



# BIRDING BONANZA

This four-day trip is a wonderful way to become acquainted with the special environment of a cloud forest and the amazing birds to which it is home! And your base at Bellavista Lodge and Reserve is so close to Quito – only one hour 45 minutes away!



Leaving Quito, we pass the Middle of the World monument and then descend a scenic mountain road with forested mountains all the way. Reaching the turn to Bellavista, we climb to the top of the mountain, again with fabulous views, where Bellavista lodge is perched. Immediately on arrival we will be met by a flurry of hummingbirds... Gorgeted Sunangel, Collared Inca, Booted Rackettail - even the names are a delight! Breakfast is served, and then we take our first guided discovery hike into the forest on our varied trails. Rooms sometimes available on arrival, otherwise available later in the morning.

*Any birder's heaven, here is your chance to experience some of the avian wonders of our area of northwestern Ecuador: Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan and Toucan Barbet at Bellavista, a myriad hummingbirds such as Violet-tailed Sylph, and Green-crowned Woodnymph at Bellavista and Alambí, the spectacular Cock-of-the-Rock and up to four species of Antpittas and more!*

We offer our guests a unique stay in paradise, above the forest canopy, at the top of the deeply-forested Tandayapa Valley, surrounded by myriads of hummingbirds! And your room (options for standard or superior rooms) provides comfort and original lodging, with great views towards Pichincha Volcano, or towards Tandayapa Valley. Birds galore, and special wildlife like the Andean Coati, and the newly-described Olinguito!

You will enjoy our generous servings of delicious Ecuadorian and international food, good wines are available, in our restaurant surrounded by fabulous views of forest and mountains. Our extensive network of safe, well-marked trails awaits you, accompanied by our knowledgeable, bilingual naturalist guides. Birding starts early morning, with a hike that needs to go no further than the area immediately around the rooms and the Dome... birds seen at surprisingly close quarters.

This package also takes in a day trip out of Bellavista with entry fees and transport included to the Alambi Hummingbird and Tanager Reserve, as well as a visit to the Paz de la Aves Reserve (Cock-of-the-Rock and Antpittas). For this Alambi / Angel Paz day, the naturalist / birding guide is exclusive. For services within Bellavista Reserve / Lodge itself, the guide is on a shared basis.

**Quito office:** Washington E7-25 & 6 de diciembre. Office phone: +593-2-223-2313 Mobil phone: +593-9-9949-0891.

[info@bellavistacloudforest.com](mailto:info@bellavistacloudforest.com)

**Lodge & reserve:** Tandayapa Valley. Lodge phone: +593-2-361-3447 Mobil phone: +593-9-9416-5868.

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Within Bellavista Reserve itself, three hikes per (full) day are offered 06.15 or 06.30 a.m. / 09.30 a.m. and 15.00 p.m.

## DAY TO DAY ITINERARY:

### Day One:

06.15 / 06:30h: Departure from your hotel.

Arrival at Bellavista and breakfast.



09.30 h: Our first Bellavista explorations start around the Lodge, and then along some of our trails. The hummingbird feeders will be the first attraction – Buff-winged Coronet, Violet-tailed Sylph, Gorgeted Sunangel, Booted Racket-tail and more. Then we will be looking for Toucan Barbet, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Masked Trogon, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Grass-green Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager and more.

13.00h: Lunch



15.00h: Further explorations will include forest birding for species like Grey-breasted Woodwren, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Spillman´s Tapaculo, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Green and Black Fruiteater.

19.00h: Tonight, expect to see really close up the delightful Olinguito, the first new species of mammal to be discovered in the Americas in past 35 years, as of 2103! And sometimes, our guides have located a roost for the amazing Common Potoo!



Overnight: Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge. Meals: B, L, D



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## Day Two:



05.00 a.m.: Depart from Bellavista at 05.00 and drive about 45 minutes to the valley of the San Jose river, where Angel Paz's reserve is located. A short hike takes is down to the lek, and as the day gradually dawns, these remarkable brightly coloured creatures squawk, preen and prance!

