ITINERARY

MACHU PICCHU & ABRA MALAGA, PERU

June 23 – July 2, 2027



The White-browed Tit-Spinetail is an attractive Peruvian endemic found in the Polylepis *forests of the Urubamba Valley. We should find them near Abra Malaga. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*

We include information here for those interested in the 2027 Field Guides *Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru* 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 website)
- 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

Without 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 and surrounded by rugged, forested mountains, the pre-colonial Inca ruins tower above the rushing waters of the Rio Urubamba, snaking 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.



We'll take some time away from serious birding to tour the spectacular ruins of Machu Picchu. Photograph by participant Suzi Cole.

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.

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-Spinetail, 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.

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 visit to the Polylepis woodlands at 14,000 feet is optional. On our second day at Machu Picchu, we will have an all-day walk of about 6 – 7 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, 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 in the low 80s 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 we 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 an 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. On our penultimate morning, we will take 4x4 pick-ups up into the Polylepis woodland, which could be on a rocky, bumpy road.
- **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.

This tour may be combined with ***PERU'S MAGNETIC NORTH: SPATULETAILS, OWLET LODGE, & MORE 2027 TOUR, June 12 – 24*** *or* ***GALAPAGOS: AN INTIMATE LOOK AT DARWIN'S ISLANDS I 2027, June 12 – 22****.*

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 several 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 cloud forest 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 lusher, 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 a 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.



Parodi's Hemispingus is a small tanager endemic to the Machu Picchu and Abra Malaga region. Photograph by participant Steve Parrish..

Itinerary for Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru

Day 1, Wed, 23 Jun. Arrival in Lima. We recommend the earliest flight possible to get you to Lima this evening; you may even want to come in a day early due to the nature of airline travel right now. Be sure our office knows your arrival plans. Night in Lima.

Day 2, Thu, 24 Jun. 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 southeast by bus to bird the Huacarpay Lakes, less than an hour away. After a few hours of easy birding at Urpicancha (named for the pre-Inca terraces above the lakes) and a picnic lunch, we'll travel down the Urubamba, the river of the Sacred Valley of the Inca, with perhaps a stop or two before arriving at our hotel in Ollantaytambo. One stop will be at a hummingbird garden where we should see several species, including White-bellied Hummingbirds, Sparkling Violetears, Green-tailed Trainbearers, Tyrian Metaltails, Giant Hummingbirds, and perhaps even Undulated Antpitta, which has been trained to come in for worms! Night in Ollantaytambo.

Day 3, Fri, 25 Jun. 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 walk from the station to our hotel, have lunch, and check in. The afternoon will allow us to enjoy the luxurious surroundings of the hotel, where we can bird the garden and the trails nearby. Night in Aguas Calientes.



The Mandor Valley, below Machu Picchu, has some wonderful habitat. We'll walk along the railway to seek such birds as Andean Motmot, Barred Becard and Andean Cock-of-the Rock. Photograph by participant Charm Peterman.

Day 4, Sat, 26 Jun. Machu Picchu. We'll have today to enjoy the exciting birding on the tracks below the ruins (in the Mandor Valley. 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, Rufous-booted Racket-tail, Long-tailed Sylph, Gould's (formerly part of Collared) 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 Golden-crowned (formerly Tricolored) brushfinches, Olivaceous Siskin, and Dusky-green Oropendola. With luck, we could see a Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Torrent Ducks, or White-capped Dippers along the river. The walk is not a hard one (largely following the railroad bed, so flat and not steep), but it is long (6-7 miles!). If you prefer not to take this walk, 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 there something of an up-and-down affair. Night in Aguas Calientes.

Day 5, Sun, 27 Jun. Machu Picchu; train to Ollantaytambo. This morning, we will beat the day-trippers from Cusco and take the bus up to the ruins earlier (around 7 a.m. or so). This should allow us a chance to see the ruins without the full throngs that will arrive in a few hours on the train! 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 midday 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 head to the train station for our ride back to Cusco. We will have checked out of our rooms before heading to the ruins, leaving our luggage in storage, which will be brought by hotel staff to the station to meet us before we depart on the afternoon train for Ollantaytambo. Once back, we'll transfer our gear to the hotel. Night in Ollantaytambo.



The Diademed Tapaculo is a near-endemic found in the high woodlands of Peru and Bolivia. We'll look for them in the Polylepis *above Abra Malaga. Photograph by participant Sid England.*

Days 6-7, Mon-Tue, 28-29 Jun. Abra Málaga. 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 epiphyte-clad trees at 12,000 feet), on the "wet-side" of Abra Málaga. 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) on birds of the Upper Urubamba Valley, and of course *Birds of Peru* (Princeton, 2010), making preparation a joy!

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 birdable. You will never forget this place once you've experienced it. It's truly grand. We will check out of our hotel on our second morning, and after birding the humid side of the pass, we will head past Ollantaytambo to Hotel Inti Punku, which will put us close to our next few birding stops. Night at Hotel Inti Punku.

