



**BIRDS OF COLOMBIA FROM YOUR LENSES # 1**  
CHAPTER ANDES – EASTERN, WESTERN AND CENTRAL CORDILLERA

## Itinerary / 5-16 March 2023

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- Day 1. Arrival to Bogota / Hilton
- Day 2. Bosque Guajira & Observatorio de Colibríes / Hilton
- Day 3. Sumapaz, flight to Cali / Araucana
- Day 4. Doña Dora Feeders / Araucana
- Day 5. La Florida and La Minga / Araucana
- Day 6. Sonso, transfer Parque de la Uva, transfer Montezuma / Montezuma Reserve
- Day 7. Montezuma all day / Montezuma Reserve
- Day 8. Montezuma all morning transfer Manizales / Hacienda El Bosque
- Day 9. Hacienda El Bosque, Termales / Termales del Ruiz
- Day 10. Termales and Nevado del Ruiz, transfer Jardin / Valdivia Plaza
- Day 11. Lucia Feeders, Yellow eared Parrot Reserve, Cock of the Rock lek / Valdivia Plaza
- Day 12. Bambusa Feeders, transfer Medellin, flight to Bogota / Hilton
- Day 13. Flight to home

An incredible photographic tour of birds where the best places in the interior of the Colombian Andes have been chosen, visiting places with very good species of the three mountain ranges, the eastern, western and central. With a great variety of hummingbirds, tanagers, toucans, among other species, this tour has been designed to obtain a very good photographic collection of incredible birds of Colombia, in well-thought-out photographic conditions for professional and amateur photographers, with comfortable trips and stays both in the places for photography as in your accommodation. A journey to obtain not only incredible memories but also incredible photos.





## Detailed Itinerary

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Personal of protocols of our company will be waiting for you to transfer to the hotel and to give the welcome to Colombia, you will have instructions for the activities next day

**Night in Hilton Garden Inn / <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/bogatgi-hilton-garden-inn-bogota-airport/>**

This is an excellent place for birdwatching. It is located about 2 hours away from the city of Bogotá and it is near to the municipality of Guasca. The road to the rural area known as La Concepción, which leads to the Guajira Forest reserve, has mixture of local crop farming, livestock pastures and patches of secondary and primary forests. At least three privately protected natural areas are found in this location and some initiatives from farmers to preserve part of their forests occur here. The most predominant ecosystems in the area are high-Andean forests and sub-paramos. It is an excellent place for birdwatching around open spaces with scattered trees, where Toucans, Quetzals and Parrots can be observed. The great bond with the Guasca Paramo and the Siecha lakes, makes it possible for the Guajira Forest to be the perfect place for an entire day of birdwatching, in which one may be able to spot over 120 species in a day.

Elevation: 2800-3100 msnm / Mobility: Easy, rural unpaved road / Temperature: 10-16 °C

**E-bird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4221043?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

### **Photo Conditions: Short Walks on Road and Feeders**

**Target Photo Species:** Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Green fronted Lancebill, Coopery-bellied Puffleg

**Other Key Species:** Brown-breasted Parakeet, Rufous-browed Conebill, Golden-fronted Whitestar, Torrent Duck, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Rufous Antpitta, Green and black Fruiteater, Blue and Black Tanager, Andean Guan, Pale-bellied Tapaculo, Chesnut-crowned Antpitta, Grass-green Tanager, Beryl-spangled Tanager, Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrant, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, Pale-napped Brush-Finch.

**Night in Hilton Garden Inn / <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/bogatgi-hilton-garden-inn-bogota-airport/>**





Sumapaz is the largest paramo in the world and is located near the city of Bogota, about 2 hours away from the downtown area of the city. The paramo is an ecosystem with specialties and the plant and animal adaptations to this ecosystem are incredible, resulting in a significant number of endemism's. The area that we visit in Sumapaz has a mixture of shrubs and grasslands with small bodies of water. This mixture is convenient to observe the majority of species that are restricted to this ecosystem. Birdwatching is done primarily over an unpaved and flat road at 3700 m of altitude, with such incredible scenery of this ecosystem. The sight of hummingbirds during their fast flights and brief visits to the small-corollad flowers around these ecosystems will keep us entertained for a while as we observe and revel in this marvelous scenario.

