



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan

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.

Wesley Homoya and Peruvian guide Silverio Duri will lead us on this tour to enjoy some of the very best birding in the world, while staying at lodges run by key conservation groups like the Amazon Conservation Association and Peru Verde.

Peru Birding: Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu and Manu National Park

11 Nights/12 Days

Tour Overview

Day 1: Arrive Lima (LIM), overnight

Day 2: Birding the Pantanos, flight to Cusco

Day 3: Cusco and Lake Huacarpay to Aguas Calientes

Day 4: Machu Picchu

Day 5: Aguas Calientes to Wayqecha

Day 6: Wayqecha Lodge and the Manu Road

Day 7: Wayqecha to Cock of the Rock Lodge

Day 8: Cock of the Rock Lodge, Manu National Park

Day 9: Cock of the Rock Lodge to Villa Carmen Lodge

Day 10: Villa Carmen Lodge

Day 11: Villa Carmen to Cusco

Day 12: Cusco to Lima flight -end of tour-

11 Night/12 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 at Casa Andina Miraflores

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, Whitecheeked Pintail, Andean Duck, Piedbilled Grebe, Great Grebe, Croaking Ground Dove,



Machu Picchu

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 Night-heron, 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. We return to Lima for a late-afternoon (5pm) flight to Cusco.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging at Casa Andina Standard Plaza

Day 3, Cusco, Lake Huacarpay, Aguas Calientes (Machu Picchu):

Our group will depart Cusco early this morning for the 1 ½ hour drive to the town of Ollantaytambo, stopping along the way at the famous and bird-rich Huacarpay Lake just outside of Cusco.

This shallow, montane wetland is a haven 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 key 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 Seedeater, and Goldenbilled Saltator. Black-tailed Trainbearer, Green tailed Trainbearer, Bearded Mountaineer, Giant Hummingbird, Puna Ibis,

Wren-like Rushbird, Streak-fronted Thorn-bird, Rusty-fronted 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.

We'll have lunch in Ollantaytambo and board the historic Machu Picchu train for a fascinating and beautifully scenic ride towards the town of Aguas Calientes, in the shadow of the famous Incan ruins of Machu Picchu. Along the way the track passes through breathtaking Andean scenery and follows the frothing Urubamba River where sightings of Torrent Duck and Andean Gull are

common. White-capped Dipper are also seen here.

We'll check into our hotel and in the afternoon do some birding along the train track that leads into the town, passing through dense, transitional rain and cloud forest. Some of the more prominent species here include Fasciated Tiger Heron, Andean Motmot, Masked Fruiteater, Andean Cock of the Rock, Mitred Parakeet, Green and White Hummingbird, Peruvian Piedtail, the endemic Inca Flycatcher and the near endemic Sclater's Flycatcher, Bolivian Tyrannulet and a myriad of tanagers and others.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Casa Andina*

Cock of the Rock



Day 4: AM visit to Machu Picchu ruins, PM birding Aguas Calientes:

Today we'll depart early for a 30-minute bus ride that winds its way up through cloud-laden tropical forests to the entry point for the imposing and mysterious Incan citadel of Machu Picchu.

"For the variety of its charms and the power of its spell, I do not know another place in the world that compares to it," is how Hiram Bingham, the

American explorer who rediscovered ruins of Machu Picchu in 1911, described it. Located at 7,970 feet, overlooking the Urubamba River and surrounded by dense forests, Machu Picchu is by far one of the most incredible



Black-headed Night Monkey

archaeological spectacles extant. The historic 15th century Inca sanctuary is a place that captivates not only for its dazzling architectural beauty, but also for its important historical-cultural legacy, which has led it to be recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and admired worldwide.

Designated as such in 1983 by UNESCO, it is probably the most amazing architectural construction of the Inca Empire. This citadel is made up of temples, palaces, terraces, monuments, complexes and walls; in addition to water channels, built with large blocks of stone intricately fitted and interlocked together as surviving proof of the great wisdom of the Inca civilization.

