



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock

Peru: Birding from the Andes to the Amazon

8 Nights/9 Days | September 2020

With 1,800 bird species, Peru is one of the most avian-rich countries on earth. This birding tour takes us across the eastern slopes of the Andean mountains, high above the sweeping lowlands of the Amazon Rainforest, and descends through mystical cloud forests into the western edge of the Amazon basin. Here, regular swathes of clouds cloak the canopy in a dense mist, giving life to an abundance of mosses, lichen, bromeliads, orchids and more, and providing home to mountain toucans, golden-headed quetzals, and huge, roving mixed flocks of colorful tanagers and other species. Amongst the gnarled branches of the forest, Spectacled Bears, Gray Woolly Monkeys and vibrant orange Cock-of-the-Rocks still live unmolested. On this tour will enjoy some of the very best birding in the world, while staying at a selection of the most comfortable and bird friendly lodges in the area.

Tour Overview

- Day 1: Arrive Lima
- Day 2: Birding Pantanos de Villa, flight to Cusco
- Day 3: Cusco to Wayqecha
- Day 4: Wayqecha and the Manu Road
- Day 5: Wayqecha to Cock of the Rock Lodge
- Day 6: Cock of the Rock Lodge and the Manu Road
- Day 7: Cock of the Rock Lodge to Villa Carmen
- Day 8: Villa Carmen Lodge and Biological Station
- Day 9: Depart Villa Carmen for Cusco

8 Night/9 Day Itinerary

Day 1, Arrive Lima:

We'll arrive our Lima hotel later this afternoon/evening, check in to our hotel and have dinner before resting up for the following day.

*Meals: Dinner
Lodging in Lima*

Day 2, Birding the Pantanos and fly to Cusco:

We'll have an early hotel breakfast, before heading to Pantanos de Villa Wildlife Refuge on the southern outskirts of Lima.

Pantanos de Villa is an outstanding coastal/wetland home for species such as; Cinnamon Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, Andean Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Grebe, Croaking Ground Dove, West Peruvian Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Amazalia Hummingbird, Plumbeous Rail, Common Gallinule, Slate-colored Coot, Black-necked Stilt, American

Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Andean Gull, Grey-hooded Gull, Gray Gull, Franklin's Gull, Belcher's Gull, Kelp Gull, Inca Tern, Black Skimmer, Peruvian Booby, Neotropic Cormorant, Guanay Cormorant, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Striated Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Nightheron, Puna Ibis, Osprey, Harris's Hawk, American Kestrel, Wren-like Rushbird, Many-colored Rush Tyrant, Vermillion Flycatcher, Blue-and-white Swallow, Long-tailed Mockingbird, Peruvian Meadowlark, Scrub Blackbird, and Yellow-hooded Blackbird.

After birding along the coast and several of the coastal pool and reed bed areas we will continue on south to the fishing village of Pucusana. Here we'll lunch at a local restaurant before taking motorized boats to the

island just off shore for Blackish Oystercatcher, Ruddy Turnstone, Inca Tern, Humboldt Penguin, Blue-footed Booby, Peruvian booby, Red-legged Cormorant, Neotropic Cormorant, Guanay Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican and the endemic Surf Cinclodes.

Return to Lima for mid-afternoon (5pm) flight to Cusco.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging in Cusco*

Day 3, Birding from Cusco (11,154 ft.) to Manu's cloud forests:

Starting the descent from Cusco's Andean altitude we'll travel paved, and then dirt roads across high grasslands, the landscape gives way to immense cloud forests where the Wayqecha ("brother" in Quechua) Birding Lodge is set within a 1,450-acre reserve.

