



Paradise Tanager by Ian Segebarth



PERU

BIRDING WITH GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON

October 18-27, 2018

This 10-day program with Golden Gate Audubon gives you a taste of the prime birding locations in Peru. The country's tremendous range of ecosystems and the consequent diversity of its endemic species make Peru a birder's paradise. Experience the vast biodiversity sheltered among the Amazon's tributaries, lagoons, and forests, exploring by boat and foot. Discover the "Lost City of the Incas," Machu Picchu, set in the Andean highlands atop a cluster of emerald peaks, and perhaps catch a glimpse of a Blue-crowned Motmot darting over the ruins. Or will you spot the critically endangered Royal Cinclode in the Polylepis forest at Abra Málaga?

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience two of South America's most iconic destinations: the Amazon rainforest and Machu Picchu.
- Explore colonial Cusco and Lima, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Observe Amazonian birds and wildlife in the primary rainforest, including macaws, toucans, caimans, and capybaras.
- See the amazing spectacle of colorful macaws and parrots gathered at clay licks.



HIGH INTENSITY!

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

For more info or to join this trip visit: holbrook.travel/goldengate-pe18

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

OCTOBER 18 - LIMA

Upon arrival in Lima a representative will be waiting to take you to the hotel. Please note that this is an international travel day; no meals or program activities are scheduled. Hotel check-in usually begins at 3 pm.

Overnight at Casa Andina Select Miraflores.

OCTOBER 19 - LIMA

After an early breakfast, drive south through the Peruvian desert to the significant fishing village of Pucusana. En route, stop at the Pantanos de la Villa marshes to see birds such as the **White-cheeked Pintail**, the **Great Grebe** and the **Andean Coot**. Upon arrival in Pucusana, board a small powered fishing vessel and cruise around the protected harbor. View Pacific seabirds including **Inca Tern**, endemic to the Humboldt Current area, and **Humboldt Penguin**, a very vulnerable species. Learn how the Humboldt Current affects this ecosystem and discuss human interaction and threats to the species. En route back to Lima, visit the Corbidi headquarters and meet with the program coordinator. Corbidi is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing biodiversity research and conservation in Peru. Next, return to Lima to have lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, have a presentation at the hotel on the biodiversity of Peru followed by a visit to Huaca Pucllana, pre-Incan ruins made of adobe and clay terraces. Dinner is at a restaurant overlooking the site.

Overnight at Casa Andina Select Miraflores. (BLD)

OCTOBER 20 - AMAZONIA

This morning transfer to the airport and bid your Lima guide farewell. Take an early morning flight to Puerto Maldonado in southeastern Peru. Upon arrival, meet your Amazon guide and drive 10 minutes to Puerto Maldonado headquarters to drop off any luggage you may want to store during your time in the Amazon. Then transfer about 12 miles to the Tambopata River Port, entering the native community of Infierno. Board a boat for a two-and-a-half-hour boat ride from the Tambopata Port to Refugio Amazonas. The boat ride will take you past the community of Infierno and the Tambopata National Reserve's checkpoint and into the buffer zone of this 3.2-million-acre conservation unit. Upon arrival to the lodge, the manager will welcome you and provide a briefing with important navigation and security tips. Settle in and enjoy some free time before dinner. Later tonight, there will be an optional night walk to search for nocturnal species. *Overnight at Refugio Amazonas. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 21 - AMAZONIA

After breakfast, take a short walk from your lodge to Canopy Tower, an 82-foot scaffolding with a banister staircase running through the middle to provide safe access to the platforms above. The tower was built on high ground, therefore increasing your horizon of the continuous primary forest extending out toward the Tambopata National Reserve. From here, views of mixed species canopy flocks as well as **toucans, macaws, and raptors** are likely. Next, board a boat for a four-and-a-half-hour transfer to the Tambopata Research Center. An hour and a half into your boat journey, as you cross the confluence with the Malinowski River, you will leave the final traces of human habitation behind. Within the 1.7-million-acre uninhabited nucleus of the reserve, sightings of capybaras, caimans, geese, macaws, and other large species become more frequent. En route, stop at the Chuncho clay lick. After a brief walk, you will have the chance to see dozens of large macaws feeding on the special sodium-rich clays of the riverbank. The Chuncho clay lick probably attracts more large macaws than any other clay lick in the world, and the sight of dozens of macaws taking flight is truly unforgettable. Upon arrival, the lodge manager will welcome you and brief you with important navigation and security tips. Embark on a three-mile hike that will lead you to overlooks commanding magnificent views of the Tambopata winding its way into the lowlands. The forest on this trail, regenerating on old bamboo forest, is good for howler monkeys and dusky titi monkeys. Return to the lodge for dinner, then meet with scientists who will provide you with an in-depth look at the biology of macaws, their feeding habits, the theories for clay lick use, their breeding and feeding ecology, population fluctuations, and the threats to their conservation.

