

San Jorge Eco-Lodges privately owns and operates 7 San Jorge private nature reserves and 6 birding Lodges in Ecuador, all protected and encompass over 2500 hectares of forest. Our lodges are inside the most important and biologically diverse birding areas in the country and are very remotely located. The reserves offer up to 1600 possible bird species + 100 Hummingbirds, wild orchids, seasonal butterflies, mammals and outstanding flora and fauna with miles of trails, active Hummingbird, Tanager and Toucan feeders, 25 waterfalls, rivers, ponds, large covered observation decks and towers overlooking the canopy which enable you to view hundreds of birds. Our tours are guided by skilled native English speaking bird guides and birding is exceptionally fabulous! The diversification of our expeditions offers new species at each eco-system you will visit every couple of days.

Our 2 brand NEW birding lodges have opened this year! San Jorge de Guacamayos Bird Lodge located in the Subtropical Cloud Forest on the East Andes Slope and new San Jorge de Sumaco Bajo Aquatic Bird Lodge located in the Tropical Amazonian Rainforest. Spacious rooms are nestled into the forest with full glass windows and stunning scenery, and decorated in Ecuadorian décor, with large private bathrooms. San Jorge Eco-Lodges are located in Ecuador's primal forests which are protected by national forests on all sides. We have 20% the world's population of birds and the amounts are astounding.

The Magic Circuit Birding-Photography-Eco-Tours are all-inclusive, including pick up from Quito airport hotel, comfortable lodging accommodations, daily guided walks with specialized native bird and inter-lodge private transportation and reserve entrance fees. Added features while at San Jorge Lodges include delicious Ecuadorian and International cuisine with quality services. This tour is for active people without physical limitation who can walk steadily for approximately 2 to 3 hours in the morning and also the afternoon.

THE MAGIC BIRDING & PHOTOGRAPHY CIRCUIT - ECO-TOUR – March 19 – 25, 2024 – 6 Nights/7 Days

Visit 2 San Jorge Private Nature Reserves & 2 Eco-Lodges, 4 different eco-systems + other destinations.

Visit the East Andes: Paramo, Sub-Tropical Cloud Forest & Tropical Amazonian Rainforest

Itinerary:

Day One – Mar 19 – 9:00 AM Group pick up in front of Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel. Journey through the **High Andes Barren Plains/Paramo**. Drive the same route as Francisco De Orellana walked when he discovered the Amazon River. We will climb up the Central Andes chain and cross Papallacta Pass. **Birds, mountain vistas, photography: Visit Cayambe-Coca National Park and Cuyuja River.** Stop in the Paramo for a regional 'trout' lunch – overlooking mountain vistas. After Cayambe Coca National Park we will descend to Cuyuja River for **hummingbird photography** of species including the Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Collared Inca, Glowing Puffleg and Tourmaline Sunangel. We'll also go after the Torrent Duck that's commonly seen along the Cuyuja River. With a bit of luck we might also **photograph** the Red-hooded Tanager, Grey-breasted Mountain-Toucan, and the Andean Potoo.

Continue on to **San Jorge de Guacamayos Bird Paradise**. Overnight NEW San Jorge Guacamayos Lodge, includes lunch & dinner

(Note: Plan to Fly to Quito Airport on Mar 18 and book a Quito airport hotel on own for Mar 18)

Day Two - Mar 20 - San Jorge de Guacamayos Bird Paradise - Sub-tropical Cloud Forest – a six-hundred-acre birder's paradise. Due to its location bordered by Antisana National Park, Sumaco National Park, Napo Galeras National Park and Cayamba Coca National Park, **our subtropical cloud forest reserve is one of the most protected natural areas in Ecuador**. Rich in biodiversity it boasts hundreds of bird and butterfly species as well as an assortment of wild orchid and plant species including a large variety of mammals such as spectacled bears, tapirs, pumas, jaguar, deer and Tyra's Morning guided **eco-hike – Cock of the Rock Lek, birds, unusual flora and fauna**. After lunch, **Photography from the Observatory Decks –** stunning mountain views.

