



# Colombia

*Central Andes and Montezuma*

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Tour Leader: Eric Ripma

November 14-24, 2026

## Itinerary Overview:

November 14: Arrival in Bogotá - Transfer to Hotel

November 15: Sumapaz National Park - Flight to Pereira

November 16: Otún Quimbaya

November 17: Otún Quimbaya - Transfer to Montezuma

November 18: Montezuma

November 19: Montezuma

November 20: Montezuma - Transfer to Manizales

November 21: Rio Blanco Ecological Reserve - Transfer to Hotel Termales del Ruiz

November 22: Los Nevados National Park, Hotel Termales del Ruiz

November 23: Hacienda el Bosque - Transfer and Flight to Bogotá

November 24: Departure from Bogotá

## Detailed Itinerary:

### **November 14: Arrival in Bogotá - Transfer to Hotel**

Upon arrival, you will transfer to our hotel in Bogotá. In the evening, the group will meet for a wonderful welcome dinner.

*Overnight: Hilton Garden Inn Bogotá Airport or similar*

### **November 15: Sumapaz National Park - Flight to Pereira**

On this morning, we will make a drive out of Bogotá

In the morning, we will make a drive south out of Bogotá to higher elevations in the Andes. Once we reach our destination, Sumapaz, we will be above treeline in spectacular páramo habitat. The landscape here can seem otherworldly and the birding here is always fantastic. Our main target here is the Green-bearded Helmetcrest, one of only 4 species of helmetcrests in the world! This high elevation hummingbird is a sight to behold as it clings to the flowers to feed on them and while we're watching them it might be difficult to imagine how a hummingbird survives the conditions at this altitude. We'll also be looking for other Colombian endemics here such as Boyaca Antpitta and Apolinar's Wren as well as the near endemic Bronze-tailed Thornbill and difficult to find Pale-bellied Tapaculo.

A scan of Chisacá Lagoon should result in several species of ducks such as Andean Teal and Andean Duck and the possibility of some shorebirds such as Noble Snipe. We'll also be looking for other high elevation species such as Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, Many-striped Canastero, White-chinned Tanager, Chestnut-winged Cinclodes, and Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle. After an early lunch here, we'll make the drive back to Bogotá to the airport, to catch our flight to Pereira. Upon arrival in Pereira, we will make a short drive to our lodging where we will be staying for the next two nights.

*Overnight: Casa Hotel Kumanday*



*Green-bearded Helmetcrest*

### **November 16: Otún Quimbaya**

Early on this morning, we'll head down the road to Otún Quimbaya Santuario de Flora y Fauna (Flora and Fauna Sanctuary) and spend the day birding within this unbelievably diverse reserve. We will spend the day birding along forest roads, trails, and bridges overlooking a rushing river. Some of the specialties we will be looking for include Cauca Guan (endemic), Chestnut Wood-Quail (endemic), Torrent Duck, Blackish Rail, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Marble-faced and Variegated Bristle-Tyrants, Black-billed Peppershrike, Green Jay (Inca), Chestnut-breasted Wren, Grayish Piculet, Crested Ant-Tanager, and many species of warblers and tanagers including the Multicolored Tanager (endemic).

*Overnight: Casa Hotel Kumanday*

### **November 17: Otún Quimbaya - Transfer to Montezuma**

We will spend this day birding at Otun Quimbaya, looking for any species we may have missed the day before. And due to the diversity in this park, we will likely see many species we hadn't seen the previous day.

After lunch at our lodging, we will get packed up and ready to make our drive to Montezuma. Once we get close, we will have to transfer from our vehicle into Jeeps to make the rest of the drive in to our lodging. After a delicious dinner at our lodge, we will want to get plenty of rest so we are prepared for the amazing birding that Montezuma offers!

*Overnight: Montezuma Rainforest Ecolodge*



*Red-ruffed Fruitcrow*

### **November 18: Montezuma**

Montezuma Lodge sits at the edge of Tatamá National Park, perfectly placed for exploring the famous Montezuma Road. Each morning, we'll head out in 4x4 vehicles to bird along this 12 km stretch, climbing to an elevation of about 8,500 feet, considered one of the very best birding sites in Colombia. More than 500 species have been recorded here.

The lower sections of the road are alive with activity, with chances to see Multicolored Tanager (endemic), Bicolored Antvireo, Crested Ant-Tanager (endemic) . As we move higher, we will continue to look for more range-restricted specialties and Colombian endemics that make this road so famous. Here we'll seek out Gold-ringed Tanager, Black-and-gold Tanager, Tatamá Tapaculo, and much more. Other highlights include Munchique Wood-Wren (endemic), Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer (endemic), Chestnut Wood-Quail, Beautiful Jay, and Parker's Antbird, along with the spectacular Dusky Starfrontlet (rare), one of the most sought-after hummingbirds in Colombia.

