



Tropical Endemics & Ancient Cultures

NORTHERN PERU

1-16 November 2020

MACHU PICCHU Extension

17-21 November 2020

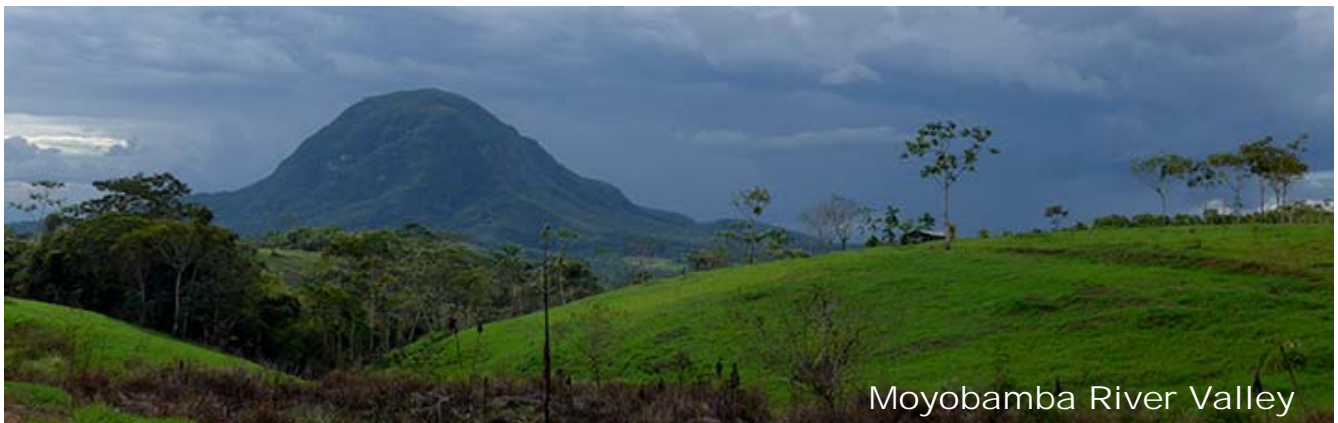
Main Tour: Nov 1-16—\$8,490 double/\$8,870 single

Machu Picchu Post-trip Extension: Dec 17-21—\$3,460 double/\$3,820 single

I first visited Peru in September 2014, when the combination of amazing tropical birding and delightful Peruvian hospitality opened new opportunities for Paradise Birding. On the same trip, we met an outstanding guide and tour operator, Wilson Diaz of Green Tours, who exceeded our very high standards for customer service, ethics, and fun! In 2015, we first visited Machu Picchu, and Wilson and I confirmed the presence of the magnificent and “near-threatened” Guayaquil Woodpecker near the southern limit of the species’ range—right along one of the prime spots on our tour route. And finally, on our 2017 scouting trip, we hiked above 14,000 feet to experience the amazing alpine habitats and to search for a very special suite of birds that are adapted to high-elevation life in the Andes Mountains.

From the dry Pacific lowlands to the high Andes, Machu Picchu, and upper Amazon Basin, we have combined our own experiences to offer you an outstanding introduction to equatorial birding. Read through our itinerary below with a map and field guide, and dream of what awaits. Immerse yourself in hundreds of hummingbirds; cross one of the world’s most magnificent mountain ranges; explore cloud forests at the headwaters of the Amazon Basin; and visit some extraordinary community preserves; all part of a birding experience that will leave you breathless.

*Your host and trail boss,
Steve Shunk*



Moyobamba River Valley

NOTE: This is a custom itinerary designed for Paradise Birding in partnership with Green Tours of Peru. We specifically requested that, whenever practical, we stay multiple nights in each location; that we not bird from dawn to dusk; and that we regularly take afternoon breaks. These requests were made to help you thoroughly enjoy each of the special places we have chosen to visit and to give everyone ample opportunity to see Peru’s unique birds, without racing from spot to spot or striving for a huge bird list. Despite our casual approach, we still have a chance to see over 400 bird species—be prepared to be pleasantly overwhelmed!

MAIN TOUR SUMMARY (See page 14 for Machu Picchu post-trip extension)

Our main tour begins and ends in Lima, the national capital of Peru. The itinerary for the next 14 days will follow an extraordinary route, from the Pacific Coast to the upper Amazon Basin.

Nov 1—Lima arrivals and dinner

We will meet at the airport hotel this evening, where you will enjoy dinner with the group returning from the pre-trip extension. We will announce the exact time closer to the trip date.

