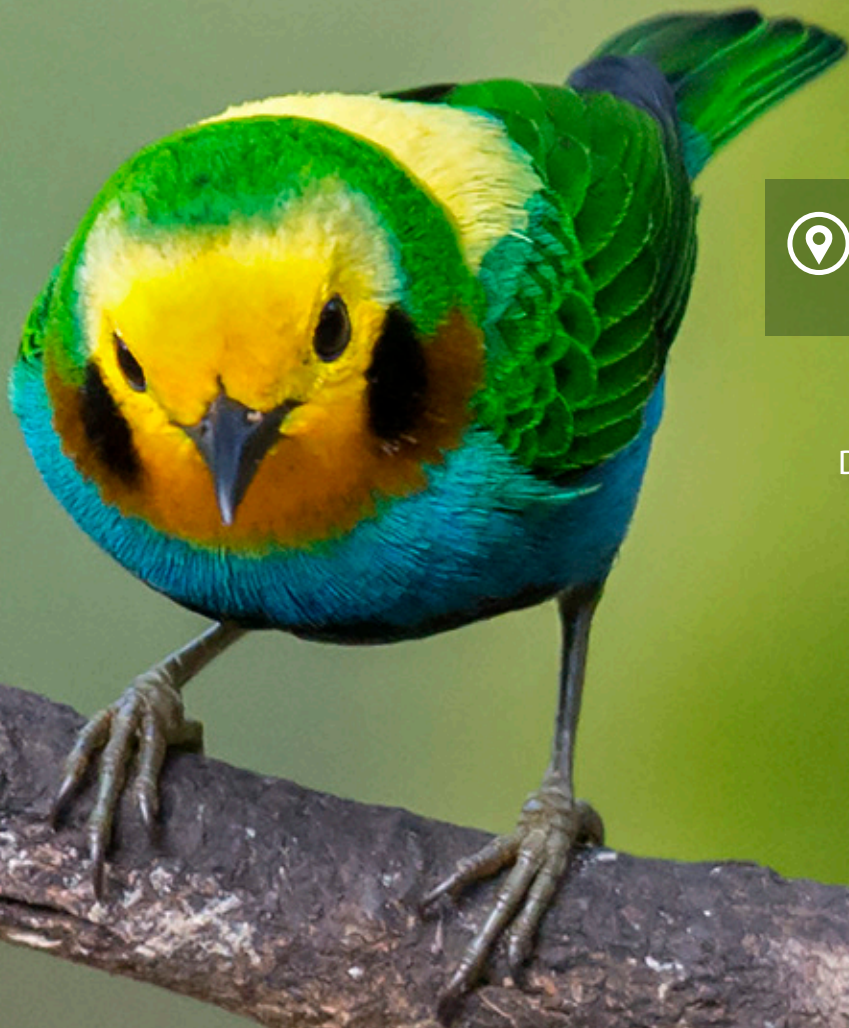




COLOMBIA
PHOTO EXPEDITIONS

COLOMBIA IS MAGICAL REALISM

WHERE THE BIRDS DANCE
PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR



KM 18 - La Minga Lodge - Araucana Lodge -
Upper Anchicaya - Sonso Lagoon - Rio Blanco
Reserve - Tinamu Reserve - Los Nevados National
Park - Jardin - Hummingbird Observatory



DAYS

CHOOSE YOUR PREFERRED
DATES OF TRAVEL

2 - 3 pax: \$6550 USD

4 - 5 pax: \$5,250 USD

6 - 7 pax: \$4,550 USD

8 pax: \$4,200 USD

Double Occupancy

Single Supplement: \$600 USD

TRIP STARTS IN **CALI** AND ENDS IN
BOGOTA



PROCOLOMBIA
EXPORTACIONES TURISMO INVERSIÓN



Blue-headed Sapphire
Juan Jose Arango

WHY COLOMBIA

Colombia is the birdiest country on earth, with more than 1,950 species (almost 20% of the world's total). There are more species of birds in this country than on any other. It is easy to see why. Colombia is tropical, yet it also has ample elevation changes due to the Andes, furthermore it has both the Pacific and Caribbean coasts. Lots of different habitats ensure an abundance of bird species. To be exact, 1,930 species (almost 20% of the world's total in 1% of the landmass), with new species still being discovered, and new records being announced often.

