



# Colombia

## *Amazon Adventure*

Tour Leader: Tyler Ficker

December 3-17, 2023

*Colombia is known for its incredible species list and myriad of distinct birding regions, each with their own set of unique species. Join us on the ultimate Colombian Amazon experience as we visit the best Amazonian regions in the country to see many highly sought-after species!*

*Our tour starts in Bogotá where we meet for welcome dinner before flying out the next morning to the town of Mitú, Colombia's best known location for Amazonian species. Here we will have the opportunity for iconic amazon species such as lekking Guianan Cock-of-the-Rocks, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Spix's Guan, Crested Eagle, Paradise Jacamar, Yellow-tufted Toucanet, and much more while enjoying breathtaking scenery at every location.*

*A brief stop in Villavicencio between Mitú and Inírida will provide a new set of species different from anywhere else we visit on the tour. This is a great way to add species found in the Colombian Interior where the base of the Andes Mountains meets the savannas of eastern Colombia. Here we can find a myriad of stunning tanager species including Turquoise, Paradise, and Speckled Tanager, Guilded Barbet, Chestnut-eared and Lettered Aracaris and more!*

*From Villavicencio, we will fly to Inírida where we bird Colombia's newest location for Amazonian specialties. This region provides access to white-sand forest and Orinoco Basin species and is the only location in Colombia for many of them! Recently it was discovered that this city hosts Colombia's only location for the highly sought-after and bizarre Capuchinbird! Targets in this area include Rose-throated Chat, Black and Yellow-crowned Manakins, Orinoco Softtail, up to 5 species of macaws, and the "Inírida Antshrike" a species of Antshrike found only on one small river system and not yet fully described to science.*

*In addition to birds, the stunning scenery and amazing animals add to the experience. We hope to see Giant Otters and Amazon River Dolphins alongside the boat while birding, Colombian Red Howler Monkeys and Golden-backed Uakari's feed in the trees overhead. This is a relatively newer area for birders to visit compared to many of the known sites and is sure to leave you amazed!*



*Pied Lapwing*



*White-crowned Manakin*

## **Itinerary Overview:**

December 3: Arrival in Bogotá and Transfer to Hotel  
December 4: Flight to Mitú and Birding Bocatoma White Sand Forest  
December 5: CH Hydroelectric Santa Cruz  
December 6: Pueblo Nuevo Community Paths  
December 7: Bocatoma Terra Firme Forest  
December 8: Mituseño & Urania Forest and Flight to Villavicencio  
December 9: Bavaria Forest and Camana Natural Reserve  
December 10: Flight to Inírida and Birding Caño Culebra  
December 11: Caño Carbón & Sabanitas  
December 12: Matraca & Laguna Negra  
December 13: Paujil Trail  
December 14: Orinoco River Expedition  
December 15: Cerros de Mavecure and Remanso Community  
December 16: Caño Vitina and Flor de Inirida Fields & Flight to Bogotá  
December 17: Depart for Home from Bogotá



*Spangled Cotinga*



*Pompadour Cotinga*

## **Detailed Itinerary:**

### **December 3: Arrival and Transfer to Hotel in Bogotá**

Upon arrival at El Dorado International Airport in Bogotá, you will be transferred to your hotel for the evening. We'll have a wonderful welcome dinner and plenty of time to get ready for our adventures that begin the following morning.

- Overnight: Hilton Garden Inn Bogotá

### **December 4: Flight to Mitú and Birding Bocatoma White Sand Forest**

We'll catch an early morning flight from Bogotá to Mitú. Upon arrival to Mitú, we'll bird the Bocatoma White Sand Forest Trail located southeast of town. The white-sand forests consist of shorter trees and host many great species that specialize in this habitat. The area is rich in species and is an easy walk. Highlights along this trail could include Yellow-billed Jacamar, Spotted Puffbird, Pompadour Cotinga, Blue-throated Piping Guan, Gray-bellied Antbird, and many more. In the past, 390 species have been reported from this trail alone!