Nov 2—Outside Lima: Puerto Viejo & Pucusana

Casual breakfast at the hotel, followed by our first full day, offering relaxing birding with extraordinary birds. We will drive about one hour south of the hotel to the marshlands of Puerto Viejo which could produce Great Grebe, Peruvian Thick-knee, Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, and the endemic Coastal Miner. The nearby rocky shoreline hosts the Peruvian endemic Surf Cinclodes, which will likely be outnumbered by American Oystercatchers. After lunch at the port of Pucusana, we will take a short boat trip around the rocky island that shields the port. This amazing boat ride will get us very close to Inca Terns, Blue-footed & Peruvian Boobies, Guanay & Red-legged Cormorants, and Humboldt Penguin. We return to the hotel by 4 p.m. for an afternoon break, followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Night in Miraflores.

Nov 3—Chiclayo to Chaparrí

We will rise very early this morning and transfer back to Lima airport for the morning flight to Chiclayo. After breakfast in the Chiclayo city center, we will drive about 3 hours to the Chaparrí Nature Reserve, with several birding stops en route. Birds along the way may include Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Savanna Hawk, Pacific Parrotlet, Short-tailed Field-Tyrant, Parrot-billed Seedeater, Sulphur-throated Finch, and Peruvian Meadowlark.

We arrive at Chaparrí Lodge in time for a delicious lunch of traditional Peruvian foods.

Chaparrí is a private, community reserve of 34,000 hectares (84,000 acres, or 131 mi²) comprising tropical dry forest in the lee of the Andes. This region is well-known for its population of endemic White-winged Guan, and we will visit a Spectacled Bear rehab center, where recovered captive bears are being prepared for their return to the wild.

After an early afternoon break, we make a short hike to the bear rescue center. Common dry-forest birds along the hike may include Amazilia Hummingbird, Collared Antshrike, and Tropical Gnatcatcher, along with Peruvian endemics and specialties like the White-winged Guan, Tumbes Tyrant, and Elegant Crescentchest. Dinner and night at Chaparrí Lodge.

Inca Tern



Nov 4—Chaparrí & Casupe

This morning, we have an early-birding (6 a.m.) option to take a short walk to the nearby creek for a special hummingbird treat: each morning, several hummer species stop by the creek for their morning baths. Usual visitors include Tumbes Hummingbird, Amazilia Hummingbird, Oasis Hummingbird, Purple-throated Woodstar, and Short-tailed Woodstar. After 7 a.m. breakfast, we head for the dry forests of the Andes foothills to look for an entirely new suite of birds. Just a few of the possibilities include Porculla Hermit, Ecuadorian Trogon, Ecuadorian Piculet, Smoke-colored Pewee, and Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner.

Our trip to Casupe will be highlighted by our search for (and hopefully observations of!) the threatened Guayaquil Woodpecker. Members of the local community have begun a conservation project that will protect habitat for the woodpecker and other local wildlife. We will send you more details upon registration.

After our box-lunch at the tiny village of Casupe, we will descend back to the valley floor to explore Tinajones Reservoir. The wetland and surrounding grasslands can produce **Southern Pochard, Savannah Hawk, Black-faced Ibis**, and a good selection of **sandpipers and swallows**; **Chilean Flamingos** have also been seen along the shores of the reservoir. Final dinner and night at Chaparrí.

Nov 5—Chaparrí to Túcume

After 8 a.m. breakfast, we will enjoy some casual birding around the lodge and its feeding station, where White-tailed Jay, Tumbes Sparrow, Croaking Ground-Dove, Golden-bellied Grosbeak and others are feeding practically at our feet. After a relaxing morning, we will have our final lunch at the lodge, followed by a 3-hour drive to Los Horcones de Túcume Lodge, north of Chiclayo. Casual afternoon birding on the grounds; dinner and night at the lodge.

Nov 6—Túcume & Bosque de Pomac

Early breakfast at the lodge will be followed by a short drive to nearby Bosque de Pomac Reserve, where we will encounter several common Tumbesian endemics along with two threatened Peruvian endemics: the Peruvian Plantcutter and Rufous Flycatcher. Other species that occur here include Necklaced Spinetail, Superciliated Wren, Fasciated Wren, Cinereous Finch, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Gray-and-White Tyrannulet, Tumbes Tyrannulet (recently split from Mouse-colored Tyrannulet), Tumbes Swallow, and the engaging little Peruvian Sheartail hummingbird.



We will return to the lodge for lunch and a short afternoon break, followed by a visit to the Royal Tombs of Sipan Museum. This is one of the most modern and impressive archaeological museums in South America, holding a remarkable collection of Moché artwork that was discovered in the tomb of the famous Lord of Sipan. After our casual afternoon, we will return to the lodge for dinner and our final night on the Pacific slope of Peru.

