

Day 1 (Thursday, Mar 9)**Arrival in Quito**

We'll arrive in Quito on international flight and transfer to our comfortable hotel in the city.

Night in Hotel Quito

Day 2 (Friday, Mar 10)**Quito to Antisana**

First thing this morning we head upslope along the Calacali Highway past the Mittad del Mundo and towards Antisana. On the way we'll try to locate some of the Interandean specialties such as Ash-breasted and Band-tailed Sierra-Finch, Band-tailed Seedeater, Giant Hummingbird, Purple-collared Woodstar and Blue-and-yellow Tanager. By 9:30 am we should arrive at the slopes of Volcan Antisana, with its breathtaking scenery and sweeping vistas. There are several birds we can get more easily here than anywhere else, including Andean Condor, Black-faced (Andean) Ibis, Carunculated Caracara, Andean Lapwing, Black-winged Ground-Dove, Stout-billed and Chestnut-winged Cinclodes, Streak-backed Canastero, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Paramo and Spot-billed Ground-Tyrants, and Paramo Pipit. We'll be able to watch Black-tailed Trainbearers and Giant Hummingbirds at feeders while enjoying a delicious lunch at the Antisana restaurant. A nearby high elevation lake hold Andean Coot, Andean (Ruddy) Duck and Silvery Grebe. *Night at Tambo Condor*

Day 3 (Saturday, Mar 11)**Tambo Condor to Wildsumaco**

We will drive over the Andes today and continue east along the ridge dropping down towards Amazonia for a lot of new species. We will stop at a couple of lodges where the uncommon White-tailed Hillstar readily comes to feeders. We will stop for lunch along the way. As we drive along the road the scenery changes and we will have some spectacular views of the east Andean foothills as well as the Amazonian lowlands. We'll look for Torrent Duck, Torrent Tyrannulet and White-capped Dipper along the fast-flowing rivers and along the steep road cuts several Cliff Flycatchers can be seen sallying for insects together with Blue-and-white Swallow and maybe Solitary Eagle. *Night at Wildsumaco Lodge*

Days 4 and 5 (Sun., Mar 12 & Mon., Mar 13) Wildsumaco Lodge

Wildsumaco Lodge, located at 1500m is nestled at the base of Sumaco volcano which rises above the Amazon basin. Here in the eastern foothills we find one of the highest diversities of bird species in the world. Some of the species we might see today include Collared Trogon and Lafresnaye's Piculet. Regional specialties we will seek include the near endemic Coppery-chested Jacamar (the Wildsumaco logo), Striolated Puffbird, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Equatorial Graytail, Black-billed Treehunter, Lined Antshrike, Blackish Antbird, Short-tailed Antthrush and several species of flycatchers, for example Black-and-white Tody-Tyrant and Yellow-cheeked Becard. Three beautiful Cotingas are possible, namely Scarlet-breasted and Fiery-throated Fruiteater as well as the ever-popular Amazonian Umbrellabird. Other alluring species include Blue-rumped Manakin, Musician Wren, Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer and several flashy tanagers including the spectacular Paradise as well as Orange-eared. Hummingbird feeders usually yield Green Hermit, Many-spotted & Violet-headed Hummingbirds, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Napo Sabrewing, Grey-chinned Hermit, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, as well as Green & Sparkling Violetear. *Nights at Wildsumaco Lodge*

Day 6 (Tuesday, Mar 14)**Papallacta Pass**

It will be an early start from Wildsumaco this morning as we head towards Papallacta Pass at 4200m. We will make a stop at the very nice Guango Lodge at around 2700m which maintains a beautiful garden with many flowers and feeders for Hummingbirds. Up to 12 species can be seen in one day and this must be the best place in the world to see Sword-billed Hummingbird. Other special hummers here include the very rare Mountain Avocetbill, Tourmaline Sunangel, Glowing and Golden-breasted Puffleg. A walk along the river can produce Torrent Duck and the woodlands along the river are home to some good flocks. Larger birds can include Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Pearled Treerunner, Hooded Mountain-Tanager and Mountain Cacique. The shy Fasciated Tiger-Heron can be found in the rocky rapids along the river. *Night at Termas de Papallacta*

