



Ecuador

Birding the Choco-Andes Region

February 18th – 27th, 2025

Presented by Austin Gregg

With very special thanks to Alan Shapiro, who generously shared the majority of bird photos seen in this presentation

Notes

- First a brief tour of Quito
- Presentation is in chronological order, showing birds seen at the indicated location(s) on a given day
- However, for genre with many species (e.g. hummingbirds), pictures were consolidated from all locations in order to convey the birds' tremendous diversity
- Please forgive any mispronounced Spanish words...

A few facts about Ecuador

- It's a small country (about the same size as Arizona)¹
- ...but is “packed with 1640 bird species” (1,683 with Galapagos)²
- Has 109 major ecosystems ranging from Humid Forests to Coastal Wetlands to Montane Andean Forest²
- Population in 2023 was 17.9m, with 2.9m in the metropolitan Quito area³
- Economy reliant on Ag. Production and oil exports³
- Per-capita GDP in 2023 was \$6,691³
- U.S. Currency is used...
- Unfortunately, there has, and continues to be habitat degradation²

1. Google search 3/10/2025

2. Friele, J. and Restall, R. Birds of Ecuador; Helm, 2018

3. World Bank, via Google search 3/10/2025



- ☒ National Capital (1,800,000 in 2007)
☐ over 2,000,000
☐ over 200,000
☐ over 100,000
☐ other main city
☐ other city
☒ Capital of province









The Basilica of the National Vow – Constructed 1883-1924



EFQM
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PADRES OBLATOS
www.liceomatovelleecuator.edu.ec

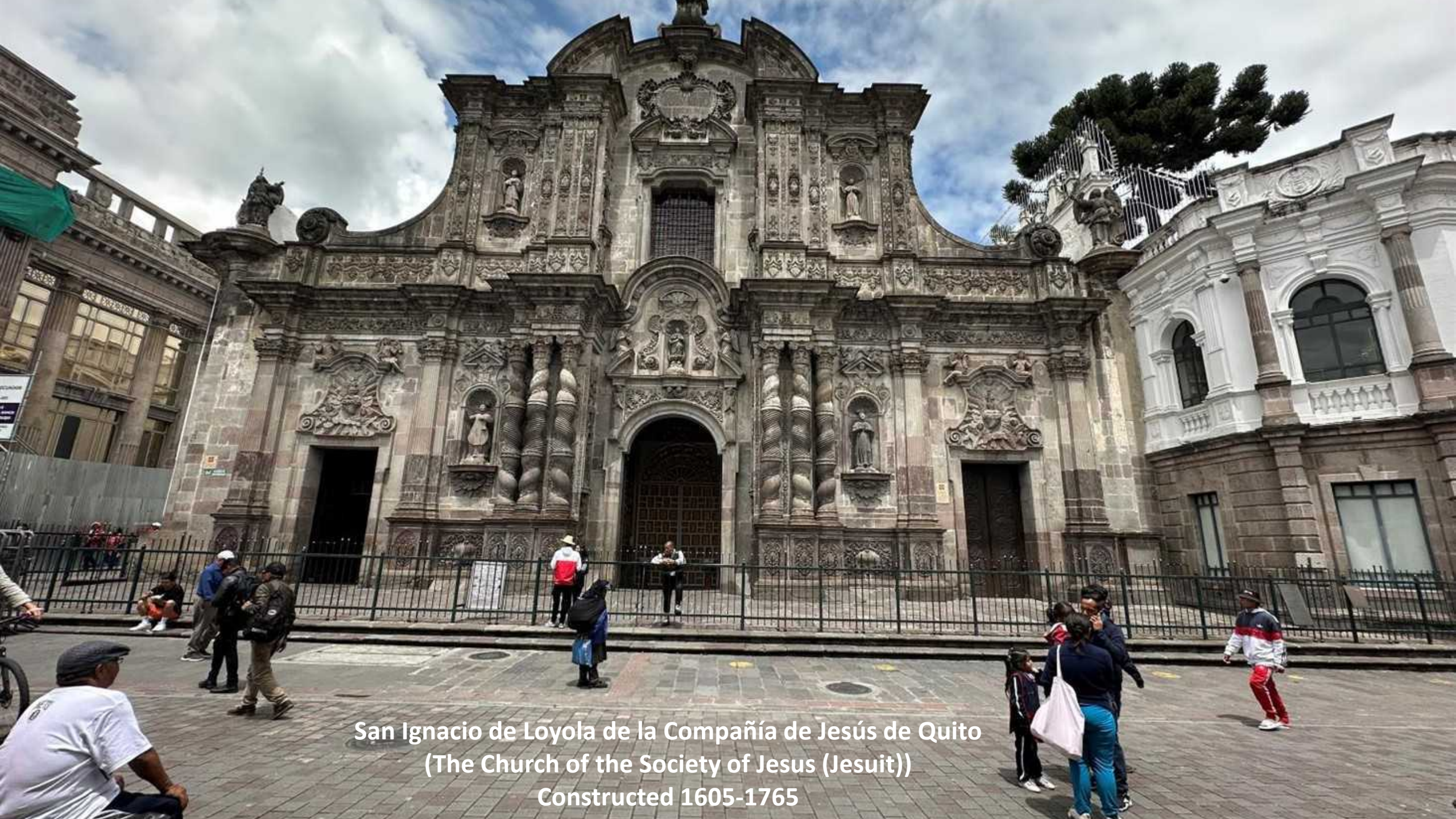












San Ignacio de Loyola de la Compañía de Jesús de Quito
(The Church of the Society of Jesus (Jesuit))
Constructed 1605-1765





