



**NORTHERN PERU: 15-DAYS NORTHWEST AND  
ABRA PATRICIA MOUNTAINS, WITH OPTIONAL  
SCARLET-BANDED BARBET EXTENSION**

**25 JULY – 8 OR 11 AUGUST 2018**



**Marvelous Spatuletail** (photo Ken Logan) is one of our targets on this trip.

This is a great trip that will offer an amazing set of endemic and classic Neotropical birds such as **Long-whiskered Owlet, Marvelous Spatuletail, Peruvian Plantcutter, White-winged Guan, Little Inca Finch, Hoatzin, Oilbird, Rufous-crested Coquette, White-eared Solitaire, Golden-headed Quetzal, Channel-billed Toucan, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Ash-throated Antwren, Fiery-throated Fruiteater**, and many more.

It is an excellent opportunity for those who cannot travel for three weeks or more in Northern Peru but want to see the Spatuletail as a priority. This trip will take you from the coast of northwestern Peru, where we will explore deciduous and dry habitats, to the lushness of the humid montane forest of Abra Patricia and the tropical foothills of San Martín, where we will look for foothill and Amazon birds.

A 4-day extension for the more adventurous will take us to the home of the **Scarlet-banded Barbet**, a bird that has not been seen by more than 30 people in the world, but it is accessible today as an extension to our 15-day Northern Peru tour. This extension, however, is rather strenuous. It requires a 40km drive (which can take more than four hours) in special 4x4s on an extremely bad road, and the birding terrain itself demands good physical fitness.

*Please note that the detailed itinerary below cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads or birding sites, and the discretion of the guides and other factors.*

## **Itinerary (15 days/14 nights or 18 days/17 nights)**

### **Day 1. Arrival in Lima**

You will arrive in Lima and be transferred to your hotel. No activities are included on day 1, since most international flights arrive in Lima late in the evening. If you arrive on an early flight you might be charged an extra accommodation fee for an early check-in at the hotel, or we can organize an additional birding morning near the city.

Overnight: Lima

### **Day 2. Birding Pucusana and the Ventanilla marshes, flight to Chiclayo**

We will have an easy morning visiting the fishing village of Pucusana, 60km south of the city. Here we will have the chance to see many coastal birds and Humboldt Current specialists like **Inca Tern, Belcher's Gull, Peruvian Pelican, Peruvian Booby, Guanay Cormorant, Red-legged Cormorant, Blackish Oystercatcher, Humboldt Penguin**, and the endemic **Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes**. Later we will come back to Lima and explore the Ventanilla marshes near the airport, where we will look for **Great Grebe, Andean Coot, Cinnamon Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, Peruvian Meadowlark, Many-colored Rush Tyrant, Wren-like Rushbird, Grassland Yellow Finch, Yellowish Pipit, Grey-headed Gull**, and **American Oystercatcher**.

In the afternoon we will take a flight to the city of Chiclayo and transfer to our hotel.

Overnight: Hotel Las Garzas, Chiclayo

### **Day 3. Birding the Bosques del Pómac Historical Sanctuary, transfer to campsite**

Today we will explore the Bosques del Pómac forest, which is an area of large deciduous mesquite woodland. Here we spend a nice morning looking for several range-restricted species, including the endemic **Rufous Flycatcher, Peruvian Plantcutter**, and **Tumbes Tyrant**. Other birds include **Tumbes Swallow, Grey-and-white Tyrannulet, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, White-edged Oriole, Lined**

**Woodpecker, White-tailed Jay, Fasciated Wren, Superciliated Wren, Short-tailed Field Tyrant, Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant, Pacific Hornero, Collared Antshrike, Baird's Flycatcher, Pacific Parrotlet, Amazilia Hummingbird, Short-tailed Woodstar,** and many others; in particular we hope to find the endemic **Cinereous Finch** and **Coastal Miner**.

We will continue driving towards the north, and after a drive over the Olmos hills we will reach our campsite at Quebrada Frejolillo, where we will spend the night camping safari style.

Overnight: Camping, Quebrada Frejolillo

#### **Day 4. Searching for the White-winged Guan**

We will leave the campsite before dawn to start our hike searching for the localized, endemic, and critically endangered **White-winged Guan**. This is the location where the guan was rediscovered 35 years ago, and even today these birds are still breeding in the area, but no more than 150 individuals remain in the wild. Other targets are **Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Ecuadorian Trogon, Tumbes Sparrow, Tumbes Hummingbird, Tumbes Swift, Speckle-breasted Wren, Pacific Elaenia, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, Ecuadorian Piculet, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Whooping Motmot, White-headed Brush Finch, Black-capped Sparrow, Red-masked Parakeet,** and if we are lucky **King Vulture**.

