

Itinerary

Day 1. Arrival to Bogota/ night in Hilton Garden Hotel Meet with local guides and transfer to the hotel for welcoming, introductions, and receive instructions for the next day's activities.

Day 2. Flight to Riohacha city, Flamencos National Park all day / Night in Taroa hotel

Located about 25 minutes away from the city of Riohacha, this flora & fauna sanctuary was primarily created to protect the flamingo population that inhabits the beaches. Surrounded by dry forests and coastal wetlands, this protected location is an IBA (Important Bird Area) due to having more than 400 registered bird species; most of them are of coastal origin migrating from the north side of the continent. This sanctuary is an easy place for bird observation, where it is possible to spot species that are only available here and cannot be found anywhere else in Colombia. Although the temperatures tend to be very high, the strong winds help to make it more refreshing. Not only is it possible to enjoy pleasant spot for the observation of birds, but it also provides incredible gastronomy based on the local seafood.

Key species: Chestnut Piculet, White-whiskered Spinetail, Slender-billed Tyrannulet, Tocuyo sparrow, Vermilion Cardinal, Harris's Hawk, Common Black-Hawk, Pearl Kite, Aplomado Falcon, American Kestrel, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Bare-eyed Pigeon, Common and Ruddy ground-dove, Brown-throated and Blue-crowned parakeet, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Burrowing Owl, Red-billed Emerald, Buffy Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Blue-crowned Motmot, Russet-throated Puffbird, Red-crowned Woodpecker, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Caribbean Hornero, Pale-breasted Spinetail, Black-crested and Black-backed antshrike, White-fringed Antwren, Northern Scrub-Flycatcher, Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant, Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, Vermilion Flycatcher, Brown-crested and Venezuelan flycatcher, Streaked Flycatcher, Social Flycatcher, Bicolored Wren, Black-chested Jay, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Tropical Mockingbird, Scrub Greenlet, Blue-gray and Glaucous tanager, Black-faced Grassquit, Pileated Finch, Grayish, Buff-throated and Orinocan Saltator, Saffron Finch, Yellow Oriole

Day 3. Flamencos National Park, Tayrona forest in afternoon, transfer to Santa Marta / Night in GHL Costa Azul

Tayrona Forest is located adjacent to the Caribbean Sea on the road from Santa Marta to Riohacha. Here there is a very nice portion of humid tropical forest with some interesting species that include the endemic and very threatened Cotton-top Tamarin and the Blue-billed Curassow. The exact location of where we bird in Tayrona will depend on the availability of entrance to the national park. We will either be inside the national park or adjacent to it in an area known as gaviotas. Both areas have similar habitats with portions of forest and similar bird communities. We will stay the night in the tropical city of Santa Marta.

Elevation: sea level / Mobility: Easy, rural unpaved road / Temperature: 28-36°C /

E-bird Hotspot: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L10143772>

Key Species: Rufous-vented Chachalaca, Ruby-Topaz Hummingbird, White-chinned Sapphire, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Whooping Motmot, White-necked Puffbird, Chestnut Piculet, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Military macaw, Black-crested Antshrike, Lance-tailed Manakin, Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Brown-capped Tyrannulet, Golden-fronted Greenlet, Bicolored Wren, Trinidad Euphonia, Chestnut-sided Warbler

Day 4. La Cabaña Road & Minca Forest, transfer to El Dorado Lodge / Night in El Dorado The village of Minca is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, at the northwestern corner of the region. Being in the foothills at low-elevations, a dry forest ecosystem predominates across the ridges, whereas the pre-montane forest begins to transform itself above the village, mixing with coffee crops to create a green atmosphere and a home to many local bird species as well as migratory. It has become a hotspot for backpackers with a focus in nature, especially birdwatchers. It is also easy to find some

interesting species such as the Golden-winged Sparrow and the Black-backed Antshrike, which tend to be difficult to find in other regions of the country.

