



PERU - A LIFE LIST ADVENTURE

Birding the Highlands, Jungles, Ruins, and Desert Coasts

November 5-18, 2017

Peru is home to indigenous villages and colonial cities, as well as breathtaking landscapes and more than 1,800 bird species. This fourteen-day exploration encompasses ancient civilizations, culture and birding with visits to Machu Picchu, Cusco, and many more! Prepare to delight in the country's natural beauty and diverse ecosystems while discovering its rich and layered cultural history.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Watch for some of Peru's endemic species, like the Cusco Brush-Finch and Inca Wren, at Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas."
- Embark on a picturesque train ride through the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the heartland of the Inca Empire.
- Discover the fascinating architecture, markets, and plazas of colonial cities like Lima and Cusco.
- See traditional and modern techniques of spinning and weaving textiles in the town of Chincheros.
- Explore the Peruvian Amazon through expert-led forest walks, birding, and boat excursions.

ITINERARY

NOVEMBER 5 - LIMA

Upon arrival at the Lima International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. *Overnight at Casa Andina.*

NOVEMBER 6 - LIMA

Following breakfast and orientation, take a field trip to Lomas de Lachay National Reserve, an oasis of mist in the Peruvian desert. Receive a lecture on 'the desert birds among the mist.' The reserve covers an area of 5,070 hectares (12,528 acres) in the foothills of the Huaral Province, and its unique geography and resulting climate have created a special ecosystem where dwarf forests and small birds and mammals thrive. Lachay boasts 55 species of birds from 15 families including residents and migrants. Species often spotted in the area include the Vermilion Flycatcher, Cactus Canastero, Andean Tinamou, and Burrowing Owl, as well as a variety of hummingbirds. This afternoon return to the hotel for a lecture overviewing the birds of Peru before dinner. *Overnight at Casa Andina. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 7 - TAMBOPATA

After breakfast transfer to the airport for a flight to Puerto Maldonado. Upon arrival, transfer to the Infierno River Port to board your boat for a 45 minute trip to the lodge, stopping along the way to search for Pied Lapwing, Collared Plover, King Vulture, Bat Falcon, Olive and Russet-backed Oropendola, Ringed Kingfisher, and Amazon Kingfisher. The lodge is a short walk from the river's edge and is located within the territory of the Infierno Community, adjacent to the Tambopata National Reserve. A welcome orientation and dinner will be provided at the lodge. *Overnight at Posada Amazonas. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 8 - TAMBOPATA

Early this morning take a 30 minute walk to the 98 ft canopy tower for bird observation. This area is the best chance to see hawk eagles, and on a lucky day perhaps even a Harpy Eagle. The flocks here are mostly composed of tanagers (Paradise Tanager, Green-and-gold Tanager, Flame-crested Tanager, Turquoise Tanager, Opal-rumped Tanager, and others) as well as Cream-colored Woodpecker, Gilded Barbet, Plum-throated Cotinga, and Striolated Puffbird. Macaws and toucans are often seen flying against the horizon, including Chestnut-eared, Lettered, Emerald,

Curl-crested, and Brown-mandibled Aracari. Return to the lodge for breakfast followed by a 15 minute boat ride to the bamboo patches around Tres Chimbadas Lake to look for endemics. The afternoon's birding along the Shahue Trail will be in search of Fiery-capped Manakin, Round-tailed Manakin, Pale-rumped Trumpeteer, and Pavonine Quetzal. *Overnight at Posada Amazonas. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 9 - TAMBOPATA

After breakfast, enjoy a 30 minute boat ride followed by a walk to an oxbow lake. Search the palm swamp and grassland vegetation for species such as the Pale-vented Pigeon, Azure Gallinule, Rufescent Tiger Heron, Gray-breasted Crake, and Rufous-sided Crake. Lunch at the lodge will be followed by afternoon birding along the Shije'eje Trail. This trail offers opportunities to spot Variegated Tinamou, Curl-crested Aracari, and mixed species flock. A small clay lick attracts Dusky-headed and Black-capped Parakeet and Cobalt-winged Parrotlet. *Overnight at Posada Amazonas. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 10 - YUCAY

After breakfast at the lodge, walk to the river to board the boat back to Tambopata River Port and transfer to the Puerto Maldonado airport for your flight to Cusco. Upon arrival in Cusco you can watch for a variety of hummingbird species during your transfer to the Sacred Valley. This afternoon, take an excursion to the famed Pisac Market before heading to the hotel for dinner and a lecture on Andean birds. *Overnight at Posada del Inca Yucay. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 11 - MACHU PICCHU

