

Birding Ecotours

A stylized white owl with large eyes and a black mask-like pattern around its eyes, perched on a horizontal line. The owl is centered within a green diamond shape that serves as a background for the text.

NORTHERN PERU: NORTHWEST AND ABRA PATRICIA MOUNTAINS

10 - 23 MAY 2025



The gorgeous Sparkling Violetear is one of our hummingbird targets on this trip.

This two-week version of our **Comprehensive Northern Peru** tour is an excellent opportunity for those who cannot travel more than 14 days but want to see the best of this great birding route and the amazing set of endemic species it provides, especially the endemics **Marvelous Spatuletail** and **Long-whiskered Owlet**. Our tour will start in Lima, the capital of Peru, and from there it will take you to the northwest to explore the deciduous woodlands known as the Tumbesian area in search of the endemics **Peruvian Plantcutter** and **White-winged Guan**. It will continue along the mid-Marañón Valley, looking for the secretive **Little Inca Finch** and **Maranon Pigeon**, and finally reach the Utcubamba and Alto Mayo Valleys, where lush, humid, montane forest meets the upper Amazon lowlands. The highlights here are **Marvelous Spatuletail**, **Lulu's Tody-Tyrant**, **Hoatzin**, **Oilbird**, **Rufous-crested Coquette**, **White-eared Solitaire**, **Golden-headed Quetzal**, **Channel-billed Toucan**, **Andean Cock-of-the-rock**, **Ash-throated Antwren**, **Fiery-throated Fruiteater**, **Bar-winged Wood Wren**, **Royal Sunangel**, **Band-bellied Owl**, **Ochre-fronted Antpitta**, **Rusty-tinged Antpitta**, **Chestnut Antpitta**, **Yellow-scarfed Tanager**, and nearly 50 species of hummingbirds.



*We'll look for **Hoatzin** in the Amazon lowlands.*

Itinerary (14 days/13 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Lima

You will arrive at the Jorge Chávez International Airport of Lima and be transferred to your hotel. No activities are included on day 1, since most international flights arrive in Lima late in

the evening. If you arrive on an early flight you might be charged an extra accommodation fee for an early check-in at the hotel, or we can organize an additional birding morning near the city.

Overnight: Hotel in Lima

Day 2. Birding Pucusana and flight to Chiclayo

We will have an easy morning visiting the fishing village of Pucusana, 60 kilometers (37 miles) south of the city. Here we will have the chance to see many coastal birds and Humboldt Current specialists like **Inca Tern, Belcher's Gull, Peruvian Pelican, Peruvian Booby, Humboldt Penguin**, and the endemic **Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes**. Other birds include **Guanay Cormorant, Red-legged Cormorant, and Blackish Oystercatcher**.

Later we will drive back to Lima to transfer to the airport and connect with our flight to Chiclayo.

Overnight: Casa Andina Select Chiclayo, Chiclayo



*One of the most attractive of the cormorants — **Red-legged Cormorant***

Day 3. Birding the Bosque de Pómac Historic Sanctuary and explore the coast

We will explore the Bosque de Pómac Historic Sanctuary, which is an area of large deciduous mesquite woodland. Here we spend a nice morning, looking for several range-restricted species, including the endemic **Rufous Flycatcher, Peruvian Plantcutter, and Tumbes Tyrant**. Other birds include **Tumbes Swallow, Grey-and-white Tyrannulet, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, White-edged Oriole, Lineated Woodpecker, White-tailed Jay, Fasciated Wren, Superciliated Wren, Short-tailed Field Tyrant, Tawny-crowned Pygmy**

Tyrant, Pacific Hornero, Collared Antshrike, Baird's Flycatcher, Pacific Parrotlet, Amazilia Hummingbird, Short-tailed Woodstar, and many others; in particular we hope to find the endemic **Cinereous Finch** and the endemic **Coastal Miner**.

In the afternoon we will explore the coastal shores of Chiclayo in search of **Gull-billed Tern** and **Peruvian Tern**.

Overnight: Casa Andina Select Chiclayo, Chiclayo



*We will search for **Amazilia Hummingbird** in the **Bosque de Pómac Historic Sanctuary**.*

Day 4. Birding the Refugio de Vida Silvestre of Laquipampa, transfer to Tucume

We will have an early start to explore the Refugio de Vida Silvestre of Laquipampa above the mountains of Chiclayo in search of the endemic and Endangered (IUCN) **White-winged Guan**. Other interesting birds include the secretive **Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner**, **Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner**, **Ecuadorian Trogon**, **Tumbes Sparrow**, **Short-tailed Swift**, **Speckle-breasted Wren**, **Pacific Elaenia**, **Plumbeous-backed Thrush**, **Ecuadorian Piculet**, **Whooping Motmot**, **White-headed Brushfinch**, **Black-capped Sparrow**, and **Red-masked Parakeet**.

