

Join the Ohio Ornithological Society and Birding Ecotours on an unforgettable birding adventure in Northern Ecuador!! – Benefiting the OOS and the birds of Ohio!

Ecuador has the highest bird species diversity per square mile on the planet and offers some of the best birding in all of South America!

Due to the short driving distances, well-established tourist infrastructure, and wonderful lodges and other facilities for birders - including a multitude of hummingbird and antpitta feeder stations - Ecuador is perhaps the most obliging birding destination on the continent!

Birding Ecotours custom Ecuador Birding Tour for the Ohio Ornithological Society provides the opportunity to see some of the most diverse bird species in the world. With Ecuador holding the World Record for most hummingbird species, you can expect to see more of these amazing avian aviators here than possibly anywhere else in the world.



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, photo by Ian Merrill

This incredible custom-designed tour, exclusively for the Ohio Ornithological Society, features:

- The best birding hotspots in Northern Ecuador – such as the Sachatamia Rainforest Lodge, Napo Wildlife Center, and Refugio Paz de los Aves – “Peace of the Birds” Sanctuary
- An incredible number of hummingbird species – including the unique Sword-billed Hummingbird!
- A great opportunity to see the magnificent Andean Cock-of-the-Rock (above)
- A visit to Jocotoco Reserve for a chance to see Black-breasted Puffleg
- Monkeys!! Including both White-fronted Capuchin and Spider Monkeys!
- All meals while on tour*, ground transportation, and flights to and from Coca



Guided by:

Birding Ecotours Tour Leader, Galo Rael and OOS Board Member, Christopher Collins

*- Dinner provided on Day 1. Breakfast provided on Day 9.

Day 1 – February 22 – Saturday

Arrival and Planning

Arrive Quito Mariscal Airport. Your guide, Galo, will be waiting for you to help with your baggage, take you to your hotel, and go over the schedule for the next day.

Overnight: San Jose del Puembo

Day 2 – February 23 – Sunday

Jocotoco Reserve, Old Nano Road, Sachatamia Rainforest Lodge

After breakfast we will load up and head Northwest to the Jocotoco Reserve, Yanacocha. This reserve consists of 1200 hectares of Polylepis forest on the Northwest side of Pichincha Volcano.

We will spend the morning birding the reserve an eye out for the Critically Endangered **Black-Puffleg**, which the reserve was founded around. Endemic to Ecuador, there are less than 300 individuals remaining in the wild. **Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager**, **Barred Fruiteater**, and **Sword-Hummingbird** are a few of the many birds found this reserve.

After lunch at Yanacocha, we will continue birding the Old Nono Road towards Mindo. Throughout we will be on the lookout for a number of remarkable species, such as **Torrent Duck**, **White-Hillstar**, **Golden-Headed Quetzal**, **Red-Headed** and **Toucan Barbet**.

This route will also provide our first opportunity to see a species on many birders' bucket-lists, **Andean Cock-of-the-Rock!** For those that have a fascination with woodpeckers, **Smoky-Brown Woodpecker** and **Golden-Olive Woodpecker** may also be seen on our way to Sachatamia Rainforest Lodge.

Overnight: Sachatamia Rainforest Lodge



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Day 3 – February 24 – Monday

Mashpi Shungo Reserve, Milpe Bird Sanctuary

We will depart early Monday morning for Mashpi Shungo Reserve. This is the only known place to see **Rufous-crowned Antpitta**. The owner of the reserve, Alejandro, has managed to earn the trust of this elusive creature by bringing it earthworms and grubs.

Rufous-browed Solitaire, Black Solitaire, and Orange-breasted Fruiteater are possible highlights that we may see in the reserve. A number of hummingbird species are found here, such **Empress Brilliant, Purple-chested Hummingbird, White-Tailed Hillstar**, and the unmistakable **Violet-Tailed Sylph**. Plus, many other species!

After lunch we will depart for Milpe Bird Sanctuary. This reserve consists of 100 hectares of Choco-Andean foothills and is home to the stunning **Choco Toucan, Bronze-Winged Parrot, Choco Trogon**, and the spectacular **Club-Winged Manakin**. We will spend the afternoon looking for an incredible number of species, including **Maroon-Tailed Parakeet, Broad-Billed Motmot**, as well as quite a few tanager species, such as **Rufous-Throated Tanager, Gray-and-Gold Tanager, Dusky-Faced Tanager, Dusky-Bush Tanager**, plus **Orange-billed Sparrow**.

Overnight: Sachatamia Rainforest Lodge

Day 4 – February 25 – Tuesday

Refugio Paz de los Aves – “Peace of the Birds” Sanctuary, Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve

Another early morning departure. This time for Refugio Paz de los Aves, which translates to “Peace of the Birds” Sanctuary. As we make our way down to the antpitta feeding station, we should run across **Rufous-breasted Anthrush** and **Ocellated Tapaculo**, as well as **Sickle-winged Guan, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Olivaceous Piha**, and **Orange-breasted Fruiteater**.

At the feeding station we hope to see an amazing number of antpitta species. **Yellow-breasted, Moustached, Chestnut-crowned, and Ochre-breasted Antpitta** are as well as possibly the rare and enigmatic **Giant Andean Cock-of-the-Rock** lek!



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After a delicious homemade breakfast, we will the lower region of the Tandayapa Valley. We will time to visit the Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve’s hummingbird feeders and fruit feeders which are frequented by such species as **Red-headed Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Golden Tanager**, and always a surprise visitor or two.

