

ITINERARY
MOUNTAINS OF MANU, PERU
July 30-August 10, 2026



The flamboyant Andean Cock-of-the-Rock is one of the stars of this itinerary. We'll hope to visit an active lek where we can see the males displaying. Photograph by participant Donald Lima.

We include here information for those interested in the 2026 Field Guides Mountains of Manu, Peru tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- 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
- 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 for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

Manu Biosphere Reserve, incorporating Manu National Park and a couple of contiguous conservation tracts, is a vast, spell-binding wilderness (the size of Massachusetts!) in southeastern Peru, headwaters of the Río Madre de Dios—the Mother of God River—a tributary of the Madeira, which flows into the Amazon well within Brazil. Replete with some of the richest flora and fauna to be found anywhere in South America, it offers the uncontained possibilities of an entire humid Andean Slope ecosystem, from golden grasslands of the puna zone down the eastern Andean slope through cloaking montane cloud forest to seemingly endless lowland rainforest.

This tour offers a rich transect of the incredibly “birdy” road from above Cusco down to the Alto Madre de Dios in the rich upper-tropical zone, some of the best birding in the world! The tour begins with one night at Wayqecha Biological Station, at 9800 feet (3000m), thus allowing us an opportunity to bird the high-elevation forest early and late, four nights

based in the cloud forest area of “San Pedro” at 4600 feet (1400m), from which we bird up and down the road, and three nights in the rich upper-tropical foothills at 1600 feet (500m), based at Manu Biolodge. Each lodge we use offers pleasant sleeping, hot showers, good food, and good service right in the midst of excellent birding.

The scenery alone would be reason to take this tour—the copses of tree line forest that plunge down the east slope, becoming taller and wetter and more cloaking at mid-elevations, secreting streams and waterfalls and rushing rivers, in places completely covering the narrow road that snakes downslope. There are precious few places in South America where one can transect comparably undisturbed forest on the diverse east slope of the Andes. And at Manu Biolodge we will enjoy of the mosaic of habitats, such as *Guadua* bamboo, edge, and advanced secondary rainforest, that make this a very special place.

But the birds too are genuinely breathtaking—from glowing male Andean Cocks-of-the-rock and electric White-collared Jays to wonderfully camouflaged Yungas Pygmy-Owls, mottled in rufous, browns, and grays; from subtly beautiful Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucans gulping big fruits in the temperate forest to dazzlingly brilliant Paradise Tanagers consuming the abundant melastome berries of the middle-elevation forest edge, along with dozens of other tanagers in mixed-species flocks, a phenomenon for which the east-Andean slope is justifiably famous; from White-capped Dippers along mountain streams to Fasciated Tiger-Herons along foothill rivers; from sunning Hoatzins with their shaggy crests to a fabulous array of hummingbirds (including shaggy-crested Wire-crested Thorntails and Rufous-crested Coquettes!); from virtuoso Chestnut-breasted Wrens and Andean Solitaires to piercingly resonant White-eared Solitaires and Olive Finches “shouting” above the sound of rushing water, to mellow and persistent Tawny-bellied Screech-Owls that soothe us to sleep each night in the quiet lowlands; from shy tinamous and antpittas that circle us furtively in response to playback (and now, some perhaps even without!), to the view of a big male Amazonian Umbrellabird atop canopy trees. We’ll seek numerous range-restricted specialties, from Blue-headed Macaw, Bearded Mountaineer, Scarlet-hooded Barbet, Creamy-crested, Cabanis’s, and Marcapata spinetails, Urubamba and Red-and-white antpittas, Slaty Gnateater, Yungas and Cerulean-capped manakins, Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulet (first described in 1997), Yellow-crested Tanager, and a few bamboo specialties, more typical of lower elevations in southwestern Amazonia, including Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner, Bamboo Antshrike, and Goeldi’s, White-lined, and Manu antbirds. In 8 days of birding, we should encounter more than 350 species of birds, including some of the fanciest and most sought-after in the Neotropics.



