

Ecuador

Jocotoco Antpitta, Tumbesian Endemics, and More!

Tour Leaders: Edison Buenaño and Eric Ripma

September 23-October 7, 2023

Our Southern Ecuador tour gives you the opportunity to see many of the Tumbesian region endemics. We'll also look for many high elevation species, including Jocotoco Antpitta, and visit the city of Cuenca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Itinerary Overview:

September 23: Arrival in Guayaquil and transfer to hotel
September 24: Manglares Churute and transfer to Santa Ysabel
September 25: Reserva Yunguilla
September 26: Full day at Umbrellabird Lodge
September 27: Umbrellabird Lodge and transfer to Jorupe Reserve
September 28: Birding at Jorupe Reserve and Utuana Reserve
September 29: Utuana Reserve, Catamayo, and transfer to Loja
September 30: Podocarpus National Park and transfer to Tipichalaca Reserve
October 1: Quebrada Honda Trail and road birding
October 2: Casa Simpson and transfer to Copalinga Lodge
October 3: Bomboscara area
October 4: Yantzaza and transfer to Saraguro
October 5: Cerro Arcos and transfer to Cuenca
October 6: El Cajas National Park
October 7: Departure from José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport (Guayaquil)

Detailed Itinerary:

September 23: Arrival in Guayaquil and transfer to hotel

Upon arrival, you will be picked up at José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport in Guayaquil (GYE) and transferred to the hotel for the night.

-Overnight: *Gran Hotel Guayaquil*

September 24: Manglares Churute and transfer to Santa Ysabel

After an early breakfast, we'll drive to Cerro Blanco. Here we will visit Manglares Churute at Lake El Canclon. This 86,589-acre ecological reserve is located just 25 miles from Guayaquil. Our target bird here is the prehistoric-looking Horned Screamer. This is the only place in Ecuador where the bird breeds. While here, we'll also look for Least Bittern, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Least Grebe, Masked and Comb Ducks, Snail Kite, Savannah Hawk, Wattled Jacana, White-throated Crake, Masked Water-Tyrant, Peruvian Meadowlark, and Pacific Pygmy-Owl. After lunch, we will embark on the four-hour drive to Santa Ysabel.

-Overnight: *Hotel Agua y Sol*

September 25: Reserva Yunguilla

This morning we'll search for one of Ecuador's (and the world's) most threatened species, the Pale-headed Brushfinch (pictured on first page). This is the only known population of this Ecuadorian endemic. We will also have a chance to locate Purple-collared and Little Woodstars and many other species. After lunch, we'll travel to the Umbrellabird Lodge, where we will search for the lodge's namesake, the Long-wattled Umbrellabird.

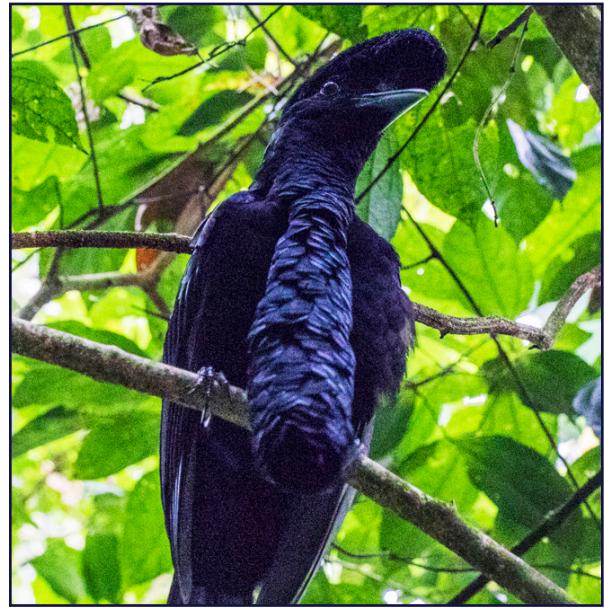
-Overnight: *Umbrellabird Lodge*

September 26: Full day at Umbrellabird Lodge

We'll spend today at Umbrellabird Lodge, where we will walk the trails in search of El Oro Parakeet and El Oro Tapaculo, two more Ecuadorian endemics, among many other species. We will also have plenty of time to enjoy the lodge's hummingbird feeders. Who knows what may show up!

-Overnight: *Umbrellabird Lodge*

September 27: Umbrellabird Lodge and transfer to Jorupe Reserve



Long-wattled Umbrellabird

After an early breakfast, we'll spend the morning combing the trails for any species that we may have missed the previous day. After lunch, we will travel to Macara where we'll spend the next two nights at the Jorupe Reserve. On the way, we'll make a special stop to look for Tumbes Swift, White-headed Brush-Finch, and Tumbes Swallow.