Nov 7—Túcume to Jaén

After 7 a.m. breakfast at Túcume, we begin our drive into the Andes, toward our next base in the bustling town of Jaén. Shortly after leaving Túcume, we will make a side trip for our first chance to see the legendary Andean Condor and the endemic Great Inca-Finch. We will reach Abra Porculla (Porculla Pass) before noon. Just before the pass we will stop to look for such specialties as Ecuadorian Piculet, Piura Chat-Tyrant, Rufous-necked Foliage-Gleaner, Black-cowled Saltator, and Chestnut-crowned Antpitta.

After a box lunch, we cross Abra Porculla and enter the Río Marañón valley—the Marañón is the mainstem source of the Amazon River. Here, the river has powerfully eroded the Andes, creating a high arid valley that is home to many endemic birds—both Peruvian and Marañón endemics. We arrive in Jaén in mid-afternoon to check-in at hotel Luna del Valle. Those who wish to enjoy a casual afternoon of birding will drive about 15 minutes to explore the rice fields north of the city, where we will look for Spotted Rail, Paint-billed Crake, and other waterbirds. Lesser Nighthawks are regularly seen flying at dusk. Dinner and night in Jaén.

Nov 8—Birding the Jaén Region

After breakfast, we will spend the morning exploring the dry forests north of Jaén, between the towns of Tamborapa and La Coipa, where we will look for Marañón specialties like Marañón Spinetail, Black-and-white Becard, Speckled-breasted Wren, and Buff-bellied Tanager.

We will take our box lunch at the town of Tamborapa, followed by afternoon birding along the Tamborapa River in search of Marañón Thrush, Fasciated Tiger-Heron, and Torrent Duck. We return to the hotel in Jaén for afternoon break, followed by dinner at the hotel.



Nov 9—Jaén to Abra Patricia

We leave Jaén early this morning and head for Gotas de Agua private reserve. Upon arrival, we will enjoy coffee and snacks before an exciting morning of birding. Several Marañón specialties occur here, including Little Inca-Finch, Marañón Gnatcatcher, Marañón Crescentchest, Spot-throated Hummingbird, Red-crested Finch, and Ecuadorian Ground-Dove. After a couple hours of easy hiking, we enjoy a full breakfast of traditional foods at Gotas de Agua.

After breakfast, we resume our Andes crossing, with possible stops to look for raptors, rails, and other waterbirds around the rice fields, followed by another traditional meal in the town of Pedro Ruiz. Back on the road, we will climb into the Colán Mountains, where the Andean cloud forest will host another new suite of birds, including our first major hummingbird extravaganza.

By mid-afternoon we reach Abra Patricia Private Reserve, where we will spend the next 3 nights at the comfortable Owlet Lodge, named for the endemic Long-whiskered Owlet. In the gardens here, you will have ample time to casually enjoy myriad hummingbirds coming to the feeders, only a small few of which may include: Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Green Violetear, Long-tailed Sylph, Speckled Hummingbird, White-bellied Woodstar, Sword-billed Hummingbird, and Collared Inca. Dinner and night at Abra Patricia Owlet Lodge.

Nov 10—Birding Abra Patricia

After an early breakfast, we will hike for about two-and-a-half hours on the Grallaria trail, which starts in the upper part of the lodge and wraps gently around the hill. The trail transects humid mountain forest that hosts birds such as Ochre-fronted Antpitta, Sharpe's Wren, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, and Golden-headed Quetzal. Returning to the lodge by about 10 a.m., you are then on your own until lunch to nap, explore the trails, or just be overwhelmed by spectacular hummingbirds!

Following lunch at the lodge, we will have our first chance to spot the enigmatic Long-whiskered Owlet, a tiny owl that is endemic to this mountain range. We will walk down a relatively steep but well-developed trail for about one hour and wait until dusk, when our local guide will attempt to call the owlet. Along the trail, we may also find Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Ochre-fronted Antpitta, Bicolored Antvireo, and White-fronted Nunbird. This optional excursion can be quite physically demanding, especially on the ascent back to the lodge after dark.



Fawn-breasted Brilliant (left) and Long-tailed Sylph

Those who choose not to make the owl hike will bird around the lodge in the afternoon and have 6 p.m. dinner at the lodge; hikers will return to the lodge for 8 p.m. dinner. Second night at the Owllet Lodge.

Nov 11—Pomacochas & Huembo

After breakfast, we will drive to the Huembo Conservation Center, which features protected habitat for the endemic Marvelous Spatuletail hummingbird. In addition to this otherworldly and magnificent bird, we will also see several of its cousins, including the Andean Emerald, Brown Violetear, Purple-throated Woodstar, and Purple-throated Sunangel. Away from the hummingbird station, the forest inside the reserve is an excellent place to see Emerald Toucanet, Speckled-faced Parrot, White-sided Flowerpiercer, and many others.