Elevation: 3000-3700 m / Mobility: Easy / Temperature: 8-16°C

**E-bird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2758310?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

**Photo Conditions: Short Walks on Road**

**Target Photo Species:** Green-Bearded Helmetcrest, Bronze-tailed Thornbill, Chestnut-winged Cinclodes, Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant

**Other Key Species:** Apolinar's wren, Bogota Rail, Silvery-throated Spinetail, , Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Many-striped Canastero, White-chinned Thistletail, Andean Tit-Spinetail, , Andean Siskin, Rufous-browed Conebill, Great Sapphirewing, Shinning Sunbeam, Glowing Puffleg, Tawny Antpitta, Band-tailed Seedeater, Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, Glossy Flowerpiercer, Pale-bellied Tapaculo, Noble Snipe.

**Night in Araucana Lodge /** <https://www.araucanalodge.com/>





Located about 1 hour 45 min. away from the city of Cali, over an ancient road that leads to the Pacific Ocean, is the house of Doña Dora, which is an incredible place to relax and enjoy the feeders for hummingbirds and tanagers. Since the house is located at a mid-high elevation range (1600 m), there is a confluence from Andean species as well as species from wetland forests in the biogeographic region of Choco. The food is amazing, and it provides spectacular photographic opportunities; Doña Dora is a must-see place to visit in the Anchicaya River Canyon.

Elevation: 1600 m / Track: paved road / Temperature: 20-26°C

**E-bird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4375590?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

**Photo Conditions: Feeders**

**Target Photo Species:** Toucan Barbet, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Glistening-green Tanager, Green Throattail, Rufous-throated Tanager, Silvery-throated Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, Golden Tanager, Lemon-rumped Tanager

**Other Key Species:** Greyish Piculet, Red-faced Spinetail, Choco Toucan, Masked Tityra, White-whiskered Hermit, White-whiskered Puffbird

**Night in Araucana Lodge /** <https://www.araucanalodge.com/>









La Florida El Bosque de las Aves is located on a road that connects the city of Cali with the port city of Buenaventura, through the ridge of the cordillera also known as Km 18, and it has been declared as an IBA (Important Birds Area), due to the type of bird species that are found there. This is a private project in where him owner Javier is very dedicated and passionate to show the best perch possible for tanagers, toucans and woodpeckers, also, they have probably the best feeders for the amazing Chestnut Wood-Quail in where a very stable population come to eat corn almost everyday and other grounds species, is one of the bets places to take wonderful pictures of the unique Multicolored Tanager and other species. This place is known also for the amazing services and the wonderful special coffee and recipes to have a unbelievable experience.

Elevation: 2500 m / Track: rural unpaved road. / Temperature: 16-24°C

**E-bird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L10440585?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

**Photo Conditions: Feeders and Hides**

**Target Photo Species:** Multicolored tanager, Chestnut Wood-Quail, White-throated Quail-Dove, Colombian Chachalaca, Golden-naped Tanager, Metallic-green Tanager, Saffron-crowned Tanager, Red-headed Barbet

**Other Key Species:** Scaled Fruiteater, Golden-headed Quetzal, Crested Quetzal, Masked Trogon, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Blue-headed Sapphire, Bronzy Inca, Andean Emerald.

La Minga Farmhouse, is located in the municipality of Dapa, within the IBA (Important Bird Area) zone of Km 18; on a cloud forest at 2200 m altitude, in the summit of the Western Wordillera of the Andes, with a forest that is protected inside and out of the reserve. The access route is a rural unpaved road and provides an excellent spot for birdwatching, being flanked by primary and secondary forests and tea crop fields. The tanager and hummingbird feeders are probably the biggest attractions of La Minga, offering fantastic opportunities to photograph birds and to observe great species. La Minga also provides food and lodging to its visitors. This is a perfect combination that makes it a great day of birds and nature.