- Overnight: Brasilia Hotel



*Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock*

### **December 5: CH Hydroelectric Santa Cruz**

The road to the CH Hydroelectric Power Station is one of the most iconic birding sites in the entire Mitú area and has amazing bird diversity. This beautiful trail is fully immersed in a dense forest and ends with a beautiful view of the Colombian and Brazilian Amazon! The condition of the trail can be muddy depending on the recent weather in the area. To start the day, we'll visit a Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek that is active along the road. Throughout the day along this trail, it's possible to encounter Fiery Topaz, Yellow-tufted Toucanet, Pavonine Quetzal, Collared Puffbird, Orinoco Piculet, and more!

- Overnight: Brasilia Hotel

### **December 6: Pueblo Nuevo Community Paths**

The Pueblo Nuevo community is located on the road that accesses the Mitú hydroelectric power station and is a bit isolated from Mitú. There are two main trails in this community, and both are great for birding! The trees grow to an impressive 50 meters high in this location and provide excellent protection from the sun while birding. A large number of antbird species can be found here. Other target species include Spix's Guan, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Paradise Tanager, Dusky-bellied Parrotlet, and more!

- Overnight: Brasilia Hotel

### **December 7: Bocatoma Terra Firma Forest**

The road to Bocatoma Terra Firma is a beautiful drive to the east of Mitú. In the morning, we'll bird along this road as we make our way to the trail. Unlike other trails in the area, this trail has a bit of elevation change that allows you to observe some very good bird species and the amazing landscapes of the Amazon rainforest. This trail contains both primary and secondary growth forests and can be excellent for raptors such as Crested Eagle, Spangled, Pompadour, and Purple-breasted Cotingas,

Nocturnal Curassow, Paradise Jacamar, Lemon-throated Barbet, and Cinnamon Manakin-Tyrant are some of the main target species.

*-Overnight: Brasilia Hotel*

### **December 8: Mituseño & Urania Forest and Flight to Villavicencio**

The Mituseño and Urania Forests are particularly rich in bird species from secondary and scattered forests and are only 15 minutes from the town. All birding is done by the access road to Urania along the Vaupés River. Here it's possible to see some good wetland and river birds, which can be seen from a beautiful wooden bridge build in the style typical of the indigenous people of the region. We'll look for species such as Azure-naped Jay, Yellow-bellied Dacnis, Red-and-green Macaw, Orange-cheeked Parrot, Red-throated Caracara, and Yellow-crowned, Striolated, Golden-headed, White-crowned, and Blue-crowned Manakins. In the afternoon, we'll fly to Villavicencio and make a short drive to our lodge for the next two nights, Rancho Camana.

*-Overnight: Rancho Camana*



*Amazonian Umbrellabird*

### **December 9: Bavaria Forest and Camana Natural Reserve**

The Bavaria Forest is located just outside Villavicencio. This humid tropical forest is a great blend of several different ecosystems, creating a spectacular place for birding! Here it is possible to see a myriad of beautiful tanagers including Turquoise, Paradise, Speckled, and Magpie, along with Yellow-billed Nunbird, Striolated Manakin, Pectoral Sparrow, and more.

Our afternoon birding will be at the Camaná Ranch Natural Reserve. This area is just 1.7 acres but is so dense with fruiting trees and forest edge that 183 species have been recorded on this site! Many of the tanagers and hummingbirds that frequent this location can be seen on the feeders, allowing for great views and photos.

*-Overnight: Rancho Camana*

### **December 10: Flight to Inírida and Birding Caño Culebra**

In the morning, we'll depart Villavicencio on a short flight to Inírida. Our first birding location will be along Caño Culebra. This site consists of white sand forest with many specialty species of birds. Species such as Black Manakin and Pale-bellied Mourner are specialists in this habitat and are difficult to find elsewhere. The area is very open which makes it ideal for looking for larger birds like

macaws and guans. Scanning the treetops can be productive for cotingas and tanagers. The nearby grasslands can be a great spot to look for nightjars and owls at dusk.

