



**PERU DAY TOUR: 1-DAY PUCUSANA AND CHILCA  
WETLANDS – COASTAL BIRDING FROM LIMA**



*Humboldt Penguin is one of our targets on this Lima tour (photo Uwe Speck).*

This tour is perfect for people with only one day available in Lima who wish to head into the field to enjoy excellent views of Peru's spectacular coastal birdlife. Highlights include the iconic **Inca Tern** and near-endemic **Humboldt Penguin**, along with a host of charismatic seabirds, shorebirds and several Peruvian specialties.

## Itinerary

Our day begins with a 7:30 a.m. pick-up from your hotel in Lima. We drive approximately 40 miles (64 km) south to the traditional fishing village of Pucusana.

From the shoreline we can expect views of **Belcher's Gull**, **Kelp Gull** and **Grey Gull**, along with close-range encounters with the spectacular **Inca Tern**. Other coastal species commonly observed include **Blackish Oystercatcher**, **Peruvian Pelican**, **Peruvian Booby**, **Red-legged Cormorant**, **Neotropic Cormorant**, **Blue-and-white Swallow** and the endemic **Surf Cinclodes**. Depending on the season, migrant shorebirds such as **Ruddy Turnstone** and **Surfbird** may also be present along the shore.



*Red-legged Cormorant seen around Pucusana Island (photo Uwe Speck).*

We then enjoy a one-hour private boat excursion around Pucusana Island. This boat ride is typically the highlight of the day, offering outstanding photographic opportunities and very close views of hundreds of **Peruvian Boobies** and **Peruvian Pelicans**. At certain times of the year, a few **Blue-footed Boobies** may also be seen roosting on the cliffs.

One of our main targets is the near-endemic **Humboldt Penguin**, which may be observed swimming in the calm waters of the bay or standing on rocky ledges. Marine mammals are also possible, including **South American Sea Lion** and hopefully the elusive and seldom-seen **Marine Otter**.

After leaving Pucusana, we continue south to the freshwater wetlands of Chilca. This site serves as a seasonal refuge for North American migratory shorebirds during the austral summer, while also supporting a number of resident Peruvian species. Resident specialties include **Grassland Yellow-Finch** and **Peruvian Pipit**. Shorebird diversity can be excellent, with species such as **Killdeer**, **Snowy Plover**, **Semipalmated Plover**, **Whimbrel**, **Willet**, **Sanderling**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Western Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper** and **Wilson's Phalarope**, depending on the season. Rare visitors such as **Hudsonian Godwit** and **Marbled Godwit** have also been recorded here.

Other wetland species may include **Black-necked Stilt**, **American Oystercatcher**, **Cinnamon Teal**, **White-cheeked Pintail**, and **Puna Ibis**. This is also one of the most reliable sites along the Peruvian coast for the scarce **Peruvian Martin**, although sightings cannot be guaranteed. We will also search for the impressive **Peruvian Thick-knee**, sometimes found near the beach entrance.

A short drive further south provides an opportunity to look for the striking **Many-colored Rush Tyrant**. Additional possibilities in this area include **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Grey-headed Gull**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Peruvian Meadowlark**, and **Wren-like Rushbird**. On rare occasions, the secretive **Least Bittern** may also be encountered.



*Inca Tern surely stands among the most beautiful terns in the world (photo Uwe Speck).*



*Peruvian Thick-Knee is possible along arid habitats south of Lima (photo Uwe Speck).*

In the afternoon we return to Lima, arriving at the hotel at approximately 4:00 p.m. En route, we may encounter common urban and garden species such as **Long-tailed Mockingbird**, **Scrub Blackbird**, **Amazilia Hummingbird**, **Vermilion Flycatcher**, **Tropical Kingbird** and **Southern House Wren**.

**Duration:** 1 day  
**(Group Size):** 1 – 6  
**Start:** Lima  
**End:** Lima  
**Prices:** US\$610 (1 paying participant)  
US\$390 per person (2 paying participants)

**Price includes:**

Private transport  
Entrance fees  
Private tour leader  
Boat ride  
Boxed lunch

**Price excludes:**

Breakfast and dinner  
Any activities not described in the itinerary  
Transfer back to the airport  
Accommodation  
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))

**Note:**

In the event of unusual swells, boat excursions may be delayed or fully canceled in accordance with directives issued by the Peruvian Navy Harbor Master. Should such conditions arise, the boat trip will not be possible; however, we will make every effort to observe the target species from accessible coastal vantage points.

Excursions conclude with drop-off at the participant's hotel, typically located in the southern districts of Lima (Miraflores, Barranco, San Isidro, or downtown Lima).

Airport transfers are not included in the tour price and will be charged separately. These can be arranged in advance through prior coordination with us, or directly with the driver, subject to availability.