

ITINERARY
COLOMBIA'S INÍRIDA: LAND OF MANY WATERS
November 24, 2025 – December 1, 2025



The vibrant Purple-breasted Cotinga ranges primarily from the Guianas to eastern Colombia. Not much is known about this bird, and it is said to be generally uncommon. Photograph by guide Marcelo Barrieros.

We include here information for those interested in the 2025 Colombia's Inírida: Land of Many Waters tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:

- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour.

Field Guides continues to explore and develop new itineraries in the bird-rich country of Colombia. This new offering will visit the extreme eastern part of the country, a sort of transition zone between Amazonian and *llanos*-savanna-rich avifaunas, as well as a distinctive mix of range-restricted Orinoco basin specialties. The tour is based out the bustling town of Inírida, located 30km from the border with Venezuela, at the confluence of the Inírida River and Guaviare River. Inírida is the capital city of the Guainía department, locally known in the Yuri language as "Land of Many Waters" because of its powerful waterways. With over 500 species recorded in the area, this tour will sample some of the best white-sand and *varzea* forest habitats that Colombia has to offer. We will target several limited-range species like Yapacana Antbird, Spot-backed Antwren, Yellow-crowned Manakin, Azure-naped Jay, Orinoco Piculet, Orinoco Softtail, and White-naped Seedeater, plus look for a recently discovered yet-to-be-described *Thamnophilus* antshrike, "Inírida Antshrike." In addition to these species, there are a host of other must-see birds like Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Capuchinbird, both Purple-

breasted and Pompadour cotingas, Black Manakin, Spotted Puffbird, Brown, Bronzy and Paradise jacamars, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Plumbeous Euphonia, and Opal-rumped and Flame-crested Tanagers. It is easy to see that there is a real mix of species here, but many of the target species and highlights to this region are white-sand forest specialists or with Guianan Shield origins. However, there are other appealing aspects of Inírida with respect to the scenery (the spectacular Mavecure “hills”), regional culture and indigenous groups (like the Curipaco Indians), and local food, including grilled *sapuare* (a river fish) with garlic, among other delicacies.



The Yellow-Crowned Manakin is a range-restricted bird we'll seek. They are found in white-sand forests from southeastern Colombia to northern Brazil. Photograph by participant Steve McInnis.

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

Physical requirements of this tour

- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will have one full day (to the Mavecure Hills) where our transportation will be mostly on boat, around 4 – 5 hours round trip. On other days, we will venture out on long dug-out canoes or small boats with outboard motors to explore other trails or bird from the boat.
- **PACE:** After breakfast (usually at 5:00-5:30 a.m.), we bird until lunch time. We often will *siesta* for a couple of hours during the hottest part of the day. The pace will be a typical birder's pace that combines short periods of traveling to destinations with good bits of walking and standing around as we wait for birds to show themselves. We will stay out until dark at least one night for nightbirds.
- **WEATHER:** Inírida is hot (in December, an average high of 89 F) and humid, and rain can occur at any time.
- **ELEVATION:** We will be at 8,600 feet in Bogota at the beginning and end of the tour. Inírida is 295 feet above sea level.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** Our vehicles in Inírida will be a mix of small tuk-tuks (or mototaxis) and a van. We will employ a rotation system so that participants will have a chance to choose which vehicle they would like to ride in for the day. Thankfully, distances are short.

- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Participants should be prepared to make comfort stops in nature, as there are simply no other options (away from our lodgings) on many sections of this tour's route.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide for the tour.

*This tour may be combined with **COLOMBIA'S CLOUDFORESTS: THE WESTERN & CENTRAL ANDES 2025, DECEMBER 1 – 11, 2025.***

About the Birding Areas

Inírida—Distances are relatively short. The habitat surrounding the town varies quite quickly from mostly white-sand forest in the uplands to *varzea* forest along the river and stream courses. We will bird several different locations over 4.5 days of birding sampling the different habitats to make the most of our experience. One longer day will travel by boat about 2-hours to visit the gorgeous Mavecure Hills.



Itinerary for Colombia's Inírida: Land of Many Waters

Day 1, Mon, 24 Nov. Arrival in Bogota. Most flights from North America arrive in the evening; transfers will be scheduled from the airport to our hotel in Bogota. Those who wish to adjust for a day or two or visit Bogota attractions, such as the Gold Museum (Museo del Oro), will need to schedule an earlier arrival. Our local ground operator in Bogota can also help to arrange day visits with a local guide to the old colonial town of La Candelaria, Simon Bolivar Central Park or a cable-car ride up Mount Monserrate with stunning views of the city below. Night in Bogota (8600 feet).

Day 2, Tue, 25 Nov. Bogota to Inírida. We will aim for the earliest flight to Inírida. Currently, the only commercial flights available are with the government-run, Satena. We are hopeful more competition in the future will give us better options for our flight schedule. Regardless, after our arrival, we will meet our local guide, get checked into the hotel, have lunch, and spend our first afternoon birding several side roads near the hotel. Night in Inírida.

