



Colombia Amazon region: Mitú - Vaupés

The Tribal Birding Tour



Introduction

In southeastern Colombia, in the middle of the Amazon jungle, lies Mitú, which means "curassow" in the local language. The municipality is the capital of the Vaupés department, and the waters of the Vaupés River bathe it. This region has Brazil as its eastern neighbor. This is an indigenous territory that holds more than 23 indigenous ethnic groups. These native people still use traditional agricultural methods known as "Chagras" or Conucos, which result in the conservation of the jungle.

The Guiana rocky shield makes its presence by small Tepuyes -Mountain-shaped rocks, inviting you to contemplate impeccable views of the green carpet: The jungle at its highest expression! What about a sunset over there? Any description will not honor it properly.

On this trip, we visit the remarkable and striking ecosystems in the area: *Terra firme forest*, *White sand forest*, *Varzea forest*, *Small Tepuyes* where, some Guiana birds extend their distribution over this land, creating a unparalleled combination of Amazonian and Guiana avifauna; this feature turns it into a very valuable area since it integrates easy access, suitable trails, a variety of ecosystems, and, of course, more diverse bird specialties compared with other countries of the Guiana and Amazon region.



The Vaupés River from Casa de los Chulos Tepuy

The Highlights of the Tour

- Enjoy classical birds from Amazonia and the Guianas.
- Visit different indigenous communities.
- Encounter restricted birds from unique ecosystems in the area.

Itinerary

Our meeting point is Bogotá city, from where we will fly to Mitú to begin this great experience in the northeastern Amazon region of Colombia: 8 days of unforgettable birding in the jungle.

Day 0

Arrive in Bogotá, pick up at El Dorado International Airport, and transfer to a hotel close to the airport.

Night: Hotel Habitel Select.

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Day 1

Bogotá to Mitú-Vaupés.

Before midday, transfer to El Dorado Airport to fly to Mitú.

Bogota to Mitú: 1.5-hour flight

Road to Urania Community

Varzea and terra firme forest.

Once in Mitú, check in the hotel, and then we take advantage of the day, moving to a road near the town to start our birding, warming up to enjoy:

Scarlet Macaw, Red-bellied Macaw, Speckled Chachalaca, Many-banded Aracari, White-throated Toucan, Blackish-gray Antshrike (NT), Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Cherrie's Antwren, Gray-crowned Flatbill, Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Large-billed Seed-Finch, Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch, Sulphury Flycatcher, Yellow-browed Sparrow, and more.

Night: Hotel Brasilia or Acori Wuhu

Day 2

Urania Community

Varzea, terra firme forest, and Small Tepuyes.

Early this morning, we have fun birding around this village, where we have chances for the Red-fan Parrot, Sunbittern, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Yellow-browed Antbird, Striolated Manakin, Golden-headed Manakin, Azure-naped Jay, Green Oropendola, Swallow-winged Puffbird, Green-backed Trogon, Amazonian Antshrike, Turquoise Tanager, Masked Tanager, Coraya Wren, Pectoral Sparrow, Epaulet Oriole, and many more. We will return to the hotel for lunch and a rest, and then visit another spot in the afternoon.

Night: Hotel Brasilia or Acori Wuhu.



Amazonian Antshrike - Female by Edwin Acevedo

Day 3

Santa Marta Trails

Varzea and terra firme forest.

Once the day is clearing, we board a boat for 10 min on the Vaupés river and then 5 min up to the Cajure river to reach the **Santa Marta and Golondrinas communities**. Some of our targets here are Kawall's Amazon, Orange-cheeked Parrot, Paradise Jacamar, Gilded Barbet, Chestnut Woodpecker, Maroon-tailed Parakeet, Mouse-colored Antshrike, Black-chinned Antbird, Black-headed Antbird, Chestnut-crowned Becard, Fulvous-crested Tanager, Amazonian-streaked Antwren, and many more. Lunch at the hotel, and in the afternoon we will take a trail close to the town.

Night: Hotel Brasilia or Acori Wuhu.

Day 4

Ceima Cachivera Community

terra firme forest and small Tepuyes.

Before the sun shows up, we leave for the Ceima Cachivera community to enjoy a Lek of the spectacular Guianan-Cock-of the Rock and some more species, such as Black-throated Antbird, Black-faced Antbird, Yellow-billed Jacamar, Paradise Tanager, Channel-billed Toucan, White-crowned Manakin, White-bearded Manakin, Blue-crowned Manakin, Amazonian Tyrannulet, Green Oropendola, and more.

Night: Hotel Brasilia or Acori Wuhu.



Yellow-billed Jacamar by Edwin A.