-Overnight: *Jorupe Reserve*

September 28: Birding at Jorupe Reserve and Utuana Reserve

This morning we'll explore the reserve's trails in search of Tumbesian specialties such as Watkin's Antpitta, Henna-hooded and Rufous-necked Foliage-Gleaners, and Gray-breasted Flycatcher. After lunch, we will drive up to the Utuana Reserve, where at this higher elevation we hope to find Rainbow Starfrontlet, Purple-throated Sunangel, Piura Hemispingus, Black-crested Tit-Tyrant, Chapman's Antshrike, and Gray-headed Antbird.

-Overnight: *Jorupe Reserve*

September 29: Utuana Reserve, Catamayo, and transfer to Loja

After an early breakfast, we'll return to the Utuana Reserve to try to find any species we may have missed the previous day. Then we will travel to Loja, stopping en route at Catamayo, known as "Finch Heaven", to look for Tumbes Sparrow and Drab Seedeater.

-Overnight: *Hotel El Libertador*

September 30: Podocarpus National Park and transfer to Tipichalaca Reserve

Today will begin with visiting the Cajanuma area of Podocarpus National Park. Here we'll look for Black-headed Hemispingus, Blue-backed Conebill, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Plushcap, Golden-crowned Tanager, Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager, and the hard-to-find Masked Mountain-Tanager. After a tasty lunch in the town of Vilcabamba (known as the "Valley of Longevity"), we will begin the 2.5 hour drive to the Tapichalaca Reserve, where we will spend the next two nights. Upon arrival, we'll have time to relax and enjoy the hummingbird feeders!

-Overnight: Casa Simpson



Wire-crested Thorntail

October 1: Quebrada Honda Trail and road birding

This morning we'll hike the Quebrada Honda Trail to a very special feeding area where "Panchito" the Jocotoco Antpitta comes in for his breakfast! Other tough-to-see targets we'll search for include Ocellated, Ash-colored, and Chusquea Tapaculos. After lunch, we will road-bird on the way to the town of Valladolid, where we will search for Marañon Thrush. As darkness approaches, we will try for Andean Potoo and Rufous-bellied Nighthawk.

-Overnight: Casa Simpson

October 2: Casa Simpson and transfer to Copalinga Lodge

After an early breakfast, we'll spend the morning birding the lodge grounds in search of anything we may have missed. After lunch, we'll drive to Bomboscaro and the Copalinga Lodge, where we will spend the next two nights. In the afternoon, we'll search the lodge grounds for Wire-crested Thorntail, Spangled Coquette, and Violet-fronted and Black-throated Briliants.

-Overnight: Copalinga Lodge

October 3: Bomboscaro area

We will spend the day birding the Bomboscaro area, where we hope to find such target species as Amazonian Umbrellabird, Coppery-chested Jacamar, Highland Motmot, Andean Cock-of-the-rock (the orange, eastern race), and Olive Finch. In addition, there's always the possibility of a tanager flock that could include such gems as Paradise, Green-and-gold, Yellow-bellied, Spotted, Magpie, and Fulvous-crested Tanagers.

-Overnight: Copalinga Lodge

October 4: Yanzata and transfer to Saraguro

On this morning, we'll drive to Yanzata to look for the Spangled Coquette among many other species and will bird in this area until after lunch. In the afternoon, we'll drive to the city of Saraguro.

-Overnight: Saraguro



Tit-like Dacnis

El Cajas National Park, where we will search for Tit-like Dacnis, Violet-throated Metaltail, Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, Bar-winged and Stout-billed Cinclodes, and Giant Conebill. At Toreadora Lake (12,000 ft), we'll have a chance to see Andean Ruddy Duck, Andean Coot, Andean Teal, and if the day is sunny, Andean Condor as well. We'll head back to Guayaquil in the afternoon where we will check into our hotel and have a wonderful farewell group dinner.

-Overnight: Gran Hotel Guayaquil

October 7: Departure from José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport in Guayaquil (GYE)

October 5: Cerro Arcos and transfer to Cuenca

We'll begin the morning early to make the drive to Cerro Arcos where we will look for the Blue-throated Hillstar which was first described to science in 2017. Afterwards, we'll head to the beautiful city of Cuenca, which was declared a World Cultural Heritage Site in 1999.

-Overnight: Inca Real Hotel

October 6: El Cajas National Park

After breakfast, we'll start the hour-long drive to

El Cajas National Park, where we will search for Tit-like Dacnis, Violet-throated Metaltail, Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, Bar-winged and Stout-billed Cinclodes, and Giant Conebill. At Toreadora Lake (12,000 ft), we'll have a chance to see Andean Ruddy Duck, Andean Coot, Andean Teal, and if the day is sunny, Andean Condor as well. We'll head back to Guayaquil in the afternoon where we will check into our hotel and have a wonderful farewell group dinner.

-Overnight: Gran Hotel Guayaquil

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Guayaquil, Ecuador: \$6,799

Single Supplement: \$750

Minimum Participants: 6

Maximum Participants: 10

Price Includes:

2 Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Ecuador

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from Guayaquil, Ecuador

Airport Taxes

Passport and Visa Fees

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Travel Insurance

Tips

Deposit:

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (June 23, 2023).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact Rob at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

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