MÁS BARATOS
ES DE QUITO



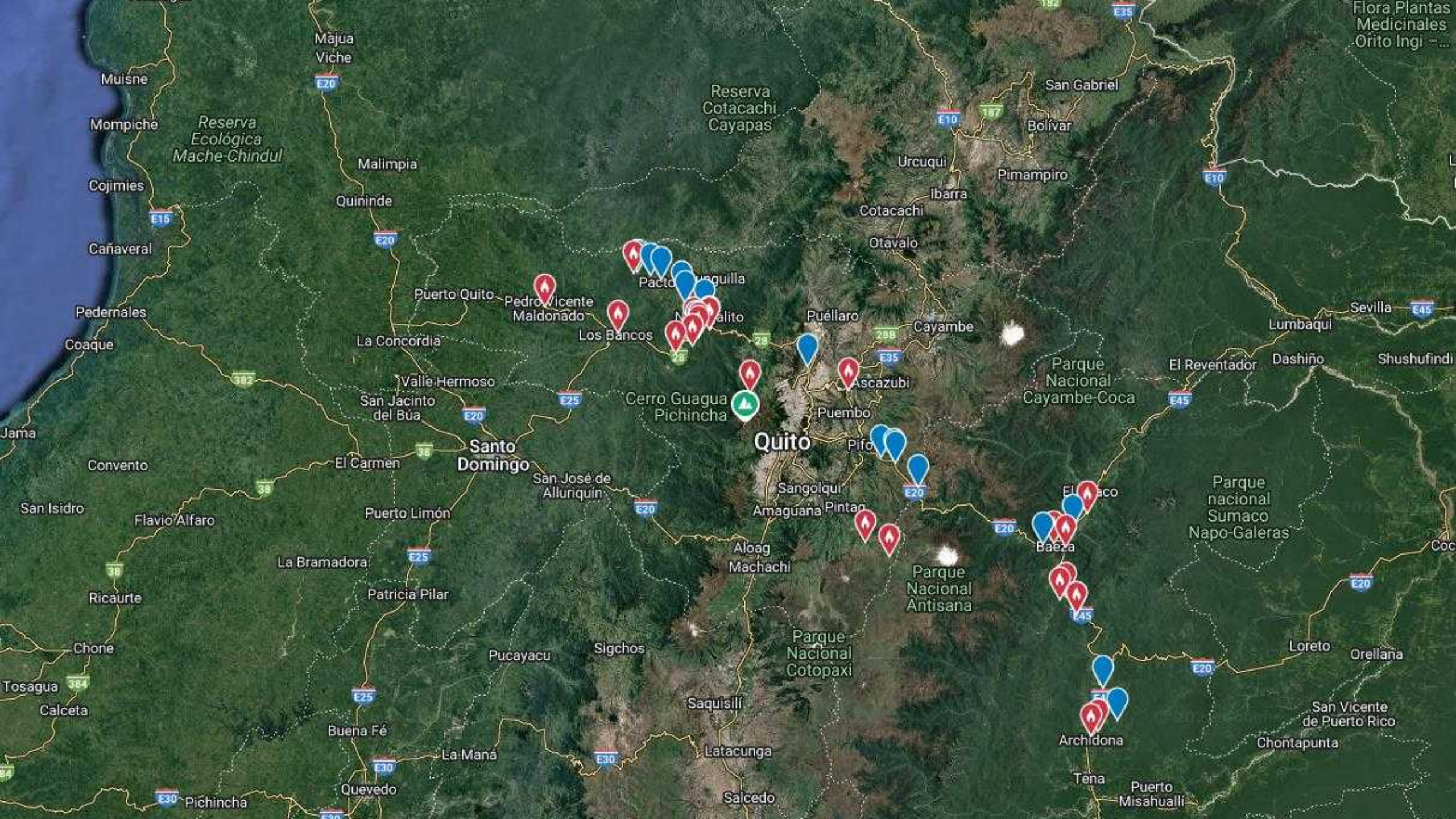
HOTEL CARIAMANGA







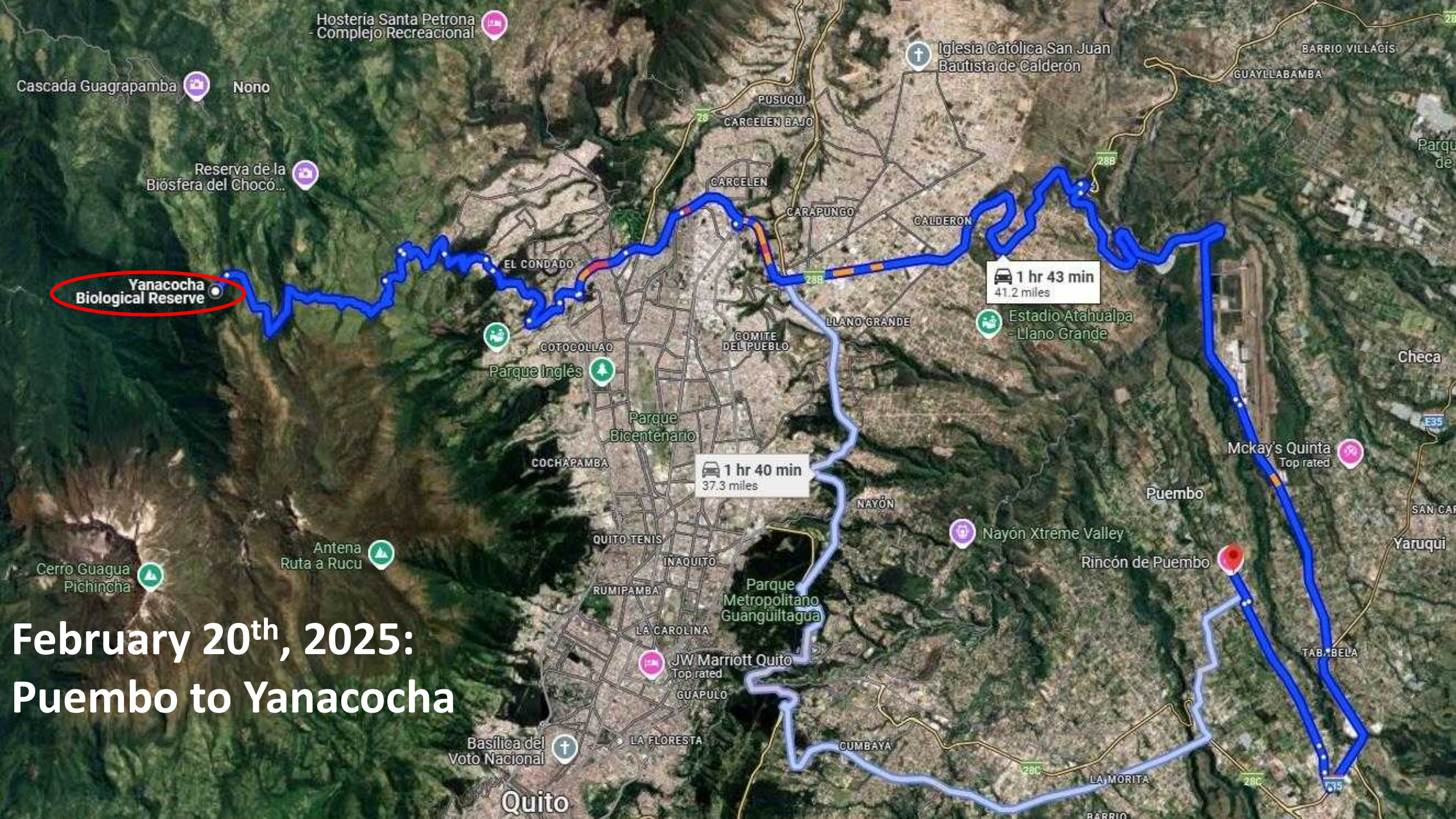




Flora Plantas
Medicinales
Orito Ingi - ...