Day 5

Santa Cruz Road

terra firme forest.

Very early in the morning, we should leave Mitú in direction to Brazil border, although we do not get so far, it takes us around two hours to get to the starting point; the birding is carried out along a road and, trails into the forrest, one of the first species we focus here is the outstanding Fiery-Topaz, it is a trusty place to have good views of this extraordinary hummingbird, it is one of the hummers you deserve to see in your life; other nice birds along the way are: Blue-crowned Trogon, Tawny-tufted Toucanet, Lettered Aracari, Red-necked Woodpecker, Dusky-billed Parrotlet, Dusky-throated and Cinereous Antshrike, White-fronted Nunbird, Brown-winged Schiffornis, Musician Wren, Flame-crested Tanager, Opal-crowned Tanager, and more.

Night: Hotel Brasilia or Acori Wuhu.



Pavonine Quetzal - Female by Edwin A.

Days 6-7

Mitú-Cachivera Community and Bocatoma Trail

White sand forest.

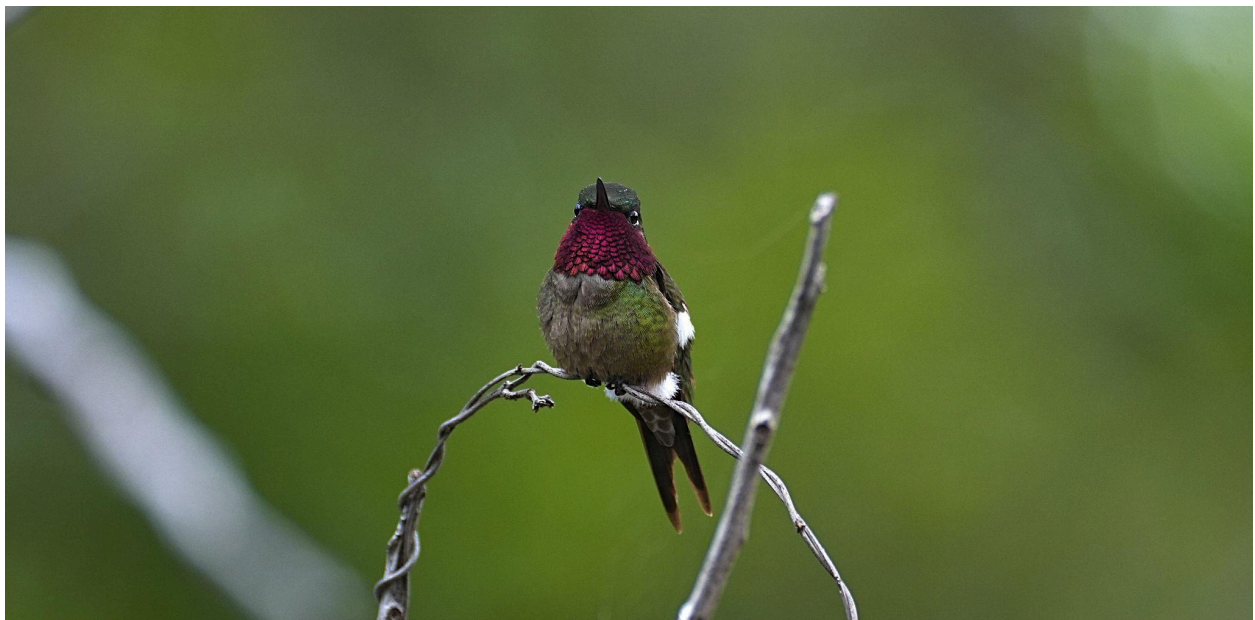
These two days are centered on the exclusive bird specialties of the *white sand forest* ecosystem, so let's work on Orinoco Piculet (NE), Imeri-warbling Antbird, Pearly Antshrike, Spot-backed Antwren, Yellow-throated Antwren, Spot-backed Antbird, Dot-backed Antbird, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Spotted Puffbird, Rufous-tailed Xenops, White-eyed Tody-Tyrant, Citron-bellied Attila, Plum-throated Cotinga, Purple-breasted Cotinga, Pompadour Cotinga, Screaming Piha, Amethyst Woodstar, Yellow-crowned Manakin, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, Dwarf Tyrant-Manakin, Black Manakin, Blackish Nightjar, Brown-headed Greenlet, Scaled-breasted Woodpecker, Yellow-green Grosbeak, Plumbeous Euphonia.

Other attractive species include the Grey-breasted Sabrewing, *Amazilia versicolor*, Bronzy Jacamar, Olive Oropendola, Pink-throated Becard, Flame-crested Tanager, Green-and-gold Tanager, Slate Grosbeak, and many more.