Our morning will be spent ascending to the main ruins complex and we return to our transport down the mountain and lunch around mid-day.

The remainder of the day can be spent relaxing after this morning's adventure, or embarking on an afternoon birding walk with our guide along the Rio Urubamba downstream of the town of Aguas Calientes for species we may have missed yesterday.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Casa Andina*

Day 5: Birding from Aguas Calientes to Manu's cloud forests:

Today we'll leave our base in the shadows of Machu Picchu, taking the train back to Ollantaytambo and then heading eastward towards the immense Manu National Park, larger than the US state of Connecticut.

We'll travel paved and dirt roads across high grasslands where the open Andean landscape eventually gives way to dense cloud forests where the Wayqecha ("brother" in Quechua) Birding Lodge is set within a 1,450-acre reserve

overlooking Manu National Park.

Along the way will be opportunities for Cinereous Harrier, Variable Hawk, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle and Aplomado Falcon and we'll stop at a convenient and scenic spot for a picnic lunch. Other 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 towards Wayqecha, the forest becomes denser and houses a different range of species including mixed species flocks with ovenbirds, flycatchers and tanagers, as well as mountain toucans, jays, caciques and more. Two special targets here are the endemic Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch and Creamy-crested Spinetail and we will make special effort for these.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Wayqecha Lodge*

Day 6, Wayqecha Lodge, full day Birding in Manu Road:

Today we will start birding at Wayqecha's garden feeders and take advantage of the lodge's bird bathing area for species like Hooded Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Golden-collared Tanager, Rust & Yellow Tanager, Grass Green Tanager and other species. Afterwards, we'll follow the Manu Road towards an area known as "the tunnels" where Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan, Red-

crested Cotinga, Barred Fruiteater, Citrine Warbler, Marcapata Spinetail. Marron-chested Chat-Tyrant, Mountain Wren, and a myriad of other species present themselves in the endless forests along the way.

The afternoon we will explore Wayqecha's cloud-forested trails for Trilling Tapaculo, Red & white Antpitta, Rufous Antpitta, Stripe-faced Wood-quail and many more species.

At night we'll have the chance to explore for Band-winged Nightjar, White-throated Screech Owl, and Rufous-banded Owl.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Wayqecha Lodge*

Day 7, Wayqecha Lodge to Cock of the Rock Lodge:

As we bird our way down-slope from Wayqecha's cloud forests, we'll descend through subtropical forests full of epiphytic plant species and a variety of ecological niches home to birds such as Montane Woodcreeper, Streak-tuftedcheek, Tyrannine Woodcreeper, Glossy Black Thrush, Blue-banded Toucanet, Barred-bellied Woodpecker, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Dusky capped Flycatcher, Maroon-chested Chat-Tyrant, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Blue-backed Conebill, Plushcap, and others.

Traveling along the winding Manu Road through these pristine forests permits us to enjoy this area's spectacular avifauna that also includes Yungas Pygmy Owl, Golden-headed Quetzal, Crimson-



Hoatzin

bellied Woodpecker, Versicolored Barbet, Inca Flycatcher, Handsome Flycatcher, Unadorned Flycatcher, Bolivian Tyrannulet, Smoke-colored Pewee, Brown-capped Vireo, Gray-breasted Wood Wren, Andean and White-eared Solitaire, Pale-legged Warbler, Russet-crowned Warbler, Slaty Tanager, Blue and black Tanager, and Fawn-breasted Tanager. Among the many hummingbird species, we will encounter are; Bronzy Inca, Mountain Velvetbreast, Long-tailed Sylph, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, and Brown and Green Violetear.

As we enter lower elevation forest, the birdlife changes correspondingly, and we may encounter Solitary Eagle, Inca Jay, Crested Quetzal, Highland Motmot, and mixed flocks with Montane Foliage Gleaner, Deep Blue and Bluish Flowerpiercer, Saffron-crowned Tanager, Yellow-throated Tanager, Common and Short-billed Bush-Tanager, Yungas Manakin, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Streak-necked Flycatcher, Three-striped

eared Hemispingus, Blue-naped Chlorophonia and others. Late this afternoon we'll arrive at Cock of the Rock Lodge for more late-day birding and to explore the garden hummingbird feeders for Many-spotted Hummingbird, Violet-fronted Brilliant, Speckled Hummingbird, White-bellied Woodstar, Wire-crested Thorntail and the spectacular Booted Rackettail.

