Colombia

Photography from Rainforest to Paramo

Tour Leaders: Brian Zwiebel

January 17-28, 2025
Our Colombia photography adventure offers you an incredible range of species at some of the best feeder setups anywhere! Colombia is emerging as a top photography destination, and we are excited for you to experience all Colombia has to offer! We will visit numerous feeder setups to maximize our photography opportunities. Many private properties offer unique experiences to photograph difficult and shy species like Crescent-faced Antpitta, Equatorial Antpitta, and Ocellated Tapaculo. Some of our targets include tanager species such as Multicolored, Saffron-crowned, Golden-naped, Glistening-green and Golden Tanagers, Hooded Mountain Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager. Hummingbird species are plentiful, with over 50 species possible, including the Sword-billed Hummingbird. And don’t forget about Black-billed Mountain-Toucan and Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan! One of the highlights of the trip is visiting an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek where the group can enjoy displaying birds at close range! We will also have opportunities for cultural experiences like visiting a beautiful cathedral and historic town square for shopping! With so many birds, photo opportunities, incredible food, and lodging, we know Colombia will be a trip you won’t forget!

**Itinerary Overview:**

January 17: Arrival in Cali and Transfer to Hotel – Welcome Dinner
January 18: La Florida - El Bosque de las Aves
January 19: San Felipe
January 20: Doña Dora Feeders
January 21: Finca Alejandria and Transfer to Manizales
January 22: Rio Blanco Reserve
January 23: El Color de Mi Reves
January 24: Los Nevados National Park
January 25: Hacienda El Bosque
January 27: Mirador El Roble
January 28: Photography Around Jardín

**Detailed Itinerary:**

**January 17: Arrival in Cali and Transfer to Hotel – Welcome Dinner**
Upon arrival in Cali, you can transfer to your hotel via the hotel airport shuttle. We will meet up in the evening to go over our tour details and to have a wonderful welcome dinner.
*Overnight: Cali, Colombia*

**January 18: La Florida - El Bosque de las Aves**
Our first full day will be a visit to the famous La Florida El Bosque de las Aves! Multiple hides offer the unique opportunity to photograph shy species like Chestnut Wood-Quail, Little Tinamou, and Scaled Antpitta. This will be our first taste of lots of tanager species like Multicolored, Saffron-crowned, Flame-rumped, Golden-naped, and Golden! Other species that regularly visit these feeders include Red-headed Barbet, Andean Motmot, Green Jay, White-throated Quail-Dove, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, and Sickled-winged Guan!
*Overnight: Mercedes Lodge or similar*
January 19: San Felipe
San Felipe is our next stop. This charming farm offers a reflecting pool and multiple blinds with several difficult-to-photograph birds like Black-winged Saltator and Western Emerald. Other expected species include Multicolored Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Colombian Chachalaca, Sickled-winged Guan, Black-capped, Saffron-crowned, Flame-rumped, Golden-naped, Golden Tanagers, Little Tinamou, Orange-bellied Euphoria, and White-naped Brushfinch.
Overnight: Mercedes Lodge or similar

January 20: Doña Dora Feeders
A short one-hour drive towards Queremal will find us at the wonderful Doña Dora feeders. We’ll stop to look for Lyre-tailed Nightjars that roost on the cliffs before we reach the feeders. As we enjoy a lovely breakfast with their famous empanadas, we’ll watch a variety of species including Toucan Barbet, Emerald Toucanet, Silver-throated, Rufous-throated, White-lined Tanagers, Green Thorntail, Rufous-gaped Hillstar, Crowned Woodnymph, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, Green Honeycreeper, and Black-headed Brushfinch. This 3-level feeder setup offers some incredible opportunities for birds from the forest floor to the canopy!
Overnight: Mercedes Lodge or similar

January 21: Finca Alejandria and Transfer to Manizales
This morning, we will focus on hummingbirds as there are loads of them at Finca Alejandria. White-booted Racket-tail, Long-tailed Sylph, and White-throated Daggerbill are just a few of the many hummingbird species we will target that morning. Other songbirds include Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, and Rusty Flowerpiercer. We will transfer to Manizales in the evening and enjoy a relaxing dinner.
Overnight: Recinto del Pensamiento
January 22: Rio Blanco Reserve
Rio Blanco is a beautiful reserve and offers the unique opportunity to photograph four species of Antpitta, Chestnut-crowned, Brown-banded, Slaty-crowned, and Bicolored. Another specialty that comes in the feeding area is the stunning Green-and-black Fruiteater! The garden area has beautiful hummingbird setups and another songbird feeding area which provides many photography opportunities! Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager, Slaty Brushfinch, Collared and Bronzy Incas, Buff-tailed Coronet, and more recently, Black-billed Mountain-Toucan have all been frequenting the feeder area.
Overnight: Recinto del Pensamiento