Night at the hotel.



Spot-backed Antbird by Edwin A.



Amethyst Woodstar by Edwin A.

Day 8

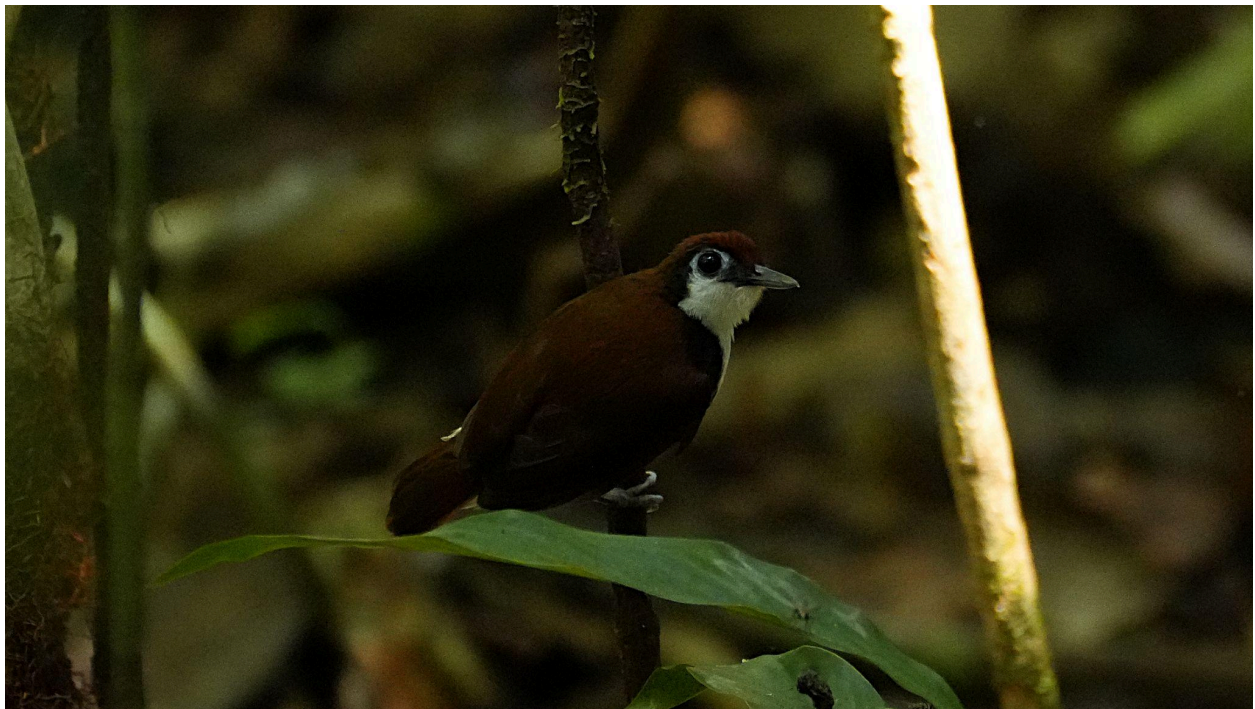
Cerrito Verde spot

terra firme forest.

This is our last morning in Mitú, so let's take advantage of this terra firme forest area to have views of the Great-billed Hermit, Black-eared Fairy, Pied Puffbird, Many-banded Aracari, Dusky Antbird, Ruddy Spinetail, Black-tailed Tityra, Channel-billed Toucan, Magpie Tanager, Opal-rumped Tanager, Yellow-bellied Tanager, Olive Oropendola, and many more.



White-plumed Antbird by Edwin A.



White-cheeked Antbird by Edwin A.

In every place we will be looking for Ant swarms to find antbirds such as the spectacular White-plumed Antbird, Chestnut-crested Antbird (Ne), White-cheeked Antbird, Common Scale-backed Antbird, and more.

