Ecuador - Southern

Endemics

Kapawi Amazon Extension



Jocotoco Antpitta by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Due to incredibly complex geology and topography, southern Ecuador supports one of the most diverse habitats ranges in the world. Within 200 miles of the Pacific Coast, one can travel from the arid xerophytic habitat, through Chocó and semi-deciduous tropical forest, over the continental divide's treeless paramos and down to lush, wet, foothill forests of the eastern Andes. Within these varied, pristine habitats, the evolution of many fine endemic species has occurred; and on our comprehensive South Ecuador Endemics tour, we will sample seven distinct habitats in search of these endemics and other specialties. Targets include El Oro and White-breasted Parakeets, El Oro Tapaculo, Watkins's and the fantastic Jocotoco Antpitta, Pale-naped and White-headed Brushfinches, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Elegant Crescentchest, White-tailed Jay, the fabulous Long-wattled Umbrellabird, Rainbow Starfrontlet, the vociferous, colourful, and extremely localized Orange-throated Tanager.

Very exciting news was the recent discovery of the Blue-throated Hillstar, a distinct species of hummingbird new to science, and we'll attempt to find this highly localized endemic!

This post tour extension takes us to a very remote Ecuadorian location - the little-visited Kapawi Ecolodge situated on the remote Rio Kapahuari. Boasting a bird list of over 450 species within walking distance of the

lodge itself, it's no wonder that this humble Achuar indigenous community project has caught our attention. This tour offers prime Amazon birding with targets including Horned Screamer, Orinoco Goose, Red-fan Parrot, Rufous and Long-tailed Potoo, Rufous-headed Woodpecker, Cinnamon Neopipo, Black-necked Red Cotinga, Black Bushbird, Black-throated, Lunulated, Hairy-crested and White-plumed Antbird, Ochre-striped Antpitta, and Rio Suno and Ancient Antwrens.

By the end of our stay, we will all know much more about the rainforest and the fabulous Achuar people. The warm hospitality, good food and unique location supply an amazing experience to share with our loved ones upon our return. Join us for this one-of-a-kind tour into the true wilds of the Ecuadorian Amazon!

Itinerary & Map

Endemics

Day 1	**Arrival in Guayaquil**
Day 2	**Guayaquil to Cuenca via Parque Nacional Cajas**
Day 3	**Reserva Yunguilla**
Day 4	**Saraguro area**
Day 5	**Saraguro to Copalinga**
Day 6	**Bombuscaro & Copalinga**
Day 7	**El Zarza to Yankuam**
Day 8 & 9	**Yankuam & Orange-throated Tanager search**
Day 10	**Yankuam to Tapichalaca**
Day 11	**Tapichalaca**
Day 12	**Tapichalaca to Jorupe**
Day 13	**Jorupe**
Day 14	**Utuana**
Day 15	**Jorupe to Buenaventura via Zapotillo**
Days 16 & 17	**Buenaventura**
Day 18	**Buenaventura to Guayaquil**
Day 19	**Atahualpa, Ecuasal & final departure**

Kapawi Amazon Extension

Day 1	**Arrival in Quito**
Day 2	**Quito to Shell, flight to Kapawi Ecolodge**
Days 3 to 5	**Kapawi Ecolodge**
Day 6	**Kapawi Edolodge, flight to Shell, transfer to Quito & final departure**


Quito
Shell
Guayaquil
Kapawi Ecolodge
Cajas NP
Cuenca
Yunguilla
Buenaventura
Saraguro
Loja
Copalinga
Yankuam
Jorupe
Utuana
Tapichalaca
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA
Google Earth

Birding sites in detail

Parque Nacional Cajas. This park contains a huge expanse of intact, contiguous paramo and high-altitude temperate and polylepis forests. It is home to many sought-after species, top of the list being the highly range-restricted endemic, Violet-throated Metaltail (which can only be found here!). The park also boasts such beauties as Tit-like Dacnis, Blue-mantled Thornbill, Giant Conebill, Rufous-rumped Bush Tyrant, Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan and Andean Pygmy Owl, amongst many others. We will even have a chance to see the recently split Ecuadorian Rail, formerly a subspecies of Virginia rail. The background for this exciting bird experience is a series of 12,000-foot peaks, high rolling grasslands and stunning glacial lakes**.**



