

# *Colombia*

## *South American Nature at its Best!*

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***January 15 - 29, 2018***

***with extension to***

***Guajira Peninsula January 29-31, 2018***



*Please join me, Geoff Carpentier as I travel once again to the wilds of Colombia, searching for its birds, mammals and reptiles on this once in a lifetime adventure. Colombia has only recently been opened up to eco-tourism, so be amongst the first to sample its wonderful wildlife.*

*Birders and naturalists around the world recommend this unique opportunity to visit this relatively unspoiled wildlife haven. The pace will be easy to moderate and the excitement high as we join our expert guide, from Nature Colombia, who will lead us along our itinerary, showing us the wondrous sights and sounds of Colombia!*

*There are only ten spaces available, so it truly is first come/first served - please consider this now and book your seat before it is too late.*

*So where are we going and what will we do? The following is the itinerary planned by Nature Colombia and Avocet Nature Services for the tour.*

## **MAIN TOUR - January 15-29/18**

- Day 1 (Jan. 15):** Arrive Bogota, Colombia and transfer to Hotel Blue Suites
- Day 2 (Jan. 16):** Leave early to go to Chingaza National Park where we will bird the highlands near Bogota. A field breakfast and lunch will be provided. Overnight at Hotel Blue Suites.
- Day 3 (Jan. 17):** Leave the hotel early to go to Las Floridas wetlands, where we will have a tailgate breakfast and later we will enjoy lunch enroute as we travel to Observatorio de Colibres, where hundreds of hummingbirds will be at your fingertips! Overnight at Hotel Blue Suites.
- Day 4 (Jan. 18):** After breakfast at the hotel we will transfer to the airport to fly to Medellin and then we will go by car to the Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve run by ProAves. Lunch and dinner and overnight will be held at their excellent lodge.
- Day 5 (Jan. 19):** All day will be spent at this wildlife rich reserve. All meals and accommodation at the lodge.
- Day 6 (Jan. 20):** After an early breakfast we will transfer to Tangaras Reserve, renowned worldwide for its tanagers and other tropical birds. we will bird along the route, have lunch on the way and arrive later in the afternoon and stay overnight at the lodge.
- Day 7 (Jan. 21):** We will spend the entire day in this fabulous reserve. All meals overnight will be held at their excellent lodge.
- Day 8 (Jan. 22):** We will spend another day in this fabulous reserve. All meals overnight will be held at their excellent lodge.
- Day 9 (Jan. 23):** We will start our day at Tangaras and then transfer to Jardin, birding and having lunch along the way. Overnight at Jardin.
- Day 10 (Jan. 24):** To catch sight of the elusive Yellow-eared Parrots we will have to get up early and leave at 5 a.m. and travel to the reserve named for them. A field breakfast and lunch will enrich the adventure. Returning to the Jardin area after lunch we'll bird until dinner then stay overnight in Jardin.
- Day 11 (Jan. 25):** Today we head north to the Santa Marta area. Our flight arrives there at 1 p.m. where we will then transfer to the beautiful Minca Hotel in Minca. A foot tour of the Minca townsite will yield lots of new birds for us. Dinner and accommodation are at the Minca Hotel.
- Day 12 (Jan. 26):** We will spend the morning in Minca looking for more local birds and hummingbirds in particular. We then begin the beautiful drive

- to El Dorado Lodge high in the Santa Marta Mountains, birding our way up the mountainside. Overnight at El Dorado Lodge.
- Day 13 (Jan. 27):** We will spend the entire day at the reserve exploring the lodge area and the higher elevations. Overnight at El Dorado Lodge.
- Day 14 (Jan. 28):** We will spend the entire day at the reserve exploring the lodge area and the higher elevations. Overnight at El Dorado Lodge.
- Day 15 (Jan. 29):** We will bird the reserve in the morning until 11 a.m. then for those heading home, the flight will be at 3 p.m. approximately. If you require overnight accommodation in Bogota let us know and we'll make arrangements at an extra cost. For those staying on for the extension to LA Guajira Peninsula, the adventure continues.

