

ITINERARY  
***MACHU PICCHU & ABRA MALAGA, PERU***  
***(A Private Tour for Maine Audubon)***  
***November 13 - 22, 2024***



*We'll have time to take in the views at Machu Picchu, one of the wonders of Peru. Photograph by participant Gregg Recer.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Field Guides *Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru, for Maine Audubon* tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

*These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:*

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen

**W**ithout a doubt Machu Picchu is one of the most spectacular archaeological sites in the world. It would be fair to say that this architectural masterpiece is on most everyone's short list of silent cultural attractions South America holds—and with good reason. Perched imposingly atop a high ridge surrounded by rugged, forested mountains, the pre-colonial Inca ruins tower above the rushing waters of the Rio Urubamba snaking its way a thousand feet below. The conception and the

sheer craftsmanship are remarkable by any standards. By staying two nights—and two mornings—in the Machu Picchu area (near the town of Aguas Calientes), we can enjoy a more relaxed pace during our visit. For anyone wishing to spend an additional morning enjoying the ruins of Machu Picchu, this may be arranged but must be set up in advance due to limits on the number of visitors allowed daily. If this is of interest to you, please contact Nicole in our office.

As if the ruins alone were not worth the visit, the subtropical slopes and the narrow gorge below are surprisingly good for birds. On the grounds (averaging about 6500 feet) of our lovely hotel we may see such knockouts as Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Andean Motmot, Masked Fruiteater (a Peruvian endemic), *Inga* trees and plentiful feeders full of hummingbirds—including the endemic Green-and-white, the colorful Collared (Gould's) Inca, and the fawn-booted Booted Racket-tail—numerous vivid tanagers (including the scarce Silvery), White-eared Solitaire, White-throated Quail-Dove, Ocellated Piculet, and Speckle-faced (Plum-crowned) Parrot. The bamboo around Machu Picchu itself is, fittingly, one of the best places to see the endemic Inca Wren, and a morning's birding along the tracks below the hotel usually results in a pleasing variety of species, often punctuated by an Andean Guan, a Fasciated Tiger-Heron, a Black-streaked Puffbird, Slaty Tanager, or perhaps a group of Oleaginous Hemispingus, Dusky-green Oropendolas, or Mitred Parakeets (but usually not all together!). Situated at about 8500 feet, the archaeological site is considerably lower in elevation than the Malaga area, yet our visit to "the heights of Machu Picchu" will in many ways be the high point of a very lofty tour.

After visiting Machu Picchu, we're off on a temperate adventure to the fertile Sacred Valley of the Urubamba and the glorious Cordillera Vilcanota. We'll take the afternoon train back to Ollantaytambo, where we'll disembark for our nearby lodge, our base for three nights as we make early departures for the high pass along the road that crosses the Andes on its way to Quillabamba in the lower Urubamba valley, closer to the Amazonian lowlands. This extraordinarily scenic road affords us access to a cross section of habitats and to some of the best high Andean birding in all Peru. Abra Malaga, at 14,200 feet, is the low point, or pass, along a ridge of rugged peaks called the Vilcanota Mountains separating elfin tree line and humid temperate forest on the northwest from the dry, shrub-covered slopes of the upper Rio Urubamba Valley. Buffering the upper limits of these habitats is the starkly beautiful puna grassland dotted with llamas, alpacas, and the very occasional cluster of stone houses, corrals, and fences erected by Quechua-speaking families who are somehow accustomed to prospering in what seems to most visitors an inhospitable environment.



*Junin Canastero is a Peruvian endemic found in high elevations of central and southern Peru.  
Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*

The bird life to be found in these habitats includes many species endemic to a small geographic area in southern Peru and many species limited to southern Peru and nearby Bolivia. Peruvian endemics we're likely to see include the fancy Bearded Mountaineer, White-tufted Sunbeam, Junin and Rusty-fronted canasteros, White-browed Tit-Spintail, Marcapata and Creamy-crested spinetails, Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, Parodi's Hemispingus, and Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch. Even Royal Cinclodes is a *very* distant possibility. But this wonderful tour, which we have operated many times yet anticipate with excitement each year, is also distinguished by a wealth of birds that aren't strictly endemics but are seldom seen elsewhere, prizes such as Black-faced (Andean) Ibis, Line-fronted Canastero (a particularly beautiful

*Asthenes* if we do say so!), Stripe-headed Antpitta (one of the few antpittas easily seen once found), the well-marked Diademed Tapaculo, Puna Tapaculo, Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, Three-striped Hemispingus, and the exquisite Golden-collared Tanager. After birding for three full days at Abra Malaga, we'll bus back to our hotel in Cusco for an overnight stay before heading back to Lima.