Photography options, and a light box breakfast is provided. Then Angel Paz will be the star as he calls out a variety of normally difficult forest birds, in different areas of the nearby forest: Dark-backed Wood-Quail, the difficult Rufous-breasted Antbird, and then the stars of the show for which Angel Paz, the bird whisperer, is famous. Giant

Antpitta, Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Moustached Antpitta, Ochre-breasted Antpitta! A hot breakfast, with the local speciality of "bolones" is served at Angel's house, where birds like Crimson-rumped Toucanet are often seen in the trees.

After a while, we proceed about 45 minutes drive to a hummingbird garden at low elevation in the Tandayapa Valley, which has a true hummingbird spectacle, with birds like White-necked Jacobin, White-bellied Woodstar, and Green-crowned Woodnymph, plus Tanagers, Euphonias, Red-headed Barbet, often Crested Quetzal, and more. Down by the river, we can expect the Torrent Tyrannulet, and the White-capped Dipper, which, as elsewhere in the world, indicates a clean river!



Late afternoon return to Bellavista.

19.00h Dinner

Options for other nocturnal mammals: Kinkajoo, White-eared Opossum. Owls? — chances for the Black-and-White Owl.

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## Day Three:



Hemispingus, tanager flocks and more.

## 13.00 Lunch

After lunch, we offer an optional visit to a new Hummingbird Garden, Velvet-purple Coronet sound good? Also Orange-breasted Fruiteater, and Streak-capped Treehunter are frequently seen. As the Hummingbird Capital of the world, Bellavista and our immediate area produce an amazing variety of these avian jewels .... A change in elevation means a different species!



05.00H. Today we make an early start to look for Swallow-tailed Nightjar. Then we go to the area where the Tanager Finch, a range-restricted species, whose first ever nest was discovered on land now protected by Bellavista in 1997.

## 08.00 Breakfast

After breakfast, our birding explorations continue along the ridge road, for Rusty-winged Barbtail, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Pearled Treerunner, Black-capped



## 19.00h. Dinner

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## Day Four:



06.15: Early morning birding. Chances for Strong-billed Woodcreeper, White-tailed Tyrannulet, Turquoise Jay, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, White-sided and Masked Flowerpiercer, Masked Trogon, and more, all around the lodge. You hardly need to walk any distance at all to see a great variety of birds.

Some mornings the elusive Tayra (Giant Weasel) comes in to a feeding station right at the Lodge!

08.00h. Breakfast

During the morning, hikes into the forest. We will be on the lookout for Ocellated Tapaculo, Green and Black Fruiteater, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Toucan Barbet and more, while the melodious tune of the Plain-tailed Wren is heard in the stands of native bamboo.

13.00h. Lunch

14..30 / 15.00h. After lunch we take time to relish the sight of the ever-active hummingbirds, before your departure for Quito.

17:00h /17.30h: Arrive at your Quito hotel

Meals: B,L.

**ADDED SUGGESTION:** For an extra cost, this trip can include, instead of the direct route, travel out to Bellavista along the old Quito-Nono-Mindo road, visiting the high altitude Yanacocha Reserve. Bird highlights include Sword-billed Hummingbird, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, and Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager.



## What to bring:

T-shirts or comfortable blouses/shirts

Sweater or fleece for the evenings

Quick drying trousers (blue jeans not recommended)

Lightweight socks

Change of clothes

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Sunhat and sunscreen

Rain poncho (a few available if needed)

Camera

Rubber boots are provided – to size 47 (few pairs in large sizes)

Binoculars (a few available for rent)

Water bottle for hikes

Small daypack for hikes

Flashlight and batteries

Plastic bags to protect camera, etc

## **What is included:**

11 meals , starting with breakfast Day One, and finishing after lunch Day Three

3 nights accommodation

Shared naturalist / birding guide service / Private naturalist / birding guide service on the full day to Angel Paz and Alambí.

Access to 700 hectares private Reserve

Shared private, round trip transport

Private transport for the day to Angel Paz and Alambí.

Entrance fees

Taxes

## **What is not included:**

International flights

Drinks, tips, personal items, other services.

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