Violet-throated Metaltail by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Reserva Yunguilla. Today we visit the Jocotoco Foundation's Yunguilla preserve, home to an icon of recent bird conservation efforts in Ecuador: Pale-headed Brushfinch! With no reported sighting for almost 30 years, many feared extinction; indeed, this population's discovery in the late 1990's was considered a "re-discovery" of the species! Fewer than 10 pairs of this endemic were present in the preserve a decade ago, but through subsequent intensive conservation efforts to thwart the Shiny Cowbird's nest invasions, and a hands-off approach to habitat recovery from cattle grazing, the population numbers have risen impressively. Visiting birders can expect, with effort, great views of this once mythical, critically endangered species, which, until recently, was extremely difficult to encounter. In addition, we will be searching the valley for Line-cheeked Spinetail and Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, as well as a few other fine, dry forest species.



Pale-headed Brushfinch by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Saraguro area. Today we explore the exciting but poorly birded highlands of the Saraguro region. The recent discovery of a new species to science, the striking Blue-throated Hillstar, will be our main target for today! We'll be among the first to explore the remote paramos of this region, in the hope to find this Critically Endangered hummingbird. Access to the site could be difficult, but we'll surely do our very best to find this unique and exclusive endemic! Two other top birds that we'll be looking for are Chestnut-bellied Cotinga and Crescent-faced Antpitta.

With luck, we hope to obtain views of these two extremely tricky birds. Other very desirable species that have been recorded in

the area, as well as others we may wish to explore along the way, include Red-faced Parrot, Mountain Caracara and Bearded Guan.



Blue-throated Hillstar by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Saraguro to Copalinga. If time allows, we will do some birding along the old Loja-Zamora Road, otherwise known as the Via San Francisco. Some fine lower-subtropical species remain here, despite farming along the road. Anything from Coppery-chested Jacamar to Ecuadorian Tyrannulet is possible on this stretch of road.

Bombuscaro & Copalinga. Coppery-chested Jacamar, Black-streaked Puffbird, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Andean Cock-of-the-rock…these are just a few of the wonderful birds that we hope to encounter during our full day at Bombuscaro and exploring the trail at Copalinga! Being perfectly situated just 2.5kms from the Bombuscaro entrance to famed Podacarpus National Park, basing our efforts from Copalinga will make for an easy day's visit to the park.

Situated at around 1,100 meters in elevation, Bombuscaro is one of the few places where the visiting birder can access pristine, untouched, foothill forest. A good host of wildlife (from birds to monkeys) representative of the upper Amazon basin is present, co-mingling with flora and fauna typical of lower subtropical elevations. Most of the prime, target birds of this area, however, are restricted to the foothills of the Eastern Andes. The list of hopefuls includes Band-bellied Owl, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, several species of hummingbirds, White-breasted Parakeet, Lanceolated Monklet, Grey-mantled Wren, Foothill Antwren, Foothill Elaenia, Blue-rumped Manakin, Andean Motmot, and much more besides.



Golden-eared Tanager by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Copalinga itself hosts many wonderful species of birds, herps and orchids. The hummingbird feeders attract a few new species including the rare Black-throated Brilliant. On the Verbena flowers, we might get Violet-headed Hummingbird and the spectacular Wire-crested Thorntail. If we have any free time, the orchid garden has over 30 species of orchids. Copalinga truly is a paradise and is always a real treat!

At dusk, we will try for Blackish Nightjar.

El Zarza. The El Zarza Wildlife Refuge is located in the Cordillera del Condor. This isolated mountain range hosts several localised species endemic to south east Ecuador and northern Peru. Several rare and amazing species have

been seen here including Spectacled Prickletail, Straw-backed Tanager, Roraiman Flycatcher and Jet Manakin. The mixed-species flocks that move through the cloud forest here might yield Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer, Equatorial Greytail, Chestnut-bellied Thrush, Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet, Yellow-throated, Golden-eared and the stunning Vermilion Tanager, to mention but a few.