#### Extension to La Guajira Peninsula

- Day 15 (cont'd):** We will leave El Dorado early (about 7 a.m.) and travel to Riohacha, birding and having lunch enroute. We overnight at Hotel Majayura.
- Day 16 (Jan. 30):** We will spend the morning birding Guajira and Tayrona areas, having lunch enroute. We will stay overnight at Hacienda La Jorara.
- Day 17 (Jan. 31):** We will have breakfast at the hacienda then bird the Tayrona area, before transferring to the airport for our flights home or to Bogota. End of services. If you require overnight accommodation in Bogota let us know and we'll make arrangements at an extra cost. Note homebound flights must be scheduled for after 8 p.m. if you are flying home from Bogota.

#### The price includes:

1. All accommodation in double room. For single travelers a supplement will be applied
2. All ground transportation
3. All meals
4. Entrance fees
5. Nature Colombia guide

#### The price does not include:

1. Internal flight tickets (3 flights) : Bogotá - Medellin, Medellin - Santa Marta, Santa Marta - Bogota USD 243 per person (price subject to change without notice)
2. Tips
3. Extra services (laundry, room service, mini bar, calls)
4. Alcoholic beverages
5. Extra unforeseen costs
6. Medical insurance (you must travel with international medical insurance)

**January 15 to 29, 2018**



*Not just about birds, we will be looking for all types of wildlife - butterflies, mammals and reptiles and much more.*

*I can help you prepare and plan for this trip by offering excellent advice on field guides, planning and packing, gear to take, travel tips, etc. A customized checklist for your use on the trip will be provided – it's yours to have and keep for FREE.*

*Nature Colombia aims to promote environmentally-sensitive ecotourism of Colombia's fauna and flora working with local communities. Nature Colombia aims to contribute to the protection of habitats through providing alternative incomes for local communities. Nature Colombia also aims to develop and market ecological tourism both within and outside Colombia, to bring greater benefits to conservation of Colombian biodiversity.*

*Avocet Nature Services is proud to team-up with them.*

Website [www.naturecolombia.com](http://www.naturecolombia.com) and [www.avocetnatureservices.com](http://www.avocetnatureservices.com)

### **Why go to Colombia?**

*How about 1900+ species of birds, 220+ mammals, 1600+ species of butterflies, 518 species of reptile sand 50,000 species of plants? Colombia is emerging as one of the most important birding areas in the world. Both the people and government of Colombia are rebuilding to ensure that the value of the tropical ecosystems is recognized and protected. Companies like Nature Colombia are making sure this comes to fruition.*

*Highlights of the 2016 trip ... 554 species of birds including 3 species of Wood-Quail, 32 hawks, vultures and falcons, 15 doves and pigeons, 7 owls, 57 hummingbirds, 9 quetzals and trogons, 7 toucans and allies, 15 parrots and macaws, 23 antbirds and tapaculos, 71 flycatchers, 22 wrens, 43 tanagers and dacnis ... and on and on. Many of these were endemics that can only be found in Colombia. For a complete list of all the birds we saw, please ask and we'll be happy to provide it to you.*

### **What's the cost?**

**Based on 10 participants, the cost is an incredible \$3510 USD from Bogota (plus the internal flights noted above). The single supplement is \$504 USD. For those joining us on the extension to Guajira Peninsula, again based on 10 participants, the costs is \$670 USD and based on 5 participants, it is \$800 USD.**

### **Deposit & Cancellation policy:**

1. Spaces are subject to availability at time of acceptance of the offer. (A deposit is not mandatory to make the confirmation)
2. The first deposit (30%) to confirm the tour must be 4 month before the beginning of the tour (September 15<sup>th</sup>)
3. Second deposit (30%) must be 2 months before the beginning of the tour (November 15<sup>th</sup>)
4. Cancellations are accepted until the date of the second deposit. After this date 100% of the bookings will be charged.
5. Balance (40%) is due 1 month before the beginning of the tour (December 15<sup>th</sup>)



Questions: call or email Geoff at:

1-905-852-2011

[avocetnatureservices@gmail.com](mailto:avocetnatureservices@gmail.com)

**Reserve your spot now with Geoff**

*photos: Blue and Yellow Macaw, Red-tailed Tree Boa & Red Howler Monkey*