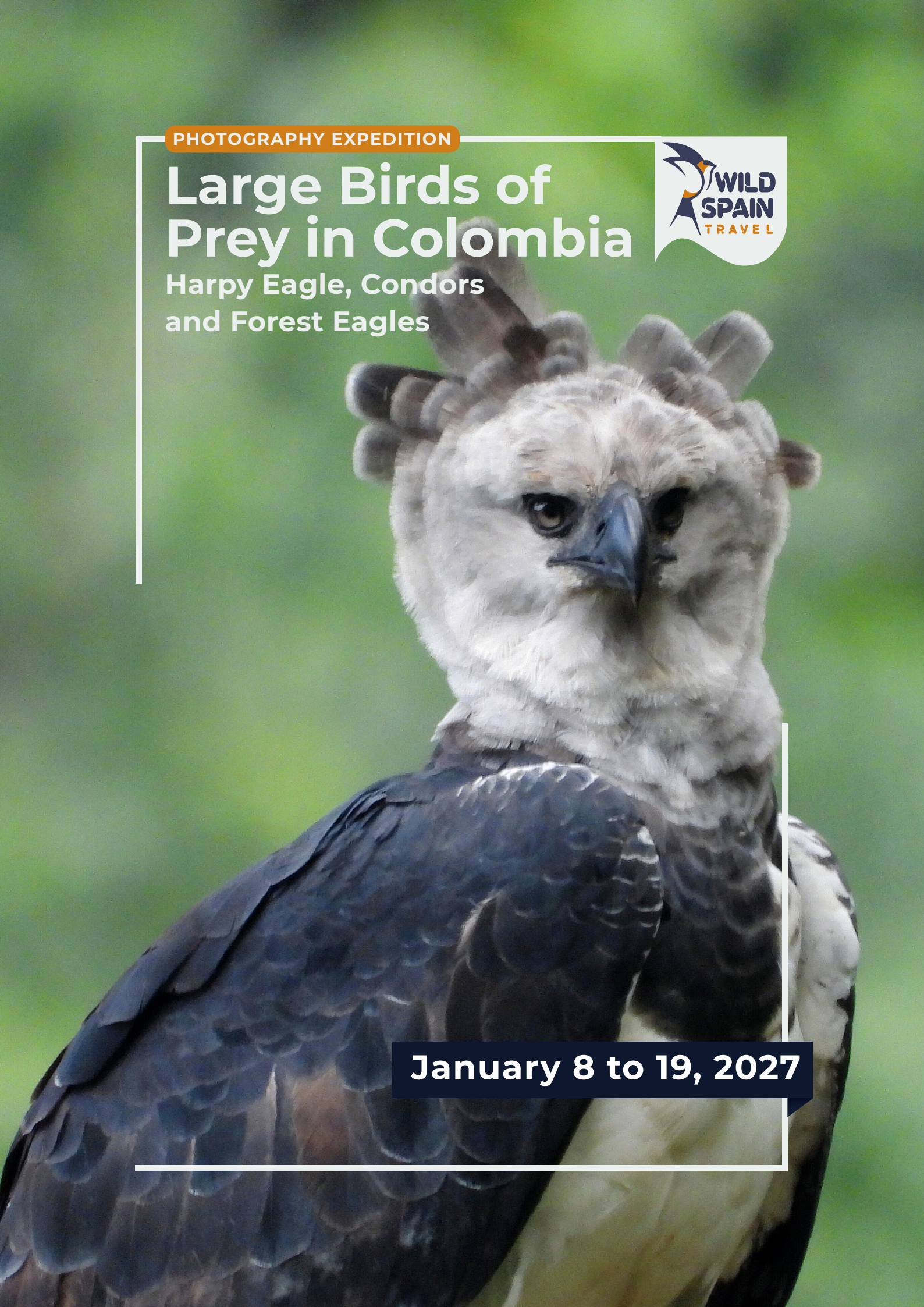
PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION

Large Birds of Prey in Colombia

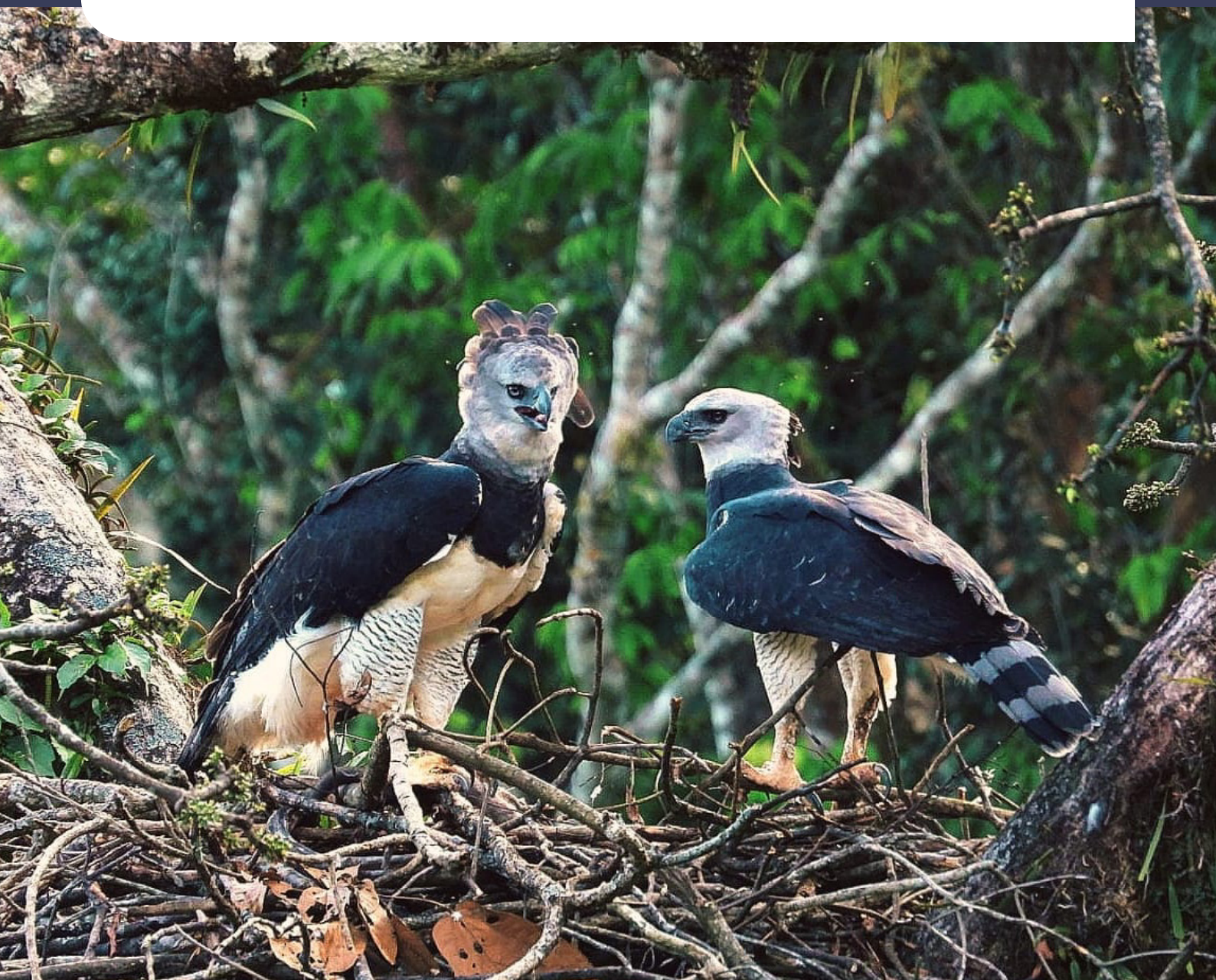
Harpy Eagle, Condors and Forest Eagles



January 8 to 19, 2027

Embark on an unprecedented birdwatching and photography expedition through Colombia, the country with the greatest diversity of birds on the planet. This exclusive trip has been meticulously designed to take you deep into the most spectacular ecosystems of the three Andean mountain ranges and the Amazonian foothills. From the breathtaking landscapes of the Páramo de Sumapaz and the Nevado del Ruiz to the lush biogeographic region of Chocó, we will explore private reserves, cloud forests and facilities featuring first-class feeding stations and hides all optimised for high-quality photography.

