Colombia

Remote

Mitu Extension



Gold-ringed Tanager by David Hoddinott

Colombia is simply vast. With arguably the most diverse avifauna of any single country on Earth, there are far too many special and important habitats to visit in anything less than several months' time. As part of our continuing effort to do this magnificent country justice, our Remote Colombia birding tour takes us into some seldom-explored areas in search of a whole host of rare, special and localised species. Targets are too many to mention but include such gems as Baudo Guan, Fuertes's Parrot, Baudo Oropendola, Bicolored, Thicket, Hooded, White-bellied and Streak-chested Antpittas, recently described Perija Tapaculo, Turquoise Dacnis, Recurve-billed Bushbird, Multicolored Tanager, White-mantled Barbet, Gorgeted Wood Quail, Green-bearded Helmetcrest, Indigo-crowned and Lined Quail-Doves, Niceforo's Wren, Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird, Esmeraldas and Magdalena Antbirds, Choco Brushfinch, Perija Metaltail, Perija Thistletail and Perija Brushfinch.

Colombia's vast expanse of Amazonian rainforest habitat is best accessed via the town of Mitu. The town itself is a fabulous base to work from, with comfortable hotel accommodations in town and some of the most enjoyable local guides anywhere. The birding sites are easy to access, and the birds are plentiful, with many near endemics, white sand specialists, terra firme specialists and several scarce species readily seen.

Itinerary & Map

Remote

Day 1	**Arrival into Bogota**
Day 2	**Chicaque Natural Park; flight to Valledupar**
Day 3	**Los Besotes to Perija Lodge**
Day 4	**Perija Lodge environs**
Day 5	**Perija to Bucaramanga via Valledupar**
Day 6	**Pamplona Road**
Day 7	**Bucaramanga to San Vicente de Chucurí via Recurve-billed Bushbird sites**
Day 8	**RNA Reinita Cielo Azul & surrounds**
Day 9	**San Vicente de Chucurí to El Paujil via Sogamosa**
Day 10	**El Paujil Reserve**
Day 11	**El Paujil Reserve to Bogota via Puerto Berrio**
Day 12	**Sumapaz National Park; flight to Pereira, transfer to Santa Rosa de Cabal**
Day 13	**Fuertes' Parrot site to Cerro Montezuma**
Days 14 & 15	**Cerro Montezuma**
Day 16	**Apia to Pereira; flight to Cali, transfer to KM18**
Day 17	**Bosque La Florida, Bosque 18 Cloud Forest & Alejandria**
Day 18	**Dona Dora & Upper Anchicaya**
Day 19	**San Cipriano to Buga via Microcuenca Quebrada Pericos**
Day 20	**Laguna del Sonza; flight to Bogota & final departure**

Mite Extension

Day 1	**Arrival in Bogota, transfer to Villavicencio; flight to Mitu**
Days 2 to 4	**Birding Mitu and the Rio Vaupes**
Day 5	**Mitu, flight to Bogota**
Day 6	**Final departure**


Valledupar
Perija
Bucaramanga
Reinita Cielo Azul
El Paujil
Montezuma
Apia
Santa Rosa de Cabal
Chicaque NP
Bogota
Villavicencio
Laguna del Sonso
Anchicaya
Cali
Sumapaz
Mitu
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Google Earth

Birding sites in detail

Chicaque Natural Park. A small number of conveniently placed hummingbird feeders provide an excellent assortment of species including Green and Sparking Violetears, Buff-tailed Coronet, Collared Inca, the very tricky Golden-bellied Starfrontlet, Tourmaline Sunangel and Glowing Puffleg. We shall no doubt take a short walk along the dirt roads searching for other gems that might include Rufous Spinetail, Black-crested Warbler, Golden-fronted Whitestart, Pale-naped Brushfinch, Blue-capped Tanager, Capped Conebill, Grey-breasted Wood Wren, Superciliaried Hemispingus and Blackish Tapaculo.