We will then transfer to Salas and spend the night in a comfortable but rustic lodge, where after a tasty dinner we will try for the **West Peruvian Screech Owl**.

Overnight: Los Faiques Lodge, Salas

#### **Day 5. Birding the Porculla Pass and Jaén**

We will have an early start driving to the Porculla Pass (the lowest Peruvian mountain pass), where we will look for **White-winged Brush Finch, Line-cheeked Spinetail, Black-cowled Saltator, Chapman's Antshrike, Black-and-white Seedeater,** the *porcullae* race of **Grey-chinned Hermit** (sometimes considered a species in its own right), **Three-banded Warbler, Elegant Crescentchest, Tumbesian Tyrannulet,** and a few others.

After some hours birding in this area we will head to the heat of Jaén, where after check-in at the hotel we will go to explore Jaén's surroundings for birds like **Ecuadorian Ground Dove** and the localized subspecies of **Necklaced Spinetail,** the Chinchipe Spinetail.

Overnight: Hotel El Bosque, Jaén

#### **Day 6. The Tamborapa area, Utcubamba Valley, and Ecoan Huembo Reserve**

An early start will take us to Tamborapa, which is located one hour north of Jaén. Here we will look for the localized **Maranon Spinetail,** but also for the endemic *chinchipense* subspecies of the **Necklaced Spinetail, Red-pileated Finch,** the endemic **Spot-throated Hummingbird, Green-backed Becard, Black-and-white Becard,** and **Sooty-crowned Flycatcher,** and if we are lucky we could find a flock of the elusive and endangered **Military Macaw**.

Our next port of call will be the Utcubamba Valley. We will be looking for the endemic **Little Inca Finch**. There are only five Inca finches in the world, and they all are endemic to Peru. This trip gives you the opportunity to see four of them.

Then we have good chances for **Blue Ground Dove, Ecuadorian Ground Dove, Fasciated Tiger Heron, Pied Lapwing, Yellow-browed Sparrow, Striated Heron, Savanna Hawk,** and **Mitred Parakeet**.

We will spend the afternoon at the Huembo Reserve, a famous hummingbird center, where we will look for the endemic **Marvelous Spatuletail** and also for **Bronzy Inca, Andean Emerald, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Sparkling Violetear, Green Violetear, Violet-fronted Brilliant, White-bellied Woodstar, Little Woodstar, White-bellied**

**Hummingbird, and Green-tailed Trainbearer.** Here we may also have good chances for **Emerald Toucanet, Speckle-breasted Wren, Chestnut-capped Brush Finch, Northern White-crowned Tapaculo, Sierran Elaenia, Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner, and Azara's Spinetail.**

Overnight: Hotel Puerto Pumas, Pomacochas

### **Days 7 – 9. Long-whiskered Owlet Lodge, Abra Patricia**

We will spend three nights at the Long-whiskered Owlet Lodge on the famous, remote Abra Patricia mountain pass. This is truly a paradise for ornithologist, since the place harbors several birds that were discovered to science only 30 years ago, including the enigmatic **Long-whiskered Owlet** – a bird which was seen for the first time in the wild only in 2008, the endemic **Ochre-fronted Antpitta, Bar-winged Wood Wren, Royal Sunangel,** and the endemic **Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher.**

Other birds here include nice flocks of tanagers with species like **Grass-green Tanager, Hooded Mountain Tanager, Lacrimose Mountain Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Red-hooded Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Saffron-crowned Tanager, Blue-and-black Tanager, Yellow-throated Tanager, and Beryl-spangled Tanager,** as well as a nice set of hummingbirds, including **Collared Inca, Emerald-bellied Puffleg, Long-tailed Sylph, and Speckled Hummingbird.**

We will explore the trails around the lodge and the road above the lodge, looking for **Variable Antshrike, Uniform Antshrike, Rufous Spinetail, Sepia-brown Wren, Green-and-black Fruiteater, White-collared Jay, White-capped Tanager, Barred Becard, White-throated Tyrannulet, Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet, Streak-necked Flycatcher,** and many others. At night we will try for **Long-whiskered Owlet, Rufous-banded Owl, White-throated Screech Owl, and Cinnamon Screech Owl.**

