

Long-wattled Umbrellabird
Cephalopterus penduliger

FRIENDS OF THE BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR

ECUADOR BIRDING

MARCH 14-23, 2012



Ecuador is an exquisite cache of biological and ecological diversity. Per square mile, the Equatorial nation has the highest biodiversity in the world, including some 1,640 species of birds, many of which are rare and unique to the country. Discover the amazing contrasts of cloud forest, rain forest and Andean landscapes in this 10-day program perfectly suited for explorers with a passion for birding. With the aid of expert Ecuadorian birder Andrés de la Torre, you will identify an ample array of birds, plants, and wildlife as you traverse several of Ecuador's 50 different ecosystems. With two home bases at the comfortable Sachatamia and San Isidro Lodges, you will explore a variety of reserves in the Eastern Andes region with a wide range of elevations. The incredible variety of species in such a small geographic area makes this trip one you should not miss!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Observe Antpittas from an astonishingly close range at Angel Paz private reserve
- Venture to a private property in Tandayapa Valley to view hundreds of hummingbirds and numerous endangered species
- Journey to Antisana Ecological Reserve for the chance to identify a myriad of Andean birds, including the Andean Condor
- Lose yourself in the beauty of the cloud forest as you explore its captivating trails and waterfalls, observing vibrant birds and orchids
- Admire breathtaking Andean landscapes and Antisana Volcano, the fourth-highest peak in Ecuador

TRIP DETAILS

TRIP DATES

March 14-23 2012

TRIP LENGTH

10 days

LAND COST

\$2407

(8-11 participants)

\$2277

(12 participants)

Plus estimated
\$1105 airfare from
Albuquerque



Includes a \$250
tax-deductible
donation to Friends of the
Bosque del Apache
National Wildlife Refuge

Call for more information!
Debbie Sturdivant at 1-866-748-6146
or Debbie@holbrooktravel.com

All inclusive as stated in the itinerary except travel insurance, international airfare, gratuities for guide/driver and \$41 departure tax. In double occupancy, add \$225 for single room. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to reserve your space. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure (Dec 10, 2011). Cancellations received after that date are not refundable. Optional travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook's agency number is 15849.

Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges



Andean Condor
Vultur gryphus

the Reserve exploring the exquisite cloud forest, its magical trails, and waterfalls; find colorful birds and beautiful orchids. Return to the Quito area. **Overnight at Hacienda La Carriona.** (BLD)

March 19

Antisana Reserve

Depart for the Antisana Ecological Reserve, located on the edge of the Amazon prairie, making it a corridor or nexus between the Ecological Reserve of Cayambe-Coca and the Sumaco Napo Galeras National Park. The reserve's approximately 120,000 hectares are a birdwatchers paradise. Due to its various ecological zones ranging from páramo (an ecosystem devoid of trees and small shrubs where bushes and flowers grow close to the ground) to the lowland rainforest with more than 70 bird species, including the endangered Andean Condor and other Andean birds such as the Curiquingue. Enjoy views of the snow-capped Antisana Volcano, the fourth highest peak in Ecuador with an altitude of 5,758 m (18,890 feet). Take the road that borders the Cayambe – Coca reserve and arrive at the Quijos Valley, one of the westernmost headwaters of the Amazon basin where you spend the next two days. **Overnight at San Isidro Lodge.** (BLD)

March 20

San Isidro – Rio Bermejo

Explore the area accompanied by your guide. Cabañas San Isidro is surrounded by its own 1,300 ha forest reserve, which boasts a bird list of about 310 species, many of which are more easily found here than anywhere else in the country. San Isidro Lodge is situated at about 2,050 meters above sea level, but the trails lead through elevational gradients that pass through habitats from 2,400 meters all the way down to 1,850 meters. This is an ideal base to observe Andean birds from the lower reaches of the temperate zone down into the heart of the subtropical zone. **Overnight at San Isidro Lodge.** (BLD)

March 21

Guacamayos Cordillera - Tena

The Guacamayos range rises east of the Cordillera Oriental, this well preserved cloud forest is an important spot for birdwatchers. There are nearly 50 species of tanagers, as well as Gray breasted and Black billed mountain-toucans. **Overnight at San Isidro Lodge.** (BLD)

March 22

Guango Lodge – Papallacta

After breakfast, check out of San Isidro and continue to Guango Lodge. Located about an hour away from San Isidro, Guango lies at a higher elevation (about 2,700 meters) on Ecuador's eastern slope, only 11 kms down the main Inter-oceanic Highway from the town of Papallacta. This area is centered in a zone classified as humid temperate forest, a habitat distinctly different from San Isidro and characterized by its more stunted trees (and thicker canopy), cooler climate, and different bird and plant composition. Continue your exploration, including the Papallacta area. Enjoy lunch at the Papallacta Thermal Spring complex with time free to enjoy the thermal pools. In the afternoon continue your drive back to Quito. **Overnight at Hotel Hilton Colon.** (BLD)

March 23

Farewell

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

March 14

Quito

Upon your arrival in Quito you will meet your guide and be transferred to the hotel. **Overnight at Hilton Colon.** No meals are included.

March 15

Quito – Cloud Forest

Pick up from the hotel early in the morning. Drive to Yanacocha reserve, located on the slopes of Volcan Pichincha, just an hour outside of Quito. The reserve protects a large area (964 ha) of Polylepis woodland on the slopes of Volcan Pichincha. Much of this woodland has been removed for charcoal production and for agriculture. The reserve is home to the Black-breasted Puffleg (*Eriocnemis nigrivestis*), a very rare hummingbird. Continue your trip along the Nono–Mindó Eco Road, arriving in Mindó in the afternoon. **Overnight at Sachatamia Lodge.** (BLD)

March 16

Angel Paz Bird Reserve/Mindó-Nambillo

Early in the morning depart from Sachatamia to visit the Angel Paz Antpitta reserve, Angel is a resident from the Nanegalito area who decided to protect his property and convert it into an Antpitta and Cock of the Rock Sanctuary. Three usually elusive Antpittas can be seen at truly incredibly close quarters, Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Moustached Antpitta, and Giant Antpitta. Continue with a hike through the Mindó-Nambillo Protected Forest, which stretches out over 19,200 hectares, between an elevation that ranges from 1,180 m to 4,780 m 400 hundred bird species have been recorded here. **Overnight at Sachatamia Lodge.** (BLD)

March 17

Silanche

Early in the morning depart for Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary, an 80 hectare Chocó lowland. This important site, one of the last remaining accessible forest remnants found in this key area, is situated in low foothills between 300-350 m The main feature at Silanche is the incredible birding: mixed flocks bombard the visitor all day without a break. Furthermore these flocks include many important Chocó endemics like Purple-chested Hummingbird, Chocó Trogon, Double-banded Graytail, Griscom's Antwren, Stub-tailed Antbird, Black-tipped Cotinga, Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, Scarlet-and-white Tanager, Blue-whiskered Tanager. The reserve is comprised of a mixture of primary forest and regenerating forest, former plantation and new agro-forestry parcels. In addition to the canopy observation tower, extensive trails and footbridges make for easy exploration. In the afternoon return to the lodge. **Overnight at Sachatamia Lodge.** (BLD)

March 18

Milpe Reserve

Leave Sachatamia after breakfast. Continue to San Jorge de Milpe Orchid and Bird Reserve, just outside of Mindó. Spend the morning at



Golden-winged Manakin
Masius chrysopterus