Accompanied by expert guides, we will set out in search of South America's most sought-after winged treasures, including the imposing Harpy Eagle, endemic hummingbirds such as the Nevado del Ruiz Green-bearded Helmetcrest, colourful gems such as the Multicolored Tanager and the Grallaria species. A total immersion in Colombia's wild nature, combining biodiversity, local cuisine and a carefully selected range of strategically located eco-lodges.



COLOMBIA

Harpy Eagle, Condors and Forest Eagles

2027

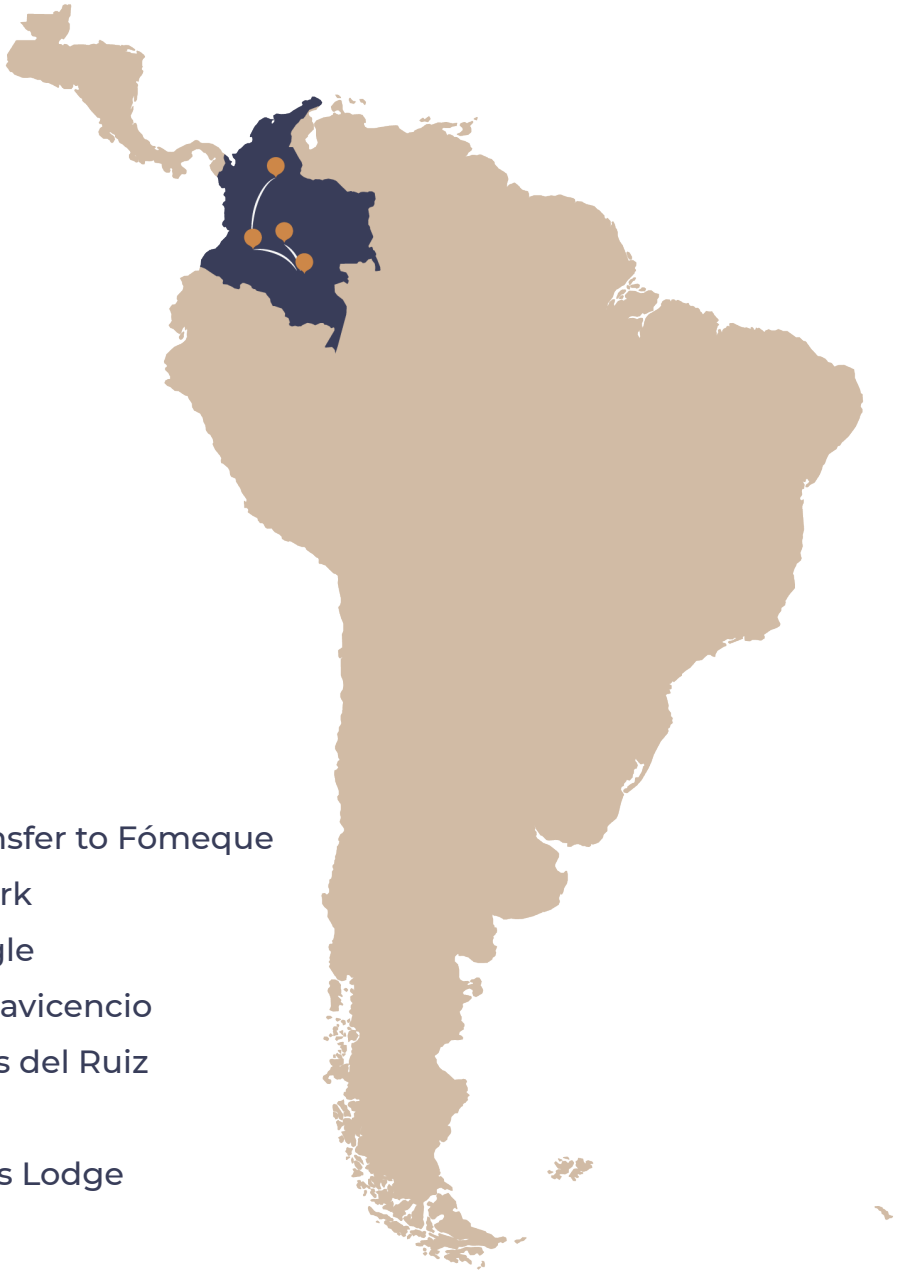
January 8 to 19, 2027
Trip length: 11 days

