

Tour Report Rare Mammals Tour 2-12 December 2024

Andean Bear



Green/Lesser Violetear



Gray-handed Night Monkey



Spear-nosed Bat



Compiled by Corentin Rombeaut
Images by John Belchamber

Day 1: London to Bogota**Monday 2 December 2024**

The clients arrived early in Bogota from a flight from London and we headed to a nature reserve (near the capital) for a morning of birding. The Chicaque Nature Reserve is a relic of the Andean forest where numerous species of birds and mammals can be seen. In the morning we were able to observe several hummingbirds such as lesser violetear, tourmaline sunangel, collared Inca, golde-bellied starfrontlet, buff-tailed coronet and white-bellied woodstar. The place was enchanting. In the middle of our birding session, we warmed up with a delicious breakfast hot chocolate and a tasty trout for lunch. In the afternoon we left for Bogotá and rested because the next day we would go to Chingaza in search of the Andean bear.

Day 2: Chingaza Park**Tuesday 3 December 2024**

What a welcome, when we arrived at Chingaza Park, after 35 minutes, we saw a bear with her two cubs. It couldn't have been a better start to our 5-day adventure in this beautiful national park. Chingaza is located in the east of Bogotá. Its landscapes are incredible, made up of a mixture of various ecosystems such as the paramo, the Andean and High Andean Forest, lagoons and large rocks. It is in the middle of this natural beauty that we will keep looking for more bears, as well as deer, rabbits, guinea pigs and many species of birds. In the afternoon we observed white-tailed deer, black-tailed buzzard eagles and other birds.

Day 3: Chingaza Park**Wednesday 4 December 2024**

Today, we went in search of more bears, however, on a sunny day, it was complicated as the Andean bear doesn't like the sun very much. We did not see any bears, but we had a great day contemplating the beauty of the landscape that is not always left by the frequent frogs that are usually in this ecosystem of paramo. We will see birds such as the Andean pygmy Owl, mountain velvetbreast, Andean teal, Andean duck, American coot, Andean Condor and white-tailed deer. In the evenings, we make a checklist of what we have seen in the field with a good hot chocolate in our hand.

Day 4: Chingaza Lagoon**Thursday 5 December 2024**

Early in the morning and just before breakfast, we saw a bear in the distance. We decided to get closer and luckily, we managed to be about 20 metres away from the track. The day was sunny, but rich in observations. We saw another bear in the Frailejón Valley, a muisca antpitta and some rabbits back on the track. On this day we had lunch on the edge of the Chingaza Lagoon in an incredibly beautiful landscape.

Day 5: Chingaza Park**Friday 6 December 2024**

Another day in this amazing national park. We managed to see two bears, some white-tailed deer and birds. In the afternoon we decided to go to an unfrequented sector of the park where the ecosystem is conducive to seeing the little red brocket deer. It was our last night in Chingaza and for our farewell, when we arrived at the lodge, we saw a bear with one of her cubs sneaking past about three metres from the main building.

Day 6: Colibris Observatory**Saturday 7 December 2024**

We got off at Chingaza in search of the green-bearded helmetcrest, but unfortunately, the sun was strong and our local guide said he hadn't seen one in three months. Before leaving for Bogotá, we stopped at a lovely and quiet place, called the Colibris Observatory. We saw practically all the species, among others: Tyrian metaltail, sword-billed hummingbird, great sapphire wing and blue-throated starfrontley. We then headed to a typical restaurant to taste a delicious local dish, the 'Ajiaco', a soup made of chicken, corn,

Find out more about our [Colombia's Rare Mammals trip](#) or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

avocado, rice and 'dad' (papas) translated to English as potato.

Day 7: Otún Quimbaya National Park

Sunday 8 December 2024

Today, we are travelling to the coffee region of Colombia. We arrived in Pereira in the morning and headed for the Otún Quimbaya National Park. Here, for the next few days, we will be in search of the mountain tapir and other mammals. The area is very rich in birds, so we will be accompanied by Miguel, a local guide who is an expert in birds, and knows the area well. Before heading out in the evening to try and see our first tapir, we delighted in the charming little town of La Florida where we will be staying. It is a small village, in the middle of the mountains, right at the entrance of the national park and the perfect place to have a good local coffee. What luck tonight, as soon as we arrived at the Cedral, we saw the tapir up close. We also got to see a crab-eating fox, a common paca, a black-eared opossum and a mottled owl. Sadly, our night sighting were cut a little short due to a heavy downpour.