*The trail up to the Polylepis woodlands can be difficult, but we take it at a slow pace, and there is the option to stay back at the hotel for those who do not want to make the climb. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*

*We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.*

## Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS:** Mostly, we will be walking on roads, both paved and dirt, or broad trails. The paths at the Machu Picchu ruins are steep and have many stairs. Expect stairs at some accommodations as well. Our walk to the Polylepis woodlands at 14,000 feet is optional. Our second day at Machu Picchu, we will have an all-day walk of about six or seven miles.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** Some of our birding will involve standing and waiting for birds in potentially cold conditions. Altitude may be a factor, particularly at Abra Malaga (our highest point at 14500 feet). Our walk below Machu Picchu will be fairly easy and flat, but long (6 - 7 miles).
- **PACE:** We will have some variation in breakfast times, mostly between 5 - 5:30 a.m. to take advantage of sunrise for birding; but one morning going to Abra Malaga, we may leave earlier due to the drive time. We usually have some sort of afternoon break, but expect to be birding for much of the day.
- **ELEVATION:** We will be at high elevation for much of the tour; Machu Picchu is at about 8500 feet, whereas the highest point at Abra Malaga is about 14,500 feet (but our lodging is around 9500 ft). We will take things slowly, but be aware that these elevations can cause problems for some people.

- **WEATHER:** Weather and temperatures will vary with altitude; mornings may be below freezing in the higher elevations, with afternoons into the low 80's F in the lower ranges. Expect to encounter rain, and possibly snow or hail.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** We will travel by train from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu, where we'll take a bus to the ruins, but will be walking while birding around the town in the valley below. For the rest of our travel, we'll have a bus or van. So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Whenever possible, we use indoor restrooms, but on occasion, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations. Our walk to the *Polylepis* woodlands at 14,000 feet is optional.

*If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide.*

## About the Birding Areas



**Huacarpay Lakes: Montane Scrub**—These lakes, located some twenty-five kilometers southeast of Cusco, are situated at about 10,500 feet. One of the lakes resembles an extensive saltpan interrupted here and there by beds of reeds, the other a shallow crater. Both are lined with marsh vegetation, seem to be rich in nutrients, and attract birds for miles around, but both are being squeezed by human encroachment. The lakes are surrounded by xeric ravines (*quebradas* in Peruvian Spanish) and rocky hills covered with shrubs, various cacti, tree tobacco, and small trees. The area deserves at least a couple of hours of attentive birding and always seems to be a popular place from which to start our tour, since the viewing conditions are easy. If you've brought one, you'll want your scope for this area, though your guide will have a scope along, too.

The marshy shores and waters of the lakes support Andean waterbirds and waders, including White-tufted Grebe, Puna Ibis, Puna Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, Ruddy (Andean) Duck, Plumbeous Rail, and Andean Lapwing. In addition, there are usually a few boreal shorebird non-breeders or migrants (quite a few later in the season). The extensive rush beds shelter Cinereous Harriers, Yellow-winged Blackbirds, Wren-like Rushbirds, and the beautiful Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, and the scrubby slopes are home to a number of land birds, including Bare-faced Ground-Dove, Giant Hummingbird (at nine inches, the largest-bodied of the hummers), Ash-breasted Sierra-Finches, Band-tailed Seedeaters, and the endemic Rusty-fronted Canastero. Another Peruvian endemic,

the spectacular Bearded Mountaineer, feeds at the tubular yellow flowers of the wild Tree Tobacco that grows in the outwash plains near the lakes. Hanging above the slopes on occasion are Black-chested Buzzard-Eagles, and down them might hurtle Aplomado Falcons in pursuit of some unsuspecting dove.

