



Tico Tours

Ecuador: Summary

The smallest country in the rugged Andean highlands, Ecuador has an array of vibrant indigenous cultures, well-preserved colonial architecture, otherworldly volcanic landscapes and dense rainforest. And all that in a nation no bigger than the US state of Nevada. Ecuador is one of the premiere destinations for birding in the world, with about 1,535 known bird species in the continental area plus 38 more endemic to the Galapagos Islands. Geographic good fortune has blessed Ecuador with a wide variety of faunal zones, including some of the richest on this planet, each with its characteristic birds. Ecuador's Amazonian faunal zone alone has more than 600 species of birds, and several other Ecuadorian zones are nearly as rich.

Ecuador has the greatest diversity of hummingbirds in the world boasting 132 species grouped into 57 genera, representing almost half of all hummingbirds found worldwide. Hummingbirds can be found in nearly every type of habitat in Ecuador from sea level to the snow capped mountains and can even be found in city centers of large towns. The most amazing ones occupy the high altitude regions of the Andes right up to the glaciers of 5000 meters. To survive that high up, those species of colibries (Spanish for hummingbirds) go into a state of torpor at night, diminishing their heart rate and dropping body temperature by 25° Celsius to conserve energy in the cold and often freezing paramo nights. Thanks to hummingbirds, many organizations have started conservation programs in Ecuador. Their beauty and peculiar way of flying makes them admired by scientists and photographers looking for exclusive and difficult shot of these birds.

Ecuador is also the owner of one of the most amazing places in the world, the Galapagos Islands. This group of 13 major islands and dozens of smaller islets and rocks, all the result of volcanic activity, certainly appear to be out of this world. These islands are the perfect place for birders with 28 endemic species. There of course are lots of other things to see including playful sea lions, exotic plant life, volcanoes and haunting land and seascape.

The following are a selection of scheduled tours to Ecuador Customised tours can be arranged throughout Ecuador for any duration, in any season, for any target species. In addition, tour extensions can be easily organised to extend your birding tour or to take in some of the many cultural, historical, and geographical attractions including some of the most beautiful and impressive volcanoes in the Western Hemisphere. Please enquire for details.

Tours:

1. Ecuador- “A Country for Birdwatchers”
2. Ecuador- “Land of Hummingbirds”
3. Galapagos- “Enchanted Isles”
4. Ecuador- “Andes and Amazonia”
5. Ecuador South
6. Galapagos Enchanted Isles