Overnight: Long-whiskered Owlet Lodge

### **Days 10 – 11. Transfer to Moyobamba, birding the Moyobamba area**

We shall leave the mountains and head to lower elevations in the upper tropical forest, where a nice mega flock of birds is often seen. We will focus to find this flock, which includes several species of colorful tanagers like **Golden Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Golden-eared Tanager, Vermilion Tanager, White-lined Tanager, and Magpie Tanager.** We will also look out for **Versicolored Barbet, Ash-browed Spinetail, Dark-breasted Spinetail, Montane Foliage-gleaner, Lined Antshrike, White-backed Fire-eye, Yellow-breasted Antwren, Grey-mantled Wren, Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant,** the endemic **Speckle-chested Piculet, and Andean Cock-of-the rock.**

Later we will reach Rioja in the lowlands, where we will look for the secretive **Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Gilded Barbet, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Hauxwell's Thrush, Cobalt-winged Parakeet, Chestnut-bellied Seed eater,** and more.

Finally we will reach the Moyobamba area in the tropical foothills, where we will spend the afternoon enjoying the hummingbird feeders with species like **Rufous-crested Coquette, Blue-tailed Emerald, Black-throated Mango, Long-billed Starthroat, White-necked Jacobin, Brown Violetear, Long-tailed Hermit, Black-throated Hermit, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Wire-crested Thorntail,** and with luck even **Amethyst Woodstar.**

Hiking up the mountain we might find the endangered and endemic **Ash-throated Antwren,** but also other amazing birds like **Blue-rumped Manakin, Fiery-capped Manakin, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater, Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher, Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser, White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant,** the endemic **Mishana Tyrannulet, Buff-throated Tody-Tyrant, White-lored Tyrannulet, Spot-winged Antbird,**



**Northern Chestnut-tailed Antbird, Plain-winged Antshrike, Peruvian Warbling Antbird, Channel-billed Toucan, Golden-collared Toucanet,** and many others.

At night we will have good chances for **Band-bellied Owl, Stygian Owl, Black-banded Owl, Striped Owl, Vermiculated Screech Owl, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl,** and **Tropical Screech Owl.**

Overnight: Wakanki Cabins, Moyobamba

### **Day 12. Birding Tarapoto**

We leave for Tarapoto early in the morning, and we will explore the humid forest above Tarapoto in the afternoon. Here we shall visit the new hummingbird feeder center, which includes views of the endemic **Koepcke's Hermit** and the beautiful **Gould's Jewelfront.**

We will focus on birds like **Carmiol's Tanager, Masked Tanager,** and **Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch.** If we are lucky we may find **Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, White-tipped Swift, Cliff Flycatcher, Wattled Guan, Black-eared Fairy, Rose-fronted Parakeet, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper,** and **Golden-headed Manakin.**

On the way to Tarapoto we will stop along the road to take a look at an **Oilbird** colony under a bridge, where you will have a chance to see several roosting at day time.

Overnight: Tarapoto

### **Day 13 – 14. Birding the Quebrada Upaquihoa**

We shall explore the Quebrada Upaquihoa, looking for birds like **Rusty-backed Antwren, Rufous Casiornis, Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Ashy-headed Greenlet, White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant, Inca Jay, Barred Antshrike, Northern Slaty Antshrike** (subspecies *huallagae*, sometimes regarded as a full species, Huallaga Slaty Antshrike), **Dusky-headed Parakeet, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker,** the legendary **Hoatzin, Bluish-fronted Jacamar,** and **Chestnut-headed Crane.**

Overnight: Tarapoto

### **Day 15. Flight to Lima and departure, or start of the extension**

Today you will fly from Tarapoto to Lima for your international flights home, or you will continue with us for the Scarlet-banded Barbet extension.

#### **Scarlet-banded Barbet Extension**

This bird has been discovered to science by the Louisiana State University team in the late 90s and early 2000s in the remote Cordillera Azul National Park. Due to the difficulty to travel to this park, this area has not been included in any birdwatching tour, with only very few birders adventuring to visit the site.

Recently a new location has been discovered not far from Tarapoto, and even while the access is not easy it provides a shorter trip to see this beautiful Peruvian endemic.

### **Day 15. Transfer**

Leaving early from Tarapoto, we shall spend the whole morning driving on the way to Juanjui. We will use adapted 4x4 vehicles to drive through the tough road on the way to the Scarlet-banded Barbet. Once near the site at the local village we will set up our tents for a night of camping.