We will leave Huembo in late morning and head toward Pomacochas Lake. Roadside stops might produce Citrine Warbler, Sickled-winged Guan, and Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager. After lunch at a lakeside restaurant, we will explore the shoreline in search of Plumbeous Rail, Puna Snipe, and Grassland Yellow-Finch. We return to the Owllet Lodge for a relaxed afternoon. If we missed the Long-whiskered Owllet on the prior evening, we will make a second hike, with the same dinner schedule, followed by our final night at Abra Patricia.

Nov 12—Abra Patricia to Waqanki

Breakfast will be served at 6 a.m., followed by some productive birding around the lodge. Even along the driveway and parking areas, we could see such superb birds as Deep-blue Flowerpiercer, and the endemic Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher and Yellow-scarfed Tanager.

We will then depart Owllet Lodge and enter the Río Mayo valley, making several stops along the route. The first will be at Alto Nieva Private Reserve, just 15 minutes from Abra Patricia, where the main attraction is the endemic Royal Sunangel hummingbird. Then we will drive to lower altitudes to look for Huallaga Tanager, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, the fantastic Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, plus antbirds, woodpeckers, and more tanagers.

Before noon, we will reach the lowest part of the Mayo mountains at the village of Aguas Verdes, where the hummingbird feeders at a private reserve can produce Reddish & Green Hermits, Blue-fronted & Green-fronted Lancebills, and Violet-fronted Brilliant. We will also visit the tinamou feeding station, which is often visited by Cinereous and Little Tinamou, Gray-necked Woodrail, and Orange-billed Sparrow.



Golden-tailed Sapphires

After box lunch at Aguas Verdes, we continue into Río Mayo valley for about 2 hours until we approach the city of Moyobamba. Just before the town, a narrow side road gets us close to a small pond where we may see Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Orange-backed Troupial, Black-capped Donacobius, and several different seedeaters. In late afternoon, we will check-in for our first of three nights at Waqanki Lodge, just a few minutes outside Moyobamba.

Nov 13—Birding Waqanki

After a 7 a.m. breakfast at the lodge, we will make a 15-minute drive to Morro de Calzada, a lone mountain that rises over the valley and supports a great set of birds, including Rufous Motmot, Blackish Nightjar, Mishana Tyrannulet, and White-browed Purpletuff. We will return to Waqanki to spend the rest of the morning at their unbelievable hummingbird feeding station, where the main attractions include: Black-throated Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, White-chinned Sapphire, the fantastic Golden-tailed Sapphire, and the adorable Rufous-crested Coquette, with 20 new hummingbird species possible!

Following lunch at the lodge, you have the early afternoon to yourself, offering a chance to rest, watch hummingbirds, or just wander the grounds and forest. In the afternoon, we will walk up a small creek in search of Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Montane Woodcreeper, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, and Peruvian Warbling-Antbird. Dinner and night at Waqanki Lodge.

Nov 14—Final day at Waqanki

Breakfast at the lodge will be followed by a full morning to yourself, allowing you plenty of time at the hummingbird feeders and along the trail through the fabulous orchid garden. Besides the hummingbird extravaganza, you may encounter Lafresnaye's Piculet, Crested Oropendola, Yellow-vented Euphonia, Paradise Tanager, and the endemic Black-bellied Tanager.

After lunch, we will embark on another casual hike up the Mishquiyacu trail, along which you could walk day after day and keep adding new birds to your list! Dinner and night at Waqanki.

Nov 15—Waqanki to Tarapoto

After a brief morning on the lodge property, we will head toward Tarapoto, with a productive stop at Quiscarrumi Bridge, where we will peer down into the narrow chasm and marvel at a large roost of resident Oilbirds; if we are lucky, we will also encounter the local colony of vampire bats!



Paradise Tanager

After lunch in Tarapoto, we will check in at our hotel and then head out for a final afternoon in the field. While exploring the forests south of the city, near the town of Juan Guerra, we might encounter Chestnut-capped Puffbird, Stripe-chested Antwren, Marañon Slaty Antshrike, and Carmiol's Tanager. Dinner and night at the very comfortable Tucan Suites Hotel.

Nov 16—Tarapoto to Lima

After breakfast at the lodge, we will drive about 45 minutes to the Koepcke's Hermit Conservation Center, a private reserve that protects habitat for this endemic hummingbird. The bird is easy to see at the feeders inside the reserve, along with other hummers like the Black-throated Brilliant, Gould's Jewelfront, and up to 15 additional hummingbirds, several of which we have not seen at prior locations. In the surrounding forest we can walk a few minutes up the hill to look for Golden-collared Toucanet and Golden-headed Manakin.

