



ITINERARY CENTRAL AND WESTERN ANDES BIRDING TOUR

From Cloud Forests to Chocó Lowlands & Wetlands

Day 1: Arrival & Transfer to Mistrató

Arrive at the Pereira (PEI) or Armenia (AXM) airport, where private transport greets you for our transfer to Mistrató. Nestled in the foothills of the Western Andes, this hidden gem serves as our gateway to some of Colombia's most pristine pre-montane forests. Along the scenic drive, we will stop for our first introduction to the region's remarkable avian diversity.

- **Key Focus:** Logistics, arrival, and introductory foothill birding.

Day 2: Mistrató Forest Trails & Transfer to Salento

We dedicate the morning to exploring the rich, humid forests of Mistrató, targeting localized species of the Western slope. After a productive morning session and lunch, we cross the valley floor and ascend into the Central Andes to the colorful, historic town of Salento in the heart of the Coffee Triangle.

Key Targets: Violet-tailed Sylph, Black-and-Gold Tanager, Club-winged Manakin, Golden-winged Manakin, Chesnut-crowned Gnateater, Purplish-mantled Tanager, Scaled Fruiteater, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Yellow-Browed Tyrant, Barred Becard, Cauca Guan, Wattled Guan.

Day 3: Cocora Valley & Río Quindío

We bird the iconic Cocora Valley early to beat the crowds, walking beneath the world's tallest Wax Palms (*Ceroxylon quindiuense*). The forest edges here hold fantastic mixed flocks. In the afternoon, we shift our focus to the rushing waters of the Río Quindío canyon, scanning moss-covered boulders for specialized river species.

Key Targets: Andean Condor, Yellow-eared Parrot, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Bronze-winged Parrot, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Black-billed Mountain Toucan, Southern Emerald Toucanet, Striped Treehunter, Capped Conebill, Andean Guan, Torrent Duck, White-capped Dipper, Crested Ant-tanager.

Day 4: Birding Safari along the Historic Camino Nacional

Today we embark on a dedicated birding safari along the historic Camino Nacional, an ancient trail cut through diverse elevational cloud forest zones. This quiet, mist-shrouded road offers excellent visibility and an active canopy, making it an incredible day for tracking down elusive high-Andean endemics.

Key Targets: Yellow-eared Parrot (endemic), Hooded Mountain-Tanager, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Black-billed Mountain Toucan, Grass-green Tanager, Red-crested Cotinga, Carunculated Caracara, Golden-crowned Tanager.

Day 5: Laguna de Sonso Wetland Ecosystem

We transition from the high mountains down to the warm floor of the Cauca Valley to visit Laguna de Sonso, one of Colombia's most vital wetland sanctuaries. This sprawling reserve provides a



massive trip-list boost, packed with waterbirds, herons, and dry-forest specialists inhabiting the surrounding marshes and lakeside woodlands.

Key Targets: Jet Antbird, Horned Screamer, Anhinga, Cinnamon Teal, Masked Duck, Comb Duck, Purple Gallinule, White-faced Whistling-Duck, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Snail Kite, Cocoli Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Dwarf Cuckoo, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Common Potoo, and Spectacled Parrotlet.

Day 6: The Lush Chocó Rainforest of San Cipriano

An early departure takes us down the Western Andes slope into the hyper-diverse Chocó biogeographic rainforest at San Cipriano. We access this pristine reserve via a unique local transport system (*brujitas*) along an old railway track. Once inside, we bird the wide trails under a towering canopy, looking for spectacular, colorful lowland specialties.

Key Targets: Rufous-winged Tanager, Bicolored Antbird, Stub-tailed Antbird, Spotted Antbird, Ocellated Antbird, Whited-fronted Nunbird, Chocó Toucan, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Lita Woodpecker, Saffron-headed Parrot, Rose-faced Parrot, Chocó Poorwill, Crested Owl, Chocó Screech owl, Velvety Manakin, Red-headed Manakin, Choco Manakin, Tooth-billed Hummingbird, Purple-chested Hummingbird, Purple-crowned Fairy, Choco Elaenia, Baudo Oropendola, Baudo Guan.

Day 7: San Cipriano Morning & Transfer to Doña Dora

After maximizing our final morning in the Chocó lowlands, we board our private transport to climb back into the cloud forests of the Western Andes along the old Anchicayá road. Our destination is the famous Doña Dora birding lodge (El Queremal), globally renowned for its exceptional hospitality and dense avian activity.

Key Targets: Sapayoa, Tooth-billed Hummingbird, Five-colored Barbet, Blue-whiskered Tanager, Scarlet-browed Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, Scarlet-browed Tanager, white-fronted Nunbird, Lanceolated Monklet.

Day 8: Full Day at Doña Dora

We spend a rigorous, highly rewarding full day birding the legendary elevational gradient of the Anchicayá canyon around Doña Dora. The lodge's famous banana and nectar feeders allow us to observe dazzling, hyper-endemic tanagers and hummingbirds at point-blank range, while the quiet roadside forest yields rare deep-woods targets.

Key Targets: Glistening-green Tanager, Toucan Barbet, Zeledon's Antbird, Mustached Puffbird, Plain-backed Antpitta, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Squirrel Cuckoo, Bay Wren, Black-spotted Barbet, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, Ornate Flycatcher, Purplish-mantled Tanager, Gray-and-gold Tanager, and Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager.



- **Overnight:** Doña Dora Birding Lodge.

Day 9: Transition to the Famous KM18 Hotspot

We leave the Anchicayá valley and transfer to the world-renowned KM18 cloud forest area ridge just outside of Cali. This is one of the most celebrated birding hotspots in South America. We will spend the afternoon walking the mossy cloud forest trails and visiting specialized garden feeders where the activity is non-stop.

- **Key Targets:** **Multicolored Tanager** (Endemic), **Colombian Chachalaca** (Endemic), **Chestnut Wood-Quail** (Endemic), Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Golden-headed Quetzal, White-booted Racket-tail, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Scaled Antpitta, Green-and-black Fruiteater, Little Tinamou, and White-throated Quail-Dove.

Day 10: Final KM18 Session & Departure

We maximize our final morning in Colombia right from the cloud forest trails and feeders of KM18. After an early breakfast accompanied by a flurry of colorful hummingbirds and brushfinches, we will tally up our final master trip checklist. Following a celebratory breakfast, private transport transfers you comfortably to the Alfonso Bonilla Aragón International Airport (CLO) in Cali for your departure flights home.

- **Key Focus:** Morning feeder clean-up, final trip list compilation, and direct airport transfers.