



COLOMBIA BIRDING TOUR

"CENTRAL & WESTERN ANDES SPECIALTIES"

SEPTEMBER 4 - 15, 2026

FLYWAY BIRDING TOURS

welcomes you to our exclusive **Colombia Birding Tour**

This carefully designed itinerary offers unique opportunities for wildlife observation, breathtaking landscapes, and enriching cultural experiences. Join us to explore the incredible biodiversity and vibrant ecosystems. Don't miss out on this unforgettable adventure!

MULTICOLORED TANAGER



Explore spectacular landscapes, from high-altitude páramos to subtropical cloud forests, and immerse yourself in the diverse wildlife and ecosystems of the northern Andes. This itinerary offers a unique blend of birding, cultural insights, and ecological discoveries each day.



CHESTNUT WOOD-QUAIL

Colombia, renowned for its biodiversity, offers exceptional birding and ecotourism experiences in a variety of stunning habitats. Safety has significantly improved, with many regions now being safe for travel. Visitors can enjoy birding in well-managed reserves and national parks. Our tours support sustainable tourism practices that protect both wildlife and local communities. This combination of safety, rich biodiversity, and commitment to ecotourism makes Colombia a prime destination for nature enthusiasts and birders.

COLOMBIA BIRDING TOUR 2026

Tour Introduction:

Colombia is home to nearly 2,000 bird species, accounting for approximately 20% of the world's total bird diversity. With 90 endemic species and 193 near-endemic species, Colombia is a premier destination for birders, naturalists, and wildlife photographers. The country's complex geography encompasses 92 ecosystems, fostering speciation throughout its territory.

The Andes in Colombia are divided into three branches, separated by the deep valleys of the Magdalena and Cauca rivers. These biogeographic barriers have prevented the connection of species inhabiting high mountain ecosystems for millions of years, resulting in evolution and speciation occurring separately in each branch.

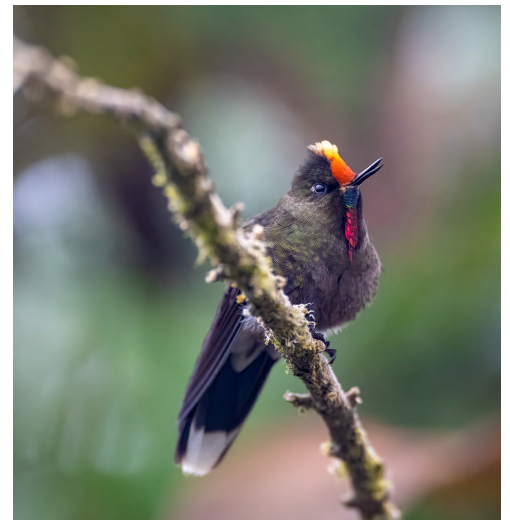
This tour begins in the city of Cali at Alfonso Bonilla Aragón International Airport. The focus will be on observing endemic, near-endemic, and restricted-range species in the isolated ecosystems of the Andean and high Andean forests. Additionally, we will encounter bird species shared with neighboring countries

Our journey will take us through two mountain ranges of the Andes (Central and Western), the dry forest in the inter-Andean valley of the Cauca River, and the biogeographic Chocó region. The tour will conclude at Matecaña International Airport in the city of Pereira.

This itinerary features a route rich with bird feeders and pure birding experiences. The areas we will traverse are safe, with manageable distances between birding sites. Accommodations include high-quality lodges, most of them near birding locations.

We will visit sites equipped with feeders for Antpittas, high mountain toucans, tanagers, hummingbirds, and other avian surprises. There are specialized sites for photographers as well as places without feeders, offering unique birding opportunities. This remarkable trip offers the potential to observe over 270 species of birds.

Expect a variety of weather conditions, from very cold to very hot days, so bring appropriate clothing. While rubber boots are not necessary, we recommend sturdy hiking boots. The altitude will range from 850 to 4,100 meters above sea level. Some hides will require short walks, and in certain areas, we will use tertiary roads to walk and search for birds, ensuring good access and a nearby vehicle. We will employ 4x4 vehicles at two sites.



COLOMBIA BIRDING TOUR 2026

Day 1 / International Airport Cali / Friday, Sept. 4th.

Upon arrival at Cali's Alfonso Bonilla Aragón International Airport, our staff will meet you and transfer you to your hotel. Our birding tour officially begins with a welcome dinner at the hotel. With temperatures ranging from 17–26 °C and elevation between 1,500 and 1,800 meters, Cali is a city recognized for its urban biodiversity initiatives, promoting green spaces and wildlife corridors.

Overnight at Hotel Royal Elim International



SAFFRON-CROWNED TANAGER

Cali, in southwestern Colombia, is known for its beautiful parks and efforts to conserve urban wildlife. The city features colonial architecture and a vibrant cultural scene. Its location near the Andes and the Pacific coast makes it an ideal base for exploring natural wonders.



