dense cloud forest.

Along with the Gallo de la Pena is the possibility to observe the following:

Black and Chestnut Eagle
Speckle Faced Parrot
Crested Quetzal
Masked Trogon
White-throated Toucanet
Crimson Mantled Woodpecker
Powerful Woodpecker
Azara's Spinetail
Striped Treehunter
Olive-backed Woodcreeper
Bicolored Antvireo
Red Breasted Blackbird
Russet-backed Oropendula
Slaty Brush Finch

After a morning in the cloud forest, we return to the lodge for a tasty lunch and return to the lodge trails for an afternoon of exploration.

Afternoon sightings include the possibility of:

Cattle Egret
Black Vulture
Roadside Hawk
Andean Motmot
Amazon Kingfisher
Lafresnaye's Piculet
Long-tailed Tapaculo
Montane Woodcreeper
Montane Foliage-gleaner
White-tailed Tyrannulet
Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet
Torrent Tyrannulet
Streak-Necked Flycatcher
Slaty-capped Flycatcher
Rufous-breasted Flycatcher
Variegated Bristle Tyrant
Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant
Ashy-headed Tyrannulet
Gold-faced Tyrannulet (Golden-faced)
Smoke-colored Pewee

Black Phoebe (White-winged)
Golden-crowned Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Barred Becard
White-winged Becard
Brown-capped Vireo
Green Jay (Inca)
Blue and White Swallow (Cyanoleuca)
House Wren
Swainson's Thrush
Black-billed Thrush

After a full day, we will return for a delicious Ecuadorian dinner and evening relaxing at the RioQuijos EcoLodge.

DAY 5

After an early breakfast, we will depart for a drive to the famous Cuevas de Los Tayos - the Oil Bird Caverns. It is a vigorous hike down to the caverns, where one of only two collections of oilbirds exists in Ecuador. After lunch, we will continue our exploration of the Quijos Valley.

The Quijos River runs through the valley and downstream near Ecuador's Coca Coda Sinclair Dam in search of:

Laughing Gull
Lesser Yellowlegs
Pied Flover/Lapwing
Spotted Sandpiper
Neotropical Cormorant.

We will continue downstream to explore the zone of the union of the Quijos and Salado Rivers. We will hike into the palm trees, in search of:

White-backed Fire Eye
Cinnamon Flycatcher
Flame-faced Tanager
Montane Woodpecker
Ocellated Tapaculo
White-throated Toucanet
Russet-crowned Warbler
Chestnut-bellied Thrush
Brown-capped Vireo
Narino Tapaculo
Orange-bellied Euphonia

We return to the RioQuijos EcoLodge for dinner and an evening of relaxation. The lodge offers a full bar and complimentary Wi-Fi.

DAY 6

After an early breakfast we will take a short 45-minute drive into the high Sardinias cloud forest above the town of El Chaco. It is a short walk into the cloud forest in search of:

Collared Inca, White-throated
Toucanet
Saffron Crowned Tanager
Blue-winged Mountain Tanager
Mountain Wren
Pale-eye Thrush

Glossy-black Thrush
Bluish Flowerpiercer
Green Violetear
Black and White Becard
Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher

We will return to the RioQuijos EcoLodge for lunch. After lunch is the opportunity to rest until late afternoon. Hammocks on the veranda offer a relaxing setting for watching the hummingbirds feeding at the feeders just off of the covered deck. Of the 132 species of hummingbirds found in Ecuador, we have already identified 20+ at the lodge proper – many within site of the porch. Late afternoon we will regroup and drive to the Santa Rosa region, to the area around the small community of Bombom and Gonzalo de Pineda. Here we will wait for the night birds to arrive. Night birds include: Lyre-tailed Nightjar

We return for a late dinner at the RioQuijos EcoLodge.

DAY 7

After a 6:00 am breakfast, we depart for the Cordillera de Guacamayos – to spend time in the dense Cloud Forest at an elevation of 2500 meters.

This region has us searching for:

Hooded Mountain Tanager
Grass-Green Tanager
White-capped Tanager
Black-eared Hemispingus
Oleaginous Hemispingus
Common-bush Tanager
Green and Black Fruiteater
Rufous-headed-pygmy-Tyrant
Slate-crowned Antpitta
Spotted Barbtail
Pearled Treerunner
Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan
Turquoise Jay
Chestnut-breasted Coronet
Slaty-backed Chat-tyrant
Yellow-bellied Chat Tyrant

We will return to the RioQuijos EcoLodge for a late lunch. The afternoon provides some down time to organize notes and photos and prepare for departure to our next destination - in the lower Amazonia.

DAY 8

After breakfast we depart for the town of Loreto in the lower Amazon.

We will stop along the way to encounter:

Wire-crested Thorntail
Gorgeted Woodstar
Black-throated Brilliant
Many-spotted Hummingbird
Glittering-throated Emerald hummingbird
Golden-tailed Sapphire hummingbird

Rufous-throated Sapphire hummingbird
Fork-tailed Woodnymph
Channel-billed Toucan
Chestnut-eared Aracari
Yellow-tufted Woodpecker
Dusky Spinetail
Peruvian Antpitta
Cliff Flycatcher
Pale-edged Flycatcher
Lemon-browed Flycatcher
Amazonian Umbrellabird
Southern rough-winged Swallow
Black-capped Donacobius
Orange-crowned Euphonia
Bronze-Green Euphoria
Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia
Silver-beaked Tanager.