Elevation: 700-1100 m / Mobility: Easy, rural unpaved road / Temperature: 24-30°C

E-bird Hotspot: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1161669?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

Key species: Santa Marta Blossomcrown, Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner, Santa Marta Tapaculo, Santa Marta Antbird, Santa Marta Sabrewing, Santa Marta Wood-Wren, Santa Marta Brush-Finch, Coppery Emerald, Streak-capped Spinetail, Black Hawk-Eagle, Crested Bobwhite, Military Macaw, Scarlet-fronted and Orange-chinned Parakeet, Red-billed Parrot, White-tipped Dove, Lined Quail-Dove (likely only hear), White-collared and Chestnut-collared swift, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Green Violetear, Brown Violetear, White-vented Plumeteer, Steely-vented Hummingbird, Collared Aracari, Keel-billed Toucan, Golden-olive, Lineated and Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Black-backed Antshrike, Greenish and Forest Elaenia, Yellow-olive and Ochre-faced (Yellow-breasted) flycatcher, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Social and Piratic Flycatcher, Cinereous, Cinnamon and White-winged Becard, Masked Tityra, Rufous-breasted and Rufous-and-White Wren, Yellow-legged, Black-hooded, Pale-breasted, and Black-billed thrush, Black-chested Jay, Golden-fronted Greenlet, Brown-capped Vireo, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Rusty Flowerpiercer, Bay-headed, Black-headed, Black-capped, Blue-gray, Palm, White-lined and Crimson-backed Tanager, Streaked and Grayish Saltator, Golden-winged Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Seedeater, Yellow-backed Oriole, Crested Oropendola and Thick-billed Euphonia.

During the winter months these foothills harbor a good number of North American breeding migrants including Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Tennessee, Golden-winged, Cerulean, Blackburnian, and Black-throated Green Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Summer Tanager.

Night in El Dorado Lodge / <https://www.proaves.org/el-dorado-bird-reserve/?lang=en>

Day 5. San Lorenzo Ridge and El Dorado Reserve / Night in El Dorado Lodge

The Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta is an endemism hotspot for birds found in the neo-tropics, where the geographic isolation and the historic evolution of this mountain range allowed it to be a natural treasure. It covers all forms of habitat with snow peaks rising above 20,000 feet at only 25 miles away from the Caribbean coastline, making it the highest coastal mountain range on the planet. The ridge in San Lorenzo, located on the north side of the highlands, is the ideal place to observe many endemic species of the region, and it is considered to be the Holy Grail for birdwatching in Colombia. Most of the species used to be called by the name of the sierra, "Santa Marta" and parrots, tanagers, antpittas, tapaculos, and hummingbirds, among others, can be found here. Birdwatching in this location tends to be very easy, and it is performed on a road, very calm and with very little vehicular traffic.

Elevation: 2800 m / Mobility: Easy – Medium, rural unpaved road / Temperature: 12-22°C

E-bird Hotspot: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2146871?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

Night in El Dorado Lodge / <https://www.proaves.org/el-dorado-bird-reserve/?lang=en>

Key species: Santa Marta Parakeet, Santa Marta Screech-Owl, White-tailed Starfrontlet, Santa Marta Woodstar, Rusty-headed Spinetail, Santa Marta Antpitta, Brown-rumped Tapaculo, Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant, Yellow-crowned Whitestar, White-lored Warbler, Santa Marta Warbler, Santa Marta (Black-cheeked) Mountain-Tanager, Black-backed Thornbill, Colombian Nevada Brush-Finch, Bang's Wood-Wren, Black-fronted Wood-Quail, White-tipped Quetzal, White-rumped Hawk, Band-tailed Guan, Sickle-winged Guan, Band-tailed Pigeon, Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Red-billed Parrot, Masked Trogon, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Yellow-billed (Groove-billed) Toucanet, Emerald Toucanet, Montane Foliage-gleaner, Spotted Barbtail, Streaked Xenops, Gray-throated Leaf-tosser, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Rusty-breasted Antpitta, Rufous Antpitta, Mountain Elaenia, Black-capped Tyrannulet, Venezuelan and White-throated Tyrannulet, Olive-striped Flycatcher, Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant, Golden-breasted Fruiteater, Orange-billed and Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush,

