

# **Southern Ecuador Birding Tour**

**10-Day Itinerary | August 2026**

**From Coastal Wetlands to  
Andean Cloud and Tropical Forests**

# Tour Overview

This 10-day birding itinerary in southern Ecuador explores an exceptional diversity of habitats, from coastal wetlands and estuaries to Andean cloud forests and foothill ecosystems.

The tour focuses on shorebirds, waterbirds, Tumbesian endemics, and a wide range of Andean species, offering excellent opportunities for birdwatching and photography.



# Arrival Information

Participants will take an early morning flight from Quito to Santa Rosa (around 06:00 AM), and the birding tour begins upon arrival. Alternatively, depending on flight availability, participants may choose to arrive one day earlier on an afternoon flight (around 5:00 PM). In this case, an overnight stay will be arranged in the Santa Rosa / La Huaca area before the tour officially begins.



# Tour Highlights

- Coastal wetlands & estuarine birding
- Shorebirds and migratory species  
Tumbesian endemic birds
- Chocó - Cloud forest bird diversity
- Andean foothill ecosystems.
- Tropical forest ecosystems.
- Excellent bird photography opportunities



# Day 1 – La Huaca Lagoon & Arenillas Reserve

We begin our birding adventure in the Tumbesian region, exploring the wetlands and coastal habitats around La Huaca Lagoon.

This area is excellent for observing a wide variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, and marsh species, including herons, egrets, ibis, and migratory waders.

The surrounding estuaries, small lagoons, and seasonal wetlands provide ideal conditions for both resident and migratory birds. The dry forest of the Arenillas Reserve is another important birding site, hosting a variety of Tumbesian endemic species and dry habitat specialists



Overnight: La Huaca Lodge. (2 nights)

## Day 2 – La Tembladera Lagoon & Coastal Wetlands

A full day exploring diverse wetland ecosystems including La Tembladera Lagoon and nearby estuarine habitats.

We will search for shorebirds, seabirds, and wetland specialists, as well as Tumbesian endemic species in adjacent dry forest areas.

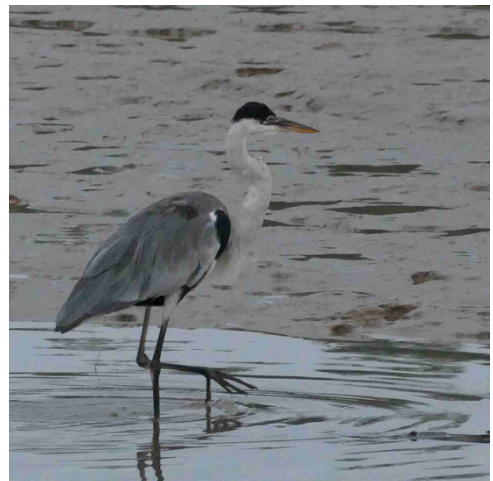
This day offers excellent opportunities for bird photography in open landscapes.

## Day 3 – Santa Rosa Birding & Buenaventura Reserve

Morning birding around Santa Rosa, targeting additional coastal and dry forest species.

Later, we travel to the foothills of the Andes and enter the lush cloud forests of Buenaventura Reserve.

Overnight: Buenaventura (2 nights)

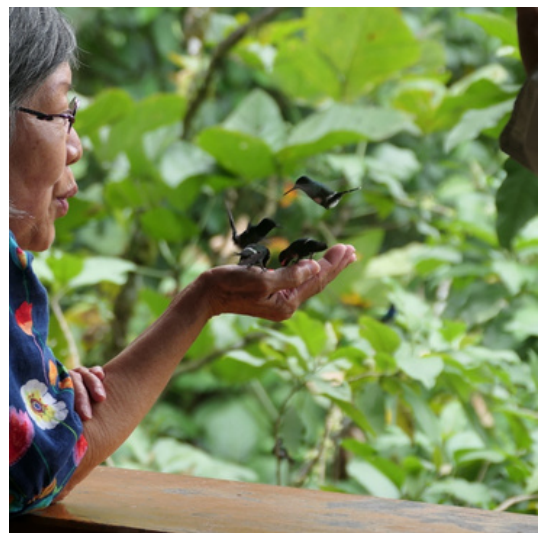


## **Day 4 – Buenaventura Reserve (Choco Región - Cloud Forest Birding)**

Full day exploring one of Ecuador’s most renowned birding sites. Buenaventura protects rich Chocó foothill forest and offers excellent opportunities to observe a wide variety of species, including tanagers, trogons, toucans, and hummingbirds. This is one of the best locations to experience the diversity of cloud forest birdlife.

