

Ecuador, Nord West Area birds and plants
10 days / 11 nights
\$1730 per person

DATE	ITINERARY	MEALS	ACCOMMODATION
1	Quito – trf in	----	Mercure
2	Quito – city tour	B	Mercure
3	Quito – Pahuma reserve	B – L – D	Pahuma
4	Pahuma – hike Tandayapa – Bellavista	B – BL – D	Bellavista
5	Bellavista – Mindo	B – L - D	Sachatamia
6	Mindo – Santa Lucía	B – L – D	Santa Lucía
7	Santa Lucía	B – L – D	Santa Lucía
8	Santa Lucía – Maquipucuna	B – L – D	Maquipucuna
9	Maquipucuna – Quito	B – L	Mercure
10	Quito – trf out	B	---

B = breakfast	L = Lunch or box lunch	D = Diner
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HOTEL LIST *upon availability

QUITO	MERCURE	www.accord.com
PAHUMA	PAHUMA	www.reservapahuma.com
BELLAVISTA	BELLAVISTA RESERVE	www.bellavistacloudforest.com
MINDO	SACHATAMIA	www.sachatamia.com
SANTA LUCIA	SANTA LUCIA RESERVE	www.santaluciaecuador.com
MAQUIPUCUNA	MAQUIPUCUNA RESERVE	www.maqui.org

Indicative Itinerary:

DAY 1: QUITO – TRF IN: Arrival, welcome and transfer to the hotel. Welcome drink and room distribution. Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 2: QUITO – CITY TOUR – EQUATOR: Departure from your hotel in order to visit the colonial Quito attractions such as The Cathedral, the Main Square Plaza de La Independencia, La Compañía Church, San Francisco Church and square, and El Panecillo hill from where the Virgen de Quito will share with you a magnificent view of colonial Quito. From Quito, we will travel northwest to reach the Monument of the Equator, located at Latitude 0°, where you straddle at both hemispheres. At the Equator we will visit the in situ museum “Intiñan” which means The Route of the Sun, this is a very complete museum that shows different regions and cultures of Ecuador and where you can try the different experiments to prove you are at the Middle of the World.

DAY 3: QUITO – PAHUMA (70 KMS - 1h30): Pick up from your hotel in Quito. Depart for the reserve Pahuma, located at 2800 ms. The reserve has 650 hectares of cloud forest with three beautiful waterfalls, a wide variety of flowers, orchids and birds. Arrival to the reserve. According to the physical condition of the participants they can decide which trail to take in the morning. Later on they will take the trail that goes to Guarida del Oso. Accommodation in refuge with shared bathrooms.

DAY 4: PAHUMA – TANDAYAPA – BELLAVISTA: Early morning excursion for birding. Trek to Tandayapa (about 6 hours). Arrival and transfer to Bellavista, a reserve located at the southern edge of the Choco/Andean hotspots of biodiversity, known place for birders and nature lovers. Night at the Lodge.

DAY 5: BELLAVISTA - MINDO: Early morning wake up to see the cock of the rock. Return to the lodge for breakfast. The lodge has several trails; the participants can decide which one to take. Transfer to Mindo at the end of the day. Mindo is a protected area with a wide variety of flora and fauna, a unique place that obtain the nomination of best place for bird-watching by the AUDUBUN (American Birding Association). Night at the Lodge.

DAY 6: MINDO – SANTA LUCIA: Mindo is well-known for being home of a wide variety of birds. There are several trails for birding. Participants can decide with the guide which one to take. Transfer to the parking of Santa Lucia's reserve, from there we will walk through the forest for about two hours to get to the main house. During this hike you will admire the incredible landscapes that surrounds Santa Lucía. Diner and night walk to observe and listen to the symphony of birds and night animals. Night at the reserve.

DAY 7: SANTA LUCIA: If you don't mind getting up early we will leave at 4 am to visit the place where is possible to find the cock on the rock and learn more about their mating ritual. Back to the main house for breakfast at 9:30. Some of the options to choose from for today include: A day excursion to the observation tower to see birds and enjoy the waterfalls. 90 minute walk to the orchid garden where you can also visit the agro-forest projects.

DAY 8: SANTA LUCIA – MAQUIPUCUNA: After breakfast, a hike along the trail that goes to a banana plantation, these trees give shadow to some coffee trees. In this trail we can also visit an outstanding waterfall and take a bath if the water current is good. Later on we will continue through a pre-Inca trail, used by the yumbo people as a commercial route, here we will cross primary forest and observe two more beautiful waterfalls, a good area to observe arborous ferns. Be attentive because you might find the traces of the puma and the wild pigs. We will then meet with our vehicle that will transfer us to Maquipucuna reserve.

DAY 9: MAQUIPUCUNA – QUITO: Today we will hike in one of the trails of the Maquipucuna reserve; the reserve has 14,000 acres of cloud forest located form 20950 to 8800 feet above sea level. During the hike we can admire a wide variety of birds, endemic from this area: toucans of the Choco, motmot, tangara, among others. Return to Quito. Night at the hotel.

DAY 10: QUITO – TRF OUT

The price includes:

- Accommodation in the city at a 3* hotel, in the Pahuma reserve at a refuge with dorms and shared bathrooms, for Bellavista, Mindo, Santa Lucía and Maquipucuna at lodges based in double rooms or cabins with private bathrooms
- Meals as specified in board
- All airport transfers
- A bilingual naturalist guide for the visits and local guides at the reserves.
- Private transportation
- Entrance fees to museums

Does not include:

- Meals except for the specified ones
- Beverages
- Airport tax \$41
- Personal expenses