Returning to Tarapoto for lunch and souvenir shopping in the city center, we will then transfer to the airport for our return to Lima (details TBA). Farewell dinner at the Airport Hotel in Lima.

TOUR STYLE & PACE

Our Peru tour offers a relatively casual tropical birding experience, although the broad diversity and sheer numbers of birds may be overwhelming at times. We could see up to 400 bird species along our tour route, with a chance for more than 40 hummingbirds, plus over 50 flycatchers and 50 tanagers. Birding in dense tropical jungle requires patience, and sometimes humility, but we complement the challenging jungle habitats with open country and aquatic birding, not to mention hours watching swarmed hummingbird feeders! Many bird species will be quite common, giving you ample chance for repeated encounters, and we will see plenty of “easy” birds, such as raptors and woodpeckers.

Daily outings will involve hiking on trails and roadsides at a pace that suits the abilities of our group. Some trails, as described above, may be steep and rugged, but having two U.S. guides allows us to easily divide the group for varying ability levels. Birding around some of our lodges will include leisurely strolls through manicured gardens and along entry roads. Bird observation towers and viewing blinds may require climbing several flights of stairs.

In general, our tours operate at a relaxed pace, and they appeal to birders with a wide range of skill and ability levels. As expected, those guests with more advanced skills will be able to find and identify more of the anticipated species, while less-experienced birders can still be guaranteed excellent looks at many new birds.



White-winged Guan on the roof at Chaparri Lodge

Each evening, we will review the birds and other highlights of the day, but we are not big ‘listers,’ so we will not let the prospect of a larger bird list drive our daily schedule. We also rarely bird from dawn to dusk, and we spend plenty of time at each location enjoying the behaviors of birds and other wildlife in their native habitats. While the focus of our tours is birding, we always enjoy sharing the broader natural and cultural history in the regions we visit.

FOOD & ACCOMMODATIONS

Throughout the tour, we will enjoy a wide variety of traditional foods, including mouth-watering tropical fruits, world-class ceviche on the coast, and Peru’s famous potatoes and quinoa. Lodges and restaurants will serve a variety of vegetarian & rice dishes and locally raised meats. Especially in rural areas, we do not typically drink the tap water, although purified water will be provided on all excursions and in your lodge rooms. Alcoholic beverages (at your own expense) may include refreshing lager beer or the classic Peruvian pisco.

We also believe in comfortable lodging, staying multiple nights in each location whenever it is practical. We have worked closely with our local guides and have thoroughly scouted our tour route to select lodging that complements our relaxed tour pace, without compromising the birding experience. Our accommodations include very comfortable hotels—perhaps luxurious by Peruvian standards—and some very unique and remote private lodges:

Main Tour

[Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, Lima \(1 night\)](#)

[Casa Andina Select, Miraflores \(1 night\)](#)

[Chaparrí Lodge, Chaparrí Reserve \(2 nights\)](#)

[Los Horcones de Túcume Lodge, Túcume \(2 nights\)](#)

[El Bosque Hotel, Jaén \(2 nights\)](#)

[Abra Patricia Owllet Lodge, Abra Patricia \(3 nights\)](#)

[Waqanki Lodge, Moyobamba \(3 nights\)](#)

[Tucan Suites Hotel, Tarapoto \(1 night\)](#)

Machu Picchu Extension

[Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, Lima \(1 night\)](#)

[Casa Andina Premium, Urubamba \(2 nights\)](#)

[Hotel Costa del Sol Ramada, Cuzco \(2 nights\)](#)

PERSONAL HEALTH

Some of our birding sites are several hours from traditional medical facilities, so we expect participants to be in good health and comfortable with moderate activity levels. Please consult your physician regarding medicines required for traveling in Peru. Before you visit your physician, you may want to review the general health information for travelers available online from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). You should be current on your routine vaccines before the trip, all of which you should discuss with your doctor.



If you are taking prescription medications or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring ample supplies to get through the trip safely, plus extra doses in case of delayed travel schedules. We recommend that you travel with all medication in your carry-on baggage, ideally in original containers.

If you have any health problems that may limit your enjoyment of a tour or that you think may significantly restrict your activities—such as diabetes, asthma, heart troubles, difficulty walking, etc.—please contact us *and* talk with your doctor to discuss whether this tour will be suitable for you.

WEATHER & PACKING SUGGESTIONS

Peru straddles the equator and presents a wide range of tropical climates, from the Pacific Ocean to the Andes Mountains and upper Amazon basin. We may experience overcast conditions and possibly light rain at the coast, with dry sunny weather inland. It can be quite cool and humid in the cloud forests at Abra Patricia and quite hot at Waqanki. The high humidity of the tropics will make it seem hotter than the actual air temperature, especially for participants who live in arid climates. Most rainy situations can be managed with lightweight waterproof outerwear or a personal umbrella.