Golden-bellied Starfrontlet by Clayton Burne

Valledupar area. The lowlands around Valledupar, and the lower mountain slope of both the Santa Marta range, and the Perija range nearby hold some very interesting prospects. We will spend time at a few locations above Valledupar in both ranges. Rufous-vented Chachalaca, Scaled Dove, Double-striped Thick-Knee, Shining-green Hummingbird, Double-banded Puffbird, Chestnut Piculet, Military Macaw, Black-backed Antshrike, White-whiskered Spinetail, Slender-billed and Pale-tipped Tyrannulets, Venezuelan Flycatcher, Lance-tailed Manakin, Golden-fronted Greenlet, and Trinidad Euphonia are among some of the 150 species possible in the area today, adding a special component to the tour's birding and diversity!

Perija Lodge (Chamicero Reserve). The Chamicero Reserve was purchased in 2014 after the discovery of good forest tracts on accessible land for the entire suite of Sierra de Perija endemics, including the recently described Perija Tapaculo, Perija Antpitta, Perija Starfrontlet and another 30 odd subspecies that need further research.



Perija Thistletail by Bobby Wilcox

The local form of Emerald Toucanet and Rufous Spinetail are all proposed splits that require more conclusive documentation.

The most exciting development was when ProAves also decided to build a lodge on the premises of this remote tract of land for visiting birders! Situated in high-altitude forest, the Reserve occupies 1 800 hectares of temperate and treeline forest, sub-paramo scrub and true paramo grassland, while the road in transects several fincas with intact native vegetation ranging from dry forests at 800m through lush foothill and lower subtropical habitats. Our focus this morning will be directed to the higher elevation forests and scrub, where the harder-to-reach Perija endemics occur. Perija Metaltail, Perija Thistletail, Perija Starfrontlet and Perija Antpitta only occur in treeline scrub and forests above the lodge, all accessible by vehicle. The road up is a wonderful transect of foothill

to mid-elevation cloud forest, though some human interference and habitat degradation has occurred up to the lower border of the reserve proper.



(Perija) Lacrimose Mountain Tanager by Rob Williams

In the paramo, we'll be searching for Perija Metaltail and Perija Thistletail, though many other splendid species occur that will draw our attention. The local race of Streak-backed Canastero is common in paramo scrub, as are Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle and White-rumped Hawk, which are seen frequently. Closer to the lodge, Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Crested Quetzal, Barred Fruiteater, Andean and Band-tailed Guans, Red-crested Cotinga, Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Perija Brushfinch, Plushcap, Paramo Seedeater and Black-fronted Wood Quail are all, apparently, fairly common! Many species are attracted to the feeders at the lodge itself, including Black Flowerpiercer, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Mountain Velvetbreast and both Chestnut-capped and Slaty Brushfinches all regularly putting in appearances, while the toucanet and other fruit-eating birds only come sporadically.

We'll also bird the mid-elevation forest patches along the road from 2 400m down to about 1 800m elevation. The diversity only increases as we head down the road, getting into better habitat for birds including Blue-throated Starfrontlet, Golden-breasted Fruiteater, Wattled Guan, Streak-capped Treehunter, White-browed and Rufous Spinetails, endemic Perija Tapaculo, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, Variegated Bristle Tyrant, Yellow-billed Cacique, Oleaginous Hemispingus, Venezuelan Tyrannulet, Buff-breasted and Lacrimose Mountain Tanagers, as well as the endemic Black-fronted Brushfinch. One of the most exciting things about being remote is the opportunity for discovery. The Perija Tapaculo, for example, was discovered by a visiting birder who queued into an unidentifiable sound. While finding a species new to science is about as rare as being struck by lightning…it does happen! At the very least, we will contribute to the expanding base of knowledge on the fauna of this isolated mountain range.



Black-fronted Wood Quail by Bobby Wilcox

Pamplona Road. We'll spend much of the day on the Pamplona Road that heads east out of Bucaramanga, high into the Andes towards Venezuela. As an altitudinal transect, this little-known road has a myriad of habitats home to some of the most sought-after birds in the country. Of note, mixed flocks of large birds often include Black-collared Jay, Mountain Cacique, and the rare Colombian Mountain Grackle!

The mountain ridge forests here are home to a good population of the threatened Rusty-faced Parrot, that feeds almost on high-elevation Oak acorns. Crested and Golden-headed Quetzals, Black-billed Mountain Toucan, Klages's

Antbird, Moustached Brushfinch, Golden-bellied and Blue-throated Starfrontlets, Band-tailed Guan, glorious Grass-green Tanagers, Hooded and Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanagers are relatively numerous along the route, as are Longuemare's Sunangel!