Others bird in the Mitú area: Spix's Guan, Scaled Pigeon, Ruddy Quail Dove, Squirrel Cuckoo, Blackish Nightjar, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, White-necked Jacobin, White-bearded Hermit, Black-throated Mango, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Limpkin, Anhinga, Green Ibis, King Vulture, Greater yellow-headed Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Plumbeous Kite, Grey-headed Kite, Pavonine Quetzal, Black-tailed Trogon, Amazonian Trogon, Scarlet-crowned Barbet, Brown-banded Puffbird, Ivory-billed Aracari, Ringed Woodpecker (NT), Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Red-throated Caracara, Black Caracara, Bat Falcon, Cobalt-winged Parakeet, Dusky-billed Parrotlet, Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet (VU), Black-headed Parrot, Blue-headed Parrot, Mealy Parrot, Black-Bushbird, Stipple-throated Antwren, White-browed Antbird, Spot-winged Antbird, Gray Antbird, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Plain-brown Woodcreeper, Yellow-margined Flycatcher, Fuscous Flycatcher, Drab water Tyrant, Cinereous Mourner, White-banded Swallow, White-winged Swallow, White-breasted Wood-Wren, Guianan Gnatcatcher, Lawrence's Thrush, Green Honeycreeper, Yellow-backed Tanager, Silver-beaked Tanager, Purple Honeycreeper, Swallow Tanager, White-bellied Dacnis, Yellow-bellied Dacnis, Blue Dacnis, Large-billed Seed-Finch, Buff-throated Saltator, Yellow-rumped Cacique, Rufous-bellied Euphonia and many more!

Includes

Complete logistics, full-time professional birding guide, one local guide where is mandatory, hotel in Bogotá (2 nights) hotel in Mitú (7 nights) (double occupancy in all of them), food (3 meals, drinks/day and water, snacks) from breakfast day one to breakfast day 9; ground transportation, transfers airports-hotels-airports (Bogotá and Mitú), fluvial transportation over Vaupés river, two domestic flights (Bogotá-Mitú-Bogotá) entrance fees to the indigenous communities; tourist tax in Mitú, and best vibes.

Not included

International flights, travel insurance, medical costs or hospitalization, excess baggage charges, alcoholic beverages, laundry, calls, tips, or anything of a personal nature.

The pace of the Tour

Mitú is a lowland territory 656 ft (200 meters above sea level). It is surrounded by small Tepuyes (big mountain-shaped rocks) that can reach 300 mt in height. We take slow walking along the flat trails most of the time; many trails are under shade, and others are open to the sun. This trip is carried out during the dry season with temperatures ranging from 25°C to 32°C / 77°F to 89°F. So, hot is present, but you can deal with it. Birding days begin around 5:30 am, but on a couple of mornings, we have to be up earlier. Coffee or a hot beverage is taken before leaving the hotel, a pair of breakfast and lunch are taken in the field, and others are at the hotel; water is provided every day. In the afternoon, the group typically returns to the hotel at 6:00 p.m., with dinner generally starting between 7:00 pm. We will check the bird list before or after dinner.

Accommodation

In Bogotá, we stay at the modern and comfortable Hotel Habitel (AC, HW, Wi-fi available) for the first and last night of the tour; in Mitú, we stay at the Hotel Brasilia (AC, HW, Wi-Fi available). Sometimes, we use the Acori farm.

Food

Most Colombian food is based on grains (beans, lentils, rice, etc.), potatoes, and yucca, along with meat (Beef, pork, chicken, and fish), steak, and salads. In Mitú, there is a variety of dishes, ranging from those found in the country's main cities to traditional dishes from the Amazon region. For vegetarians, we can make arrangements to provide you with tasty vegetarian dishes.

Drinks

At dinner, natural juice or soft drinks are provided, as well as coffee or tea. Bottled water is provided in the field.

*Given the case that you have any Food Allergies/Requirements, please let us know.

Transportation

Getting to Mitú must be by airplane, as there are no roads connecting cities or towns to the destination. Once there, we mainly travel by moto-taxi and boat on the Vaupés River.

Let's join the Flock!



Spotted Puffbird by Edwin A.



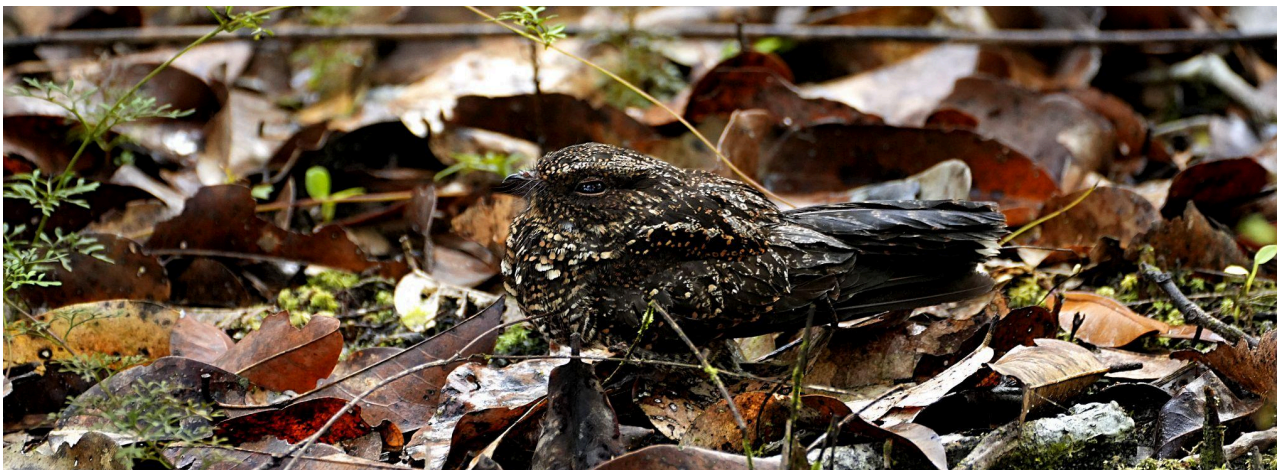
Dwarf-tyrant Manakin by Edwin A.



