



Flame-crested Tanager
Photo by Hector Bottai



HIGH INTENSITY!

This program is for serious birders. Expect at least 5-6 hours of birding each day.

PERU

SPECTACLES OF NATURE: BIRDING AMAZONIA, ANDES & THE DESERT COAST

with Geneva Pigott

February 21 - March 5, 2019

Visit: holbrooktravel.com/geneva-pe19

Peru is divided into three zones: the coast, the Andean mountain range, and the Amazon jungle basin, all of which are culturally and linguistically different. From the snow-peaked Andes to desert lowlands, steamy cloud forests to sun-kissed Pacific shores, Peru's tremendous range of ecosystems and the consequent diversity of its endemic species make the country a birder's paradise. On this 13-day program explore biodiversity highlights from each distinct region. Search for birds while hiking through protected reserves, scanning from atop canopy towers in the rainforest, and cruising by boat along Amazonian rivers. Combine this with fascinating lectures on the birds of Peru and you're in for a birding bucket list dream come true.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Spot some of the 400-plus species of birds that fly above Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas.
- Explore the Amazonian lowlands by boat and foot to look for colorful macaws and the enigmatic Hoatzin.
- Visit Pantanos de Villa, a protected area recognized by the Ramsar Convention as an internationally important wetland for aquatic birds.
- Stop at a local weaving cooperative to learn about the styles and techniques of this ancient tradition.
- Discover the unique mist-fed ecosystem of Lomas de Lachay, home to the underground-nesting Burrowing Owl.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

FEBRUARY 21 - LIMA

Arrive in Lima and head to your hotel. *Overnight at Casa Andina Select.*

FEBRUARY 22 - LIMA

Following breakfast and orientation take a field trip to Lomas de Lachay National Reserve, an oasis of mist in the Peruvian desert. Listen to a short talk about desert birds en route. 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 a variety of hummingbirds. Before dinner each evening, we will review the day's checklist. As an introduction to what we will see on the trip, a local expert will talk to us about Peruvian birds. *Overnight at Casa Andina Select. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 23 - TAMBOPATA

Travel to the airport for the morning flight to Puerto Maldonado. Upon arrival, transfer to the Infierno River Port and board a boat for the 45 minute voyage 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. Optional night walk available tonight and the next two evenings, if desired. *Overnight at Posada Amazonas. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 24 - TAMBOPATA

After breakfast take a walk (about 30 minutes) to the 98 ft canopy tower for bird observation. This area offers the best chance to see hawk-eagles, and on a lucky day perhaps even a Harpy Eagle. The flocks here are composed mainly 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 along the horizon, including Chestnut-eared, Lettered, Emerald, Curl-crested, and Brown-mandibled Aracari. From the canopy tower venture towards a small clay lick that attracts Dusky-headed and Black-capped Parakeet and Cobalt-winged Parrotlet. Return to the

lodge for lunch. Afternoon birding along the Shahue Trail for Fiery-capped Manakin, Round-tailed Manakin, Palerumped Trumpeteer, and Pavonine Quetzal. *Overnight at Posada Amazonas. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 25 - TAMBOPATA

After breakfast, embark on 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, followed by afternoon birding along the Shije'eje Trail. This trail offers opportunities to spot Variegated Tinamou, Curl-crested Aracari, and mixed species flocks. A small clay lick attracts Dusky-headed and Black-capped Parakeet and Cobalt-winged Parrotlet. *Overnight at Posada Amazonas. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 26 - YUCAY

This morning walk to the river to board the boat back to Tambopata River port, then on to Puerto Maldonado for your flight to Cusco. Depart for the Sacred Valley, making birding stops along the way. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Posada del Inca Yucay. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 27 - MACHU PICCHU

If time permits, early birding around the hotel, breakfast and then transfer to the Ollantaytambo train station. The scenic train ride to Aguas Calientes follows the meandering Urubamba River as you travel through the Peruvian Andes. Upon arrival, the journey continues with a bus ride up 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)*

FEBRUARY 28 - CUSCO

After early morning birding in the cloud forest, travel by train back 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. Upon arrival in Cusco, check in at the hotel and spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner at the hotel this evening. *Overnight at Casa Andina Private Collection. (BLD)*

MARCH 1 - CUSCO

Breakfast at the hotel before a field trip to Huacarpay Lagoon, a small highland lake and a favorite birding spot near Cusco. Your guide will talk about the birds of the



area and have 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 at a local restaurant for a taste of the regional fare. *Overnight at Casa Andina Private Collection. (BLD)*

MARCH 2 - PARACAS

After breakfast head to the airport for a morning flight to Lima. Travel by bus to Paracas, stopping en route for birding at Pantanos de Villa, a protected area recognized by the Ramsar Convention as a Wetland of International Importance for aquatic birds. After a box lunch on site 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)*

MARCH 3 - BALLESTAS ISLANDS

Depart early this morning for a 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 Hilton Paracas. (BLD)*

MARCH 4 - FAREWELL!

Breakfast at the hotel followed by a morning exploration of dunes and desert (includes a boxed lunch). This afternoon enjoy birding in agricultural fields along the way, arriving in Lima in time to connect to your evening flight out of Jorge Chávez International Airport to the U.S. (BL)

MARCH 5

Arrive in the U.S.

LAND PRICING

\$4,695 (12 participants)

\$4,985 (10 participants)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, internal flights, full-time guide, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, estimated at \$945 from Raleigh-Durham, gratuities or items of a personal nature. Other departure cities available.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. <http://holbrooktravel.com/travelprotection>

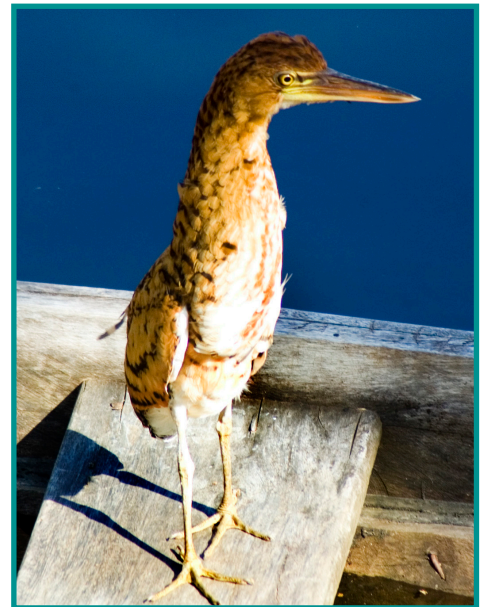
Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; single occupancy arrangements available for \$700 additional cost. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required by October 24, 2018 to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until November 18, 2018, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/geneva-pe19 or contact Sandy Schmidt at 877-907-5360 or schmidt@holbrooktravel.com

PHOTOS BY

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