Indigo-capped Hummingbird by Dušan Brinkhuizen

The mixed flock in the high eastern Andes can be truly phenomenal. In just one massive flock on our 2018 tour, we encountered Rufous Wren, Rufous Spinetail, Spectacled Prickletail, Rusty-winged Barbtail, Striped and Flammulated Treehunters, Black-capped, Black-eared and Oleaginous Hemispingus, Citrine and Black-crested Warblers, Golden-fronted Whitestart, and the always spectacular Plushcap, not to mention a ton of tanagers. We will hope for good weather to deliver us some amazing birds!

Bucaramanga to San Vicente de Chucurí. As we drive from Bucaramanga to the cooler environs of San Vicente de Chucurí, we'll encounter wetter foothill forested areas, home to the incredible Recurve-billed Bushbird. This range-restricted near endemic is only known from three areas in Colombia, and one site in Venezuela. Nesting in chusqea bamboo below 1 500m elevation means this species is restricted due to its nature. It is considered vulnerable due to the continuing habitat fragmentation and loss rampant at the elevation it prefers. There are two very good stakeouts for this species near Bucaramanga that we can visit in search of this wonderful bird! Other species we might encounter during our search include Indigo-capped Hummingbird, Blue-lored Antbird and Black-headed Brushfinch.

RNA Reinita Cielo Azul & surrounds. ProAves has a long history of purchasing tracts of land for the preservation of habitat for a specific species. Though this property was obtained to ensure wintering habitat for the declining Cerulean Warbler, it is home to no less than 9 Colombian endemic species! Today we will dedicate our efforts to finding a number of these, and other, spectacular and rare species that inhabit the fine cloud forest thriving on the slopes of this property and surrounds.



Recurve-billed Bushbird Dušan Brinkhuizen

Our target species for this property, many of which can be seen in the gardens around the lodge, include the Gorgeted Wood Quail (variable), Barred Hawk, Lined Quail-Dove, the striking Black Inca, the rare Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird, Indigo-capped Hummingbird, Moustached Puffbird, Parker's Antbird, White-bellied Antpitta, Magdalena Tapaculo, rare Yellow-throated Spadebill, Moustached Brushfinch, and perhaps the namesake Cerulean Warbler - among the myriad of tanagers, hummingbirds, flycatchers and spectacular birds in the region.

We will also bird the nearby coffee plantations and scrub nearby for Turquoise Dacnis, Colombian Chachalaca, Niceforo's Wren and Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird, as well as Black-headed Brushfinch, Scrub Tanager, Double-banded Greytail, Yellow-browed Shrike-Vireo, Golden-rumped Euphonia, Spectacled and Pale-vented Thrush and scores of seedfinches and Seedeaters.



Blue-billed Curassow by Clayton Burne

Rio Sogamosa. Continuing in the spirit of discovery, the seldom-birded areas around Bucaramanga hold some very interesting records. South of the city is the deep valley formed by the Rio Sogamosa. This steep-sided canyon sits in a rain-shadow and has evolved a very dry habitat. As mentioned before, should time permit and the road be in stable condition, we might spend a bit of time searching for Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird, Bar-crested Antshrike, Apical Flycatcher, and other dry forest species here. We have another chance for Recurve-billed Bushbird too, should we still need to find it. During the few surveys done in the area, this species has been encountered along with Black-headed Brushfinch, Black-bellied Wren, Yellow-browed Shrike Vireo, and other fascinating birds inhabiting slightly more humid slopes facing the mighty Magdalena River. On previous tours in this area, we have found more than 120 species, including Black Antshrike, Jet Antbird, the rare Antioquia subspecies of Foothill Elaenia, and many other exciting birds!

Dos y Medio to El Paujil Reserve. The rolling savannah of the lower valley, which consists of mostly of grazed grassland, gallery forest along the waterways, and extensive wetland areas, all of which will be new habitats, meaning new species, for our tour! Species to look for along the way will include the unique Northern Screamer, Crested Bobwhite, Bare-faced Ibis, Limpkin, Blue-and-Yellow Macaw, Spectacled Parrotlet, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, and Pied Water-Tyrant, along with plenty of Waders, Waterfowl, and hopefully a Tern or two.