Day 8, Wed 30 Jun. Mantanay Polylepis woodland. On our last morning, those who wish to visit the high *Polylepis* forest will be in for a treat. We will have several 4x4 pick-ups waiting for us early, but after breakfast, so we can ride up to an extensive Polylepis woodland at Mantanay, at around 14,000 feet elevation, at the brow of the mountain valley above our hotel. We'll spend the morning birding this woodland. By now, everyone should be acclimated to 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. Royal Cinclodes is here, but the territories are reportedly up the flanks of the valleys above where we're likely to be. Those who do not want to walk at this elevation may elect to enjoy a rest in the hotel and wait for our return. By late morning, we'll come back down the valley and stop at a very lovely hummingbird garden that is not far from our hotel, which also hosts some tame Undulated Antpittas! From here, we'll load up in our van and head to a buffet lunch in the town of Urubamba.

After lunch, we'll pass back through some beautiful, rolling highlands on our return to Cusco, with a stop just off the highway at Laguna Piuray, where an impressive concentration of waterfowl and some other species is possible. Then, we'll head back into the bustling city of Cusco. Cusco (or "Qosco", in Quechua, meaning "navel of the world") 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. Our hotel is an old monastery and has a great deal of historic artifacts and artwork and is worth a perusal! Night in Cusco.

Day 9, Thu, 1 Jul. Cusco to Lima. We have requested a 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, and our local guide is available to provide a guided tour of nearby ruins if there is interest. (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 our final dinner at the **Wyndham Grand Costa del Sol Lima Airport**. 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, 2 Jul. Arrival home. Que les vayan bien!

About Your Guide

Dan Lane was barely out of diapers when his love for birds manifested itself. He was an active birder in his home state of New Jersey until he moved to Louisiana to pursue a master's degree studying Neotropical birds at Louisiana State University. By 1999, he'd received his degree and participated in three LSU expeditions to Peru and Ecuador, discovering a new species of bird (Scarlet-banded Barbet) along the way. His increasing experience with the Peruvian avifauna, coupled with having the luck of being "in the right place at the right time," landed Dan co-authorship on the recently published *Birds of Peru*—alongside his childhood heroes Ted Parker and John O'Neill. Meanwhile, his continuing fieldwork has resulted in uncovering additional new species to science (although writing these up, sadly, takes far more time than finding the birds, and Dan's way behind schedule).

*"**Dan Lane** is not only an exceptional birder, but also a caring leader who made sure each step of the way of our comfort and well-being." R.L., Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru*

Dan's interests in birds also include illustration, bird vocalizations, and bird biogeography and evolution. He's pleased to share his knowledge with participants on tours and loves birding with folks who are really enthusiastic about seeing BIRDS! Working with Field Guides is a blast and Dan thoroughly enjoys the friendship and fun the Field Guides family provides. His favorite areas are largely in tropical Latin America, but on occasion he has led tours to other corners of the globe and of course (somewhat) regularly birds near his home in Louisiana.

Visit https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/ for complete tour schedules for any of the guides; just click on a photo.

Financial Information

FEE: $5750 from Lima
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): $1075
DEPOSIT: $575 per person
FINAL PAYMENT DUE: December 25, 2026
LIMIT: 9

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 in excess of 14,000 feet. Elevations at Machu Picchu are considerably lower—6,400 - 8,500 feet. We will move about deliberately at the high elevations.

DOCUMENTS: Be sure to verify the latest entry requirements for each country you will visit or transit.

Passport: A current passport is required for international travel. It should be in good condition, valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date, and have at least one blank page for each country on your itinerary.

Peru has replaced the former tourist card with an electronic version, so you shouldn't have to worry about a paper card 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.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: This tour begins and ends in Lima, Peru (Jorge Chávez International Airport, LIM).

Arrival: Lima, evening of Day 1.

Departure: Lima, evening of Day 9.

Please wait to purchase airline tickets until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate. At that time, we'll be glad to assist with your flight arrangements at no service fee.

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 that 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.)

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.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The tour fee is $5750 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 (or breakfast on Day 10 if staying overnight), the flights within Peru (Lima/Cusco/Lima), all ground transportation, entrance fees (for *one* visit to the ruins), 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 $1075 for those requesting a single room. 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/. Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please submit your deposit of $575 per person; see https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/ for our Payment Options. Full payment of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or by December 25, 2026. We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later. Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and full 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 full tour fee is non-refundable, which would include the full deposit if the final payment has not yet been paid. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for the 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 purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to protect your investment in case of injury or illness to you or an immediate family member before or during a trip. Because we must remit early and substantial deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer refunds for cancellations outside of our Cancellation Policy. If a participant is unable to join or continue a tour due to illness, all related expenses will be their responsibility, and no refunds can be issued for missed days. Please wait to purchase insurance until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate, as most policies are non-refundable.

For full details, visit our Trip Cancellation Insurance page at https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/

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.

10/26 DFL; 10/25NC; peg 11/25; 10/26NG, peg