

Birdwatching 5 Days & 4 Nights

Day 01: Cusco – Huacarpay - Pumachaca Ranch

We depart from Cusco around 04:30 a.m. arriving at Lake Huacarpay 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 Mountainer. 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 though 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-rufted Sunbeam, Creamy-crested Spintail, Cinereous Conebill, Torrent Duck. Relax this night in the Chimney and spend the night at the comfortable accommodations.

Day 02: Pumachaca - Acjanacu

After early wake up 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 Thistletail, Paramo Pipit, Diademed Tapaculo, Puna Tapaculo, Masked flowerpiercer, Golden-colored Tanager, Drab hemispingus and small mixed flocks with among others. Overnight camping.

Day 03: Acjanacu pass – Pillahuata - San Pedro

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, Yuungas Pygmy-Owl, Gould's Inca, Blue-banded Toucanet, Crimson – mantled Woodpecker, Sierran Elaenia, White-collared Jay, Mountain Cacique. As the best simply to bird your way slowly along the road, there will be plenty of activity, 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 Tucan. 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 04: 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 05: San Pedro -Cusco

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 Humingbirds. The Peruvian Piedtail is common to see. We spend all morning 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 arrange of tanager species. Bus back to 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