Elevation: 2200 m/ Track: rural unpaved road, trails along the farmhouse / Temperature: 16-24°C

**E-bird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L5573619?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

**Photo Conditions: Feeders**

**Target Photo Species:** Multicolored Tanager, Metallic-green Tanager, Bronzy Inca, Andean Emerald, Booted Racket-tailed, White-necked Jacobin, Green Hermit, Long-tailed Sylph, Brown Violetear, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Masked Flowerpiercer

**Night in Araucana Lodge /** <https://www.araucanalodge.com/>





The Sonso Lake is an oxbow of the Cauca River and is constituted as the most important bird reserve in the Valle del Cauca region, as it is one of the last refuges along the riverbank that has survived the heavy impact from the sugar cane industry. Extensive crop fields and livestock farming along the edge of the Cauca River have critically transformed wetlands of this region, however, the Sonso Lake is a protected area and provides the perfect habitat for many lowland birds and dry forests from the Valle del Rio Cauca, which becomes as a biodiversity oasis in the middle of an industrial expansion area. This place is located a few minutes away from the city of Buga and there is easy access to it. Its wetlands and dry forest ecosystems provide a diversity of over 390 bird species registered up to date.

Elevation: 1000 m / Track: rural unpaved road, trails along the border of the wetland. / Temperature: 27-34°C

**E-bird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L465353?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

**Photo Conditions:** Short Walks, Wetlands and Viewpoint Terrace

**Target Photo Species:** Horned Screamer, Comb Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Buff-necked Ibis, Snail Kite Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Common Nighthawk,

**Other Key Species:** Apical flycatcher, Greyish piculet, Jet Antbird, Masked duck, Great Antshrike, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Dwarf Cuckoo, Crimson-crested Woodpecker

**Night in Montezuma Rainforest Reserve /** <https://montezumarainforest.com/>



Located along the western flank of the western cordillera, Montezuma Natural Reserve is part of the buffer zone at the Tatama National Park. It is mainly comprised of a 14-kilometer road that goes from the lodging house of the reserve up to the top of the mountain on the military base of the Cerro Tatama. With a mixture of ecosystems from the Andes and biogeographic region of Choco, this area results highly productive in terms of birds and the general biodiversity. There are many restricted and endemic bird species which lay upon this rainy tropical forest. Over 520 bird species have been registered at the reserve. Montezuma is one of the best places for birdwatching in Colombia and is currently being managed by the Tapasco family, with Leopoldina as head of the household and her five daughters. The reserve is not only great for birds, but it is also a highly valuable place to observe orchids, bromeliads, butterflies, amphibians and reptiles. It is a place to enjoy the biogeographic region of Choco, one of the most biodiverse places in the world.

Elevation: 1600 – 2800 m / Track: rural unpaved road, modest inclination / Temperature: 12 – 25°C / <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3856029?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

### **Photo Conditions: Short Walks and Feeders**

**Target Photo Species:** Black-and-gold Tanager, Gold-ringed Tanager, Broad-billed Motmot, Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer, Velvet-purple Coronet, Empress Brilliant, Western Emerald, Rufous gaped Hillstar, Violeta-tailed Sylph, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Green-crowned Brilliant, Long-billed Starthroat,

**Other Key Species:** Munchique Wood-Wren, White-faced Nunbird, Lanceolated Monklet, Golden-headed Quetzal, Fulvous-dotted Treerunner, Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Ochre-breasted Antpitta, Choco Tapaculo, Nariño Tapaculo, Black Solitaire, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Rufous-throated Tanager, Tanager Finch, Barred fruit eater, Scaled Fruit eater, Orange breasted Fruit eater, Olivaceous Piha, Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia.

**Night in Montezuma Rainforest Reserve /** <https://montezumarainforest.com/>

**Night in Hacienda El Bosque /** <https://www.facebook.com/Hacienda-El-Bosque-2110275062549824/>

(To stay in this place depends of the number of participants of the tour (just 4 rooms available in single or double accommodation), for bigger groups we will use an alternative hotel in Manizales City





The Hacienda El Bosque is a new place for birdwatching, located about 1 hour away from the city of Manizales, it is characterized for having large patches of high-Andean forest that blend with the meadow fields used for livestock and potato crops. The Hacienda El Bosque has recently become even more popular due to the incredible feeders made for antpittas, tanagers and hummingbirds, and also because many species of mountain-tanagers and mountain-toucans tend to arrive on the surroundings of the main house. The Hacienda provides great meal services, which primarily includes traditional regional cuisine. The reserve also has great trails that are pleasant for walking and observing birds with ease. It currently has a bird list of over 120 species.

