



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## IMPACT ADVENTURES *with* AUDUBON

ROCKJUMPER TOURS FOR BIODIVERSITY

### **Colombia:** **Explore Perijá** *(6 Days)*



**Black-and-chestnut Eagle by Dušan Brinkhuizen**

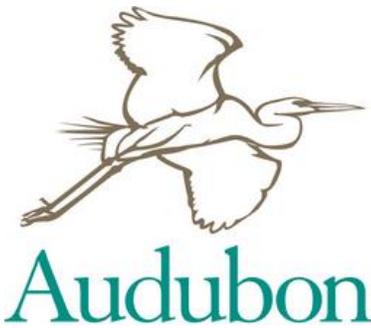
*Colombia, so rich with birdlife, sports not only the longest bird list of any country, but also some little-known wilderness areas. The most intriguing of these is surely the Perijá Mountains. An isolated offshoot and the northernmost point of the Andes, the Serrania de Perijá forms the northern border between Colombia and Venezuela. Until recently, it was beyond the reach of birders. With no roads and no accommodations on site, the area was also vexed politically. But since 2009 things have improved dramatically, and today the door to secluded Perijá is suddenly open.*

*In 2016, the National Audubon Society together with partners in Colombia, such as the Calidris Association ([calidris.org.co](http://calidris.org.co)) and Patrimonio Natural ([patrimonionatural.org.co](http://patrimonionatural.org.co)) established the*

*Northern Colombia Birding Trail. Funded in large part by USAID, this brand new trail hosts superb birding and a number of Audubon-trained local guides. Some of these are featured also on the Impact Adventures: Colombia’s Megadiverse Santa Marta Mountains tour, and the two trips can be paired for a magical combination. These spots are great examples of how bird-based tourism leads to a more stable future for the area’s birds, the local guides employed, and local businesses, too. Exhibiting the Perija Mountains and their surroundings is a long-awaited thrill, and now avian riches await us!*

*Rare and range-restricted endemic birds like the Perijá Metaltail, the Perijá Thistletail, the Perijá Brush Finch, and the Perijá Tapaculo are now sought and seen. A number of Perijá populations of more widespread bird species also seem destined for species status, as “splits”, increasing the number of endemics further still. The Explore Perijá tour features superb birding, and a truly wild departure to one of the last great ornithological frontiers.*

### Rockjumper & Audubon



Rockjumper is proud to partner with the National Audubon Society in support of their unrivaled, on the ground work protecting birds and the places they need while training area residents in guiding, business, and hospitality. Through *Rockjumper’s Impact Adventures with Audubon*, we showcase amazing nature spectacles while celebrating the efforts and expertise of local businesses and conservationists, fostering sustainable economic growth in Neotropical hotspots with high biodiversity. Support the National Audubon Society’s work by joining a Rockjumper Impact Adventure today.

#### THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Arrival in Bogotá</b>
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Flight to Valledupar, Los Besotes</b>
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Valledupar and 4x4 ascent up to Perijá, via Los Tananeos</b>
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Chamicero del Perijá Reserve</b>
<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Chamicero del Perijá Reserve</b>
<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Return to Valleduper, Flight to Bogotá</b>



**TOUR MAP...****THE TOUR IN DETAIL...**

**Day 1: Arrival in Bogotá.** Upon arriving in the city of Bogotá, you will be met and transferred to our comfortable lodging. Here our group will gather for a welcome dinner with your Rockjumper guide, and we'll begin to discuss the exciting adventures to come! *Night in Bogotá.*