ABOUT THIS TOUR

The KM 18 and San Antonio Cloud Forest provides an excellent introduction to bird photography in the Colombian Andes. Some of the best bird feeder set ups in Colombia are found within one hour of the Araucana lodge, each with its unique perches and variety of birds. In addition, for those who enjoy photographing in natural environments this portion of the western Andes offers some very well-preserved habitat. At feeder sites, this tour targets species such as the endemics Multicolored Tanager and Colombian Chachalaca and near endemics such as Scrub, Flame-rumped, Golden-naped, Saffron-crowned, Rufous-throated tanagers. In terms of hummingbirds, more than 20 species occur at the feeders including Blue-headed Sapphire, Purple-throated Woodstar, Long-billed Starthroat, Long-tailed Sylph, Booted Rackettail and Black-throated Mango.

In the surrounding forests your photographic targets

will range from Scaled and Green-and-black Fruiteaters to Golden-headed and Crested Quetzals. A chance to photograph Andean Cock-of-the-rock at an active lek, requiring a short, 20-minute hike in the afternoon, is a unique opportunity to get one of Colombia's most attractive birds. This tour also takes you to a prolific wetland area in the Cauca Valley in search of an assortment of dry forest species as well as shorebirds and aquatic birds. The Sonso Lagoon is one of Colombia's largest wetland reserves and home to Little and Dwarf Cuckoos, Jet Antbird, Blackish Rail, Bar-crested Antshrike and the endemics Apical Flycatcher and Grayish Piculet.

The route then climbs to the central Andean range, to the world-renowned Rio Blanco and Tinamu Reserves near Manizales, where there are excellent chances for ant-pittas, tanagers and hummingbirds at the feeders, plus many other cloud forest and montane birds. After more ascending, one can soak in hot springs overlooking the scenic Central Andes, and look for species adapted to high elevations in Los Nevados National Park with the beautiful Nevado del Ruiz as a backdrop.

We then head to Jardín to the world's best photography set up at an Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek, where it is common to have more than 10 individuals posing for the cameras. The tour ends with a day in Bogotá, photographing more than ten species of hummingbirds at the very famous Observatorio de Colibríes.



Blue-winged Mountain Tanager

Juan Jose Arango

Green Honeycreeper

Juan Jose Arango

ACCOMMODATIONS

Lodging will consist of a mix of 3-4 star hotels in cities, a lovely boutique hotel in near KM 18 that is owned and operated by Colombia Birdwatch, a comfortable hotel in Manizales close to the Rio Blanco and Tinamu Reserves, and a mountain resort in Los Nevados NP. There is a pool at the hotel in Buga, so pack your swim wear! Our hotel in Los Nevados has natural hot springs, but be advised it is situated at 11,000 feet in elevation. The hotel in Jardin is basic but located in the center square, allowing to experience the local culture. We expect relative comfort, hot showers, and excellent local food and provide a nice variety of snacks and purified or bottled drinking water available throughout the trip.





Crested Quetzal
Christopher Calonje



Multicolored Tanager
Juan Jose Arango

DAY 1

Arrive in Cali

Guests will be picked up at the airport and driven to the Araucana Lodge.

Lodging: Hotel Araucana Lodge

DAY 2

Km 18 and Andean Cock-of-the-rock Lek

Today we spend the morning around the famous El 18, located on an 1800-meter (5,900-foot) pass 18 kilometers (11 miles) northwest of Cali along the road that connects Cali with the port city of Buenaventura. Birding can be very productive here, and we will look for four endemics – Chestnut Wood-Quail, Colombian Chachalaca, Grayish Piculet and the spectacular Multicolored Tanager. This area is a tanager paradise, where we have a good chance to see Purplish-mantled, Summer, Beryl-spangles, Flame-rumped, Golden, Metallic-green, Saffron-crowned, and Golden-naped tanagers as well as Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager and Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager.

We hope to be dazzled by an impressive show of hummingbirds at a private house along the same road, including the beautifully ornate Long-tailed Sylph, Booted Rackettail, Blue-headed Sapphire, Green Violetear, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Speckled Hummingbird, White-necked Jacobin. Brown Violetear and Tawny-bellied Hermit. Birding the forest can also produce many near-endemics such as Scrub Tanager, Purple-throated Woodstar, Nariño Tapaculo, Purplish-mantled Tanager and Yellow-headed Manakin.

After lunch at the lodge we take a 1 hour drive to the edge of the Farallones National Park to a private reserve where we will visit an active Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek for some close-up views of this magnificent bird's display. This 20-minute hike will take us down a steep trail to their lek near the river, and we return to the vehicle on the same trail.