Elevation: 2800 – 3000 m / Mobility: Easy – Medium, unpaved roads, trails inside the reserve / Temperature: 8 - 16 °C

**E-bird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L7816358?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

**Photo Conditions: Feeders and Hides**

**Target Photo Species:** Crescent-faced Antpitta, Grey-bellied Mountain Toucan, Chami Antpitta, Hooded Mountain Tanager

**Other Key species:** Purple-backed Thrornbill, Golden-breasted Puffleg, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Ocellated Tapaculo, Black-collared Jay, Rufous Wren, Hooded Mountain Tanager, Plushcap, Capped Conebill







This natural area is located in Central Andes, about 1 hour away from the city of Manizales. Its landscape is surrounded by three snow peaks that are considered to be active volcanoes: El Ruiz, Santa Isabel and Tolima. Although transformation has occurred in areas that are adjacent to the national park, patches of sub-paramo and areas of the paramo, that are well preserved, still remain, becoming home of an important diversity of bird species restricted to these ecosystems. Without a doubt, the park is one of the most beautiful places in the country, with incredible landscapes and a gorgeous diversity of birds, making this location in Colombia a must-see for any kind of birdwatcher. The plants of this area are also a great attraction, with an immense amount of rare and unique species that blend in the with wild volcanic landscape which is home of the largest and most important active volcano in the country. Near Los Nevados, one can find the Hotel Termales de Ruiz, which is regularly used by birdwatchers. At this hotel, besides being able to enjoy the magnificent hot springs, it is amusing to appreciate the most important bird feeders in Colombia at over 3600 meters in elevation, where unique hummingbird species in the country can be observed.

Elevation: 3400 – 3700 m / Mobility: Easy, rural unpaved roads, paved roads / Temperature: 6 -14 °C

**E-bird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1252508?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

**Photo Conditions: Short Walks and Feeders**

**Target Photo Species:** Buffy Helmetcrest, Tawny Antpitta, Stout-billed Cinclodes, Many-striped Canastero, White-chinned Thistletail, Rainbow-bearded Thrornbill, Greater Sapphirewing, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Black-thighed Puffleg, Golden-bellied Starfrontlet, Shinning Sunbeam, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Mountain Velvetbreast, Viridian Metaltail, Collared Inca, Pruple-backed Thrornbill

**Night in Valdivia Plaza Hotel /** <http://hotelvaldiviaplaza.co/>





Located in the sector known as Alto Ventanas, about 1.5 hours away from the municipality of Jardín - Antioquia over the Western Cordillera. The municipality of Jardín is located at 1600 m of elevation and is a town dedicated to the production of coffee, plantains and other fruits. Behind it, where the cordillera rises up to 2900 m lives a Yellow-eared Parrot population, and it is found to be strongly associated to remnants of the wax palm forests. The area is surrounded by patches of high-Andean forests on the higher side and Andean forest on the lower side. It is a place with an incredible biodiversity of birds and magnificent landscapes. Birdwatching is performed over an unpaved road with little vehicular traffic in between these beautiful mountains of the western Andes. Lucia Feeders is a private farm of a farmers family in love of birds and conservation, with some nice feeders they can feed some very interesting species as Chami Antpitta, Green and Black Fruiteater, Ocellated Tapaculo and others.

Elevation: 2000 – 2900 m/ Mobility: rural, unpaved roads / Temperature: 10-22°C

**E-bird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L604060?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

**Photo Conditions: Short Walks, Hides and Feeders**

**Target Photo Species:** Chami Antpitta, Green and Black Fruiteater, Ocellated Tapaculo, Tourmaline Sunangel, Collared Inca, Buff-tailed Coronet, Yellow-eared Parrot, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Chestnut-naped Antpitta,

Key species: Tanager Finch, Yellow-vented Woodpecker, Spillmann's Tapaculo, Blackish Tapaculo, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, Barred Fruiteater, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Black-collared Jay, Streak-throated Bush-Tanager, Lachrymose Mountain-Tanager, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, Sharp's Wren, White-browed Spinetail

Jardín de Rocas Natural Reserve, is a small farm located on the side of the rural area in the municipality of Jardín – Antioquia, where a permanent lek of the Cock-of-the-rock still exists. Therefore, this place is very famous and widely visited by many birdwatchers. The cocks-of-the-rock can be seen even only centimeters away from the viewpoints, providing unique opportunities to photograph this beautiful bird species. The owners also installed some bird feeders in the place, which attracts some great species of the region such as tanagers and chachalacas. The access to the Gallitos de Roca is a bit steep, but there won't be any problems by hiking slowly. This reserve has also become a private conservation initiative which must be highly supported, since this lek of Cocks-of-the-rock is certainly the best one and the most accessible one of all the distribution zone of the species.