*The Marcapata Spinetail is endemic to a small region in southern Peru on the eastern slope of the Andes.
Photograph by guide Cory Gregory.*

Focus of this tour: The purpose of this tour is to enjoy some of the richest birding on the east slope of the Andes while comfortably based at some wonderful lodges that give access to a wide range of elevations. In part to break up the long

drive back to Cusco, and in part to buffer against a period of excessive sun (!), rain or fog, we've decided to divide our stay in the cloud forest into two segments—four nights on the way down and one night on the way back up. By our second stay in the cloud forest zone, we'll have a good sense of how to prioritize our time on our final day of birding in these cool Andes. There will be some night-birding options near each of our lodges.



We'll have time to search for owls such as this Yungas Pygmy-Owl. Photograph by participant Jose Padilla-Lopez.

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 & Walking:** There is no level ground, so a good sense of balance is important. Most trails are very steep; there is a rough trail around Cock of the Rock Lodge. A walking stick may be needed. We will be on a road that has been recently surfaced (2023)—meaning that it will have changed since our last visit—with sometimes loose footing, and on trails that can be quite muddy and have roots and other obstacles. Our longest trail hike will be 4 miles round trip, which we will do in a morning at Manu Biolodge.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** Climbing in and out the van multiple times a day will be necessary. We will be on our feet for much of the day.
- **PACE:** Days will start pre-dawn, with breakfasts typically at 5:00-5:30 am. We will be on our feet birding all morning for up to 6 hours, walking perhaps 2 miles at a time primarily on roads. Most days we will return to the lodge for lunch followed by a short break. We will have afternoon outings and sometimes optional night outings. On several longer days and transfer days, we will have box lunches, then will end mid-afternoon.
- **ELEVATION:** We are in the mountains at elevations up to 12,000 feet, though much of the tour is below 10,000 feet.
- **WEATHER:** Climate is highly variable. With clear skies, daytime temperatures can reach the high 80s F, especially at low elevations. High humidity is expected, and rain is always a possibility. Cloudy conditions may

drop temperatures to 50s F at midday at higher elevations. **Please note: At this time of year there is a strong possibility of a southern cold front lasting 3-4 days. Conditions can be windy, rainy, and temperatures can drop (on rare occasions) into the upper 40s F.** Having some warm clothing is a must should we find ourselves in the midst of such a cold front!

- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on our tours. You will need to be able to maneuver to the back of a van 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:** There are no indoor restrooms on most of our excursions, so you must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** The trail walking is around the lodges so there is always the option to stay back and view the feeders, except on the days that we switch lodges. For road birding, the van will be nearby.

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 one of the guides.

About the Birding Areas



Drive from Cusco to San Pedro—The shrub and cactus-clad slopes and *quebradas* (gullies) of the arid intermontane valleys southwest of the high eastern crest support a landbird fauna of considerable interest as well, including a handful of distinctive endemics. Among these are the endemic Bearded Mountaineer and Rusty-fronted Canastero, striking evolutionary products of lengthy geographic isolation. Time permitting, the scrubby slopes near Cusco and Huacarpay offer our first chance for the canastero and the spectacular Bearded Mountaineer, which feeds at the blooming tree tobacco in the rocky outwash plains above the lakes. The same scrubby slopes are also home to Bare-faced Ground-Dove, Giant Hummingbird (at nine inches, the heaviest of hummers), Sparkling Violetear, Black-tailed and Green-tailed trainbearers, a disjunct population (*griseipectus*) of Streak-fronted Thornbird, White-browed Chat-Tyrant, Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant, Blue-and-yellow Tanager, Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch, and Band-tailed Seedeater. Our time allotted to bird here

will depend on when we arrive in Cusco, and the conditions of the road into Manu ahead. If we expect a long drive, we may be forced to cut our time in this area short in favor of arriving at our destination before dark. Furthermore, we give this area more attention on our Machu Picchu and Abra Malaga tour.

