



NORTHERN ECUADOR BIRDING TOUR

October 20 – November 2, 2027

With Puembo Birding Garden - Ecuador Birding Tours

Come join GCBO for an amazing birding trip to the northern hotspots of Ecuador! This trip is organized by Puembo Birding Garden, a long time Ecuador owned tour company. 13 days of birding bliss!

Northern Ecuador is a premier global birding hotspot, all within easy reach of Quito. In just a few hours you can move from windswept high-altitude páramo and dramatic cliffs to dense, misty cloud forests, and the biodiverse western Chocó slopes. The region is famous for accessible lodge feeders that attract dozens of hummingbird species, as well as Chocó endemics like the Andean Cock-of-the-rock and Toucan Barbets. Higher up, vast grasslands offer one of the most reliable places in the world to see the majestic Andean Condor, along with Black-faced Ibis and Giant Hummingbird. Mountain passes and elfin forests are home to specialties such as Tawny Antpitta, Shining Sunbeam, and the remarkable Sword-billed Hummingbird, while lower foothill and transition forests northwest of the capital are perfect for tracking elusive regional species and large mixed-species feeding flocks.



Day 1 – Wednesday, October 20, 2027

Arrival Day to Quito – Puembo Birding Garden

Arrival Quito Airport. (Mariscal Sucre Quito International Airport) – CODE: UIO
Most likely a very late-night arrival.

Once you come out of customs, please look for a sign with your name.

Transfer to your hotel (30 min) – Picked up by tour company van.

Overnight: Puembo Birding Garden

Meals: None

Day 2 – Thursday, October 21, 2027

Zuro Loma – Alambi – Mirador Guaycapi

Breakfast and departure to the northwest, birding along the way towards Mindo. Our first stop will be at the **Zuro Loma Reserve** (drive about 2 hours).

This reserve is located at 3,200 meters on the slopes of the Pichincha volcano along the famous hummingbird route.

This high Andean montane forest reserve has the best feeders at this elevation in Ecuador. The main targets are Chestnut-naped Antpitta, Equatorial Antpitta, sometimes the rare Ocellated Tapaculo, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Sapphire vented Puffleg, Mountain Velvetbreast, Black-tailed Trainbearer, Tyrian Metaltail, Barred Fruiteater, Red-crested Cotinga, Masked Flowerpiercer, White-sided Flowerpiercer, Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch and the Andean Guan.



Sword-billed Hummingbird

After our visit we drive for about an hour to **Mirador Guaycapi** where we will have a sit-down lunch and bird in their feeders.

After lunch Later we head to **Alambi hummingbird garden** where we have a good chance to see Green-crowned Brilliant, Purple-throated Woodstar, Andean Emerald, Green-crowned Woodnymph.

Arrival to our lodge around 5pm for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Sachatamia Lodge.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan

Day 03 – Friday, October 22, 2027
Refugio Paz de las Aves and Frutitour

Coffee and early departure to **Refugio Paz de las Aves**. The Paz brothers started feeding the Antpittas over 15 years ago and now is a must place to visit. The main targets at this place will be the Giant, Moustached, Yellow-breasted, Ochre-breasted and the Chestnut-crowned Antpittas, Cloud-forest Pygmy-Owl, Golden-headed Quetzal, Dark-backed Wood-Quail, Toucan Barbet, Scaled Fruiteater, Powerfull Woodpecker, Tropical Parula and Barred Becard.

Around 11 am, after breakfast with the Paz family and with a box lunch in hand we will drive to **Sendero Frutitour** looking for Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Maroon-tailed Parakeet, Orange-billed Sparrow, Orange fronted Barbet We will have a box lunch with us.

Overnight: Sachatamia Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 04 – Saturday, October 23, 2027
Umbrella Bird Lek and Santa Elena

Breakfast. Today we will drive for about 25 minutes reaching the entrance of the property, where we will meet personnel of the reserve, he drives us to the balcony that overlooks this Choco Forest. Our main target is the Umbrella Bird however there are a myriad of species such as toucans, aracarís and tanagers that fly by this rich forest, also there are good chances to see White-fronted Capuchin monkeys. We will have a box lunch with us.



White-fronted Capuchin

In the afternoon we will visit **Santa Elena** Cock of the Rock lek, this place gives us great opportunities to see this beautiful bird.
Return to our lodge by the end of the afternoon.

Overnight: Sachatamia Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner



Cock of the Rock

Day 05 - Sunday, October 24, 2027

Sachatamia to Las Galarías

Breakfast Full morning birding the blind, feeders and grounds of **Sachatamia**.
Sit down lunch at Sachatamia.

After lunch we continue to **San Tadeo** where we will have good opportunities to see the Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Toucan Barbet, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, along with a myriad of tanagers such as the Golden Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain Tanager.

Arrival to Las Galarías in the afternoon.

Overnight: Las Galarías Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 06 – Monday, October 25, 2027

Las Galarías Preserve and Lodge (TFFF Property)

Breakfast. Full day birding on the grounds of Las Galarías.

