

PERU

The Ultimate Birding Experience





Why Peru It's the ultimate Birding experience.

Peru is the birdiest country in the world. Peru ties Colombia with over 1800 species of birds, more than 85% of which are permanent residents. Peru is second only to Brazil in the number of endemic birds and second only to Indonesia in the number of bird species with restricted geographical ranges. Several rainforest lodges in Peru offer superb birding, each with a list of over 550 species! In 1982 a team of birders in Manu in southeastern Peru established the current world record "big day" when they recorded 331 species while only walking and paddling canoes.

Peru is truly a land of superlatives: From the world's richest oceanic current, to the world's highest and most extensive tropical mountains, to the rainforests of the world's largest river, Peru is a country of unparalleled diversity. With 87 of the world's 104 climate zones, Peru encompasses both the driest desert and the second wettest locality on the planet.

The time has come to witness Peru's unrivalled diversity of birds - from exotic hummingbirds (118 species), cotingas (33 species), and antbirds (142 species), to flocks of hundreds of macaws at clay licks, mixed species flocks of over 60 species, and rare endemics like the White-winged Guan and the flightless Junin Grebe.



Why travel with GranPeru Bird Tours?

There are many reasons to travel with us

- GranPeru Bird Tours' director and founder is Thomas Valqui, Peru's leading ornithologist. Thomas has 20 years of experience guiding academic expeditions and specialized birders as well as researching and writing about the birds of Peru.

- GranPeru Bird Tours has the full operational support of InkaNatura Travel, Peru's leading agency for specialized nature travel. InkaNatura has offices all over Peru, and is the leading operator of Manu and the only operator with outstanding rainforest lodges in Manu, Tambopata, Heath, and the Lower Urubamba.

- GranPeru's tour leaders live in Peru and are recognized for their commitment to the study and conservation of the country's birds. At each site, your leader will know all the birds heard, seen, and expected. And each leader has extensive general knowledge of the region and makes an excellent traveling companion for your exploration of this remarkable country.





Tour Programs

GranPeru Bird Tours' fixed departures are carefully planned to explore the best of Peru's birding sites. We are committed to fulfilling your birding expectations. First time visitors will find that we have spared no effort to give them the best combination of bird species.

Those who have birded Peru before, will find our level of fine-grain knowledge of Peruvian birds to be unparalleled. Thus, we can offer you the best options for expanding your Peruvian bird list with greatest efficiency and comfort.

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

Megadiversity Tour - From the Andes to the Manu lowlands (17 days/16 nights)

From Cusco we descend the famous Manu Road through elfin and cloud forest to the Amazon lowlands. This route is known as the finest birding road in the world as no other route offers 1,000 species in so little time. In the lowlands we stay at the renowned Manu Wildlife Center, which features the world's most visited macaw clay lick, a massive trail system, and multiple canopy platforms.

Birding in "Eden" - Manu Wildlife Center (11 days/10 nights)

This superb lodge is the single best birding location in the entire Amazon. It has a huge trail system (including bamboo!) with a scientifically-designed grid system of trails that allows you to follow mixed flocks and hear all signing males. The Center offers a comfy blind at an enormous parrot and macaw clay lick, two 130-foot-high (40 m) canopy platforms, mobile platforms at fruiting trees, and two oxbow lakes.

Southeastern Peru Birding Blowout - Sandoval Lake and Pampas del Heath (11 days/10 nights)

We fly to Puerto Maldonado and bird lake and forest from the comfort of Sandoval Lake Lodge, the only lodge inside the Tambopata National Reserve (Black-faced Cotinga). We then boat up the intimate Heath River to the Heath River Wildlife Center, which offers forest trails, the world's most accessible macaw and parrot lick (with Peach-fronted Parakeets!), and the very different birds of the pampas grasslands.

Manu and Tambopata combo (11 days/10 nights)

Pantanos de Villa marshes near Lima, Manu Wildlife Center and Sandoval Lake Lodge. Highlights include a macaw clay lick, extensive rainforest, rivers, and lakes.



But Peru has much more to offer for those interested in custom designed trips, or in combining birding with archaeology and culture :

Center of Endemism - Northwestern Peru

The Tumbesian endemic center of extreme northwest Peru is one of the most important centers of endemism in the world. Includes Peru's coastal mangroves, Pacific tropical forest, and a pelagic trip at the convergence of the cold Humboldt current and the warm El Niño current (Galapagos sea birds appear often).

