



**SOUTH PERU: BIRDING THE INCA EMPIRE,
MOUNTAINS AND LOWLAND RAINFORESTS**

1 - 16 JULY 2018



Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan (photo Alan van Norman) may be seen on this trip.

This is a classic tour of southern Peru, in which we sample a huge range of different habitats from coastal desert to high altitude desert to Andean cloudforest and steaming Amazonian lowlands – the richest biome on the planet for birds. It is also a tour in which we see, incidentally to the birding, one of the world's greatest archaeological wonders, Machu Picchu, along with old Spanish architecture.

Please note that we include local flights in the tour price (US\$540 on this tour), which other companies do not, and our group sizes are very small. Yet our prices are still competitive since our expert tour leader Eduardo Ormaeche is based in Peru.

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, the discretion of the guides and other factors

Itinerary (16 days/15 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Lima

You will arrive at Jorge Chávez International Airport in Lima and will 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: Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, Lima International Airport.

Day 2. Flight to Puerto Maldonado and birding the town

After a 2.5-hours' flight we will reach the Amazon town of Puerto Maldonado. Once in Puerto Maldonado, we will go to check in at the hotel and after lunch explore the town's surroundings for our first set of birds.

The birding around Puerto Maldonado is quite good early in the morning and then in the afternoon. The type of habitat is agricultural pastures with tropical secondary growth, which is quite good for finding some specialists like the localized **White-throated Jacamar**. A population of **Brazilian Teal** has established itself around town, and we should have close-up views of this bird. Other birds include **Rusty-margined Flycatcher**, **Spotted Tody-Flycatcher**, **Cobalt-winged Parakeet**, **Blue-headed Parrot**, **Bare-necked Fruitcrow**, **Green Ibis**, **Roadside Hawk**, **Red-breasted Blackbird**, **White-tailed Kite**, **Chestnut-bellied Seedeater**, **Purus Jacamar**, **Great Antshrike**, **Barred Antshrike**, and others.

After dinner we can try for **Tropical Screech Owl** and **Striped Owl** around town.

Overnight: Hotel Cabaña Quinta, Puerto Maldonado

Days 3 – 6. Birding the Amazon Rainforest

We will spend the next four days exploring the Refugio Amazonas Lodge located along the Tambopata River, a tributary of the Amazon. This lodge can only be reached by boat from Puerto Maldonado.

Birds on the boat ride include the mythical **Hoatzin**, **Anhinga**, **Neotropic Cormorant**, **Sungrebe**, **Sunbittern**, **Agami Heron**, **Ringed, Amazon, Green, Green-and-rufous**, and **American Pygmy Kingfishers**, **Rufescent Tiger Heron**, **Red-bellied Macaw**, **Blue-and-yellow Macaw**, **Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet**, and **White-throated Toucan**, among others.

The lodge forest provides us not only with skulking birds like **Ornate Antwren**, **Ihering's Antwren**, **Bamboo Antshrike**, **Plain-winged Antshrike**, **Bluish-slate Antshrike**, **Pygmy Antwren**, **Amazonian Streaked Antwren**, **Silvered Antbird**, **Rufous-capped Antthrush**, **Black-faced Antthrush**, and **Thrush-like Antpitta**, but also with canopy birds like **Pavonine Quetzal**, **Blue-throated Piping Guan**, **Spix's Guan**, **Curl-crested Araçari**, **Chestnut-eared Araçari**, **Striolated Puffbird**, **White-necked Puffbird**, **Collared Trogon**, and **Blue-crowned Trogon**.

Other birds include **Black-capped Tinamou**, **Great Tinamou**, **Bluish-fronted Jacamar**, **Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper**, **Buff-throated Woodcreeper**, **Band-tailed Manakin**, **Ringed Woodpecker**, **Chestnut Woodpecker**, **Lemon-throated Barbet**, **Pale-winged Trumpeter**, **King Vulture**, and even the elusive **Harpy Eagle** has been recorded here. Venezuelan red howler monkeys are common around the lodge.