The combination of spectacular scenery, high levels of endemism, and constant bird activity makes every day on the Montezuma Road a memorable experience. After full days of birding, we'll return to Montezuma Lodge to relax, enjoy the setting, and review our growing list of specialty birds that can be seen in very few other places on Earth. The lodge also offers some great birding and the feeders regularly attract Empress Brilliant, Purple-throated Woodstar, Violet-tailed Sylph, Red-headed and Toucan Barbet, Colombian Chachalaca (endemic).

*Overnight: Montezuma Rainforest Ecolodge*

### **November 19: Montezuma**

We will continue exploring Montezuma Road by covering different elevations than we did the previous day.

*Overnight: Montezuma Rainforest Ecolodge*

## **November 20: Montezuma - Transfer to Manizales**

Throughout the morning, we will continue exploring Montezuma Road by covering different elevations than the previous two days. After an early lunch, we'll make a drive to our next destination, Manizales. We'll have dinner at our hotel and have plenty of time to get some rest before an early start the next day.

*Overnight: Recinto del Pensamiento*



*Bicolored Antpitta*

## **November 21: Río Blanco Ecological Reserve - Transfer to Hotel Termales del Ruiz**

Our day will be spent birding at Río Blanco Ecological Reserve. At this incredible reserve, the rangers feed Bicolored, Chestnut-crowned, Slate-crowned, and Brown-banded (endemic) Antpittas. We will spend the morning visiting the feeding stations for each antpitta and exploring the trails through the reserve. Besides the antpittas, we hope to find mixed flocks moving through the forest, many hummingbirds visiting the flowers and feeders, and tanagers visiting the fruit feeders. Some of the highlights of the morning could include Sickle-winged Guan, Long-tailed Sylph, Bronzy, and Collared Incas, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Andean Motmot, Golden-plumed Parakeet, a few species of tapaculos, Flammulated Treehunter, Green-and-black Fruiteater, Chestnut-bellied Chat-Tyrant, Sharpe's Wren, White-naped Brushfinch, White-capped Tanager, Black-capped Hemispingus, Grass-green Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Blue-and-black, Beryl-spangled, and Metallic-green Tan-agers, and Gray-hooded Bush Tanager. After lunch at the reserve, we'll spend some time birding near the park entrance, where we will be looking for the striking White-capped Dipper. Nearby flowers commonly attract a few hummingbird species, including Green-fronted Lancebill, White-throated Daggerbill, and Andean Emerald.

In the afternoon, we will make a drive to higher elevations where we will be staying for the next two nights.

*Overnight: Hotel Termales del Ruiz*



*Brown-banded Antpitta*

#### **November 22: Los Nevados National Park, Hotel Termales del Ruiz**

This morning, we will begin in the mountains at elevations between 10,500 and 13,000 feet. Once we arrive at the Nevado del Ruiz Visitor Center, the main target is the fantastic and endemic Buffy Helmetcrest. After lunch, we will visit some of the nearby Elfin Forest, where we will look for Crowned Chat-Tyrant, Paramo Tapaculo, Grass Wren, Plain-colored Seedeater, Andean Tit-Spinetail, White-chinned Thistletail, and Black-backed Bush Tanager. Throughout the day, we'll keep an eye out for the endemic Rufous-fronted Parakeet, as this is the best place to look for this scarce and difficult-to-see parakeet. In the afternoon, we will spend some time birding our hotel grounds. Some species we will be looking for here include Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Black-thighed and Golden-breasted Pufflegs, Lacrimose and Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanagers, and Golden-crowned Tanager.

*Overnight: Hotel Termales del Ruiz*

#### **November 23: Hacienda El Bosque - Transfer and Flight to Bogotá**

Our day will start with a visit to the spectacular Hacienda El Bosque. After breakfast at the ranch, we will visit several feeder setups throughout the property. We will start with the feeding station for Equatorial Antpitta. Other species, such as the Gray-browed Brushfinch, also visit this site. Our next stop will be a feeding station for the Crescent-faced Antpitta. The hummingbird feeders at this site are also great, and we will be looking for Tourmaline Sunangel, Purple-backed Thornbill, and Mountain Velvetbreast. Our last stop will be at a fruit, seed, and hummingbird feeder setup. The star of the show is the Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan! We will also watch for Andean Guan, White-throated Quail-Dove, Sword-billed Hummingbird, and Hooded Mountain Tanager.

Once we finish at Hacienda El Bosque, we'll have about a two hour drive to the Pereira airport. After our flight back to Bogotá we will have a delicious farewell dinner at our hotel.

*Overnight: Hilton Garden Inn Bogotá Airport or similar*

### November 24: Departure from Bogotá



## **Trip Details:**

### **Cost:**

Price per person (double occupancy) from Bogotá, Colombia: \$6,399

Single Supplement: \$500

Minimum Participants: 6

Maximum Participants: 10

### **Price Includes:**

Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Colombia

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Flights within Colombia

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

Airfare to Bogotá and from Pereira

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 (August 16, 2026).

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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