



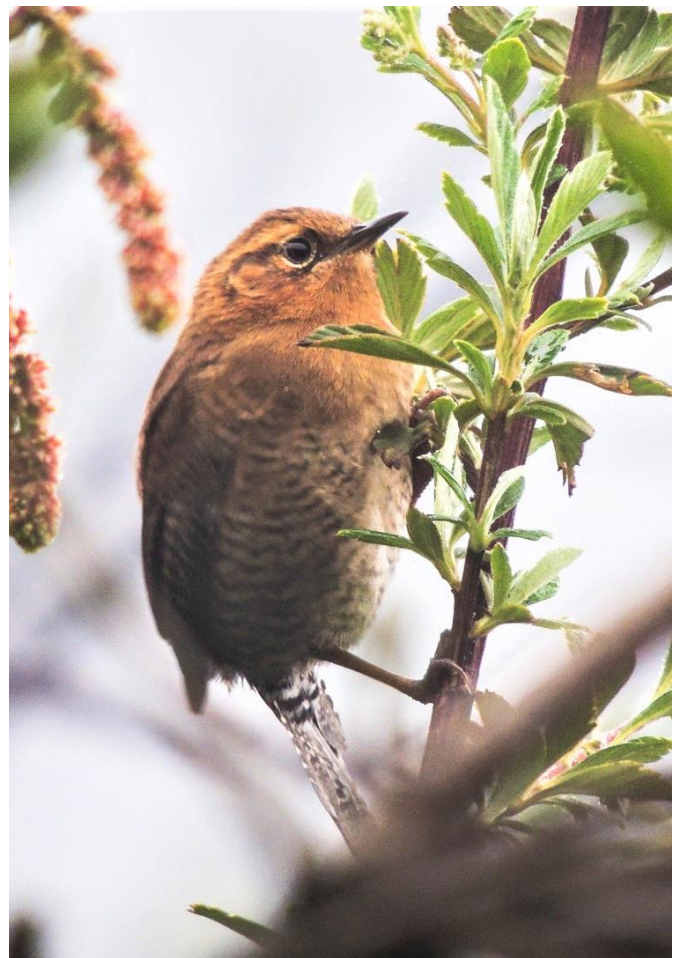
Blue-bearded Helmetcrest and the Rarest Birds of the Santa Marta Highlands 1-8 February 2022

The high area of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta was possibly one of the most inaccessible places for bird watchers in the world and it was always in the TOP of destinations they wanted to visit; Currently and thanks to the opening of tourism in many isolated places in Colombia and the great opportunities that tourism has generated for different indigenous communities for their community economic development, it has been possible to open up this incredible place, thus benefiting local people, travel agencies and, in general, all those involved in the value chain of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

This place is undoubtedly a paradise for bird watching and nature in general, being one of the most important and least explored places in Colombia due to its high endemic diversity and very rare species that live there; Only a handful of people have managed to observe the Blue-bearded Helmetcrest or the Santa Marta Wren, in addition to the incredible landscapes of the Sierra Nevada and the glacial lagoons of this isolated and enigmatic place, now with this trip that we offer here you will be able to do it.

Although the trip offers few comfort conditions and requires a great physical effort, we have tried to make all the best logistical arrangements to have a great experience in the mountains, from an excellent camping equipment, to local guides and mules that will help with all the necessary charge to have a good experience.

A truly incredible trip that you can put as one of the great challenges reached by few bird watchers in the world and a species highly desired by the world's birders, on your personal list of birds.



Itinerary

Day 1. Arrival to Santa Marta / Night in GHL Costa Azul or San Pedro

We will arrive to Santa Marta city, and depending of the hour of arrivals we will stay in Santa Marta Hotel or in a hotel in a small town close to the point to start the walk to the mountain.

Day 2. Transfer to the walk start point in San Pedro de la Sierra, walk to base camp in 2.400 meters level to sea

Transfer in 4x4x cars early in the morning to San Pedro de la Sierra (1200 meters level to sea), start to walk to first camping base 2400 meters level to sea (8-10 hours walking) / Night in Camping / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner will be supplied per our local guides

All equipment (tents, sleeping bags, etc) and your luggage (backpack) will be move in mules, if you want a mule for you could be available also with an extra cost.



Day 3. Walk to Base camp in 3.600 meters level to sea, Lagoons spots

Walk to Las lagunas 3600 meters level to sea and establishment of base camp in where we will stay per 3 nights (8-10 hours walking) / Night in Camping / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner will be supplied per our local guides

Day 4 – 5. Searching the target species in Paramo and around la Lagoons

Birding around the lakes with walks to 2850 meters level to sea maximum, these days will be dedicated to search the amazing Blue-bearded Helmetcrest and other very important species as Santa Marta Wren, Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant, Red-rumped Bush-tyraht, Black-backed Thronbill, Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager, and others, also the amazing frog *Atelopus karrekeri*.





Day 6. Descent to base Camp in 2.400 meters level to see, birding on the way

Descent to base camp 2400 (6-8 hours walking), birding on the way / Night in Camping

Day 7. Descent to San Pedro de la Sierra and transfer to Santa Marta Hotel

Descent to San Pedro de la Sierra in where the 4x4 cars will be waiting for us to go to Santa Marta / Night in GHL Costa Azul

Day 8. Flight to home

You can take international flight from Santa Marta or Barranquilla city, is possible that you need to take a connection from Bogota.



Considerations:

- All clients for this tour need to be vaccinated against COVID-19
- We will use a team of indigenous and local guides during all days, also a team of two professional birdwatching and tourism guides during all the tour.
- We are subject to the rules of the indigenous communities during the route, it is likely that we will have to enter some communities to request access permits as part of a spiritual ritual, for which we must have a lot of tolerance with these situations
- It is especially important to be very healthy and in very good physical condition to walk during long ascents and descents
- All equipment will be carried on mules, you need to carry just the necessary for the walk, we try to do this trip the most comfortable possible; the mule service is available, however we do not recommend it because of the difficulties of the road and because we do not want to encourage animal abuse
- The best months to do this trip will be in the dry season and flower blooming season, **between December to April**
- In case of emergency, the fastest evacuation system is terrestrial, since an air evacuation, although possible, requires permits from the indigenous governments of the place (travel insurance included)
- There are no reliable and permanent communications in place, if necessary, the only way to do it is through a satellite phone, or in specific places where it is possible to capture a cell phone signal.
- The camping equipment, tent, sleeping bag, mat, power banks, plates and cutlery, etc., are not included, each person needs to come with their own equipment, all equipment for cooking is supported for us.
- The temperatures are exceptionally low at night (below 0° Celsius), so the equipment needs to be suitable for low temperatures

Price: \$ 1.200 USD - net price per person

Price of Mule Extra \$50 USD per day (need to be contracted per all days, during the trip)

What is included?

Hotels during first and last day of the tour, individual tent, sleeping bag and pad (if you prefer to have your own camping equipment is fine too), professional birding guide, local birding guides, indigenous guides, mule and horses' drivers, all 4x4 vehicles, mules and horses to carry on all equipment, travel insurance with evacuation program, all meals and snacks and water available all the time to refuel the bottles, social lights, private transfer airport – hotel – airport, entrances to reserves and national parks and payments for permission at indigenous communities.

What is not included?

International flights and taxes, toiletries, laundry service, room service, tips or gratuity, medical expenses (not covered for event insurance), alcoholic drinks, international or satellite phone calls, activities not included in the itinerary, extensions of a trip due to circumstances beyond our control.

