



NATURE  
COLOMBIA

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## EASTERN COLOMBIA

WHERE THE LLANOS MEETS THE AMAZON.

Colombia is a birder's paradise waiting to be discovered. Thanks to its wide variety of landscapes and climates, Colombia is a megadiverse country with some of the highest biodiversity on the planet. Regardless of size, Colombia holds almost 20% of all birds in the planet (1,940 species, with new species still being discovered).

This exciting new tour takes in the east Andean foothills, the best of the Llanos and the fringes of the Colombian Amazon. Diversity will be impressive as we take in habitats from high Andean temperate forest at 2500m to lowland Llanos floodplains and Amazonian Varzea forests at 400m. Add in open Savannah and foothill forest and you have the recipe for the perfect tour.

We have chosen for you the most spectacular birding reserves across the areas to be visited, that protect the vulnerable biological diversity of Colombia and which offer well preserved forests, facilities for photography and comfortable accommodations. All of them are run by Colombian NGO's, and part of your payment is reinvested into local conservation initiatives, such as species and habitat preservation, and local communities.

Day	Activity	Overnight Stay	Altitude	
			feet	Meters
1	Arrival in Bogotá.	Bogotá	8530	2600
2	Birding at Sumapaz, Transfer to Villavicencio	Rancho Camaná Reserve	13779	4200
3	Birding Rancho Camaná and surroundings	Rancho Camaná Reserve	1532	467
4	Birding Refugio del Tororoi	Rancho Camaná Reserve		
5	Birding Bosque Bavaria, transfer to San Jose del Guaviare	San José del Guaviare	~606	~185
6	Birding at San José del Guaviare	San José del Guaviare		
7	Birding at San José del Guaviare	San José del Guaviare		
8	Birding at San José del Guaviare	San José del Guaviare		
9	San José del Guaviare to Bogotá	Bogotá		

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### DAY 1. ARRIVAL IN BOGOTÁ.

Upon arriving in the city of Bogotá, you will be transferred to a comfortable hotel in the city. Here you will be met for a welcome dinner by your tour leader with time to talk through some of the exciting adventures to come.

### DAY 2. BIRDING AT SUMAPAZ. TRANSFER TO VILLAVICENCIO

The Sumapaz Paramo is an exceptional location situated within the Eastern Andean Mountain Range. This vast páramo habitat is recognized as the world's largest and promises a breathtakingly magnificent landscape. The goal of this trip is to see some of the most elusive and endemic birds, such as the Bearded Helmecrest, Apolinar's Wren, and the Bogota Rail. We will also be looking for the exquisite Bronze Tailed Thornbill, the near-endemic Rufous-browed Conebill, Chestnut Winged Cinclodes, and Many Striped Canastero, among other species, such as Andean Tit Spinetail, Paramo Seedeater, Plain Coloured Seedeater, and the majestic Black Chested Buzzard Eagle.



Bogota Rail

Key Checklist: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2758310>





Ornate Titi Monkey

### DAY 3. BIRDING RANCHO CAMANÁ AND SURROUNDINGS

Since its establishment in 1993, Rancho Camana has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving from former cattle-grazing land into a small private nature reserve. Through the dedicated efforts and expertise of its team, the ranch endeavors to exist in harmony with nature. Its primary goal is to share its lifestyle with visitors while actively contributing to the region's development through cultural and environmental conservation initiatives. The reserve boasts a diverse array of species, including the Barded Antshrike, Gilded Barbet, Plain-crowned Spinetail, Little Cuckoo, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Pectoral Sparrow, Rufous-and-white Wren, Turquoise Tanager, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Plain-brown Woodcreeper, and Plain Thornbird.

Nearby to the reserve lie significant forested areas, providing an opportunity to potentially encounter the Ornate Titi Monkey. This species, exclusive to eastern Colombia, holds a place on the IUCN Red List as an endangered species, specifically categorized as "Vulnerable," with a notable decline in overall population trends. Formerly grouped under the same classification as the white-tailed titi, it has since gained official recognition as a distinct species. Other bird species that we will be targeting include: Burrowing Owl, Sooty-capped Hermit, Hoatzin, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Speckled Chachalaca, Violaceous Jay, Black-capped Donacobius, and many more.