Possible Deep blue-flower Piecer, Golden eared Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Amazon Umbrella Bird, Mani-banded Acari, etc. After dinner, **Night Walk** looking for possible Snakes, frogs, spiders, exotic insects – macro photo options. Overnight NEW San Jorge Guacamayos Lodge, includes 3 meals

Day Three – Mar 21 – 8:30 am depart , a 30 minute ride to **Archidona Hummingbird**

Reserve. Extensive gardens covered with flowering verbenas are home to numerous **hummingbird** species that occur at this elevation only. We'll focus on the iconic Wire-crested Thorntail, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Napo Sabrewing, Rufous-vented Whitetip, Black-throated Brilliant, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Black-throated Brilliant, Gould's Jewelfront, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Green Hermit, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Pink-throated Brilliant, and with a bit of luck, the amazing Spangled Coquette. After having a delicious boxed lunch we continue exploring the reserve for other birds including the Black-chested Fruiteater, Black-streaked Puffbird, Lafresnaye's Piculet, White-crowned Manakin, Coppery-chested Jacamar, Spotted Tanager, Orange-breasted Falcon and the endangered Military Macaw.

Stop at an **Amazon Coffee House** for a short coffee presentation (gift shop on site). Continue on to **San Jorge de Sumaco Bajo Bird Sanctuary (Amazonian Tropical Rainforest).**

Overnight NEW San Jorge de Sumaco Bajo Aquatic Lodge includes 3 meals.

Days Four/Five/Six – Mar 22/23/24 -- San Jorge de Sumaco Bajo Bird Sanctuary (Amazonian Tropical Rainforest). Photography & Eco-tours. Tropical birds, amazing flora & fauna, exciting photo

options - Macaws Boulevard – up to 12 species of Macaws, trail walking, 60-foot-high spacious observation Tower overlooking canopy for birdwatching and photography (optional afternoon river swim), NEW aquatic Island 3 level observation deck: Restaurant observation deck, bar observation deck & high tower observation deck – phenomenal bird and photo options.

Includes one **Night Walk** after dinner looking for possible Lizards, Frogs, Insects, Caimans, Night Monkeys and Ocelots.

Overnight NEW San Jorge Sumaco Bajo Aquatic Lodge. Includes: 3 meals per day

Day Seven - Mar 25 – breakfast, 7:30 am transfer to Coca Airport. **End of tour. (Air ticket purchased on own - Coca Airport to Quito Airport*)**

COST: \$2,450.00 USD per person, double occupancy – 2 beds – all inclusive, -- call or email Michael Audette for additional information. 860-388-7874, mga911c4@gmail.com

A 6 person minimum is required for this tour to operate. Subject to availability until booked with deposit.

Includes: All-inclusive tour – Pick up at Wyndam Quito Airport Hotel 9:00 am March 19, 2024; drop off at Coca Airport on March 25, 2024, meals as shown, lodging, guided tours with English speaking native guide, 2 Night Walks, inter-lodge transportation, reserve entrance fees. One guide furnished for up to 10 people. 2 guides furnished for 11 or more people.

Excludes: Travel & medical insurance, extra meals, soda/bar, personal expenses, international airfare, air ticket from Coca to Quito Airport on March 25, 2024, gratuities.

Payment Terms: 20% deposit due to secure reservations; balance due by January 15, 2024.

Subject to availability until booked. Checks payable to: San Jorge Eco-Lodge, LLC.

Send checks to:

**Michael Audette
371 Carter Road
Thomaston, CT 06787**

Notes:

- **Purchase on own ***Flight from Coca Airport to Quito Airport approximate cost online: starting at \$65.00 USD per person (subject to change until purchased. Non-refundable)**
– each guest must purchase own ticket.

Origin Airport: Francisco de Orellana – Coca Airport

Destination Airport: Mariscal Sucre Intl – Quito Airport

Airline name: **LATAM Airlines**. Book flight for **March 25, 2024**, with **Flight schedule: depart Coca 10:50 am, arrive Quito Airport 11:25 am**.