After an early breakfast in Cusco, we will depart for our first stop at Huarcapay Lake for Andean waterfowl species such as Puna Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, Yellow-billed Teal, Andean Duck, Chilean Flamingo, and White-tufted Grebe. In addition, the high reeds and scrub around the lake are a ket location for Spot-winged Pigeon, Bare-faced Ground Dove, Eared Dove, Sparkling Violetear, Plumbeous Rail, Common Gallinule, Slate-colored Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Andean Lapwing, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Andean Gull, American Kestrel, White-crested Elaenia, Brown-bellied Swallow, Chiguanco Thrush, Hooded Siskin, Blue-and-yellow Tanager, Cinereous Conebill, Band-tailed Seed eater, and Golden-billed Saltator.

Black-tailed Trainbearer, Green-

Masked Flowerpiercer





Grass-green Tanager

tailed Trainbearer, Bearded Mountaineer, Giant Hummingbird, Puna Ibis, Wren-like Rushbird, Streak-fronted Thornbird, Rustyfronted Canastero, Many-colored Rush Tyrant, Andean Negrito, Yellow-winged Blackbird, Peruvian Sierra-Finch, Ash-breasted Sierra Finch, Mourning Sierra-Finch, and Greenish-yellow Finch are also abundant here.

There are also chances here for Cinereous Harrier, Variable Hawk, Black-chested Buzzard- Eagle and Alpomado Falcon.

Continuing on through an inter-montane biome we'll stop at a convenient scenic spot to have a picnic lunch. In this area our main targets will be the Andean Hillstar, Andean Flicker, Black-throated Flowerpiercer, and Chuiguanco Thrush. Further on we'll look out for the Scribble-tailed and Line-fronted Canasteros, Puna Wren, Puna and Diademed Tapaculos. As we descend further, the forest becomes denser and houses a different range of species

including mixed species flocks with ovenbirds, flycatchers and tanagers, as well as toucans, jays, caciques and more.

Two special targets here are the endemic Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch and Creamy-crested Spinetail.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Lodging at Wayqecha Biological Station

Day 4, Birding Wayqecha Lodge (9,500 ft.) and the Manu Road:

Wayqecha Birding Lodge boasts an extensive, well maintained trail system to explore – be prepared, the reserve is spread over a 3,000 ft. elevation gradient – with just under 450 bird species listed, an orchid garden and a canopy walkway. The lodge sports a central building, and well-equipped cabins with private bathrooms and hot showers. Here is a good place to look out for the endemic Red-and-white Antpitta and endemic Marcapata Spinetail, and to keep an

eye out for some of the mammals that live in the reserve, such as the Andean bear, jaguar, puma, ocelots, monkeys etc.

We'll start early, grabbing a hot drink to get us going, and birding around the Lodge. Later, after a hot breakfast, we'll continue exploring further afield. As the day warms we'll spend time birding downhill through the forest looking for mixed feeding flocks.

Species here include Andean Guan; Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Tyrian Metaltail, Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Pearled Treerunner, Azara's Spinetail, White-banded Tyrannulet, Whitethroated Tyrannulet, Sierran Elaenia, Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrant, White-collared Jay, Great Thrush, Black-faced Brushfinch, Mountain Cacique, Spectacled Redstart, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Blue-capped Tanager, and Masked Flowerpiercer among others.

Special target species here include the Puna Thistletail,

Peruvian Treehunter, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Greater Scythebill, Barred Fruiteater, Black-throated Tody-flycatcher, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, Grass-green Tanager, Golden-collared Tanager, Moustached Flowerpiercer, and Tit-like Dacnis.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Wayqecha Biological Station*

Day 5, Birding from Wayqecha to Cock of the Rock Lodge (4,260 ft.):

After breakfast we'll spend all day birding by vehicle from Wayqecha down to our next stop. The journey down to Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge allows us to observe the changes in elevation and scenery, and to find new bird species while others disappear. Lunch will be en route and we'll search along the way for Andean Guan, Collared Inca, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Violet-throated Starfrontlet and Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Purple-backed Thornbill, Scaled Metal tail, Whitebellied Woodstar, White-rumped Hawk, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Trilling Tapaculo, Black and Chestnut Eagle, Scaly-naped Parrot, White-throated Antpitta, Barred Fruiteater, Band-tailed Fruiteater, White-throated Tyrannulet, Ochraceous-breasted Flycatcher, Barred Becard, Pale-footed Swallow, Mountain Wren, Citrine Warbler.

