



DON MAMMOSER'S EXCEPTIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

Ecuador Birds & Wildlife Guided Photo Safari



Come with me to mainland Ecuador for a 10 day unparalleled wildlife photography experience

Begins & Ends	Dates	Group Size	Cost
Quito, Ecuador	November 2-11, 2023	6 Max	\$5795 (double occupancy) Add \$795 if single



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Come with Don to witness and photograph incredible wildlife displays in a tropical paradise. Learn how to photograph birds and other wildlife from a professional. Immerse yourself in your wildlife photography craft while traveling in a new place. This is a unique wildlife experience and photographic journey that will speak to your soul and stay in your memory for a long, long time.

- An evening meet and greet at the first hotel in Quito, Capital of Ecuador
- Deluxe lodging in the Quijos Valley, headwaters of the Amazon basin
- Amazing diversity of cloud forest wildlife right outside your room
- Nectar feeding stations for some of the 130 species of hummingbirds of Ecuador
- Time with local naturalists/guides who bring us to wildlife or bring wildlife to us
- Complete multi-flash set-up at our lodge for incredible hummingbird stop-action shots
- Close-up views and access to rare birds such as Antpittas & Andean Cock of the Rock
- Solo, guided or group walks in primeval tropical rainforest habitat
- One of our lodges has daily sightings of the amazing Sword-billed hummingbird
- Wonderful cuisine prepared daily especially for our group



ROUGH ITINERARY OUTLINE

Thursday November 2, 2023

We'll meet at the hotel in Quito, EB Hotel, at 6:00pm today for initial introductions, trip logistics, safety briefing etc. Dinner tonight will be on your own or possibly as a group with individual pay at the hotel restaurant.



The Quito airport (code UIO) is a large, modern facility which has flights arriving and departing from all major North American carriers. Book your flight to this airport.

EB Hotel has a free shuttle service directly from the airport to their facility and this is certainly the best and easiest way to arrive at the hotel. The shuttle will pick up guests at the arrivals door area. Look for the van marked with the EB Hotel logo.

Quito is on Eastern Standard Time so there won't be much time difference for those coming from the States or Canada (3 hours at most).

Your room at the hotel will be available for check-in during the afternoon. If you arrive early and your room isn't ready you can store your luggage at reception and visit the hotel lounge or restaurant area. We meet at reception at 6pm.



Friday November 3, 2023

Early breakfast, or room service on your own at the hotel restaurant. Then be packed up and ready to meet our driver and go at 7:00am. We'll drive in a comfortable mini-bus about 2 hours



to our first lodge located in the Amazon basin, Napo province. This lodge is surrounded by extensive cloud forest and is located at 6,800 feet above sea level. We'll settle in, have lunch and then explore the surrounding grounds, photograph myriad hummingbirds at the lodge nectar feeders, and perhaps take a jungle walk. Dinner at the lodge will be served once we are all done photographing for the day.

Saturday November 4, 2023

We'll get going early for a special local naturalist-guided photo session with rare Antpitta birds. These are wild birds that get called in by our guide/bird expert, putting us in perfect position to get great photos. After this photo session we'll have breakfast at the lodge dining area and then you'll have the entire day to go for a jungle walk with your camera, to hang out with your leader Don for more hummingbird photography or to relax and explore as you wish. Both lunch and dinner today will be enjoyed as a group at the lodge dining area.



Sunday November 5th, 2023

Now that you are familiar with our lodge's grounds and the surrounding trails, you may choose to wake up with the sun and explore with your camera on your own or with Don as he searches for birds. Perhaps if the weather cooperates we will work on macro photography of local flowers or insects. Enjoy breakfast, more photography guided by Don and then lunch at the lodge dining area as a group. After lunch we'll need to be packed up and ready for a transfer to another lodge, located at 9000 feet in elevation and in a pristine high-altitude cloud forest. Once we get settled into our new lodge we'll head out to the hummingbird garden area where sightings of the amazing Sword-billed hummingbird are common. We'll work on other



hummingbird species photography as well and it's common to see as many as 14 species of hummers in just an hour at this lodge.