CALI

Day 2 / La Florida Birding / Saturday, Sept. 5th.

We begin our birding journey in La Florida, a renowned birding site nestled in the cloud forests of the Cordillera Occidental.

Known for its vibrant feeders and rich diversity, this location offers excellent chances to observe regional endemics such as the Multicolored Tanager, Chestnut Wood-Quail, and Saffron-crowned Tanager. The area's unique geography and climate have fostered a variety of ecosystems that enhance the birding experience.

Temperatures range from 17–23 °C, at elevations between 1,700 and 2,200 meters.

Overnight at Araucana Lodge

COLOMBIA BIRDING TOUR 2026

Day 3 / Doña Dora / Sunday, Sept. 6th.

Today, we cross the Western Cordillera and reach Doña Dora, a celebrated destination for both birding and bird photography. The site's charismatic host, Doña Dora, has developed an outstanding location for viewing birds native to the biogeographic Chocó region.

A highlight of the day is a 20-minute walk to a lek of Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. Other Key birds we may find here include Glistening-green Tanager, Toucan Barbet, and Rufous-throated Tanager. Temperatures range from 22–26 °C, with elevations between 1,100 and 1,400 meters. Araucana Lodge provides comfortable lodging and is well positioned for our excursions



ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK

Overnight at Araucana Lodge

Day 4 / San Cipriano / Monday, Sept. 7th.

Today, we travel to the lowland jungles of San Cipriano, a biologically rich area in the Chocó region, accessible via the unique local "brujita" rail transport. This Afro-descendant community is deeply committed to preserving their rainforest environment.

Expect hot, humid conditions and crystal-clear waters. Species of interest include the Red-capped Manakin and Chocó Toucan.

TOUCAN BARBET



The Chocó biogeographic region, located along the Pacific coast of Colombia, is one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet. This region is known for its lush rainforests, abundant wildlife, and high levels of endemism. The Chocó features a variety of ecosystems, including mangroves, swamps, and tropical rainforests. It supports a rich array of flora and fauna, including numerous bird species, amphibians, and unique plant life.

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Temperatures range from 23–34 °C at elevations between 500 and 1,400 meters.

Overnight at Araucana Lodge

Day 5 / Sonso Lagoon / Tuesday, Sept. 8th

We explore the Laguna de Sonso, a critical wetland system along the Cauca River. Beginning with a short trail hike, we then board a boat to search for lowland wetland species. Birding highlights may include the endemic Grayish Piculet and the elusive Dwarf Cuckoo. Temperatures range from 20–30 °C at elevations between 860 and 1,200 meters.

In the afternoon, we drive south and return to the Western Cordillera. Our next lodge offers top-tier accommodations and meals sourced from an on-site organic garden.

Overnight at Mandalay Lodge

Day 6 / Tinamú Reserve / Wednesday, Sept. 9th.

We visit the Tinamú Reserve, a model of conservation success located between Pereira and Manizales. Once a coffee farm, it has been reforested over the past 14 years and now features abundant feeders and carefully maintained trails.

Expect diverse birding opportunities in this secondary forest setting. Temperatures range from 17–26 °C, with elevations between 1,100 and 1,300 meters.

Overnight at Mandalay Lodge.

Day 7 / Rio Blanco Reserve / Thursday, Sept. 10th.

Our destination today is Río Blanco Reserve, located near Manizales and recognized as an Important Bird Area. The reserve protects cloud forest and vital water resources for the city. It is home to over 450 bird species, including many endemics



RED-CAPPED MANAKIN



GRAYISH PICULET

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Species of particular interest are Brown-banded Antpitta (endemic), Bicolored Antpitta, and Black-billed Mountain-Toucan.

With temperatures ranging from 14-26 °C and an elevation of 1600-2400 meters, the Rio Blanco Reserve provides an exceptional environment for birding.

Overnight at Hacienda El Bosque Lodge



BLACK-BILLED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN

Day 8 / Hacienda el Bosque / Paramo / Friday, Sept. 11th.

Today we bird Hacienda El Bosque, a premier site for high-elevation species and bird photography. The feeders attract antpittas, tanagers, toucans, and hummingbirds. The reserve also includes patches of Andean forest and pasturelands.

We'll search for specialty birds such as Equatorial Antpitta, Crescent-faced Antpitta, and Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan.. Temperatures range from 7-16 °C at elevations between 2,900 and 3,300 meters.

Overnight at Hacienda El Bosque Lodge

Day 9 / Termales del Ruiz / Paramo / Saturday, Sept. 12th.

We ascend into the high páramo ecosystem around Termales del Ruiz in Los Nevados National Natural Park. This high-altitude habitat is home to moorland specialists and offers striking scenery with cold winds and dramatic skies. The area offers a chance to see highland gems like Hooded Mountain Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Golden-breasted Puffleg and Buffy Helmetcrest.



