



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

1 - 16 JULY 2021



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.

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 optional 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-hour flight we will reach the Amazon town of Puerto Maldonado. Once in Puerto Maldonado we will 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 specialties 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 mystical **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 prehistoric-looking **Hoatzin** occurs along the Tambopata River.*

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**, **Curly-crested Aracari**, **Chestnut-eared Aracari**, **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**, and **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**, and **Ruddy Duck**, and also for **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



*We'll look for the distinctive local subspecies of **Collared Inca** in the Machu Picchu area.*

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



Blue-necked Tanager can be found along the Urubamba River.

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 Manu National Park

Day 11. Birding the Manu 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**, and 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, Manu Cloudforest

Days 12 - 14. Birding around Cock of the Rock Lodge

We have three full days to explore the area around Cock of the Rock Lodge, 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.



The highly sought-after Andean Cock-of-the-rock

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**, **Rufous-booted Racket-tail**, **Fork-tailed Woodnymph**, **Speckled Hummingbird**, **Sparkling Violetear**, and **Many-spotted Hummingbird**.

Overnight: Cock of the Rock Lodge, Manu 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.

Please note that the itinerary 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

Duration: 16 days

Limit (Group Size): 2 – 8

Date: July 1 – 16, 2021

Start: Lima

End: Lima

Price: US\$8,914 per person sharing for 4 - 8 participants plus US\$ 540 for domestic flights, which we will book for you (2021)
 US\$9,449 per person sharing for 3 participants plus US\$ 540 for domestic flights, which we will book for you (2021)
 US\$11,540 per person sharing for 2 participants plus US\$ 540 for domestic flights, which we will book for you (2021)

Single Supplement: US\$1,728 (2021)

Price includes:

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

Price excludes:

All flights
 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