Land Package Tour Price, $2,390.00 (not including airfare) includes:
- Airport Transfers at Quito
- Guided Ground Transportation
- Meals and Accommodations
- Accompanied by an Expert English Speaking Naturalist Guide
- Taxes, Service Charges, Gratuities (except for Local Naturalist Guide and the Driver on the Entire Tour which is left to your discretion.)

*Tour price is based on double-occupancy and a minimum of ten paying participants.
Prices are subject to change without notice.

For current airfare and further information: contact Life Science Faculty, Professor Nelda W. Hinckley at (618) 549-5588 or 549-7335 ext. 8820, Room C235H or neldahinckley@jalc.edu.

Students register for Biology 240, 3 hours credit.

Send $300 deposit check, payable to Caligo Ventures, Inc., to Nelda Hinckley, John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL 62918. Travel arrangements by Caligo Ventures Tours and Travels.

ITINERARY

JANUARY 4: Arrival, Quito, Ecuador
You will be met on arrival in Quito for a short drive to our cozy B and B, known for its lovely gardens and birds. Accommodations at the Puembo Birding Garden B & B.

JANUARY 5: Andean Condors at Antisana Reserve/ Guango Lodge
Today we explore the high paramo, a tundra-like terrain with stunning snow-capped Antisana Volcano in view. Vistas are on a grand scale here. Several large lakes and ponds attract a variety of species. We look for Andean Condor, Black-faced Ibis, Andean Lapwing, and a high-elevation hummingbird, the Andean Hillstar, Black-chested buzzard Eagle, and Carunculated Caracara. We also note plant life which exhibits adaptations to the rugged life required to survive in these high elevation grasslands.

From here we travel part way up Papallacta Pass to stay at Guango Lodge, a lovely place along a rushing stream. Hummingbirds at the feeders abound!
Accomodations at Guango Lodge (B, L, D).

JANUARY 6: Guango Hummingbirds and River Walk/ Papallacta Pass/ San Isidro
Enjoy time at the hummingbird feeders at Guango Lodge, owned by the same family that hosts us at Cabinas San Isidro. Here we hope to observe the incredible Sword-billed Hummingbird at close range! We will walk among the gardens and down by a rushing river, and may find White-capped Dippers. We pass through a fascinating change in vegetation after lunch as the road we drive crosses the Andes at Papallacta Pass with stops to observe wildflowers, birds, and spectacular scenery. Accommodations at San Isidro Lodge (B, L, D).
JANUARY 7: Full Day Birding and Botanizing in San Isidro
While at San Isidro, we will enjoy the beauty of Ecuador's Cloud Forest, finding magical species such as Golden-headed Quetzal, Masked Trogon, and Green-and-black Fruit-eater. On this side of the Andes we are perched on the headwaters of the Amazon basin. The lodge and immediate surroundings boast a bird list of about 310 species. We will also drive down the east side of the Andes to explore a canyon at a lower elevation where we find additional species. Other species reported at Cabanas San Isidro have been rarities such as Highland Tinamou, Greater Scythebill and Bicolored Antvireo. The lodge has several feeding stations and a mix of trails and quiet back roads for us to explore in detail. We will also look for night birds, including an owl, closely related to the Black-banded owl.

JANUARY 8: Guacamayos Ridge/ Birds and Botany around San Isidro/ Return to Puembo
We spend much of today in and around the lush mountain forests of San Isidro, repositioning back to Puembo at the end of the day to be in place for a possible hike at Guacamayos Ridge. Or, we may bird down the road a bit from the San Isidro Lodge, a favorite place for jays and other colorful mountain species. We will return to Quito in the afternoon and have dinner at a favorite local restaurant. Accommodations at Puembo Garden B & B (B, L).

JANUARY 9: Yanacocha Reserve, Cloudforest and Hummingbirds/ Mindo
This morning we visit Yanacocha Reserve, located on the Pichincha Volcano west of Quito. We walk a trail through lush Polylepis forest to experience this Andean habitat and its unique plant life. We will search for species such as the colorful Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Glossy Flowerpiercer, and Rufous-naped Brush Finch. Hummingbirds are the star attraction here, with opportunity to see some high-elevation hummingbirds, including the amazing Sword-billed Hummingbird, Buff-winged Starfrontlet, Great Sapphirewing, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Tyrian Metaltail, and others. Feeding stations set up along the trail allow for easy viewing.

JANUARY 10: Birding and Natural History in the Mindo Area
Mindo is one of the most popular areas for nature enthusiasts in all of Ecuador. It is a small town in the mountains, and our lodge provides great bird and butterfly watching as well as wonderful meals, and a cozy fireplace to gather around in the evenings. It is nestled in the valley of the Rio Mindo, a remarkable locale where over 360 species of birds may be seen. The ridges, slopes, and steep ravines to the north, west, and east of the village are cloaked in pre-montane cloud forest with a dense understory that includes Guadua bamboo. This afternoon we will spend time in rural and agricultural areas and in small patches of secondary forests. At feeders in the Tandyapa Valley, we look for Violet-tailed Sylph, Empress Brilliant, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Green-fronted Lancebill, Purple-throated Woodstar, White-bellied Woodstar, Green-crowned Woodnymph, Brown and White collared Inca, Western Emerald and more. Sachatamia is a lovely lodge located on a private reserve with hummingbird feeders surrounding the dining room!

JANUARY 11: Birding at the Farm of Angel Paz/ Milpe Reserve
Early this morning we plan to visit the farm of Angel Paz, famous for providing great views of two often difficult to see species, Giant Antpitta and Andean Cock of the Rock. Meeting the family and walking the trails, learning the story of how they came to conserve and make close acquaintance with these species is a highlight of the tour. We will visit lower elevation reserves at Milpe Reserve in the afternoon to look for Chocó Region endemic birds. We hope to see White bearded and Club-winged Manakins on their leks. Other species we may encounter include: Maroon-tailed Parakeet, Tri-colored Brush Finch, and Purple-throated Fruitcrow. We may find mixed flocks of tanagers that include Glistening-green, Rufous-throated, Golden-hooded, Moss-backed and Ochre-breasted members of this colorful clan. Accommodations at Sachatamia Lodge (B, L, D).

JANUARY 12: Bella Vista Cloud Forest/ Puembo B & B
We can use our early morning time to bird close to the lodge. After breakfast, we drive up to Bella Vista Cloud Forest Reserve, a private 1,000-acre nature reserve that encompasses a mix of primary and secondary forest. The botanical wonder here is something to behold! The reserve is known for its diverse hummingbird species -- which visit hummingbird feeders allowing close-up views -- as well as a colorful array of toucans and tanagers. At 5,000-7,000 feet we encounter spectacular cloud forest on the steep slopes above us. The forest and gardens are draped with orchids and bromeliads, and butterflies abound. Some of the most beautiful birds of the forest include the Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Toucan Barbet, Golden Tanager, and Flame-faced Tanager.

As most flights for the USA leave just after midnight, our plan is to share a farewell dinner together, and be dropped at the airport in time to check in for these, three hours ahead is the recommended time. We may overnight at Puembo Garden B and B and taxi back in the morning. Note: An early flight means a middle-of-the-night run to the airport. (B, L, D, if extra night at Puembo Gardens B and B add $70 shared occupancy price).

JANUARY 13: Departure
This entertaining and educational vacation draws to a close, as we return home.