Key Checklist: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L6979724>

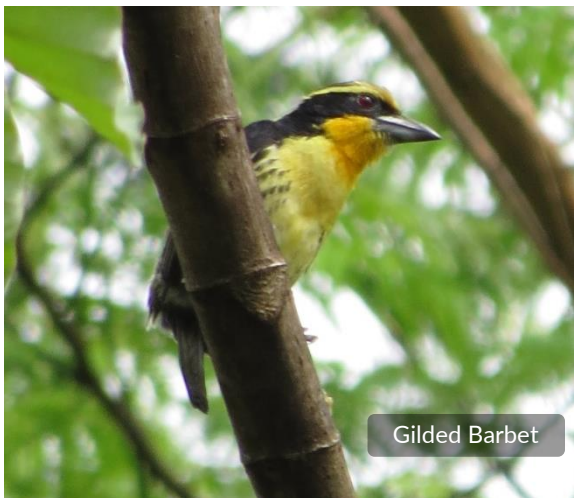
### DAY 4. BIRDING REFUGIO DEL TOROROI

Our expedition will commence with an early departure, aiming to explore the highland forests situated in La Herreria, near Guayabetal town. Our primary objective is the sighting of the exceptionally rare Cundinamarca Antpitta, an endemic species, made feasible by local families who offer exceptional viewing opportunities through a feeder station. Following this unique sighting experience, our attention will shift towards observing mixed flocks renowned for hosting a diverse array of highland species, including the Black-collared Jay, Northern Mountain Cacique, Grass-green Tanager, and Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet. Moreover, there are promising chances to encounter the endemic Brown-breasted Parakeet, Muisca Antpitta, and occasionally, the Black-and-chestnut Eagle during our excursion.

Key Checklist: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L8164312>



Cundinamarca Antpitta



Gilded Barbet



Scarlet Ibis

## DAY 5. BIRDING BOSQUE BAVARIA. TRANSFER TO SAN JOSE DEL GUAVIARE

In the morning, our itinerary includes a visit to Bavaria Forest, a small yet highly productive forest patch nestled in the foothills of the Colombian eastern plains. Situated northwest of Villavicencio, the capital of Meta department in Colombia, this location offers a promising exploration ground. Our primary targets in this area will encompass sightings of the Amazonian Motmot, Gilded Barbet, Grey-chinned Hermit, Yellow-billed Nunbird, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Silver-beaked Tanager, Turquoise Tanager, Black-faced Dacnis, Black-faced Antbird, Black-throated Antbird, and Pectoral Sparrow.

We plan to head out from Villavicencio after lunch for the 5 hour drive to San Jose del Guaviare. We will make a few birding stops en-route trying to see more Llanos specialties and hope to arrive at Guaviare in time for lunch.

