



**COLOMBIA: THE VERY BEST OF COLOMBIA: THE ANDES AND
CHOCÓ TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



Multi-colored Tanager is always a crowd pleaser (photo Daniel Orozco)!

[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO OUR COLOMBIA TOURS](#)

The birding on this Colombia tour is simply outstanding, both in terms of numbers and diversity of species. This itinerary is designed to provide you with the best of the country, from the central Andes, including the high Andean Mountains of Los Nevados National Park and the Rio Blanco Reserve, to the Chocó rainforest, and the western Andes. We believe you are going to love your Colombian birding tour with us!

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Please [e-mail us](#) (or [contact us](#) in a different way, if preferred) before you book any flights, as the information shown here is just an initial guide. Our tour will start in the city of Cali at Alfonso Bonilla Aragon (CLO) International Airport which can be reached with direct flights from all over Colombia and from some international airports like Miami (USA) and Panama City (Panama). You might wish to consult your travel agent to book your most convenient flight (and [contact us](#) if you want guidance). Your tour leader will be waiting for you at Cali airport with a small board with the Birding Ecotours logo and will then transfer you to your hotel. Please be aware that most international flights arrive in Cali in the afternoon, so we don't have any birding activities planned for Day 1. In case you arrive on an early flight, you will be transferred to the hotel but may have to wait until check-in is available. For an early check-in you might be charged extra directly by the hotel; this cost is excluded from the Birding Ecotours tour price.

Please remember to keep your luggage tags, as they are required to exit the terminal at Cali airport.

When filling out the customs declaration form, please use the below address for the hotel:

Hotel Dann Carlton, Carrera 2 # 1 – 60, B/ El Peñon, Cali, Colombia

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Our tour will end in the city of Pereira after a wonderful 14 days/13 nights in Colombia. With the conclusion of the final morning's birding, your tour leader will transfer you to the Matecaña International airport (PEI) from where you can take connections to some international destinations or any city in Colombia to connect with your international departure.

DOMESTIC FLIGHT INFORMATION

Our tour will end with the road transfer from Manizales to Pereira airport from which you can take your flight connections back home. Your final flight details will be provided within two months of the start of the tour, after we have received full payment.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE

We qualify this trip as moderate difficulty. Most of the birding consists of walking along roads, some of which are in hilly terrain, however, we will also spend time sitting and enjoying hummingbird feeders and watching for birds around the lodges' clearings. We have to negotiate some short, steep walks in the Andes to reach prime birding habitat and some feeding stations.

Colombia, however, does not require long, hard mountain walks as is the case for some other Birding Ecotours destinations like Peru, Guatemala, or Ecuador.

Keep in mind that (as is usual on birding trips) we need to be awake very early in the mornings, and pre-dawn starts are in order each day. We normally spend the whole morning birding in the field, returning to the lodge for lunch, and then providing opportunities for a little rest before continuing our birding in the afternoon. Your guide will sometimes invite you to look for owls at night, but this is an optional activity that you can skip if you feel tired. Some people prefer to rest, skipping birding in the afternoon; this can be done at those lodges when we are staying more than one night. When we do birding stops while traveling from location to location, people who feel tired do not have to follow the group and can remain in the vehicle.

Even though we spend two or three nights at a few of our accommodations on this tour, which allows you more free time without the need to pack and re-pack every day, Colombia is a big country, and the tour includes some lengthy drives. These drives, however, allow you to enjoy the interesting countryside and maximize chances for unexpected birds along the drives.

We will stay at the best available accommodation on this tour, however, despite this, not all lodges provide facilities such as air conditioning or heating (the latter is almost non-existent in Colombia). Some accommodations will provide fans. Heating is not available in the hotel in the Andes, where it can get cold at night.

We think this trip might be difficult for people with back, walking, and balance problems or for those who are not used to a birding trip with early starts involved.

ATM MACHINES

ATM machines are available in Cali, Pereira, Manizales, and Cali.

ALTITUDE

We will reach high elevation at Los Nevados National Park, 13,000 feet (~4000 meters) above sea level. Please ask your doctor if you have any medical conditions that might be affected by high altitude. Spending a few hours at high elevation is never normally a problem, but some minor symptoms might appear, like a slight headache and mild dizziness. A regular Paracetamol 400 mg, taken two hours before we reach this elevation, should prevent any headache trouble. We suggest avoiding eating a large dinner on the previous night which will aid with digestion.

WEATHER

We ask you to be ready for all kinds of weather during this trip.

The central Andes can be sunny in the morning, but the temperature can drop to 60 °F (16 °C) with 70 % humidity, which results in feeling cold at night. We can also expect some rain in this part of the Andes, however, several flocks of birds are more active on rainy and overcast days.

Up in Los Nevados National Park in the Cordillera of the central Andes, windy days may further amplify the colder temperatures. Please check [here](#) for our suggested packing list for a birding tour.

The Chocó rainforest is probably one of the most humid natural areas in the world, so during our stay there we should encounter some rain, which should, however, not be an impediment to finding good birds. It is hot in the mornings (if not overcast), with temperatures reaching 86 °F (30 °C). The weather is similar around Calí – high humidity and some rainy mornings should be expected.

LAUNDRY

Laundry service is available at the hotel in Manizales, and Hotel Dann in Cali. The Finca Montezuma cabins offer laundry service as well, but they don't have a drier, so clothes must be hang-dried, and if we have rainy or very damp days your clothes may not dry well. We think the most convenient laundry options during the trip are Manizales, and Calí. Laundry fees are not included in the tour price.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at Finca Montezuma is fairly basic and rustic, however, the private rooms are comfortable and clean. The small house provides shared and en-suite bathroom cabins (depending on availability); unfortunately hot water is not available 24/7. Finca Montezuma is a remote location on the border of the Tatamá National Park. We consider the birding here excellent with some of the most-sought-after species in Colombia, such as Gold-ringed Tanager.

TRANSPORT

We will have a private van for the whole tour with plenty of room for everybody. However, we will have to divide the group for the birding around Montezuma Ecolodge. The road conditions along this stretch are rough for the regular tourist vans, so we will replace the van with 4x4 vehicles. Normally for a group of four people we use two 4x4 vehicles.

