

Ecuador

Chocó Andino Birding– 5 Days

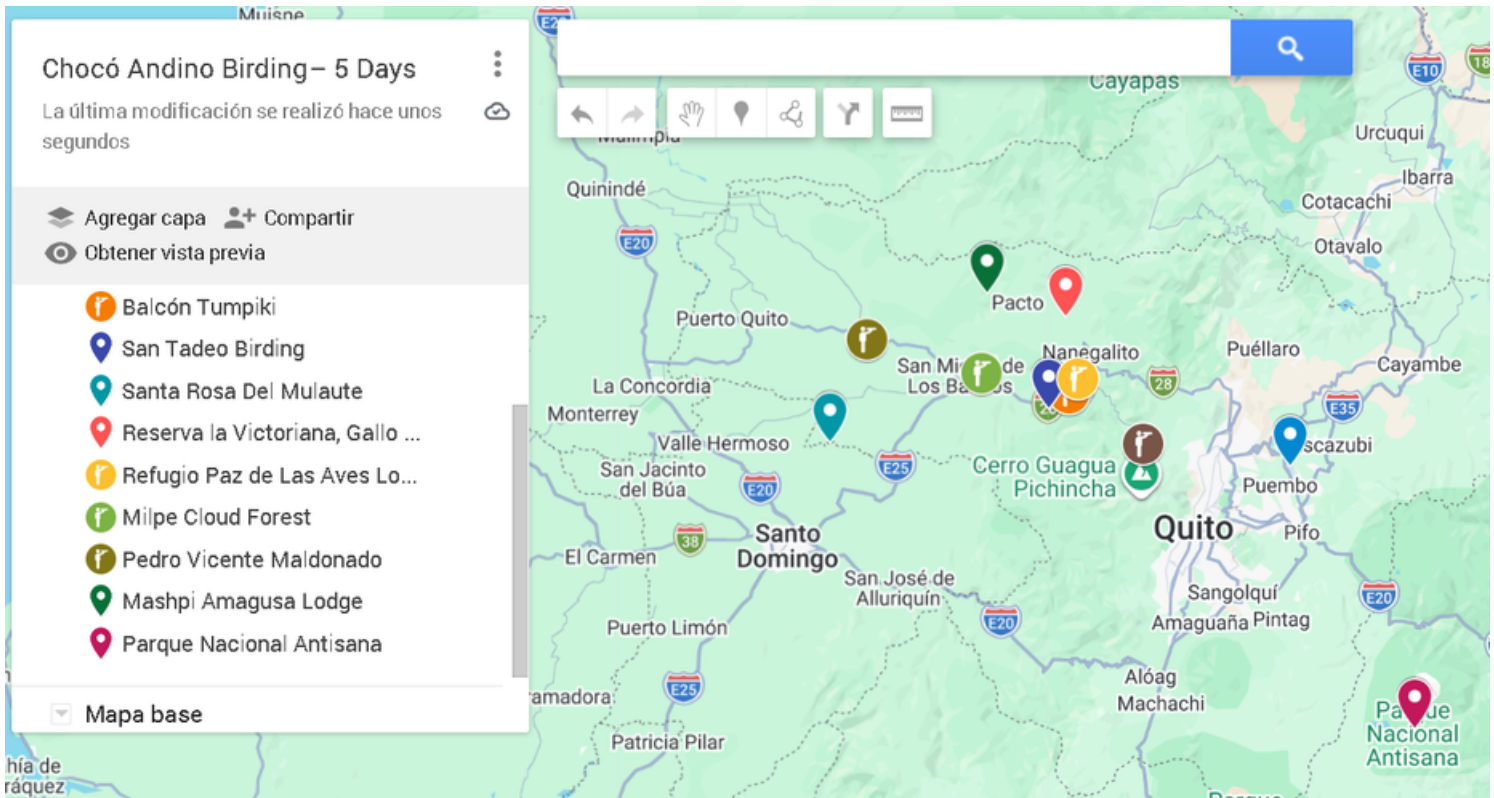


Andean Cock of the Rock By Ronald Machuca

During these 5 days of birdwatching in the Chocó Andino, we will explore one of Ecuador's most biodiverse regions, visiting reserves, cloud forests, trails, feeding stations, and high-elevation habitats. From the early morning hours, we will begin searching for emblematic species such as the Pale-mandibled Aracari, Chocó Toucan, Yellow-throated Toucan, Toucan Barbet, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, and several species of woodpeckers, together with a great variety of tanagers, hummingbirds, motmots, and other birds of the cloud forest. Each day will take us to new habitats, increasing our chances of discovering different species and enjoying unforgettable encounters with the incredible birdlife of the Chocó.

The experience will also give us the opportunity to search for some of the region's most remarkable birds, including the famous Antpittas at Paz de las Aves and the spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-rock, as well as mountain and forest species such as the Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Golden Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, and an extraordinary diversity of hummingbirds. We will visit renowned birding locations such as Zuroloima, Milpe, Mashpi Amagusa, Sacha Guatuso, and Antisana, creating a complete journey from the forests of the Chocó to the high-Andean ecosystems. Five days, multiple ecosystems, and countless opportunities to observe and photograph some of Ecuador's most fascinating birds.

Map



Itinerary

Day 1	Zuroloma & Balcón Tumpiki Explore cloud forests and trails while searching for colorful birds and hummingbirds.
Day 2	Toucan Route & Cock-of-the-rock Discover toucans, aracarís, woodpeckers, and the spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-rock.
Day 3	Antpittas & Milpe Meet the famous Antpittas at Paz de las Aves and explore the rich forests of Milpe.
Day 4	Mashpi Amagusa & Sacha Guatuso Enjoy a full day of birdwatching through the diverse forests of Mashpi.
Day 5	Antisana: In Search of the Andean Condor Finish the adventure at Antisana, searching for the majestic Andean Condor.

