

Long-wattled Umbrellabird
Cephalopterus penduliger

BIRDS OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL ECUADOR 2010



Ecuador is an exquisite cache of biological and ecological diversity. Per square mile, the Equatorial nation has the highest biodiversity in the world, including some 1,640 species of birds, many of which are rare and unique to the country. Discover the amazing contrasts of cloud forest, Amazon, and Andean landscapes in this 14-day program perfectly suited for explorers with a passion for birding. With the aid of an expert guide, you will identify an ample array of birds, plants, and other wildlife as you traverse many of Ecuador's 50 different ecosystems. Begin with a journey to El Pahuma Orchid Reserve and delve into the lush forests abundant in famed and rare birds. Venture to the breathtaking cloud forest and explore captivating trails as you identify numerous fascinating species. Continue on to visit private reserves situated at the edge of the Amazon and on Andean slopes. Each amazing location and ecosystem you explore will provide you with knowledge, thrills, and memories to last a lifetime.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Observe Antpittas from an astonishingly close range at Angel Paz private reserve
- Investigate the colonial treasures and unique culture of Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Venture to a private property in Tandayapa Valley to view hundreds of humming birds and numerous endangered species
- Journey to Antisana Ecological Reserve for the chance to identify a myriad of Andean birds, including the Andean Condor
- Lose yourself in the beauty of the cloud forest as you explore its captivating trails and waterfalls, observing vibrant birds and orchids
- Visit Tinalandia Ecological Reserve, one of the most biodiverse locations in the western Ecuadorian Andes, to hunt for exotic and rare birds, including the Long-wattled Umbrellabird
- Admire breathtaking Andean landscapes and Antisana Volcano, the fourth-highest peak in Ecuador

TRIP DETAILS

SUGGESTED TRIP MONTHS

All Year

TRIP LENGTH

9 days
5 day extension
to Sacha Lodge
available

LAND PRICING

Prices starting at
\$1695 per person

Extension to
Sacha Lodge
starting at \$1295



Rates are based on double occupancy for participants. Holiday surcharges may apply. Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges. A \$200.00 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than four months prior to departure. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100.00 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook's agency number is 15849.



Andean Condor
Vultur gryphus

Day 1 **Quito**

Upon your arrival in Quito you will meet your guide and be transferred to the hotel. **Overnight at Hilton Colon.** No meals are included.

Day 2 **Quito - Cloud Forest**

After being picked up from the hotel early in the morning, your first stop will be at "El Pahuma Orchid Reserve", a 650-hectare area that is home to a multitude of epiphytes (air plants), including bromeliads, orchids, moss and ferns. The lush montane forests at El Pahuma are home to a large number of rare and endemic species and in 2004 the reserve was designated an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International. Among the birds you will find are the Giant Antpitta, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Gorgeted Sunangel, and the Cock-of-the-Rock. You will later continue to an exclusive private property to watch hundreds of hummingbirds and enjoy a light picnic lunch in the area. Tandayapa Valley is home to many endangered species, including more than 30 species of hummingbirds and hundreds of rare bird species. You will continue through the cloud forest to the Bellavista Reserve, home to hundreds of species of plants, birds and other animals. **Overnight at Bellavista Reserve.** (BLD)

Day 3 **Bellavista Cloudforest Reserve and Lodge**

Early in the morning you will depart from Bellavista to visit Angel Paz Antpitta reserve. Angel is a resident from the Nanegalito area who decided to protect his property and convert it in an Antpittas and Cock-of-the-Rock sanctuary. Three types of Antpittas that are usually very elusive can be seen at close quarters; the Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Moustached Antpitta, and Giant Antpitta. You will then return to Bellavista Reserve where there are always great birds to see along the trails, including a tanager flock, Plate-billed Mountain-toucan, and the Tanager-finch among others. The opportunity to see hundreds of hummingbirds is always a guarantee at Bellavista. **Overnight at Bellavista Cloudforest Reserve and Lodge.** (BLD)

Day 4 **Bellavista reserve – Quito's valley**

This morning you will spend time at the Reserve exploring the

exquisite cloud forest, magical trails, and beautiful waterfalls as you observe colorful birds and beautiful orchids. You will later return to the Quito area after lunch for your overnight stay at Hacienda La Carriona. **Overnight at Hacienda La Carriona.** (BLD)

Day 5 **Antisana Reserve**

Today you will get the opportunity to visit the Antisana Ecological Reserve. The reserve is located on the edge of the Amazon prairie, making it a corridor between the Ecological Reserve of Cayambe-Coca and the Sumaco Napo Galeras National Park. It is comprised of approximately 120,000 hectares of pure birdwatcher paradise. Due to its various ecological zones ranging from páramo (an ecosystem devoid of trees and small shrubs where bushes and flowers grow close to the ground) to lowland rainforest, the reserve attracts more than 70 bird species. Highlights include the endangered Andean Condor and other Andean birds such as the Curiquingue. You will also be able to admire the view of the snow-capped Antisana Volcano, the fourth highest peak in Ecuador, with an altitude of 5,758m (18,890 feet). **Overnight at Hacienda La Carriona.** (BLD)

Day 6 **Pasocha – Tinalandia**

In the morning you will visit the Pasocha protected forest where birds like the Southern Yellow Grosbeak, Tyrian Metaltail, Sparkling Violet-ear, Tricoloured Brush-finch, and the Rufous-collared Sparrow can be found. Later you will head southward, following the Andean landscapes and its transition to the primary rainforest before arriving at the Tinalandia Ecological reserve in the western slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes. Tinalandia's ecosystem contains wildlife from the Andes lowlands and highlands, making it one of the most biodiverse places in the area. **Overnight at Tinalandia.** (BLD)

Day 7 **Tinalandia**

Today you will walk the grounds of Tinalandia and take the chance to see many of the over 350 species found in the area. While hiking you may be able to encounter the fabled Long-wattled Umbrellabird, the exotic Golden-winged Manakin and the Glistening-green Tanager among others. **Overnight at Tinalandia.** (BLD)

Day 8 **Tinalandia - Quito**

This morning will be spent exploring at the reserve. After lunch you will return to Quito for your overnight stay. **Hotel Colon.** (BLD)

Day 9 **Farewell**

Today you will transfer to the airport for your flight home or to your next destination.

Ask about extending this program with a 5 day / 4 night journey to the Amazon.



Golden-winged Manakin
Masius chrysopterus