Great Thrush, Black-hooded Thrush, Slate-throated Redstart, Three-striped Warbler, White-sided Flowerpiercer, Blue-naped Chlorophonia

Day 6. Santa Marta Mountains lowland, transfer to Barranquilla / Night in Barranquilla Plaza

El Dorado Natural Reserve is located on the San Lorenzo Ridge of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, inside a matrix of cloud forests. It is the perfect place for hiking and searching for endemic species on this isolated ridge in the mountains. Simply sitting and enjoying the birds that visit the El Dorado feeders overlooking the Caribbean Sea is absolutely lovely. The sunsets here are also fantastic. Since it is located at a mid-altitude inside the highlands, it is the ecotone between lower mountain forests and higher cloud forests, which creates a confluence of species from both areas. This eco-lodge is one of the most famous in the country, and it is known for its incredible feeders for hummingbirds (some of which are endemic), tanagers, guans, wood-quails, making this experience in El Dorado truly an unforgettable one.

Elevation: 1800 m / Mobility: Easy – Medium, rural unpaved road, hiking trails along the reserve / Temperature: 16-24°C /

E-bird Hotspot: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L652746?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

Key species: Santa Marta Blossomcrown, Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner, Santa Marta Tapaculo, Santa Marta Antbird, Santa Marta Sabrewing, Santa Marta Wood-Wren, Santa Marta Brush-Finch, Coppery Emerald, Streak-capped Spinetail, Black Hawk-Eagle, Crested Bobwhite, Military Macaw, Scarlet-fronted and Orange-chinned Parakeet, Red-billed Parrot, White-tipped Dove, Lined Quail-Dove (voice), White-collared and Chestnut-collared swift, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Green Violetear, Brown Violetear, White-vented Plumeleater, Steely-vented Hummingbird, Collared Aracari, Keel-billed Toucan, Golden-olive, Lineated and Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Black-backed Antshrike, Greenish and Forest Elaenia, Yellow-olive and Ochre-faced (Yellow-breasted) flycatcher, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Social and Piratic flycatcher, Cinereous, Cinnamon and White-winged becard, Masked Tityra, Rufous-breasted and Rufous-and-white wren, Yellow-legged, Black-hooded, Pale-breasted, and Black-billed thrush, Black-chested Jay, Golden-fronted Greenlet, Brown-capped Vireo, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Rusty Flowerpiercer, Bay-headed, Black-headed, Black-capped, Blue-gray, Palm, White-lined and Crimson-backed Tanager, Streaked and Grayish saltator, Golden-winged Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Seedeater, Yellow-backed Oriole, Crested Oropendola and Thick-billed Euphonia. During the northern winter months these foothills harbor a good number of North American breeding migrants including Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Tennessee, Golden-winged, Cerulean, Blackburnian, and Black-throated Green warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Summer Tanager.

Night in Barranquilla Plaza Hotel / <https://www.hbp.com.co/>

Day 7. North University, Km 4, Isla Salamanca, transfer to Riohacha / Taroa Hotel

North University: Barranquilla is located over the Caribbean Sea and the Magdalena River. With a population of two million people, it is one of the most populated cities in Colombia and is the main center for commercial and industrial development since it is a port city. The accelerated growth has left biodiversity restricted to a few areas inside the big city, including the surroundings of the Northern University. The tropical dry forest that is located on the surroundings of the university and that extends up to the shoreline is a refuge for local birds. These typical shrubs from the coastal area hosts approximately 130 local bird species and constitutes a vital point of great importance for the arrival of migratory species.

