



PARADISE Tanager BY IAN SEGEBARTH

PERU

Spectacles of Nature: Birding Amazonia, Andes, and the Desert Coast

13 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **SEP - JUL**

From the snow-peaked Andes Mountains to arid desert lowlands, and from steamy cloud forests to sun-kissed Pacific shores, Peru's tremendous range of ecosystems and the consequent diversity of its endemic species make it a favorite among birders. Explore some of the country's natural and cultural highlights—including the Amazon basin, Machu Picchu, and the Ballestas Islands—while seeking out a variety of avifauna on this active 13-day program. Will you find a Humboldt Penguin waddling along the rocky coast, an Andean Motmot darting over Incan ruins, or maybe even a Harpy Eagle hiding in the forest mist? As you journey the country from east to west, you're sure to delight in its many wonders while adding to your life list.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Spot some of the 400-plus species of birds that fly above Machu Picchu.
- Explore the Amazonian lowlands by boat and on foot to look for colorful macaws, tanagers, and the enigmatic Hoatzin.
- Discover the mist-fed ecosystem of Lomas de Lachay, home to an oasis of dwarf forest in the Peruvian desert.
- Visit Pantanos de Villa, a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance that provides important habitat for waterfowl and migratory shorebirds.
- Witness the seabirds of Ballestas Islands, including species such as the Humboldt Penguin, Peruvian Booby, Inca Tern, and the endangered Peruvian Diving-Petrel.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



PARACAS NATIONAL RESERVE BY PATTY HPO



ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - LIMA

Upon arrival in Lima, after clearing customs and immigration, you will be met and escorted to the hotel. *Overnight at Casa Andina Select.*

DAY 2 - LIMA

After breakfast and a program orientation, take a field trip to Lomas de Lachay National Reserve. The Lomas de Lachay are a “mist oasis,” a unique ecosystem dependent upon fog that rolls in from the Pacific Ocean. The reserve encompasses 12,528 acres within the vast coastal Sechura Desert. Mists here are seasonal, and the Lomas vegetation responds accordingly, fluctuating between arid scrub to lush tropical forest. Hear a lecture, “The Desert Birds Among the Mist.” Although the reserve’s bird list is relatively short, there are four endemics and a few specialties that are difficult to find elsewhere. Species regularly seen here include Andean Tinamou, Peruvian Thick-knee, Least Seedsnipe, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Thick-billed Miner, Cactus Canastero, and various hummingbirds. Before dinner, return to the hotel for a lecture previewing the birds of Peru. *Overnight at Casa Andina Select. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - TAMBOPATA

After breakfast, depart to the airport for your flight to Puerto Maldonado in southeastern Peru. Upon arrival, drive about an hour to the river port in the community of Infierno and take a 45-minute boat trip up the Río Tambopata to the lodge. Bird along the way for riparian birds that include Pied Lapwing, Collared Plover, Large-billed Tern, King Vulture, Bat Falcon, Olive Oropendola, and Amazon Kingfisher. The lodge is a short walk from the river’s edge and lies within the territory of the Infierno

community, adjacent to the Tambopata National Reserve. Designed largely with birding in mind, the lodge has received international recognition for conservation efforts that support participation from the local Ese’ija Native Community. An orientation and dinner will be provided at the lodge. *Overnight at Posada Amazonas. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - TAMBOPATA

After breakfast, take a 30-minute hike to the spectacular 98-foot canopy tower and spend much of the morning scanning the treetops. This vantage offers your best chance for soaring raptors such as hawk-eagles and possibly a Harpy Eagle. The canopy flocks pop with color, composed mainly of tanagers such as Paradise, Green-and-gold, Turquoise, and Opal-rumped. Other flock participants include Cream-colored Woodpecker, Gilded Barbet, Plum-throated Cotinga, and Western Striolated-Puffbird. Great views of parrots, macaws (up to six species), and toucans are also possible as they fly by the tower or forage quietly in the canopy. Before lunch, visit a small clay lick that attracts Dusky-headed, Black-capped and Cobalt-winged Parakeets. In the afternoon, bird the nearby lodge trails for Fiery-capped and Round-tailed Manakins, Pale-winged



Trumpeter, Pavonine Quetzal, and much more. Return to the lodge for lunch. Afternoon birding along the Shahue Trail in search of Fiery-capped Manakin, Round-tailed Manakin, Palerumped Trumpeteer, and Pavonine Quetzal. *Overnight at Posada Amazonas. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - TAMBOPATA

After breakfast, explore *Mauritia* palm swamps and oxbow lakes by boat and on foot for habitat specialists that include Hoatzin, Horned Screamer, Azure Gallinule, Gray-breasted and Rufous-sided Crakes, Sungrebe, and Rufescent Tiger-Heron. After lunch, visit secondary forest patches for a different assemblage of birds that include Barred Antshrike, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Streaked Flycatcher, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Solitary Black Caciue, Gray-fronted Dove, and with a lot of luck, Festive Coquette. After dinner, take a night hike near the lodge to spotlight Common Pauraque, Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, Great and Long-tailed Potoos, Ocellated Poorwill, and possibly a Mottled or Crested Owl. Your lights will also reveal frogs, toads, insects, and other nocturnal wildlife—great subjects for macro photography. *Overnight at Posada Amazonas. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - YUCAY

