



Sunrise Birding, LLC

PO Box 274, Cos Cob, Connecticut 06807 USA

COLOMBIA: Santa Marta & the Caribbean Lowlands

10-day Private Tour: February 26 - March 7, 2011

In northern Colombia bordered by the Caribbean Sea is a unique region of highly contrasting habitats – the tallest coastal mountain range on earth in close proximity to lowland tropical habitats stretching to the coast. Santa Marta and the Caribbean lowlands are a terrifically diverse area encompassing nearly all of habitats that occur in the Neotropics making it a superb place to bird.



At least 635 bird species have been recorded here accounting for an impressive 35% of the whole of Colombian avifauna in less than 1.5% of the national territory. It is arguably the most important endemism center in the world with 36 unique bird species and 55 subspecies. This tour takes in the coastal habitats of Isla Salamanca, the coastal desert of the Guajira Peninsula and the foothills to the mountains of Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta providing the opportunity to experience the birding thrills of this world class hotspot for endemics!

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

DATE	DAY	Localities and Birding	Night
Feb 26, 2011	1	Arrival in Barranquilla.	Barranquilla
Feb 27, 2011	2	Parque Isla Salamanca, Tayrona National Park to Santa Marta.	Santa Marta
Feb 28, 2011	3	Birding via Minca to El Dorado Reserve and Lodge	San Lorenzo
Mar 1, 2011	4	Sunrise at the summit of the San Lorenzo Mountain looking for specialties and endemics of the sierra.	San Lorenzo
Mar 2, 2011	5	Full day San Lorenzo	San Lorenzo
Mar 3, 2011	6	Birding down the mountain toward Minca which 300+ species.	Minca
Mar 4, 2011	7	Birding dry and lowland forest of Tayrona National Park.	Tayrona Park
Mar 5, 2011	8	Birding from Tayrona to Guajira.	Riohacha
Mar 6, 2011	9	Flamingos Fauna and Flora Sanctuary and nearby desert environment for specialties.	Santa Marta
Mar 7, 2011	10	Mamankana Dry Forest Reserve and birding enroute to Barranquilla. Afternoon return to Barranquilla for flights out.	

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 – Arrival Barranquilla

The tour begins in Barranquilla (airport code BAQ) on the north coast of Colombia. There are direct flights to Barranquilla from Miami (MIA). The current schedule arrives around 5 PM. Night Barranquilla.

Day 2 – Barranquilla to Santa Marta

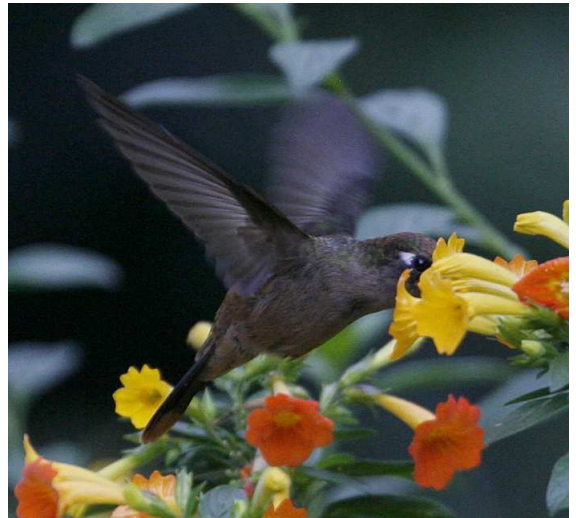
Barranquilla provides access to coastal habitats and Parque Nacional Isla Salamanca on the barrier island between the Caribbean Sea and Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta, a mangrove-estuarine system on the Caribbean coast of Colombia. The dry cactus scrub just in from the shoreline is home to the endemic Chestnut-winged Chachalaca and nearby areas offer the chance to see Chestnut Piculet, Golden-green Woodpecker, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Black-crested Antshrike, Northern Scrub-Flycatcher, Bicolored Conebill, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Cattle Tyrant, and Bicolored Wren. Mangroves and wetlands are filled with shorebirds, ducks, herons



and terns plus Snail Kite, Limpkin, Purple Gallinule, five species of kingfisher, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Prothonotary Warbler and Pied Water-Tyrant are all possible here. From Barranquilla, you will travel east to Santa Marta for an overnight stay. Night Santa Marta.

Day 3 – Santa Marta, Minca, El Dorado Lodge. Night El Dorado.