Orange-throated Tanager by Dušan Brinkhuizen

At higher elevations we have chances for the very local Bar-winged Wood Wren, a Cordillera del Condor speciality. The poorly known Subtropical Pygmy Owl has also been reported regularly from this site.

El Zarza to Yankuam. Roadside stops on the way can yield anything from the bamboo-dependent Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher (Tody-Tyrant) to the typically amazon Blue-crowned Trogon. The day's drive and birding will undoubtedly be loads of fun! And as for the scenery: verdant green blankets of forest broken by huge, tepui-like limestone escarpments towering thousands of feet high. Simply incredible!

Yankuam. Yankuam, and the Maycu reserve, are known as THE place to see the legendary Orange-throated Tanager, and we have been successful in finding this magnificent bird on every former visit to the site! Not only can we expect this extremely rare and spectacular species, but avian surprises turn up every year. One of the latest additions to Ecuador's massive bird list, White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant, came from this area, and we have seen it now several times.

We'll start out birding along the main road, up into the tanager's habitat. Along the way we've encountered dozens of great species: Rufous-winged, Ornate and Foothill Antwrens, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Foothill Schiffornis, Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak, Northern Chestnut-tailed (Zimmer's), White-plumed, Hairy-crested, and White-browed Antbirds, Purplish and Great Jacamars, and an amazing array of tanagers can be seen from the road. After we encounter the Orange-throated Tanager, we will continue searching for targets like Bamboo Foliage-gleaner, Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher, Military Macaw, Gilded and Lemon-throated Barbets, Lettered and Chestnut-eared Aracaris, Grey-tailed Piha and we even have chances for the bizarre Hoatzin. Either way, this remote, seldom-visited corner of Ecuador will fascinate and delight us!



Buff-fronted Owl by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Tapichalaca. The flagship property of the Jocotoco Foundation, and type locality for the namesake Jocotoco Antpitta, is truly an outstanding place. Ranging in elevation from 2,900m (treeline) down to 1,500m (new Parker

tract), the Tapichalaca reserve is home to over 400 bird species, including the near-endemic Bearded Guan, White-breasted (White-necked) Parakeet and Orange-banded Flycatcher. Jocotoco and Chestnut-naped Antpittas are fed worms; the near-endemic Chusquea Tapaculo thrives; Golden-plumed Parakeets nest; Andean Potoos and Chestnut-crested Cotingas are occasionally seen; and the reserve, as well as its prize list of birds, continues to grow!



Rainbow Starfrontlet by Adam Riley

We will devote a full day to accessing as much of a range in elevation as time and weather will allow. The morning focus will be the trail system ranging above and below the Casa Simpson (main lodge). Some of the birds we hope to encounter on the trails include Bearded Guan, Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan, Barred and Green-and-black Fruiteaters, various furnariids, Slate-crowned, Rufous and Undulated Antpittas, Chusquea Tapaculo, Orange-banded Flycatcher and an incredible list of flocking tanagers.

With luck, we might even come across two enigmatic, spectacular birds of the high Andes – the noisy but scarce White-capped Tanager and the rare and elusive Masked Saltator!

The hummingbird feeders and compost heap near the lodge boast some 20+ possible species: Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Golden-plumed Parakeet and many more can sometimes be seen right from the porch. If time allows, we will visit middle-to-lower elevation where we might come across Black-chested Fruiteater or Chestnut-crested Cotinga if we are vigilant. A variety of lower subtropical tanagers and flocking species can be seen, on occasion, right from the main road. If time permits, we will venture even lower, towards Palanda, in hopes of picking up a few Marañon endemics, though a trip to Northern Peru is necessary to see the whole array.



Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Cerro Toledo. If possible, we may decide to hazard a trip up Cerro Toledo for Neblina Metaltail and some high-elevation species including Mouse-colored Thistletail and Paramo Tapaculo. Given the condition of the road and frequent landslides, Cerro Toledo might, however, not be accessible – yet we remain optimistic!

