



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Chuncho Clay Lick, Tambopata

Catherine Hamilton and Debby Kaspari, Birding & Sketching Peru

Tambopata Macaw Clay Lick post-tour extension

3 Nights/4 Days

After a jaw-dropping experience of macaw clay licks along the Rio Madre De Dios with their raucous gatherings of Red and Green Macaws and other species, many continue on to the bigger and even more unforgettable clay licks within the Tambopata National Reserve along Peru's Tambopata River.

The reserve overlaps the Departments of Madre De Dios and Puno, covering an area of 274,690 hectares (1,061 square miles) from Puerto Maldonado to the Bolivian border to the east, and Bahuaja-Sonene National Park to the south.

The largest and most diverse clay lick in the world is found here and offers an opportunity to spot not only Red and Green Macaws as we saw further west along the Madre de Dios, but also Scarlet Macaws, Blue and Yellow Macaws, Chestnut-fronted Macaws, Blue-headed Macaws, and numerous other parrot species as they gather at cliff faces along the river in numbers that are an unforgettable kaleidoscope of color and scandalous sound.

Pre-Tour Overview

Day 1: Puerto Maldonado to Chuncho Lodge

Days 2 and 3: Tambopata River and Chuncho Clay Licks

Day 4: Transfer to Puerto Maldonado (PEM) and flights to Lima.

3 Nights/4 Days Itinerary

Day 1, Transfer to Chuncho Lodge and Tambopata National Reserve:

We'll embark around mid-day on the 2 hours' drive taking us to the Rio Tambopata and our base for the next 3 nights, Chuncho Lodge, strategically located at the entrance to the 700,000-acre Tambopata National Wilderness Reserve.

Two different Macaw/Parrot Clay Licks and the river itself are havens for tapir, capybara, caimans, and jaguars. Jaguar sightings here are not as guaranteed as they are in Brazil's Pantanal, but they are often seen, and a plus is fewer boats that one experiences in the Pantanal. This and the combination of awe-inspiring clouds of Macaws and Parrots at each Clay Lick, and other mammals we will see along the way, make this a convenient and exciting base for us.

We will use the peak morning hours for our time at each Clay Lick, alternating according to activity, and in the afternoons, we'll patrol the Tambopata River for a chance at the King of the Amazon, the Jaguar.

Evening hours will be for relaxing, or taking advantage of Chuncho Lodge's trails in search of reptiles and amphibians that frequent the primary forest there.

*Meals: Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Chuncho Lodge*

Day 2 and 3 Macaw Clay Licks and river patrols – Rio Tambopata:

From our comfortable base at Chuncho Lodge, and our private boat, we have ample time to explore the Rio Tambopata both upstream and down, after our morning visits to the area's 2 biggest Clay Licks. This will enable access to these sites according to the rhythms of bird and wildlife activity so that we can get the very best viewing and sketching opportunities. We will get plenty of practice in fast-drawing parrots and other wildlife. Afternoon Class: landscape sketches, moving water, and reflections. 2 hours

Red and Green, Blue and Yellow, Scarlet and Chestnut-fronted Macaws concentrate here along with many other parrot species in astounding numbers, and having a relaxed amount of time here will give us opportunities for varying backgrounds and settings, enjoying these flamboyant birds' arrivals and departures, and of course increased chance for jaguar and other wildlife along the river. And if we have the steam after our days on the river, night hikes will be available for reptiles, amphibians, etc.

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

Day 4, Transfer to Puerto Maldonado and flights to Lima:

Our final morning in Tambopata will afford a relaxing breakfast before departure, enabling arrival to Puerto Maldonado airport for early-afternoon flights to Lima.

Meals: Breakfast

Included in this itinerary:

Accommodations from nights 1 to 3, meals from dinner on day 1 to dinner on day 4, soft drinks, all ground transport, bilingual bird guide for the entire trip, train passage, entrance fees to Machu Picchu. Instruction in sketching, reference photography, and warmup exercises for fast and loose drawings.

Not Included:

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

Travel Insurance is recommended for this and all travel. Please see <https://www.naturalselectionstours.com/travel-insurance/> for details.

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109 Eaglewood Way, Athens, Georgia 30606

Tel: +1 (504) 9563-9689

info@naturalselectionstours.com

www.naturalselectionstours.com