## **Day 5 – Buenaventura & Transfer to Tapichalaca Reserve**

Morning birding in Buenaventura, with more chances to observe key species of the foothill forests. Later, we travel south into the Andes toward Tapichalaca Reserve, transitioning into higher elevation habitats with unique bird communities. Overnight: Tapichalaca (2 nights)



## Day 6 – Tapichalaca Reserve (High Andean Birding)

Full day exploring Tapichalaca Reserve, a world-renowned site for Andean birding.

We will walk forest trails and visit feeding stations in search of endemic and rare species that inhabit these high-elevation cloud forests.

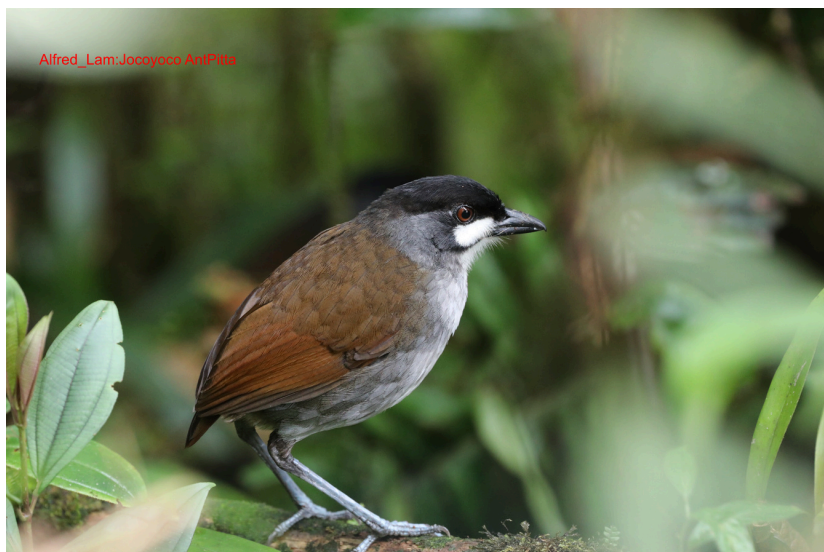
This reserve is a key highlight of the tour and offers excellent opportunities to observe unique Andean birds such as the Jocotoco Antpitta.

## Day 7 – Tapichalaca & Transfer to Copalinga Reserve

Morning birding in Tapichalaca before descending to the eastern Andean foothills.

We continue toward Copalinga Reserve, located near Podocarpus National Park, an area known for its exceptional biodiversity and bird richness.

Overnight: Copalinga (3 nights)



## Day 8 – Podocarpus National Park & Copalinga

Full day exploring Podocarpus National Park and surrounding areas. We will bird along forest trails and river edges, searching for Andean and foothill species, including mixed flocks and colorful tanagers. This area is one of the most biodiverse regions in southern Ecuador.

## Day 9 – Copalinga Reserve

A relaxed but productive birding day around Copalinga Reserve. This area offers excellent opportunities to observe hummingbirds, forest species, and mixed flocks, as well as great conditions for bird photography.

## Day 10 – Final Birding & Return to Quito

Final morning birding around Copalinga. Transfer for an afternoon flight back to Quito, marking the end of this diverse southern Ecuador birding adventure.



# Why Choose This Tour?

- Exceptional diversity of habitats in a single trip
- Coastal wetlands, dry forest, and Andean cloud forest birding
- High number of bird species and endemic specialties
- Expert local birding guide. Pablo Andrade
- Comfortable pace with excellent photography opportunities
- Unique combination of Tumbesian, Chocó, and Andean birdlife

This itinerary is designed to provide a comprehensive and rewarding birding experience in one of Ecuador's most diverse regions.



# Contact & Reservations

If you are interested in joining this birding experience in southern Ecuador, feel free to contact us for more information, availability, and booking details.

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We look forward to birding with you in Ecuador!