



Colombia

Central Andes and Montezuma

Tour Leader: Rob Ripma

October 16-26, 2027

Itinerary Overview:

October 16: Arrival in Bogotá - Transfer to Hotel
October 17: Sumapaz National Park - Flight to Pereira
October 18: Otún Quimbaya
October 19: Otún Quimbaya - Transfer to Montezuma
October 20: Montezuma
October 21: Montezuma
October 22: Montezuma - Transfer to Manizales
October 23: Rio Blanco Ecological Reserve - Transfer to Hotel Termales del Ruiz
October 24: Los Nevados National Park, Hotel Termales del Ruiz
October 25: Hacienda el Bosque - Transfer and Flight to Bogotá
October 26: Departure from Bogotá

Detailed Itinerary:

October 16: 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

October 17: 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 Tsetletail, 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

October 18: 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

October 18: 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

October 20: 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

October 21: Montezuma

We will continue exploring Montezuma Road by covering different elevations than we did the previ-

ous day.

Overnight: Montezuma Rainforest Ecolodge

October 22: 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

October 23: 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 Sickie-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

October 24: 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

October 25: 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

October 26: Departure from Bogotá



Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy) from Bogotá, Colombia: \$6,999

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:

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 (July 18, 2027).

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.

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