From the Cusco valley, a newly paved road climbs northeastward over a long ridge—past the pre-Inca ruins of Ninamarca—and descends into the valley of the Rio Paucartambo, world capital of potato diversity. From Paucartambo (which, roughly translated from Quecha, means “Way station of the cacique”) it continues as a very recently (2023!) paved road, narrows, and crawls up through a patchwork of agricultural land and natural temperate-zone scrub (supporting the endemic Creamy-crested Spinetail), eventually emerging into the high *jalca* zone (grassland above treeline) near the crest of the northeasternmost ridge of this massif. Near Ajcanaco, the pass, where the actual park begins, are vast stretches of undisturbed wet *puna* grassland that fall away to treeline down the east slope. The crest here is about 12,500 feet (3800m). We'll make select stops for the dry-side specialties en route as timing and weather allow.

The humid temperate and upper subtropical forests—From the crest of the northeasternmost ridge of this cordillera, we will bird down the breathtakingly beautiful east slope on a little-traveled road to our first lodge at 9800 feet (3000m).

On our descent the first afternoon, we'll have time for only a very limited sampling of this zone, but we'll be back up in due course. After a transition through increasingly humid shrubbery, we'll reach treeline and the temperate-zone forest, which cloaks the slopes down to around 7500 feet (2300m). This zone, which contains lots of blossoming shrubs and large stands of alders, blends into upper subtropical forest from around 7500 (2300m) down to 5000 feet (1500m). The uppermost zones support a more stunted forest, with considerable stands of *Chusquea* bamboo. As one descends, the forest becomes taller and more humid, with more running water. It is a land of grand forest vistas and scattered waterfalls. Our bus will drop us in various good forest stretches, periodically following us as we bird along on foot. In these upper zones, we'll seek such priority species as Yungas Pygmy-Owl, Gould's Inca (recently split by Clements' Checklist from Collared Inca, and found from southern Peru to central Bolivia), Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Buff-thighed Puffleg, Rufous-capped Thornbill, Masked Trogon, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Blue-banded Toucanet; two range-restricted furnariids, Puna Thistletail and Marcapata Spinetail; the secretive endemic Urubamba and Red-and-white antpittas, reclusive Barred and Band-tailed fruiteaters, the endemic Inca Flycatcher, the scarce Handsome and Olive flycatchers, Bolivian Tyrannulet, Rufous-bellied Bush-Tyrant; mixed flocks of White-collared Jays, Mountain Caciques, and Hooded Mountain-Tanagers; Fulvous Wren; Black-capped Hemispingus, Rust-and-yellow, Golden-collared, and Slaty tanagers, Chestnut-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Plushcap, and Moustached and Black-throated flowerpiercers. We've seen all of these on past tours. While we won't see every possibility on any one trip, we usually find a surprise or two; the birding in these largely undisturbed habitats is simply spectacular.



Gould's Inca is a large hummingbird found in the humid subtropical forests. This is another range-restricted species we'll watch for. Photograph by participant Richard Stilwell.

The humid subtropical zone of the east slope—Based for three nights (and a fourth on our way back) at our well-situated lodge, we will be in the lower part of the subtropical zone—among the best this ecosystem has to offer.

Our lodging itself offers an impressive degree of comfort for such a wilderness location—flush toilets, hot showers, spacious, private sleeping quarters, good food, and the opportunity to sleep to the sound of the rushing river and awaken in the midst of good habitat. The flowering vervain below the dining area (of both lodges) attracts such fancy hummers as Rufous-booted Racket-tail, Wire-crested Thorntail, Violet-fronted Brilliant, and (on occasion) the endemic Peruvian Piedtail.