Special target species here are the endemic Marcapata Spinetail, and of course the spectacular Andean Cock of the Rock.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge*



Amethyst-throated Sunangel

Day 6, Birding Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge:

This lodge is set in lush montane forest within a protected 12,500-acre reserve. And as its name suggests, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock is common in the area, with a lek viewable just a few kilometers before arriving at the lodge, which enables us to observe these majestic birds while at their dawn mating rituals. The central building at COR hosts the dining area and bar, with 12 large bungalows for sleeping, each with private bathroom and hot showers. The bungalows are lit atmospherically by candles and there is a generator running in the evening for certain hours to charge our equipment in the main lodge area.

Trails exploring the surrounding forest include an area of bamboo replete with bamboo specialist species. A staggering total of 685

bird species have been recorded in the reserve. There is a large dining area and lounge overlooking feeding stations for birds that are also visited by Brown Capuchin Monkeys and the awesome Tayra (a large mustelid related to otters). Hummingbird feeders attract several species right at the dining room, and a trail behind the lodge enables us to enter the under-story of the cloud forest, and facilitates seeing certain species not likely from the road. Among the more sought after species here are Specked Chachalaca, Plumbeous Pigeon, Squirrel Cuckoo, Green Hermit, Geoffroy's Daggerbill, Sparkling Violetear, Wire-crested Thorntail, Speckled Hummingbird, Longtailed Sylph, Bronzy Inca, Booted Racket-tail, Violet-fronted Brilliant, White-bellied Woodstar, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Andean Motmot, Versi-colored Barbet, Green-olive Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Stripe-

chedsted Antwren, White-crowned Tapaculo, Montane Foliage-gleaner, Streak-necked Flycatcher, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant, Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant, Black Phoebe, Lemon-browed Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Green Jay, Blue-and-white Swallow, Moustached Wren, Gray-breasted Wood-wren, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Yellow-throated Chlorospingus, Common Chlorospingus, Yellow-browed Sparrow, Russet-backed Oropendola, Dusky-green Oropendola, Tropical Parula, Three-striped Warbler, Two-banded Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, Silver-beaked Tanager, Orange-eared Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Golden Tanager, Bananaquit, and Buff-throated Saltator among others.

Special target species here are numerous, and include Lyre-tailed

Nightjar, Andean Potoo, ENDEMIC Peruvian Piedtail, Rufous-capped Thornbill, Rufous-webbed Brilliant, Solitary Eagle, White-rumped Hawk, Rufescent Screech-owl, Rufous-banded Owl, Golden-headed Quetzal, Crested Quetzal, Masked Trogon, Black-streaked Puffbird, Blue-banded Toucanet, Yellow-rumped Antwren, Variable Antshrike, Uniform Antshrike, Slaty Gnateater, Scaled Antpitta, Rufous-breasted Antthrush, Short-tailed Antthrush, Olive-backed Woodcreeper, Montane Woodcreeper, Spotted Barbtail; Yungas Manakin, Scaled Fruiteater, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, endemic Cerulean-capped Manakin, Amazonian Umbrellabird, White-throated Spadebill, endemic Inca Flycatcher, Fulvous-breasted Flatbill, Bolivian Tyrannulet, Chestnut-breasted Wren, Saffron-crowned Tanager and Deep-blue Flowerpiercer.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge*

Day 7, Cock of the Rock Lodge to Villa Carmen (1,640 ft.):

After an early breakfast we leave the Cock-of-the-rock Lodge and start the final descent into low montane rainforest and the Amazon basin. As we descend, we'll see that forest transitions into tea, coffee, cacao and coca plantations. Depending on birding stops along the way, we should arrive at Villa Carmen in time for some birding around the lodge before dark. On the way to the lodge we'll be on the look-out Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail, Chestnut-collared Swift, Long-tailed Sylph, Lanceolated Monklet, Versicolored Barbet, Speckle-faced Parrot, Russet Antshrike, Yungas Manakin, Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant, Fulvous-breasted Flatbill, Olive-tufted Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Flycatcher, Three-banded Warbler, Dusky-green Oropendola, Whitewinged Tanager, Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, and others.