Lowland Megadiversity Iquitos and surroundings

Astonishing bird diversity in a wide range of lowland habitats. Includes the white-sand forests of Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve, which harbour five new species to science.

Kingdom of Contrasts - Central Peru

From the coast, over the Andes to the Amazon lowlands, nothing showcases Peru's avian richness like this extraordinary transect.

For a detailed itinerary, more information, and updates see our web site or contact us.



Extensions to our fixed tours:

Those with more appetite for birds and archaeology can choose from these interesting add-ons and extensions:

Pantanos de Villa: A haven for migratory species, this attractive wetland is home to over 100 bird species and is only a 30 minute drive from the hotel district of Lima - an excellent way to spend a morning or afternoon in Lima.

Paracas: also known as the little Galapagos. A two day trip offers most Peruvian seabirds surrounded by sea mammals and other marine life. A pelagic trip to the near continental shelf adds several prized species to the list!

Machu Picchu: The most famous archaeological destination in the Americas (and voted by the readers of Conde Nast Traveler as the world's top monument for overall experience) is becoming increasingly popular as a full-fledged birding destination.

Chachapoyas: A trip to this archaeology-rich region of Peru's northern Andes (with a walled citadel that rivals Machu Picchu for sheer majesty) offers a wealth of unique bird species, including the Marvelous Spatuletail.

Tailor-made Trips: Thomas Valqui relishes planning custom trips for specific birding needs. Whatever your request, Thomas will know the bird, the site, and the local logistics.



More about Thomas Valqui

Thomas is a recognized leader in South American ornithology. Already he has discovered two species new to science and co-authored the description of two others. He is completing a Ph.D. at Louisiana State University. Previously he earned a Masters degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University and a degree in Forestry (with specialty in fauna) at the National Agrarian University in Lima. He records bird vocalizations for the Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds at Cornell University.

In 2004, Thomas published a new, comprehensive site guide entitled "Where to Watch Birds in Peru". His unique combination of experience, love of birds, and outstanding academic training makes Thomas the natural choice for organizing birding expeditions in Peru.



More about InkaNatura, the leader in Nature and Archaeology

InkaNatura Travel excels in organizing logistics for professional photographers, international film crews and wildlife expeditions. Their experience includes repeated logistical support for the BBC, the Discovery Channel, and National Geographic among others, as well as designing and operating custom-designed itineraries for specialized travelers.

InkaNatura features several outstanding lodges in Peru's most biologically diverse and beautiful forests: Manu Wildlife Center, Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge, Sandoval Lake Lodge and Heath River Wildlife Center. Condé Nast Traveler Magazine (Dec. 2002) described Manu Wildlife Center as "The finest wildlife lodge in all the Amazon." Each lodge protects tens of thousands of acres of pristine, un hunted forest, thus ensuring the presence of otherwise rare species. These lodges offer attractions such as macaw clay licks, the world's largest tapir clay lick, Giant Otters, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock display grounds, canopy platforms, and much more.

In northwestern Peru, InkaNatura Travel is the leading service provider. This area is one of the world's greatest centers for bird endemism and an area rich in archaeology. InkaNatura also is a leading operator of Machu Picchu and the Inca Trail--two emblems of South American archaeology and nature.

One hundred percent of InkaNatura's profits are used to protect nature in Peru as the agency is completely owned by Peru Verde, a major Peruvian conservation group. Peru Verde and InkaNatura are part of the Tropical Nature Conservation System (www.tropicalnature.org)



PHOTOS / Jose Alvarez: Yungas Manakin • Wire-tailed Manakin / **Heinz Plenge:** Fiery-capped Manakin • Harpy Eagle • Hummingbird / **Gary Lee:** Hoatzin / **Daniel Blanco:** Blue-and-Yellow Macaw • Cock-of-the-Rock / **Thomas Valqui:** Golden-collared Toucanet • Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl • Flame-faced Tanager • Plum-throated Cotinga • Slate-colored Hawk • Razor-billed Curassow • Rufous-necked-Puffbird • Black Manakin • Junin Grebe • Yellow-crowned Night-Heron • Black Bushbird • White-masked Antbird • Amazonian-streaked Antwren • Yellow-billed Pintail • Green-tailed Goldenthrout • Lettered Aracari • Crested Caracara / **Steve Winter:** Thomas Valqui in Junin.



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