Sevilla
Shushufindi

San Vicente
de Puerto Rico
Chontapunta



February 20th, 2025:
Puenbo to Yanacocha



February 20th, 2025: Yanacocha to Alambi to Sachatamia Lodge



19 species here...



Diversity of Hummingbirds in Ecuador is Amazing

- At least 132 species (or 40% of the world's hummingbirds)¹
- Of 88 listed on our trip Species Guide, I checked off 44²
- Grouping nomenclature³ is joyful. To name a handful there are:
 - Hermits (Large and Small), Fairies, Metaltails, Thornbills, and Montaine
 - Sunangels, Thorntails, Coquettes, Coronets, Pufflegs, Incas and Starfrontlets
 - Whitetips, Brilliants, Woodstars, Emeralds, Sabrewings, and Woodnymphs
 - Amazillas, Sapphires, Violetears, and Topazes

1. Tropical Birding.com and other Web sources via Google search 3/16/2025

2. Others likely recorded a few more...

3. As derived from Friele, J. and Restall, R. Birds of Ecuador, pp 228-270; Helm, 2018







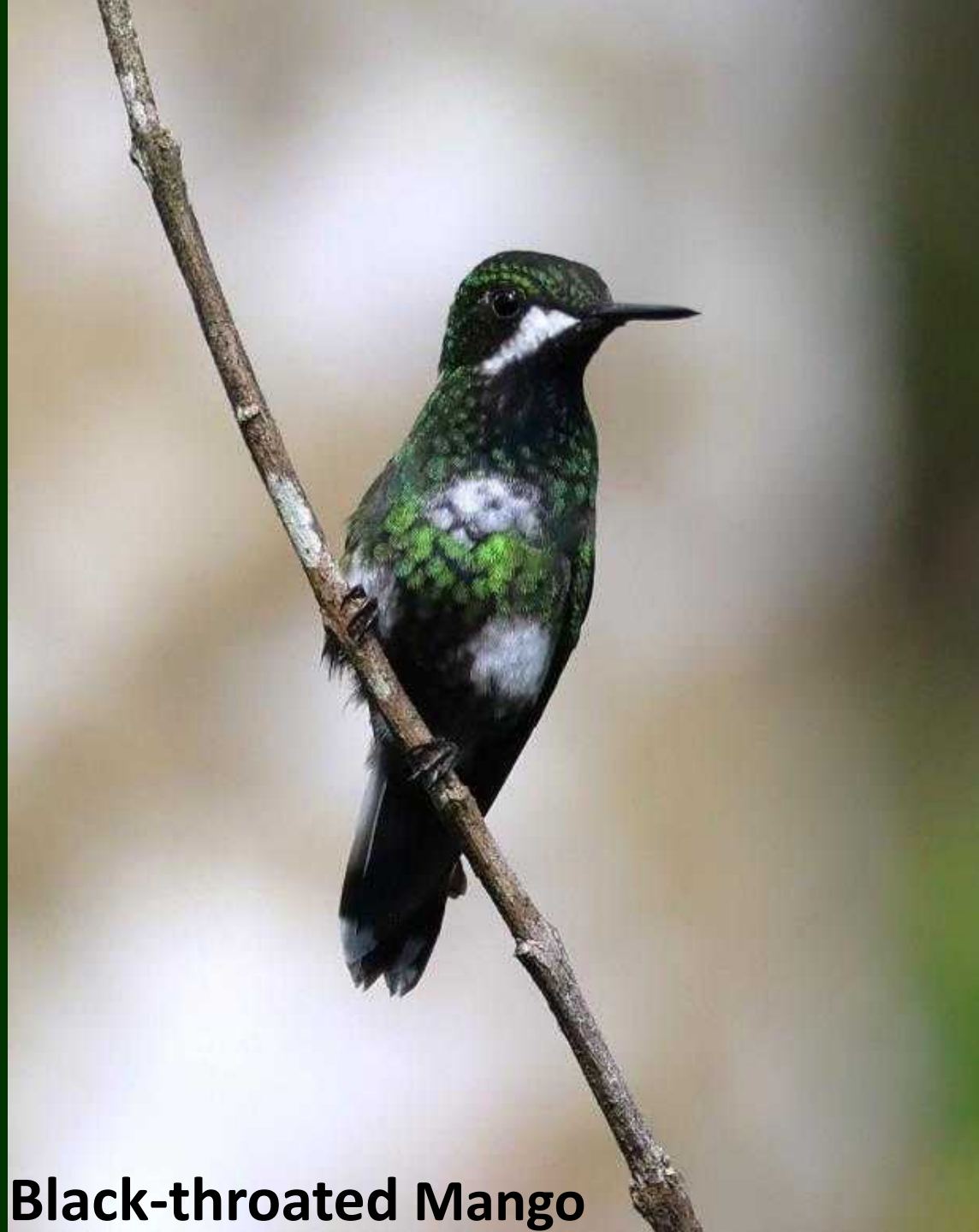
Purple-bibbed Whitetip *Urosticte benjimini*



Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*



Bronzy Hermit *Glaucis aeneus*



Black-throated Mango



Bronzy Inca *Coeligena coeligena*



Brown Inca *Coeligena wilsoni*



Buff-winged Starfrontlet *Coeligena lutetiae*



Chestnut-breasted Coronet *Boissonneaua matthewsii*



Empress Brilliant *Heliodoxa imperatrix*



Fawn-breasted Brilliant *Heliodoxa rubinoides*



Gorgeted Woodstar *Chaetocercus heliodor*



Gorgeted Woodstar *Chaetocercus heliodor*



Great Sapphirewing *Pterophanes cyanopterus*



Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*



Green-fronted Lancebill *Doryfera johannae*



Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*



Long-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus kingii*



Peruvian Racket-tail *Ocreatus peruanus*



White-booted Racket-tail *Ocreatus underwoodii*



Purple-chested Hummingbird – *Amazilia rosenbergi*

Purple-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox mitchellii*





Rufus-tailed Hummingbird *Amazillia tzacati*



Sapphire-vented Puffleg *Eriocnemis luciani*



Shining Sunbeam *Aglaeactis cupripennis*



Shining Sunbeam *Aglaeactis cupripennis*



Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans*



Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas*



Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys*



Sword-billed Hummingbird *Ensifera ensifera*



Tawney-bellied Hermit *Phaethornis syrmatophorus*



Violet-bellied Hummingbird *Damophila julie*



Violet-tailed Sylph *Aglaiocercus coelestis*



White-whiskered Hermit *Phaethornis yaruqui*



Velvet-purple Coronet *Boissonneaua jardini*



Stelis hallii



Andean Guan *Penelope montagnii*



Yellow-breasted Brush Finch *Atlapetes latinuchus*



Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii*



Golden-headed Quetzal *Pharomachrus auriceps*











February 21st, 2025: Lodge to Amagusa Preserva





Golden-olive Woodpecker *Piculus chrysochloros*



Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*



Ornate Flycatcher *Myiotriccus ornatus*



Streak-capped Treehunter *Thirpadectes virgaticeps*



White-throated Quail-dove *Zentrygon frenata*



Orange-breasted Fruiteater *Pipreola jucunda*



Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*



Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*



Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris*



Squirrel Cuckoo *Playa cyana*



Rose-Faced Parrot *Pyrilia pulchra*



Bronze-winged Parrot *Pionus chalcopterus*



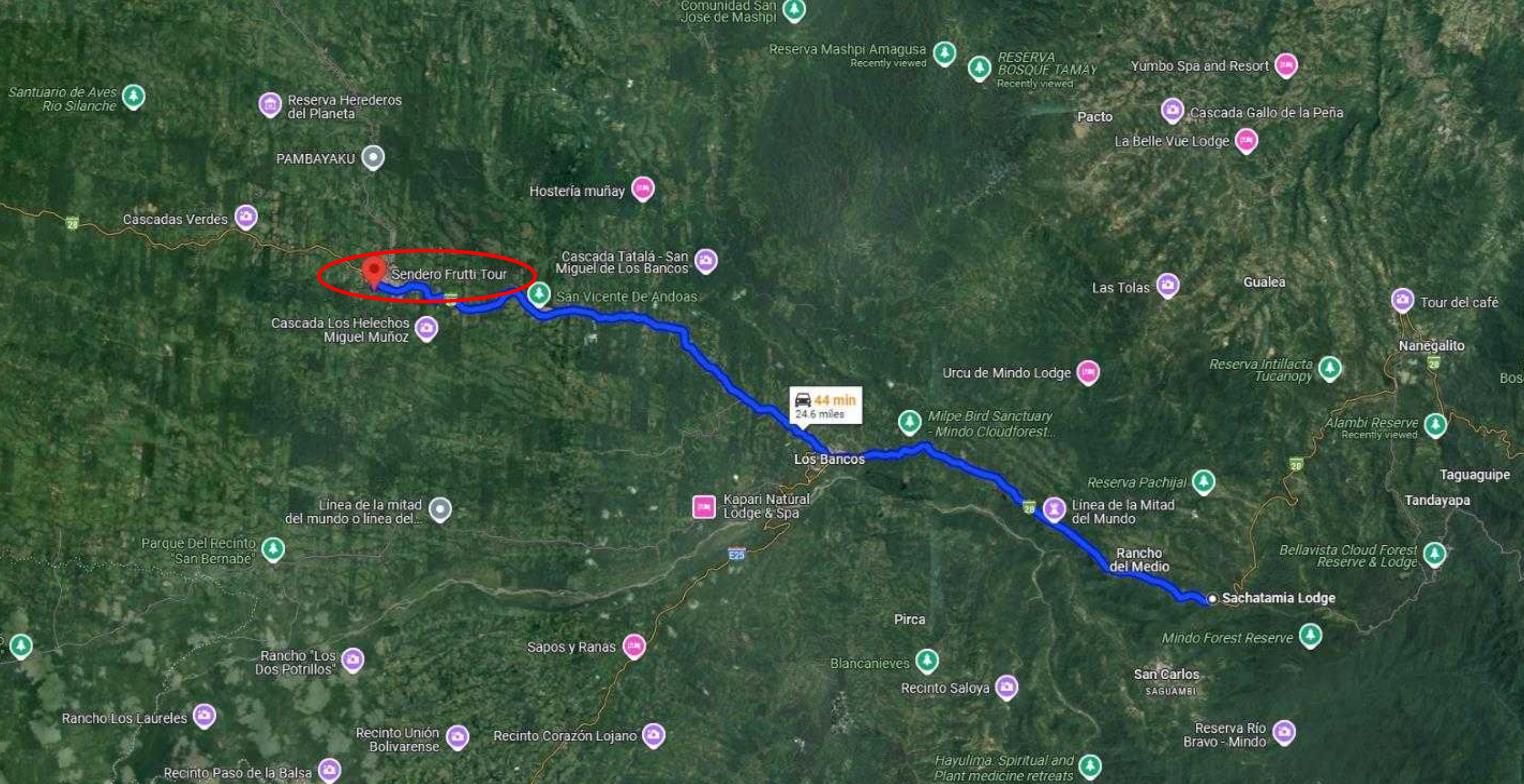
Crimson-rumped Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*



Black-mandibled Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus*







February 22nd, 2025: Pre-dawn Lodge, then travel to Sendero Frutti Tour









Strong-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*



Gray-breasted Woodwren *Henicorhina leucophrys*



Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus*



Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*



Plate-billed Mountain Toucan *Andigena laminirostris*



Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris*



Ecuadorian Thrush *Turdus maculirostris*



Toucan Barbet *Semnornis ramphastinus*



Rufus Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*



Refugio Paz de Las Aves

Café Restaurante Guaycapi

TR "Peace of the Birds"

4 hr 47 min
150 miles

Papallacta

San Isidro Lodge

February 23, 2025: Travel to San Isidro Lodge



Andean Cock of the Rock (*Rupicola sanguinolentus*)





How do you see an Antpitta - a bird that's
“...more often heard than seen?¹” Hire an
Antpitta Whisperer!