Catamayo. We will pass by the arid valley of Catamayo, and if time permits, we will have a try for specialities like Drab Seedeater, Tumbes Sparrow and Elegant Crescentchest. Upon entering the truly deciduous, dry scrub typical of the Tumbes Mountain region, we will search for the handsome Baird's Flycatcher and the very local White-headed Brushfinch.

Jorupe. This is the second of three preserves owned and managed by the Jocotoco Foundation that we will visit during the tour. This land was purchased to protect a large tract of Tumbes semi-deciduous forest. The Tumbes region is one of the largest areas of endemism on the continent, hosting more than 40 species only found in the various arid and montane habitats of far south-west Ecuador and north-west Peru. During our two full days in this area, we will search out many of these localised species.



Elegant Crescentchest by Adam Riley

On arrival at the reserve, Amazilia Hummingbird will no doubt entertain us at the feeders, while we listen for Pacific Pygmy Owl, Pale-browed Tinamou and Rufous-necked Wood Rail at dusk. If we're lucky, the local pair of Spectacled Owls will allow us some close views. On our 2016 tour, we encountered the enigmatic Buff-fronted Ow, and we will certainly try for it again.

As we wander through the fine set of forest trails through the open understory, beneath viny tangles and among bloated ceibas over 100 feet tall, we will look and listen for skulkers such as Pale-browed Tinamou, Watkins's Antpitta and Ochre-bellied Dove. Henna-hooded and Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaners will be teased out of dense brush for close views. The stunning Ecuadorian Trogon is often encountered and viewed at length. Woodpeckers are in evidence, with Guayaquil, Scarlet-backed and Golden-olive, as well as Ecuadorian Piculet to be found. Other enticing species that we will hopefully see include Blackish-headed Spinetail, Speckle-breasted Wren, Short-tailed Swift, White-tailed Jay, Black-capped Sparrow, Grey-breasted Flycatcher, Tumbes Pewee, Black-and-white Tanager, and, of course, the vocal and lovely Grey-and-gold Warbler!

Nightbirds are a must at Jorupe and we will take advantage, weather dependent, to search for more owls including West Peruvian Screech Owl.



Pale-browed Tinamou by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Utuana. As the warm air off the Pacific rises (despite the Humboldt Current effects that force such arid climates near the coast), clouds form and rain falls over the higher altitudes of the Andes in the Tumbes.

However, the scarce amount of rainfall (most precipitation here is in the form of mist and fog) over Utuana is consistent with endemic patterns lower down. Here, we will look for some real gems, including the showy Rainbow Starfrontlet, Purple-throated Sunangel, Line-cheeked Spinetail, Loja Tyrannulet and fun and vocal Chapman's Antshrike. In this bamboo-laden habitat, rare birds like Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, Grey-headed Antbird and the recently split Piura

Hemispingus persist, all of which are high on the list of our target bird's representative of the region. Black-cowled Saltator is yet another fancy Tumbes bird to be found here before we visit a local church in the small town of Sozoranga (no particular religious affiliation necessary!) to delight us at this often-reliable colony of Chestnut-collared Swallows. During the remainder of the day, we may spend more time at lower elevations in case we missed any important target species yesterday. (Please note: In 2016, Utuana was NOT accessible due to a major landslide. However, we did have alternative sit es nearby and managed to get most of the above-mentioned targets).



El Oro Parakeets by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Zapotillo. We venture down to the lowest elevation of the Tumbes region in Ecuador. Many specialities are far easier to find here, including West Peruvian Dove, Black-and-white Tanager, Superciliated Wren, Elegant Crescentchest and Baird's Flycatcher. It is also our best chance of finding the impressive and rare Comb Duck. Zapotillo specials include Tumbes Hummingbird and Tumbes Tyrant, but both species can be quite hard to find at this time of year, and their movements are not fully understood.

