

Colombia

Mammal Watching

A Greentours Itinerary

The Colombian Andes split into three cordilleras, providing an incredibly varied topography, with western and eastern slopes and inter-andean valleys. Thus the very structure of Colombia is the engine behind the amazing biodiversity that fills the countries' superb habitats – Colombia has the richest avifauna in the world but only ranks fifth on the world's list of country mammal faunas – which is to say it is still exceptional! The diversity of primates is extraordinary. Colombia has around forty species with upwards of a quarter of them endemic, in particular there are many special and often strikingly-pelaged Tamarins.

Day 1

To Bogotá

Days 2 – 6(am)

The Llanos: Juan Solito Reserve

In the morning we'll take a flight from Bogotá down the eastern flank of the Andes to Yopal. Deep in the savannahs of the Eastern Llanos we'll visit the Juan Solito Reserve, a private reserve well known for having stable Jaguar populations and also well-known for providing sightings of this majestic cat. Typical lowland Neotropic mammals that are easily seen here include Giant Otter, Tayra and Capybara, the latter truly abundant! Southern Tamanduas can be seen clambering through the tangled vines whilst on the ground we will come across Black Agouti and both White-tailed deer Northwestern Red Brocket Deer.

Days 6(pm) – 7

The Llanos: Forest Patches of Restrepo

We'll explore the Eastern Andean foothills in the Restrepo area. Despite being a populated area, it is of great importance since it encompasses the transition of the east foothills of the Andes and the savannah of the eastern Llanos. Here amongst patches of gallery forest and extensive grasslands our main targets will be Giant Anteater, Brumback's Night Monkey and the well-named Ornate Titi Monkey.

Day 8

Bosque Bavaria Reserve & Drive up the Eastern Andes to Bogotá

In the morning we'll explore the Bosque Bavaria Reserve. Humboldt's Squirrel Monkey are tolerably common and we'll also likely encounter more Red Howler Monkeys. Other possibilities include Tayra, White-fronted Capuchins and Coatis. In the afternoon we'll drive up the flanks of the Eastern Andes and to Bogotá

Days 9 – 11(am)

Chingaza National Natural Park

For an altogether different mammalian fauna we'll head high above Bogotá into the spectacular landscapes of Chingaza National Natural Park in search of the Spectacled (also known as Andean) Bear, the only bear species in South America. Brazilian Guinea Pig and North Andean Red Brocket Deer are possible too. There's also the possibility of meeting western mountain coati in the Paramo habitats.

Day 11(pm)

flight Bogotá to Pereira

We'll return to town and catch an evening flight to Pereira and thence transfer to Otun Quimbaya National Natural Park.

Days 12 – 14(am)

Otun Quimbaya National Natural Park

Otun Quimbaya National Natural Park which protects pristine Andean cloud forest, where our main target is the Mountain Tapir. Red Howler Monkey calls resound through the ethereal landscapes and we've a good chance of seeing these along with Lemurine Night Monkey. Otun Quimbaya is also home to many marsupials, including Andean White-eared Opossum, Water Opossum, Brown-eared Woolly Opossum and Common Opossum, and also Xenarthrans such as Nine-banded Armadillo and Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth. Kinkajou is quite likely here. We'll always be on the lookout for harder to see species and here seeing ether Olinguito or the enigmatic Crab-eating Fox would be a bonus.

Days 14(pm) & Day 15(am)

Flight back to Bogotá, overnight Bogotá, then flight next morning to Villagarzón

We'll take a late afternoon flight back to Bogotá and spend a night at the hotel by the airport there before flying south to Villagarzón the next morning.

Days 15(pm) – 18(am)

Putumayo & El Portal del Sol Reserve and Lodge

It takes just over half an hour to drive from Villagarzón airport to El Portal del Sol Reserve and Lodge so we'll be there in time for lunch. The El Portal del Sol Reserve and Lodge is rather special. Here, we will explore this private reserve in a low-elevation area where the transition of Andean and Amazonian ecosystems takes place, and where the diversity of primates is particularly high. The patches of fragmented tropical rainforest have living within them species such as Tufted (or Black-capped) Capuchin, Ecuadorian Squirrel Monkeys, Lesson's Saddle-back Tamarins, Spix's Night Monkey and the endemic Colombian Black-handed Titi.

There's also Miller's Saki, Yellow-handed (Lucifer) Titis, and the improbably cute Western Pygmy Marmoset, one of the very smallest primates in the World. We'll also look for South-American Coati, Crab-eating Raccoon and will certainly come across a Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloth or two.

Day 18(pm)

Flight back to Bogotá

An afternoon flight will return us to Bogotá.

Day 19

La Florida & Departure

During the morning we'll visit La Florida wetland where it is possible to see the *anolaimae* subspecies of the Brazilian guinea pig, plus a variety of bird species. We'll continue to Tabacal Lake before returning to Bogotá El Dorado Airport for our international departures.

Day 20

arrival UK/Europe

If you would like to ask about any other aspect of this holiday, please call 01298 83563 or email us at enquiries@greentours.co.uk.

To Book a on this Holiday please fill in the booking form which you can download from www.greentours.co.uk (also found in the Greentours brochure) and post to Greentours, 8 Eliot Close, Armitage, Rugeley, WS15 4UP, UK. Tel +44 (0)1298 83563. After booking your place you'll receive a confirmation letter and a detailed information pack will be dispatched twelve weeks prior to departure. Mammal, butterfly and bird checklists are available!