**Abra Malaga: Temperate Woodland and Puna**—The eastern cordillera offers in many ways the most exciting birding in Peru. The area of the Malaga Pass is high Andean, with beautiful puna grasses, rugged landscapes, jagged peaks (with snow-capped Veronica quietly dominating the cordillera in these parts), and high temperate forest from treeline down to

about 9000 feet. Much of the area below 9000 feet on the east slope has been badly disturbed by human activity, so our birding will be above this point and hence restricted to the temperate and puna zones. And since the Urubamba Valley, in which we'll be staying, is itself about 9500 feet, we will bird above this elevation on the dry slope (or south side of the pass), as well. The lush mixture of bamboo, some *Polylepis*, and moss-festooned trees of the wet slope (on the north side of the pass) is still extremely rich with birds, as is the scrubby canyon of the dry slope (on the south side of the pass). This, of course, is not always apparent since often one can walk the road for fifteen minutes, even under highly favorable weather conditions, and see very little. The main reason for this is that birds in this cloudforest travel in mixed-species flocks, so the situation is often feast or famine for the birder. Yet few phenomena in the tropics hold the excitement of feasting one's eyes on these flocks when they do materialize out of the *neblina* or out of a shady enclave untouched as yet by the sun. We know how to work this area for flocks and are sure to find our share during our three days at Abra Malaga.

"Wet-side" endemics include: Marcapata Spinetail, Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, Inca Wren, Parodi's Hemispingus, and Cusco Brush-Finch. Also possible are Sapphire-vented (Coppery-naped) Puffleg, Line-fronted Canastero, and Diademed Tapaculo. Should rain (or sun!) set in, we'll head back across the pass to the "dry side," watching for Black-faced (Andean) Ibis, Gray-breasted Seedsnipe, White-tufted Sunbeam, Creamy-crested Spinetail, Stripe-headed Antpitta, and the handsome Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch. There will be an opportunity for the hardy to climb into an area of extensive *Polylepis* where we'll have a chance for Andean Hillstar, White-browed and Tawny tit-spinetails, Junin Canastero, Puna Tapaculo, Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, and Giant Conebill. And at any time on the "dry side," a huge Andean Condor could circle right overhead.

**Machu Picchu: Subtropical Forest**—Most of the slopes below Machu Picchu, from the ruins themselves at 8500 feet to the tracks at 6400 feet, are covered with scrubby vegetation and bamboo, the sheer cliff-faces studded with a striking array of terrestrial bromeliads. This is in part owing to the very steep mountainsides and slopes themselves, which are rocky and support a thin layer of soil. But along the tracks from our hotel downriver to about 6000 feet the vegetation becomes lush and big trees, like spreading *Erythrina*, line the Urubamba. Here the wet fingers of the subtropics reach up into the Machu Picchu region and sustain a bird life rich in east-slope species. The cliff walls on either side of the rushing Urubamba are so steep that the subtropical forest is restricted to the path the river has cut through the mountains. The train tracks follow the river where no road goes, and our birding takes place along these tracks in forest that is full of tanager flocks, parakeets, oropendolas, siskins, hummingbirds, flycatchers, thrushes, and solitaires, and even occasional White-rumped Hawks and Black-and-chestnut Eagles. After we've spent some time in the field here, we think you'll agree that this area is underrated as a birding locale.



*The Golden-naped Tanager is one of the more colorful birds we'll see along the way to Machu Picchu.  
Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.*



*The Inca Wren is a Peruvian endemic found in a small region near Machu Picchu. We've gotten wonderful views of this special bird at the ruins on our tours. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*

## Itinerary for Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru

**Day 1, Wed, 13 Nov. Arrival in Lima.** We recommend the earliest flight possible to get you to Lima this evening; *you may want to even come in a day early due to the nature of airline travel right now.* Be sure our office knows your arrival plans. You will get your passport stamped at Immigration, claim your luggage, and proceed through Customs. You can exit the baggage area and make your own way to the Wyndham Costa del Sol Hotel within the airport complex (Ask any porter or airport information assistant for directions). You can push your luggage cart right across the street to the hotel check-in desk on the street floor. As you check into the hotel, please submit your passport for copying (a requirement of most hotels in Peru) and a welcome letter from your guide will either be waiting for you at the check-in counter or under the door of your room with details about plans for tomorrow's departure. Night in Lima.

