

Pre tour for TMLA 2017



***For registered
Participants
Prepared by:***



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Birdwatching in the hidden paradise of southern Ecuador

TMLA - PRE TOUR

During: 3 days / 2 nights

Departure : 10 – 12 September



This bird-watching tour of southern Ecuador is ideal if you're looking for adventure and for getting a real feel of the bird-watching opportunities on offer, covering both highland and lowland terrain from 20m to 4100m high.

Southern Ecuador is a beautiful and highly diverse region with amazing variety in habitat, scenery, and birds. We cover everything from the coastal region, to swamps, deserts, arid scrub, deciduous forests, rainforests, montane cloudforests, high altitude elfin forests, and páramo. This trip will give you the chance to see lots of the birds endemic to the Tumbesian region of western Ecuador and northwestern Peru, as well as a number of high Andean species shared only with remote parts of northern Peru.

From highland moors to cloud forest areas, subtropical valleys, dry forest and tropical areas, this privileged itinerary will take you to visit some of the most important bird-watching sites in southern Ecuador. You'll explore the full spectrum of ecosystems available in the area giving you a fabulous opportunity to observe a wide diversity of bird species, including some endemic.

10 SEP. Day 1: The Churute mangroves reserve and the paramo highlands Cajas national park



Early in the morning, pick up from selected hotels towards to the ecological reserve of Manglares Churute. The reserve is east of the Guayas River's estuary, where the protected mangrove provides you with spectacular bird and sea animal watching opportunities. Be ready to hike in this tropical dry forest home of some howler monkeys, to continue the adventure in a canoe cruising around the mangroves and estuaries.

The day continues with a box lunch as we climb up into the Andes to 13.700 feet above sea level. Along this scenic ride we passed through different ecosystems such as cloud forest and paramo, where we stop to see the bird species of the highlands living in El Cajas National Park.

Then we continue for a short drive to Cuenca for resting and accommodation.

Meal plan: B / L

11 SEP. Day 2: Cuenca – Yunguilla Jocotoco reserve – Pto Jeli – Buenaventura Jocotoco reserve, (Umbrella bird lodge).



Early morning we will drive south west along a different Andean valley descending to one of the important Jocotoco reserves, this areas was founded with the target of protection for birds in danger of extinction. The Yunguilla Reserve was established to protect the last remaining population of the Pale-headed Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes pallidiceps*), which was rediscovered in 1998 after being feared extinct for over two decades. Ninety-four percent of

the entire Brush-Finch population is found inside the reserve, so the current survival of the species is completely dependent on management by the foundation. Like Utuana and Yanacocha, the Yunguilla Reserve serves to

illustrate how important even small reserves can be, when strategically placed to protect site-specific biodiversity.

We continue descending down to the lowlands and enjoy a delicious lunch at Puerto Jeli, highly recognized for offering some of the best sea food dishes in the country. We then drive to the Buenaventura birding reserve for overnight and accommodation.

Meal Plan: B / L / D

12 SEP. Day 3: Buenaventura reserve – Guayaquil.



The Buenaventura Reserve was established in 1999 to protect the type locality of the El Oro Parakeet (*Pyrrhura orcesi*) which was discovered there by Robert Ridgely and others in 1980. By the 1990s forest cover had been very substantially reduced and depleted, with much larger pastures by then having been established and almost all large trees having been removed. The reserve has grown from an initial 400ha to about 2000ha by 2015. With an altitudinal range from 400m to over 1200m above sea level, it now protects one of the largest tracts of foothill cloud forest remaining on the west slope of the Andes in southwestern Ecuador. This zone, which

combines elements of both the deciduous Tumbesian Forest of southern Ecuador and northwestern Peru with the wet Chocó forest of northwestern Ecuador, is home to over 330 species of birds which have been recorded at Buenaventura, of which 12 are classified as globally threatened, and another 34 species are locally endemics.

An early start to hike along the paths inside the reserve, hoping to spot some of the amazing birds living here, such as the Umbrella bird. Once back at the lodge we will be welcomed by hundreds of humming birds coming to the restaurant feeders to provide a spectacular show full of displays just in the front of our cameras.

Later in the day, we will drive back to Guayaquil for drop off at the selected hotels.

Meal plan: B / L

The tour includes:

- A bilingual (English/Spanish) guide
- Private transportation
- All meals mentioned in the itinerary
- Accommodation at local hotels and reserve lodges (we always use best accommodations available, but standards may vary depending on location)
- Easy to moderate activities lasting from 6 to 8 hours a day
- All entrance fees
- Bottle of water during the activities

This tour does not include

- Travel insurance
- Tips and gratuities
- Personal Expenses
- Any other service not listed on itinerary

Packing tips

- Good walking shoes
- Fast-drying comfortable clothing
- Rain jacket
- Warm sweatshirt for cool nights
- Sun protection
- Binoculars

Normal price: \$ 495.00

Registered TMLA participants Buyer and Supplier **special price \$ 248**

Single supplement: \$ 35 (available just in Cuenca)

Confirmation deadline: August / 20 / 2017

Very Important: Limited Availability 16 Passengers