Other species we may see today: **Tawny-Bellied Purple-Throated Woodstar, Andean Emerald, Booted Racket-Tail, Brown Inca, Violet-Tailed Sylph, Velvet-Purple Coronet, Empress Brilliant, Toucan Barbet, Crimson-Mantled Woodpecker**, and **Yellow-Faced Grassquit**. Plus, many, many more!

After lunch we will drive directly to the east side of Quito to be ready for the next day.

Overnight: San Jose Puenbo

Day 5 – February 26 – Wednesday

Coca – Napo Wildlife Center

Following breakfast, we will take a quick flight to Coca to meet up with our local guides from Napo Wildlife. The guides will take us to Coca's river port where we will take a motorized canoe 2 hours up the Napo River to the entrance of the Añangu River. We will be birding along the way, looking for **Sunbittern, Hoatzin, Zigzag Heron, Plumbeous Antbird, and Point-tailed Palmcreeper**. We will also keep an eye out for river birds, such as **Yellow-billed Tern, Collared Plover**, and the unmistakable **Capped Heron**.

Also, during this time, we will have an excellent chance of seeing a few exceptional mammal species. **White-fronted Capuchin** and **Spider Monkey, Giant River Otter**, and two species of tamarin: **Black-mantled (Graell's)** and **Golden-mantled!**

Upon arrival, we will check into our cabins and have a nice group dinner.

Overnight: Napo Wildlife Center

Day 6 and 7 – February 27-28 – Thursday-Friday

Napo Wildlife Center and Yasuni National Forest

For two days we will be birding around the lodge, which is located on 82 square miles of pristine lowland rainforest adjacent to the Yasuni National Forest. Here, we will have access to a spectacular salty clay lick – a natural formation caused by erosion – frequented by a variety of parrots, including **Orange-cheeked Parrot, Blue-headed Parrot, and Cobalt-winged Parakeet**.

A recently built 118 foot (36 meter) high tower you to move from the forest floor to the top of the in a matter of minutes. From the tower we will be lookout for **Blue-and-Yellow Macaws** and **Red-Macaws**.

Walks on the trails are always full of surprises! just some of the species we may have a chance to the two days at the center: **Yellow-Headed Caracara, Black Caracara, Spix's Guan, Gray-Trumpeter, Rufous-Sided Crane, Collared Plover, Quail-Dove, Scarlet-Shouldered Parrotlet, Black-Cuckoo, Ladder-Tailed Nightjar, Great-Billed Gould's Jewelfront, Yellow-Billed Jacamar, Brown Yellow-Billed Nunbird, Golden-Collared Toucanet, Cinnamon-Throated Woodcreeper, Rufous-Tailed Foliage-Gleaner, Black-Tailed Leaf-tosser, Undulated Antshrike, Long-Winged Antwren, Dugand's Antwren, Banded Antbird, Spot-Winged Antbird, Warbling Antbird, Lunulated Antbird, Bicolored Antbird, Scale-Backed Antbird, Rufous-Capped Antthrush, Ochre-Striped Antpitta, Blue-Backed Manakin, Striped Manakin, Amazonian Umbrellabird, White-Eyed Tody-Tyrant, Olive-Faced Flatbill, Musician Wren, Long-Billed Gnatwren, and Slate-Colored Grosbeak.**

Overnight: Napo Wildlife Center



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Day 8 – February 29 – Saturday

Return to Quito

Early morning departure for the return trip to Coca and the flight back to Quito. We will try to spot any additional species for the Tour List as we wrap up the unforgettable Northern Ecuador tour.

Overnight: San Jose de Puenbo or Sebastian Hotel

Day 9 – March 1 – Sunday

Heading Home

Plan your flight home for any time on Sunday, March 1. Breakfast will be provided.

Custom Northern Ecuador Tour 2020 - Pricing

For the Ohio Ornithological Society

Price Per Person (sharing):

US \$4900.00 – based on a group size of 8-12 participants – Double Occupancy
Single supplement: \$1105.00

Price includes:

- All lodging and meals unless specified in the itinerary*
- Guiding services - Galo Real as the guide
- Private Transportation
- Entrances to parks or private reserves
- Flight to and from Coca

Price does not include:

- International flights to and from Ecuador
- Any costs of a personal nature, such as laundry, phone calls, extra meals or snacks, alcoholic beverages, etc.
- Tips
- Medical attention
- Trip cancellation insurance
- Lost luggage

*- Dinner provided on Day 1. Breakfast provided on Day 9.

About Your Guide

Galo Rael

Galo Real was born and raised in the heart of the Andes in Quito, Ecuador. After graduating with a degree in Eco-tourism from Catholic University in Quito (PUCE), he became qualified as a Naturalist guide and began working and living in the famous Tandayapa Valley.

Galo has been professionally guiding for well over a decade in Ecuador. His easy mannerisms and vast knowledge of both the politics and the culture of Ecuador make him a wonderful travel companion. Galo has

traveled and birded various parts of Texas, Peru, Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, and of course all over Ecuador. He is a licensed Volunteer Park Guard for the Sangay National Park and spends much of his time working with the Ministry of the Environment, training/licensing local guides, giving birding workshops, and actively participating as a board member for the conservation of the Upano River Valley.

When not guiding, Galo resides with his wife, RhoAnn, and three children in the Amazonian Province of Morona Santiago.

