



## High Andes

Birdwatching Tour

One day – Private

Also available:

-Tropical Valley  
birds

-Condor watching

-More day trips

Well-known as the home of the Jalq'a people -here in the high mountains of the Andes-, it's an imposing serrated ridge which creates a formidable barrier between Chuquisaca and Potosí. This area is characterized by the diversity of attractions which are a combination of nature, ethnography, culture and Palaeontology. Visiting the most interesting places of the Cordillera de los Frailes, such as Chataquila, Chaunaca, Maragua and Quila Quila, is a true adventure. **Birding will start at almost 3700 masl in Polylepis mountain area.**

At 06:00 you will be picked up from the hotel/hostel by your guide and with our transfer you will be brought into the middle of the Cordillera de los Frailes (approx. 3360m above sea level). We will drive for about 45 minutes down from Sucre.

Because of a different vegetation half-way the mountains, there are more possibilities to see hummingbirds like the **Sparkling Violetear, White-bellied Hummingbird and Glittering-bellied Emerald**. The rarely seen **Rufous-bellied Mountain Tanager** will be our aim and birds like: **Gray-bellied Flowerpiercer (endemic), Turkey Vulture, Slender-billed Miner** and maybe a **Red-tailed Comet**. **Citron-headed Yellow-Finch** is a must take photo!

*The TOP goal of today is of course to spot the semi-endemic **Rufous-bellied Mountain Tanager!!!** There are not many left and they need urgently more protection which we are trying to get from the local Government through some of our volunteer activities.*

Going higher up, we very often can see the first **Cream-winged Cinclodes, Black-billed Shrike Tyrant** and hopefully the beautiful colored **Andean Hillstar**. You will see and definitely hear the **Golden-billed Saltator** and a **Giant Hummingbird**. The first birding hike is easy and only short distance, it takes approx. 4 hours, depending on birds, fitness and speed. Other possible birds before Lunch time: **Mountain Cara Cara, Eared Dove, Brown-capped Tit Spinetail, Creamy-bellied Canastero, Fulvous-headed Brush Finch**. The increasing Polylepis vegetation sometimes allows us to see some very rare species like: **Zimmer's Tapaculo** or **Giant Conebill**.

Around the small village of Chaunaca we try to find the **endemic Bolivian Blackbird** among many other species.

From Chaunaca our driver will bring you to the heart of the Maragua Crater, home to the **endemic Cliff Parakeets, Andean Swift** and **Blue and white Swallow**.

We will stop for birds like **Rufous-napped Ground Tyrant, Green-barred Woodpecker, Andean Flicker, several species of Ground Dove, Black-chested Buzzard Eagle, American Kestrel**.

We will visit the village of Maragua and surroundings before we will have lunch. In the afternoon we hike up to the waterfall of Garganta del Diablo, where the water attracts **Cliff Flycatchers, Mountain Parakeet, many Cream-winged Cinclodes**. Also quite common, **Brown-backed Mockingbird, House**

**Wren, Rock Earthcreeper**, maybe an **Aplomado Falcon** and **Mitred Parakeets**. Flocks of **Shiny Cowbirds** and **Grayish Baywing** will be present. After lunch we will drive out of the Crater up to the village of Quila and will go driving and birding through the fields where sometimes the **Andean Condor** flies over.

There are too many species today to name them all here; easily we will see around 40 different species in one morning!

Main habitat: Inter-Andean Dry Valleys and Polylepis area (3000 m>)

Of course we can go and search for specific species of birds of your choice and adjust the route to that. (check your guide Dirk Dekker's listings at ebird website, Explore region >Chuquisaca – Bolivia)

**Tour includes:**

Private transport, specialized bilingual guide, use of "Birds of Bolivia" Field guide, exchange of photos and registration of ebird list of that day. Checklist English/Latin names of species.

- Entrance fees
- Box Lunch & Water
- Snacks

**Not included:**

- Gifts for kids you may meet on the way
- Other (alcoholic) drinks
- Tips for guide/driver
- Souvenirs

**You need to bring:**

- Good hiking boots/walking shoes
- Hat or cap
- Sun cream
- Sun glasses
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Repellent
- Camera with loaded batteries
- Binoculars
- We have binoculars for rent (100 bs per day)

In case of a mixed group with both interest in hiking and birdwatching, your guide can adjust the paths and times to do that without any problem.

*We try not to bring too much food/drinks from the city. Instead we urge people to spend some money in the little villages so tourism will make sense to the inhabitants. For sanitary reasons we will bring the main food from the city.*

Cost per person:

<b>1 pax</b>	<b>2 pax</b>	<b>3 pax</b>	<b>4 pax</b>	<b>5 pax</b>
Bs. 1000,-	Bs.800,-	Bs.700,-	Bs.600,-	Bs.500,-