Overnight: Camping

### **Day 16. Search for the Scarlet-banded Barbet**

We will take the trail that goes up to the village, where we may find **Grey-tailed Piha**, **Andean Laniisoma** (Shrike-like Cotinga), **Fiery-throated Fruiteater**, **Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater**, **Scaled Fruiteater**, **Blue-browed Tanager**, and other juicy upper-tropical specialists. We may find more than one individual of the **Scarlet-banded Barbet** (listed as vulnerable), since the bird is not particularly rare in this area.

Overnight: Camping

### Day 17. Transfer to Tarapoto, flight to Lima

We will drive back to Tarapoto and connect with our flight to Lima.

Overnight: Hotel Costa del Sol, Lima Airport

### Day 18. Departure

Connect to your international flights.

<b>Duration:</b>	15 or 18 days
<b>Date:</b>	July 25 – August 8 (or August 11 with extension) 2018
<b>Group size:</b>	4 – 6
<b>Start:</b>	Lima
<b>End:</b>	Lima

<b>Price main tour:</b>	US\$5309 per person sharing for 4 - 8 participants US\$7725 per person sharing for 2 - 3 participants
<b>Price extension:</b>	US\$1297 per person sharing for 4 - 8 participants US\$2169 per person sharing for 2 - 3 participants
<b>Single supplement main tour:</b>	US\$545
<b>Single supplement extension:</b>	US\$133

### Price includes:

#### Domestic flights

All accommodation (hotels and lodges)

Private tour leader

Land transportation

All meals (except where indicated)

Bottled water

All transfers

Admission fees

Camping equipment and facilities

### Price excludes:

Dinner the first and last nights in Lima

Hotel in Lima on day 15 if needed

Personal expenses such as phone calls, internet access, laundry service, etc.

Beverages and alcoholic drinks

Gratuities

City tours, museum fees, or any other extra activity not described in the itinerary

Any birding activity or tour if you arrive in the morning on the first day

### Extension includes:

Land transportation

Special 4x4 vehicles

Camping equipment  
All meals and bottled water  
Admission fees  
Private guide

**Physical Requirements:**

We will spend 15 days traveling across four Peruvian provinces (states). Please note that with the exception of seven days we will drive from one location to another constantly.

Our tour does not demand much hiking but a good bit of walking, climbing, and standing on steep terrain, as in the Long-whiskered Owllet Lodge and in the humid forest above Moyobamba.

The maximum altitude we will reach on this tour will be 7 540 feet (2 300 meters) above sea level).

Most of the birding is along roads, highways, and open grasslands not far from the vehicle, but we will explore some flat and some steep forest trails at some locations.

The earliest start on this tour is having breakfast at 4:30am one morning and meeting at the lodge's grounds at 5:00am to look for some owls before they return to their day roosts. In most cases we will have breakfast at 5:30am and start birding by 6:00am. We ask participants to be prepared for early starts.

**Tour Leader:**

Our tours are run in English, so all our guides speak English in addition to another language, usually the local language of the country you are traveling in. They will travel with you all the time from the moment the tour starts until it ends. Your guides are experts on the local birds and will make all possible efforts to show you as many birds as you desire. They can accommodate hardcore birders as well as more easy-going participants; it depends on your style of birding. They are experts on the country's facts such as its history, culture, social life, natural history, and ground logistics. They are enthusiastic and charismatic and love what they are doing. They will assist you in all your needs and would always be happy to show you as many birds as possible.

**Accommodation:**

Our accommodations are good and comfortable, at several locations including business hotels and some 3-star hotels, and also some rustic but comfortable lodges in the countryside and in the forest reserves.

You will have en suite bathrooms with hot showers. Normally we accommodate couples in twin rooms because the beds in double rooms might not be big enough for some people. King- and queen-sized beds are not available in most of the hotels, and if they are they will involve extra charges. Please, if you request a king- or queen-sized bed let us know in advance so we can check for availability.

**Food:**

We have an excellent reputation to provide the best possible food for our clients. We will have early breakfasts at some lodges, but other breakfasts will be in the field before birding in order to maximize birding time. We will have some lunches at restaurants and others picnic-style in the field. All dinners are hot meals in hotels and restaurants; they can be set menus or plates a la carte; this depends on each place and the traveling routine.