Later we will transfer to Tucume and spend the night in a comfortable but rustic lodge, where after a tasty dinner we will try for **West Peruvian Screech Owl**.

Overnight: Los Horcones de Tucume, Tucume

Day 5. Birding the Porculla mountain pass, transfer to Jaén

Again we will have an early start driving to the Porculla mountain pass (the lowest Peruvian mountain pass), where we will look for **White-winged Brushfinch**, **Line-cheeked Spinetail**, **Black-cowled Saltator**, **Chapman's Antshrike**, **Black-and-white Seedeater**, **Grey-chinned Hermit**, **Three-banded Warbler**, **Elegant Crescentchest**, **Tumbesian Tyrannulet**, **Grey-and-gold Warbler**, **Ash-breasted Sierra Finch**, and the endemic **Piura Chat-Tyrant**.

After some hours birding below the pass we will head to the heat of Jaén, where after check-in at the hotel we will go to explore the Jaén surroundings for birds like **Ecuadorian Ground Dove**, the endemic **Spot-throated Hummingbird**, **Chinchipe Spinetail**, **Purple-throated Euphonia**, and after dusk **Anthony's Nightjar**.

Overnight: Hotel El Bosque, Jaén

Day 6. Birding Bosque de Yanahuanca, transfer to Gocta

An early start will take us to Bosque de Yanahuanca, which is located near the city of Jaén. Here we will look for the localized **Maranon Spinetail**, **Red Pileated Finch**, the endemic and shy **Little Inca Finch**, **Maranon Crescentchest**, **Northern Slaty Antshrike**, **Green-backed Becard**, **Black-and-white Becard**, **Brown-crested Flycatcher**, **Blue Ground Dove**, and **Striped Cuckoo**.



The beautiful Maranon Crescentchest.

Then we will drive along the Utcubamba Valley, looking for **Fasciated Tiger Heron**, **Pied Plover**, **Yellow-browed Sparrow**, **Savanna Hawk**, **Amazon Kingfisher**, **Maranon Spinetail**, and **Mitred Parakeet**.

In the afternoon we will drive to Gocta, where we will stay in a hotel with an impressive view of the third-largest waterfall in the world, 771 meters (2530 feet) high. We will have a relaxed birding session in the afternoon around the hotel grounds, and after dusk we will try for the seldom-seen **Buff-fronted Owl**.

Overnight: Gocta Andes Lodge, Cocachimba



*We'll search for **Buff-fronted Owl** in the grounds of Gocta Andes Lodge (photo Alan van Norman).*

Day 7. Huembo hummingbird feeders and transfer to the Owlet Lodge

This morning we will start birding at the main road, looking for the endemic **Speckle-chested Piculet**, **Lemon-browed Flycatcher**, **White-lined Tanager**, **Torrent Tyrannulet**, **Speckle-breasted Wren**, **Tooth-billed Tanager**, **Yellow-bellied Elaenia**, and, with luck, **Golden-rumped Euphonia**.

Then we will drive to the famous Huembo feeding center, where we will enjoy the feeders with views of the sought-after **Marvelous Spatuletail** (perhaps the most beautiful hummingbird in the world), **Bronzy Inca**, **Andean Emerald**, **Chestnut-breasted Coronet**, **Sparkling Violetear**, **Lesser Violetear**, **Violet-fronted Brilliant**, **White-bellied Woodstar**, **Little Woodstar**, and **White-bellied Hummingbird**.

Here we might also have good chances for **Black-throated Toucanet** as well as **Speckle-breasted Wren**, **Chestnut-capped Brushfinch**, **Northern White-crowned Tapaculo**, **Sierran Elaenia**, **Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner**, and **Azara's Spinetail**.

After having had satisfactory views of these beautiful birds we will drive to the Abra Patricia area to explore and stay at the Owllet Lodge for three nights.

Overnight: Owllet Lodge

Day 8. Owllet Lodge

Today we will explore the trails of the lodge, looking for species such as **Grass-green Tanager**, the endemic **Yellow-scarfed Tanager**, **Masked Flowerpiercer**, the endemic **Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher**, **Green-and-black Fruiteater**, **Black-throated Tody-Tyrant**, **Variable Antshrike**, **Russet-crowned Warbler**, **Grey-breasted Wood Wren**, **Rufous Spinetail**, the endemic **Rufous-vented Tapaculo**, **Rufous-headed Pygmy Tyrant**, **Spotted Barbtail**, **Blue-winged Mountain Tanager**, **Streaked Tuftedcheek**, **Pearled Treerunner**, **White-banded Tyrannulet**, **Capped Conebill**, and **Strong-billed, Montane**, and **Olive-backed Woodcreepers**.