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

Day 8, Cock of the Rock lodge, birding Manu National Park:

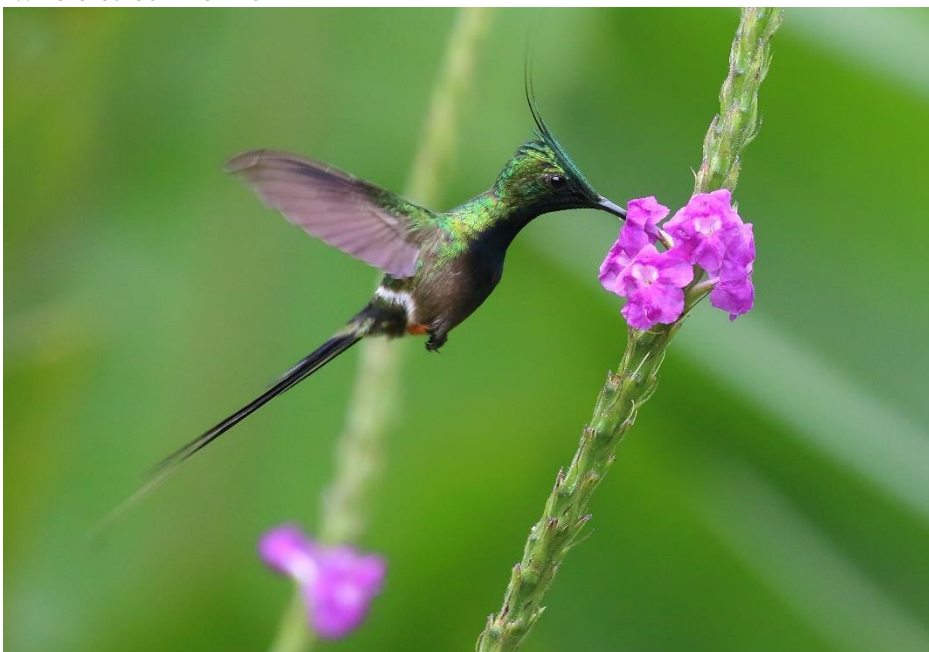
After an early morning bird walk of the lodge grounds and breakfast, we'll drive to El Mirador (Union Lookout) to look for mixed-species flocks of Blue-necked Tanagers, Paradise Tanagers, Bush Tanagers, Slaty-capped Flycatchers, Slate-throated red stars, Olive-backed and Mountain Woodcreepers, Mountain Foliage Gleaners, Blue-

banded and Chestnut-tipped toucanets, Crimson-bellied and Golden Olive woodpeckers, and Highland Motmots. El Mirador is a great place to spot raptors as well such as Black & Chestnut and Solitary Eagles.

Other species encountered at these lower elevations include; Red-billed Scythebill, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Foothill Antwren, White-backed Fire-eye, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, Stripe-chested Antwren, and Cabani's Spinetail. We'll also hope for Golden-bellied Warbler, Ornate Flycatcher, Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulet, rare Peruvian Pietail (endemic hummingbird) and then return to the lodge for lunch and time enjoying the garden feeders.

We'll set aside some time to visit a nearby known lekking site of the spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, the national bird of Peru. We'll get a chance at this unforgettable site to watch the colorful males gather and dance to attract females of their species.

Wire-crested Thorntail



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

Day 9, Cock of the Rock Lodge to Villa Carmen Lodge:

After an early breakfast we'll hop into our vehicles and continue birding along the Manu Road down to the Villa Carmen Lodge and Biological Station.