Immediately above the lodge is a zone of overlap between species typical of the subtropics (generally considered to occur from around 4600-7500 feet, or 1400-2290m) and those more characteristic of the upper tropical zone (around

2000-4600 feet, or 600-1400m). This results in some of the richest tanager flocks anywhere. The forest edge can be teeming with exquisite tanagers that forage in frenzied flocks from one fruiting melastome to another. These can include several species of hemispingus, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, and lots of tanager allies called “tanagers”: Yellow-throated, Orange-eared, Golden, Saffron-crowned, Paradise, Spotted, Golden-eared, Golden-naped, Blue-necked, Bay-headed, Beryl-spangled, and the very local Slaty. These frugivorous flocks sometimes overlap with mixed-species flocks of primarily insectivorous birds (but with a few fruit-eaters like Versicolored Barbet) that include such species as Yellow-breasted Antwren, Yellow-rumped Antwren, Lemon-browed Flycatcher, Gray-mantled Wren, several tyrannulets, and a few furnariids; these can be moments of virtual pandemonium! Uniform Antshrikes, Slaty Gnateaters, and Black-faced Brush-Finches call from the understory, competing for our attention with Crested and Golden-headed quetzals in the subcanopy. With luck we could locate a Black-streaked Puffbird or a Lanceolated Monklet, sitting quietly in the midstory. In the late afternoon, the normally inconspicuous Highland Motmot can suddenly appear. And, at any moment, a Solitary Eagle or a Black-and-chestnut Eagle could dive from the sky toward a skulking Andean Guan.

Historically, near the lodge, was an easily accessible Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek, but a landslide resulting from exceptionally heavy rains in January-February 2010 ripped through the lek area, causing the males to retreat downslope to form a new lek. Happily, there is another lek we visit that is a 15-minute drive from our lodge and the birds are quite used to people. In any case, the cocks are still quite common along the road, and we have sufficient time here to be sure of good sightings of the fabulous males of this incredible species.

The strategic location of our comfortable lodge has eliminated the need for camping along the road, as was customary when visiting here over 25 years ago, in order to have access to a wide range of habitat zones. Based here, we'll work both up and down the mountain, birding the temperate and subtropical zones by working upslope, and birding the upper tropical zone by working downslope.



We'll see many gorgeous tanagers such as the Golden-collared Honeycreeper. These birds are uncommon, but we've gotten some good views of them near our lodge. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.

The upper tropical forest and bamboo zones—As we work downslope from the lodge, we will reach a distinctive forest zone with extensive stands of tall *Guadua* bamboo, which hold many specialties. Among the many possibilities down the road from the lodge in this upper tropical zone are: Military Macaw, Pavonine Cuckoo, Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Red-billed Scythebill, Cabanis's Spinetail, Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner, Peruvian Recurvebill (rare), Black-billed Treehunter, Chestnut-backed and Bamboo antshrikes, Stripe-chested and Ornate antwrens, Manu, Black, and Goeldi's antbirds, Scaled Antpitta, Slaty Gnateater, and Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes parkeri*, a little-known flycatcher that was first collected in 1899 but not observed again by ornithologists until 1972—along this road—

after which it was officially described as a distinct species and named for the late Ted Parker). The least disturbed patches of forest in the zone between 3000 and 5000 feet (900-1500m) hold such alluring (and scarce) species as Wattled Guan, Cerulean-capped Manakin, Olive Finch, and the ethereal songster, Chestnut-breasted Wren. We even have an outside chance (but a very, very small one) of encountering the recently-described Inti Tanager, first discovered along this road over 20 years ago.

On the day we travel to Manu Biolodge, we'll bird even lower into the foothill forest zone en route. The birds here will overlap those discussed under Manu Biolodge.



*At Manu Biolodge, we'll watch for lowland species such as Lemon-throated Barbet.
Photograph by participant Myles McNally.*

Manu Biolodge and the eastern base of the Andes—Located in the buffer zone of Manu National Park and north of the village of Pilcopata, is the Manu Biolodge, which is part of a private reserve of 7,574 acres. This lodge's elevation—about 1600 feet (500m)—is ideal for exploration of tropical and upper tropical avifauna under pleasant, relatively pest-free conditions.