The hummingbird feeders of the lodge provide views of **Emerald-bellied Puffleg**, **Bronzy Inca**, **Collared Inca**, **Fawn-breasted Brilliant**, **White-bellied Woodstar**, **Long-tailed Sylph**, and **Chestnut-breasted Coronet**.



*The feeders at Owllet Lodge attract the likes of **Long-tailed Sylph**.*

In the afternoon we will explore the steep Owllet Trail, where we will look for the enigmatic, endemic, and Endangered (IUCN) **Long-whiskered Owllet**. If we are lucky we might also encounter **Rufous-bellied Nighthawk**.

Overnight: Owllet Lodge

Day 9. Owlet Lodge and Fundo Alto Nieva

After having had a full day without any driving yesterday, today we will explore the lowest parts of the mountain pass, especially the recently new Fundo Alto Nieva, a private reserve, where we will enjoy hummingbird feeders with **Greenish Puffleg**, **Rufous-vented Whitetip**, **Peruvian Racket-tail**, **Green-fronted Lancebill**, and the spectacular **Royal Sunangel**. But not only hummingbirds are the attraction of this reserve, but we also will have a chance to see the endemic **Rusty-tinged Antpitta** coming to a worm feeder. Other birds at lower elevations include the range-restricted **Bar-winged Wood Wren**, **Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant**, **Crimson-mantled Woodpecker**, **Olive-chested Flycatcher**, **Blue-naped Chlorophonia**, **Flame-faced Tanager**, and **Golden-eyed Flowerpiercer**.

We will return to the lodge for lunch, and after some rest we will drive back to Fundo Alto Nieva to look for the endemic and secretive **Ochre-fronted Antpitta**, which attends the worm feeders only in the afternoon. Before dusk we will try for **Cinnamon Screech Owl** and **Lyre-tailed Nightjar** and have another chance for **Long-whiskered Owlet**.

Overnight: Owlet Lodge



*The beautiful **Brown Violetear**.*

Day 10. Afluentes and transfer to Moyobamba

Today we will leave the mountains and head to lower elevations to the upper tropical forest. Here we will focus on mixed-flock species, including colorful birds such as **Golden Tanager**, **Paradise Tanager**, **Bay-headed Tanager**, **Spotted Tanager**, **Golden-eared Tanager**, **Vermilion Tanager**, **White-lined Tanager**, **Magpie Tanager** and also **Versicolored Barbet**, **Ash-browed Spinetail**, **Dark-breasted Spinetail**, **Montane Foliage-gleaner**, **Lined Antshrike**,

White-backed Fire-eye, Northern White-crowned Tapaculo, Yellow-breasted Antwren, Grey-mantled Wren, and Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant. We will also have another chance for **Speckle-chested Piculet** and hope to see the fabulous **Andean Cock-of-the-rock**.

Later we will reach Rioja in the flat lowlands, where we will look for the secretive **Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Gilded Barbet, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Hauxwell's Thrush, Cobalt-winged Parakeet, and Chestnut-bellied Seed eater.**

Finally we will arrive in the Moyobamba area in the tropical Amazon foothills at our basic but good accommodation, the Waqanki Lodge. Here we will spend the afternoon admiring the hummingbird feeders, looking for **Rufous-crested Coquette, Blue-tailed Emerald, Black-throated Mango, Long-billed Starthroat, White-necked Jacobin, Brown Violetear, Long-tailed Hermit, Black-throated Hermit, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Wire-crested Thorntail, White-chinned Sapphire, and with luck even Amethyst Woodstar.**

The area around Waqanki provides good chances for owls, including **Band-bellied Owl, Stygian Owl, Striped Owl, Black-banded Owl, Foothill Screech Owl, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, and Tropical Screech Owl.** But getting the largest number of them depends very much on how hard we work and on luck. They have different times during which they are active at night, so hard work is required to track down most of them.

Overnight: Waqanki Lodge, Moyobamba



Tropical Screech Owl, one of a number of owl species we hope to encounter on this tour.

Day 11. Waqanki and Moyobamba

Today we will hike up the mountains above Moyobamba along a steep trail, looking for **Fiery-capped Manakin, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater, Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher, Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser, White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant**, the endemic **Mishana Tyrannulet, White-lored Tyrannulet, Spot-winged Antbird, Northern Chestnut-tailed Antbird, Plain-winged Antshrike, Peruvian Warbling Antbird, Channel-billed Toucan, Golden-collared Toucanet, Rufous Motmot, Blue-rumped Manakin, Buff-throated Tody-Tyrant**, and the endemic and Endangered (IUCN) **Ash-throated Antwren**.

In the evening we will keep trying for owls and for **Spot-tailed Nightjar** and **Ocellated Poorwill**.