Los Nevados National Natural Park is a unique high-altitude ecosystem situated between 3,500 and 4,100 meters, this paramo is home to species adapted to cold, humid conditions and drastic temperature changes. The area also features stunning landscapes with icy winds and diverse flora, making it a prime destination for birders and nature enthusiasts.

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Temperatures range from 7–25 °C, at elevations of 3,300–4,100 meters. In the afternoon, we descend toward Pereira.

The high elevation Paramos, are crucial for water conservation and biodiversity. Visiting this region not only provides excellent birding opportunities but also supports the preservation of these critical ecosystems. After our day at Termales del Ruiz, we will head to Pereira for the night.

Overnight at Hacienda El Bosque Lodge



HOODED MOUNTAIN Tanager

Day 10 / Otún Quimbaya / Sunday, Sept. 13th.

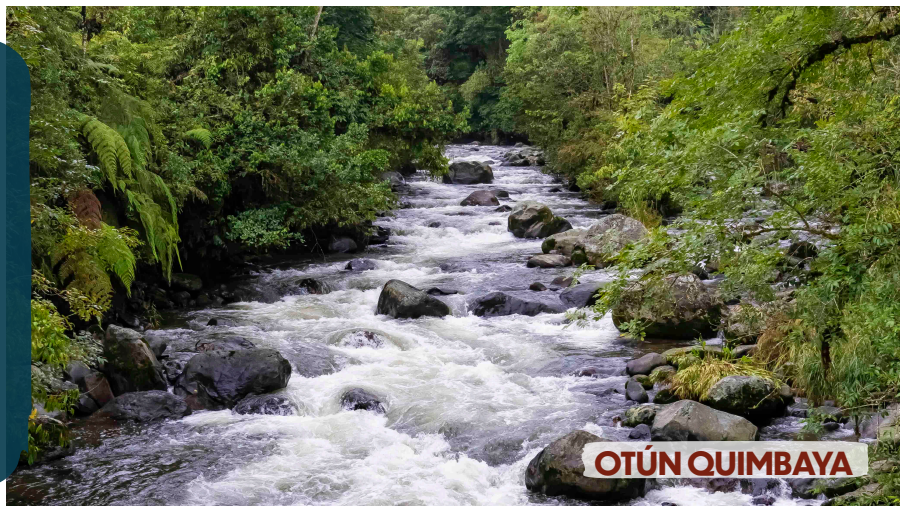
We visit Otún Quimbaya Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, one of Colombia's top birding hotspots, located on the western slope of the Central Andes. Together with the Ucumarí Regional Park, it forms a buffer zone for Los Nevados National Park. Birding is done on foot and via 4x4 vehicles, with no feeders. Species of conservation concern here include the Cauca Guan and the Crested Ant-Tanager, both endemic and critically endangered. Temperatures range from 10–18 °C, with elevations of 1,500–2,100 meters.

Overnight at Hacienda El Bosque

Day 11 / Guasimo Trail / Monday, Sept. 14th.

We explore the tropical dry forest of the Cauca Valley, the most threatened forest type in Colombia, with only 8% of its original extent remaining. Birding will be on a tertiary road and trail in a lowland site.

Otún Quimbaya Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, located near Pereira in Colombia, is a protected area spanning 489 hectares. It features diverse ecosystems, including rainforest vegetation and sub-Andean forest, making it an ideal spot for birding and butterfly watching.



OTÚN QUIMBAYA

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Endemic and range-restricted species such as the Apical Flycatcher and Golden-collared Manakin are possible here.

Temperatures range from 21-30 °C, with an elevation of 900-1000 meters. In the afternoon, we will visit CRARSI, a large project dedicated to the conservation, rehabilitation, and education of birds of prey. This center plays a crucial role in the preservation of these species and offers a unique opportunity to learn about their conservation efforts.

Overnight at Sonesta Pereira

Day 12 / Transfer International Airport Pereira / Tuesday, Sept. 15th.

After breakfast, we will transfer to Matecaña International Airport in the city of Pereira, concluding our birding tour through Colombia. This marks the end of our journey, where we have explored diverse ecosystems and observed a multitude of bird species, contributing to the appreciation and conservation of Colombia's rich biodiversity.



COLOMBIAN CHACHALACA

PEREIRA



Pereira, located in the heart of Colombia's Coffee Cultural Landscape, is a dynamic city known for its coffee culture, stunning landscapes, and vibrant urban life. Visitors can explore lush coffee plantations, enjoy scenic views of the Andes mountains. The city is also a gateway to various nature reserves and parks, making it an ideal destination for eco-tourism and birdwatching. With its warm climate and friendly atmosphere, Pereira is a captivating blend of tradition and modernity.

This itinerary is classified as moderate to intense due to several factors: Participants should be prepared for varying terrain conditions, which may include uneven and rugged paths. It also includes visits to high elevation sites, which may pose challenges for those not accustomed to altitude. Participants are advised to be in good physical condition and to bring appropriate gear and clothing to handle the diverse conditions encountered during the trip.

