

PHOENIX LANDING ECOTOURS PRESENTS

ENDEMIC MACAWS OF BOLIVIA

Join us for an exciting new tour to Bolivia June 18-28, 2016. We will be visiting three distinct regions of Bolivia in order to see a diverse snapshot of their parrots and wildlife. Starting out by exploring the dry Andean foothills where the Red-fronted Macaws thrive then we'll move into the dense Amazon rainforest to a remote lodge owned and operated by a native Indian tribe where Greenwing Macaws call home. We'll then move onto the tropical savannahs where we hope to glimpse the endangered Blue-throat Macaw. It is our first time visiting Bolivia and we hope you'll join us on this adventure.



Day 1:

Arrive in Santa Cruz from your overnight flight from the US. We'll transfer to the hotel and have a chance to rest up before an afternoon excursion to the Santa Cruz Botanical Gardens. There we'll visit a small lake which is surrounded by a forest where the Yellow-chevroned and Green-cheek Parakeets & Blue-winged Parrotlets call home. For any birders among us we'll have the chance to see the Least Grebe, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Wattled Jacana, Rufous-sided Crake, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Yellow-chinned Spinetail and Red-capped Cardinal, Thrush-like Wrens, Rufous Horneros, Buff-bellied Hermit, White-wedged Piculet, Bolivian Slaty Antshrike, Fawn-breasted Wren, Pale-crested Woodpecker and White-backed Fire-eye. Also in the dry forest we may hear or see the Hooded Capuchin and Pale Titi Monkey or see a family of Black-tailed Marmosets. To the east of the botanic garden lies a patch of Chacoan thorn scrub where we'll look for Rufous-throated Sapphire, Red-billed Scythebill, White-bellied and White-crested Tyrannulets, Mato Grosso Antbird and the delightful Stripe-backed Antbird.

Hotel Asturias (<http://www.hotelasturias.com.bo/index.php?lang=en>)

L:D

Day 2:

This morning we'll head for the Andean foothills and bird the dry forest and canyons. This is a good area for Parrots and we may see any of the following - Mitred and Green-cheeked Parakeet, Scaly-naped and Red-billed Parrot. This is also an area where we have seen Military Macaw in the past. We'll head for Comparapa and our comfortable clean but simple hotel. We have time for our first look for the endemic Red-fronted Macaw.

Hotel in Comarapa.

B:L:D

Day 3:

Mornings will be spent around the cultivated fields between Tambo and Saipina. Dawn will see us waiting down by the Rio Misque for the dawn flyover of the rare and endemic Red-fronted Macaw. Regular birds to be seen include: the endemic Bolivian Earthcreeper, White-bellied Hummingbird, Stripecrowned Spinetail, White-fronted Woodpecker, Chaco Suiriri Flycatcher, Sooty-fronted Spinetail, Cream-backed Woodpecker, Streak-fronted Thornbird, Rufous-capped Antshrike, White-bellied Tyrannulet, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Bay-winged Cowbird, Ringed Warbling-Finch, Gray-crested Finch, Rusty-browed Warbling-Finch, and Saffron-billed Sparrow. In the afternoon we'll head to Saipina and some agricultural areas along the Rio Misque - here Red-fronted Macaws (endemic), Bluecrowned Parakeets and Turquoise-fronted Amazons raid the crops. We should see Black and Rufous Warbling-finch here as well. We'll pay special attention along a stretch of road for the endemic Cliff Parakeet. In the afternoon we may want to look for Scaly-naped parrot above Comparapa.

Hotel in Comarapa.

B:L:D

Day 4:

Another day looking at the Macaws by the Rio Misque and then we'll work our way back to Santa Cruz this afternoon.

Hotel Asturias

B:L:D

Day 5:

Early morning transfer to the airport for our flight to Rurrenabaque via La Paz where we'll meet our local indigenous guide and to the port, where we board the boat toward the Ecolodge Chalalan. The boat trip takes about 5 ½ hours sailing the rivers Beni and Tuichi, the journey is an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate beautiful scenery with the possibility of observing different species of birds, reptiles and mammals to the port Tuichi. (A halfway we serve a lunch box or snack). From the point of arrival it's a 25 minute walk along the trail to reach our lodge at Lakeshore Chalalan where we'll be warmly greeted with a welcome reception. After dinner there will be an optional short walk to see the nightlife including insects, spiders, amphibians, reptiles and nocturnal birds.

Ecolodge Chalalan (http://www.chalalan.com/index_en.php)

B:L:D

Day 6:

About an hour downriver from Chalalan, one passes a series of exposed cliffs where Greenwing and Severe Macaws have dug out nests. This site, called Caquiawara, is near the junction of the Beni and Tuchi Rivers. The cliffs are very prominent on the right (north) side of the river. From the riverbank, a short trail leads uphill to an overlook. Here one can watch these impressive macaws fly, call and interact from above, with a perfect backdrop of dark green forest. The macaw nesting cliffs are best in either early in the morning or late in the afternoon.

Ecolodge Chalalan

B:L:D

Day 7:

We return to Rurrenabaque in the morning with all the sights and smells of the rainforest, and on arrival fly to Trinidad via La Paz. On arrival at the airport we'll bird the road to Loma Suarez with a picnic lunch. This area is full of birds. Concentrating on a dry riverine gallery woodland, possibilities include Golden-collared Macaw, Mato Grosso Antbird, Plain Softtail, Undulated Tinamou, Straight-billed and Buff-throated Woodcreepers, White-eyed Attila, Short-tailed Pygmy-tyrant, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, White-tailed Goldenthrout, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Rufous Casiornis, Long-winged Harrier, Velvet-fronted Grackle and Hooded Tanager

Hotel in Trinidad

B:L:D

Days 8-9: Two full days in the tropical savannas south of Trinidad where 7-8 pairs of Macaws nest on the Moxos Savannas We'll drive to the Macaws and spend all day with them concentrating on open flooded fields and scrubby pasture. Possibilities include

Plumbeous, Green, Buff-necked, and Bare-faced Ibis, Comb Duck, Roseate Spoonbill, Maguari Stork, Jabiru, Southern Screamer, Muscovy Duck, Scarlet-hooded and Unicolored Blackbirds, Greater Thornbird, 3 species of Monjita, Bicolored Seedeater, Toco Toucan, Great Rufous and Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Rusty-margined Flycatcher, various Whistling Ducks, Little Cuckoo, Orange-winged Parrot, Azure Gallinule, Slenderbilled kite, Black-collared Hawk , Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Chotoy , Cinereous-breasted , Plaincrowned and Yellow-chinned Spinetails, Rufous Chachalote and Fawn-breasted Wren. We'll look for Blue-throated Macaw coming into roost this evening. Also we will observe other species of parrots and macaws that coexist with the Blue-throated macaw at the same habitat as well as a variety of raptors. We can also look for River Dolphins and other mammals if we wish, We return to Trinidad each evening for dinner and hotel.
B:L:D

Day 10:

We'll spend our last morning looking for Parrots and the Blue-throated Macaws. In the afternoon we'll fly back to Santa Cruz where we'll spend the night.
Hotel Asturias
B:L:D

Day 11:

All good things must end so we transfer to the airport for morning departures for flights home.
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