



Sabrewing Nature Tours

The Best of the Northern Andes in
Ecuador
with Edison Buenaño and a Sabrewing Guide

September 12 - 25, 2020



Ecuador offers some of the most incredible birding anywhere in the Americas. On this tour, we will visit the best birding sites in the Northern Andes, including locations on both the east and west slopes. Previously on this itinerary, we have seen over 450 species!

Itinerary Overview:

September 12: Arrival and Transfer to Hotel in Quito
September 13: Yanacocha Reserve, Old Nano-Mindo Road – Transfer to Septimo Paraiso
September 14: Refugio de la Paz and Milpe Bird Sanctuary
September 15: Tandayapa Valley
September 16: Silanche Reserve
September 17: Mashpi and Oilbird Caves – Transfer to Quito
September 18: Antisana National Park and Transfer to Guango Lodge
September 19: Guango Lodge and Elfin Forest
September 20: Birding at Guango Lodge and Transfer to Cabañas San Isidro
September 21: Full Day at Cabañas San Isidro
September 22: Loreto Road and Transfer to Wildsumaco
September 23: Wildsumaco
September 24: Birding and Transfer back to Quito
September 25: Depart for Home

Detailed Itinerary:

September 12: Arrive in Quito, Ecuador and transfer to our hotel.

Overnight at San Jose de Puembo Garden Hotel

September 13: Yanacocha Reserve, Old Nano-Mindo Road – Transfer to Septimo Paraiso

After breakfast, we will drive to the Yanacocha Reserve at 11,483 feet. Yanacocha is famous for its high-elevation specialties, and we will spend the morning birding the Trocha Inca Trail. Here we will see at least ten species of hummingbirds and the mixed feeding flocks we'll encounter will add many more tantalizing birds to the list! Possibilities include Barred Fruiteater, Great Sapphirewing, Golden-breasted and Sapphire-vented Pufflegs, Sword-billed Hummingbird, and much more.

We will enjoy a picnic lunch while taking in the grandiose mountain vista, after which we will begin the drive to Mindo via the Old Nono-Mindo Road, birding along the way. This road offers spectacular views of the forest and excellent birding, with the possibility of such sought-after birds such as Torrent Duck and White-capped Dipper. We will then arrive at the Septimo Paraiso Lodge in Mindo, where we will spend the next four nights.

Overnight at Septimo Paraiso

September 14: Refugio de la Paz and Milpe Bird Sanctuary

Early this morning, we will head to Paz de las Antpittas Reserve to observe Andean Cock-of-the-Rocks at their lek, where males assemble during the mating season and engage in competitive displays that attract females. Afterwards, we will join Angel (the owner of the reserve) as he draws his "charges" in for breakfast, Maria the Giant Antpitta, Willi the Yellow-breasted Antpitta, and Susan the Moustached Antpitta! We'll have a wonderful breakfast as we watch feeders for more of the common birds of this area. Sometime there is a change for great photography as we eat.

After lunch, we will visit the Milpe Bird Sanctuary to search for Choco endemics such as Moss-backed, Rufous-throated, and Glistening-green Tanagers, as well as Club-winged Manakin.

Overnight at Septimo Paraiso

September 15: Tandayapa Valley

After an early breakfast, we will drive to the Tandayapa Valley, where the Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve is located. Our target species will include Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Toucan Barbet, and one of the most rare and sought-after birds, Tanager



Booted Racket-tail

Finch. After lunch, we will relax by the feeders and enjoy up to 20 species of hummingbirds including Brown and Collared Incas, Violet-tailed Sylph, and Booted Racket-tail.

Overnight at Septimo Paraiso

September 16: Silanche Reserve

After an early breakfast, we will drive downslope to the Silanche Reserve. At 1,000 feet, this is the lowest elevation preserve we will visit, and we will spend a few hours at the canopy tower looking for Choco endemics such as Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, Rufous-winged, Blue-whiskered, Scarlet-browed, Gray-and-gold, and Tawny-crested Tanagers, and much more.

Overnight at Septimo Paraiso

September 17: Mashpi and Oilbird Caves – Transfer to Quito

After breakfast, we will travel to the Mashpi Bird Sanctuary where we will visit two fruit feeding stations. Many species visit these feeders, but our main targets for the morning will be Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, and Moss-backed, Glistening-green, Rufous-throated, and Beryl-spangled Tanagers. Then, we will travel to the Oilbird Cave in hopes of seeing this enigmatic bird before returning to Quito for the night.

Overnight at San Jose de Puembo Garden Hotel

September 18: Antisana National Park and Transfer to Guango Lodge

After breakfast, we will head for Antisana National Park where we will search for Andean Condor, Black-faced Ibis, Paramo Pipit, Black-winged Ground-Dove, and other paramo specialties. We will also take a hike to Suco Lake in search of Silvery Grebe and other waterbirds. On our way to Papallacta Pass, we will target the Giant Hummingbird, which feeds on the strange Puya Puya plant then take the Old Papallacta Route to look for Viridian Metaltail and the rare Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant.