**Day 2: Flight to Valledupar, Los Besotes.** After a morning flight from Bogotá to Valledupar, we visit one of Colombia's most endangered habitats. Not much of Colombia's xeric coastal scrub habitat remains, yet it is a center of bird endemism, hosting such stunners as Chestnut Piculet, White-whiskered Spinetail, Buffy Hummingbird, Tocuyo Sparrow, and even the scarce, retina-burning Vermilion Cardinal. Today, on the arid, eastern slope of the unique Santa Marta Mountains, we visit the 10,000 hectare Ecoparque Los Besotes. This spot was the first-ever designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) in Colombia, and identifying these special places and protecting them is a major focus of Audubon and their partner, BirdLife International. As we walk the trails here, we'll search for the birds mentioned above, also keeping in mind the reserve is known to harbor apex predators such as Ocelot, Cougar and Jaguar. We won't hold our breath daring to hope too much for one of these feline ghosts, but we'll keep them in mind as we hopefully enjoy sightings of Glaucous Tanager, Pale-legged Hornero, and Black-backed Antshrike. *Night in Valledupar.*



Vermilion Cardinal by George L. Armistead

**Day 3: Valledupar and 4x4 ascent up to Perijá, via Los Tananeos.** It gets warm quickly in the dry forest, so after an early rise pre-dawn, we'll get out to take advantage of the early morning bird activity, seeking any species that



eluded us the day prior, before we head on towards the Perijá Mountains. We'll make our way north, stopping at the foot of the Perijá range, visiting a relatively new reserve called Los Tananeos. Featuring a variety of waterfalls and cascades, here we'll enjoy a more humid woodland that hosts species such as the Military Macaw, Golden-winged Sparrow, Perijá Metaltail and still others. After birding here, we begin our ascent.

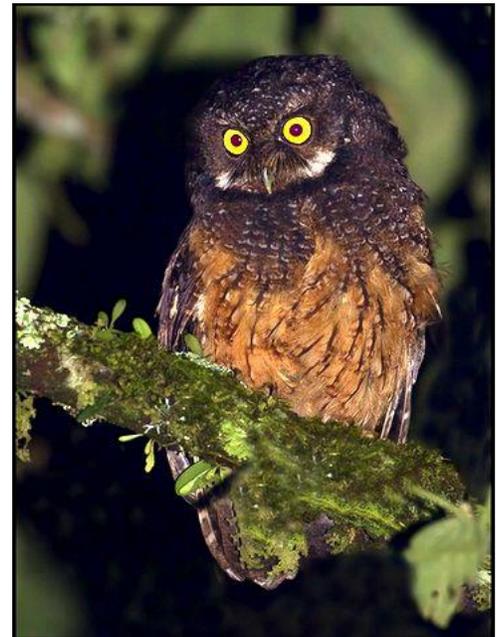


Barred Fruiteater by Dušan Brinkhuizen

We've reached a pretty remote corner of Colombia. There is no paved road up into the Perijá, and of course its wildness is indeed part of its appeal. We'll change vehicles, using 4x4s to travel for the next few days. Most of the afternoon is spent working our way up into the mountains. The road is pretty rough and slow in places, but the upside is we will encounter birds as we go. It is a good time of day for raptors, so keen eyes may reveal a White-rumped Hawk or even a Black-and-chestnut Eagle. As we climb higher we should put eyes to our first couple Perijá endemics too. We will lunch en route, reaching our lodging for dinner.

Our home for the next three nights is a new eco-lodge opened by ProAves ([proaves.org](http://proaves.org)), another of the Colombia's great bird conservation groups, working hard to protect birds and sensitive habitats. Working with Rainforest Trust and others, ProAves purchased about 2000 acres of montane forest, that covers a range of elevations, the low end of which is at 8000 feet above sea level. The lodge is called Chamicero del Perijá, named for one of our target birds, the Perijá Thistletail. This is a modest yet comfortable little lodge, and we'll have it all to ourselves. It rests amid wonderful montane forest, and harbors nearly all of the range's endemic birds. *Night at Chamicero del Perijá.*