Today you will spend time birding the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta around the village of Minca. Birding stops could produce any of a number of species including Pale-breasted Thrush, Lineated Woodpecker, Stripe-billed Woodcreeper, Black-chested Jay or Western Long-tailed Hermit. At the bridge in the middle of Minca village, possibilities include Orange-crowned Oriole, White-vented Plumeleteer, Streaked Flycatcher, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Black-throated Saltator, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Black Phoebe, Panama Flycatcher and Southern Beardless Tyrannulet. Working up the hill in 4-wheel drive vehicles, birding stops could add Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Seedeater, Golden-winged Sparrow, Yellow-margined



Flycatcher, Lesser Greenlet, Pale-naped Pygmy Tyrant, Yellow-legged Thrush, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Broad-winged Hawk, Plumbeous Kite, Rufous-breasted Wren, Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush, Large-billed Seedfinch, and White-lined Tanager. A stop at a roadside rest could present Santa Marta Brush Finch coming to the feeders, Blossomcrown foraging in nearby flowers or perhaps Santa Marta Tapaculo or Black-headed Tanager in the surrounding woodland. In the afternoon, you will enter the El Dorado reserve which extends from 3000 to

8700 feet on the San Lorenzo ridge. The El Dorado Lodge at 6300 feet will be your home for the next four nights.

Days 4, 5, 6 – El Dorado and San Lorenzo Ridge

El Dorado Lodge is set on a hillside along the forested road that extends to the upper reaches of San Lorenzo ridge. It has an open view to the sea and the vistas are spectacular but you are sure to be distracted by Violet-crowned Woodnymphs (*colombica*) and Green Violetears at the hummingbird feeders and gorgeous Blue-naped Chlorophonias (amazingly close) and Black-capped Tanagers at the fruit feeders. Watch for Santa Marta and Stripe-headed Brush-Finches flitting about and check the kitchen compost area for Black-fronted Wood-Quail! It is a fabulous base and you'll spend the next three days exploring the mountain slopes here which contain up to 16 endemics including Santa Marta Parakeet, Santa Marta Antpitta, Santa Marta Tapaculo, Brown-rumped Tapaculo, Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant, Yellow-crowned Whitestart, White-lored Warbler, Santa Marta Warbler, and Santa Marta Mountain-Tanager among others.



In addition to the endemics, mixed flocks in the forest can hold Coppery Emerald, Streak-capped Spinetail, Trinidad Euphonia, Rusty-headed Spinetail, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Santa Marta Foliage-Gleaner, Black-fronted Wood-Quail and Band-tailed Guan. The list of birds to look for here seems endless with Military Macaw, White-tailed Starfrontlet, Black-cheeked Mountain-Tanager, and Flammulated Treehunter. While walking the road at mid-elevation many excellent species can be found including White-tipped Quetzal, Golden-breasted Fruiteater, Sooty-capped Hermit, several potentially split toucanets, Black-hooded Thrush and Rusty-breasted Antpitta. In the evening, there is the chance to look for Mottled Owl and perhaps catch a glimpse of Santa Marta Screech-owl. Nights at El Dorado Lodge.

Days 7 & 8 - El Dorado to Riohacha, Guajira Peninsula



Descending out of the mountains, the next two days are spent birding in the Caribbean lowlands. At Santa Marta, you will head east along the coast and bird areas around Tayrona National Park, Los Flamencos Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, and Riohacha,. As you travel east along the coastal hills you'll see the transition to steadily drier habitats that offer chances to see Buffy Hummingbird, Chestnut Piculet, Northern Scrub-Flycatcher, Slender-billed Inezia, Orinocan Saltator, and Vermilion Cardinal plus White-whiskered Spinetail, Glaucous Tanager, Black-crested Antshrike, White-fringed Antwren, Brown-throated Parakeet and Green-rumped Parrotlet, Bare-eyed Pigeon, Caribbean Hornero, Slender-billed Tyrannulet, Russet-throated Puffbird, Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, Pileated

Finch, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher and Tocuyo Sparrow. Around the coastal lagoons several species of shorebird are possible as well as Scarlet Ibis, American Flamingo, and Cayenne Tern. Two nights Guajira Peninsula.

Day 9 – Guajira to Barranquilla



Today you will travel west to Barranquilla with time to revisit areas or check new places for species needed. Night Barranquilla.

Day 10 – Departures from Barranquilla.

Direct flights to Miami depart Barranquilla in the morning.

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TOUR PRICE:

For 4 passengers: \$2945.00 USD per person from Barranquilla based on double occupancy.

For 5 passengers: \$2645.00 USD per person from Barranquilla based on double occupancy.



Included in cost: Group airport pickup at Barranquilla, Colombia, transport throughout the tour by minibus or car, hotel accommodation based on twin rooms en-suite, all meals from Day 2 until breakfast on Day 10, including picnic lunches and guiding services of leader.

Not included: Insurance, drinks, and items of a personal nature.

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