Buenaventura. The host of birds this Jocotoco Foundation preserve protects is simply staggering! It was originally set up to protect the few El Oro Parakeets left in existence, and to rehabilitate their numbers in the wild by pioneering nest-box efforts. During the study of the avifauna of this property in its early stages, an entirely new species was discovered, the El Oro (Ecuadorian) Tapaculo! The reason this preserve boasts well over 300 species within its borders is due to the range of elevation it encompasses. An unmaintained private road cuts through the preserve from nearly 1,200m elevation to under 800m. This transects through pristine habitat, allowing the visiting birder easy walking along one of the best forest tracks in the country.

Our time at Buenaventura will be dedicated to birding all elevations of the preserve in search of the wonderful myriad of species available. On top of the easy access to the preserve's forests, the lodge itself has one of the finest and most impressive feeding stations in the world. Not only do they feed hummingbirds of 10 species (by the hundreds!) regularly, but honeycreepers, bananaquits, tanagers and even mammals such as Coati's and Agouti's make forays to the banana and sweet water feeders. Best of all, this can all be enjoyed from the comfort of roomy sofas and comfy recliners. Birding in style, at its finest!



Tumbes Tyrant by Dušan Brinkhuizen

A quick list of some of the more extraordinary and wonderful birds of Buenaventura includes Fasciated Tiger Heron, Grey-backed, Barred and Grey-lined Hawks, Red-masked Parakeet, Rose-faced Parrot (rare), White-tipped Sicklebill, Crowned

Woodnymph (the subspecies here is sometimes split as Emerald-bellied Woodnymph) plus 21 other species of hummers!, Golden-headed Quetzal, 3 species of motmot, Barred Puffbird, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Brown-billed Scythebill, Line-cheeked Spinetail, 4 species of antshrike including Great, 3 species of antbirds including Esmeraldas Antbird, Plain-backed Antpitta, Ochraceous Attila, Pacific Royal Flycatcher, Scaled Fruiteater, the spectacular Long-wattled Umbrellabird, Club-winged Manakin, Song Wren, Brownish Twistwing, White-throated Spadebill – and many, many more!



Tropical Royal Flycatcher by Dušan Brinkhuizen

La Tembladera. This is a large wetland where we might encounter species like Roseate Spoonbill, Muscovy Duck (genuinely wild birds), two species of Whistling Ducks, Anhinga, Sora and possibly the rare Spotted Rail. The nearby Santa Rosa shrimp ponds are surrounded by scrub and most of the species inhabiting this vegetation can be seen from the dykes around the ponds (sometimes access to the actual shrimp ponds is prohibited but we can still pick up some birds from the public road). Species of interest include Ecuadorian Ground Dove, Superciliated Wren, Pacific (Peruvian) Pygmy Owl, and both Chestnut-throated and Parrot-billed Seedeaters, are possibilities. The ponds themselves host several species of waterfowl, gulls, terns and waders.

Manglares Churute. The nearby mangroves have a good site for seeing Rufous-necked Wood Rail in case water levels are low. Manglares Churute and the 20-30 miles of road on either side, harbour some of the best freshwater wetlands in the country. While off-highway access is limited, from the road we often encounter scores of herons and egrets of all types, Snail Kites by the dozen (one time 100+ birds were seen!) and take the time to scope one of the most bizarre birds on the planet: the magnificent Horned Screamer! This strangely disjunct population of Horned Screamer represents the only substantial population of this species outside its home range in the Amazon and Orinoco basins.