Elevation: sea level / Mobility: Easy / Temperature: 27-38°C /

e-Bird Hotspot: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2768674?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

Key species: Brown-throated Parrot, Chestnut-winged Chachalaca, Black-crested Antshrike, White-fringed Antwren, Striped Cuckoo, Dwarf Cuckoo, Crane Hawk, Green Ibis, Russet-throated Puffbird, Orange-winged Parrot, Black-backed Antshrike, White-bellied Antbird, Trinidad Euphonia, Bicoloured

Wren, Glaucous Tanager, Grayish Saltator. Km 4 is located on the outskirts of Barranquilla. It is a rural, flat and unpaved road that parallels with the Magdalena River, where it was constituted as a zone of water regulation. The area is dominated by secondary growth, shrubs, plantations and flooding areas that are currently used for local crops and as water reservoirs, making it very a productive location for birds. Many aquatic bird species and also some associated to local dry forests inhabit this place. The climate is warm and humid, which is typical of the region that composes the lowlands of the Caribbean.

Elevation: sea level / Mobility: Easy / Temperature: 27-38°C /

e-Bird Hotspot: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2141044?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

Key species: Russet-throated Puffbird, Pied Puffbird, Stripebacked Wren, Bicolored Wren, Caribbean Hornero, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Northern Screamer, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Limpkin, Cattle Tyrant, Savanna Hawk, Snail Kite, Large-billed Tern.

The Island of Salamanca National Park is primarily composed of mangrove forests, swamps and exceptional beaches that can be viewed over the road connecting Barranquilla with Santa Marta. This island was declared as an IBA (Important Bird Area) and is next to the Ciénaga Grande Fauna & Flora Sanctuary of Santa Marta. In 1998 both were declared as RAMSAR Sites of global importance, and in November of 2000, as Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO. The island of Salamanca is part of a group of small islands formed by the accumulation of sediments arriving from the delta of the Magdalena, linked together by small canals to integrate a barrier that separates the Ciénaga Grande of Santa Marta from the Caribbean Sea. It is a place of special importance because it is the spot for thousands of migratory birds to arrive and possesses some unique species of great interest for the conservation such as the Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird, which is critically endangered.

Elevation: 0 msnm / Mobility: Easy, Trails along the interior of the park / Temperature: 28-36°C /

E-bird Hotspot: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1051521?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

Key species: Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Bicoloured Conebill, Pied Puffbird, Golden-green Woodpecker, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Stripe-backed Wren, Russet-throated Puffbird, Caribbean Hornero, Green, Bare-faced- Glossy and White Ibis, Limpkin, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Cattle Tyrant, Savanna Hawk, Snail Kite, Large-billed Tern

Night in Taroa Hotel / <https://www.hoteltaroa.com/>

Day 8. Las Camelias natural Reserve / City Tour Cartagena / Night in Estelar Cartagena

Las Camelias Natural reserve is an agroecological farm in where the protection of the dry forest around the fruit fields are the priority to conserve the dynamic of ecosystems; with a nice area to walk and to see some great species of birds around artificial lakes and paths inside the forest; this farm is in the municipality of Turbaco, 40 minutes from the beautiful Cartagena.

In the late afternoon and evening we will tour the walled city of Cartagena, a historical area with beautiful buildings and views of the Atlantic Ocean.

Elevation: 150 m / Mobility: Easy – Medium, rural unpaved road, hiking trails along the reserve / Temperature: 16-24°C /

E-bird Hotspot: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100213220>

Key species: Turquoise-winged Parrotlet, Chestnut-winged Chachalaca, Russet-throated Puffbird, Red-billed Emerald, Shinning-green Hummingbird, Lance-tailed Manakin, Jet Antbird, Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Fuscous Flycatcher, Stripe-backed Wren, Golden-winged Sparrow.

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Day 9. Flight to home from Cartagena/Barranquilla/Bogota.