Key Checklist: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1924284>





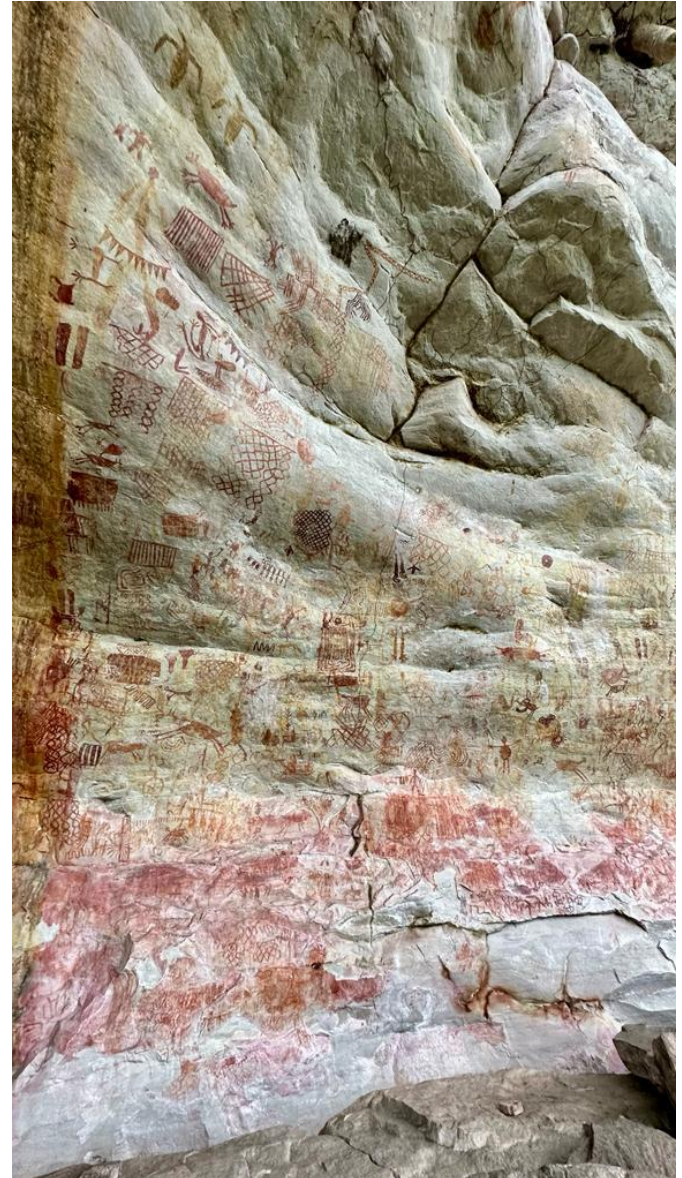
Brown Nunlet

## DAY 6.7 & 8. SAN JOSE DEL GUAVIARE

San José del Guaviare, the capital city of the Guaviare department, boasts a landscape predominantly characterized by flat terrain. A significant portion of San José del Guaviare is part of the Serranía de la Lindosa, known by its privileged location at the confluence of four of South America's most important geographic regions. On one side, it serves as a transition between the Orinoquia and the Colombian Amazon: an area where the expansive Colombian-Venezuelan plains meet the Amazon rainforest. Additionally, it represents the merging point where the Guyana Shield region and the Andean foothills converge.

The area predominantly comprises tropical rainforests and gallery forests, with the northern section adorned by natural savannahs. Water bodies, including the prominent Guaviare and Guayabero rivers, intricately irrigate the town. These rivers not only sustain the municipality but also establish vital connections with neighboring populations within and beyond the department. Moreover, the Inirida River delineates the municipality's southeastern boundary.





Historically, the municipality bore the scars of violence and illicit crop cultivation in Colombia. However, concerted efforts by various organizations have facilitated a shift toward agricultural and livestock activities, enabling its inhabitants to focus increasingly on more sustainable livelihoods.

During the morning of day 6, our exploration around the town's vicinity presents exceptional birdwatching opportunities. We aim to spot captivating species such as the Cream-colored Woodpecker, Long-billed Woodcreeper, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Yellow-bellied Dacnis, Solitary Cacique, Large-billed Tern, Turquoise Tanager, and Green-backed trogon

On day 7, we will venture into the savanna habitat, where potential sightings may include the Russet-crowned and Ashy-throated Crakes, Red-shouldered Tanager, Short-tailed Swift, and Lesser Elaenia. Notable species anticipated in this habitat encompass the Chestnut-fronted



Macaw, Slender-footed Tyrannulet, Black-tailed Tityra, White-winged Becard, White-throated Toucan, and Masked Cardinal.

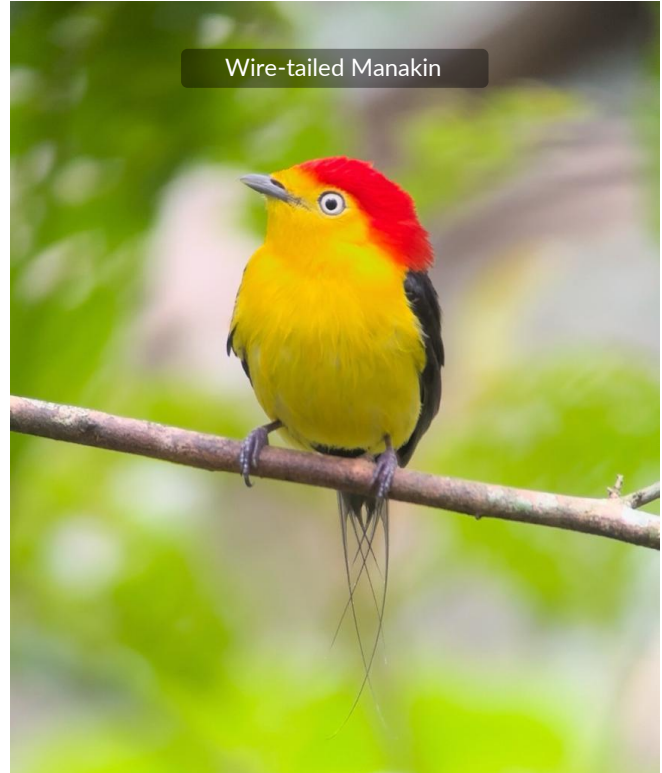
Moreover, our itinerary includes a visit to a Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock Lek, followed by a walk that will lead us to explore ancient petroglyphs. These petroglyphs hold profound cultural significance, serving as vivid artistic expressions and narratives that illuminate the history, beliefs, and way of life of ancient South American communities. Their exploration offers an invaluable glimpse into the rich heritage and cultural legacy of these communities.

The paintings on the walls of the rocky outcrops in this region bear witness to human presence dating back over ten thousand years. These artworks have been discovered in the last 50 years due to deforestation caused by hunting expeditions and terrain exploration. Around fifty panels of considerable aesthetic and symbolic value have been found in the Serrania, with seven located in close proximity to the populated center. One of the paintings we will visit might span up to 200 square meters and feature approximately thirty thousand motifs or figures. This quantity positions the Serrania as one of the world's locations with the highest concentration of rock paintings.

Key Checklist:

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2697672>

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2697642>







Cream-colored Woodpecker



Capped Heron