**Day 2, Thu, 14 Nov. Flight to Cusco; Huacarpay Lakes; to Ollantaytambo.** We'll have an early breakfast at the hotel, cross to the airport, and check in for our flight to Cusco. There, we'll be met by our local agent and our guide to Machu Picchu. We then head south by bus to bird the Huacarpay Lakes, less than an hour away. After a few hours of easy but exciting birding at Urpicancha (named for the pre-Inca terraces above the lakes), we'll travel down the Urubamba to our hotel in Ollantaytambo, where White-bellied Hummingbirds, Green-tailed Trainbearers, Giant Hummingbirds, and Black-backed Grosbeaks can be courtyard birds. Night in Ollantaytambo.

**Day 3, Fri, 15 Nov. Train to Machu Picchu.** This morning after breakfast, we'll carry the small bags we'll take with us to the Ollantaytambo train station, where we'll board the train for Machu Picchu. *We'll be able to store any unnecessary luggage at the hotel, since we'll need clothes for just the two days at Machu Picchu. For this reason, it is important to have a smaller travel bag to repack into.*

The train follows the rushing Rio Urubamba down the east slope along the Urubamba gorge to Aguas Calientes. As we gradually descend toward the Amazon Basin, the vegetation changes from dry scrub and *Eucalyptus* (introduced here for firewood) to humid subtropical forest, with a whole new complement of birds. We'll count the Torrent Ducks and White-capped Dippers as we approach the new Machu Picchu train station (about 6400 feet), now located just below our hotel in Aguas Calientes. On arrival, we'll send our luggage by porters directly on to the hotel, where they will be deposited in our

rooms; then, after an opportunity to use the facilities, we'll bus up the switchback road to 8200 feet, where we'll make our tour of the ruins, led by our authorized Peruvian guide, who is trained in matters archaeological.

From its rugged setting to its imposing scale and the precision of its stone architecture, Machu Picchu is genuinely awesome. Prior to its modern discovery by Hiram Bingham in 1911, Machu Picchu lay abandoned for several centuries, concealed by a dense overgrowth of vegetation. To this day, the reason for the existence of this "lost city" remains uncertain, although many theories have been proposed. Some think it was the last refuge of the Incas near the end of the Spanish conquest. Others believe this site was the Inca gateway to the riches of Amazonia far below; still others postulate that it was a scenic "escape" for a whimsical Incan ruler.

Following our mid-day tour, we'll have a late buffet lunch at the excellent Sanctuary Lodge restaurant. After lunch, we'll take a bus back down to Aguas Calientes and walk the short distance to the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, where we'll check into our rooms and familiarize ourselves with the grounds and beautiful setting. Night in Aguas Calientes.



*We will look for the spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-Rock along the Rio Urubamba.  
Photograph by guide Jesse Fagan.*

**Day 4, Sat, 16 Nov. Machu Picchu.** We'll have today to enjoy the exciting birding on the hotel grounds and along the tracks (in the Mandor Valley). For those who would like to spend an entire morning exploring and photographing the ruins, a time when only a relatively few visitors will be present, we can arrange for an early bus back up the mountain at an additional expense (Please let our office know if you wish to spend another morning at the site). But early morning is also the best time for birding the cloud-forested chasm along the river below the ruins, so the best time for a morning in the ruins may be Day 5.

Walking along the railroad tracks or the paths along the slopes, we'll watch for Andean Cock-of-the-rock, which displays and nests along the tracks and often feeds on the hotel grounds. Other species present include Andean Guan, Mitred Parakeet, Speckle-faced (Plum-crowned) Parrot, White-tipped Swift, Green-and-white Hummingbird, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Booted Racket-tail (here with fawn-colored "boots"), Long-tailed Sylph, Collared (Gould's) Inca, White-bellied Woodstar, Andean Motmot, Streaked Xenops, Variable Antshrike, Masked Fruiteater, Sclater's, Mottle-cheeked, and Ashy-headed tyrannulets, Barred Becard, Andean and White-eared solitaires, Pale-legged and Russet-crowned warblers, Silvery, Golden-naped, Saffron-crowned, Blue-necked, and Rust-and-yellow tanagers, Oleaginous Hemispingus, Chestnut-capped and Tricolored brushfinches, Olivaceous Siskin, and Dusky-green Oropendola. With luck we could see a Fasciated Tiger-Heron along the river. Our lovely hotel grounds themselves provide some of the nicest birding to be had at Machu Picchu, even though they are located on a slope, making birding them something of an up-and-down affair. Night in Aguas Calientes.

