

Bird watching Program 23 days & 22 nights

DAY 01: Cusco – Huacarpay Lake – San Pedro

We depart from Cusco around 04:30 a.m. arriving at Lake Huarcarpay 30 minutes later. Here we take time and spend the entire day observing highland lake and marsh birds. The best is to follow the road that goes around the lake and start seeing most of the waterfowl typical of Andean wetlands including grebes, ducks, gallinules and coots. The wet grasslands in front of the marsh are good for shorebirds and Andean Negrito. We can look for occasional migrants such as the Hudsonian Godwit (rare) and Baird's Sandpiper. The many- coloured Rush- Tyrant and two endemic, the Rusty-fronted Canastero that can be seen around the ruins on the hillside above the Lake and a spectacular hummingbird, the Bearded Mountaineer. Overnight at the Lodge.

Day 02: Huacarpay – Pumachaca Ranch

After a brief morning walk at the lake, we continue to the interesting tombs of Ninamarca, commonly known as "Chullpas". We continue to Paucartambo, a picturesque Spanish colonial town, and then to Pumachaca Ranch through a beautiful narrow road and semi-humid montane scrub where a Taczanowski's Tinamou has been reported here. Common to see around Pumachaca are: White-ruffed Sunbeam, Creamy-crested Spintail, Cinereous Conebill, Torrent Duck. Relax this night in the Chimney and spend the night at the comfortable accommodations.

Day 03: Pumachaca - Acjanacu

After early wakeup and walk around the interesting trails, we continue up to Acjanacu pass with its elfin forest marks the beginning of the Cultural Zone of Manu Biosphere Reserve. Birders stay the night here because it is possible to see White-browed chat-tyrant, the Chestnut-breasted mountain-finch, Puna Thistle tail, Paramo Pipit, Diademed Tapaculo, Puna Tapaculo, Masked flowerpiercer, Golden-colored Tanager, Drab hemispingus and small mixed flocks with among others. Overnight camping.

Day 04: Acjanacu pass – Pillahuata

This day we wake up even more early than we used to and have the chance to watch the “seven sunrise”, an impressive optical illusion that occurs during dry season and then walk down to Pillahuata site located in upper montane humid forest also known as the Coshñipata Valley where the bird species are quite different from Acjanacu. There are basic camping areas that birders use. To stay the night here will be very rewarding as it’s possible to see many different species of birds such as the Hooded Tinamou, Stripe-faced Wood-Quail, Golden plumed parakeet, Yungas Pygmy-Owl, Gould’s Inca, Blue-banded Toucanet, Crimson –mantled Woodpecker, Sierran Elaenia, White-collared Jay, Mountain Cacique, etc....Overnight camping.

Day 05: Pillahuata – San Pedro

Again, early in the morning after breakfast, it is the best simply to bird your way slowly along the road. There will be plenty of activity, specially at dawn, with several specialities to look for. After the first tunnel, we stop at the mixed bamboo patch on the left and try for Rusty-breasted Antpitta, and the endemic Red-and White Antpitta, which is often quite vocal in the morning. At the second tunnel the vegetation becomes more luxuriant, look for the Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager, Tawny-rumped tyrannulet, Band-tailed Fruiteater and the barred Fruiteater in the mixed flocks, as well as Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan.

One bird to look out for in mixed flocks is the vividly-colored Ochraceous-breasted Flycatcher and the same thing for the spectacular Greater Scythebill. Overnight in Orquideas de San Pedro Lodge.

Day 06: San Pedro

Here, a thick cloak of clouds provides perpetual humidity and makes an ideal habitat for epiphytic plants such as bromeliads. This varied and fascinating world is home of the Cock of the Rock, Spectacled Bear, Orchids, Tree Ferns (one of the oldest living plants), mosses and lichens. This cloud forest exists between 2,000 and 3,500 m.a.s.l., and at least 50% of the plant species found here are endemic to this region. Today we wake up very early to observe the Cock of the Rock (*Rupicola peruviana*), Peru’s national bird from a platform. The male birds are a vibrant reddish orange, and as many as several dozen come together for an exhibition of a mating ritual dance in a place called Lek. The males display their crest, showing off and posturing for the females. The females, fewer in number, watch to select the most suitable males. After breakfast spend the entire day birding walking on the road.

Day 07: San Pedro

The Manu road provides one of the best opportunities in Peru to bird upper tropical forest. Many of the most interesting and sought-after birds in the Manu road occur in this zone from about 900 – 1,700m.a.s.l. We have to concentrate on the good lower montane forest along the road, looking for mixed flocks of brilliant-spotted Hummingbirds. The Peruvian Piedtail is common to see.

This day we spend all day birding and we hope to see Andean and White-eared solitaires, the Green Jay, the Blue-banded Toucanet, the Yungas Manakin, the astonishing Versicolored Barbet and a range of tanager species. Overnight at Orquídeas de San Pedro Lodge.

