



**SOUTH PERU - BIRDING THE INCA EMPIRE, ANDES AND
AMAZONIAN RAINFORESTS:
TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



*The beautiful **Many-colored Rush Tyrant** is always a crowd pleaser.*

**PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO OUR
PERU TOURS**

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Please e-mail us (or contact us in a different way, if preferred) before you book any flights, as the information shown here is just an initial guide. Our tour will start in the city of Lima, at Jorge Chavez International Airport (LIM). There are direct flights from several US airports including Atlanta, New York and Miami, European airports including Paris, Amsterdam and Madrid, and most of Latin America including São Paulo, Santiago and Panama. You might wish to consult your travel agent to book your most convenient flight (and contact us if you need guidance). Your tour leader will be waiting for you at Lima airport, with a small board with the Birding Ecotours logo, and will then transfer you to your hotel. Please remember to keep your luggage tags, as they are required to exit the terminal at Lima airport. Please be aware that most international flights arrive in Lima in the late evening, so we don't have any birding activities planned for Day 1. In case you arrive on an early flight, you will be transferred to the hotel but may have to wait until check-in is available. For early check-in you might be charged extra directly by the hotel; this cost is excluded from the Birding Ecotours tour price.

When filling out the customs declaration form, please use the address below for the hotel:

Hotel Casa Andina Premium Miraflores, Av. La Paz 463, Miraflores, Tel. +51 (01) 2134300

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Our tour will end in the city of Lima, with a domestic flight from Cusco to Lima, where participants can catch international flights. The domestic flight is included in the tour price.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND TOUR PACE

We categorize this trip as moderate difficulty, due to the high elevations in the Andes, hot and humid conditions in the Amazon, and some lengthy drives in the mountains and the Amazon. While on the Manu Road we will visit a number of high elevation sites between 10,800–13,100 feet (3,300–4,000 meters), we will then gradually descend in altitude to the humid foothills at 4,600 feet (1,400 meters). Please keep in mind that we visit very remote places with little infrastructure. Most of the birding consists of walking along roads which range from flat and smooth, to dirt roads, with sandy and uneven terrain as well as various forest trails. At Machu Picchu we walk along some steep terrain but only for short distances. Most of the activities in the Amazon will involve walking along trails or spending time around lodge clearings.

Keep in mind that we will need to be awake very early in the mornings, and pre-dawn starts are in order each day. We normally spend the whole morning birding in the field, returning to the lodge for lunch, then providing opportunities for a little rest, before continuing our birding in the

afternoon. Your guide will sometimes invite you to look for owls and wildlife at night, but this is an optional activity that you can skip if you feel tired. Some people prefer to rest, skipping birding in the afternoon; this can be done at those lodges where we are staying more than one night.

Peru is a big country, and the tours include some lengthy drives along the mountain road, known as the Manu Road. Here, we move from lodge to lodge, having two or three nights at each lodge. The Manu Road is not a paved mountain road and some of its precipitous sections could be scary for people who suffer from height vertigo or acrophobia. These drives are part of the birding schedule, since birds and wildlife are found all along the road. Please note that this trip may be difficult for people with back, walking, and balance problems, or for those who are not used to early starts on a birding trip. A combination of river and land transportation is required to reach the Chunchu Lodge.

MEALS

All meals are included in the itinerary, except when otherwise indicated. Three meals are provided per day for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and include vegetarian options. If you have other dietary restrictions, (vegan or gluten intolerance), please check with us beforehand because some dietary restrictions may not be catered for at certain lodges. There will generally be set menus at lodges and restaurants, with a la carte menus available on a few occasions.

We request that you do not buy or eat food from street vendors and rather keep to the restaurants we have selected for the tour. If you are not a vegetarian, you will find that chicken is the most common meat served for meals. In Peru it is common to get two carbohydrates (such as potato and rice) in the same serving.

WEATHER

Year-round, Cusco and the mountainous areas can be cold and chilly, with average temperatures around 46-59 °F (8-15 °C). Puerto Maldonado and the Amazon are hot and humid, with year-round average temperatures of 91-104 °F (33-40 °C). Even during the dry season, we may experience a rainy morning or afternoon while visiting the Amazon and the mountains. In winter (June to August, when this tour takes place), we may experience cold fronts blowing from the south, originating from Antarctica, or from Patagonia to the north, reaching southeast Peru and affecting the Amazon rainforest. This cold front is called “*Friaje*” and can take between five to seven days to pass. It’s difficult to predict when this will occur, but please be aware that the temperatures in the Amazon may drop to 50 °F (10 °C), making the whole Amazon experience rather chilly and windy.

MONEY AND ATMS

ATM machines are available in Lima, Cusco and Puerto Maldonado. Please keep in mind that these are the only ATMs available on this route, and there will not be time to look for ATMs elsewhere while on tour. Please be sure to plan your cash needs based on ATM availability.

Please note that international bank cards may have a limit of US\$200, or equivalent, per withdrawal transaction, or even a US\$200 or equivalent, total limit per day. This will depend on your bank, so check with them in advance, before your tour, or bring cash (US dollars) to avoid withdrawals.

LAUNDRY

Laundry service is available at Cusco, Ollantaytambo and Aguas Calientes. Laundry can be expected to be delivered within 24 hours which may take longer in the countryside, where they usually rely on the weather for drying. Laundry fees are not included in the tour price.

ELECTRICITY

In remote places in the Amazon and the mountains, lodges may limit electricity to a few hours per day (normally 6-9 pm) to charge electronic devices. Some places, including Cock of the Rock Lodge and Chunchu Lodge only have solar panels and most of the electricity generated is used to run the kitchens, sometimes with a little excess for charging devices and batteries. The situation is, however, continually improving, for example, Villa Carmen now provides 24-hour electricity in the reserve. The lodges do not provide air conditioning.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please note that a camera with a long lens (including those that use a tripod or monopod) may be considered a “professional” camera by the authorities at the archeological site and museum of Machu Picchu. They may not allow you to enter the site if you have a camera with a long lens with you. Prior permission is required to use “professional” cameras within the site and must be obtained in Cusco prior to your Machu Picchu visit. If you carry a camera with a long lens, we request that you leave it at the hotel for the day that we visit Machu Picchu, and use a small/short lens, or only your mobile phone, for your photos within the site.

Please note that bird photography is welcome during the tour, but photographic opportunities or personal agendas cannot take priority over the birding itinerary, for the sake of the whole group.

Some lodges do not allow the use of a flash to photograph birds at feeders. Furthermore, we request participants to rather not use a flash when photographing owls and nightbirds, when we use a spotlight.