



**Birding and Photographing Ecuador
With Hawks Aloft, Inc. and Foto Verde Tours.
with Paulo Valerio: Oct 01-17, 2022**

Hawks Aloft, Inc.



*Conservation Education, Avian Research, Raptor Rescue
& Collaboration with Others*



With an area equivalent to that of the state of Nevada, Ecuador defines the concept of tropical diversity. This little South American country packs the very impressive amount of 1,627 species of birds, almost twice as many as in the U.S., which is 35 times larger! This amazing avifauna is distributed throughout a wide array of habitats, ranging from coastal mangroves and evergreen lowland tropical forests to mountain cloud forests, highland paramos and ice-covered peaks reaching over 20,000 feet above sea level. Relatively short traveling distances, charming lodges, expert guides, and plenty of observation and photo opportunities, combine with the fresh, friendly disposition of the people to create this unique experience for bird lovers.

Questions? Contact gail@hawksaloft.org, or call our office at 505-828-9455.

Oct 01:

Arrivals to Quito at different times, with private airport transfers. Paulo Valerio arrives this afternoon and will meet everyone at the hotel this day. Hawks Aloft and FotoVerde Tours will assist with flight arrangements.

Overnight Holiday Inn Express Quito (no meals included)

Oct 2:

Be ready to have breakfast at 7am at the hotel's restaurant. This day will include birding focused on the dry highland species around Quito and elements of the history and culture of Ecuador's capital. Morning visit to the Botanical Gardens in the city, where many local and migrant species can be found, including the very much sought-after Green-tailed Trainbearer. Lunch at local restaurant and an afternoon visit the local market to observe crafts and do some shopping. Evening stroll on Quito's old city and dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight Holiday Inn Express Quito (All meals included)

Oct 03:

Morning transfer to Sumaco Wildlife Refuge. Arrival for lunch and afternoon birding on local trails. There are good chances of finding ground dwellers like the Spotted Nightingale Thrush and the Plain-backed Antpitta. In the late afternoon, we bird from the deck, waiting for the Guans and Toucanets to arrive. Introductory presentation on elements of bird photography.

Overnight Wild Sumaco Lodge (All meals included)

Oct 04:

All day for birding and bird photography around Wild Sumaco's trails and feeders. The trails offer good opportunities to see some of the region's specialties, including the Golden Winged Manakin and the Eastern Andean Cock of the Rock. From the deck and open areas it is possible to observe the Lettered Aracari, Crimson Crested Woodpecker, Collared Toucanet, and Chestnut Fronted Macaw, as well as hummingbirds like the Golden Tailed Sapphire, Booted Rackettail, Napo Sabrewing and Wire Crested Thorntail.. Guided night walk after dinner to search for the Band Bellied Owl.

Overnight Wild Sumaco Lodge (All meals included)

**Oct 05:**

All day for birding and bird photography around Wild Sumaco's trails and feeders. This morning we will bird along the road and trails, searching for more species like the Coppery Chested Jacamar and the Maroon Tailed Parakeet. In the afternoon we will visit the woodland hummingbird feeders, where species like the Goulds Jewelfront, Green Crowned Woodnymph, and Many Spotted Hummingbird are often found.

Overnight Wild Sumaco Lodge (All meals included)

Oct 06:

Transfer to San Isidro area. Arrival for lunch and afternoon birding and bird photography around local trails and feeders. Guided night walk top search for the famous San Isidro Owl.

Overnight Cabinas San Isidro (All meals included)

Oct 07:

All day for birding and bird photography around San Isidro's trails and feeders. Birding at higher elevation we expect to find different species, including Grey Breasted Mountain Toucans, Blue and Black Tanagers, Blue Backed Conebills, and of course Spectacled Whitestarts. Guided night walk following dinner.

Overnight Cabinas San Isidro (All meals included)

**Oct 08:**

Morning transfer to Guango Reserve. Arrival for lunch and afternoon for birding and bird photography around local trails and feeders. The perfect location to spot the famous Swordbill Hummingbird, which visits the feeders regularly, along with the Collared Inca, Gorgeted Woodstar Long Tailed Sylph and Tourmaline Sunangel. Torrent Duck is possible to sight along the river banks as is White-capped Dipper. Interactive presentation on multiframe hummingbird photography. After dinner guided night walk (weather permitting).