Overnight: Waqanki Lodge, Moyobamba



*We'll keep a look out for the beautiful **Rufous Motmot**.*

Day 12. Reserva Arena Blanca and transfer to Tarapoto

A predawn start will take us to visit the recently opened Reserva Arena Blanca, where we will visit the feeders, which attract **Rufous-breasted Wood Quail, Cinereous Tinamou, Little Tinamou, Orange-billed Sparrow**, and **Grey-cowled Wood Rail**. The hummingbird feeders attract **Blue-fronted Lancebill, Amethyst Woodstar, Long-billed Starthroat, Wire-crested Thorntail, Many-spotted Hummingbird**, and a few others.

Other interesting species in the reserve are **Golden-collared Toucanet, Inambari Woodcreeper, Dusky Spinetail, Red-billed Tyrannulet** and **Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch**.

Later we will continue our tour to Tarapoto, making a stop on the way to see **Oilbird** roosting at daytime.

Overnight: Hotel Rio Shilcayo, Tarapoto

Day 13. Cordillera Escalera Regional Conservation Area and flight to Lima

We will leave the hotel and head toward the buffer zone of the Cordillera Escalera protected zone. In this area we will have good views of **Cliff Flycatcher**, **White-tipped Swift**, **Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo**, **Slate-colored Grosbeak**, and if we are lucky **Military Macaw**.

We will arrive at a local hummingbird center, where we will have nice views of the endemic **Koepcke's Hermit**, **Gould's Jewelfront**, **Black-throated Brilliant**, and **Pale-tailed Barbthroat**. This pleasant center, located in the upper Amazon forest, also provides great views of **White-throated Toucan**, **Violaceous Jay**, **Magpie Tanager**, and some understory species such as **Carmioli's Tanager**, **Golden-headed Manakin**, **Ruddy Foliage-gleaner**, **Black-faced Antthrush**, **White-breasted Wood Wren**, **Spot-winged Antbird**, **Green-backed Trogon**, and if we are lucky enough to find army ant swarms the stunning **White-plumed Antbird** and **Bicolored Antbird**.

In the afternoon we will take a domestic flight back to Lima.

Overnight: Hotel in Lima

Day 14. Departure

You will be transferred to the Jorge Chávez International Airport of Lima to connect with your international flights.

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

Duration:	14 days
Group Size:	4 - 8
Dates:	10 - 23 May 2025
Start:	Lima
End:	Lima

Price: US\$5,689 per person sharing (4-8 people) plus US\$444 for the domestic flight, which we will book for you (2025)

In the event of only 3 participants, there will be a 15% surcharge to guarantee departure if all participants agree.

Single Supplement: US\$683 (2025)

Price includes:

All transfers to and from the airport
All accommodation (hotels and lodges)
Private tour leader
Private vehicle during the whole trip
All admission fees
All meals (except where indicated)
Bottles of water in the field
All excursions described in the itinerary

Price excludes:

International and domestic airfares
Any airline fee relative to excess luggage or extra pieces of luggage
Personal expenses (laundry service, phone calls, internet, alcoholic drinks, and drinks at the lodges)
First dinner in Lima on day 1 and dinner on day 13
Any birding or cultural activity in Lima on day 1
Meals on day 14 (only breakfast included)
Any activity not described in the itinerary (city tours, visiting museums, shopping assistance)
Health and trip cancellation insurance
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))

Accommodation:

We try to provide the best accommodation available on trips to provide our clients with a good rest after long birding days. We normally stay in three-star, comfortable hotels in big cities and towns and we look for the most adequate, best possible accommodation in the countryside and remote locations. We rate the accommodation for this trip as good and comfortable but not luxurious. All accommodations have en-suite bathrooms and hot showers. In warm, tropical locations air conditioning and fans are available; however, heater systems are not available in the few places where the temperature could be cold and damp at night.

Level of difficulty:

We rate this trip as moderate. Even though the tour has easy birding days, the trip requires long drives, very early starts every day, long days in the field, and some steep hikes along

mountainous trails. We will face different kinds of weather, including hot weather in the northwest, the Marañón Valley, and the upper Amazon with temperature reaching 35°C (95°F) and high humidity, and low temperatures in the cloudforest with temperatures around 10°C (46°F) at night. The maximum elevation on this trip is 2300 meters (7545 feet). Participants should be able to walk each day around four kilometers (2.5 miles) on paved roads, sandy surfaces, uneven terrain, and some steep trails. However, the tour provides several easy birding days on roads next to the car, and we will have breaks and siesta time after lunch on several days. A certain level of fitness is required for the trip, and the tour would not be good for people with back and knees problems and lack of stamina.

Highlights of the trip:

We expect to get over 400 species of birds, including over 50 species of hummingbirds and with luck 10 species of owls, including several Peruvian endemics and regional endemics. Perhaps the main targets for many people are the Marvelous Spatuletail and the Long-whiskered Owlet. During the trip we will visit different hummingbird feeder stations and an antpitta feeding station. The trip also offers great scenery and good photographic opportunities.