“Recently, seeing Antpittas has been
revolutionized by worm feeding.²”

1. Friele, J. and Restall, R. Birds of Ecuador; Helm, 2018, page 384

2. Ibid, page 382







Ochre-breasted Antpitta *Grallaricula flavirostris*





White-bellied Antpitta *Grallaria hypoleuca*



Yellow-breasted Antpitta *Grallaria flavotincta*



Tawny Antpitta *Grallaria quitensis*



REFUGIO
PAZ
DE LAS AVES

REFUGIO

Turismo
www.girasoltour.com.ec



Crimson-mantled Woodpecker *Colaptes rivolii*



Black-banded Owl *Strix huhula*



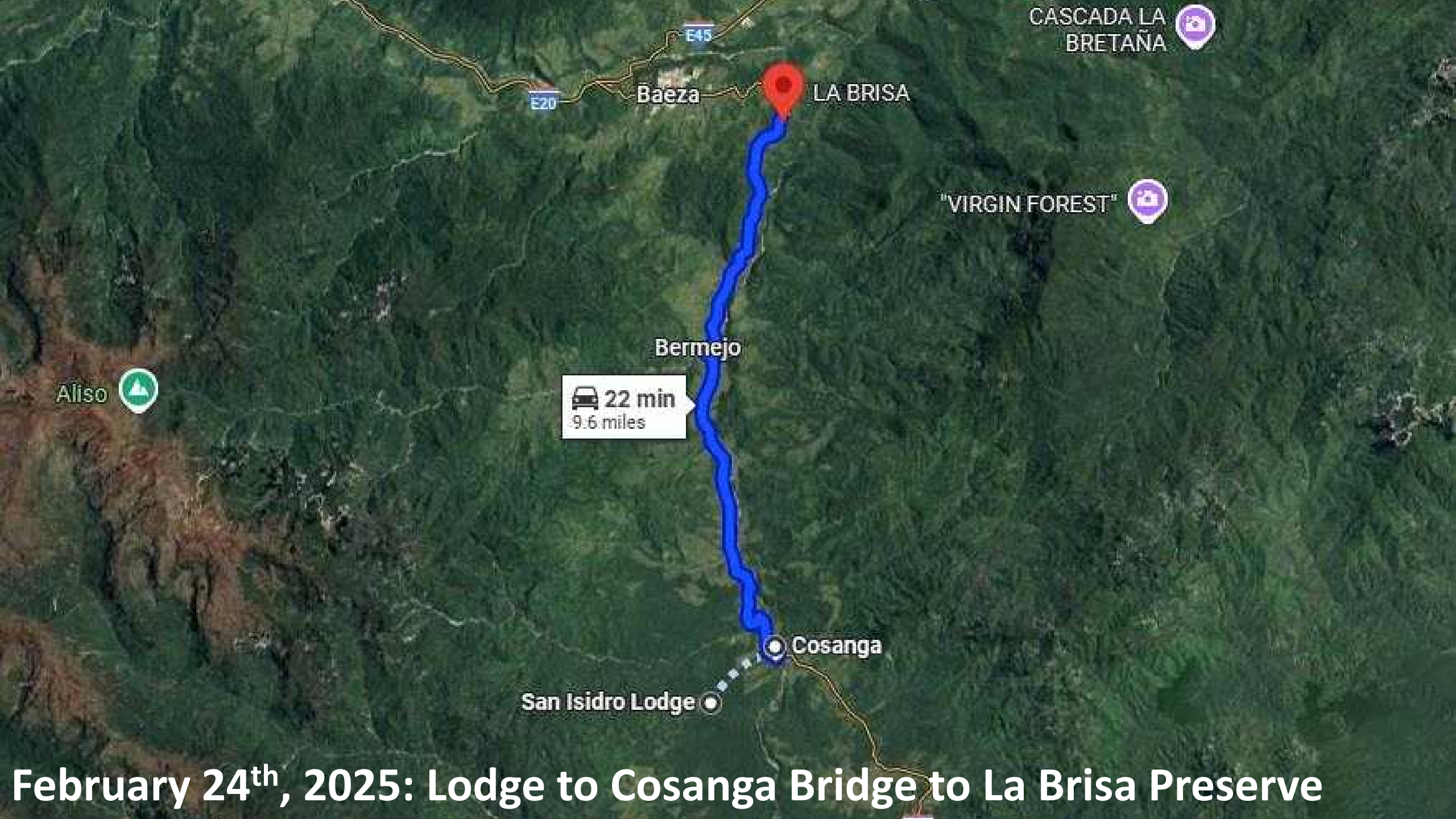












CASCADA LA
BRETANA

E45

E20

Baeza

LA BRISA

"VIRGIN FOREST"

Bermejo

22 min
9.6 miles

Aliso

Cosanga

San Isidro Lodge

February 24th, 2025: Lodge to Cosanga Bridge to La Brisa Preserve



Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*



Torrent Tyrannulet *Serpophaga cinerea*



Masked Trogon *Trogon personatus*



Cinnamon Flycatcher



Black-eared Hemispingus



Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant *Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus*



Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*



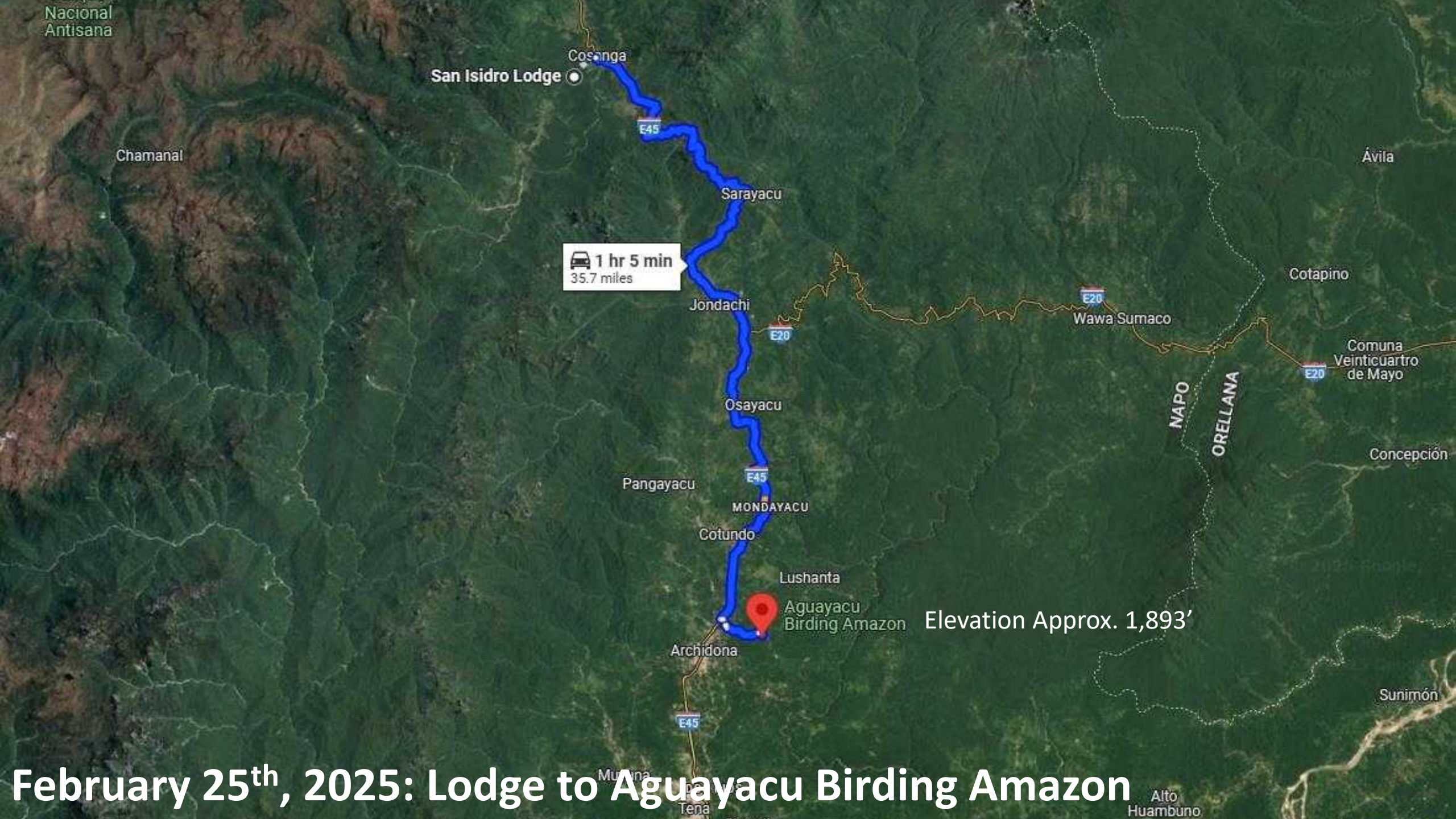
Smoke-colored Peewee *Contopus fumigatus*



Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*



Andean Cock of the Rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*)



San Isidro Lodge

1 hr 5 min
35.7 miles

Elevation Approx. 1,893'

February 25th, 2025: Lodge to Aguayacu Birding Amazon



BIENVENIDOS
A LAS
GRACIAS
ESTACION DE GUAYAMA
CALLE 100 N. 1000000







Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*



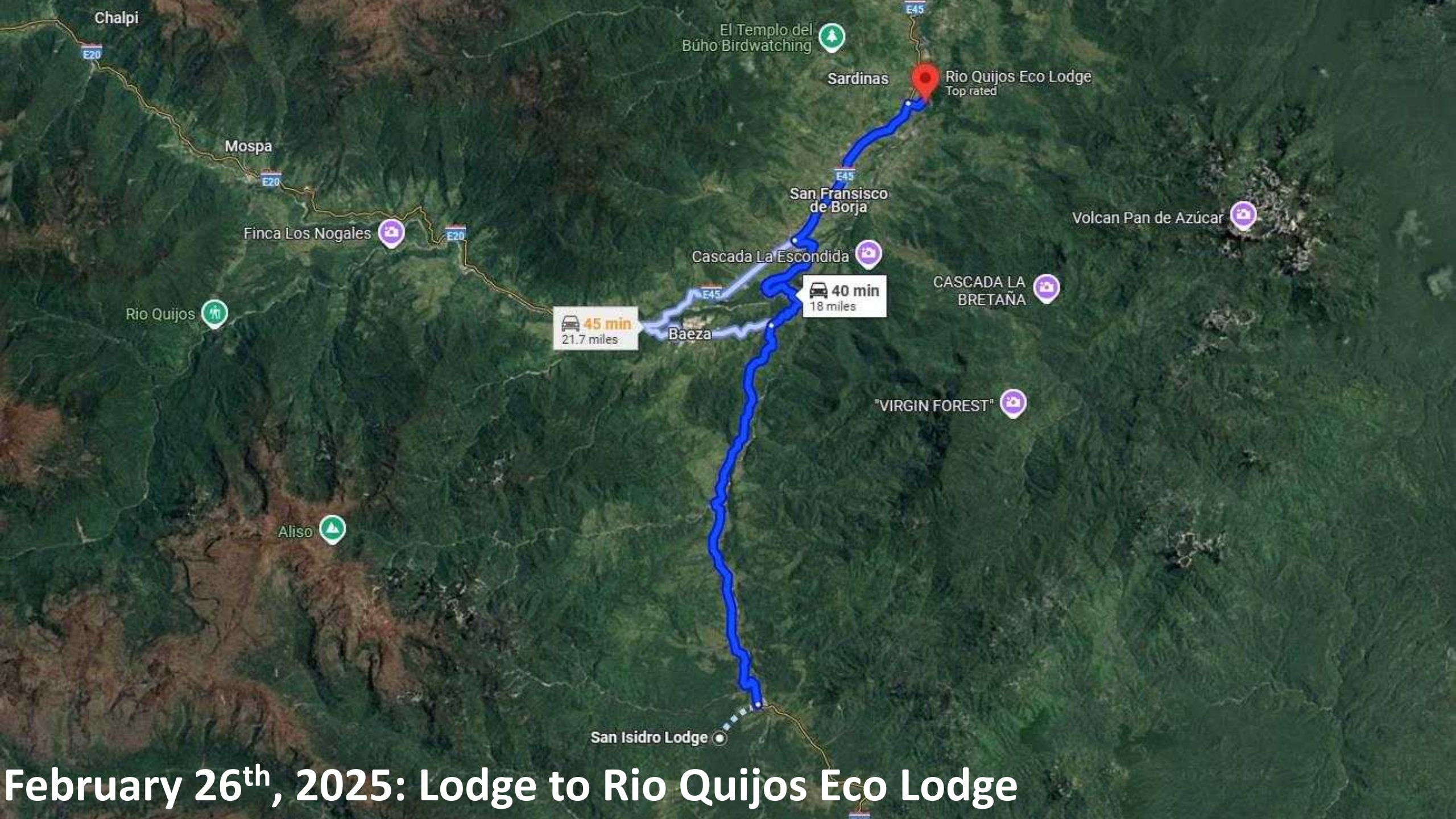
Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*



Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus*



Black & White Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus melanoleucus*