Lodging: Hotel Araucana Lodge

DAY 3

La Minga Feeders

La Minga Lodge is located within the Rio Bitaco forest reserve, which results in the house being surrounded by a very well preserved cloud forest. There is a 3 km private road leading to the house with superb birding, with species observed (more than 300 on record!) such as Green-and-black





Saffron-crowned Tanager
Juan Jose Arango

Scaled Fruiteater
Juan Jose Arango





Fruiteater, Chestnut-breasted and Blue-naped Chlorophonia, the inconspicuous Golden-headed Quetzal, Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Red-faced Spinetail, Spotted and Rusty-winged Barbtails, Streaked Xenops, and the noisy, inquisitive Crimson-rumped Toucanet. We will also listen and search for species with interesting calls and songs, like the hawk-like whistle of the Scaled Fruiteater, warbling song of Black-billed Peppershrike, and beautiful flute-like song of Andean Solitaire. Other species we may find are Chestnut-breasted Wren, Greenish Puffleg, Montane Woodcreeper, Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant, and the hyperactive Cinnamon Flycatcher.

The bird feeders in the house and garden are set up for photography, up to 17 species of hummingbirds and up to 30 species of colorful tanagers, flowerpiercers, and honeycreepers can be observed and easily photographed.

Lodging: Araucana Lodge

DAY 4

El Descanso Feeders and Anchicaya Watershed

Perhaps Colombia's most famous birding location, the Anchicaya watershed is located along the edge of the Farallones National Park, one of the most diverse parks on the planet. The birding begins just 40 minutes from the hotel via a paved road that can offer many of the Choco endemics that this mega diverse locality has to offer. Our day on the Anchicaya road will allow time to enjoy the upper portion of the road and some very well-maintained feeders at our



Green and Black Fruiteater
Christopher Calonje

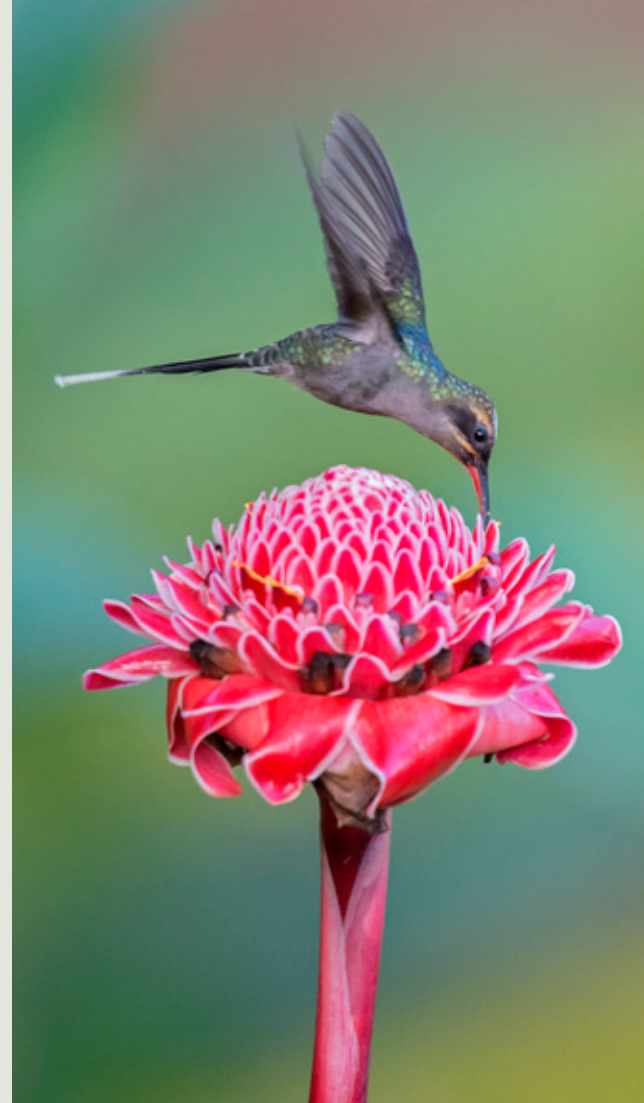
Blue-naped Chlorophonia
Christopher Calonje



Crimson-rumped Toucanet
Christopher Calonje



Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager
Juan Jose Arango



Green Hermit
Juan Jose Arango

Long-billed Starthroat
Juan Jose Arango





Booted Racketail
Juan Jose Arango

Sword-billed Hummingbird
Juan Jose Arango





Toucan Barbet
Juan Jose Arango



Glistening-green Tanager
Juan Jose Arango



Black-chinned Mountain-tanager
Juan Jose Arango

breakfast spot where Rufous-throated, Glistening-green and Silver-throated Tanagers are known to occur. The road will surely yield many highly prized species Golden-collared Honeycreeper, White-whiskered Puffbird, Uniform Treehunter, Sooty-headed Wren, Green Thorntail and White-tailed Hillstar..