Everyone's travel needs are different, and you may download a detailed travel planning checklist from our web site. Here are a few items you definitely should not forget:

PASSPORT: For U.S. citizens, a passport valid for six months beyond departure date, with one blank page for entry & exit stamps. Non-U.S. citizens should check with their local consulate or embassy for Peru travel regulations.

Medical Lists: List of medications you take regularly, including dosages; list of medical conditions and any special care requirements; list of emergency contacts. We request this information with your registration, but traveling with extra copies is a good practice.

Cash & Credit Cards: For personal essentials, and in case of emergency or other unplanned hindrances, you should have multiple ways to spend money. The unit of currency in Peru is the Nuevo Sol (PEN); you can typically purchase PEN at home or in the airports, but don't expect easy access to cash exchange during the tour. Airport shops will accept U.S. dollars (USD), but you will get a poor exchange rate on these purchases. Cash is the most efficient way to pay for souvenirs in rural locations, as well as alcoholic beverages at lodges and meals on the road.

Clothing: Lightweight field clothing, preferably long-sleeved shirts and long pants for protection against bugs and sun, although we will not typically encounter many biting insects along our route. Ideal clothing incorporates synthetic fabrics that wick moisture, dry quickly, and resist wrinkles. Rainwear and/or a pocket umbrella are essential, and you may want a wide-brimmed rain hat. As of this writing, we do not have information on the availability of laundry services, but stay tuned!



Footwear: We recommend light waterproof hiking boots (over the ankle) and something lighter still for casual walks. Athletic shoes may be fine for the first few days in dry habitats, but they may become quite soiled and wet in muddy conditions in the mountains.

Misc. Equipment: Sunscreen, camera, sunglasses, light daypack or fanny pack, insect repellent, headlamp or flashlight, and batteries. You should bring your own binoculars, although your guides will bring a couple of extra pairs and at least two spotting scopes. Electricity in Peru runs at 220 volts, and outlets will take a European-type plug with two round pins. Some locations will take a plug with 2 flat prongs (like the US), but you must have the appropriate adapter or device to accept 220 volts.

Baggage: We suggest one medium-size or large bag and a smaller bag/carry-on. Your carry-on should have all of your necessities in case your checked bags get delayed, including change of clothing, money, travel documents, toiletries, medicines, and birding equipment. Once we book the internal flights for our trip, we will contact you with the baggage weight restrictions for those airlines.

FLIGHT SCHEDULES

Our tour begins and ends at Jorge Chavez Int'l Airport in Lima (LIM), which can be reached via several major U.S. flight hubs, including Los Angeles (LAX), Houston (IAH), and Miami (MIA). Peru time is the same as Central Time in the U.S., so jetlag is only moderate, although the long flights can be exhausting. Please carefully read the requirements and recommendations below before booking flights:

For all participants: Our main tour formally begins in the evening on November 1, when we will have an orientation dinner at the airport hotel. We generally recommend that you schedule your flight arrivals sometime on the evening of October 30 or very early in the morning on Nov 1. Many flights from the USA arrive very early in the morning, such as 1:00 a.m., and an early arrival on November 1 would give you over 12 hours to rest before we meet in the evening. The night of Oct 30-Nov 1 is not included in your tour fee, but we can still make this reservation for you. In any case, we request that you arrive before 5 p.m. on December 1.

For those only taking the main tour: We will fly from Tarapoto to Lima on the afternoon of November 16, and dinner that evening is included in your tour fee. You should try to schedule your departure from Lima after 8 p.m.

If you will join the Machu Picchu Post-trip Extension: The extension officially begins at dinner on November 16, as above, followed by an early bedtime. We will check in for our flight to Cuzco the next morning at 6 a.m., and you need to be well-rested before we head to higher altitudes at Cuzco (see notes above). We will return to Lima on the evening of November 21; dinner in the airport hotel is included in your tour fee. If you have a departure on November 22, you may wish to spend the night at the airport hotel, at your own expense. However, many flights will leave late on Nov 21 or very early in the morning on Nov 22.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We require that you purchase travel insurance. We have experience with medical emergencies in foreign countries, and travel insurance has always been of great benefit. Travel insurance typically covers costs associated with flight delays, trip cancellation, illness, medical expenses, lost baggage, and emergency transportation. If insurance is not offered when you purchase your flight, we recommend Travelex Insurance Services. Most U.S. health insurance plans do not cover costs incurred outside the U.S., although many credit cards include travel insurance when used for flights and tour fee.