In order to maximize our observation time, a box lunch is provided for the drive. Once in Loreto, we will enjoy Dinner and lodging at the Ojo de Agua Lodge.

DAY 9

Another day, another magical place for birds. We will again rise early to explore the area around the lodge.

Here we are looking for:

Grey-necked Woodrail
Blue-headed Parrot
Greater Ani,
Great Kisskadee
Chestnut-crowned Becard
White-winged Swallow
Thrush-like Wren

After Breakfast at the lodge we will travel approximately 30 minutes via our private bus to the Payamino area of the Oriente to continue our observations. We will return to the Ojo de Aqua Lodge for dinner and a restful evening.

DAY 10

An early breakfast gets us on the Via Payamino towards the town of Coca. Coca allows us the opportunity to continue to search for the beautiful low land Amazonian birds that are found in this area.

This includes:

White-Chested Puffbird
Green-backed Trogon
Golden-headed Manakin
White-crowned Manakin
Great-billed Hermit

We will pause for a box lunch and then we continue our journey to tonight's destination: the Sani Lodge. At Francisco de Orellana-Coca, a bilingual guide will give us a safety orientation prior to embarking on a two and a half hour boat journey down the Napo River. The Napo River is one of the largest tributaries of the Amazon.

Coca was the 1542 starting point for Francisco Orellana's journey in which he ended up navigating the entire length of the river, which came to be named the Amazon River. Our trip brings us to the Sani Lodge for dinner and an evening in jungle.

DAY 11

Today, we will look for tropical birds that inhabit the tallest trees of Ecuadorian Amazonia. After breakfast we will embark in boats on a 30-minute paddle across lake Challuacocha. From there you will be guided on a 10-minute hike to a 36-meter tall observation tower. The tower gives a unique perspective, opening a whole new world to the biodiversity of the Amazon that is difficult or impossible to see from below the thick undergrowth canopy.

To date, 565 species of birds have been registered in this area, including such colorful birds as:

- Macaws
- Toucans
- Honey Hunters
- Medicinemen
- Flycatcher
- Hummingbirds

With a little luck, we will see howler and squirrel monkeys and sloths in the upper canopy. We will continue the day along paths where we search for more Amazonian creatures. We return to the Sani Lodge for lunch.

The afternoon offers many enjoyable options to choose from. You can sit in the bar and look over the lake – or in one of the hammocks, and watch the birds. For those who are up for a walk, there is the choice of walking the trail at Chorongó or Coto to look for more tropical birds.

After dinner we will explore the lake for the chance to spot the rare Black Caiman. Growing up to 6 meters in length, the Black Caiman is in threat of extinction. Later we return to the lodge to talk about the adventures of the day and organize our notes and photos.

DAY 12

After another delicious Ecuadorian breakfast that always includes delicious fresh fruits, we will depart by boat on the Napo River to visit the island of Sani and time spent in a very special place in the Yasuni National Park called Colpa de Loros and Arcillas. It is a marvelous sight watching hundreds of parrots that are looking for a place to land in order to eat a special dirt found here that helps with their digestive system.

The large variety of parrots include:

- Mealy Amazon
- Yellow-crowned
- Orange-winged
- Blue-headed Parrots

We will continue hiking south through the Yasuni National Park, along the Napo River. Yasuni is considered by

scientists to be the most bio diverse region in the world. Here we have the opportunity to see species of animals that cannot be found in the north including the Golden Mantle Tamarin, Spider Monkeys, Blue and Yellow Macaws and with some Peccaries.

We then return to the community center of Sani Island to visit a native Kichwa house to learn how a typical Kichwa family lives. You will be treated to the typical meal and drink, and learn of the customs of this culture and how their life style is environmentally sustainable.

The return trip to the Sani Lodge allows for more time to view other species of animals and birds that inhabit the islands of the Napo River.

DAY 13

After breakfast we return to the Napo River and board our boat and again visit the Parrot Wall for a second opportunity to see this magical place of the parrots.

Later we return to Coca in time to catch a flight back to Quito, and your Hotel for the evening.

DAY 14

After 13 remarkable days exploring the birds of the middle and lower Amazon, on this last day we will make an effort to visit the high Andean mountains and search for the emblematic Ecuadorian Condor.

This day provides opportunity to observe birds of the high Andes, such as:

- Many-striped Canastero
- Carunculated Caracar
- Black-crested Buzzard Eagle
- Black-faced Isis
- Andean Lapwing
- Andean Gull
- Silvery Grebe
- Andean Teal
- Andean Coot
- Black-winged Ground Dove
- Ecuadorian Hillstar
- Stout-billed Cinclodes
- Paramo Pipit
- Giant Hummingbird

After a full day in the high Andes, it will be time to return to Quito for dinner and a night.

DAY 15

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.