

NORTHERN COLOMBIA AND SIERRA NEVADA OF SANTA MARTA

EXPLORING ENDEMIC TREASURES

Join us on an extraordinary birding adventure through some of Colombia's most ecologically significant regions!

Explore the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, a sanctuary for endemic bird species, including critically endangered species like the Santa Marta Parakeet. Journey through the unique dry forest of La Guajira, home to rare birds such as the Tocuyo Sparrow.

Come along as we discover the enormous diversity of birdlife that these extraordinary locations have to offer!

Day	Activity	Overnight Stay	Altitude	
			feet	Meters
1	Arrival in Barranquilla	Hotel Movich Buró 51	59	18
2	Birding at "Del Norte" University and Salamanca National Park	Hotel Colores de la Sierra	19	6
3	Birding in Minca		1903	580
4	Birding at El Dorado Reserve	Hotel Mountain House	2952 - 7217	900 - 2600
5	Birding at San Lorenzo		4921	1500
6	Birding at Mountain House		4921	1500
7	Early birding at Mountain House And Minca	Hotel Movich Buró 51	1903 - 4921	580 - 1500
8	International flights	End of services		

DETAILED ITINERARY


DAY 1. ISLA SALAMANCA NATIONAL PARK AND TRANSFER TO MINCA

We will spend the first hours of the morning in the forest near to "Del Norte" University, where our main target will be the endemic Chestnut-winged Chachalaca. We are sure to see a few commoner species which could include Bicolored Wren, Northern Scrub Flycatcher and Trinidad Euphonia

Afterwards, we will visit the extensive wetlands and Mangroves of the Salamanca National Park east of Baranquilla.

The Salamanca National Park is adjacent to the Ciénaga Grande, right in the middle of the Barranquilla- Santa Marta highway. It protects the most significant area of mangroves in the Colombian Caribbean. Offers good chances for the endemic and Critically Endangered Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird, like another interesting birds as the Bicolored Conebill, Black-crested Antshrike, Golden-green and Red-rumped Woodpeckers, Dwarf Cuckoo, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Bronzed Cowbird and Striped-backed Wren. Another great aquatic birds possible to see include the White-cheeked Pintail, Northern Screamer, Boat-billed Heron and the American Pygmy Kingfisher.





We also hope to find a host of commoner species with everything from ubiquitous Great-tailed Grackles and Thick-billed Euhphonias to Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans soaring overhead.

In the late morning, we will start driving east through the park but expect to make frequent stops to look at the concentrations of waders and terns that can often be found on roadside pools. In the late afternoon, we will climb into the foothills of the Santa Marta Mountains, to a little town called Minca.

Accommodation at Minca



DAY 2. MINCA

Minca is a little village located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the birding from the dry scrub below Minca up to the shade-coffee plantations area, encompasses lots of different habitats which yield a large number of birds, including near-endemics Golden-winged Sparrow, Scaled Piculet and Red-billed Emerald, besides Keel-billed Toucan, Military Macaw, Pale-eyed Pygmy-tyrant, Rufous-and-white Wren and Black-headed Tanager. The restaurant bird feeders attract White-vented Plumeleteer, Rufous-breasted Hermit, Steely-vented Hummingbird, White-necked Jacobin, Black-throated Mango and Whooping Motmot.

Accommodation at Minca

DAY 3. TRANSFER TO EL DORADO BIRD RESERVE

Buckle up for a thrilling ride to the El Dorado Bird Reserve, owned by the esteemed Colombian NGO ProAves! As we ascend, get ready to witness some of the most remarkable low-elevation endemic birds. The Santa Marta Tapaculo, Santa Marta Woodstar, White-lored Warbler, Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner, and the uncommon Santa Marta Antbird are all worth a look. Not only that, but you may also see the spectacular White-tipped Quetzal, Groove-billed Toucanet, Golden-breasted Fruiteater, and Rusty-breasted Antpitta.

Accommodation at Mountain House



DAY 4. SAN LORENZO

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, a UNESCO-declared Biosphere Reserve and a well-known Pleistocene refuge, is an isolated mountain set apart from the Andes.

Reaching an altitude of 5,775 meters (18,942 feet) above sea level, the Sierra Nevada is the world's highest coastal peak that holds the highest degree of endemism per unit area in the world. Nowadays, there are about 24 Santa Marta endemic bird species recognized, species you cannot see anywhere else on earth. Although taxonomic changes can increase this number in the near future.



Get ready for an exciting and adventure-filled day as we set off early to explore the highest elevations of the majestic Sierra Nevada mountain range. This breathtaking region is home to a dazzling array of endemic bird species, including some that are critically endangered like the Santa Marta Parakeet.

We will look for the striking Yellow-crowned Whitestart, the exquisite Santa Marta Warbler, the colorful Black-cheeked Mountain-Tanager, and the elusive Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant.

We might even catch a glimpse of the Brown-rumped Tapaculo, the Rusty-headed Spinetail, and Santa Marta Antpitta, as well as the intriguing Rufous Antpitta, which was recently split into its own race.

In the afternoon, on the way back to the lodge, we will watch out for the stunning White-tailed Starfrontlet and the lively Streak-capped Spinetail. We will explore the area where we can spot the lovely Colombian Brushfinch, the charming Santa Marta Brush-Finch, and numerous endemic subspecies, including the delightful Cinnamon Flycatcher, the melodious Black-hooded Thrush, the striking Blue-capped Tanager, and the captivating Black-throated Tody-Tyrant.

Accommodation at Mountain House.



DAY 5. MOUNTAIN HOUSE

With a wonderful view of the mountains and the Caribbean Sea in the subtropical area of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, we will spend the morning birdwatching at Mountain House Lodge, a marvelous place where we can spot hummingbirds like the Crowned Woodnymph visit. Our goal for the day is to locate the elusive Santa Marta Blossomcrown, a beautiful bird that can only be found in a few particular garden setups.

But there's more! In the afternoon, we'll be around the place searching for all the endemic species and distinctive subspecies that inhabit this elevation, including any specialties we may have missed in the previous days. As the day draws to a close, we'll try to squeeze in a little more birding before dusk.

Accommodation at Mountain House





DAY 6. TRANSFER TO TAYRONA NATIONAL PARK AREA

On our last day of birdwatching, we'll spend the morning at the feeders of Mountain House and make some stops on our way down to Minca to ensure we don't miss any targets.

While we descend to lower elevations, keep your eyes peeled for any targets we may have missed in previous days.

In the late afternoon, we drive to the hotel.

Accommodation will be in Barranquilla.