One of the main targets main targets is Toucan Barbet, sporting 5 different colors elegantly while still having a tough demeanor. We will search the skies for Barred Hawk, Ornate Hawk-eagle and Swallow-tailed Kites, whilst keeping an eye out for the attractive Ornate Flycatcher feeding on low branches. Another mega target is the recently described Pisones Tapaculo. The road can be extremely productive as it rarely disappoints.

Lodging: Araucana Lodge

DAY 5

Araucana Lodge and Travel to Buga

The morning is spent photographing birds at the Araucana Lodge feeder stations and the surrounding forest. Species that visit the feeders include Long-billed Starthroat, White-lined Tanager, Blue-headed Sapphire, Red-headed Barbet, Golden Tanager, Yellow-backed Oriole, Linneated Woodpecker and many more. The afternoon is spent driving to the colonial city of Buga.

Lodging: Hotele Guadalajara de Buga



Red-headed Barbet
Juan Jose Arango

Apical Flycatcher
Juan Jose Arango





Sunrise at Sonso Lagoon
Christopher Calonje



Spectacled Parrotlet
Christopher Calonje



Grayish Piculet
Juan Jose Arango

DAY6

Sonso Lagoon, National Grape Park and Drive to Tinamu Lodge

We will start early to take a 10-minute drive to this wetland gem. It is one of the only remaining wetlands in the Cauca Valley and is teeming with birds, making it one of Colombia's best wetland birding locations. Here we will search the marshes and lagoons that line the Cauca River for aquatic species such as Cocoli Heron, Black-necked Stilt and Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-ducks. Other interesting species we might spot include the endemics Apical Flycatcher and Grayish Piculet, Jet Antbird, Blackish Rail, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, and Horned Screamer.

Lunch is en route to the National Grape Park, located near the town of La Union. At the park we visit an Aloe plantation, whose flowers are the predominant source of nectar for Ruby Topaz Hummingbirds.

Lodging: Tinamu Lodge

DAY 7

Tinamu Lodge and Travel to Terales del Ruiz

All morning will be devoted to Tinamu Lodge, with species such as Bay-headed Tanager, Gray-headed Tanager, and Guira Tanager visiting the feeders. Fifteen species of hummingbirds have been recorded in the area, and with luck the group will have visitors such as Long-Billed Starthroat, White-vented Plumeteer and Western Emerald. In the afternoon we will drive up the mountain to spend two nights at Hotel Terales del Ruiz, at 11,000 feet, where we can relax



Andean Emerald
Juan Jose Arango

Ruby Topaz
Juan Jose Arango

in its mineral-rich, medicinal hot springs and enjoy scenic views of the central Andes.

Lodging: Termales del Ruiz

DAY 8

Los Nevados National Park and Termales del Ruiz Feeders

We will explore Los Nevados National Park, located on the highest part of the Colombian central Andes. We will wind through patches of forest that open up to Paramo, an ecosystem of tropical grasslands above the treeline, toward the picturesque 5,300-meter (17,400-foot) volcano Nevado del Ruiz. The scenery in Paramo is magical and surreal, with velvety Frailejon plants adding to this effect. Frailejon plants belong to the Espeletia genus and are endemic to Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

The tour reaches elevations up to 3,950 meters (13,000 feet), so it will be cold. Here the goal is to find species adapted to high elevations like the endemic Buffy Helmet-crest and the near endemic Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, both of which sometimes forage on the ground. Also possible are Viridian Metaltail, Stout-billed Cinclodes, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, the beautiful Golden-crowned Tanager, near endemic Black-backed Bush-Tanager, and Glossy Flowerpiercer. We may also find a variety of seedeaters in the Paramo, including Plumbeous Sierra-Finch plus Paramo and Plain-colored seedeaters.