At night we can try for **Tawny-bellied Screech Owl**, **Spectacled Owl**, **Amazonian Pygmy Owl**, and **Common** and **Great Potoos**.

Overnight: Refugio Amazonas Lodge

Day 7. Flight to Cusco, birding Huacarpay Lake, transfer to Ollantaytambo

Today we will fly to the city of Cusco in the Peruvian Andes. The city of Cusco is well known to be the capital of the ancient Inca Empire and one of the most important archeological destinations in the world. Cusco is a busy tourist destination with good facilities. However, we will continue our adventure elsewhere, skipping town on our first time in Cusco.

We will drive about 30 minutes from town to the Huacarpay Lake. Here we will look for several species of Andean waterfowl like **Yellow-billed Teal**, **Yellow-billed Pintail**, **Puna Teal**, **Cinnamon Teal**, **Ruddy Duck**, and also **Plumbeous Rail**, **Andean Coot**, **Yellow-winged Blackbird**, **Many-colored Rush Tyrant**, **Streak-fronted Thornbird**, **Wren-like Rushbird**, **Andean Gull**, **Andean Lapwing**, **Andean Flicker**, and **Cinereous Harrier**, among others. We will also look for **Giant Hummingbird**, the largest hummer in the world, as well as for two Peruvian endemics, **Bearded Mountaineer** and **Rusty-fronted Canastero**.

Later we continue our trip to Ollantaytambo, a small Andean town in the Urubamba Valley, the "sacred valley of the Incas".

Overnight: Hotel Pakaritampu, Ollantaytambo

Day 8. Birding Machu Picchu

Ollantaytambo is a very busy small tourist town. From here we will take a train for a 1.5-hour journey to the village of Aguas Calientes, the entry point to the famous Machu Picchu ruins. After our arrival we will visit this renowned Inca site to look for the endemic **Inca Wren** and also **Pale-legged Warbler**.

After lunch we will walk along the river, looking for **Andean Motmot**, **Collared Inca**, **Slate-throated Whitestart**, **Green Hermit**, **Plum-crowned Parrot**, **Torrent Duck**, **Torrent Tyrannulet**, **Black Phoebe**, **Silver-backed Tanager**, and **Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet**.

Overnight: Hotel Presidente, Aguas Calientes

Day 9. Birding the Urubamba River, return to Cusco

We will spend a full morning along the Urubamba River, looking for two endemics, **Masked Fruiteater** and **Green-and-white Hummingbird**. We hope to find **Sclater's Tyrannulet**, **Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet**, **Ashy-headed Tyrannulet**, **Blue-necked Tanager**, **Saffron-crowned Tanager**, **Ocellated Piculet**, **Slaty Tanager**, **Fawn-breasted Tanager**,

Barred Becard, Azara's Spinetail, Chestnut-capped Brush Finch, Capped Conebill, Mitred Parakeet, Grey-breasted Wood Wren, and more.

After lunch we will take the train back to Ollantaytambo and then drive back to Cusco.

Overnight: Hotel Munay Wasi, Cusco

Day 10. Birding the Manu Road

Today we will explore the famous road that connects the Andes of Cusco with the Amazon rainforest, the Manu Road. The Manu Road passes through different types of habitat like dry high Andean mountains, elfin forest, cloudforest and upper tropical humid hill forest.

We will drive up the mountains to 12 500 feet (3 800 meters), where we will have a chance to see **Slender-billed Miner, Mountain Caracara, Andean Flicker, Brown-bellied Swallow, Puna Thistletail, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant**, the Peruvian endemics **Creamy-crested Spinetail** and **Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch, D'Orbigny's Chat-Tyrant, White-throated Tyrannulet, Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, White-banded Tyrannulet**, and much more.

Overnight: Wayqecha Biological Station near Manú National Park

Day 11. Birding the Manú Cloudforest

We will explore the area around our base and will then slowly drive through the magical cloudforest to our next destination, the Cock of the rock Lodge.