Day 08: San Pedro

As our lodge is very close to the Cock-of-the-rock Lek, we are able to visit it again and try to spot one of the females hidden in the forest. Free day to walk and bird along the road.

Day 09: San Pedro – Erika Lodge

As we continue our journey to lowlands, we stop in Patria where the cattle pastures and secondary forest are good for seedeaters and other open habitat species of birds as the Orange-breasted Falcon, Military macaw, green-fronted lancebill, golden-collared honeycreeper and others.

Atalaya overlooks is outstanding for viewing macaws. From Atalaya port, we board our covered, motorized canoe and head down the Alto Madre de Dios River until Erika Lodge, where we will have the opportunity to walk through the interesting trails. Overnight at the lodge.

Day 10 Erika lodge

This lodge is situated in the transition zone of the Andean foothills and the lowland rainforest. It has many more species of hummingbirds than is normally present in a rainforest lodge. Among 30 species of hummingbirds on their list is the endemic Rufous-webbed Brilliant. Here we find the Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo, the gray-necked woodrail, Blackish rail and Rufous-sided cracked. Close to a small lake there are Purple Gallinules, Hoatzins, Lesser kiskadees and occasionally Pygmy Kingfishers and sun grebes. After lunch we follow an interesting trail, going up to the ridge at 1000 m.a.s.l. where we encounter mixed bird flocks. This higher area is also

home of the emerald toucanet, ornate flycatcher, orange fronted plush crown and the uncommon tawny-faced gnat wren, umbrella bird among others.

Day 11: Erika lodge

This day we will get up very early to board our boat, and after five minutes, we will arrive to a Parrot Lick "Collpa", which is a wall of clay in the riverbanks, where many species of parrots such as the blue headed parrot, white-eyed parakeet, feed for mineral and salt supplements to their diet of seeds and fruits. After this we spend the day, as we bird the trails, remember that this site gets birds from the lowlands like the Amazonian Streaked-Antwren, as well as some species typical of high elevations.

Day 12: Erika - Yanayacu

Early morning we board our boat and continue downstream the Alto Madre de Dios River and observe rives species of bird life such as the Rosette Spoonbill, Egrets, etc. toward Yanayacu Reserve strategically placed at the last Andean foothills has a great diversity of habitats. The rarely seen Peruvian Recurvebill and Dusky-tailed Flatbill are seasonal and August and September seems to be a good time to see them. Overnight at the lodge.

Day 13: Yanayacu - Blanquillo

Early morning after breakfast we board our canoe for the four-hour trip down the Alto Madre de Dios River to Boca Manu's town, during this boat ride we will have the chance to see Violaceous Jays, the beautiful Capped heron, Roseate spoonbill, Jabirú, Vultures, belted kingfisher, osprey, black hawk, black caracara, chestnut-eared toucan, from this small town we descend the Madre de Dios river for three hours to the private reserve of Blanquillo. Overnight at the lodge.

Día 14: Blanquillo

After a very early wake up, we board a camouflaged catamaran and go down the river to the "Collpa" macaw lick. We quietly observe the various parrots feeding on the clay for mineral and salt supplements to their diet of seeds and fruits. The brightly colored macaws usually wait patiently in the surrounding trees until the smaller parrot species have left the area. Slowly, the macaws come down to the clay wall to feed. We need a lot of patience and silence on the catamaran so as not to disturb them as they eat the clay. During the afternoon we start walking on the interesting trails of the Lodge where we can see Jacamars, many different species of

hummingbirds, the Crimson- crested Woodpecker, tanager such as the paradise, the screaming Piha and many others. Overnight at the Lodge.

Day 15: Blanquillo

This day we will use a strategically located observation tower rises 46 meters above Camungo Lake and the jungle floor, giving us more chances to observe wildlife including the Giant Otter and many different species of birds that are common to this altitude of the canopy such as macaws, toucans, woodcreepers, woodpeckers can be observed flying near this platform. Enjoy the spectacular view with large canopies from a tall Kapok tree with a 360 degree view

A night birding can be productive with Great Potoo, Common Potoo and even Long-tailed Potoo. Overnight at the Lodge.

Day 16: Blanquillo – Boca Manu

This morning we have a second chance to visit the macaw clay lick before packing our luggage and setting off again on our motorized boat toward Boca Manu Lodge. We walk on the trail system since arrival and try to see Rufous-Vented Ground-Cuckoo, Least Grebe, manakins, etc.