Black Antshrike by Clayton Burne

El Paujil Reserve. The namesake of this preserve is the stunning, Blue-billed Curassow. A success story of late, with numbers more than doubling in the area due to captive breeding and release programs, as well as reduced hunting and local awareness, some 120 curassows are thought to roam this large reserve and the surrounding forests and farms now! As recently as five years ago, the likelihood of seeing this critically endangered species was slim. After a compost heap was begun, and a few bold individuals began frequenting it, guests to the Paujil Lodge are delighted, nearly every morning of the year, to the sight of several of this rare species! Sometimes, they march right through the dining area during breakfast. Amazing. This is but one of the targets at this bird rich Lodge.

Our target species here, many of which can be seen in the gardens around the lodge, include Marbled Wood Quail, Greater Ani, Great and Common Potoos, Band-tailed Barbthoat, Shining-green and Violet-bellied Hummingbirds, Russet-crowned Crake, Grey-necked Wood Rail, Choco Screech Owl, Crested and Spectacled Owls, Black-tailed and Gartered Trogons, Barred and White-whiskered Puffbirds, White-mantled Barbet, Citron-throated Toucan, Beautiful and Cinnamon Woodpeckers, Blue-and-Yellow, and Chestnut-fronted Macaws, 5 species of Parrots, Black Antshrike, Bare-crowned Antbird, Black-faced Antthrush, White-bearded, Striolated, and Golden-headed Manakins, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Russet-winged Schiffornis, Southern Bentbill, Olivaceous Flatbill, Black-billed flycatcher, Rufous Mourner, Fulvous-vented Euphonia, and Sooty Ant-Tanager. An amazing list of special birds awaits us here! Though the second-to-last day of the tour, it will promise a shocking number of new species for us to experience.



Striolated Manakin by Forrest Rowland

Sumapaz National Park. An early departure from our Bogota hotel will see us heading up to the high elfin forests of Sumapaz National Park, where the sheer variety of flowers and orchids in an endless mosaic of moss-laden elfin stunted forest can be quite impressive. Our birding adventure begins here, as we gradually work our way above 3 500 metres.

The trill of the endemic Rufous-browed Conebill may start off the morning, the skulking Pale-bellied Tapaculo should make an appearance. As we reach the paramo, *Espeletia* flowers and terrestrial bromeliads characterise the landscape. It is here that we shall be searching for the endemic Green-bearded Helmetcrest, recently elevated to full species status. Our quest for the helmetcrest will likely have us panning through other hummingbirds, with Great Sapphirewing, Bronze-tailed Thornbill, Shining Sunbeam, Longuemare's (Amethyst-throated) Sunangel and Blue-throated Starfrontlet all possible.



Rufous-browed Conebill by Adam Riley

We will dedicate as much time as possible to finding the endemic Apolinar's Wren, which unusually inhabits the high altitude paramo here, in comparison to those found around Bogota inhabiting lower altitude marshes. The marshes are a decent location for Bogota Rail, which will hopefully expose itself for good views. Tawny Antpitta is rather common, as are Chestnut-winged Cinclodes, Many-striped Canastero, while we would need a small dose of luck to find Silvery-throated Spinetail, Buff-breasted and Black-chested Mountain Tanagers.

Finca Cortaderal. This remnant patch of high Andean Forest is one of the last refuges for Fuertes's (Indigo-winged) Parrot. The species was only rediscovered in 2002, nearly 90 years after it

was last seen. Whilst searching for the parrots, we shall also be keeping an eye out for Golden-plumed Parakeet, White-capped Tanager, Bicolored Antpitta, Ocellated Tapaculo, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Agile Tit-Tyrant, Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan, Black-thighed Puffleg, Purple-backed Thornbill, and a huge host of Tanagers.



Green-bearded Helmetcrest by Rob Williams

Cerro Montezuma. The mountain ridge of Cerro Montezuma lies within the Tatama National Park offering spectacular Chocó birding.