January 23: El Color de Mi Reves
Our visit to El Color de Mi Reves will have us taking an exciting 4x4 journey to this remote and beautiful feeder location. We will spend the morning working with songbirds and the afternoon working with hummingbirds. Target species here include Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, Ocellated Tapaculo, Blue-capped Tanager, Mountain Velvetbreast, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Slate-crowned and Bicolor Antpittas, and Black-collared Jay. Once finished here, we will transfer to the Los Nevados area.
Overnight: Hotel Termales del Ruiz
January 24: Los Nevados National Park
A visit to Los Nevados National Park takes us into the paramo and offers some wonderful new species like Buffy Helmetcrest, Rufous-fronted Parakeet, Andean Tit-Spinetail, and Many-striped Canastero. We will head to the peaceful Termales del Ruiz for an afternoon session with specialties like Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Lacrimose Mountain Tanager, Shining Sunbeam, Great Saphirewing, and Buff-winged Starfrontlet.
Overnight: Hotel Termales del Ruiz

January 25: Hacienda El Bosque
Hacienda El Bosque will be our next stop. Known for its exceptional photographic opportunities, our all-day session here will provide many opportunities with birds such as Gray-bellied Mountain-Toucan, Hooded Mountain Tanager, Andean Guan, Equatorial Antpitta, Barred Fruit-eater, Crescent-faced Antpitta, Gray-browed Brushfinch, and White-throated Quail-Dove. Sword-billed Hummingbird is a common visitor among over a dozen other hummingbird species. We will transfer to a nearby ecolodge with a possible night session for Common Potoo, weather dependent.
Overnight: Tinamou Lodge

January 26: Tinamou Reserve
We will begin our day with a morning photo session at the feeders of Tinamou Reserve. New species include Black-throated Mango, Green Hermit, Bay-headed Tanager, Guira, Blue-necked, Crimson-backed, and Gray-headed Tanagers, Gray-headed Dove, and Blue-headed Parrot. The grounds hold many interesting species and we will take a short walk to do some in-the-field photography for species like Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Barred Antshrike, Moustached Puffbird, and visit a lekking location for Golden-collared Manakin. Once finished here, we will transfer to Jardín.
Overnight: Casa Passiflora Hotel
January 27: Mirador El Roble
Today we’ll visit Mirador El Roble for an incredible breakfast and to spend time at their feeders photographing Tourmaline Sunangel and Masked Flowerpiercer among many others. This is also one of the few places to see one of Colombia’s small cats, Margay, which visits the property. Participants will have the option to join a hike for a chance at Chestnut-naped and Chami Antpittas. Those who wish to not participate in the hike may stay at the feeders for more relaxed photography. We will check the road on the way down for mixed flocks and other species such as Yellow-eared Parrot and White-capped Tanager. In the afternoon we will visit an incredible Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek with amazing up-close photo opportunities! We can also visit the lovely town of Jardín for a unique sightseeing opportunity in the evening.
Overnight: Casa Passiflora Hotel

January 28: Photography Around Jardín
On our last day, we will return to the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek in the morning and will also look for additional species such as Crested Ant-Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Grackle, Blue-necked Tanager, and Black-chested Jay. We will have lunch on the road as we make the three-hour drive to Medellin for our return flights home.
Target Species

Little Tinamou
Torrent Duck
Colombian Chachalaca
Andean Guan
Sickle-winged Guan
Chestnut Wood-Quail
Ruddy Ground Dove
White-tipped Dove
Gray-headed Dove
White-throated Quail-Dove
Squirrel Cuckoo
Lyre-tailed Nightjar
White-necked Jacobin
Green Hermit
Tawny-bellied Hermit
Stripe-throated Hermit
White-throated Daggerbill
Sparkling Violetear
Brown Violetear
Lesser Violetear
Purple-crowned Fairy
Black-throated Mango
Tourmaline Sunangel
Green Thorntail
Speckled Hummingbird
Long-tailed Sylph
Rainbow-bearded Thornbill
Buffy Helmcrest
Tyrian Metaltail
Viridian Metaltail
Greenish Puffleg
Golden-breasted Puffleg
Shining Sunbeam
Bronzy Inca
Brown Inca
Collared Inca
Buff-winged Starfrontlet
Mountain Velvetbreast
Sword-billed Hummingbird
Great Sapphirewing
Buff-tailed Coronet
White-booted Racket-tail
Rufous-gaped Hillstar
Purple-bibbed Whitetip
Fawn-breasted Brilliant
Empress Brilliant
White-bellied Woodstar
Purple-throated Woodstar
Western Emerald
White-vented Plumelete
Crowned Woodymph
Steely-vented Hummingbird