**Day 5, Sun, 17 Nov. Machu Picchu; train to Ollantaytambo.** After another wonderful morning of birding the area (perhaps returning to the ruins for those who would like)—and after checking out of our rooms (leaving our luggage in storage)—we'll have lunch and then board the afternoon train for Ollantaytambo, where we'll transfer our gear to the hotel. Depending on our time of arrival, we may have a chance to bird the grounds a bit before having dinner. Night in Ollantaytambo.



*The Stripe-headed Antpitta is a near-endemic found in the Polylepis woodlands of Peru. We'll look for this charismatic charmer above Abra Malaga. Photograph by participant Cecille Thompson.*

**Days 6-8, Mon-Wed, 18-20 Nov. Abra Malaga.** As moisture-laden air from Amazonia rises against the ridges, it loses its moisture as cloud or mist, supporting one of the highest cloud-forests in the world (with orchid-clad trees at 12,000 feet), on the “wet- side” of Abra Malaga. The buildup of clouds from the east creates an ever-changing drama of swirling fog and montane sunlight at the pass, sometimes culminating in the breathtaking exposure of jagged, snow-capped Veronica—close and in full sun. From Malaga Pass, the rolling puna grasslands and bogs (where llama and alpaca are shepherded by highlanders in traditional dress) spill down the rain-shadow slopes to the high-temperate shrub zone of the “dry-side.” Distant stands of *Polylepis* seem to hang on protected slopes, surrounded by grass. From here, the U-shaped glacial valley falls far away below, through natural shrub and cultivated fields (originally terraced by the Inca), toward the ruins of Ollantaytambo and the Urubamba River. Of special interest in preparing for these days is the paper by Parker & O’Neill (1980) listed in our Tour References, and of course *Birds of Peru* (Princeton, 2010), making preparation a joy!

On our last morning, those who wish to visit the high *Polylepis* above Abra Malaga will be in for a treat. By now everyone should be acclimated for the walk and those wishing to should be able to make it. It will be a dramatic finish to our tour, with good possibilities for White-browed Tit-Spinetail, Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, Stripe-headed Antpitta, Puna Tapaculo, and Giant Conebill. We have seen Royal Cinclodes here, but it is not a strong possibility, as the main territory in the area requires a longer hike, of which many ‘low-lander’ visitors are not capable. Those who do not want to walk at this elevation may elect to enjoy a rest in the hotel or take advantage of the fascinating ruins and colorful market right in Ollantaytambo.

During our three days in the Abra Malaga area, we’ll sample each of these habitats from our base at Ollantaytambo. Even though we’ll leave very early on two of the three mornings, a delicious hot breakfast is available for all who like to start the day off with a meal, no matter how early. While the changeable weather makes birding here tricky, the geography tends to ensure that some zone is always bird-able. You will never forget this place once you’ve experienced it. It’s truly grand.

In the late afternoon of Day 8, we’ll pass back through some beautiful, rolling highlands on our return to Cusco, with a stop just off the highway to Laguna Huaypo, where an impressive concentration of waterfowl and some other species is possible. Cusco was once the capital of the vast Inca Empire. Modified dramatically after conquest by the Spanish,



Cusco's buildings are a remarkable blend of Spanish Colonial architecture and astonishingly precise Inca stonework. Tomorrow, as we transfer to the airport, we'll see traditional mortar-less rock walls, made of huge stones and boulders fitted together with amazing accuracy, now acting as the foundations for beautiful Spanish-built cathedrals and town houses. First two nights in Ollantaytambo; last night in Cusco.

