



Sabrewing Nature Tours

A Week in Paradise

Ecuador

with Edison Buenaño and Eric Ripma

March 28 – April 4, 2020



The Mindo area of Ecuador was one of the first parts of the country to work on ecotourism and that focus continues. The birding in Mindo and the surrounding areas is fantastic! On this tour, we'll spend a week exploring the best birding spots of this region looking for the diverse birds that call this place home.

Itinerary Overview:

March 28: Arrival and Transfer to Hotel in Quito
March 29: Yanacocha Reserve, Old Nono-Mindo Road – Transfer to Septimo Paraiso
March 30: Refugio de la Paz and Milpe Bird Sanctuary
March 31: Tandayapa Valley
April 1: Silanche Reserve
April 2: Mashpi and Oilbird Caves – Transfer to Quito
April 3: Antisana National Park
April 4: City Tour and Departure

Note that from March 30 - April 1, we will select the best birding location for each day based on weather so the order of locations may change

Detailed Itinerary:

March 28: Arrive in Quito, Ecuador and transfer to our hotel.

Overnight at San Jose de Puembo Garden Hotel

March 29: Yanacocha Reserve, Old Nono-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

March 30: 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 chance 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 and Golden-winged Manakins.

Overnight at Septimo Paraiso

March 31: 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, but are not limited to, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Toucan Barbet, and one of the most rare and sought-



Red-headed Barbet

after birds, Tanager Finch. After lunch, we will relax by some 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

April 1: 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. Our birding will start along the entry road. Then, 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. We tend to see more species at Silanche than at any other location on this trip and you never know what might turn up!

Overnight at Septimo Paraiso

April 2: 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. The birding along the road in this area can also be quite good with species such as Indigo Flowerpiercer and Esmeralds Antbird. 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

April 3: Antisana National Park

After breakfast, we will head for Antisana National Park. As we get close to the park, we will stop at a small restaurant and hotel where Giant Hummingbird can be found. Then, we will continue on to Antisana where we will search for Andean Condor, Black-faced Ibis, Paramo Pipit, Black-winged Ground-Dove, Ecuadorian Hillstar, and other paramo specialties. We will also take a hike to Suco Lake in search of Silvery Grebe and other waterbirds.

Overnight at San Jose de Puembo Garden Hotel

April 4: Quito City Tour and Departure

Quito is a fascinating story full of history and beautiful architecture. We'll spend most of the morning touring many of the major sights around the city. Then, we'll head to the Middle of the World Museum. After lunch, we'll go back to the San Jose de Puembo Garden Hotel where we can spend some time birding in the garden. After a farewell dinner, we will transfer to the airport for our flights home.



Black-faced Ibis

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Quito, Ecuador: \$3,699
Single Supplement: \$400

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 (December 28, 2019).

Travel Insurance is highly recommended for all tours.

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.



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.