

5 DAYS/4 NIGHTS BIRDWATCHING PROGRAM

Itinerary

Sample Itinerary (subject to change due to the weather, specific interests, physical abilities of our guests and the availability of each place to be visited)

Highlights

- Yanacocha Reserve
- Silanche and Milpe Reserves
- Paz de las Aves
- Alambi Reserve and Tandayapa Valley (Old Road To Mindo)
- Amagusa Reserve



Day 1

Yanacocha Reserve (Optional), Hummingbirds Garden (Mindo Cloud Forest)

Description

We will pick you up from your Hotel in Quito or Airport area at 10:00 am. Our driver and private guide will pick you up. During the transfer to Las Terrazas de Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa in Mindo Cloud Forest, you will enjoy a snacks box which includes some natural juice, ham and cheese sandwich and a chocolate bar. On the way to our Hotel, you will have chance to stop and enjoy Los Armadillos Hummingbirds Garden in which you can have a relaxing time, drink some coffee and use restrooms if you need.

If you wish to increase your birding experience this day, for sure, you will love to visit Yanacocha Reserve (optional), therefore your schedule will change and you will be picked up from your Hotel in Quito or Airport area at 6:00 in the morning, then you will be driven for around two hours to this stunning Reserve in which you will spend an outstanding morning after you enjoy a breakfast box which includes some natural fruit, cupcakes, bananas, bread, fresh cheese, boiled eggs, coffee and milk.

Yanacocha Ecological Reserve covers an area of 964,000 hectares of forests that protect a great biodiversity of Andean flora and fauna, with an altitude ranging from 2,800 to 4,000 masl, it is home to hundreds of hummingbirds, of the 21 species that habit in the area, among them the "Black-breasted Puffleg" (*Eriocnemis nigrivestis*), declared in 2005 by the Municipality of Quito as an emblematic bird of the city for being one of the rarest hummingbirds in the world, as there are only 200 individuals left.

After lunch in their restaurant, you will be driven to Mindo through the exciting Nono old road, arrival time to Las Terrazas de Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa will be around 4:00 pm. Check in will be as detailed below.



LAS TERRAZAS DE DANA BOUTIQUE LODGE & SPA BIRDWATCHING PROGRAMS

Arrival time to Las Terrazas de Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa will be around 1:00 pm if you did not include Yanacocha Reserve in your program. At the Hotel you will have a natural welcome drink and also you will get fresh with a cool towel. After your check in, you will enjoy your Bungalow for a while, and then you will be invited to join us for your first lunch in our Restaurant. Then, all of our guests will receive a Hotel and Program Briefing; in addition, you will have a meeting with your guide this first evening of your program, in order to attend questions and concerns about your program.

After lunch and briefing, we will visit a different Hummingbirds Garden located in Mindo Town in which you will have the opportunity to check and know some dissociated species of hummingbirds than the ones you knew in Los Armadillos. At the end of this visit, you will return to the Hotel to enjoy a relaxing evening in your private terrace or our swimming pool.

Dinner time 7:00 pm (Flexible schedule). You can enjoy dinner in your private terrace or in our Restaurant.



Meals: Snacks Box/Breakfast Box, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & SPA

Difficulty:

Transportation: Mini Bus/Pick up track/Mini SUV

Key Species: Sword-billed Hummingbird, Shining Sunbeam, Golden-breasted Puffleg, Andean Guan, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager.

Day 2 Silanche and Milpe Reserves

Description

Early in the morning, around 5:00 am you will leave the Hotel with our driver and your private guide in order to go to Silanche Reserve, the location of this Reserve is around 1 hour and 30 minutes driving. When you arrive to this destination, you will enjoy your breakfast outdoor; natural fruit, cupcakes, bananas, bread, fresh cheese, boiled eggs, coffee and milk will give you all the power that you need to enjoy this busy, but like no other day.

You will spend the whole morning in Silanche Reserve which is 300 to 350 meters (984-1148 ft) and is located after Pedro Vicente Maldonado town. It has 80 hectares (200 acres) of primary and secondary forest. This sanctuary also belongs to the Mindo Cloud Forest Foundation. There is a main trail that is in good condition, the trail is wide and they always keep it clean of dry leaves which apart from making noise when you walk. They also have an observation tower of more or less 15 meters where you can appreciate the canopy.