Special targets here include the endemic Peruvian Piedtail and Black-backed Tody-Flycatcher.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Villa Carmen Lodge*

Day 8, Birding the Rain Forests of Villa Carmen Biological Station:

Located at the lower reaches of the Manu Road is Villa Carmen, a 7,500-acre reserve within the Manu Biosphere Reserve, encompassing areas of forest that range from 3,900 to 1,500 ft. in elevation. This is the last of the lower montane rainforest before it gives way to the vast lowland Amazonian rainforest. Over 35 kilometers of trails here spread out across pasture, scrub, young secondary forest, and mature forest providing access to streams, waterfalls, the nearby river Pine Pini, and a bird

Golden-headed Quetzal



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species list of nearly 600 species. The main lodge hosts a bar, dining, and comfortable seating area, and nearby bungalows with private bathrooms and floor-to-ceiling screened windows. It also is home to a laboratory, scientific library, and a running sustainable agriculture and fish-farm. This area supports large stands of bamboo so we will have the bonus of specialties of this micro habitat.

From here we can also visit nearby lookouts for Blue-headed and Military Macaws. In the surrounding forests occur Cinereous Tinamou, Undulated Tinamou, Black-capped Tinamou, Speckled Chachalaca, Blue-throated Piping-guan, Gray-fronted Dove, Smooth-billed Ani, Squirrel Cuckoo, White-collared Swift, Blue-tailed Emerald, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Hoatzin, Gray-cowled Wood-rail, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin, Sunbittern, Rufescent Tiger-heron, Turkey Vulture, Roadside Hawk, Black-tailed Trogon, Blue-crowned Trogon, Black-fronted Nunbird, Swallow-winged Puffbird, Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Blue-headed Parrot, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, White-Eyed Parakeet, Great Antshrike, Barred Antshrike, Plain-winged Antshrike, Bluish-slaty Antshrike, Stripe-chested Antwren, Yellow-breasted Warbling Antbird, White-browed Antbird, Chestnut-tailed Antbird, Black-throated Antbird, Amazonian Antpitta, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Pale-legged Hornero, Chestnut-crowned Foliagegleaner, Plain-crowned Spinetail, Cabanis's Spinetail, Rusty-fronted Tody-flycatcher and more.

Special Targets here are many and include Scarlet-hooded Barbet, Rufous-headed Woodpecker, Bamboo Antshrike, Ornate Antwren, Dot-winged Antwren, Manu Antbird,

White-lined Antbird, Goeldi's Antbird, Red-billed Scythebill, Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner, Flammulated Tody-Tyrant, White-cheeked Tody-tyrant, and Large-headed Flatbill.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Villa Carmen Lodge*

Day 9, Departure for Cusco:

We'll have early this morning to explore once more before breakfast, and soon after we will head back to Cusco. Lunch en route will expedite our drive and allow us to make stops on the way for birds that might have escaped us. We will be dropped off at our hotel or the airport depending on individual arrangements.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Included in this Itinerary

In-country accommodations from night 1 to 8, ground transportation, tours, meals as indicated, guide and entrance fees.

Not Included

Local flights between Lima and Cusco are not included, however we are happy to advise and help with scheduling these. Personal items such as alcoholic beverages, gift shop, laundry, etc. are not included.

Travel Insurance

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. In the event that you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you.



Violet-tailed Sylph



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