We'll spend our time at Manu Biolodge exploring their 25-mile trail system (perhaps not every mile, however) which covers an amazing array of habitats such as premontane and lower mountain rainforest, riparian succession vegetation, secondary vegetation, bamboo, crops, pasture and some fish ponds. Many lowland species occur up to 1600 feet (500m); so we have a good chance of seeing a number of lowland rainforest species including Cinereous Tinamou, Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, Sunbittern, Sungrebe, Scarlet, Red-and-green, Blue-headed, and Chestnut-fronted macaws, Black-banded Owl, Great and Long-tailed potoos, Black-eared Fairy, White-chinned Sapphire, Long-billed Starthroat, Blue-crowned, Violaceous, and Black-tailed trogons, Chestnut-capped and Striolated puffbirds, Gilded, Lemon-throated, and Scarlet-hooded (rare) barbets, White-throated (Cuvier's) Toucan, Rufous-tailed and Rufous-rumped foliage-gleaners, Bluish-slate Antshrike (a leader of mixed flocks), Black-banded and Ocellated (*brevirostris* race, sometimes split as Tschudi's) woodcreepers, Red-billed Scythebill, White-browed, Yellow-breasted Warbling-, and Black-faced antbirds, Thrush-like and Amazonian antpittas, Fiery-capped Manakin, Rusty-fronted and Yellow-browed tody-flycatchers, Little Ground-Tyrant, Purplish and Violaceous jays, Hauxwell's Thrush, Black-capped Donacobius, Scaly-breasted Wren, Yellow-bellied Dacnis, and Swallow Tanager. Manu Biolodge is also a great place to see mammals. Researchers have captured images of large cats such as jaguars and pumas among other mammals with the aid of camera traps. Other species that have been recorded here are Brazilian Tapirs, Giant River Otters, Common Squirrel Monkeys, Dusky Titit, Brown Capuchins, and Night Monkeys.

Among some of the lowland species that seem to prefer the base of the Andes (and hence are more likely here than further downriver in Amazonian Manu) are Black-capped Tinamou, Buckley's Forest-Falcon, Koepcke's and White-browed hermits, Rufous-capped Nunlet, Plain-crowned Spinetail, Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner, Bamboo Antshrike, Stripe-chested Antwren, Mottle-backed Elaenia, Johannes' Tody-Tyrant, Round-tailed Manakin, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, Pectoral Sparrow, Yellow-bellied, Yellow-lored (formerly Carmiol's), and Yellow-crested tanagers, White-winged Shrike-Tanager, and Black-and-white Seedeater.

The bamboo forest at Manu Biolodge is impressive and might produce most of the bamboo specialists, in addition to that, we will bird the foothills of the Andes at the Pilcopata road. As part of the Atalaya ridge we'll pay special attention to the *Guadua* bamboo stands, which harbor a unique set of birds, specialized in this habitat. In addition to that we will be looking for a number of rarities occurring in the uplifted hills along the eastern base of the Andes such as Blue-headed and Military Macaws, Rufous-breasted and Fine-barred piculets, Plain Softtail, Goeldi's and Manu antbirds, Red-billed Tyrannulet, Black-backed Tody-Flycatcher, Golden-bellied Warbler (of the nominate race) to mention a few.

While the lodge has some hummingbird and fruit feeders by the dining hall, there are a couple other hummingbird feeding stations along the road on the Atalaya Ridge across the Pilcopata River, and we will make sure to visit these to fill out our list.

To prepare for the many birds of the east-Andean slope, foothills, and lowlands, consult the coded tour checklist. The ***BIRDS OF PERU***, by Schulenberg, Stotz, (our own Dan) Lane, O'Neill, and Parker (Princeton University Press, revised edition, 2010) will be an indispensable aid for field identification. Plus, it should make preparing for the tour an immense pleasure!