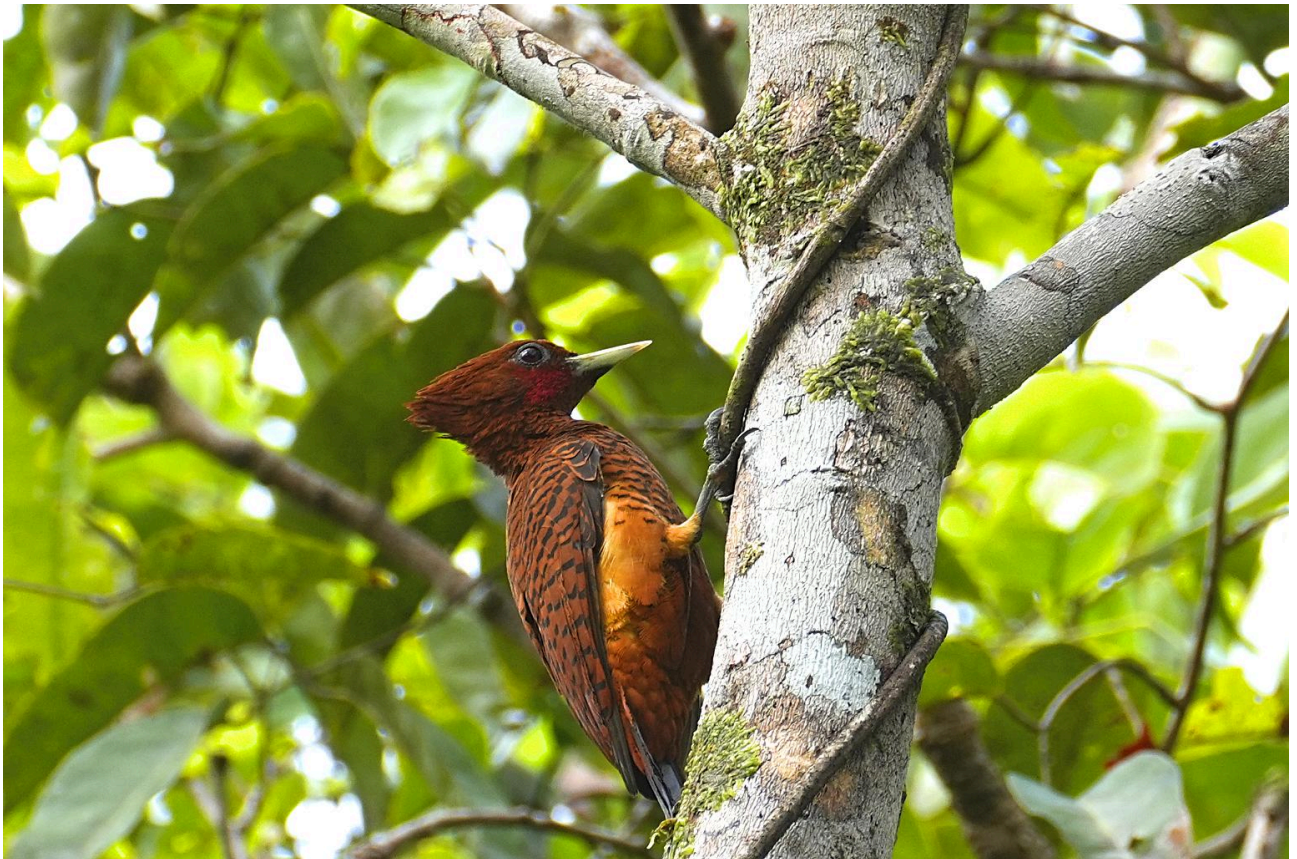
Lettered Aracari by Edwin A.



Sapphire-rump Parrotlet by Edwin A.



Blackish Nightjar by Edwin A.



Waved Woodpecker by Edwin A.



Lettered Aracari by Edwin A.





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