



# Sabrewing Nature Tours

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## The Best Photography of the Northern Andes in *Ecuador*

with Brian Zwiebel and Edison Buenaño

November 23 – December 2, 2018



Ecuador is one of the best places in the world to photograph hummingbirds. Lodges with feeders kept full of fresh sugar water attract a myriad of species. And a wide range of habitats means we will encounter a wide variety of hummingbirds and other birds on this exciting tour. We'll visit a range of habitats as we travel from lowlands to high elevations, topping out at 14,000 feet. We'll cover both the east and west slopes of the Andes. This will lead to a very impressive diversity of great photo opportunities with tanagers, antpittas, hummingbirds, toucanet, barbets, Oilbird, flycatchers and much, much more.

Along the way, we will stay at several wonderful and well-known birding lodges including Wildsumaco, Guango Lodge, and Septimo Paraiso. These lodges provide great accommodations and amazing food as well as many amazing birds at each property.

## Itinerary Overview:

November 23: Arrival and Transfer to Hotel in Quito  
November 24: Yanacocha Reserve, Old Nano-Mindo Road – Transfer to Septimo Paraiso  
November 25: Mindo Area  
November 26: Mindo Area  
November 27: Mashpi and Oilbird Caves – Transfer to Guaytara Antisana  
November 28: Antisana National Park – Transfer to Guango Lodge  
November 29: Guango Lodge and Elfin Forest  
November 30: Guango and Transfer to Wildsumaco  
December 1: Wildsumaco  
December 2: Wildsumaco – Transfer to Quito Airport for late departures

## Detailed Itinerary:

**November 23: Arrive in Quito, Ecuador and transfer to our hotel.**

**November 24: 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.

We will arrive at **Septimo Paraiso Lodge in Mindo**, where we will spend the next three nights. Day-to-day itineraries from Septimo will be flexible and weather dependant. Some of our destinations will include:

### **Refugio de la Paz**

At Paz de las Antpittas Reserve, we will observe Andean Cock-of-the-Rock at the lek, where males assemble during the mating season and engage in competitive displays that attract females. Afterwards, we will join Angel Paz on a search for several special birds; Giant, Yellow-breasted, Ochre-breasted, and Moustached Antpittas will be our quarry. With luck we may also encounter Rufous-breasted Anthrush or Dark-backed Wood-Quail. We'll then have a wonderful breakfast while pointing our lenses at some of the spectacular fruit eating birds of the area such as Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Toucan and Red-headed Barbets, and Blue-winged Mountain Tanager!

### **Milpe Bird Sanctuary**

At Milpe we will look for the amazing Club-winged Manakin and a number of hummingbirds including White-necked Jacobin, Green Thorntail, and Green-crowned Brilliant.

### **Tandayapa Valley**

Tandayapa Valley is home to the Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve. Our target species will include Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Toucan Barbet, and one of the most rare and sought-after birds, Tanager Finch. The reserve is also home to as many as 20 species of hummingbirds including Brown and Collared Incas, Violet-tailed Sylph, and Booted Racket-tail. Here we will also have access to a private property to work with the multi-flash set up for hummingbirds in flight.



Chestnut-crowned Antpitta

## November 27: Mashpi and Oilbird Caves – Transfer to Guaytara Antisana

After breakfast, we will travel to the Mashpi Bird Sanctuary to visit two fruit feeding stations. Many species frequent 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 transferring to Guaytara Antisana for the night. This small lodge in the mountains will put us in perfect position for our time in Antisana National Park the following morning.

## November 28: Antisana National Park and Transfer to Guango Lodge

At Guyatara we'll work on Giant Hummingbird. After breakfast, we will head for Antisana National Park to search for Andean Condor, Black-faced Ibis, Andean Lapwing, and other paramo specialties. On our way to Papallacta Pass, we will target more Giant Hummingbirds, 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.

We'll hope for good weather as we approach 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.



Glistening-green Tanager



Turquoise Jay

## December 1: Wildsumaco

While at Wildsumaco we will target Ochre-breasted Antpitta and spend the day working a wide variety of spectacular hummingbirds. On the menu will be Green Hermit, Booted Racquet Tail, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Wire-crested Thorntail and more.

## December 2: Wildsumaco and Transfer to Quito for Late Departures

This morning after breakfast we will head back to Quito making one last visit to Guango Lodge for lunch and a bit more birding. We will arrive at the airport in plenty of time for late evening departures.

## November 29: Guango Lodge and the Elfin Forest

The feeders at Guango allow "in-your-face" views of many highly sought-after hummingbirds, including Sword-billed Hummingbird! Other special hummers include Long-tailed Sylph, Collared Inca, 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. Other highlights include Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Turquoise Jay and Masked Flower Piercer.

## November 30: Morning Photography at Guango Lodge and Transfer to Wildsumaco

We'll spend more time this morning working with the many hummingbirds of Guango Lodge. Once finished at the lodge, we'll begin our journey to Wildsumaco, making stops along the way if good photo opportunities present themselves.

## **Trip Details:**

### **Cost:**

Price per person (double occupancy), from Quito, Ecuador: \$4,999  
Single Supplement: \$550

### **Price Includes:**

Expert Sabrewing Nature Tours Photography Guide Brian Zwiebel  
Expert Local Ecuadorian Guide Edison Buenano  
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 (August 23, 2018).

If you have any questions about or would like to sign up for this tour, please contact Brian at [sabrewingtours@gmail.com](mailto:sabrewingtours@gmail.com) or by phone at 419-261-1206.



Flame-faced Tanager



# Ecuador Photo - 2018 REGISTRATION

Main Tour     Extension

### 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 and 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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List any allergies and medications: \_\_\_\_\_  
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List any dietary restrictions or preferences: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

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. Final payments are nonrefundable. 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.**