*The White-collared Jay is a montane species found in the cloudforests of Peru and Bolivia.
Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*

Itinerary for Mountains of Manu, Peru

Day 1, Thu, 30 Jul. Flight to Lima. Flights to Lima typically depart from the US late afternoon or evening and arrive into Lima from 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. Because these flights arrive late and our flight to Cusco often requires an early departure, we urge you to select a flight that arrives early, or else come a day early in order to rest up before our flight tomorrow morning. Our office can help you with reservations for air and hotel. 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 push your own luggage cart to the new Costa del Sol Wyndham Hotel, simply out the door from international arrivals and across the street within the airport complex (ask any one of a number of English-speaking airport

information assistants for directions). As you check into the hotel, please submit your passport for copying (a requirement of most hotels in Peru). You will receive a message regarding the plan for tomorrow either from the reception or under your door. The message will inform you of detailed plans for our flight to Cusco in the morning and of what time to be ready; your guide(s) will meet you in the hotel lobby, if not at the buffet breakfast, and we'll go together to check in to our flight.

If you have come a day early or are arriving from another Field Guides tour, and are already at the hotel, your guide(s) will contact you about plans. Night at the Costa del Sol Grand Wyndham Hotel, Lima International Airport.

Day 2, Fri, 31 Jul. Flight from Lima to Cusco, drive to Wayqecha. On this day, we will arrive in Cusco as early as we can so that we can be on the road to the humid slope of the Andes. It will be a long driving day, with a few birding stops on the way to break up the road time. The scenery along the way will be memorable, and the anticipation of the birds in the region palpable. We should be able to see some species of interest along the route, and will be able to spend ample time in the higher elevations of cloudforest this evening! We will arrive at Wayqecha Biological Station, a relatively new research station in the upper montane cloud forest at 9800 feet (3000m). Staying at the station will make it possible to be in high-elevation habitat for Swallow-tailed Nightjar at dusk, as well as to be out in this high-elevation forest early in the morning while the birding is at its best. The station offers lovely duplex cabins with individual bathrooms for each bedroom, each with a private entrance and anteroom with electric outlets for recharging while the generator is on. Set on a steep slope, each cabaña has a balcony with a breathtaking view of montane forest as far as the eye can see. But room is limited, and some clients who have singles elsewhere on the tour may have to share a room. It can be cold here, but there should be enough bedding to give you a comfortable night's sleep! Night in Wayqecha Research Station.



The Urubamba Antpitta is a southern Peruvian endemic that was recently recognized as a distinct species. This was formerly considered a subspecies of the widespread Rufous Antpitta. Photograph by participant Myles McNally.

Day 3, Sat, 1 Aug. Birding from Wayqecha to San Pedro. We have the morning to explore the high elevation forests around Wayqecha, and there is much to see here! As we will see, elevation determines the vegetation and thus the avifauna, so relatively small changes in elevation will result in new communities of birds. We will head upslope closer to treeline to see what is found in the elfin woodlands and *jalca* (puna grassland/shrub interface, with Moustached Flowerpiercer, Crowned Chat-Tyrant, Urubamba Antpitta, Puna Tapaculo, and Golden-collared Tanagers all being possibilities. Beware that it can be buggy up here with no-see-ums (similar to black flies in the northern US and Canada) sometimes becoming an issue, and it can be cool in the morning, but will likely warm up over the course of the day. If it is clear this morning, activity will dry up at around 9:30am, and we'll return to our lodge to collect our gear and head

downslope, working our way down into taller cloudforest, with its heavy epiphytic load and dense *Chusquea* bamboo understory. Here, mixed species flocks with such highlights as White-collared Jay, Mountain Cacique, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Masked Trogon, Barred Fruiteater, Marcapata Spinetail, Fulvous Wren, various tanagers and tyrant flycatchers. We'll have a picnic lunch along the way, and then push on to our next lodge, probably arriving in the mid-afternoon, getting our bags into our rooms and perhaps watching the feeders or birding the grounds of our lodge until dusk. Night at COTR Lodge.