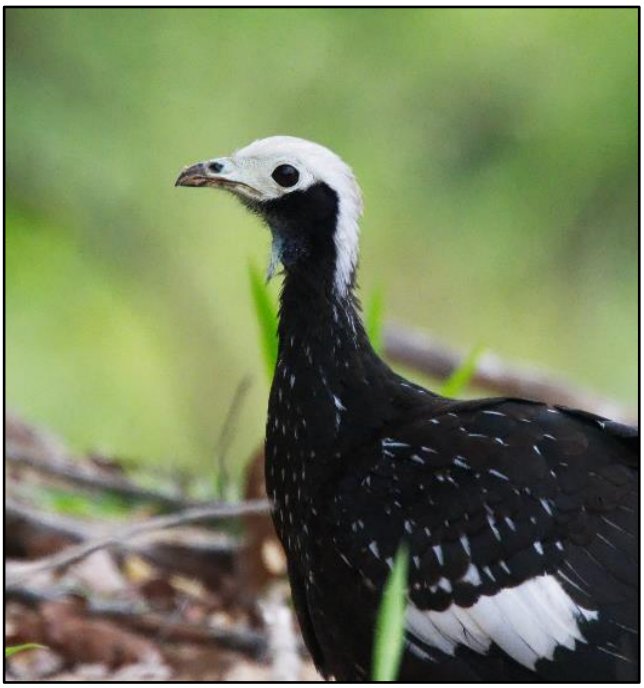
Club-winged Manakin by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Other birds we will search for during quick stops en route include Snowy-throated Kingbird, Jet Antbird and Tropical Royal Flycatcher. We hope to arrive at Guayaquil early enough for a stroll along the Malecon, though there is much to see en route, so we will see what happens.

Atahualpa and Ecuasal. Many of the species we encounter today will not have been seen before on the tour! Guayaquil continues s to be the best access, for birders, to Ecuador's arid coastal scrub and estuary habitats. The drive of approximately 90 minutes to the coast crosses some very specific arid habitats, characteristic only of Southwest Ecuador and far Northwest Peru. Access is fairly limited to this xerophytic scrub, but we will search out some of the birds' endemic to this habitat such as Necklaced Spinetail, Grey-and-white Tyrannulet (uncommon), Short-tailed Field Tyrant, and the rare Sulphur-throated Finch. Other birds that

inhabit the scrubby lowlands include Crimson-breasted Finch (rare), West Peruvian Dove, Short-tailed Woodstar (uncommon), Peruvian Meadowlark, Superciliated Wren, Pearl Kite and Peruvian Thick-knee (rare, but our 2016 tour saw one adult with a chick). We will also visit the Ecuasal lagoons and estuaries (a Ramsar site) in search of Chilean Flamingo, Roseate Spoonbill, White Ibis, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-heron, Peruvian Pelican, South American Tern, Grey, Kelp and Grey-hooded Gulls, Magnificent Frigatebird, flyby Peruvian and Blue-footed Boobies, and scores of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl.

Kapawi Ecolodge. We will quickly become ensconced in the unending array of marvellous creatures. By day, we will venture out onto the trail system in search of Kapawi's myriad birdlife. During our time in the field, we hope to find Salvin's Curassow, Spix's Guan, Blue-throated Piping Guan, 5 species of macaw (including Red-and-green, Scarlet and Blue-and-yellow), Black-bellied Cuckoo, Red-necked, Chestnut and Cream-colored Woodpeckers, Pavonine Quetzal, 4-5 species of trogon, 4-5 species of jacamar (including White-eared, Yellow-billed and Great), Collared, Spotted and White-chested Puffbirds, Brown Nunlet, Citron-bellied Attila, Orange-fronted Plushcrown, Chestnut-winged Hookbill, Duida and Elegant Woodcreepers, White-eyed, Zimmer's and Johannes's Tody-Tyrant, Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant, Short-billed Leaftosser, Cinereous Mourner, Plum- and Purple-throated Cotingas, Rusty-belted Tapaculo, and up to 8 species of manakin!



Blue-throated Piping Guan by Forrest Rowland

Wildlife is equally good, with possibilities including Colombian Red Howler, Spix's Night Monkey, Red-bellied Titi Monkey, Equatorial Saki, White-fronted Capuchin, Common Squirrel Monkey and Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth.



Ochre-striped Antpitta by Adam Riley

Unmentioned here are the mixed flocks and antswarms; over the course of a single day on the trails we've encountered a staggering number of antbirds, antshrikes and antwrens! Highlights included Fulvous and Pearly Antshrikes, Black Bushbird, Yellow-browed, White-plumed, Lunulated, and Banded Antbirds, Reddish-winged Bare-eye, and, Ancient, Dugand's and Chestnut-shouldered Antwrens. It was an outstanding day! Repeating the feat is unlikely, however, during our time at Kapawi, we can seek out many of these same species.