LAS TERRAZAS DE DANA BOUTIQUE LODGE & SPA BIRDWATCHING PROGRAMS

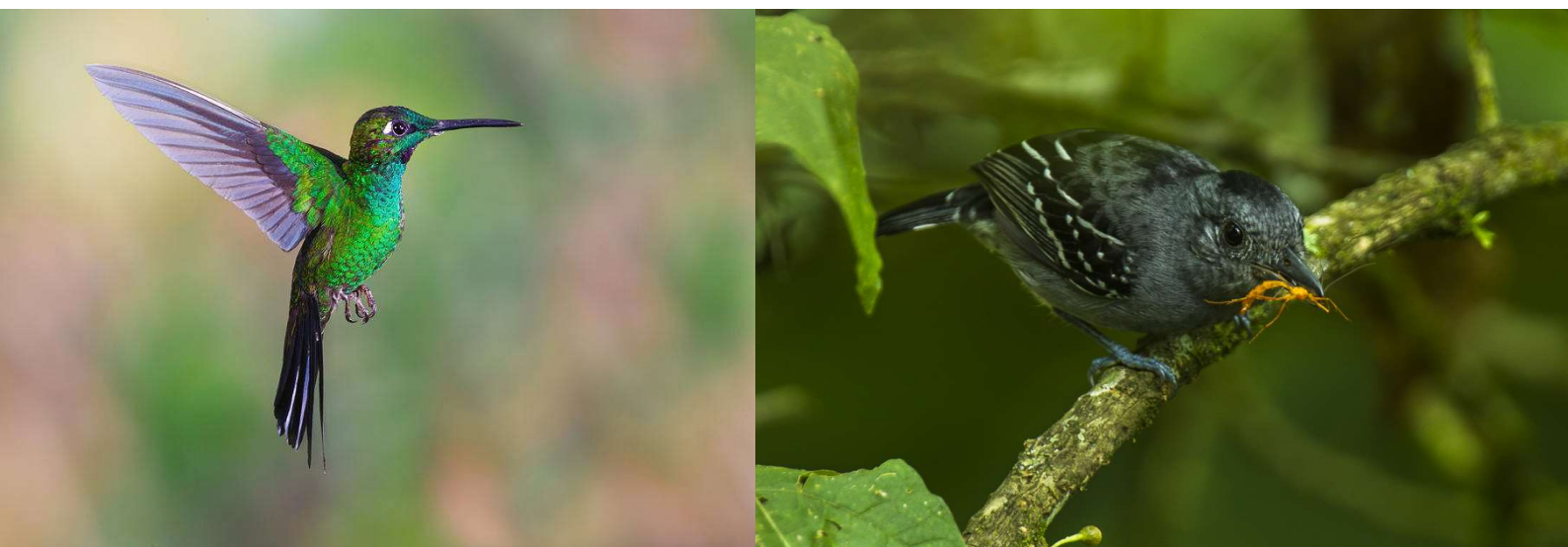
At the moment when the visit to Silanche Reserve has finished, you will be driven for around 45 minutes, you will be able to enjoy lunch time in Los Bancos Village. After lunch, we will drive for 20 more minutes to finally get to The Milpe Reserve in which you will spend the afternoon.

Mindo Cloud Forest Foundation, which is also the owner of this peace of heaven, invites birders and nature lovers to explore and enjoy the Milpe Bird Sanctuary. This is the Chocó-Andean foothills reserve, located in the Birdlife International defined Important Bird Area Los Bancos-Milpe (ECo41).

Opened in March 2004, Milpe has recently been expanded to 100 hectares (247 acres), now including the adjacent 'Milpe Gardens' which has easier access to the Chaluayacu river valley and makes a great addition to their already wide trail system. The Bird Sanctuary covers an altitudinal range from 1020-1150m (3350-3770 ft) and is located 700m off kilometer 91 of the main Calacalí-Los Bancos Highway on an all-weather road. Birding guides consider this, one of the finest sites in all of Ecuador and many of the most spectacular Chocó Endemics, occur here.

At the end of this visit, you will return to the Hotel to enjoy a relaxing evening in your private terrace or our swimming pool.

Dinner time 7:00 pm (Flexible schedule). You can enjoy dinner in your private terrace or in our Restaurant.



Meals: Breakfast Box, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & SPA

Difficulty:

Transportation: Mini Bus/Pick up track/Mini SUV

Key Species: Choco Trogon, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, White-whiskered Puffbird, Black-crowned Antshrike, Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, Club-winged Manakin, Green Thorntail, White Whiskered Hermit, Green-Crowned Brilliant, Green-Crowned Woodnymph.