Overnight Guango Lodge (All meals included)

Oct 09:

Morning birding in Guango. Along the trails we will look for local specialties like Andean Guan, Masked Trogon, Turquoise Jay, and Red-hooded Tanager, while keeping an eye on the sky for birds of prey like the Black and Chestnut Eagle. Afternoon visit to the Papallacta Heights to look for highland species, including the Shining Sunbeam, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Glossy Flowerpiercer, and Black-chested Buzzard Eagle. Afternoon visit to Papallacta Hot Springs. The beautiful gardens and walkways provide easy access to the changing rooms with lockers with towels provided. The different temperature pools offer visitors the opportunity to soak in thermal waters and relax for a couple of hours before returning to the lodge for dinner.

Overnight Guango Lodge (All meals included)

Oct 10:

Day visit to the Antisana reserve to look for Andean Condors and paramo birds, like the Andean Gull, Carunculated Caracara, Ecuadortia Hillstar, and Tawny Antpitta. Return to Guango for dinner.

Overnight Guango Lodge (All meals included)

Oct 11:

Transfer to Sachatamia near Mindo. Lunch en route. Arrival in mid-afternoon, followed by birding and bird photography around local trails and gardens. Guided night walk to look for Black and White Owls.

Overnight Sachatamia Lodge (All meals included)

**Oct 12:**

Early departure for day visit to Angel Paz' Bird Sanctuary for the observation of up to five species of Antpittas and, of course, the western Cock of the Rock, as well as walking along the trails to look for Fruit Eaters, Tanagers, and Toucanets. Late breakfast at Angel Paz followed by time in the town of Mindo, visiting the chocolate store and allowing time for shopping and lunch. Afternoon return to the lodge for dinner.

Overnight Sachatamia Lodge (All meals included)

Oct 13:

All day for birding in Sachatamia and surrounding areas. In the morning, it is possible to find the Plate-billed Mountain Toucan at a nearby reserve. The afternoon will be spent at Sachatamia. The local feeders are commonly visited by Velvet Purple Coronets, Violet Tailed Sylphs, and some of Ecuador's most amazing tanagers, like Beryl Spangled, Flame faced and Golden Naped, amongst others. Dinner at the lodge.

Overnight Sachatamia Lodge (All meals included)

Oct 14:

Transfer to Bella Vista. En route stop at Alambi Reserve to do some birding on the local feeders and surroundings. Arrival for lunch and afternoon for birding on the property's feeders and surroundings. Optional night walk.

Overnight Bella Vista Lodge (All meals included)

Oct 15:

All day for birdwatching and bird photography in Bella Vista and its surrounding areas. This location offers a great opportunity to observe birds such as Montane Woodcreeper, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Toucan Barbet, and Blue-and-black Tanager. Also common are hummingbirds like Purple-throated Woodstar, Fawn Breasted brilliant, tawny Bellied Hermit, and Gorgeted Sunangel.

Overnight Bella Vista Lodge (All meals included)

Oct 16:

Mid-morning return to Quito with lunch en route. Afternoon arrival at the hotel for final bird count. Farewell dinner at the hotel or at a local restaurant.

Overnight Hotel Eurobuilding by the Airport (All meals included)

Oct 17:

Private transfers to International Airport for departure flights.

(Breakfast included)

FOTO VERDE TOURS, founded by Gregory Basco and Paulo Valerio in 2008, specializes in nature and travel photography workshops in our home region of Latin America. We recognize that you place your trust in us, spending money and traveling thousands of miles. Our goal is to offer you the best and most professional photo experience possible. We have a strong commitment to legal compliance, fair treatment, long-term partnerships, detailed planning, and attention to our clients' photography. When you travel with us, you're traveling with the Latin America photo workshop pros.

ABOUT YOUR LEADER Gail Garber, Executive Director of Hawks Aloft discovered her passion for birds over 30 years ago. She has dedicated her life to avian studies, education, and other aspects of the organization. She has traveled much of the U.S. as well as Canada, Venezuela, Honduras, United Arab Emirates, Kenya, and Tanzania. She has lead birding tours to New Zealand, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Peru, and Guatemala. Garber is a popular speaker for adult programs at birding festivals in New Mexico and Colorado where she regularly leads raptor tours, sharing her love of birding and conservation.

Pricing: Cost includes meals, accommodations, and itinerary activities. Does not include airfare, tips, alcoholic beverages, or incidental expenditures (e.g. souvenirs). Travel insurance strongly recommended. Cost based on double occupancy: \$4999.00 (Single occupancy supplement available at \$560.00 (due July 1, 2022) Deposit: \$500 (due at registration)