February 26th, 2025: Lodge to Rio Quijos Eco Lodge



Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

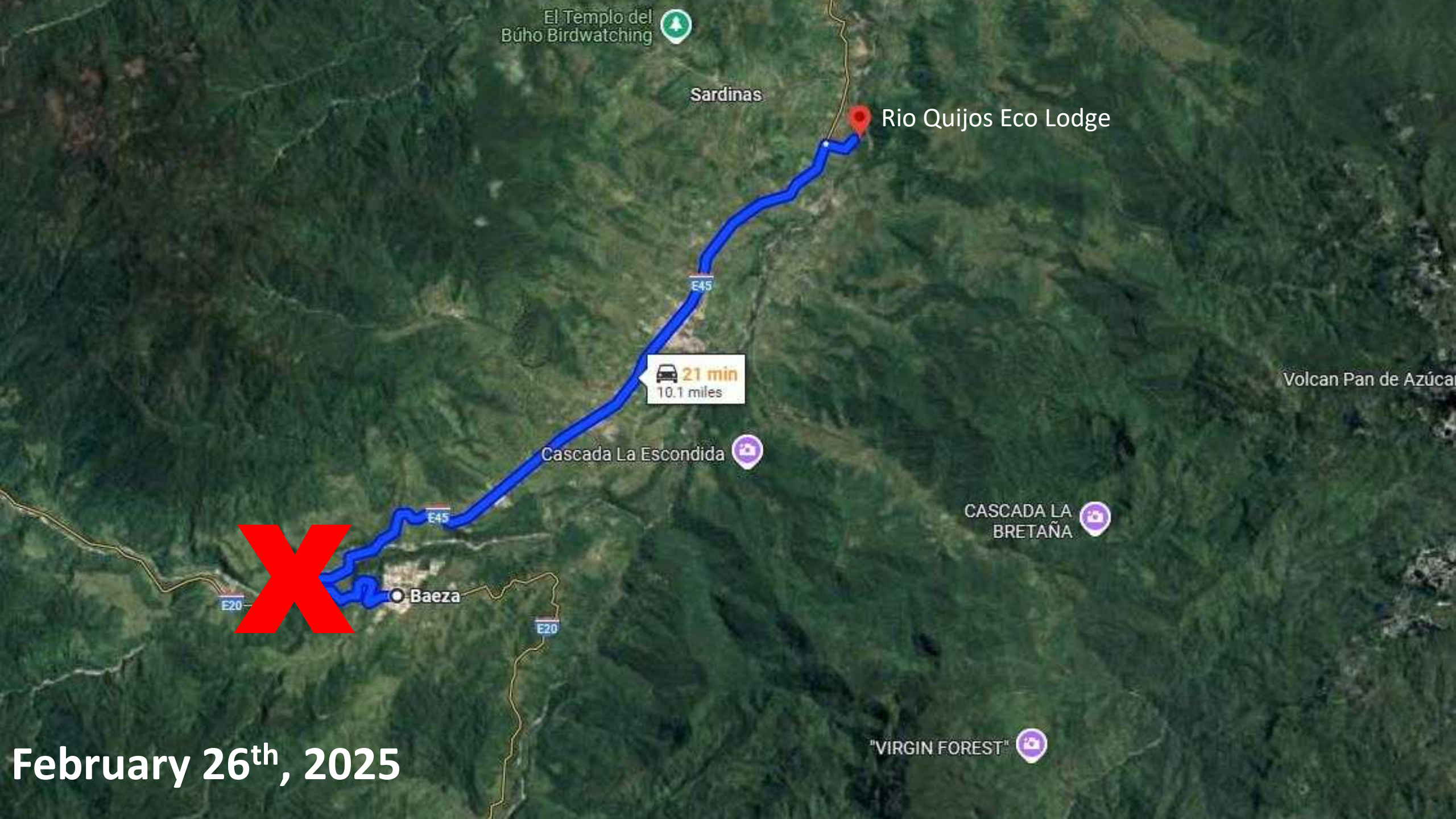


Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*





Red-breasted Meadowlark *Leistes militaris*




El Templo del
Búho Birdwatching



Sardinas

Rio Quijos Eco Lodge

E45

 21 min
10.1 miles

Cascada La Escondida



Volcan Pan de Azúcar

CASCADA LA
BRETAÑA



E20

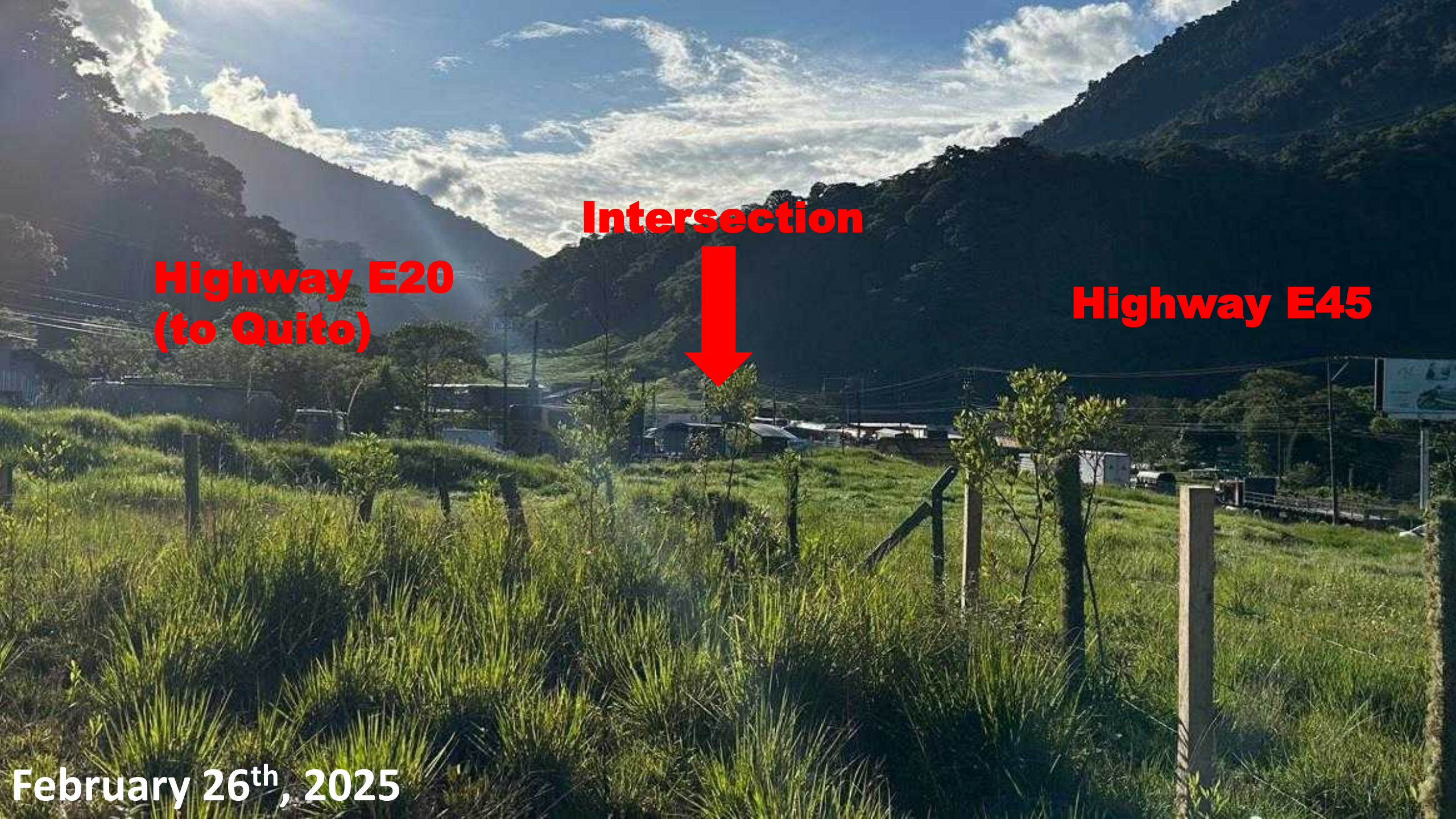
Baeza

E20

"VIRGIN FOREST"