- Overnight: Fuente del Guainía



*Blue-and-yellow Macaw*

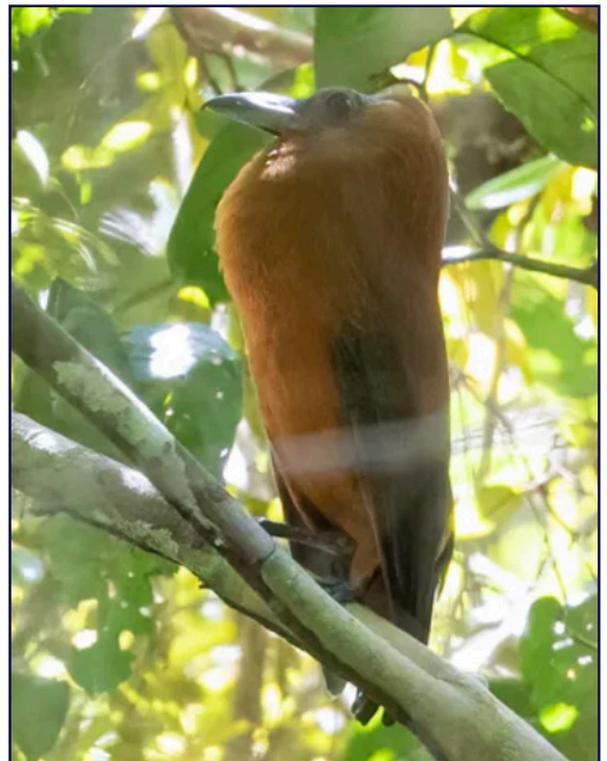
### **December 11: Caño Carbón & Sabanitas**

Our morning birding will be along the Caño Carbón trail. This trail belongs to the Curripaco de Sabanitas community and is a varzea forest path about three miles in length that has some of the most important species of Inírida. This trail hosts the flagship species of the region, the bizarre and amazing Capuchinbird. At this location, it's possible to see several of them lekking at once and to hear their very odd vocalizations. Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Black-headed Parrot, Dwarf Manakin-Tyrant, Screaming Piha, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Velvet-fronted Grackle, Green-tailed Goldenthrout, and Yellow-crowned Manakin are some of the highlights from this location. Following a great lunch prepared in the community, we'll bird our way back to Inírida along the road we took into the community. Targets along this road are White-throated Toucan, Spangled Cotinga, and Paradise Jacamar.

- Overnight: Fuente del Guainía

### **December 12: Matraca & Laguna Negra**

The Matraca Trail is the best bird watching spot in Inírida. This trail is on the bank of the Inírida River, about 20 minutes by boat from the main port. Its entrance has typical wild vegetation that has some highly sought-after species of birds. Further down the trail, the habitat becomes a denser forest and provides a new set of birds for us to enjoy. The trail is very easy to walk and is really an ecstasy for the senses with what seems like thousands of sounds at one time – birds singing, animals walking, and leaves rustling. And yet at other times, there's an infinite natural silence that makes the Amazon a true natural paradise. Some of the highlights here might include Rose-breasted Chat and Orinoco Softtail. In the Matraca lagoon, it's possible to observe what the aquatic ecosystems of the Amazon have to offer. This is a beautiful lagoon that



*Capuchinbird*

goes into the forest on the bank of the Guaviare River. This location provides chances for wetland species such as screamers and Hoatzin. Amazon Pink River Dolphins and Giant Otters can also be seen from the boats. Other highlights include White-eared Jacamar and the not yet described "Inírida Antshrike".

- Overnight: Fuente del Guainía

### **December 13: Paujil Trail**

Our day will be spent birding along the Paujil Trail. Just a short boat ride up the river from Inírida, this trail offers incredible biodiversity. The trail is an access road to the farms of the El Paujil community. Targets at this location include Orinoco Softtail, Black-spotted Bare-Eye, Green-tailed Jacamar, Varzea Schiffornis, Long-billed Woodcreeper, Black Bushbird, and Rose-breasted Chat.