Máximum group size
6 travellers

Tour Leader
Yanina Maggiotto

Difficulty
Reasonably fit

Languages
English

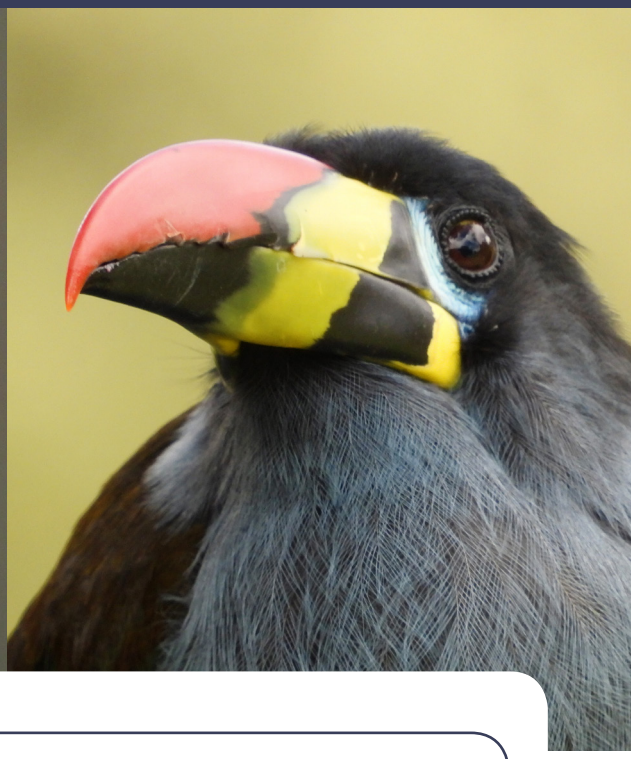


ITINERARY

- Arrival in Bogotá
- Páramo de Sumapaz and transfer to Fómeque
- Sumapaz National Natural Park
- Vista Hermosa and Harpy Eagle
- Harpy Eagle and return to Villavicencio
- Nevado del Ruiz and Termales del Ruiz
- Hacienda el Bosque
- Hacienda el Color de mi Revés Lodge
- Rio Blanco Natural Reserve
- La Florida Birding - Bosque de las Aves
- Doña Dora Birding
- San Felipe Birding Ecolodge

MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS info@wildspaintravel.com +34 649 72 63 70

ITINERARY



Day 0 - **8 January** Arrival in Bogotá

Participants will be met at Bogotá's El Dorado International Airport. A private transfer will take them to the hotel to check in and rest after their journey.

Accommodation: Ibis Museo Hotel

Day 1 - **9 January** Páramo de Sumapaz and transfer to Fómeque

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for Cerro Tutelar Monserrate, where the Sendero el Paramunois located, home to numerous species of hummingbirds, including the iconic Violet-bellied Inca. Transfer to Bojacá, home to one of Colombia's most beautiful hummingbirds, the Blue-throated Starfrontlet. This is the Fute Nature ReserveBack to Bogotá.

Accommodation: Ibis Museo Hotel

Day 2 - **10 January** Sumapaz National Natural Park

Very early departure for Sumapaz National Natural Park. After breakfast in the field, the morning will be spent birdwatching in the high mountains around Laguna de Chisacá, with species of interest including: green-bearded helmetcrest, red rumped bush tyrant, Bogota Rail, Apolinar's Wren, Boyaca Antpitta. After lunch, we will head to a heron roost. Dinner.

Accommodation: del Llano Hotel

Day 3 - **11 January** Vista Hermosa and Harpy Eagle

We set off at dawn for Vista Hermosa. The day will be spent searching for the harpy eagle, one of the most powerful birds of prey on the planet. During the day, we will combine walks, wildlife spotting and breaks for food.

Accommodation: rural accommodation in the area

Day 4 - **12 January** Harpy Eagle and return to Villavicencio

We will continue to explore the Vista Hermosa area to increase our chances of spotting the Harpy Eagle and other species associated with the Amazonian foothill forests. In the afternoon, we will take a flight from Villavicencio to the city of Pereira. Transfer to the hotel in the city of Manizales.

