

The Magic Birding and Nature of Ecuador Itinerary

May 18–27, 2024

Day One - MAY 18 –1:30 PM group arrives. Clear customs. Transfer from airport to San Jorge Eco-Lodge & Botanical Reserve/Quito. Room check-in, then meet in the Lounge at 5 PM for a Welcome Drink and “Introduction of the archeological history and folklore of our 18th Century Spanish Hacienda. Dinner followed Dr. Minno presentation of the butterflies and plants of Ecuador. Overnight San Jorge Quito Lodge. (D)

Day Two- May 19- Special AM guided birding at the gardens and trails as well as the Hummingbird feeders at the San Jorge Eco Lodge/Quito. After 8:30 am breakfast take a walk into the reserve with **Dr. Jorge Cruz** to learn about some of the 250 varieties of **Native Medicinal Plants** in the region that are still be used in their raw state in Ecuador. You will be fascinated to learn their values. Dr. Jorge Cruz has written The Medicinal Plants of Ecuador South American book. After lunch continue on birding to **"Old Nono-Mindo Road" or "Hummingbird Route"**. Overnight San Jorge Eco- Lodge Tandyapa. (B,L,D)

Days Three & Four – MAY 20 & 21 – Guided Birding San Jorge de Tandayapa Daily General Schedule featuring Hummingbird Sanctuary (CLOUD FOREST) Hummingbird & Tanager feeders, bird walks on pristine trails, Canopy Islands Observation decks with natural feeders, ponds, streams. Multi-colored bird species like the Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Red-headed Barbet, Three-striped Warbler, White-winged Becard, Metallic-green Tanager, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Pale-mandibled Aracari, Golden-naped Tanager, Golden Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Orange-bellied Euphonia, along with the Masked Trogon, Squirell Cuckoo, Slate-throated Whitestar, Streak-capped Treehunter, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Buff-fronted Foliage-Gleaner, Black-chested Tanager, and, with a bit of luck, the Ochre-breasted Antpitta. Additionally, our feeders are visited by abounding hummingbird species including the iconic **Booted Racket-tail** and the **Violet-tailed Sylph**. Seasonal visits by the iconic **Toucan Barbet, and, the Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan** along with the Crested Quetzal, and, the Golden-headed Quetzal. Overnight San Jorge Tandayapa Lodge. (B,L,D)

Day Five – MAY 22 – Guided **Cock of the Rock Lek W, birding San Tadeo Road, Lunch at Forest Lodge. Later afternoon birding San Jorge Eco-lodge Milpe Bird Sanctuary – ‘Manakin Trail’: Overnight: San Jorge Eco-lodge Milpe Forest Lodge.** (B,L,D)

Day Six – MAY 23 –

Birding San Jorge Milpe Reserve (UPPER TROPICAL RAINFOREST) home of the Banded-ground Cuckoo! (One of the 50 rarest birds in the world.)Daily General Schedule featuring

SPECIAL EARLY BIRDING EXCLUSIVE: 6 -8 AM. Moth feeders for possible Banded-ground Cuckoo & rare species.After breakfast, birding tour in am and the pm. Birds in this area include **Endemic Choco Toucan, Esmeraldas Antbird, Bicolored Antbird, Choco Warbler, Streaked Xenops, Glistening-green Tanager, Blue-tailed Trogon, Black-throated Trogon, Gartered Trogon, Collared Trogon, White-tailed Trogon, Striped Woodhaunter,**

Black-headed Antthrush, Scaly-throated Foliage-Gleaner, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, Crismon-bellied Woodpecker, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Red-Rumped Woodpecker, Emerald Tanager, Choco Toucan, White-bearded Manakin, Club-winged Manakin, Northern Schiffornis, Golden-winged Manakin, Purple-throated Fruitcrow and with some luck the Lanceolated Monklet, Berlepsch's Tinamou. Overnight San Jorge/Milpe Forest Lodge. (B,L,D)

Day Seven – MAY 24 –Daily General schedule featuring Guided Birding Rio Chaguayacu feeder and trails; exploring Masphi surroundings. **EVENING birding surprise!!!!** Overnight San Jorge/Milpe Forest Lodge. (B,L,D)

Day Eight – MAY 25 – Daily General schedule featuring Guided Birding Rio Tatal trails, Milpe road, Forest Lodge observatory & tower over canopy. Later afternoon return to San Jorge/Quito. Overnight San Jorge/Quito Lodge. (B,L,D)

Day Nine – MAY 26 – Daily General Schedule featuring Guided Birding Antisana National Park by vehicle - Andes Condor Reserve (PARAMO), feeders, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Andean Teal, Andean Lapwing, Black-faced Ibis, Giant Hummingbird. Overnight San Jorge/Quito Lodge. **EVENING SURPRISE** (B,L,D)

Day Ten – MAY 27 – 10:00 am group airport transfer for 2:00 pm flight departure. (B,L)

Birding Tours - Daily general schedule:

1. 6:15 – 8:30 am Guided birding - observation at feeders, gardens & surrounding of the lodge
8:30 am breakfast
2. 2 to 2-1/2 hour moderately paced Guided bird walk
Lunch, then leisure time on own
3. 3:00 – 6:00 pm Guided birding hike on forest trails
7:00 pm – Dinner

Note: For those who do not wish to participate in the 3 bird walks, you may elect to stay at the lodge for birding on own while at San Jorge Lodges only (except days of transit)

Itinerary subject to change due to weather, better birding options, road conditions, or unforeseeable circumstances.