This is a high altitude cloud forest lodge and as such, can be very cold with temperatures in the forties Fahrenheit. Dress in warm layers here to remain comfortable while photographing. Before dinner you might also wish to walk along the nearby river for possible sightings of Torrent ducks or other hard-to-find species. Dinner will be enjoyed as a group at the lodge dining area.

Monday November 6th, 2023

We'll get outside early in order to photograph as many birds or mammals as we can find either along the river or in the lodge's garden area. Some target species while we're here include Blue Flower Piercers, Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan, Hooded Mountain Tanagers, Turquoise Jay, and possibly Mountain Tapir. Lunch as a group at the lodge dining area, then be packed up and ready for a transfer to our third lodge. We'll drive about 3 hours to a lower elevation cloud-forest lodge located at 5500 feet. After being at 9000 feet, this lower elevation will feel almost hot by comparison. We'll quickly get settled into our rooms and then begin photographing right from the large patio attached to the back of the lodge.

Here there can be hundreds, *yes hundreds* of hummingbirds at any one time cavorting in a raucous display as they visit and feed at the nectar feeders. We'll also be able to enlist the help of local guides who know where other, perhaps rare, species might be found. The daylight hours won't be enough here, but alas, eventually we'll need to stop photographing due to darkness. Dinner as a group at the lodge dining area.





Tuesday November 7th, 2023



Today we'll have the chance to use multi-flash set-ups for hummingbird stop-action photography. The flash set-ups will be provided and configured by the lodge's photography expert. All equipment will be on hand except for 1 flash unit that you'll need to bring for your particular camera's hot shoe. This type of photography is challenging and very addicting once you get the hang of it. Instruction will be provided to help you get amazing shots. For those waiting a turn at the multi-flash set-ups,

you'll be free to shoot other birds at the fruit feeders led by Don, or to explore the now-familiar grounds or to take a jungle hike as you wish. Lunch and dinner will be eaten today as a group at the lodge, if you can drag yourself away from the wildlife photography long enough.

Wednesday November 8th, 2023

We'll get up well before sunrise today for a short drive to a special bird refuge and the chance to go with local guides searching for Andean Cock of the Rock sightings and photography. This rare and unique species (if found) will provide a wildlife sighting thrill that's once-in-a-lifetime. Our local guide will then drive us to the refuge headquarters where we'll have access to a special wildlife feeding platform while we wait for our group's brunch to be served.



After brunch we'll go with our guide for a short, easy jungle walk looking for the area's protected species of bird, mammal, plant and insect. Guides will call in or attract various birds for us to photograph. Possible species include Toucan barbet, 5 species of Antpittas, tanagers, toucans, and possible Columbian Screech-owl. Drive back to our familiar lodge, happily exhausted after a full day of photography. Dinner as a group at our cloud forest lodge. Possible image sharing/critique session using laptops in the lounge area.



Thursday November 9th, 2023



Morning option to sleep in or get up with the sun for a full day of wildlife photography. Today we keep our schedule flexible and you may repeat anything or re-visit places on the lodge's grounds that you want to see again. Multi-flash setups will be available again for those that want. Nectar and fruit feeders will be buzzing with activity and you could feasibly spend your entire day photographing at these spots.

Or, get a friend, lodge guide or whoever and go for a jungle walk. We may sit together for a bit or in a one-on-one setting for image critiques/discussions if you wish. At mid-day we'll eat lunch as a group and then again in the afternoon you'll be free to do as you wish. Dinner will be served once the sun goes down.

Friday November 10th, 2023

Today is your last chance to capture that specific bird, flower, butterfly or critter that you might not have captured yet. You'll want to make the most of your time. A later lunch will be served for our group at the lodge dining area. After lunch there will be time to pack up and prepare for our drive back to Quito, about 2 hours away. In Quito, we'll be dropped off at our familiar hotel - EB Hotel. We'll check in, have a pay-on-your-own dinner at the hotel restaurant and one last group meeting.