The afternoon is spent at the feeder stations in the spectacular grounds of Hotel Termales del Ruiz, with chances for Sword-billed Hummingbird, Black-thighed Puffleg and Great Sapphirewing.

Lodging: Hotel Termales del Ruiz





Buffy Helmetcrest
Juan Jose Arango

Slate-crowned Antpitta
Juan Jose Arango





Golden-fronted Whitestart
Juan Jose Arango

DAY 9

Hacienda El Bosque and travel to Manizales

The target of the morning is one of the most stunning Antpittas on the planet: Crescent-faced Antpitta. The Hacienda El Bosque provides a great opportunity to photograph this rare bird, at a blind, but also has a nice patch of forest where common visitors are Gray-breasted Mountain-toucan and Barred Fruiteater. In the afternoon we travel to Manizales for the night.

Lodging: Hotel Varuna

DAY 10

Rio Blanco Reserve

The Rio Blanco Reserve is owned by Aguas de Manizales, the local water company, and is situated along an altitudinal gradient, therefore including a wide variety of ecosystems. We could possibly observe five antpitta species at feeders located within a short hike from the lodge, including the endemic and endangered Brown-banded, and the elusive Bicolored, Chestnut-crowned, Chestnut-naped, and Slate crowned antpittas. Other feeder visitors seldom seen include Slaty-backed Nightingale Thrush and Stripe-headed Brush-Finch. Additional species observed in Rio Blanco include the uncommon and endangered Rufous-fronted and

DAY 11

Rio Blanco and travel to Jardin for Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek

This morning we have a chance to visit the reserve's several well-maintained hummingbird feeders that attract a great variety of hummingbirds. We hope to see Tourmaline Sunangel, Buff-tailed Coronet, Speckled Hummingbird, Bronzy and Collared Incas, Mountain Velvetbreast, the tiny, slow-flying White-bellied Woodstar, and the showy Long-tailed Sylph.

The afternoon is spent driving to Jardin in order to arrive at the Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek at 4 PM. Dinner is on the main square of Jardin.

Lodging: Hotel Valdivia Plaza

DAY 12

Finca Babusa and Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek

The morning is spent driving to Finca Babusa, where Chestnut-naped Antpitta can be photographed at the feeder station. Other species of interest include the endangered Yellow-eared Parrot and several species of hummingbirds at the feeders. The afternoon is spent at the Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek at 4 PM.

Lodging: Hotel Valdivia Plaza

Many-striped Canstero
Juan Jose Arango



Purple-thorated Woodstar
Juan Jose Arango



Slaty-backed Chat-tyrant
Juan Jose Arango





Brown-banded Antpitta
Juan Jose Arango



Black-backed Bush-tanager
Juan Jose Arango



Rainbow-bearded Thrornbill
Juan Jose Arango



Buff-breasted Mountain-tanager
Juan Jose Arango



Amethyst Sunangel
Christopher Calonje



Blue-throated Starfrontlet
Juan Jose Arango

DAY 13

Jardin to Medellin drive for flights to Bogota

After a morning at a local humminbird feeder station we will spend the rest of the day on a 4 hour drive to Medellin airport to catch flights to Bogota.

Lodging: Hotel Grand Plaza

DAY 14

The Hummingbird Observatory

The day is spent at the Hummingbird Observatory, a feeder set up that targets all the high elevation hummers above Bogota. The diversity is incredible, with species such as Coppery-bellied and Glowing Puffleg, Amethyst-throated Sunangel and the near endemic Blue-throated Starfrontlet, Speckled Hummingbird, Long-tailed Sylph, Black-tailed Trainbearer, Green-tailed Trainbearer, Tyrian Metaltail, Shining Sunbeam, the endemic Blue-throated Starfrontlet, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Great Sapphirewing, and Purple-backed Thornbill.

Lodging: Hotel Grand Plaza

DAY 15

Depart Bogota

TRIP INCLUDES

- Professional Bilingual Bird Guide
- All Lodging (Double Occupancy) from Day 1 to Day 14
- Bottled Water Throughout the Trip
- All Meals From Dinner on Day 1 to Breakfast on Day 15
- Snacks Throughout the Trip
- Entrances to Parks and Reserves
- Local Guides
- Internal Terrestrial Transport From Airport Pickup to Airport Drop-off

DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Tips
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Insurance
- Airfare to Colombia
- Items of Personal Nature



