



## Tour 12

# Papallacta Páramo and Guango

White-bellied Woodstar (photo Bill Baston)



Torrent duck (photo Bill Baston)

# Tour 12: Papallacta Páramo and Guango

## **Habitat: Moist páramo and high mountain cloud-forest**

Papallacta Páramo is situated at the highest point of the road connecting Quito to the Amazon lowland. The landscape alone is worth the trip, offering highly adapted vegetation in the shade of the majestic ice-covered Antizana. Only adapted high-mountain species can survive in this windy and hilly harsh environment. More than 1000 m below we find the Guango Lodge surrounded by high-mountain cloud-forest. Hummingbird feeders allow excellent observation opportunities and easy-to-walk trails along the wild river lead into this moss-covered world.

**Distance:** about 170 km drive (one way) and 2 km walking. Starting in Quito reduces the drive.

**Travelling:** by car to get there, walking on gravel road and forest trails

**Difficulty:** easy to slightly challenging as we walk at high altitudes in the páramo

**Altitude:** 4,000 m (Papallacta Páramo) and 2,700 m (Guango Lodge)

## **Species highlights:**

**Páramo:** Andean Teal, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Stout-billed Cinclodes, Andean Tit-spinetail, Many-striped Canastero, Western Tawny Antpitta, Grass Wren, Giant Conebill, Plumbeous Sierra-finch.

**Guango:** Torrent Duck, Collared Inca, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Tourmaline Sunangel, Long-tailed Sylph, White-bellied Woodstar, White-banded Tyrannulet, Green (Inca) Jay, Black-crested Warbler, Black-capped Hemispingus.

**Persons:** 1-6

**Start/End of Tour:** 04:30 am until 05:00 pm (including driving time) from Mindo, 06:00 am until 04:00 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, warm clothes, insect repellent, 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](mailto: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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