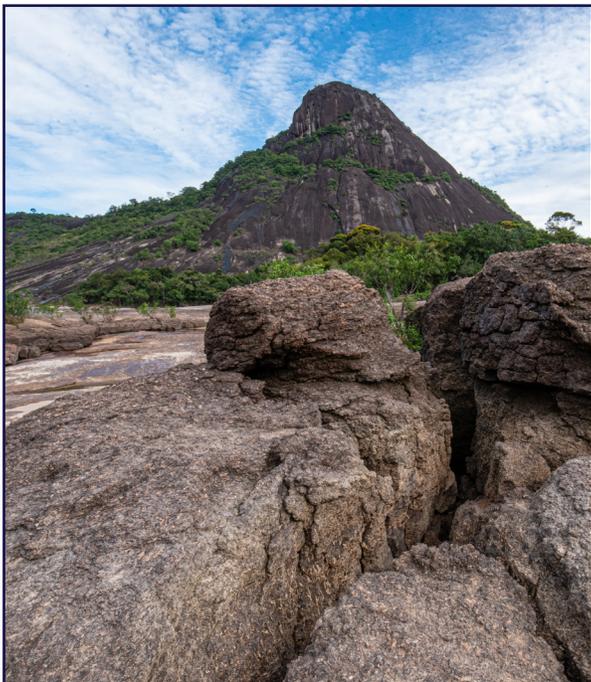
- Overnight: Fuente del Guainía



*Rose-breasted Chat*

### **December 14: Orinoco River Expedition**

The birding on this day will be by boat along the Orinoco River. Exploring this region will allow for many great river species! Yellow-billed and Large-billed Terns cover the small islands in the river and dive around the boat, Hoatzin can be found along some of the more narrow channels. Channel-billed and White-throated Toucans, several species of aracari, and large groups of Cobalt-winged Parakeets call from the treetops. Smaller channels and locations to stop the boat will provide chances for a great diversity of antshrikes, spinetails, and antwrens. Amazon Pink River Dolphin and Giant Otters can be seen in the river as well.



*Cerros de Mavecure*

### **December 15: Cerros de Mavecure and Remanso Community**

The Cerros de Mavecure consist of three iconic hills that are located 50 km from the city upstream following the Inírida river. They are part of the Guiana Shield and are called: Pajarito Hill, Mono Hill and Mavecure Hill (2,300 ft, 1,500 ft, and 550 ft high respectively). It's a sacred place for different tribes of

Amazonian indigenous people such as Curripacos and Puinaves. The scenery, history, and birding here is sure to be a highlight of the trip. The nearby community of Remanso offers a great opportunity for birding. Targets here include Burnished-buff Tanager, Black-collared Swallow, Pompadour Cotinga, White-browed Purpletuft, Spot-backed Antwren, Green Oropendola, and much more.

- Overnight: Fuente del Guainía

## December 16: Caño Vitina and Flor de Inírida Fields & Flight to Bogotá

The Caño Vitina and Flor de Inírida Fields are two of the most beautiful places to bird in Inírida. This area is a savannah with white sands and scattered tall trees. White-naped Seedeater and Yellowish Pipit are two of the specialty species found in this habitat. Spangled, Pompadour, and Purple-breasted Cotingas can be found in the treetops. White-throated Tinamou, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, and Rufous-crowned Elaenia are some of the other target species found at this location. The open area can be great for up to five species of macaws!

We'll take an afternoon flight back to Bogotá and check back into our hotel near the airport to enjoy a farewell dinner and to get ready for our flights home tomorrow.

- Overnight: Hilton Garden Inn Bogotá



*Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch*



*Wire-tailed Manakin*

## December 17: Depart for Home from Bogotá

We'll be staying close to the airport so you can schedule flights home from El Dorado International Airport in Bogotá at any time today.

## **Trip Details:**

### **Cost:**

Price per person (double occupancy) from Bogota (BOG), Colombia: \$6,699

Single Supplement: \$700

Minimum Participants: 6

Maximum Participants: 10

### **Price Includes:**

Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Colombia

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Internal flights to Mitu, Villavicencio and Inirida

### **Price Does Not Include:**

Airfare to and from Bogota, Colombia

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 (September 4, 2023).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at [info@sabrewingnaturetours.com](mailto:info@sabrewingnaturetours.com), by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at [sabrewingnaturetours.com](http://sabrewingnaturetours.com).

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