Day 4, Sun, 2 Aug. Birding east slope of Manu from our lodge. We'll spend a full day to bird up and down the road from our base in the heart of the lower subtropical zone. This area has a high diversity, as it is where the cooler upper cloudforests transition to the warmer foothill habitat. We may run into some of the most memorable birds of the tour here including both Golden-headed and Crested quetzals, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, the colorful "Tangara" tanager flocks, and the mixed-species insectivore flocks that include spinetails, woodcreepers, tyrant flycatchers, and such sought-after rarities as Yellow-rumped Antwren and Gray-mantled Wren. Expect a cool morning and warm midday and afternoon temperatures. There could be rain at any time in these cloud forests, so rain gear should always be available (along with plenty of sun protection). Night at COTR Lodge.



Golden Tanager is one of the brilliant birds we'll see in multi-species flocks. Photograph by participant Myles McNally.

Day 5, Mon, 3 Aug. Birding east slope of Manu from our lodge. Another day of birding along the slopes above San Pedro, and we will probably drive up towards the switchbacks around Pillahuata. Mixed species flocks will be the name of the game, with a chance to see some of the elevationally-restricted specialties such as Inca and Handsome flycatchers, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Blue-banded Toucanet, Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Red-and-white Antpitta, and many tanagers, tyrants, and furnariids. Expect a cool morning and warm midday and afternoon temperatures. We'll return to the lodge and may either take it easy on the grounds or head out in the afternoon, depending on how our morning schedule was. There could be rain at any time in these cloud forests, so rain gear should always be available (along with plenty of sun protection). Night at COTR lodge.

Day 6, Tue, 4 Aug. Birding downslope from San Pedro to Manu Biolodge. This morning, we'll bird downslope from our San Pedro lodge through a stretch of *Guadua* bamboo habitat and upper tropical forest, then pass through some second growth and open country areas lower in the Kosñipata valley where human activities have opened up the habitat, before reaching the last hill with nice bamboo habitat. In this area, a recently-opened biological station named Manu

Biolodge will serve as our base of operations for the next couple of days, allowing us to explore this mosaic of open, forested, and bamboo-dominated habitats. Night at Manu Biolodge.

Days 7-8, Wed-Thu, 5-6 Aug. Full days in Manu Biolodge. We have two full days in this area. There is a great trail system that covers a number of habitats in which we'll be looking for species of lower elevation. Expect an early start, birdy morning, a return for lunch and a midday break, then an optional afternoon's birding. We may also do some night-birding right outside our rooms. The low foothill forest has many things in common with lowland Amazonian forest, and we will see a suite of species we have not had until now. This includes specialties of *Guadua* bamboo-dominated woodlands such as Bamboo Antshrike, White-lined Antbird, Rufous-crested Woodpecker, White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher, and many others. Near the lodge are some ponds that have Hoatzins, Sunbittern, and other aquatic species, as well as loud colonies of Yellow-rumped Caciques and Russet-backed Oropedolas. By the cabins there has been a territory of the rare Black-backed Tody-Flycatcher, which we will certainly make an effort to see! Our hikes here will be on fairly flat dirt trails, but there may be some sections with uneven footing as we walk farther from the buildings. We will also go across the Rio Pilcopata to the Atalaya Ridge to visit some hummingbird feeding stations and walk along the road looking for other species typical of the region. Nights at Manu Biolodge.



The Blue-headed Macaw is found in lowland forests of the southwestern Amazon basin, primarily in Peru. We have seen this range-restricted species well near Manu Biolodge. Photograph by participant Eric VanderWerf.

Day 9, Fri, 7 Aug. Full day of birding up the Kosñipata road to San Pedro lodge. Today, we will head back upslope after early morning birding around the station and adjacent area, with special attention paid to birds of the more open country, and then the bamboo-laden lower foothills as we continue upslope to our lodge in the San Pedro area. Night at San Pedro (Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge).