We are looking for the Peruvian endemics **Red-and-white Antpitta** and **Marcapata Spinetail**, other birds include **Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan, Masked Trogon, Golden-collared Tanager, Grass-green Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Blue-and-black Tanager, Southern Mountain Cacique, Red-crested Cotinga, Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Trilling Tapaculo, Barred Fruiteater, Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager, Moustached Flowerpiercer, Masked Flowerpiercer, White-collared Jay, Hooded Mountain Tanager, Montane Woodcreeper, Yungas Pygmy Owl**, and, if we are lucky, **Swallow-tailed Nightjar** and **Lyre-tailed Nightjar** at dusk.

Overnight: Cock of the Rock Lodge, Manú Cloudforest

Day 12 – 14. Birding around Cock of the Rock Lodge

We have three full days to explore the area around Cock of the Rock, looking for an amazing flock of tanagers such as **Bay-headed Tanager, Golden Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Orange-eared Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Straw-backed Tanager, Green-and-gold Tanager, Golden-eared Tanager, Beryl-spangled Tanager**, and also many other birds like **Blue Dacnis, Black-faced Dacnis, Versicolored Barbet, Montane Foliage-gleaner, Peruvian Warbling Antbird, Stripe-chested Antwren, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, White-backed Fire-eye, Yungas Manakin, Olive-backed Woodcreeper, Plumbeous Pigeon, Lemon-bellied Flyrobin, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, Magpie Tanager, Long-tailed Tyrant, Blue-banded Toucanet, White-eared Solitaire, Andean Cock-of-the-rock**, and much more.

At night we may find **Rufescent Screech Owl, Black-banded Owl, and Band-bellied Owl**.

Then we have another day to explore the lowest parts of the road, where we can find **Bamboo Antshrike, Red-billed Scythebill, Dot-winged Antwren, White-lined Antbird, Ornate Antwren, Scaly-naped Amazon, Buff-rumped Warbler, White-winged Tanager**, the Peruvian endemic **Black-backed Tody-Flycatcher**, and many more. Hummingbird feeders provide great views of **Violet-fronted Brilliant, Wire-crested Thorntail, Booted Racket-tail, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Speckled Hummingbird, Sparkling Violetear, and Many-spotted Hummingbird**.

Overnight: Cock of the Rock Lodge, Manú Cloudforest

Day 15. Transfer to Cusco

On our final day on the Manu Road we will drive from Cock of the Rock Lodge back to Cusco, making selective stops along the road while looking for species we may have missed on previous days.

Overnight: Hotel Munay Wasi, Cusco

Days 16. Flight to Lima and departure

You will fly to Lima city and connect to your international flights.

This 'Birding Tour Peru' adventure can be combined with its short extension, **Birding the Lima Area – 4-day extension to the South Peru Birding Tour 2018** and/or with our **Northern Peru: 26 days Birding the Endemic-rich North and Cordillera Blanca 2017** tour (5 – 30 June 2017) for a Birding Tour Peru mega tour.

Duration: 16 days
Limit (Group Size): 2 – 8
Date Start: July 01, 2018
Date End: July 16, 2018
Tour Start: Lima
Tour End: Lima

Price: US\$7300 per person sharing for 4 - 8 participants,
US\$7713 per person sharing for 3 participants,
US\$9328 per person sharing for 2 participants

Single Supplement: US\$1077

Price includes:

All accommodation (hotel and lodges)
Private bilingual tour leader
Domestic airfares
Private transportation (includes train tickets and bus tickets for Machu Picchu)
All meals (except where indicated)
Admission fees for Machu Picchu ruins

Price excludes:

International airfares
Dinner in Lima the first night on day 1 and lunch and dinner on day 16
Personal expenses such as phone calls, internet access, laundry, souvenirs, etc.
Tips
Any activity, tour, excursion, visit, or city tour to a place which is not described above
Any service on day 16 after you arrive at Lima airport.
Any birding activity in Lima on the first day in case you arrive in the morning or early afternoon