We'll get started in the upper Chocó at around 2,000 metres in elevation. Here the dawn chorus will greet us and one of the first birds we will likely see is the gaudy Gold-ringed Tanager, a species with an extremely limited distribution. Localized hummingbirds, endemic to the Choco region are also well in evidence, including the oversized Empress Brilliant, Brown Inca, Choco Tyrannulet, Choco Vireo, Purpled-bibbed Whitetip, White-whiskered Hermit, and lovely Violet-tailed Sylph. Bird activity will have us all watching the moss-covered trunks for the scarce Star-chested Treerunner that can often be found associating with other flocking activity. Some of the other Choco endemics that we will be sifting through in such flocks include the critically endangered Munchique Wood Wren, erratic Dusky Starfrontlet, bright, Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, Uniform Treehunter, Pacific Tuftedcheek, Black-and-gold Tanager, Choco Warbler, Dusky Bush Tanager, Glistening-green and Rufous-throated Tanagers and maybe even the rarely-seen Black Solitaire that sometimes gives away its presence with its ethereal song. Conspicuous movement might also give away the presence of another Choco endemic in the form of Beautiful Jay although we will have to concentrate on small mouse-like movements in the undergrowth to catch a glimpse of Choco and Nariño Tapaculos, also both specialities of the Choco. While rare, we have recorded the localized Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer here on previous tours.



Fuertes's Parrot by David Hoddinott

Birding our way into the lower elevations, we can continue looking for fruiting trees that attract frugivores such as Chestnut-breasted and Yellow-collared Chlorophonias, Black-billed Peppershrike, Scaly and the stunning Orange-breasted Fruiteaters, Ochre-breasted Tanager, Bicolored Antvireo, and the Choco endemic Toucan Barbet. Two difficult species that occur here that we might be able to lure into view are the scarce Cloud-forest Pygmy Owl that is normally found in the high canopy, while in the darkest undergrowth we can try our luck with the elusive Yellow-breasted Antpitta. The sparkling Rufous-gaped Hillstar generally

prefers to be along riverside vegetation, which is also the preferred habitat of Bay Wren and the localized Choco Brushfinch.



Choco Brushfinch by Stephan Lorenz

Apia. We'll spend some time near the village in search of Yellow-headed Manakin and Turquoise Dacnis. The patches of forest here host several other interesting species such as Parker's Antbird, Whiskered Wren, and Moustached Puffbird, all of which are very regularly encountered here. Four species of Antpitta will pose a worthy challenge, while mixed flocks hosting more than a dozen species of Tanagers will provide great diversion, but another important target here is the endemic Yellow-headed Brushfinch.

KM 18 and Upper Anchicaya. After departing Cali, we'll drive into the mountains west of the metropolis to the famed Bosque San Antonio, also known as KM 18, and other spots en route. Aside from the fabulous birding (including the occasionally mind-numbing mixed flock that defies reason), the scenery here is stunning, and the privilege of birding such an ornithologically famous area is undeniable. The recent invasion of wealthy landowners from Cali constructing their mansions in the vicinity of KM 18 has reduced the available habitat in the general area of KM 18, meaning we often spend more time in the Upper Anchicaya area of the old Old Buenaventura Road.

However, superb forest still exists here, and we'll spend our time birding a few choice sites. The list of possible species is huge, some 300+ (!), so we will focus on specialities: Colombian Chachalaca, Chestnut Wood Quail, Grey-headed Dove, Scaled Fruiteater, Chestnut-breasted Wren, and both Purplish-mantled and the mind-blowing Multicolored Tanagers, among many others.

We'll likely spend some time at the famed Finca Alejandria. This is, without doubt, the single best feeding station and setup in the country, and as impressive as any place, anywhere, on Earth. With just a couple hours' time at the hummingbird feeders we are likely to see Green and Tawny-bellied Hermits, the stunning Long-tailed Sylph, Greenish Puffleg, Bronzy Inca, Buff-tailed Coronet, adorable White-booted Racket-tail, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Purple-throated Woodstar, Western and Andean Emeralds, Crowned Woodnymph, Steely-vented Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and the scarce stunner Blue-headed Sapphire. That's just the hummingbirds! Several species feed on the fruit laid out on trays, and even more come through regularly in massive mixed flocks! Of particular interest we might get views of Golden-headed Quetzal, Andean Motmot, Red-headed Barbet, White-throated and Crimson-rumped Toucanets, Uniform Antshrike, Plain Antvireo, Slaty Antwren, Olive-backed Woodcreeper, Streaked Xenops, Rusty-winged Barbtail, Lineated Foliage-Gleaner, Streak-capped Treehunter,