2020 TOUR FEE

Main tour fee: \$8,490 double; \$8,870 single
Deposit, due w/registration: \$500/person
Balance Due July 1, 2019: \$7,990 double; \$8,370 single

Your tour fee includes:

- 🌐 Lodging at single or double occupancy;
- 🌐 All meals and non-alcohol beverages;
- 🌐 Snacks, water, and coffee available in the vehicle;
- 🌐 Ground transportation during the tour, including driver;
- 🌐 Internal flights within Peru (Lima to Chiclayo, Tarapoto to Lima);
- 🌐 All taxes, permits, entry fees, and service-related gratuities, including tips for drivers;
- 🌐 A \$100 donation toward habitat conservation for Guayaquil Woodpecker;
- 🌐 The leadership of 2 U.S. guides (when we have at least 6 participants), expert Peruvian national guide, Wilson Diaz, and local guides at private preserves.

Your fee does not include:

- 🌐 Round-trip flights from home to Lima;
- 🌐 Travel insurance (required for this trip; contact us with questions)
- 🌐 Alcohol and bottled beverages at snack stops;
- 🌐 Souvenirs and other personal items (such as telephone, laundry, spa services, etc.)
- 🌐 Guides' gratuities, which are never expected but always appreciated based on your satisfaction with our service. An average gratuity is \$10/day/person, divided among your primary guides (2 or 3, depending on group size); the maximum gratuity for such a tour is about 10%, also divided among the guides.

NOTE: Our tour fees are structured for an optimal birding experience, with the best possible client-to-guide ratio. With 4 or 5 participants, you will have 1 U.S. guide; with 6 to 8 participants, you will have 2 U.S. guides.

REFUND POLICY

Once we confirm the tour has reached the minimum registration of 4 participants, \$100 of your deposit becomes non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation more than 120 days prior to the tour, you will be refunded any payments above the \$100 from your deposit. If you cancel between 119 and 60 days prior to the tour, you will receive a 50% refund of all fees paid. If you cancel less than 60 days prior, you forfeit your entire tour fee, unless you can fill your space with another birder. If you cancel at any time, your deposit and a portion of any other retained fees are transferrable to any future Paradise Birding tour. If we cancel the trip for any reason, all payments will be refunded, including the \$100 from your deposit.



Chestnut-eared
Aracari

TOUR REGISTRATION

To reserve your space for this tour, submit your \$500 deposit (per person) with the registration forms that follow this tour summary. These are also available to download as a PDF file from our web site. Please contact us with any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you in Peru this winter!

Paradise Birding steve@paradisebirding.com
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Cuzco & Machu Picchu

17-21 November 2020

You are already coming to Peru, so perhaps you should extend your vacation to visit the legendary Incan ruins and high Andes habitats around Cuzco and Machu Picchu! We have designed a special extension to our regular tour that will showcase renowned archaeology and excellent birding for a truly memorable experience.

EXTENSION ITINERARY

Nov 16—Meet at Lima airport hotel

Our tour formally begins with dinner on December 16. See arrival information, above, for travel and rendezvous details.

Nov 17—Lima to Cuzco to Urubamba

We will have an early breakfast at our airport hotel to ensure ample time for our 8 a.m. flight to Cuzco. We arrive at 9:20 a.m., followed by the 2-hour drive to Urubamba in Valle Sagrado, or the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We will check-in and enjoy lunch at the hotel.

You will have the afternoon at your leisure to help you adjust to the altitude (see below), but this will not keep us from some outstanding birding! Even around the hotel we can find such spectacular hummingbirds as the Great Sapphirewing, Shining Sunbeam, and the largest of all hummers, the Giant Hummingbird. Dinner at the hotel.

Nov 18—Machu Picchu

After 6:45 a.m. breakfast at the hotel, we drive about 30 minutes to the town of Ollantaytambo, where we will board the train for Aguas Calientes, below the entrance gate to Machu Picchu. Our 2-hour train ride will take us through the spectacular Urubamba canyon, and we could see dozens of Torrent Ducks on the river. Upon arrival in Aguas Calientes, we will board a shuttle bus to the archeological site.

The archaeological site of Machu Picchu is located below the peak of a mountain surrounded by the mighty Urubamba River, which runs east through the canyon almost a half-mile below the citadel. Our guided visit includes the Temple of the Sun, the Priestly Mansion, the Temple of the Three Windows, the Plaza, and the fountains and channels that form the Inca Baths.



As we explore Machu Picchu, we have a good chance for some special birds, such as Inca Wren, Parodi's Hemispingus, Cuzco Brush-Finch, and Tricolored Brush-Finch.