We recommend that you book an evening or red-eye flight home on March 25. Or, you may continue on with the following Cultural extension tour:

San Jorge Cultural Extension tour: March 25 – 27, 2024 (2N/3D)

MAR 25 – 11:25 am airport transfer to San Jorge Eco-Lodge Quito (when you arrive from Coca), day of leisure on own (Hummingbird feeders, gardens, trails at lodge) Overnight San Jorge Quito Lodge, includes lunch & dinner

MAR 26 - Old Colonial Quito City Tour: We will explore the Capital of Ecuador, considered part of the Cultural Patrimony of Humanity by UNESCO. During your visit you will learn about the colonial art in the churches, history, archaeology and folklore in the museums. Your guide will provide complete information of the baroque colonial art. Visit the most important areas: Plaza de la Independencia, Plaza San Francisco, Plaza Santo Domingo, La Merced, La Compania, and El Panecillo. (optional museum entrance fees on own) Lunch at typical restaurant in Quito. Overnight San Jorge Quito Lodge, includes 3 meals

MAR 27 - Otavalo Indian Market & Surrounding Villages Visit the world famous Otavalo Indian Market. You will have the opportunity to shop for world famous handmade wool and alpaca products. Also, visit Cotacashi leather village OR - San Antonia de Ibarra wood carving village. Lunch at typical restaurant in Otavalo. Later afternoon transfer to Quito Airport or a Quito airport hotel. Includes breakfast & lunch.

COST: \$1,075.00 USD per person, double occupancy – queen or 2 beds (specify) – all inclusive, based on 4 person minimum for tour to operate

COST: \$1,185.00 USD single occupancy – all inclusive

- **The Magic Circuit Tours are moderately paced for active people who can walk 2 – 3 hours in morning and afternoon with no physical limitations**
- **Photography:** San Jorge's Lodges/Reserves offer a variety of feeders in open areas. **Flashes may be used at the Hummingbird feeders. Flashes are prohibited for other birds in 'restricted areas and forest trails'**
- **Refer to MAP for San Jorge Reserve locations:** [Magic Birding & Photography Circuit MAP](#)
- Additional services (bar, extras) booked after arrival are payable USD cash. **Credit cards are not accepted.**
- **Malaria preventative is suggested when visiting Amazon regions (Mar 21 - 25)**
- San Jorge de Guacamayos Lodge is Solar powered. There are no room electrical outlets or cell phone reception. Arrive with pre-charged camera batteries, electrical devises. Bring own backup power bank for your devises if desired.
 - **Meal Choices:**
 - REGULAR FOOD PLAN** (no restrictions)
 - VEGETARIAN FOOD PLAN** (no meat or fish)
 - SPECIAL DIETS – Add \$20.00 USD per person, per day** (Specify dietary restrictions; Vegan, Lactose intolerance, Gluten free, or other special diets)
- Maximum tour size: 16 people/8 rooms

- Smoking policy: Smoking is prohibited inside the rooms, restaurants, observation decks & vehicles.

Itinerary subject to change due to weather, road conditions or unforeseeable circumstances.

- **Travel Insurance is suggested for** all visitors entering Ecuador to protect your investment and be sure it has sufficient coverage including losses due to trip cancellation and interruption, travel and baggage delay. **San Jorge will not be responsible for any financial disappointment** caused by reasons beyond our control and no refunds or partial refunds will be given for cancellation or no shows due to any reason. San Jorge Eco-Lodge, LLC and or Hosteria San Jorge and its Suppliers, are not responsible for acts or omissions, or on their own behalf, their failure to provide services or adhere to their own schedules, their failure to pay any refund, or for any personal injury, personal property damage, loss of personal items, or other loss, accident, death, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be caused by any party not under San Jorge Eco-Lodge's control; including Acts of God, inclement weather, earthquakes, volcanos, acts of civil unrest or military authority, strikes, Covid-19 or health pandemics.

SAN JORGE CANCELLATION POLICY

- Tour Cancellation must be sent by written email to San Jorge Eco-Lodges
- Cancellations made before December 31, 2023 will receive a full refund less \$100.00 service penalty per person
- Cancellations made January 1, 2024 or after - no refunds, subject to 100% penalty of total tour cost
- No refunds for air ticket Coca to Quito
- No refunds after arrival

SAN JORGE ECO-LODGES ~ THE MAGIC BIRDING CIRCUIT

Altitudes: The altitudes vary from 8,950 feet - 13,200 feet o.s.l. for this itinerary

Time Zone: Ecuador is in the Eastern time zone (GMT-5 in the mainland). Daylight savings time is not observed.