Overnight: Las Galarías

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 07 – Tuesday, October 26, 2027

Amagusa – Maraksacha - Puembo Birding Garden

Breakfast. With a box lunch, we will drive to **Amagusa Reserve**. A great place to observe many Choco endemics not easily seen elsewhere, such as: Orange breasted Fruiteater, Indigo Flowerpiercer, Moss-backed Tanager, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Glistening-green Tanager, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Rose-faced Parrot, Esmeraldas Antbird, Black Solitaire, Ornate Flycatcher, Rufous-throated Tanager, Cinnamon Becard and Zeledon's Antbird.

Around noon we start to head back to Puembo with a stop at **Maraksacha reserve**, this reserve is known for high frequencies of hummingbirds and Andean tanagers, including the Buff-breasted Tanager, Black-capped Tyrannulet and Mountain Velvet-breast, Andean Guan, Red-crested Cotinga and Crimson-mantled Woodpecker.

Arrival to Puembo Birding Garden in the afternoon.

Overnight: Puembo Birding Garden

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 08 – Wednesday, October 27, 2027

Papallacta Pass – Guango Lodge

Breakfast. Depart towards Papallacta Pass with box lunch. Here we will look for Tawny Antpitta, Purple-backed Thornbill, Tourmaline Sunangel, Spectacled Whitestar, Brown-backed Chat-tyrant, Giant Conebill.

Late afternoon arrival to Guango Lodge.

Overnight: Guango Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner

Day 09 – Thursday, October 28, 2027

San Isidro

Breakfast. Depart towards **San Isidro Lodge** with box lunch. Along the way we will visit El Quetzal and second stop for the Cliff Flycatcher.

Arrival to San Isidro in the afternoon.

At night we have good chances to see the San Isidro Owl.

Overnight: San Isidro Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner



San Isidro Owl

Day 10 – Friday, October 29, 2027

San Isidro

Full day at San Isidro watching the antpittas being fed, as well as the feeders at the lodge. At night we will try for the San Isidro Owl.

Overnight: San Isidro Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 – Saturday, October 30, 2027

Wayra Reserve - WildSumaco Lodge

Early departure (5am) with box breakfast, we drive for about 20 minutes to **Wayra Reserve**. We need to be there early enough to see the Umbrella Bird lek and will have a local breakfast at Wayra.

This wonderful little spot attracts birds such as the Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail, Paradise Tanager, Bay-headed, Spotted, Green and Yellow Tanagers, Blue Dacnis, Orange-billed Sparrow, Grey-fronted Dove, Amazonian Umbrellabird. Around 11 am depart towards **Wildsumaco Lodge** with a box lunch, birding along the way. Arrival at the lodge in the early afternoon. Here we have good chances to see Black-throated Brilliant, Ochre-breasted Antpitta, Peruvian Racket-tail, Wire-crested Thorntail, Gould's Jewelfront, White-tipped Sicklebill. As for the mammals we will look for Napo Tamarin Monkey which might be feeding on the bananas, Armadillo, Collared Peccary, Two-toed Sloth.

Overnight: Wildsumaco Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner

Day 12 – Sunday, October 31, 2027

Wildsumaco Lodge

Full day of birding at Wildsumaco.

Overnight: Wildsumaco Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 – Monday, November 1, 2027

Wildsumaco to PBG

Breakfast. Departure to Puembo with a box lunch, birding along the way. Arrival to PBG in the afternoon.

Overnight: Puembo Birding Garden

Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 – Tuesday, November 2, 2027

Antisana / Departure

Breakfast. Pick up 6am and drive to Antisana reserve, for a full day birding looking for Andean Condor, Giant Hummingbird, Black-faced Ibis, Caracululated Caracara and Ecuadorian Hillstar. Also good chances to see Andean Fox, White-tailed Deer and Spectacle Bear.

Lunch at Tambo Condor and birding the grounds. Return to PBG and time to shower, repack, and dinner.

Transfer to Quito Airport for flights home. – CODE: UIO

End of services.

Day Use Room: Puembo Birding Garden

Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner

Included Services:

- Transfers to and from the airport
- Lodging throughout in double room with private facilities
- Meals as per itinerary (including water, & juices at some locations)
- Birding guides
- Private vehicle with driver
- Entrance fee to the reserves detailed in the itinerary
- Water in van (to fill up your own drinking bottle)

Services Not Included:

- International flight
- Meals other than ones mentioned above in the itinerary
- Entrance fee to reserves not mentioned in the itinerary
- Alcoholic Drinks
- Some meal drinks other than water (at some locations)
- Tips
- Laundry
- Personal expenses
- Items not listed above

Fees:

Double Occupancy Per Person: \$4,950.00

Very limited Single Occupancy **MAY BE** available for \$450.00 extra

Max Participants: 8**Flights:**

Arrive and Depart from the Quito Airport. (Mariscal Sucre Quito International Airport) – CODE: UIO

NOTE: Flights in and out are most likely going to be very late-night flights due to Quito flight schedules! On the last day we will bird, have access to our rooms, have dinner, and then leave for a late-night flight home.