Day 17: Boca Manu – Salvador Lake

Very early and after registering in the official tourist logbook at Limonal, the Park Rangers Headquarters and eating an early breakfast, we follow the Manu River until we arrive Salvador Lake, our base safari campsite (screened double rooms, dining room, bathrooms, radio communication is available). This canoe ride gives us the opportunity to observe the immensity of the rainforest and the diversity of birdlife, reptiles and mammals. You will often see animals sunning themselves on beaches, or foraging for food in the trees lining the riverbanks. We arrive early in the afternoon and have lunch before setting off on a jungle trail. Our time is spent looking for wildlife inside the rainforest and on Salvador Oxbow Lake, until the sun goes down and we return to camp. We explore Salvador Lake by paddling quietly along on a catamaran, giving us the opportunity to observe unique species of birds, monkeys, caimans and with luck the Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*). This endangered species can be seen swimming, fishing, eating and playing.

Day 18: Salvador Lake

We rise early in the morning, as the forest is awakened by the Red Howler monkey (*Aloatta seniculus*) declaring its territory. A morning walk before breakfast is a great way to catch wildlife in the pursuit of food, as the temperature is very pleasant at this time of day.

The 20 minutes walk from the river to the lake takes you through a nice terra firme forest. The epigone trail around the lake has a good selection of bird species where we should be looking for the range-restricted black-faced Cotinga. Overnight in the safari campsite.

Day 19: Salvador – Otorongo Lakes

Very early we visit Salvador Lake because birding from the catamaran while been paddled around the lake makes for a very pleasant and memorable birding experience with all of the lake specialities possible: Agami heron, Slender-billed Kite, Pale-eyed Blackbird, Long-crested Pygmy tyrant, Hawk-Eagle, Hairy-crested Ant bird, purple-throated Cotinga and many others. After relaxing we cross the river to walk an 8-km trail to another oxbow lake called Otorongo. A strategically located observation tower rises 15 meters above the lake and the jungle floor, giving us more chances to observe wildlife including the Giant Otter. Overnight in the safari campsite.

Day 20: Salvador – Pakitza - Salvador

Within the Park, Pakitza claims some of the most extensive bamboo patches and therefore holds an almost complete set of bamboo specialist, Pakitza is a guard post at the entrance of the restricted area of the park. It is possible to see species of birds such as the Painted parakeet, Black-Capped Parakeet Mottled Owl, Lined Forest Falcon, Ihering's Antwren, Manu Antbird, and many others. Beck to Salvador before the sunset.

Late in the afternoon we will use the catamaran and with the help of flashlights we can observe the black caimans rise from the depths of the lake and begin their search for prey. Return to the campsite.

Day 21: Salvador – Boca

Once again we wake up early, enjoy a brief morning walk and eat breakfast, then pack up camp and go down stream the interesting Manu River. We arrive at Boca Manu midday, this village is situated a short distance from the confluence of the Manu and Alto Madre de Dios rivers. Hikes around the trail system of Boca Lodge. Overnight at the Lodge.

Day 22: Boca Manu

This day we visit an island that belongs to a native family and walk around the lake and observe all the bird life. We spend the entire day searching for birds species around the lodge. Overnight at Boca Lodge.

Day 23: Boca - Cusco

After enjoying our last brief morning walk in the Amazon Jungle, we board our canoe to the airstrip at Boca Manu. At this point, we take the plane back to Cusco. This flight from Boca Manu to Cusco offers spectacular views of the surrounding jungle and the area's meandering rivers. Transfer to the hotel in Cusco. END OF OUR SERVICES.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

Specialized and bilingual guide, camping equipment (two person tents, sleeping bag and mattress), 01 night in Huarcarpay Lodge, 01 night in Pumachaca Ranch, 01 night in Pillahuata Campsite, 04 night in Orquídeas de San Pedro Lodge, 03 nights in Erika Lodge, 01 night in Yanayacu Lodge, 03 nights in Blanquillo Lodge, 03 nights in Boca Manu Lodge, 04 nights in Salvador Safari Campsite, meals (vegetarian option is available), first aid kit including anti-ophidian shots, all land and river transportation, air charters (optional- maximum 10 kg. of luggage per person), paperwork and payment for Park Permits, radio communication equipment in all lodges and campsites, as an additional service we offer safety box for values and storage for luggage in Cusco's main office.

THINGS YOU SHOULD BRING ALONG ON YOUR TRIP TO MANU

1. Binoculars
2. Warm clothing (in case of a cold front), long sleeve shirts and long pants (cotton)
100% waterproof rain gear (long poncho or rain wear)
3. Insect repellent (at least 50% Deet), sunscreen lotion
4. One pair of lightweight ankle height boots and sandals
5. Flashlight, enough batteries (alkaline) and bulbs
6. Wide brim hat and sun glasses for sunny days
7. Towel, swimming suit personal medicines and/or supplies (liquid for contact lenses for example)
8. A day pack and one back pack or duffel bag of luggage per person
9. Camera and films (ASA 200 and 400 for the inner forest)
10. One bottle of water for the first day, plastic bags