

Tour 10

Yanacocha and Calacalí



American kestrel (photo Bill Baston)

Tour 10: Yanacocha and Calacalí

Habitat: High-altitude andine polylepis forest and xerophytic vegetation

We make an early start for the private protected area of Yanacocha. This means wearing really warm clothes. We'll be watching highland hummingbird species as we take our breakfast on the terrace of the restaurant. If we are lucky, the impressive Sword-billed Hummingbird will be amongst them. After 1,5 h we proceed on an easy-to-walk paved trail allowing spectacular views into the Mindo valley. One option for the way back is a forest trail through wet polylepis patches.

The area we visit in the afternoon could not be more different: the almost desert-like conditions around Calacalí enforce specialisation, so we will encounter rare species adapted to such a harsh environment.

Distance: about 120 km drive (one way) and 7 km walking. Starting in Quito reduces the drive to about 70km.

Travelling: by car to get there, walking on trails

Difficulty: easy to slightly challenging due to high altitude conditions in the polylepis forest

Altitude: 3,600 m (Yanacocha) and 3,000 m (Calacalí)

Species highlights:

Yanacocha: Andean Guan, Shining Sunbeam, Great Sapphirewing, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Tyrian Metaltail, Pearled Treerunner, Rufous Antpitta, Barred Fruiteater, Rufous Wren, Blue-backed Conebill, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-tanager, Hooded Mountain-tanager, Yellow-breasted Brush-finch.

Calacalí: Black-chested Buzzard-eagle, American Kestrel, Black-tailed Trainbearer, Purple-collared Woodstar, Tufted Tit-tyrant, Spot-billed Ground-tyrant, Golden-rumped Euphonia.

Persons: 1-6

Start/End of Tour: 04:00 am until 04:00 pm (including driving time) from Mindo, 05:00 am until 03:00 pm if starting from Quito

Price: 180 USD (1-2 persons); 240 USD (3-6 persons). To be paid in cash at beginning of tour

Included: English guided tour, transportation, water, bird list

Not included: Entrance fee, food

Recommendations: Hat, sun protection, insect repellent, warm clothes, rain gear according to weather conditions. **Starting this tour from Quito makes much sense as this significantly reduces the driving time**

Booking and reservations

You can book the day tours directly with me (info@mindolindo.de) – even on short notice.

In order to make a reservation for accomodation or a guided tour please contact us in advance via email or phone.

Birdwatching tours - Mindo Lindo

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