Along the Rio Pastaza and its river islands we'll seek out Sand-colored Nighthawk, Orinoco Goose, Pied Plover, Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Yellow-billed and Large-billed Terns, Swallow-winged Puffbird and the endemic *pastazae* sub-species of Black-striped Sparrow, which may get elevated to species status given its distinct song.

The Varzea forests with its creeks and blackwater lagoons may reveal Horned Screamer, Capped Heron, Pheasant Cuckoo, Black-throated Antbird, Johannes's Tody-Tyrant, Red-fan Parrot, Ecuadorian Cacique, and Pale-eyed Blackbird. If we are very lucky, we may find either of the Amazon's apex predators in Harpy and/or Crested Eagles. Commoner species we should encounter include Scarlet-crowned Barbet, White-eared Jacamar, Black-fronted Nunbird, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher and Cinnamon Attila.

In the extensive terra firme forests, the list of possible species and rarities is endless, we always run into something good. Specialities here include Ancient Antwren, Zimmer's Antbird, Ochre-striped Antpitta, Cinnamon Neopipo, White-crested Spadebill, Slender-billed Xenops, Pavonine Quetzal and further chances for large eagles and perhaps even a surprise or two suck as Grey-winged Trumpeter.

Nights in the Amazon Basin are an entirely different animal. We will take full advantage of our time by offering night walks in search of Nocturnal Curassow, Ocellated Poorwill, Great, Long-tailed, and Rufous Potoo, Crested, Spectacled and Black-banded Owls, and Tawny-bellied Screech Owl. Though these enticing species would serve incentive enough for most, we will also make every effort to see numerous species of frogs, toads, snakes, monkeys, and various deep forest mammals while we're at it.



Pavonine Quetzal by Stephan Lorenz

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate to brisk paced tours suited for those in good health with reasonable level of fitness. Not suited for anyone with mobility challenges or serious medical conditions. Limited down time at lodges, most days are birding & travelling.
Birding Ease		Moderate, several difficult forest skulkers.
Accommodation		Range from basic but comfortable to very comfortable.
Walking / Trails		Varies from lodge gardens & feeders to narrower forest trails that can be muddy & slippery, especially after rain. Hiking poles are recommended.
Vehicles / Roads		Good quality roads between major towns. Some long drives, several on poor, bumpy roads. Some sites may be unreachable if roads are damaged. Land slides can impact access to others.
Photography		Worthwhile to good. Several feeders.
Annoyances		Can be hot to very hot & humid at some sites, alternating to cold & wet at others.

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 lunch on day 19 on the main tour;
- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 6 of the Kapawi Amazon Extension;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation (including boat transfers);
- Extra activities mentioned in the itinerary;
- All national park and other reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides 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.**

- In some areas, it may be very hot, especially in Amazonia. We will thus make good use of the early mornings and will have many early starts to avoid, as far as possible, birding in the middle of the day. Furthermore, in the rainforest areas the humidity will be high and potentially uncomfortable.
- Cajas, Saraguro, and Cerro Toledo are often cold to very cold and sometimes wet too.
- Some sites on the tour are at high elevation (above 12,000 feet).
- It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kgs (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kgs (18lb) for hand luggage.

- This Ecuador tour DOES require a good level of fitness, and participants should be in good general health as most of the birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time. Guests will be notified when longer walks may be undertaken. If you have any physical limitations, please notify us in advance of departure.
- Accommodation throughout the trip is of a good standard and the hotels and resorts that we make use of range from basic yet comfortable to rather luxurious. There is no camping on this trip.

Arrival and Departure Details

The Endemics tour begins with a welcome dinner in Guayaquil on day 1. The tour will conclude here in the early afternoon of day 19.

The Kapawi Amazon Extension begins with a welcome dinner in Quito on day 1. The tour will conclude here in the early afternoon of day 6.

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.

Mariscal Sucre International Airport, Quito (IATA: UIO), Quito is the major port of entry into Ecuador for this tour.

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.