**Day 9, Thu, 21 Nov. Cusco to Lima.** We have requested booking on a post-noon flight to Lima in hopes that there will be some early morning time for seeing a bit of Cusco on your own in the light of day. (However, if flight changes conspire against us—and this is beyond our control—our time for getting acquainted with the city may be reduced or eliminated.) We will then proceed to the airport, check in for our flight, have lunch, and fly back to Lima, where we'll check into our rooms and have dinner at the Wyndham Costa del Sol. Most folks will probably have international flights that depart late this evening and arrive in the US tomorrow morning. Night in Lima or on an airplane homeward bound.

**Day 10, Fri, 22 Nov. Arrival home.** Que les vayan bien!

## About Your Guide

**Jesse Fagan** (a.k.a. the Motmot or just "Mot") has been passionate about birds since his teens, when he had an encounter with a flying Pileated Woodpecker. He has birded throughout the United States, including spending seven years in Texas, and since 1995 has been birding and for a time living in northern Central America. He is a co-author of the [\*Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America\*](#) (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016), a field guide to the region, which includes the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Belize.

In addition, Mot has birded in or led tours to Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, France, Morocco, and Madagascar. He also enjoys leading many of the Field Guides tours in the Caribbean. He likes to think he can bird anywhere at any time and still show you the birds, but most importantly, a good time. Jesse holds a B.S. and an M.S. in mathematics from Texas Tech University. He is currently living in Lima, Peru.

*"Jesse Fagan is a first-rate guide, combining a great ear and eyes with a congenial personality. He manages the group well while being fun to be with. His organization skills matched his birding skills." C.B.; Peruvian Rainforests of the Tambopata*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Jesse's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

**Doug Hitchcox**, a Maine native, grew up in Hollis and graduated from the University of Maine in 2011. Throughout college Doug worked at Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center and was hired as Maine Audubon's staff naturalist in the summer of 2013, a long time "dream job." In his free time, Doug volunteers as one of Maine's eBird reviewers, is the owner and moderator of the 'Maine-birds' listserv and serves as York County Audubon board member and member of the Maine Bird Records Committee.

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$5175 from Lima (includes a \$100 per person donation to Maine Audubon.)**

**DEPOSIT: \$525 per person**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE: Upon registration**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$950**

**LIMIT: 8**

**All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one).** Note too, that many travel destinations may still require proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may be a requirement for some travel destinations.

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Nicole Cannon. Nicole will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**A NOTE ON ALTITUDE:** About half the trip will be at or above 10,000 feet and we will reach elevations more than 14,000 feet. Elevations at Machu Picchu are considerably lower—6,400 - 8,500 feet. We will move about deliberately at high elevations.

**DOCUMENTS:** A **passport** is necessary for US citizens to enter Peru. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. Peru has replaced the former tourist card with an electronic version, so you shouldn't have to worry about a loose paper anymore.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Peruvian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Field Guides is a full-service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees. **Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility. For this tour, we request participants travel with **a medium duffel or suitcase and a single carry-on**. In addition, you will want to pack a smaller travel bag for two-days' worth of clothes for our time at Aguas Calientes. (NOTE: Laundry service is available at all the hotels on this tour.)

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is **\$5175** for one person in double occupancy from Lima. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 9, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 9, the flights within Peru (Lima/Cusco/Lima), all ground transportation, entrance fees (for *one* visit to the ruins), **a donation of \$100 per person to Maine Audubon**, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Peru, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is **\$950**. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR LIMITS:** Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, one seat in the van

or bus will be taken by the guide in training. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact us at [fieldguides.com/contact-us/](https://fieldguides.com/contact-us/). Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Due to the recent request for a tour and the late nature of the release of this itinerary, full payment is due upon registration. Please mail your **payment of \$5175** per person (plus the single supplement of \$950, if applicable), or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received word from your tour manager, Nicole Cannon, that everyone has paid in full and sent in their forms. Nicole will let you know right away when that time comes.

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

**Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii.** We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if

you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

NCP 7/2020

8/19 DFL; 6/20 NC; 9/20peg

10/2021 JFF; 2/22NC; 1/23peg; 10/23NC; 11/24peg

4/24 JFF; 4/24NC