After breakfast at the lodge, return to Puerto Maldonado via boat on the Río Tambopata and take a transfer to the airport for the flight to Cusco. Once in Cusco, keep an eye out for various hummingbirds on the drive to the base of the Sacred Valley. In the afternoon, take a detour from birding to visit the famed Mercado de Artesanía in Pisac, by far the biggest local arts and crafts market in the region. Have dinner and a lecture on Andean birds at the hotel. *Overnight at Sonesta Posadas del Inca. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - MACHU PICCHU

Start the day with early morning birding near the hotel. After breakfast, depart for the Ollantaytambo train station. Today's train route snakes through the Sacred Valley following the Urubamba River and boasts stunning views of Andean landscapes. Upon arrival in Aguas Calientes, the gateway to Machu Picchu, take a short bus ride (25 minutes) to the Inca citadel. Look for the endemic Cusco Brush-Finch and Inca Wren among the ruins. Dinner is at the hotel. **Note:** Peru Rail has a strict policy of carry-on luggage only, so be prepared to carry a backpack weighing less than 11 pounds for the journey to Machu Picchu. The rest of your luggage will be safely stored until your return. *Overnight at Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - CUSCO

Early this morning, spend additional time birding in the humid montane forests of the area, looking for endemics like the Green-and-white Hummingbird. Travel by train back to the Ollantaytambo station. On the return to Cusco, journey to Chincheros, a small, rustic town built on Inca ruins that is now a hub for traditional weaving in Peru. Visit a local textile cooperative and learn more about the styles and techniques of this ancient art form. Upon arrival at the hotel in Cusco, the remainder of the afternoon is free. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Casa Andina Premium Cusco. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - CUSCO

After breakfast, explore one of the region's most popular birding spots, Huacarpay Lagoon. Receive a lecture on the birds of the area and some time to seek out a variety of Andean species. The open water, high Andean marsh, and neighboring forest all hold exciting birds such as the endemic Bearded Mountaineer and Rusty-fronted Canastero, the aptly named Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, and various waterfowl. Lunch is a picnic near the lagoon. The rest of the afternoon is free to explore Cusco or continue birding. Dinner is at a local restaurant for a taste of the regional fare. *Overnight at Casa Andina Premium Cusco. (BLD)*



DAY 10 - PARACAS

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Lima. Depart southward to Paracas, stopping en route at the Pantanos de Villa, a small protected marsh recognized as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site). Birds here include Great Grebe, White-cheeked Pintail, and Yellow-hooded Blackbird. Have a boxed lunch during the drive. Upon arrival in Paracas, visit a nearby coastal observation tower to view Chilean Flamingos and various waders. Spend the evening at the hotel with a presentation on the Peruvian Desert and Humboldt Current, followed by dinner. *Overnight at Hilton Paracas. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - BALLESTAS ISLANDS

Take an early morning boat excursion to the Ballestas Islands, an important breeding area for Humboldt Penguin, Peruvian Booby, Red-legged and Guanay Cormorants, Peruvian Pelican, and Inca Tern. Other target birds include the endangered Peruvian Diving-Petrel, Surf Cinclodes, and Blackish Oystercatcher. Continuing seaward toward the continental shelf, pelagic species are possible. After lunch, visit Paracas Reserve to

see the rock formation known as “The Cathedral” and the Mirador sea lion colony. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hilton Paracas. (BLD)*

DAY 12 - DEPARTURE

After breakfast, begin the return to Lima, exploring coastal dunes and desert for birds such as Slender-billed Finch and Coastal Miner along the way. A boxed lunch will be provided during the drive. In the afternoon, bird the agriculture fields outside Lima for a few final species before arriving at the airport for your international flight. *(BL)*

DAY 13 - ARRIVE US

Arrive home following your overnight flight.

LAND PRICING

\$4,965 (12 participants + 1 leader)

\$5,195 (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. 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. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

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

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure.



ACTIVITY LEVEL

3

MODERATE

WHAT TO EXPECT

This birding tour showcases Peru’s diverse ecosystems—from Amazonian jungle to Andean mountains, desert lowlands, Pacific coast, and beyond. The pacing is moderate, with stays at six locations over 11 nights. Day 12 features a full day of touring followed by an airport transfer for your overnight return flight home. The main daily activity is birding, mostly on unpaved trails that can be rocky, wet, or uneven. At Machu Picchu, expect steep climbs, stairs, and rugged paths. The highest elevation (in Cusco) is 11,152 feet; you must acclimatize properly to avoid altitude sickness. There are two boat excursions and two scenic rail journeys; plus a few select cultural activities. With such regional variation, the weather will also vary. In general, May through October, the dry season, is the best time to travel. This is when the Pacific coast is pleasantly warm. Machu Picchu has year-round average temperatures of 66–68°F. There are three internal flights. Overland travel is aboard private, air-conditioned motorcoaches; the longest transfer is 4 hours.



ANDEAN CONDOR



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