Accommodation: Piedras del Maní Hotel

Day 5 - **13 January** Nevado del Ruiz and Termales del Ruiz

Desayuno en el hotel. Salida a la zona de ingreso del Nevado del Ruiz, donde tendremos la oportunidad de ver uno de los colibríes más especiales del mundo: el Colibrí Chivito del Nevado del Ruiz. Traslado al Hotel Termales del Ruiz, hogar de colibríes endémicos de la cordillera central. Almuerzo en un hermoso chalet. Regreso a Manizales por la tarde. Cena especial.

Accommodation: Hotel Piedras del Maní

Day 6 - **14 January** Hacienda el Bosque

Breakfast at the hotel. We'll set off for the entrance to the Nevado del Ruiz area, where we'll have the chance to see one of the world's most remarkable hummingbirds: the Nevado del Ruiz Green-bearded Helmetcrest. Transfer to the Hotel Termales del Ruiz, home to hummingbirds endemic to the Central Mountain Range. Lunch in a beautiful chalet. Return to Manizales in the afternoon. Special dinner.

Accommodation: El Color de mi Revés Lodge

Day 7 - **15 January** Hacienda el Color de mi Revés

A full day at the 'El Color de mi Revés' Lodge. It offers all the comforts and the perfect setting for spotting hummingbirds, tanagers and grallarias. The Bicolored Antpitta is a particular highlight. Return to the city of Manizales. Special dinner.

Accommodation: Piedras del Maní Hotel

Day 8 - **16 January** Rio Blanco Natural Reserve

The Rio Blanco Natural Reserve is one of the most important places in Colombia for spotting grallarias. The star bird is the Brown-banded Antpitta, , which can be seen at a feeder in excellent light. We will spend the whole morning in the vicinity of pristine forest cover, where we may spot the Compadre Tororoí, the Dwarf Ponchito and the Collared Chara. After lunch, we'll travel to Cali, making at least two stops to see some birds of the Valle del Cauca plains. Dinner and check-in at the hotel.

Accommodation: Blue 66 Hotel

Day 9 - **17 January** La Florida Birding - Bosque de las Aves

An area teeming with hummingbirds, tanagers and birds in general. Its most distinctive tanager is the Multicolored Tanager. The hummingbirds are one of the most special attractions, with over 25 different species to observe, each displaying their unique iridescence. The most distinctive is the Scaled Antpitta. In the afternoon, we'll head down to a nearby lodge where we'll enjoy a fantastic dinner.

Accommodation: Cabañas San Julio Km 32

Day 10 - **18 January** Doña Dora Birding

One of the best spots for photography in Colombia's Cordillera Occidental, set within the Chocó biogeographical region, where you can spot such spectacular birds as the toucan barbet, the glistening-green tanager and the famous Andean Cock-of-the-rock. After enjoying the delights of traditional Colombian cuisine, we will continue on to the hotel, where we will have dinner.

Accommodation: Cabañas San Julio Km 32

Day 11 - **19 January** San Felipe Birding Ecolodge

The final day will take place at San Felipe Birding Ecolodge, one of the best-preserved ecosystems in the cloud forests of the foothills of the Western Cordillera. We will go birdwatching along the road and in the surrounding forests, as well as visiting dedicated feeding stations, to record the final species of the expedition. In the afternoon, we will return to Cali to catch our flight to Bogotá, and then on to Spain, where the tour will officially come to an end.

Price

€ 4.950 / person
group size for 6 people

€ 7.640 /person
group size for 3 people

€ 6.310 /person
group size for 4 people

€ 5.480 /person
group size for 5 people

INCLUDED
- Tour guide during the trip
- Accommodation
- Full board
- Travel arrangements during the trip

NOT INCLUDED
- International flight (check prices).
- Personal expenses
- Tips
- Alcoholic beverages
- Services not specified.

Reservation Deposit
- A deposit of €500.00 is required to confirm your reservation.
- Important note: The tour departure is guaranteed with a minimum of 3 participants.
- Please wait for our confirmation before booking your flight. We will confirm the tour two months prior to the departure date.
- In the event that the tour cannot take place due to an insufficient number of participants, 100% of the €500.00 deposit paid to confirm the reservation will be refunded.