Crested Ant Tanager by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Variegated Bristle-Tyrant, Barred Becard, Andean Solitaire, Ashy-throated Chlorospingus, White-naped Brushfinch, Flame-rumped Tanager, Blue-capped, Golden-naped, Black-capped, Scrub, Beryl-spangled, Metallic-green, Saffron-crowned, and Golden Tanagers all. An amazing opportunity this morning to enjoy some productive, easy birding netting some wonderful species.



Multicolored Tanager by Forrest Rowland

There are several nooks and crannies en route to Anchicaya, and we will make a few stops gleaning some species less likely encountered at the lower elevations of Anchicaya. These include Pacific Tuftedcheek, Narino and Choco Tapaculos, Olivaceous Piha, Black-billed Peppershrike, and both Glistening-green and Crested Ant Tanagers, all of which are species endemic to the Choco bioregion!

We'll also make a sop at Dona Dora in search of Choco Tapaculo, Black-headed Brushfinch, Rufous-throated and Silver-throated Tanagers, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Black-winged Saltator, Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Sickle-winged Guan, Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, Toucan and Red-headed Barbets, and many more!

Microcuenca Quebrada Pericos. Access to the rich forests of the *escalarete* area can only be reached by the amusing 'brujas'. These small, hand-powered, platform train cars take visitors up to the forest trails via the local rail system. Novel, and unique to this site in Colombia! The most-wanted species here is, perhaps, Five-colored Barbet. This is one of only three reliable sites for this beautiful Choco endemic. The monotypic Sapayoa, most closely related to African broadbills, is a very close second! Black-and-white Hawk Eagle, Bronzy Hermit, Band-tailed Barbthroat, Blue-tailed Trogon, Black-breasted Puffbird, Stub-tailed Antbird, Thicket Antpitta, Black-striped Woodcreeper, Pacific Flatbill, Black-tipped Cotinga, and Slate-throated Gnatcatcher are amongst the 250+ species that inhabit the area.



Purplish-mantled Tanager by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Laguna del Sonso. This is a well-known hangout of Horned Screamer, though due to recent changes in water level maintenance, viewing this bizarre creature has become more difficult. Nevertheless, with dozens of hovering Snail Kite, roosting Common Potoo, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Yellow Oriole, and several other great species are possible at this interesting site.

Mitu & Rio Vaupes. There is nowhere better to sample the variety of Amazonian habitats that the eastern lowlands of Colombia encompass than the environs of Mitu. With several days in this avian-rich region, we will have ample time in the varied habitats within a short drive of the town itself, which will serve as our base.



Red-fan Parrot by Forrest Rowland

Near the community of Urania, we shall bird the bridge and river edge searching for a good selection of species including Amazonian Inezia, Bronzy Jacamar, Plumbeous Euphonia, Zimmer's Woodcreeper, Slender-billed Xenops, Azure-naped Jay, Black-chinned Antbird, Versicoloured Emerald, Black-capped Parrot, Red-fan Parrot, Maroon-tailed Parakeet, Dusky-billed Parrotlet, Scarlet Macaw, Opal-crowned Tanager, White-vented Euphonia and Rufous-bellied Euphonia.

While much of our time will be spent in the default habitat of the region, Terra Firme (upland) Primary Forest, we will have several walks through the nutrient-poor (but speciality rich!) White Sand Forest Belts that cover areas near town. Several of the species that are near-endemic to this region, and more easily seen here than at other sites in nearby Venezuela, or Brazil, are found in the seasonally flooded Varzea Forest and Gallery Forests along the mighty Vaupes River itself. Others are found atop the "cerros", tabletop mountains that stand hundreds of feet above the surrounding forest, breaking the endless green horizon dramatically. We will explore these seldom-visited, fascinating habitats in the company of a local ornithologist with ties to the local indigenous community, and who can teach us much about the local history and culture of this timeless realm.