When we get to the pass, our main targets will be Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe and Ecuadorian Hillstar. Afterwards, we will explore the unique Polylepis Forest (the only tree hardy enough to grow at an altitude of over 9,500 feet) and look for mixed flocks which will hopefully include sought-after birds such as Giant Conebill, White-chinned Thistletail, and Black-backed Bush Tanager. We'll then settle into the cozy Guango Lodge for the next two nights.



Black-faced Ibis

Overnight at Guango Lodge

September 19: Guango Lodge and the Elfin Forest

Early this morning, we will drive to the Elfin Forest to look for rare and endangered species such as Masked Mountain-Tanager, Paramo Tapaculo, and Agile Tit-Tyrant, among others. We will allow time to revisit the Polylepis Forest to clean up on any missed target species before heading back to Guango Lodge.

The feeders at Guango allow "in-your-face" views of many highly sought-after hummingbirds, including Sword-billed Hummingbird! Other special hummers include Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Mountain Velvetbreast, Tourlamine Sunangel, and Mountain Avocetbill. We will walk the nearby trails looking for mixed flocks and also check the Papallacta River for Torrent Duck and White-capped Dipper.

Overnight at Guango Lodge

September 20: Birding at Guango Lodge and Transfer to Cabañas San Isidro

After an early breakfast, we will spend the morning in the forest around the lodge looking for Black-capped Hemispingus, Barred Becard, Turquoise Jay, Lacrimose and Hooded Mountain-Tanagers, and the rare Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan. After lunch, we will head downslope to San Isidro Lodge

Overnight at Cabañas San Isidro

September 21: Full Day at Cabañas San Isidro

We will spend the day exploring the trails around the lodge property, looking for such gems as Crested Quetzal, Masked Trogon, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, and Inca Jay. Few birds can compete with the tanagers when it comes to "feathered jewels", and we will search for as many as we can find, including White-capped, Saffron-crowned, Golden-naped, Beryl-spangled, Blue-and-black Tanagers, and Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager. Come nightfall, we will search for the "San Isidro Owl", the lodge's famous "mystery owl" which may eventually be designated a new species!

Overnight at Cabañas San Isidro

September 22: Loreto Road and Transfer to Wildsumaco

After an early breakfast, we will drive to the Loreto Road in the foothills of the Andes, known for its wide variety of birds such as Paradise, Orange-eared, Golden-eared, and Magpie Tanagers, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Cliff Flycatcher, Orange-breasted Falcon, and Golden-collared Toucanet. We will enjoy the mix flocks here and along our journey to Wildsumaco.

Overnight at Wildsumaco

September 23: Wildsumaco

After an early breakfast, we'll spend the day exploring the trails and main road looking for mixed flocks, Coppery-chested Jacamar, Gray-tailed Piha, and Blue-rumped Manakin. We will enjoy at least 15 species at the hummingbird feeders, included Napo Sabrewing, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Booted Racket-tail (orange legs), and much more. At dusk, we will try for Band-bellied Owl and Foothill Screech Owl.

Other species we hope to see include Chestnut-crowned Gnatcatcher, Golden-collared Toucanet, White-tipped Sicklebill, Blackish Rail, Red-billed Tyrannulet, Yellow-breasted Antwren, Rufous-naped Greenlet, Coraya Wren, Foothill Antwren, Rufous-breasted Piculet, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, and more species of tanagers such as Magpie, White-lined, Silver-beaked, Blue-browed, Orange-eared, Spotted, Yellow-bellied and Golden-eared.

Overnight at Wildsumaco

September 24: Birding and Transfer back to Quito

After breakfast, we will focus on finding species we may have missed along the eastern slope. In the evening, we'll check into the hotel and have our farewell dinner.

Overnight at San Jose de Puembo Garden Hotel

September 25: Depart for Home

You will be transferred to the airport for your flights home. If you have a late flight, contact us to set up a day trip!



Chestnut-breasted Coronets

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Quito, Ecuador: \$5,499

Single Supplement: \$500

Price Includes:

2 Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Ecuador

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from Quito, Ecuador

Airport Taxes

Passport and Visa Fees

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Tips

Deposit:

A deposit of \$1,000 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 (June 14, 2019).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact Rob at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com or by phone at 317-324-8505.

Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:

Sabrewing Nature Tours acts only as an agent for the various independent suppliers that provide hotel accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, activities, or other services connected with this tour. Such services are subject to the terms and conditions of those suppliers. Sabrewing Nature Tours and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or any other incident which may be caused by the negligence, defect, default of any company or person in performing these services. Responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, local laws, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the tours/trips arranged by Sabrewing Nature Tours. Individual travelers are responsible for purchasing a travel insurance policy, if desired, that will cover some of the expenses associated with the loss of luggage or personal effects.