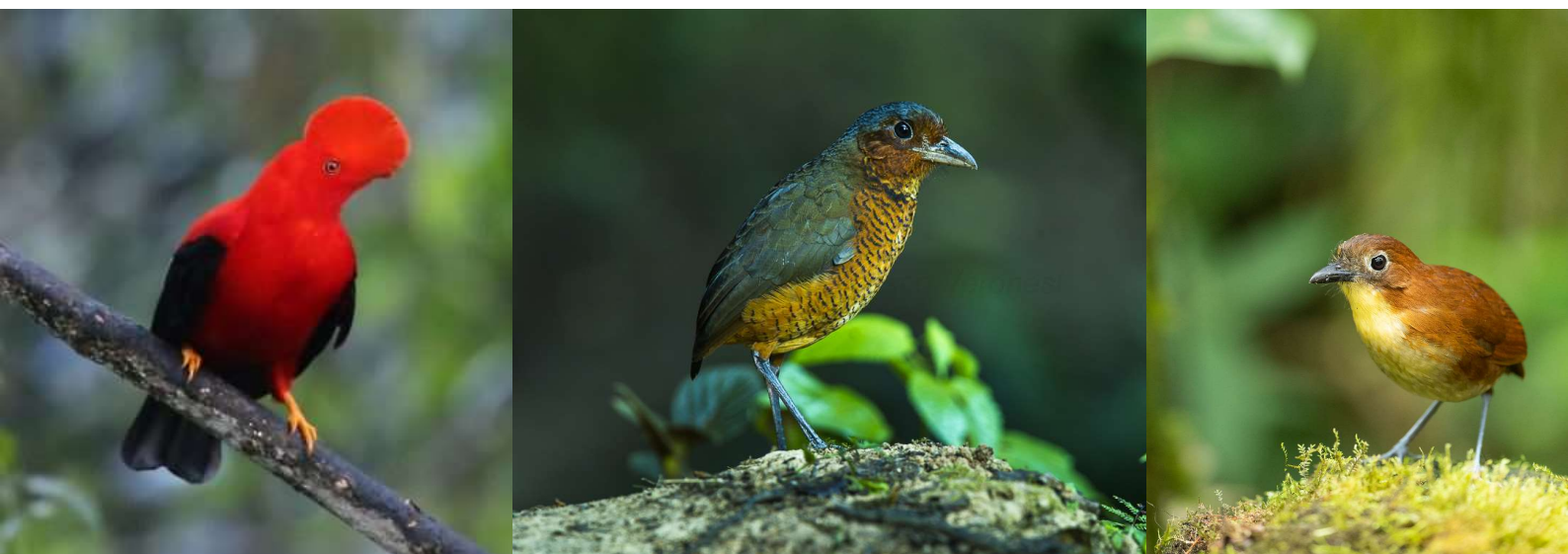
Day 3

Paz de las Aves, Alambi Reserve and Bellavista – Old Road To Mindo

Description

Departure time this day will be at 5:20 in the morning, then, by our driver and with your private guide, you will be driven for around 40 minutes in the way to Paz de las Aves location in which you will have the once-in-a life-time opportunity to sight the famed Cock of the Rock dancing and chirping for around one hour. Afterward, you will enjoy your breakfast outdoor: natural fruit, cupcakes, bananas, bread, fresh cheese, boiled eggs, coffee and milk will give you energy enough to relish this fancy place; in addition, Angel Paz and his family will let you taste a traditional breakfast on the base of mashed and fried green plantain call "bolón de verde" complemented with the best ecuadorian coffee after the program. Following the itinerary in this location, you will have chance to see and enjoy five different types of antpittas which are usually in the area.

Located 1,400 meters (4,590 ft), Paz de las Aves is a private reserve between Nanegalito and Mindo at kilometer 65-66. It has 30 hectares of primary and secondary forest. Rogrigo and Angel Paz are two brothers who have patiently trained several gralarias, who are normally very shy, to leave the tangled forest when they hear their names and then reward them with the portion of worms. The most daring is the Giant Antlaria (Giant Antpitta) called "María" who follows them everywhere in search of the worms, then Angel Paz calls "Willi" Gralaria Pechiamarillenta (Yellow-breasted Antpita) to eat. They also have training for Grausta Moustached (Moustached Antpitta) and Gralaria Pechiocracea (ocher-breasted antpitta). On rare occasions the Corcovado Dorsiosuro (dark-Backed Wood Quail) appears. The highlight bird to be sighted in this location is the Cock of the Rock, but you also have the opportunity to enjoy the company of the following birds: Giant Antpitta, Moustached Antpitta, Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Ochre-breasted Antpitta.