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Andean Emerald
Golden-headed Quetzal
Masked Trogon
Andean Motmot
Amazon Kingfisher
Red-headed Barbet
Toucan Barbet
Southern Emerald-Toucanet
Crimson-rumped Toucanet
Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan
Black-billed Mountain-Toucan
Acorn Woodpecker
Red-crowned Woodpecker
Crimson-mantled Woodpecker
Rufous-fronted Parakeet
Golden-plumed Parakeet
Barred Antshrike
Bar-crested Antshrike
Scaled Antpitta
Chestnut-crowned Antpitta
Bicolored Antpitta
Equatorial Antpitta
Brown-banded Antpitta
Slate-crowned Antpitta
Crescent-faced Antpitta
Cocoa Woodcreeper
Streak-headed Woodcreeper
Montane Woodcreeper
Red-faced Spinetail
Green-and-black Fruiteater
Barred Fruiteater
Andean Cock-of-the-rock
Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher
Common Tody-Flycatcher
Yellow-bellied Chat-Tyrant

Great Kiskadee
Tropical Kingbird
Black-collared Jay
Black-chested Jay
Tropical Mockingbird
Cocoa Thrush
Clay-colored Thrush
Black-billed Thrush
Great Thrush
Thick-billed Euphonia
Orange-bellied Euphonia
Gray-browed Brushfinch
Chestnut-capped Brushfinch
Rufous-collared Sparrow
White-naped Brushfinch
Tricolored Brushfinch

Slaty Brushfinch
Pale-naped Brushfinch
Mountain Cacique
Red-bellied Grackle
Tropical Parula
Golden-crowned Woodpecker
Three-striped Woodpecker
Black-crested Woodpecker
Buff-rumped Woodpecker
Russet-crowned Woodpecker
Slate-throated Redstart
Golden-fronted Redstart
Summer Tanager
Crested Ant-Tagger
Flame-rumped Tanager
Crimson-backed Tanager
Hooded Mountain Tanager
Blue-capped Tanager
Lacrimose Mountain Tanager
Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager
Blue-winged Mountain Tanager
Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager
Glistening-green Tanager
Multicolored Tanager
Blue-gray Tanager
Palm Tanager
Rufous-throated Tanager
Golden-naped Tanager
Black-capped Tanager
Scrub Tanager
Blue-necked Tanager
Blue-and-black Tanager
Metallic-green Tanager
Bay-headed Tanager
Saffron-crowned Tanager
Golden Tanager
Silver-throated Tanager
Green Honeycreeper
Blue-backed Conebill
Glossy Flowerpiercer
Black Flowerpiercer
White-sided Flowerpiercer
Rusty Flowerpiercer
Masked Flowerpiercer
Plumeous Sierra Finch
Gray-hooded Bush Tanager
Bananaquit
Buff-throated Saltator
Black-winged Saltator
Streaked Saltator
Slate-colored Grosbeak
Trip Details:
Cost:
Price per person (double occupancy), from Cali, Colombia: $6,199
Single Supplement: $750
Minimum Participants: 4
Maximum Participants: 6

Price Includes:
Expert Guides
Ground Transportation in Colombia
All Lodging
All Meals
Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:
Airfare to and from Colombia
(Arrive at Cali, Depart from Medallin)
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 (October 29, 2024).

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

Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:
Sabrewing Nature Tours acts only as an agent for the various independent suppliers that provide hotel accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, activities, or other services connected with this tour. Such services are subject to the terms and conditions of those suppliers. Sabrewing Nature Tours and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or any other incident which may be caused by the negligence, defect, default of any company or person in performing these services. Responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, local laws, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the tours/trips arranged by Sabrewing Nature Tours. Individual travelers are responsible for purchasing a travel insurance policy, if desired, that will cover some of the expenses associated with the loss of luggage or personal effects.