Early morning birding around the hotel will be followed by breakfast and transfer to Ollantaytambo train station. The scenic train ride to Aguas Calientes follows the meandering Urubamba River on a journey through the Peruvian Andes. Upon arrival, your journey continues with a bus transfer to Machu Picchu. Look for the endemic Cusco Brush Finch, Inca Wren, and Tricolored Brush-Finch among the ruins. Dinner will be at the hotel. Note: there is a strict hand luggage only policy on Peru Rail, so be prepared to pack a backpack weighing less than 11 lbs for the journey to Machu Picchu and the rest of your luggage will be stored until you return. *Overnight at Machu Picchu Pueblo. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 12 - MACHU PICCHU

After breakfast, begin birding around the hotel's gardens, looking for Sclater's Flycatcher, Inca Wren, tanager flocks, barbets, and hummingbirds. Following lunch at a local restaurant, take a field trip to the cloud forest. The area of Machu Picchu is characterized by mountains, valleys, and streams that support humid mountain scrub, second growth scrub, and evergreen forests. Up to 406 bird species have been recorded here, over half of them migratory. Species commonly seen in the area include Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan, Inca Wren, Tricolored Brush-Finch, White-winged Black Tyrant, Masked Fruiteater, Yellow-scarfed Tanager, and Cusco Brush-Finch. *Overnight at Machu Picchu Pueblo. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 13 - CUSCO

After breakfast and birding at the hotel, travel by train to Ollantaytambo Station. The journey to Cusco includes a visit to the town of Chincheros, an early Inca center. Enjoy an opportunity to tour a local weaving cooperative and learn about the styles and techniques of this ancient tradition. After the late afternoon arrival in Cusco, check in at the hotel and spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Casa Andina Private Collection Cusco. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 14 - CUSCO

Breakfast at the hotel before a field trip to Huacarpay Lagoon, a small highland lake and a favorite birding spot near Cusco. Receive a lecture on the birds of the area and some time to seek out a variety of Andean birds including ducks, herons, and grebes. The reed beds harbor species such as Wren-like Rushbird, Many-colored Rush Tyrant, and Yellow-winged Blackbird. Eat a picnic lunch on site, then have the rest of the afternoon at leisure to explore the city of Cusco or continue birding. Dinner is at a local restaurant for a taste of the regional fare. *Overnight at Casa Andina Private Collection Cusco. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 15 - PARACAS

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Lima. Transfer by bus to Paracas, stopping en route to enjoy a birding field trip to Pantanos de Villa, a protected area recognized by the Ramsar Convention as a Wetland of International Importance for aquatic birds. After a box lunch, continue the journey to Paracas and walk to the salt marsh observation tower to view flamingos and shorebirds. Later transfer to the hotel for a lecture on the Peruvian desert and the

Humboldt Current, followed by dinner. *Overnight at Hilton Paracas. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 16 - PARACAS

This morning take an early morning boat excursion to the Ballestas Islands, a breeding site for seabirds such as Humboldt Penguin, Peruvian Booby, and Inca Tern. Other target birds are the endangered Peruvian Diving-petrel, skuas, and even albatrosses. Continue towards the continental shelf, possibly spotting shearwaters, petrels, storm-petrels, and other pelagic birds. After lunch at the hotel, visit Paracas Reserve to see the cathedral, shorebirds, and the Mirador sea lion colony. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Casa Andina. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 17 - LIMA

Breakfast at the hotel is followed by a morning exploration of dunes and desert for birding (includes a boxed lunch). This afternoon, enjoy birding en route while driving past agricultural fields on the way to Lima. Farewell dinner at the hotel this evening. *Overnight at Hilton Paracas. (BL)*

NOVEMBER 18 - DEPARTURE

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for your flight home. *(B)*

LAND COST

\$5,995 (price based on 11 participants)

Includes all meals, accommodations, and activities as mentioned in itinerary, in-country transportation, internal flights, full-time guide, tips/gratuities for guide & driver, bottled water on the bus and carbon offset

Does not include international airfare, or items of a personal nature.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$980 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to hold your space on this trip. This deposit is refundable until July 01, 2017 excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payment is due July 26, 2017. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

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