



## EASTERN ANDES AND MID- MAGDALENA VALLEY

### FROM THE PARAMO TO THE RAINFOREST

We invite you to an exceptional expedition through the Eastern Andes and the Mid-Magdalena Valley, where Colombia's rich biodiversity and stunning landscapes converge to create a birdwatching paradise like no other. Nestled amidst the rolling hills and mist-covered forests, our six-day adventure invites you to discover the hidden gems and endemic species that call these regions home. From the pristine wilderness of Chingaza National Park to the lush rainforests of Rio Claro Reserve and the breathtaking beauty of El Paujil Reserve, each day offers an unparalleled opportunity to witness the wonders of Colombia's avian diversity.

Day	Activity	Overnight Stay	Altitude	
			feet	Meters
1	Arrival in Bogotá	Hilton Garden Inn	8530	2600
2	Morning Birding at Chingaza National Park Afternoon Birding at Hummingbird observatory		11482	3500
3	Morning Birding at La Florida wetland Afternoon birding at Tabacal lagoon and Enchanted garden	Hotel Los Colores	3937	1200
4	Rio Claro reserve		492	150
5				
6	International flights	End of services		

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### DAY 1. ARRIVING IN BOGOTÁ

As your plane approaches, you will be greeted by the sprawling urban landscape placed among the Andean peaks, offering a glimpse into the vibrant energy of the city.

Our first evening will be marked by a warm welcome dinner with the tour leader, setting the tone for our exploration to Colombia's Andean Mountains.

Accommodation at Hilton Garden Hotel.



### DAY 2. CHINGAZA NATIONAL PARK AND HUMMINGBIRDS OBSERVATORY

We will make an early start to venture into the hills, ascending high into the elfin forest of the vast Chingaza National Park, which is 53,000 ha, and provides most of the drinking water for Bogotá. Here, you will find most of the near-endemic species from the Eastern Andean Highlands. The short-stunted trees and nearby paramo habitat encourage small mixed roving flocks and amongst these we will search for Rufous-browed Conebill, Silvery-throated Spinetail, and the skulking Pale-bellied Tapaculo. The White-faced form of Golden-fronted Whitestart, Black-chested, Buff-breasted, and Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanagers, Red-crested Cotinga, Pale-naped Brush-finch, Rufous Wren, Superciliated, Black-eared, Black-headed, and Oleaginous Hemispingus, and other delights, such as Plushcap, Black-crested Warbler, White-throated Tyrannulet, Muisca Antpitta, Glowing and the near endemic Coppery-bellied Puffleg. we may even





entice an Andean Pygmy-owl to show itself and if we are very lucky, we could find Bronze-tailed Thornbills. The endemic Brown-breasted Parakeet is one of the targeted species, and artificial nest boxes have been set up in the area for the continued survival of this endemic species. As we ascend in elevation, we can continue searching for the Tyriant Metaltail, Glossy and Masked Flowerpiercer, Barred Fruiteater, Slaty Brunhs-finch, White-chinned Thistletail, Streak-throated Bush-tyrant.

In the afternoon, we will visit some hummingbird feeders where we have a good chance of seeing the Sword-billed Hummingbird, Great Sapphirewing Lesser Violetear, Sparkling Violetear, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Black-tailed and Green-tailed Trainbearers, Purple-backed Thornbill, Glowing Puffleg, Coppery-bellied Puffleg, Shining Sunbeam, Blue-throated Starfrontlet, Mountain Velvet-breast and White-bellied Woodstar.

Accommodation at Hilton Garden Hotel.

### DAY 3. LA FLORIDA PARK. EL TABACAL LAGOON AND THE ENCHANTED GARDEN

La Florida Park is a wetland area located in the northwestern part of Bogotá at 2600 meters above sea level. Although it has been heavily impacted by city development, the region still contains small remaining natural areas which are an excellent place to find the secretive and endemic Bogota Rail. Other target species include: the endemic Apolinar's Wren, Silvery-throated Spinetail, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, and small numbers of Spot-flanked Gallinule. Rufous-browed Conebill may also occasionally be found in the surrounding Eucalyptus trees and parkland.

El Tabacal is a small lagoon located in La Vega municipality, near Bogotá. We will explore the natural park, looking for the rare Gray-throated Warbler, endemic Velvet-fronted Euphonia, near-endemic Bar-crested Antshrike, Stripe-breasted Spinetail, Rusty-breasted Antpitta, Blue-lored Antbird and the tricky Rosy Thrush-Tanager. Common species include Olivaceous Piculet, Plain Antvireo, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-Olive Flycatcher, Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Cinereous Becard, White-shouldered Tanager, Crimson-backed Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager and Ruddy-breasted Seedeater.







In the afternoon, we will head to Jardin Encantado (Enchanted Garden), one of the biggest hummingbird feeders in Colombia. Main targets there will be the endemic Indigo-capped Hummingbird, Ruby topaz Hummingbird, Gorgeted Woodstar (the smallest of the woodstars) and Red-billed Emerald. In the afternoon, we will be transferred to Rio Claro Reserve

Accommodation at Los Colores Hotel.



#### DAY 4 & 5. RIO CLARO RESERVE

Rio Claro is one of the most notable birding hotspots in Colombia. Thanks to its interesting geography and geographical history. Its tropical rainforests are very unique, where the vegetation and fauna are adapted to a highly unique ecosystem niche, characterized by limestone and marble soil, and rich in calcium and other minerals. The high degree of biological endemism is precisely due to the uniqueness of these ecosystems.

The main attraction at Cañon del Rio Claro are the odd and mysterious Oilbirds, which we can easily see in a cave along the river where they roost.

Also, we will look for 5 more endemic birds: Magdalena Antbird, Antioquia Bristle-tyrant, Beautiful Woodpecker, White-mantled Barbet and Sooty Ant-tanager; plus, the near-endemic Saffron-headed Parrot. Other targets include Grey-cheeked Nunlet, Broad-billed Motmot, Barred Puffbird, Slaty-winged Foilage-Gleaner, Pacific Antwren, One-colored Becard and striking White-bearded Manakin.



#### DAY 6. EL PAUJIL RESERVE AND TRANSFER TO BOGOTÁ

We will spend the first hours of our last day birding in El Paujil Reserve before head back to Bogotá.