Description of the observation sites



Crimson-mantled woodpecker by Patricio Herrera

Our first day begins early, leaving Quito and heading into the fascinating Chocó Andino of Pichincha, where the landscape quickly changes and nature becomes the main attraction. Our first stop will be Zuroloma Reserve, a perfect place to begin our adventure and enjoy our first encounters with the birds of the Andean forests while taking in the beautiful mountain landscapes.

We will then continue to Balcón Tumpiki, where a delicious breakfast will welcome us before we explore its forest trails. Accompanied by our birdwatching guide, we will search for emblematic species such as the Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Toucan Barbet, and Crimson-rumped Toucanet. We may also encounter colorful tanagers such as the Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Golden Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, and Blue-gray Tanager, together with beautiful hummingbirds such as the Western White-tailed Hillstar, Brown Inca, Violet-tailed Sylph, Empress Brilliant, and Lesser Violetear.

In the afternoon, we will visit the San Tadeo feeder, where we can enjoy excellent opportunities to observe birds at close range and appreciate their natural behavior. We will then return to Balcón Tumpiki for dinner and, as night falls, begin a night walk through the forest. Guided by our local experts, we will explore the sounds and mysteries of the night while searching for nocturnal species. A full day of birds, landscapes, and unforgettable experiences, discovering the incredible diversity of the Chocó Andino from sunrise to after sunset.

Description of the observation sites



Choco Toucan by Pedro Mansaba

The day begins very early with a visit to Mulaute, known as the Toucan Route, a lower-elevation area where we will have excellent opportunities to find some of the most spectacular birds of the Chocó Andino. Along the route, we will search for species such as the Pale-mandibled Aracari, Yellow-throated Toucan, and Chocó Toucan, together with different species of woodpeckers that inhabit these forests. We will then continue to Balcón Tumpiki Costa, where we will enjoy breakfast and continue birdwatching around the feeders and during a short forest walk. We will also have the chance to discover and taste some of the exotic fruits and local products of the region.

In the afternoon, our adventure will continue at Finca La Victoriana, where one of the most anticipated encounters of the day awaits us: the search for the spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-rock, one of the most iconic and impressive birds of the Andean forests. After enjoying this special encounter and the beautiful surroundings of the finca, we will return to Balcón Tumpiki for dinner and a relaxing end to the day. A day filled with toucans, woodpeckers, tropical fruits, and the unforgettable Andean Cock-of-the-rock, creating another memorable birdwatching experience in the Chocó Andino.



Andean Cock of the Rock

Description of the observation sites



Chestnut- crowned Antpitta by Patricio Herrera

The day begins at Refugio Paz de las Aves, where we will enjoy a special birdwatching experience searching for some of the region's most remarkable antpittas, including the Giant Antpitta, Ochre-breasted Antpitta, Moustached Antpitta, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, and Yellow-breasted Antpitta. We will then continue to Milpe Bird Sanctuary and Frutitour, exploring their forests and surroundings while searching for the incredible diversity of birds found throughout the Chocó Andino, always watching carefully for new species among the vegetation and different habitats.

The day begins early with a trip to Mashpi Amagusa, a privileged area of the Chocó Andino where we will spend most of the day birdwatching. Along its forests and trails, we will search for representative species of this region, taking advantage of the early morning hours when bird activity is at its peak. After a packed lunch, we will continue exploring Mashpi and later Sacha Guatuso, discovering different habitats and searching for more species before returning to Balcón Tumpiki for dinner and another memorable day surrounded by nature.



Glistening-green Tanager by Patricio Herrera

Description of the observation sites



Andean Condor

*Our final day begins with breakfast at Balcón Tumpiki before heading to Antisana National Park, one of Ecuador's most spectacular high-Andean landscapes. During the journey, we will search for iconic birds such as the majestic Andean Condor and the Carunculated Caracara (*Daptrius carunculatus*), while also having the chance to encounter wild rabbits, White-tailed Deer, and other wildlife species that freely inhabit these high-altitude páramo ecosystems. After lunch at Tambo Cóndor, we will begin our return to Quito, ending our adventure with one last memorable experience surrounded by nature and wildlife.*

Important notes

The price of the tour is listed on our website. The tour accommodates a maximum of four people. The price decreases as the number of people increases.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from breakfast on day 1 to lunch on day 5;
- Bottled drinking water
- Soft drinks at meals
- All lodgings
- Ground transportation
- Extra activities mentioned in the itinerary;
- All national park and other reserve entrance fees; and
- Local guiding services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees
- Any flights
- Any beverages expect noted
- Optional excursions
- No tips or gratuities
- Other items of a personal nature
- Binoculars or birdwatching equipment.

This tour does not require a high level of fitness, but participants should be in good general health as most of the birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time. Guests will be notified when longer walks may be undertaken. If you have any physical limitations, please notify us in advance of departure.

The lunch menu is subject to change; please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions or allergies.



Important Details

The tour begins in Quito on day 1 with a welcome breakfast, and as this is scheduled as an arrival day; you are free to arrive at any time. The tour will conclude after our internal on day 5.

Mariscal Sucre International Airport, Quito (UIO), is the major port of entry into Ecuador for this tour.

You must provide the name of your hotel in Quito and send your location, as well as the details for each passenger, exclusively to the person designated by Balcon Tumpiki.

Restrictions: Alcoholic beverages, any type of psychoactive substances, camera flash.