After our visit to the Incan ruins, we will have a buffet lunch at the restaurant of the luxurious Sanctuary Lodge, inside the Machu Picchu protected area. Lunch will be followed by two hours of birding in the forest above the lodge, where we will search for Green-and-white Hummingbird, Highland Motmot, Ocellated Piculet, Masked Fruiteater, and more. At about 5 p.m., we take the return train to Ollantaytambo and then transfer back to Casa Andina in Urubamba for dinner.

Nov 19—Abra Málaga

After an early breakfast at Casa Andina we will spend a full day birding around Abra Málaga, in search of *Polylepis* elfin-forest specialists. The Málaga pass is located 54 km from the hotel, at an altitude of 4,230 m (see altitude notes below). The first section of the road after Ollantaytambo has patches of semi-humid mountain scrub where we will be looking for White-tufted Sunbeam, Creamy-crested Spinetail, Tit-like Dacnis, and Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch. At the pass itself, we will hike about 1 km to reach the *Polylepis* forest, where we will search for high-elevation specialists such as Blue-mantled Thornbill, White-browed Tit-Spinetail, Stripe-headed Antpitta, Giant Conebill, and Royal Cinclodes.

We will enjoy lunch at one of the spectacular miradores (viewpoints) of Abra Málaga, followed by a leisurely drive back to our hotel in Urubamba. Final night and dinner at the hotel.

Nov 20—Cuzco

After a leisurely breakfast, we will make the morning drive back to Cuzco. We will drop our luggage at the hotel and enjoy a guided city tour, with our first stop at the colonial style Main Plaza and the main cathedral church, followed by the Sun Temple, known as the Qorikancha. This temple, with its once gold-covered walls, was one of the most important buildings in the time of the Inca civilization, built to honor the Sun God, Inti. While exploring the city gardens, we will keep our radars on for Rufous-collared Sparrow, Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch, and Cinereous Conebill.

After enjoying lunch of first-class cuisine, we will visit the Sacsayhuamán archaeological site, about 20 minutes from the city center. A few new birds are possible here, including Aplomado Falcon, Andean Flicker, Creamy-crested Spinetail, Rusty-fronted Canastero, and Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch. We return to the hotel by 4 p.m. and enjoy our farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Night at Costa del Sol hotel.



Nov 21—Cuzco to Lima

You will have the morning at leisure in Cuzco, with ample time to wander the lovely streets and squares of this beautiful city. After another delectable lunch, we will board our afternoon flight to Lima. Our tour ends with dinner at the Lima airport hotel, though some departures may be scheduled for earlier in the afternoon or evening.

PERSONAL HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE EXTENSION

Your primary health consideration for the extension involves your ability to tolerate high altitudes. Below is a table listing some of the high elevations we will encounter. It is very difficult to predict how each individual will respond to high-altitude travel, regardless of one's fitness at lower elevations. Most people do not experience symptoms of altitude sickness until they climb above 8,000 ft. This is the maximum elevation we will reach on our main tour, but the extension will take us well above this threshold. Consult your doctor about possible precautions and remedies for altitude sickness.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Altitude (ft.)</u>	<u>Altitude (m)</u>
Cuzco	11,152	3,400
Pass to Urubamba	12,200	3,720
Urubamba	9,514	2,900
Machu Picchu	7,874	2,400
Abra Málaga	13,878	4,230

For other trip planning information, please see the detailed summary for the main tour, above.

TOUR EXTENSION FEE PER PERSON:

\$3,460 single, \$3,820 double; due with main tour payment.

Your extension tour fee includes:

- 🌐 Round-trip flights between Lima and Cuzco;
- 🌐 Ground transportation, including driver;
- 🌐 Round-trip train ticket to Machu Picchu;
- 🌐 Cultural guide at Machu Picchu & Cuzco;
- 🌐 Lodging at single or double occupancy;
- 🌐 All meals and non-alcohol beverages;
- 🌐 Snacks and beverages during travel days;
- 🌐 Entrance fees to all nature reserves and archaeological sites;
- 🌐 The leadership of U.S. guide(s) and expert Peruvian guide.

See main tour, above, for fee exclusions.

PLEASE NOTE: *In part because of its status as an internationally acclaimed tourism destination, visiting Machu Picchu is expensive. Note that we are also spending 3 nights in the Sacred Valley to allow ample time to explore the high elevation habitats at Abra Málaga. We will only take 4-6 participants on the extension, and we will operate with 1 or 2 U.S. guides, a Peruvian national guide, and a cultural guide at Machu Picchu and Cuzco. This high guide-to-client ratio gives you an especially intimate experience in the Andean highlands, and it allows us to maintain our high standards for customer service.*

Long-tailed Sylph