After the visit detailed above has finished, you will be driven to the Alambi Reserve to enjoy their feeders area. The perfect climate, intact primary forest, attractive gardens by the river and handy location spanning the main highway, made it perfect and will all of their visitors have a memorable experience. You will have lunch in a local and tasty restaurant in the area.

After the visit described before, you will continue birding in the Old Road To Mindo in Upper area of Tandayapa Valley which is a beautiful slice of the Ecuadorian amazon rain forest. It is most well-known for the exceptional birding opportunities. But birds aren't the only reason to visit Tandayapa, trees literally drip with their own micro-habitats, hosting epiphytes like orchids and bromeliads. Air plants are fascinating, with their ability to grow on top of other plants, however they are not parasitic.

While there is no single best time of the year to arrive, arriving when the trees are fruiting makes it easier to see different iconic species. There is a huge network of trails throughout the Tandayapa Valley and so far explorers have discovered 330 species of bird. Scores of toucans, wrens and warblers are seen each day. Hummingbird feeders have been used to entice 31 different species to the area. Sometimes there can be as many as twenty species seen in a single day. There is certainly enough here to keep and nature lover enticed for days.

Dinner time 7:00 pm (Flexible schedule). You can enjoy dinner in your private terrace or in our Restaurant.



Meals: Breakfast Box, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & SPA

Difficulty:

Transportation: Mini Bus/Pick up track/Mini SUV

Key Species: Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Giant Antpitta, Moustached Antpitta, Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Ochre-breasted Antpitta, Toucan Barbet. Western Emerald, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Brown Violetear, White-capped Dipper, Torrent Tyrannulet, Red-faced Spinetail, Golden-olive Woodpecker.

Day 4

Mashpi Road, Amagusa Reserve and San Tadeo Feeder

Very early in the morning, around 4:30 am, with our driver and your private guide, you will make a move to the well known and pristine Amagusa Reserve, after two hours ride you will eventually have chance to keep sighting some more species besides the ones you have seen the last days in this program. While you are enjoying the several spots of this Reserve, you will also have your breakfast outdoor.

The Amagusa Reserve is a privately owned 130 hectares of recovering forest in the new protected important bird area (IBA) Mashpi-Pachijal. The specific location of this forest within this IBA makes it even more special since this area is the last foothill-forest that directly connects to the lower subtropical western forest of Ecuador. Its unique location makes it particularly attractive for birders looking for the highest biodiversity regions with choco endemic birds.

This reserve is located next to the Mashpi Road, and it is toward to the higher altitude forest. The altitude range is 1700 to 750 masl, it begins at the higher altitude pass and continues to the Mashpi Road entrance gate. The reserve extends downward to the east of the road toward a river where the forest is best conserved. There are some trails that can be visited but the Mashpi Road entrance is the best source for easy birding.



When the visit to the Amagusa Reserve has finished, all of you will have lunch in a fancy local restaurant, then, our driver will take you and your guide to this outstanding birding spot call San Tadeo Feeder which is a private spot in the top of the hill, located just 20 minutes from Mindo Cloud Forest, this spot is hummingbirds and tanagers heaven. You might catch several colorful species in only few minutes because of the altitude.

At the end of this visit, you will return to the Hotel to enjoy a relaxing evening in your private terrace or our swimming pool.

Dinner time 7:00 pm (Flexible schedule). You can enjoy dinner in your private terrace or in our Restaurant.



Meals: Breakfast Box, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & SPA

Difficulty:

Transportation: Mini Bus/Pick up track/Mini SUV

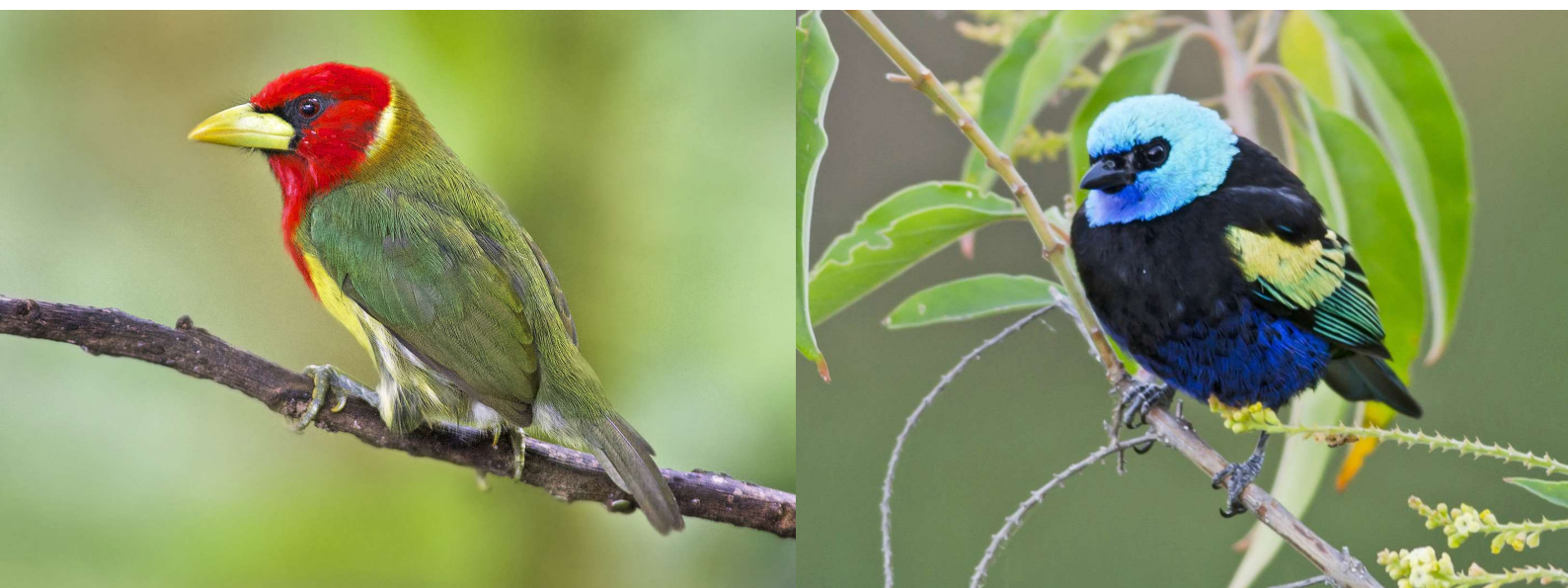
Key Species: Indigo Flowerpiercer, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, Black Solitaire, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Lyre-tailed Nightjar, White-tipped Sicklebill, Choco Vireo, Choco Parakeet, Glistening-green Tanager, Black-chinned Mountain-Tanager, Black-striped Sparrow, Flame-faced Tanager, Velvet-purple Coronet, Violet-tailed Sylph, Booted Racket-tail, Toucan Barbet.

Day 5 San Lorenzo Route in Mindo Cloud Forest

Description

At 6:00 am, you will be driven to the highest area in Mindo Cloud Forest, on the San Lorenzo Route, you will be able to continue with your sighting program in which, for sure, you will be able to observe various species of birds that will finally make your experience unforgettable. Take advantage of this experience and have breakfast with your private birding guide after your tour to solve questions and make a check list of the seen species. The night before we will supply some coffee and milk, bananas and cupcakes, so you will be able to enjoy an early light breakfast before this last part of the program.

After breakfast with your guide, you can have some resting time in your Bungalow and also enjoy our swimming pool, Spa and gardens before your check-out at noon and transfer to your Quito or Airport Area Hotel. Our driver will pick you up.



Meals: Pre-Breakfast, Breakfast, Snacks Box

Accommodation: Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & SPA

Difficulty:

Transportation: Mini Bus/Pick up track/Mini suv

Key Species: Blue-Necked Tanager, Bay-Headed Tanager, Red-Headed Barbet, Choco Toucan, Golden Headed Quetzal, Crimson-Rumped Toucan, Black Striped Sparrow, White Capped Dipper, White Tailed Hillstar, Red-Billed Parrot.

Important Notes

- The itinerary described is a sample itinerary and subject to change due to the weather, specific interests, physical abilities of our guests and the availability of each place to be visited.
- Tailor-made itinerary is liable to be organized according to guests needs.
- First day optional Reserve: Yanacocha Reserve is not part of the program but liable to be included under request.
- During transfer in (first day of the program) and transfer out (last day of the program), snacks box will be served to all of our guests.
- First day program does not include breakfast.
- Last day program does not include lunch and dinner.
- Every day during this program, guests will have breakfast outdoor excepting the last day in which breakfast will be at the Hotel.
- First day of the Program, if Yanacocha Reserve is been included, will be also included breakfast box.
- Lunch and dinner includes a soft drink, natural juice or regular beer.
- The transportation to every site in which the activities will take place, will be set by private vehicles which could be a pick up truck, mini suv, suv or mini bus.
- Every day of the program, our guests will be accompanied by driver and private guide.
- The Spa services will have a 20% discount for all of our guests.
- Spa massage services must be requested at least 2 hours in advance.
- Each Bungalow at Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa has a Safety Deposit Box.
- At Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa's boutique you will find a small selection of exploration garments, handicrafts and essentials to make sure you've got everything you need, and then some. Some items are subject to availability.
- Last day program, there is Late Check Out service available under request for an extra \$60.00 fee each bungalow.
- Additional and not included expenses could be settled down by cash, Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Diners Club at Front Desk in Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa when guests are checking out.