**Day 4 & 5: Chamicero del Perijá.** With two full days to explore this magnificent reserve, we will take full advantage of our time here to seek out the rare, range-restricted endemics, such as the Perijá Antpitta, Perijá Metaltail, Perijá Thistletail, Perijá Brush Finch, and the Perijá Tapaculo; while also looking out for endemic forms of birds such as Black-fronted Nunbird, Rufous Spinetail and Lacrimose Mountain Tanager. Other specialties lurk too. We could encounter smart-looking birds, such as Klages's Antbird, Mountain Velvetbreast, Fulvous-headed Tanager, Streak-capped Treehunter, Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia, Barred Fruiteater or White-throated Screech Owl. Some lucky birders have even seen the much sought-after Black-and-chestnut Eagle here, so we'll keep eyes to the skies, hoping for what is one of the rarest raptors on the continent. And we'll need to keep a lookout ahead too, as Black-fronted Wood-Quail is a possibility, and they could be spotted scurrying ahead of us on the trail. Many are the possibilities in wild Perijá! *Nights in Chamicero del Perijá.*



White-throated Screech Owl  
by Dubi Shapiro



**Day 6: Return to Valledupar, Flight to Bogotá.** After breakfast, depending on our needs and the timing of our afternoon flight back to Bogotá, we may do a last bit of birding around the lodge, or instead decide to head down the mountains, and see what the birding has in store there. Regardless, today we head back to Valledupar to catch our flight, and re-enter the urban jungle of Bogotá.

### **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

Tour prices can be adjusted to accommodate different group sizes in some cases. For more info on pricing, please contact Rockjumper's Conservation Tours Department at:

[conservationtours@rockjumperbirding.com](mailto:conservationtours@rockjumperbirding.com).

- **Tour Price:**
  - \$3,300 with 6 participants
  - \$3,100 with 7 participants
  - \$2,900 with 8 participants
- **Single Supplement:** \$75

### **This includes:**

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 6;
- Some soft drink with meals;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Extra activities mentioned in the itinerary;
- Reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services.)

### **The tour fee does not include:**

- Visa fees;
- **ANY** flights (see above);
- All alcoholic and any additional beverages;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- a) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient participants, a small party supplement will have to be charged.
- b) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.
- c) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and/or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.
- d) If you are prone to motion sickness, please prepare accordingly. The road up into the Perijá Mountains are rocky, so be sure you have medication with you on the ascent and descent, because the roads are fairly rough on this day.
- e) Accommodations in Bogotá and Valledupar are modern and comfortable. **The Perijá mountains, however, are isolated, seldom visited and consequently offer fewer options for accommodation.**



**Our lodging is rather basic, yet being at elevation (~9000ft) temperatures are quite pleasant, biting insects are relatively few, and the views from the lodge area are superb.** If you have questions about the accommodations, please contact the Rockjumper's conservation tours department at [conservationtours@rockjumperbirding.com](mailto:conservationtours@rockjumperbirding.com).

### Special Notes:

- This tour involves the occasional long hike. We will be at fairly high altitude on some occasions and on some days we will be on our feet for most of the day. You should, therefore, be in good health and of sound fitness to undertake this tour. If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions of any sort, please let the Rockjumper office know in advance of the tour.
- We will be birding in some remote areas well away from modern medical facilities.
- Transport is by small coach, minibus, or 4x4 and the roads are mostly in good condition. However, due to the nature of the topography, there is the possibility of landslides interfering with our trip, though we have minimised this risk by undertaking the tour during the drier season.
- We expect the weather to be mostly dry and often sunny; it can be hot in the lowlands. At higher elevations, however, it can be quite cool, especially at night. There is likely to be some rain, which can be heavy.

### **ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:**

The tour starts and ends at El Dorado International Airport, Bogotá (IATA: BOG). This tour **does not** include **ANY** airfares. Day 1 you are welcome to arrive anytime before 17:00. The tour will conclude in the late afternoon on day 6 upon arrival back to El Dorado International Airport in Bogotá, after our flight from Riohacha.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

### **FLIGHTS:**

The tour starts and ends at El Dorado International Airport, Bogotá (IATA: BOG), which is the main port of entry for international flights into Colombia.

Rockjumper has an in-house travel agent who can assist with booking flights. Ask us for help at [conservationtours@rockjumperbirding.com](mailto:conservationtours@rockjumperbirding.com).

**IMPORTANT: If you opt to book your own flights, please DO NOT book any international flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

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### **Rockjumper Birding Ltd**

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