February 26th, 2025



Intersection

**Highway E20
(to Quito)**

Highway E45

February 26th, 2025





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PAC-552-1







A brown directional sign is mounted on a metal frame. The sign has white text that reads 'APROXIMACIÓN A BAEZA PATRIMONIAL' and a dark red arrow pointing left with '554 m.' written inside it. The background is a lush tropical forest with various plants, including palm trees and a tree trunk covered in moss and red flowers.

APROXIMACIÓN
A BAEZA
PATRIMONIAL

554 m.





CASA DEL ARBOL
CAPACIDAD MÁXIMA
3 PERSONAS
PRECAUCIÓN
NO FUMAR
NO BEBER
NO TIRAR RESIDUOS

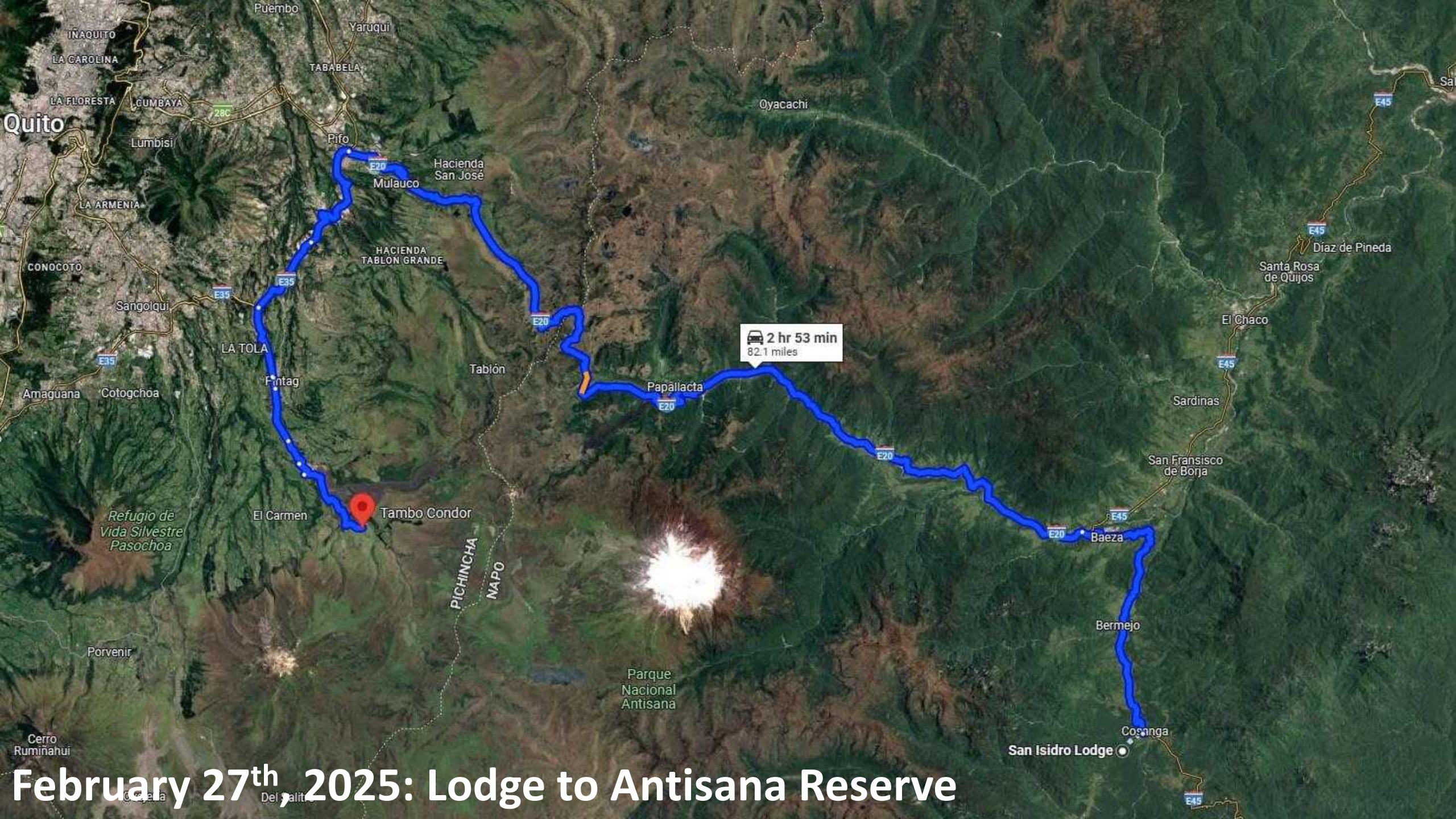


RÍO MACHANGARA



February 26th, 2025





February 27th, 2025: Lodge to Antisana Reserve



MEGA PAPELERIA
Megra

M
CABINAS MOVISTAR

PUNTO
A PAGO
mi
negocio
efectivo







Paramo Grass ecosystem





Chestnut-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albidiventris*



Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*



Andean Ibis *Theristicus branickii*



Andean Ibis *Theristicus branickii*



Carunculated Caracara *Daptrius carunculatus*



Variable Hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma*



Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*

By now some of you are probably wondering if we saw any tanagers...





Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*



Black-capped Tanager *Tangara heinei*



Black-chested Mountain Tanager *Cnemathraupis eximia*



Black-chinned Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus notabilis*



Blue-capped Tanager *Thraupis cyanocephala*



Glistening Green Tanager *Chlorochrysa phoenicotis*



Blue-necked Tanager *Tangara cyanicollis*



Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassinii*



Flame-faced Tanager *Tangara parzudakii*



Golden-naped Tanager *Tangara ruficevix*



Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus*



Ochre-breasted Tanager *Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*



Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*



Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*



Moss-backed Tanager *Bangsia edwardsi*



White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus delatrii*



Rufus-throated Tanager *Tangara rufigula*



Flame-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus flammigerus*



Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*



Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus igniventris*



Blue-winged Mountain Tanager *Anisognathus somptuosus*



Beryl-spangled Tanager *Tangara nigroviridis*



Thank You!