Special Reminders

- Please do not litter, either in the Cloud Forest or during your planned visits to the described Reserves.
- Bright colored clothing can frighten birds.
- Do not bring any food or drink other than water when you hike onto the trails of every visited Reserve.
- Always stay with your guide during your visits to every planned Reserve.
- During your hikes onto the trails of every Reserve, please try to walk slow and do not speak loud.
- Use natural insect repellent during your visits into the Cloud Forest and Reserves.
- Keep your eyes and skin safe from tropical sun by using hat or cap and sunglasses.
- The sun in the tropic can be intense, please pack sunblock.
- For a comfortable experience, please pack socks that will be gentle on your feet.
- Make sure your shoes are up to visit the Cloud Forest and Reserves, use comfortable hiking shoes.
- Portable flashlight will be a great help during evening.

Packing List

- Hat or cap
- Sunglasses
- Bathing suit
- Dark or earth toned long sleeve tees or expedition shirts
- Dark or earth toned lightweight pants
- Breathable or moisture wicking crew length socks
- Length cotton socks
- Warm Jacket (synthetic thermal or merino wool)
- Comfortable hiking shoes
- Raincoat or Rain poncho
- Sunblock
- Natural insect repellent
- Camera & accessories
- Binoculars
- Lightweight sweater or jacket
- Portable flashlight
- Ziplock style baggies in which to keep your items dry
- Flashlight
- Batteries
- Personal medication

Included

- Private shuttle from Quito or Airport area to Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa. (Transfer In). Other location available under request with a supplement.
- Private shuttle from Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa (Transfer Out) to Quito or Airport area. Other location available under request with a supplement.
- Accommodation in our Luxury Lodge in Mindo Cloud Forest: Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa.
- Breakfast Box first day when Yanacocha Reserva is been included in the program.
- Breakfast Box for every visit in which you need to leave earlier than breakfast time starts in the Hotel.
- Pre breakfast last morning of the program.
- Snacks Box served during the shuttle service from Quito (or required location) to Mindo Cloud Forest (First Day).
- Snacks Box served during the shuttle service from Mindo Cloud Forest (Last Day) to Quito (or required location).
- Welcome drink and fresh cool towel.
- Dana Experience "Water Refill Silver Bottle".
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner in Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa, assigned Restaurant, or outdoor service depending of the itinerary and as described in program details.
- Private transportation to every Reserve in which the program develops.
- Private bilingual guide during the whole program.
- Entrance fees to every Reserve detailed in the program.
- Laundry service.
- Coffee, milk, tea & purified water in Las Terrazas De Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa.
- Satellite Television.
- Wifi internet service.
- Room Service.

Not Included

- Yanacocha Reserve the first day of the program.
- Breakfast first day of the program.
- Lunch and Dinner last day of the program.
- Alcoholic and no described drinks.
- Meals in places or restaurants not listed or authorized.
- Items listed in the Packing List.
- Travel and health insurance.
- Personal expenses.
- Late check out.
- Tips & gratuities.
- Activities and services not listed in the program.



LAS TERRAZAS DE DANA BOUTIQUE LODGE & SPA BIRDWATCHING PROGRAMS

Payment Policies

For reservations of Tours and Programs developed by Dana Expeditions in the Chocó Andino and Mindo Cloud Forest, with accommodation in Las Terrazas de Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa, a deposit of 20% of the total value of the Program is required to confirm your program.

The remaining 80% payment can be done at your arrival in Las Terrazas de Dana Boutique Lodge & Spa.

Cancellation Policies

For cancellations of Tour or Programs developed by Dana Expeditions, a cancellation period is established without penalty up to 30 days before the arrival of the passengers. If the cancellation is made in a period established between 29 and 0 days considered to the date of arrival, the penalty will be equal to 100% of the value previously deposited to guarantee the reservation of the Program.