Villa Carmen is a 7,600-acre property in the so-called transitional zone (at 1640 feet elevation) where the last foothills of the Andes begin to flatten out into the lowland Amazon Basin.

Butterfly bushes around the gardens here attract numerous hummingbird species including the Rufous-crested Coquette, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Blue-tailed Emerald, Black-eared Fairy, White-bearded Hermit, Gray-breasted Sabrewing and the endemic Kopeck's Hermit.

We'll bird here in the lodge's gardens, as well as in floodplain and elevated rain forest habitats. Some of the species we will be

looking for include the Black-capped Tinamou, the Strange (and common here!) Hoatzin, Buckley's Forest Falcon, Wattled Guan, Military Macaw, Blue-headed Macaw, Pheasant Cuckoo, Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Chestnut-capped Puffbird, Fine-barred Piculet, Red-billed Scythebill, Dark-breasted Spinetail, Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner, Bamboo Antshrike, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Rusty-belted Tapaculo, and many more.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Villa Carmen Biological Station*

Day 10, Villa Carmen Lodge birding:

Today will begin early, searching for species like Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Blue-throated Piping Guan, Purplish Jay, Red-capped Cardinal, Mottle-backed Elaenia, Red-billed Tyrannulet, Johanne's' Tody-tyrant, Yellow-browed Tody-flycatcher, Black-backed Tody - Flycatcher, Band-tailed, Fiery-capped and Round-tailed Manakins, Golden-bellied (Cuzco) Warbler, Turquoise Tanager, Masked Crimson Tanager, Black-faced Dacnis, Long-tailed Tyrant.

Birding the abundant bamboo forests here along the river Piñipiñi, we'll look for White-cheeked Tody Tyrant, Manu Antbird, Bamboo Antshrike, Dusky-cheeked Foliage Gleaner, Rufous-headed Woodpecker and other birds restricted to this thicket vegetation.



Amethyst-Throated Sunangel

Today also we will visit the Mirador Pico de Hoz bird sanctuary, which is a local initiative just outside the nearby village of Pilcopata. At Mirador Pico de Hoz, we'll hope for birds like White-necked Jacobin, Gould's Jewelfront, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Blue-tailed Emerald, White-bearded Hermit also Magpie Tanager, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, plus have great possibilities to see the Scarlet-hooded Barbet. Afterwards, we'll visit another project known as the Jardin de Picaflores Inkamazonia, home to over 15 species of hummingbirds such as Rufous-crested Coquette, Koepcke's Hermit (endemic), Blue-fronted Lancebill. This site also provides great possibilities of viewing the Black-bellied Thorntail.

Night time at Villa Carmen will find us owling for species like Mottled Owl, Black-banded Owl, and Tawny-bellied Screech-owl, as well as Great, Long-tailed and Common Potoo.

Villa Carmen is gaining fame for their Tinamou feeder stations, and is one the best places to observe and photograph the Undulated, Cinereous and Black-capped Tinamou.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Villa Carmen Biological Station*

Day 11, Villa Carmen Lodge to Cusco:

This morning we'll embark on our long return to Cusco via the Manu Road, ascending through Manu National Park's rain and cloud forests, birding along the way for species we may have seen, and hoping to pick up any we may have missed...

We arrive to the city of Cusco late in the afternoon.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Casa Andina Standard Plaza*

Day 12, Depart Cusco to Lima:

The morning we'll be free to explore the city of Cusco, and will gather together for our farewell lunch before transferring to Cusco's airport for our domestic flight to Lima.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Included in this itinerary:

Accommodations from night 1 to night 11, meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 12, soft drinks, local round trip flights between Lima and Cusco, all land transport (trains & van), Machu Picchu entrance, bilingual bird guide for the entire trip, entrance fee to Cock of the Rock lek, entrance fee to Pico de Oz and Inka Amazonica, airport transfers.

Not Included:

International flights, travel insurance, international calls, COVID tests or other medical issues, laundry, tips, alcoholic beverages, souvenirs and other items of a personal nature.

Travel insurance:

Travel Insurance is recommended for this and for all travel.



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