Day 8: Otún Quimbaya National Park

Monday 9 December 2024

Day eight started with a morning of birds, where we were able to observe, amongst others, a torrent duck, Cauca guan, Andean motmot, collared trogon and a red-ruffed fruitcrow. After our trout lunch, we had a quiet afternoon before leaving for our night expedition. Tonight, we did not see the tapir, but we were treated to a grey-legged night monkey, a brown-eared woolly opossum and a crab-eating fox.

Day 9: Otún Quimbaya National Park

Tuesday 10 December 2024

Today was our last morning with Miguel and we managed to see Colombian howler monkeys and other birds from afar: broad-winged hawk, acorn woodpecker, montane woodcreeper, red-headed barbet, blackburnian warbler, crested ant-tanager, golden tanager and a speckled hummingbird. In the afternoon, I met a friend who lives in La Florida and he gave me a new route to see new species of animals, perfect for our night expedition. In the end, the advice from this friend turned out to be very good, because, on our last night, we saw a lot of herps, some lizards and a glass frog, which turned out to be a first for some of the clients. As for mammals, we saw bats and grey-legged night monkeys.

Day 10: Pereira

Wednesday 11 December 2024

We enjoyed a last birding before leaving for Pereira where we stayed in a super hotel surrounded by nature to finish our trip. Arriving at our accommodation, we received a welcome cocktail. Having settled into our respective rooms, we gathered around a delicious lunch, in which we shared everything we had experienced on this tour.

Day 11: Pereira

Thursday 12 December 2024

Today, our time on the tour comes to an end. We took advantage of our last morning of birding in the hotel garden and gathered for a nice lunch with wine, celebrating all our adventures and sightings.

Sign up to our e-news

Sign up to our e-news to find out more about our tours, events, late availability, offers and tour reports at <https://www.wildlifeworldwide.com/subscribe>

Find out more about our [Colombia's Rare Mammals](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Checklist for Rare Mammals Tour



	Common Name	Seen/Heard
	Birds	✓
1	Black chested buzzard eagle	✓
2	Red rumped bush tyrant	✓
3	Great trush	✓
4	Plumbeous sierra finch	✓
5	White chined thistletail	✓
6	Pale bellied tapaculo	H
7	Black floerpiercer	✓
8	Bronze tailed thornbill	✓
9	Broad winged hawk	✓
10	Golden fronted redstart	✓
11	Rufus wren	✓
12	Sparkling violeter	✓
13	American coot	✓
14	Andean duck	✓
15	White capped tanager	✓
16	Rufus browed conebill	✓
17	Scarlet bellied mountain tanager	✓
18	White throated tyrannulet	✓
19	Muisca antpitta	✓
20	Andean condor	✓
21	Band winged nightjar	✓
22	Andean pigmy owl	✓
23	Streak throated bush tyrant	✓
24	Whistling heron	✓

Find out more about our [Colombia's Rare Mammals](#) trip or [contact us](#)
 01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

25	Shinning sunbeam	✓
26	Mountain velvetbreast	✓
27	Brown backed chat tyrant	✓
28	Andean teal	✓
29	Andean siskin	✓
30	Moutain velvetbreast	✓
31	White bellied woodstar	✓
32	Tyrian metaltail	✓
33	Sparking violeter	✓
34	Sword billed hummingbird	✓
35	Blue throated sarfronted	✓
36	Black tail trainbearer	✓
37	Great saphirewing	✓
38	Glowing puffleg	✓
39	Longuesmare's sunangel	✓
40	Green tailed trainbearer	✓
41	Tropical sreech owl	✓
42	Sparkling Violetear	✓
43	Pale-bellied Tapaculo	✓
44	White-throated Tyrannulet	✓
45	Southern House Wren	✓
46	Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	✓
47	Great Trush	✓
48	Rufous-collared Sparrow	✓
49	Black-crested Warbler	✓
50	Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager	✓
51	Band-tailed Pigeon	✓
52	Eared Dove	✓
53	Lesser Violetear	✓
54	Tourmaline Sunangel	✓
55	Black-tailed	✓
56	Collared Inca	✓
57	Golden-bellied Starfrontlet	H
58	Buff-tailed Coronet	✓