Saturday November 11th, 2023

Breakfast or room service on your own and hotel shuttle to airport as needed, then departure for your home town today. Thank you for joining me!



WHAT TO EXPECT ON THIS TRIP

- amazing wildlife - principally birds, but also mammals and insects as well
- comfortable lodging located in the heart of tropical cloud forests where abundant wildlife lives
- jungle hikes are optional and easy so this trip is suitable for all fitness levels
- as much or as little photography instruction/help as you want
- equipment provided for multi-flash hummingbird photography (at 1 lodge)
- great, fresh, local food prepared specifically for our group by local cooks (we can accommodate vegetarians or other diet restrictions)
- once-in-a-lifetime wildlife photography opportunities
- super fun times with a small group of like-minded photographers
- an enthusiastic, knowledgeable leader who will be with you the entire time and who will get you excited and prepared to capture the best possible images

INCLUDED

NOT INCLUDED

Instruction by professional photographer/leader	Flights from your home city to Quito & back
9 nights lodging (a single room is \$795 additional)	Early arrival or late stay lodging nights
Meals from lunch on day 2 until lunch on day 9	First day dinner, breakfast day 2, breakfast day 10
Shuttle to/from airport to hotel in Quito	Trip insurance
Ground transportation to all lodges	Alcohol or soda type drinks
Multi-flash equipment use at 1 of the lodges	Tips to local guides/drivers
Local guide services & wildlife experts	Anything not listed under 'included'
Entrance fees to all visited refuges/areas	

PAYMENT TERMS

To secure your spot on this tour and in order to meet obligations to my contacts in Ecuador, there is a deposit of US\$1500 required. The remaining tour balance of US\$4295 (US\$5090 for single occupancy) is payable no later than August 1, 2023.

Your deposit is due upon booking and will secure your place for the trip.



CANCELLATION

Cancellation by me

While Don Mammoser Photo Tours will make every effort to operate the trip as scheduled, I do reserve the right to cancel it at any time due to insufficient bookings and/or reasons beyond my control that might create unsafe or undesirable travel conditions for the participants, including travel and border restrictions imposed on visitors to Ecuador. In such case, a full and immediate refund will be issued. However, the financial liability of Don Mammoser shall be limited to the amount paid to me for the trip only and shall not be extended to cover any other associated travel costs incurred (e.g. non-refundable air tickets, visa fees if applicable, clothing, equipment, miscellaneous transportation costs, medical expenses, travel insurance premiums, etc.)

Cancellation by you

I understand that sometimes people need to make last minute cancellations due to illness, family, or business matters. Unfortunately, I am unable to make last minute refunds or provide credit on future workshops due to these last minute cancellations. A trip insurance policy that covers “cancel for any reason” is highly recommended.

- If you cancel 90 days or more prior to the workshop or tour start date, AND I can fill your space(s), all money, except \$250 from your deposit, will be refunded.
- If you cancel 60-90 days prior to workshop or tour start date, AND I can fill your space(s), 50% of money, and minus \$250 from your deposit, will be refunded.
- If you cancel less than 60 days prior to the workshop or tour start date, there is no refund.

Tours will always be rescheduled to another date before being cancelled due to impacts of Covid 19 or similar global pandemics. It is VERY important that for tours which require you to fly in order to get there, you DO NOT purchase non-refundable flight tickets until you are told by me that the tour is a “go” and there are enough people signed up to make it work.

MONEY

Ecuador uses the US\$ dollar as official currency. Major credit cards may or may not be accepted at lodges and establishments we visit. It's best NOT to rely on credit cards. Cash is universally accepted and you should bring US dollars in the amount you think you'll use. You'll need money for extras such as drinks, souvenirs and tips to local wildlife guides/drivers.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Please don't hesitate to email me or call or text me 303-906-5102 with any questions.