Elevation: 1750 m/ Mobility: rural unpaved road, steep terrain but easy to hike on / Temperature: 17-22°C

**E-bird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2719023>

**Photo Conditions: Hides and Feeders**

**Target Photo Species:** Andean Cock of the Rock, Red-bellied Grackle, Crested Ant-Tanager, Colombian Chachalaca, Black-chested Jay, Flame-rumped Tanager, Andean Motmot, Chestnut-naped Brush-Finch, Russet-backed Oropendola

**Night in Valdivia Plaza Hotel /** <http://hotelvaldiviaplaza.co/>



This small farmhouse, which is property of the Castaño family, works as a nursery of ornamental plants from the region and they also plant some traditional crops such as coffee and plantain. Mrs. Piedad, who is a sweet old lady, has been feeding the birds in her garden for some time now and she was surprised to discover that just a few days latter many tanagers, woodpeckers, chachalacas, hummingbirds and many other species suddenly began to arrive. This led her decision to open the doors of her farm welcoming all birdwatchers. This is a very pleasant place to spend a few hours observing beautiful species from the Colombian coffee region while enjoying a delicious lunch, a great cup of coffee and taking some amazing photos.

Elevation: 1750 m / Mobility: stationary, garden in a farmhouse / Temperature: 17-22°C / E-bird Hotspot: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3629879?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

**Photo Conditions: Feeders**

**Target Photo Species:** Green Jay, Black-collared Jay, Red-headed Barbet, Colombian Chachalaca, Flame-rumped Tanager, Acorn Woodpecker, Blue-necked Tanager, Scrub Tanager, Black-capped Tanager, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Bronze-winged Parrot, Green Hermit.

Night in Movich Las Lomas Hotel / <https://www.movichhotels.com/es/hotel-laslomas-en-medellin/>



## Prices 2023

1 PAX	2 PAX	3 PAX	4 PAX	5 PAX	6 PAX	7 PAX	8 PAX	9 PAX	10 PAX
\$ 8.820	\$ 6.070	\$ 5.210	\$ 4.520	\$ 4.100	\$ 3.970	\$ 3.750	\$ 3.580	\$ 3.460	\$ 3.353

**Single Room Supplement: 580 USD**

**Net Price per Person in USD**

**Included:** Accommodation in double rooms, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast of last morning with open menu in restaurants and places in where is available, 2 snacks daily that include bottle water, fruit, etc., Water available all the time on the bus – big bottle to recharge the potable bottles, soda, bottle water or juice included with meals, private transfer airport – hotel – airport, all ground transportation including 4x4 vehicles where is necessary, domestic flights in economy class, entrances to reserves and national parks, Colombian event insurance and bilingual professional birding and wildlife guide.

**Not Included:** International flights and taxes, toiletries, laundry service, room service, tips or gratuity, medical expenses (not covered for evet insurance), alcoholic drinks, international phone calls, activities not included in the itinerary, extensions of a trip due to circumstances beyond our control

**Accommodation:** Our hotels and lodges vary in quality but all are within close proximity to many of areas we wish to go birding or to see wildlife; MANAKIN NATURE TOURS, just operate high quality tours, in this case you can be sure that hotels ad lodges will be from good to high quality, safe and clean. For more details about hotels that we use in this tour, please write us or call us.

**Tour Code:** This is a photographic and birding or wildlife tour with early morning starts and evening finishes to each day. One some days we may take picnic lunches in order to no waste time during the middle of the day or having to leave site. The weather can be unpredictable with rain and sunshine both likely. At higher altitudes it can be chilly. We have an amazing photo opportunity for many species of hummingbirds and other species coming to feeders, we will also be looking for a good number of species that are very rare and seldom seen, but we will be going to areas that hold these sought-after species.