Day 7 (Wednesday, Mar 15)**Alambi, San Tadeo and drive to Mindo**

In the morning we will start to head east crossing Papallacta Pass. Here we will search for *Paramo* specialties such as Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, with luck Andean Snipe, Caranculated Caracara, Andean Tit-Spintail, White-chinned Thistletail, Tawny Antpitta, the rare Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, and Grass Wren and with a good weather a chance for Andean Condor! As for hummingbirds we hope to locate Ecuadorian Hillstar and Blue-mantled Thornbill. Once we get to the west slope we will make stops at the Alambi lodge to look at their tanager and hummingbird feeders for woodstars, Andean Emerald, Booted Racket-tail and search along the river for Torrent Duck. The San Tadeo feeders which can be a riot of hummingbirds and tanagers. We continue down to our accommodation for the next few days, Septimo Paraiso Lodge. The lodge is set in rich forest which can be alive with birds. The hummingbird feeders are alive with Green Thorntails and other east slope hummingbirds. *Night at Septimo Paraiso*

Day 8 (Thursday, Mar 16)**Paz de las Aves**

We start at one of the "hottest" new birding sites, Paz de las Aves, which has been written up in ABA's Birding, Neotropical Birding, and many other publications. Here a local farmer and entrepreneur, Angel Paz, has habituated Giant, Yellow-breasted and Moustached Antpittas, as well as Dark-backed Wood-Quails, to come to feed on chopped up earthworms. This has justifiably been the one moment enabling the vast majority of birders visiting South America to see and enjoy these very hard-to-see birds. In addition we'll visit a very active Cock-of-the-Rock lek with up to a dozen extravagant males raucously displaying. Angel Paz's family serves delicious snacks after this birding extravaganza. While eating our snacks we should get to search for Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, Toucan Barbet and Velvet-purple Coronet among a dazzling array of many other tanagers and hummingbirds that visit their feeders. In the afternoon we will plan to go to Milpe. Owned and operated by the Milpe Cloudforest Foundation, this small reserve is fairly reliable for Long-wattled Umbrellabird. Collared Aracari and Choco Toucan are easier to see and with luck and careful observation we can watch and enjoy the bizarre display of the Club-winged Manakin. The hummingbird feeders are always very active with Green-crowned Brilliant, White-necked Jacobin and Crowned Woodnymph are the most common, but many other species occur as well. *Night at Septimo Paraiso*

Day 9 (Friday, Mar 17)**Reserva Amagusa near Mashpi Lodge and Oilbirds**

Today we will drive the Masphi Road in search of the elusive Choco Vireo, Indigo Flowerpiercer, and Pacific Tuftedcheek; with a chance of seeing Star-chested Treerunner and Purplish-mantled Tanager. We will also spend time at the tanager and hummingbird feeders at Reserva Amagusa where we can expect

Brown Inca, Violet-tailed Sylph, and Purple-bibbed Whitetip, as well as Orange-breasted Fruiteater and Glistening-green Tanager. An Oilbird site in nearby and should see 5-10 of these strange birds. *Night at Septimo Paraiso*

Day 10 (Saturday, Mar 18)

Recinto 23 de Junio, Rancho Suamox, Silanche

An early morning start is necessary to get to a lek of Long-wattled Umbrellabirds at Recinto 23 de Junio. Thereafter, we'll return to Los Bancos and spend the late afternoon exploring Silanche Reserve lower down in elevation. Set in a desert of oil-palms, this reserve is very important for mid-elevation species, such as Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, Blue-whiskered Tanager and the rare Scarlet-breasted Dacnis. *Night at Septimo Paraiso*

Day 11 (Sunday, Mar 19)

Yanacocha to Quito

It's an early start this morning for the Yanacocha Reserve (3400m) owned and operated by the non-profit Jocotoco Foundation. This high elevation temperate forest holds many specialties; including the endemic and critically endangered Black-breasted Puffleg, which is extremely rare, but sometimes comes to the feeders. We'll spend the morning here looking for this very rare species as well as Plain-breasted Hawk, Andean Guan, and Scaly-naped Amazon. Hummingbirds include Great Sapphirewing, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Sapphire-vented and Golden-breasted Puffleg, Mountain Velvetbreast, Tyrian Metaltail and Purple-backed Thornbill.

We then return to Quito for our late evening flights back to the US or to spend the night.