Overnight at Tambopata Research Center. (BLD)

OCTOBER 22 - AMAZONIA

Wake up just before dawn for birding on the riverbank. On most clear mornings of the year, dozens of large macaws and hundreds of other parrots congregate on this large riverbank in a raucous and colorful spectacle that inspired a National Geographic cover story. Located 16 feet from the cliff, you might observe **Green-winged, Scarlet, and Blue-and-gold Macaws** and several species of smaller parrots descend to ingest clay. Return to the lodge for breakfast, then hike the Floodplain Trail. This three-mile trail covers the prototypical rainforest with immense trees criss-crossed by creeks and ponds. Among the figs, ceibas, and shihuahuaco trees, look for squirrel, brown capuchin, and spider monkeys, as well as peccaries. Return to the lodge for lunch, then visit Pond Platform just 10 minutes upriver. It is a great place to

spot waterfowl such as **Muscovy Duck, Sunbittern, and Hoatzin** along with the **woodpeckers, oropendolas, flycatchers, and parakeets** that call this pond their home. This evening after dinner, there will be another optional night hike. *Overnight at Tambopata Research Center. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 23 - SACRED VALLEY

An early departure of 5 am from the lodge is planned for this morning, with a boxed breakfast and refreshments for your boat ride back to the Puerto Maldonado docks, arriving at approximately 10 am. You will then be transferred to the airport for your non-stop flight to Cusco, departing at 1:55 pm, arriving at 2:44 pm. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the Sacred Valley and your hotel. *Overnight at Casa Andina Premium Sacred Valley Hotel. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 24 - SACRED VALLEY

Following an early breakfast, head to the Ollantaytambo Railway Station for the journey to Aguas Calientes. Upon arrival, take a bus to the top of the mountain for a guided tour of the ruins at Machu Picchu. Look for the endemic **Cusco Brush Finch, Inca Wren, and Tricolored Brush Finch**. Machu Picchu, known as “The Lost City of the Incas,” is probably the best known, yet least understood of all Incan sites. Apart from a few locals, nobody knew of Machu Picchu’s existence until 1911, when American historian Hiram Bingham brought to light the thickly overgrown buildings. The quality of the stonework and the abundance of ornamental sites indicate that Machu Picchu was an important ceremonial center, but knowledge of the city’s history has been lost to time. Return to your hotel by train and bus, enjoying the amazing beauty of the landscape and possibly spying some **Torrent Ducks** and **White-capped Dippers** in the rapids of the Urubamba River. *Overnight at Casa Andina Premium Sacred Valley Hotel. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 25 - CUSCO

Leave very early for the Polylepis forest at Abra Málaga, a famous birding site especially for **White-browed Tit Spinetail** and **Ash-breasted Tit Tyrant**, and the critically endangered **Royal Cinclode**, discovered here in the 1980’s, and estimated at only about 200 pairs. On the valley floor check for a variety of **ground tyrants** and **Sierra finches**. After a picnic lunch concentrate on some local endemics, including **Creamy-crested Spinetail, Rusty-fronted** and **Junín Canastero, White-tufted Sunbeam** and **Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch**. The approximately one hour drive to Abra Málaga is very curvy and the site is at approximately 11,000 ft above sea level, a full thousand feet higher than the Sacred Valley. Participants that would rather rest and relax can stay

back at the hotel. In the afternoon, the group will meet up again and transfer to the Cusco hotel. *Overnight at Casa Andina Cusco Plaza. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 26 - DEPARTURE

This morning visit Sacsayhuamán, an Inca citadel in the northern outskirts of Cusco. Here, you can also enjoy birding and see species such as **Andean Lapwing**. Lunch at a café in the main plaza, where you can take in the colonial architecture of the city. Free time in the afternoon, before departure for the Cusco airport and late afternoon flight back to Lima. Upon arrival in Lima, check in for your international flight. (No hotel night included on this day.) During this layover, you have the option to buy a ticket to the airport’s VIP Club located in the International Terminal at approximately \$60 USD per person, for up to 4 hours access to the lounge and its services including: buffet (finger foods and hot/cold beverages), bar, wi-fi, business center, showers, lockers, TV area, and a terrace. (Price is subject to change at any time without notice.) Space at the lounge is limited; we suggest reserving in advance. Late night flight home. *(BL)*

OCTOBER 27

Arrive home.

LAND PRICING

\$3,125 (11 participants)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, internal flights, local guides in each region, and carbon offset.

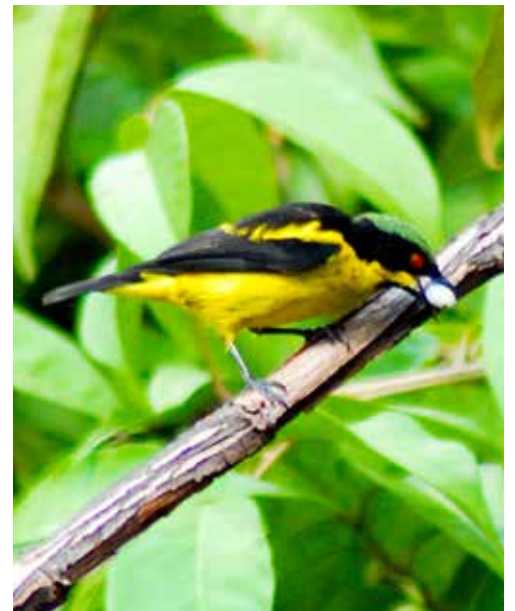
Does not include international airfare, estimated at \$900 from San Francisco, gratuities for guide or driver, or items of a personal nature. Other departure cities available.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$355 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until July 15, 2018, at which time non-refundable final payment is due. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel’s agency number is 15849.



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



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/goldengate-pe18 or contact Sandy Schmidt at schmidt@holbrooktravel.com or 877-907-5360.

PHOTOS BY

Photos by Pelin Karaca, Eric Lindberg, and Alfredo Dosantos Santillan.