Slate-crowned Antpitta
Christopher Calonje



White-chinned Thistletail
Christopher Calonje

Bar-crested Antshrike
Juan Jose Arango

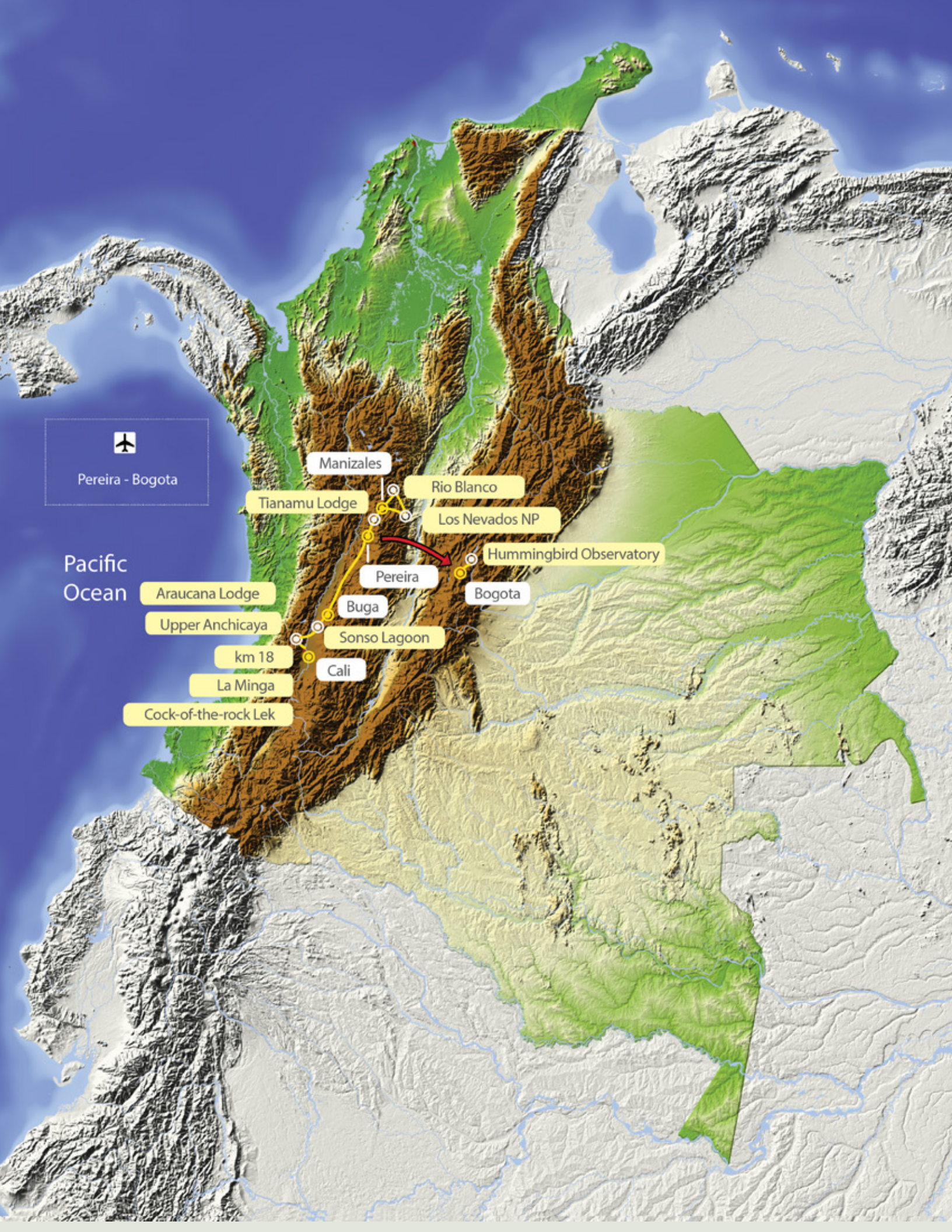


White-capped Tanager
Juan Jose Arango



Golden-crowned Tanager
Juan Jose Arango





Pereira - Bogota

Pacific Ocean

Araucana Lodge

Upper Anchicaya

km 18

La Minga

Cock-of-the-rock Lek

Manizales

Tianamu Lodge

Rio Blanco

Los Nevados NP

Hummingbird Observatory

Pereira

Bogota

Buga

Sonso Lagoon

Cali



Plushcap
Juan Jose Arango



Chestnut-breasted Wren
Juan Jose Arango



Ruby-topaz Hummingbird
Juan Jose Arango