Day 3, Wed, 26 Nov. Sabanitas and the Caño Carbon Trail. We will have an early breakfast around 5:15 a.m. and depart afterward for Sabanitas. We will bird this site the entire morning with an arranged local lunch in the community. Species possible include Striped Woodcreeper, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Yellow-crowned Manakin, Spot-backed Antwren, Black-chinned Antbird, Rusty-chested Nunbird, and Capuchinbird. We will return to the hotel for some downtime and offer an outing in the late afternoon. Night in Inírida.

Day 4, Thu, 27 Nov. La Matraca. After breakfast, we will drive to the Inírida River and take a long boat about 10 minutes upriver to the trailhead for La Matraca. This trail wanders through taller *varzea* and white-sand forest. We will spend most of the morning here and return for lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit a white-sand forest site, Caño Culebra, and stay out until dark. Night in Inírida.

Day 5, Fri, 28 Nov. Kenke and La Rompida. This morning we will spend time at the site, Kenke, or Sendero Ecoturístico Flor de Inírida. This is another white-sand forest site, but the *flor* in question is the lovely native flower called *Guacamaya superba*. This site has several important species including Yapacana Antbird, Spot-backed Antwren, Imeri Warbling-Antbird, Spotted and Brown-banded puffbird, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, and Campina Thrush. We will have lunch here (possibly smoked *chancla*, a type of local catfish) and in the afternoon take a boat trip up the Rio Guaviare to La Rompida. At this location we might find Rusty-backed Spinetail, Great Black Hawk, Black-capped Donicobius, and the undescribed *Thamnophilus* antshrike, among others. We will return in the late afternoon. Night in Inírida.



Yapacana Antbird is yet another range-restricted species that we'll look for near Inírida. Photograph by guide Tom Johnson.

Day 6, Sat, 29 Nov. Mavecure Hills. We will depart early in the morning by boat for the two-hour trip downriver to the Mavecure Hills. The three large rock formations that form the hills are called *Pajarito* (Little Bird), *Mono* (Monkey), and *Mavicuri* ("blowgun of the mountains"). We will pack lunch and spend a few hours here (with some birding!) and return in the afternoon. Night in Inírida.

Day 7, Sun, 30 Nov. Return to Bogota. Depending on our flight time, we often have time for some early morning birding before heading to the airport. If this is the case, we can visit Caño Vitina, where we can hope to pick up something that we haven't seen yet. Night in Bogota.

Day 8, Mon, 1 Dec. International flights home. You can schedule your flights home any time today. Safe Travels!

About Your Guide

Jesse Fagan (a.k.a. the Motmot or just “Mot”) has been passionate about birds since his teens, when he had an encounter with a flying Pileated Woodpecker. He has birded throughout the United States, including spending seven years in Texas, and since 1995 has been birding and for a time living in northern Central America. He is a co-author of the recently published [Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America](#) (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016), a field guide to the region which includes the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Belize.

In addition, Mot has birded in or led tours to Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, France, Morocco, and Madagascar. He also enjoys leading many of the Field Guides tours in the Caribbean. He likes to think he can bird anywhere at any time and still show you the birds, but most importantly, have a good time. Jesse holds a B.S. and an M.S. in mathematics from Texas Tech University. He is currently living in Lima, Peru.

“Jesse is a fantastic guide. He really knows calls, and he is infinitely patient in getting everyone on the difficult birds, fun to be with.” L.F., Bogota, Magdalene Valley & Santa Marta.

Jesse will be accompanied throughout the tour by **local guides**.

Please visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Jesse’s complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$4250 from Bogota

DEPOSIT: \$425 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: May 28, 2025

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$300

LIMIT: 7

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Nicole Cannon. Nicole will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

ACCOMMODATIONS: In Bogota, we will stay at a modern hotel with all the expected conveniences including air conditioning, hot water, and WiFi. There is also an onsite restaurant. In Inírida, we will stay at a small, but comfortable hotel called Hotel Fuentes de Guanía. The hotel has basic but clean rooms with air conditioning, plus a small garden and an onsite restaurant. The owner, Marta, takes good care of birders, offering early coffee and breakfasts for us.

A NOTE ON ALTITUDE: Bogota sits at 8,660 feet (2,640 meters) and we spend a couple of nights in Bogota, so you should bring appropriate medication if you think you will have problems with the altitude; consult your physician.

The Inírida portion of the tour is at or near sea level.

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid for at least six months beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Colombia. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Colombian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution, it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: You can arrange your flights to arrive in Bogota anytime on November 24th. We encourage you to arrive a day early if possible. If you wish to come early, we would be happy to help with extra arrangements. Early arrival provides insurance against you or your luggage being delayed, time to become accustomed to the elevation of over 8,600', and the opportunity to visit such attractions as the Gold Museum. On December 1st, you can plan to depart from Bogota at any time.

Field Guides is a full-service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees. **Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

LUGGAGE: Please limit your luggage to one medium-sized suitcase/duffel and carry-on. Also, be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$4250 for one person in double occupancy from Bogota. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 7, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 8, the flights within Colombia (Bogota – Inírida - Bogota), all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader. Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Colombia, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$300. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact us at fieldguides.com/contact-us/. Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$425** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due **180 days** prior to departure or **by May 28, 2025**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and full payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the full tour fee is non-refundable, which would include the full deposit if the final payment has not yet been paid. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii. We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

11/23 JFF; 10/24NC, 1/25peg