BELLAVISTA DISCOVERY PACKAGES

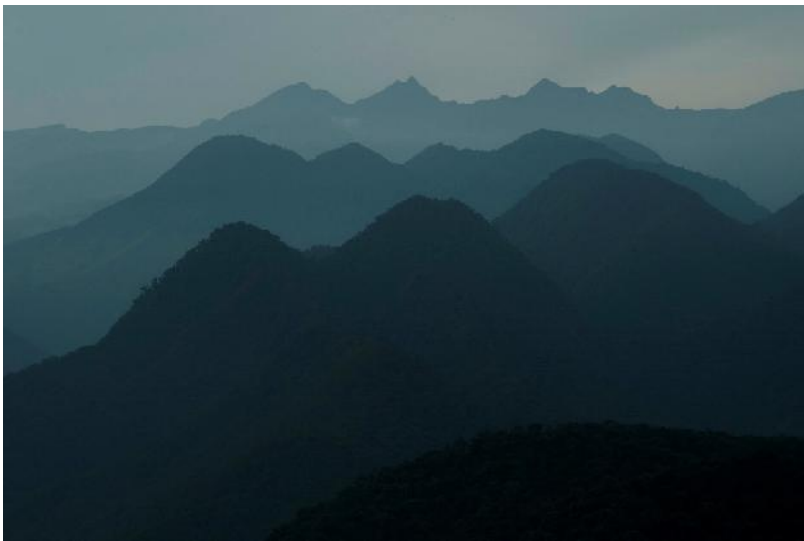## LATM CLOUD FOREST TOUR OPTION

SELLERS

2 DAY/1 NIGHT PACKAGE

BELLAVISTA CLOUD FOREST PARADISE

Our two-day trip is a wonderful way to discover a cloud forest so close to Quito – only one hour 45 minutes away! Leaving Quito, we pass the Middle of the World monument and then descend a scenic mountain road with forested mountains all the way. Reaching the turn to Bellavista, you climb to the top of the mountain, again with fabulous views, where Bellavista lodge is perched. On arrival, you are greeted by a flurry of hummingbirds! Breakfast is served, and then you take a guided hike into the forest on our varied trails. Rooms are sometimes available on arrival, otherwise available later in the morning.

We offer our guests a unique stay in paradise! A choice of rooms: standard, superior or shared dormitory, all offer a comfortable stay, with great views towards Pichincha Volcano, or into the Tandayapa Valley! Birds galore, and special wildlife like the newly-described Olinguito! You will enjoy our generous servings of delicious Ecuadorian and international food, in our new bamboo "El Amanecer" restaurant with broad views towards Pichincha Volcano.

This package includes round-trip transport from Quito, all meals, accommodation, and taxes. Also included are daily hikes into the forest, on our extensive network of safe, well-marked trails, accompanied by our knowledgeable, bilingual naturalist / birder guides. You will meet amazing colourful birds, and learn about the natural history of a cloud forest, similar to and yet so different from an Amazonian rain forest!

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DAY TO DAY ITINERARY:

Day One:

6.15 / 6.30h: Departure from your hotel. Arrival at Bellavista and breakfast.

9.30h: Our first Bellavista explorations start around the Lodge, and then along some of our trails. The hummingbird feeders will be the first attraction – Buff-Tailed Coronet, Violet-tailed Sylph, Gorgeted Sunangel, Booted Racket-tail and more. Then we will be looking for brightly – coloured birds like Toucan Barbet and Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, and learning about the fascinating adaptations to life in a cloud forest ecosystem. Tall trees tower over us, festooned with mosses and an abundance of epiphytes, including delightful orchids and huge bromeliads.

13.00h: Lunch

15.00h: Further explorations will include discovering the differences between secondary and primary forests. Viewpoints truly give a bird's eye view of the well-preserved forests of the Tandayapa Valley, vast views of mountains disappearing into the distance.

19.00h: Tonight, expect to see really close up the delightful Olinguito, the first new species of mammal to be discovered in the Americas in the past 35 years, as of 2103! Guides have sometimes located the night perch of the strange Common Potoo…

Overnight: Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge.Meals: B, L, D

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Day Two:

6.15h: Early morning birding. Chances for Strong-billed Woodcreeper, White-tailed Tyrannulet, Turquoise Jay, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, White-sided and Masked Flowerpiercer, Masked Trogon, and more, all around the lodge. You hardly need to walk any distance at all to

see a great variety of birds!

Some mornings the elusive Tayra (giant weasel) comes

in to a feeding station right at the Lodge!

8:00h. Breakfast

9.30h. Two hikes are offered to cater for different interests, or for whether you desire to walk shorter or longer distances. One option is an adventurous hike to a waterfall hidden in the forest, a deep-forest experience where one option sees you climbing up the stream itself to get to the waterfall! A bird-oriented hike is always offered, and again some people choose to walk our Self-guided Trail (with or without a guide, lots to learn and the forest is quite safe!)

13.00h. Lunch

14:30 - 15.00h. Departure for Quito

17:00 - 17.30h. Arrive at your Quito hotel

What to bring:

T-shirts or comfortable blouses/shirts

Sweater or fleece for the evenings

Quick drying trousers (blue jeans not recommended)

Lightweight socks

Change of clothes

Sunhat and sunscreen

Rain poncho (a few available if needed)

Camera

Rubber boots are provided – to size 47 (few pairs in large sizes)

Binoculars (a few available for rent)

Water bottle for hikes

Small daypack for hikes

Flashlight and batteries

Plastic bags to protect camera, etc.

What is included:

5 meals starting with breakfast Day One, and finishing after lunch Day Two

1 night accommodation

Shared naturalist / birding guide service

Access to 700 hectares private reserve

Shared private, round trip transport from Quito city

All Taxes (VAT, service, Municipal TCT Tax)

What is not included:

International / local flights

Extra cost for pickup / drop off at Quito airport and area

Drinks, tips, personal items, other services

Notes:

a) Package prices **represent a 25% discount over normal prices for sellers: $192 / person**.
b) Airport pickup / drop off: $76 (1 or 2 people) each way.
c) Tours available any day of the week. Tour as described is with our established daily departures from Quito, and can be adjusted according to your airport arrival and departure times from Guayaquil, or to connect with other LATM-oriented tours.
d) Flights in addition, approximate cost: $160 round trip.
   We can help arrange these on local carriers once the visit is confirmed. To take full advantage, we suggest early morning flights out of Guayaquil, and late afternoon flights back to Guayaquil.
e) Note that Bellavista Lodge is approximately 2 hours from the airport, and a little shorter from Quito city.
f) This is a LATM–oriented tour. **Other options available for longer or shorter visits.**