Flame-faced Tanager



Sabrewing Nature Tours

REGISTRATION **Northern Ecuador** **September 2020**

Participant 1:

Name (As it appears on Passport)

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

Passport Number – Expiration - Country of Origin

List current health and physical limitations: _____

List any allergies: _____

List any medications: _____

List any dietary restrictions or preferences: _____

In Case of Emergency Please Notify:

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Participant 2:

Name (As it appears on Passport)

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

Passport Number – Expiration - Country of Origin

List current health and physical limitations: _____

List any allergies: _____

List any medications: _____

List any dietary restrictions or preferences: _____

In Case of Emergency Please Notify:

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Sabrewing Nature Tours

Terms, Conditions, and Waiver

TERMS: To register for a tour or workshop please complete the above registration form and sign below to acknowledge the terms. Send this form along with you Tour/Workshop Registration Form and your deposit or full tour amount to Sabrewing Nature Tours (SNT) at the below address. Registrations will be processed on a first come first served basis. We will place your name on the waiting list if your tour is full.

The deposit for this trip is \$1,000 per participant. Deposits and all signed forms are required to secure registration of your spot on the tour. Deposits are refundable less a 20% processing fee ONLY if the spot can be filled with another participant at the full tour price. Deposits received after a tour has filled will be returned and your name will be placed on a waiting list. Payment in full is due at least 90 days prior to the start of the tour. Registrants who have not paid their remaining balance will forfeit their deposit and their place on the tour. Payment by personal check is strongly preferred. If you would like to pay with a credit card, additional fees will apply. We strongly suggest you consider trip insurance to cover you in the event of a medical or other emergency that would prohibit you from joining the tour.

The activity level required for each tour will be described on the tour page. If in doubt please contact SNT to determine if a tour is right for you. Any physical or medical concerns including allergies and/or dietary restrictions should be communicated to SNT. All tours will be non-smoking during group activities including but not limited to meals, slide programs, vehicle travel and when birding/photographing in close proximity to other participants. Tour groups will be kept small for the enjoyment of all participants. Target group sizes are listed in each tour description on our web site. SNT reserves the right to exceed the target group size by no more than one participant.

Tours will be held regardless of weather conditions. Severe weather may dictate informal discussion and/or a slide program while we wait for the weather to break. Tours will begin at the scheduled time. Tardiness may result in missing the boat, or van so to speak. There are no guarantees in nature. Tours are designed to coincide with excellent nature viewing opportunities. Decisions will be made daily to determine where the group should be to maximize opportunities. Deviation from the scheduled itinerary may be necessary.

It is imperative that all participants follow rules and suggestions set forth by the leaders and/or local guides. Failure to comply could pose a safety risk to you or other tour participants. For the safety of all clients we reserve the right to restrict access to tour functions at any time.

Airfare is NOT included in the price of the tour unless otherwise noted on the tour page. Registered participants will receive more specific details of what to bring as well as a more detailed outline of what can be expected on the tour upon payment in full and no later than 60 days prior to the start of the tour.

Photo tour participants wishing to get the most from their tour will have a working knowledge of their camera equipment prior to the tour. Suggestions on exposure modes, camera settings and a variety of techniques will be verbalized throughout the tour. Do bring your camera's manual. Every camera is unique in its operation thus it is impossible to know every feature of every camera model. Participants will be put in the best locations to take advantage of the light, wind, and habitat. We will work to improve compositions and make suggestions to vary your perspective that will improve your resulting images. Participants will also learn techniques to successfully capture action and behavior images.

Waiver: I am aware that certain risks and dangers are inherent to nature travel and photography and may occur during a Sabrewing Nature Tours event and that such risk and dangers cannot be eliminated without diminishing the quality of the workshop/tour for which I have registered. Risks include, but are not limited to theft or other loss of equipment or personal belongings; illness, injury, accident or death; travel hazards by air, boat, automobile or other vehicle; exposure to elements and other forces of nature and acts of God; both native and non-native wildlife, insects and flora as well as political, civil or military disturbance, strike, quarantine, government restriction and terrorist threat. I understand on or off trail hiking can present risk of falls that may result in damage to camera equipment, or significant personal injury or death. I understand Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for inclement weather and cannot and does not guarantee subject matter will be available for photography on any given date or location. I further understand I am solely responsible for additional expenses incurred by me due to medical emergency or other travel delays, including but not limited to the expense of extra nights lodging or flight itinerary changes. I voluntarily assume all risks and will hold Sabrewing Nature Tours, its partners and cooperating agents, the workshop leader(s), any and all co-leaders, assistants and other participants harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, claims, debts, and demands which arise in connection with the tour. The terms hereof shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for my heirs, administrators, and executors, and for all members of my family, including any minors accompanying me. In the event a lawsuit is filed, the enrolling participant agrees to do so solely in Hamilton County in the State of Indiana.

I have read and agree with the above terms and conditions.

Participant 1: Signature

Date

Participant 2: Signature

Date

Please complete forms, sign the second form, and send them with your deposit or full tour amount.