Local Currency: In 2000, Ecuador adopted the US Dollar as their monetary unit.

Electricity: 110/AC 60 cycle (same as in the USA) Bring 3 prong adapter as most wall outlets are only 2 prong.

Suggested Clothing:

Bring warm coat, hat and gloves for crossing Papallacta Pass.

San Jorge de Sumaco can have up to 4 different climates in one day, and if sunny will be warm & humid – expect showers, sun, clouds – **bring warm weather clothing & rain gear.**

San Jorge Quito Warm jacket, sweater, rain gear, warm sleep ware, plan to layer throughout the day and be able to peel your clothing to coordinate with the temperatures - evenings and mornings are brisk, warming up throughout the day.

Sandals/slippers to wear inside rooms & restaurant & observation decks at all lodges, restaurants.

Observatory towers). Optional water shoes & swimsuit (Sumaco Bajo).

You will need a headlamp or flashlight, sunscreen, bug repellent for San Jorge/Sumaco Bajo, sunglasses, small day pack, **refillable water bottle or canteen for your water supply**, binoculars. **Bring camouflage clothes or clothes with earth tone colors.**

Carry a small day pack with your personal items in for your arrival to the lodges (medications, passport, etc.)

DO NOT BRING LARGE HUGE EXTRA HEAVY SUITCASES. Use 2 bags instead of 1 which will be lighter for carrying in.

BRING RAINCOAT TO ALL RESERVES & TOURS

Suggested photo gear to bring?

Small lightweight digital for all around photography is good.

For Birding it helps to have a longer telephoto lens --

In the range of 80 or 100mm – 400mm, 150 – 600mm, or a prime 500mm or 600mm lens. If you have a long lens a monopod might be more useful over a tripod on hikes. Cross shoulder sling straps are great if you carry a long and heavy lens vs. a neck strap.

For general landscape and scenes anything from a normal 50mm lens to a 24 – 70mm zoom, or longer is great.

A macro lens can be useful for close-ups of flowers, plants and insects, etc., but not necessary.

Extra camera batteries & charger

Extra SD cards

Card reader for laptop

Small backup hard drive to store your photos

Rain jacket for gear

Tripod or Monopod

BOTTLED WATER AT SAN JORGE ECO-LODGES

- 1 BOTTLE OF WATER WILL BE PROVIDED IN YOUR ROOM UPON ARRIVAL to each lodge
- BRING ALONG A 'REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE' OR 'CANTEEN' TO USE DURING YOUR TOUR OR VISIT. YOU MAY 'REFILL' YOUR WATER BOTTLE AT OUR COMPLIMENTARY FILTERED WATER DISPENSOR AT OUR RESTAURANTS
- Do not drink tap water. Use bottled or filtered water

'PLEASE HELP US WITH OUR GOAL TO REDUCE USING PLASTICS & TO KEEP ECUADOR 'LITTER FREE'

San Jorge de Guacamayos Bird Paradise – moderate weather climate clothing – 4,200 ft. – 5,100 ft. O.S.L. Andes East Slope Sub-Tropical Cloud Forest.

San Jorge de Sumaco Bajo Bird Sanctuary – warm weather climate clothing – 1,500 ft. O.S.L. – Tropical Amazon Lowlands

Papallacta Pass – cold weather climate clothing – 13,200 feet O.S.L. – Paramo - High Barren Plains (bring coat, hat & ear protection, gloves, sunblock, sunglasses)

San Jorge Botanical Reserve Quito – moderate to cold weather climate clothing – 9,870 – 13,200 ft. O.S.L. – High Barren Plains

Suggestion for Travel Insurance:

Aardy Insurance

<https://www.aardy.com/blog/category/country-travel-health-insurance/>

Tel: 650-492.6298

Website: <https://www.eco-lodgesanjorge.com>

[Magic Birding Circuit PHOTO ALBUM FLICKR page](#)

[Magic Birding & Photography Circuit MAP](#)