Find out more about our [Colombia's Rare Mammals](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

59	White-bellied Woodstar	✓
60	Chestnut-crowned Antpitta	H
61	White-throated Tyrannulet	✓
62	Mountain Elaenia	✓
63	Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager	✓
64	Rufous-browed Conebill	✓
65	Masked Flowerpiercer	✓
66	Ash-browed Spinetail	✓
67	Common Chlorospingus	✓
68	Blackburnian Warbler	✓
69	Blue-capped Tanager	✓
70	Grass-green Tanager	✓
71	Blue-and-black Tanager	✓
72	Beryl-spangled Tanager	✓
73	Black Flowerpiercer	✓
74	Torrent duck	✓
75	Cauca Guan	✓
76	Ruddy Ground Dove	✓
77	Eared Dove	✓
78	Smooth-billed Ani	✓
79	Squirrel Cuckoo	✓
80	White-collared Swift	✓
81	Southern Lapwing	✓
82	Bare-faced Ibis	✓
83	Western Cattle-Egret	✓
84	Black Vulture	✓
85	Turkey Vulture	✓
86	Roadside Hawk	✓
87	Broad-winged Hawk	✓
88	Collared Trogon	✓
89	Andean Motmot	✓
90	Red-headed Barbet	✓
91	Acorn Woodpecker	✓
92	Yellow-headed Caracara	✓

Find out more about our [Colombia's Rare Mammals](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

93	Montane Woodcreeper	✓
94	Steaked Xenops	✓
95	Red-ruffed Fruitcrow	✓
96	Variiegated Bristle-Tyrant	✓
97	Torrent Tyrannulet	✓
98	Golden-faced Tyrannulet	✓
99	Black Phoebe	✓
100	Great Kiskadee	✓
101	Rusty-margined Flycatcher	✓
102	Tropical Kingbird	✓
103	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	✓
104	Blue-and-white Swallow	✓
105	Southern House Wren	✓
106	Black-billed Trush	✓
107	Rufous-collared Sparrow	✓
108	Shiny Cowbird	✓
109	Blackburnian Warbler	✓
110	Three-striped Warbler	✓
111	Russet-cowned Warbler	✓
112	Canada Warbler	✓
113	Slate-throated Redstart	✓
114	Summer Tanager	✓
115	Crested Ant-Tanager	✓
116	Flame-rumped Tanager	✓
117	Blue-gray Tanager	✓
118	Plam Tanager	✓
119	Black-capped Tanager	✓
120	Scrub Tanager	✓
121	Blue-necked Tanager	✓
122	Beryl-spangled Tanager	✓
123	Golden Tanager	✓
124	Saffron Finch	✓
125	Blue-black Grassquit	✓
126	Yellow-bellied Seed eater	✓

Find out more about our [Colombia's Rare Mammals](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

127	Yellow-faced Grassquit	✓
128	Pale-vented Pigeon	✓
129	Speckled Hummingbird	✓
130	Short-tailed Hawk	✓
131	Masked Trogon	✓
132	Green Jay	✓
	Mammals	
1	Mountain Tapir	✓
2	Brown-eared wooly Opossum	✓
3	Black eared Opossum	✓
4	Andean white eared Opossum	✓
5	Lowland Paca	✓
6	Mountain Paca	✓
7	Crab eating Fox	✓
8	Andean Squirrel	✓
9	Colombian Howler Monkey	✓
10	Gray handed Night Monkey	✓
11	Kinkaju	✓
12	Olinguito	✓
13	Andean Bear	✓
14	White tailed Deer	✓
15	Forest rabbit	✓
16	Brazilian Guinea Pig	✓

Find out more about our [Colombia's Rare Mammals](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com