To list a relative few of the 400+ species possible at this site, we hope to encounter Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet, Red-fan and Orange-cheeked Parrots, Racquet-tailed Coquette, Fiery Topaz, Pavonine Quetzal, Brown-banded, Chestnut-capped and Collared Puffbirds, Yellow-billed, Bronzy and Paradise Jacamars, Tawny-tufted Toucanet, Orinoco Piculet, Bar-bellied Woodcreeper, Blackish-grey and Pearly Antshrikes, 10 species of Antwren including Cherrie's, Yellow-throated and Ash-winged, Black Bushbird, 17 species of Antbirds including Black-chinned, Black-headed, Grey-bellied and the magnificent White-plumed and Chestnut-crested Antbirds, Plum-throated, Spangled and Pompadour Cotingas (!!!), Guianan Cock-of-the-rock, the rare Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, sandy forest specialist Black Manakin, Yellow-crested and Western Striped Manakins, Brown-headed Greenlet, Azure-naped Jay, White-bellied Dacnis, White-naped Seedeater, Plumbeous Euphonia, and many, many more....



Amazonian Umbrellabird by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate to difficult. Endemic and target focussed trip. Not suitable for dedicated photographers; inexperienced birders; or anyone with mobility or health challenges. Tour pace is fast.
Birding Ease		Challenging. Several skulkers and low-density targets that require repeated efforts. Many species that require patience, persistence & repeat attempts (ie: Antpittas & Tapaculos).
Accommodation		Comfortable, some lodgings are simple/basic.
Walking / Trails		Moderate walking, mostly on flat ground with variable substrate. High altitude walking is mostly downhill or kept to short distances, but some optional steeper/difficult hikes.
Vehicles / Roads		Several drives, some long or impacted by heavy city traffic. Mostly sealed roads between towns, changing to dirt in remoter areas. Mountain passes & eroded dirt roads can be bumpy. Risk of landslides & road closures.
Photography		Reasonable to good. Typical forest lighting difficulties. Several feeders.
Annoyances		Occasional landslide interruptions, small biting insects. Temperatures vary from hot & humid, to cold at altitude. Rain is to be expected.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 20 of the Remote tour;
- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 6 of the Mitu Extension;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services;
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- This tour is designed to visit remote and seldom birded locations. The style of birding is hard-core and fast. While this tour involves very little arduous walking, but we will be at high altitude on some occasions. You should be in good health and of good fitness to undertake this tour.
- If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions of any sort, please do let the Rockjumper office know in advance of the tour.
- We will be birding in some remote areas well away from modern medical facilities.
- The hotels are of reasonable standard throughout, although on occasion they will be basic.
- Transport is by small coach or minibus, and 4x4 vehicles where required. Main roads are reasonably good condition. However, due to the nature of the topography, there is the possibility of landslides interfering with our trip, though we have minimised this risk by undertaking the tour during the drier season.
- Traffic in and around the larger cities of Bogota, Cali and Medellin is often heavy, impacting our time in vehicles.
- We expect the weather to be mostly dry and often sunny, and it can be hot and occasionally humid in the lowlands. At higher elevations visited, it can be quite cool, especially at night. There is likely to be some rain, which can be heavy.
- The lowland Amazonian rainforests are however very humid and can be equally hot depending on local weather conditions. We will be on our feet for most of the day. You should, therefore, be in good health and of reasonable fitness to undertake this tour. If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions of any sort, please let the Rockjumper office know in advance of the tour.
- Our guides are experienced Neotropical birders who have led numerous tours to the Neotropics.

Arrival and Departure Details

Day 1 of the Remote tour is set aside as an arrival day, please do arrive in Bogota by 17:00 to partake in our welcome dinner. The tour will conclude midday of day 20 at Bogotá International Airport.

The Mitu extension will depart from Bogotá on day 1 with a drive to Villavicencio for our flight to Mitu. The tour is scheduled to conclude on the morning of day 6. As flights from Mitu (day 5) can be delayed or rescheduled with little notice due to weather, we suggest not booking your departure flight until the evening of day 6 at least.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

El Dorado International Airport, Bogotá (IATA: BOG) is the main port of entry for international flights into Colombia and is well serviced by most of the world's major airlines.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.