Cancellation and refund policy
- If the participant withdraws after paying the deposit, €400.00 will be refunded.
- (€100.00 is non-refundable to cover administrative costs).
- If you decide to cancel your trip, refunds will be issued as follows:
- Between 2 and 1 month before departure: 40% refund.
- Less than 30 days before departure: no refund.
- If you decide to return home before the end of the trip, please note that no refunds can be offered for the unused portion of the tour.

Flights

We recommend booking a flight departing in the evening on 8 January, arriving at El Dorado Airport in Colombia in the morning or afternoon. We will be waiting for you there and will take you to your hotel. This is the first day to acclimatise to the altitude in this Andean city. You will enjoy an à la carte dinner and a well-deserved rest.

For your return journey, we recommend booking your flight for the afternoon or evening of 19 January, after 6.00 pm. We recommend departing from Cali to Spain to avoid additional formalities in Bogotá.

Accomodation

- Ibis Museo Hotel del Llano Hotel.
- Rural accommodation in the area
- Piedras del Maní Hotel
- El Color de mi Revés Lodge
- Blue 66 Hotel
- Cabañas San Julio Km 32

Climatology

The weather is highly variable, ranging from cold conditions in the paramos and snow-capped mountains (2° – 10 °) at night and in the higher elevations of the El Color de mi Revés Ecolodge, to a temperate and humid climate in the cloud forest, and a warm and humid climate in the Amazon rainforest. There is always the possibility of rain and sporadic showers.

Clothing

It is recommended that you wear warm, waterproof clothing to protect against damp and rain, as well as thermal clothing or extra warm layers for the evenings, when the temperature warrants it.
Footwear should be comfortable, waterproof and have a high-grip sole; priority should be given to hiking boots or trainers that ensure stability, traction and safety when walking on different types of terrain.

It is recommended to wear clothing in muted colours, preferably lightweight, breathable and long-sleeved, in order to minimise skin exposure to insect bites, particularly in areas with a high density of mosquitoes. As an additional personal protection measure, the use of mosquito nets to protect the face is recommended in areas with a high presence of these vectors. Furthermore, it is recommended to wear a cap or a wide-brimmed hat to reduce direct exposure to sunlight. In areas where terrain conditions or the presence of water so require, the use of waterproof rubber boots should be considered as part of the protective equipment for fieldwork.

Photography equipment

- DSLR or mirrorless camera
- Lens with a focal length of at least 300 mm
- Wide-angle lens
- Macro lens, if you're interested in macro photography
- Tripod or monopod
- Flash
- Spare batteries and SD cards

IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISITING NATURE RESERVES

To help you fully enjoy this nature tourism experience, we recommend keeping the following points in mind:

1. Changes in altitude

During the tour, we will visit places located at different elevations above sea level. Some people may experience fatigue, headaches, dizziness, or shortness of breath while their bodies adjust.
We recommend walking at a comfortable pace, staying well hydrated, and informing the guide immediately if you experience any discomfort.

2. Physical exertion

Several of the hikes will include trails with slopes and uneven terrain. Although the difficulty level is low, please remember that this is not a competition; everyone should proceed at their own pace. The guide will take the necessary breaks to ensure that everyone can enjoy the experience safely..

3. Weather conditions

Weather conditions may change quickly from one nature reserve to another. You may encounter rain, fog, wind, or lower-than-expected temperatures.
We recommend bringing a rain jacket, comfortable quick-drying clothing, a warm layer, a cap or hat, and sunscreen.

4. Hydration and nutrition

Always carry enough water and eat light meals before the hikes. Staying properly hydrated helps reduce the effects of physical exertion and changes in altitude.

5. Recommended equipment

· Hiking shoes or footwear with good traction
· Rain jacket
· Reusable water bottle
· Insect repellent
· Sunscreen
· Any personal medication you may require

6. Protecting nature

Our goal is to enjoy and preserve these ecosystems. Please do not leave any waste behind, avoid feeding wildlife, and always follow the guides' instructions.
By following these recommendations, we will be able to enjoy a safe, responsible, and enriching experience while appreciating Colombia's extraordinary biodiversity.

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