Day 10, Sat, 8 Aug. Birding our way back to Cusco. This will be our morning to cover the high temperate and tree-line habitats of the Kosñipata "Highway" before we begin our drive back to Cusco. Once we leave the Manu area, time will dictate how much effort we can put into stops for any dry habitat birds we missed along the road to Cusco. Night at Palacio del Inka in Cusco.

Day 11, Sun, 9 Aug. Flight Cusco/Lima. There may be a bit of time to explore Cusco this morning before our flight to Lima. We will fly to Lima between 3:30-5:30 p.m., arriving about an hour later, depending on flight schedules. International departures will likely be sometime tonight. We have rooms booked at the Costa del Sol Wyndham Hotel, Lima

International Airport, allowing you the opportunity to shower, change, and pack before your travels, even if you leave tonight.

Day 12, Mon, 10 Aug. International flight(s); connections home. Departures are usually spread out over the period of 9:00 p.m. on Day 11 to 1:00 a.m. on Day 12 and the morning and afternoon on Day 12. You should plan to be at the check-in counter 2.5 to 3 hours in advance of your flight. 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 extensively throughout North America and in 2016 published the published [*Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America*](#) (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) with co-author Oliver Komar and illustrators Robert Dean and Peter Burke. In addition, Mot has experience in many other areas of Central and South America, Europe, and Africa. 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 with his wife, Rocio.

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

"Jesse is a fantastic guide. He really knows calls, infinitely patient in getting everyone on the difficult birds, fun to be with." L.F. Colombia: Bogota, the Magdalena Valley, and Santa Marta.

Financial Information

FEE: \$5875 for one person in double occupancy from Lima

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1175 (Singles are limited at *Cock of the Rock Lodge* and at *Wayqecha Cloud Forest Research Station*.)

DEPOSIT: \$575 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: January 31, 2026

LIMIT: 8

Other Things You Need to Know

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

ACCOMMODATIONS: Our hotels in Lima and Cusco are modern and very comfortable, with all the amenities.

Wayqecha Biological Station is a lovely new facility at 9800 feet (3000m). Three separate cabañas (each with two bedrooms and private bathrooms) are connected by trails to the dining hall, which also has wifi signal, but only has generator power for an hour or so pre-dawn and several hours in the evening. You will want your headlamp for walking between buildings. Hot water (for the shower) is provided by on-demand gas heaters. There is no heating in the rooms, but there should be sufficient bedding to keep you warm at night.

Our lodge at San Pedro (in the middle elevations) is in a pleasant, humid climate, but sometimes penetratingly cool after a wet *friaje* (cold fronts from the south)! Pack at least a set of warm clothing and good raingear and consider bringing your umbrella to the dining room. The lodge has hot water for bathing. At Cock of the Rock Lodge, lighting in the rooms is by solar-charged lights which can also be used to charge USP-powered items, so you'll need your headlamp or flashlight for navigating the grounds after dark. A recharging station is located in the dining room and a generator is turned on as needed for recharging. Singles may not be available while at Cock of the Rock Lodge. Drinking water and hot beverages are available in the dining room; bring your water bottle to refill when you come down to dinner.

At Manu Biolodge, the facilities are quite comfortable. Nine new cabins with private bathrooms and hot water, comfortable beds with all the necessary precautions to keep mosquitoes away (screened windows and mosquito nets), Adirondack chairs, and other amenities will make you feel at ease and relaxed after our birding outings. The lodge is now attached to the power grid so has 24-hour electricity, and wifi signal is available around the cabins and the dining hall. A

brand new dining room, lounge, and bar welcome you for meals and provide comfortable seating for reviewing your lists at the end of the day. The place is surprisingly free of pesky insects, and nighttime temperatures are usually perfect for sleeping.

A NOTE ON ALTITUDE: Altitude sickness sometimes affects visitors to Cusco—at 11,000 feet (3350m)—especially upon over-exertion after arriving from sea level. It is usually avoided by taking it easy and moving very slowly; this requires a conscious effort, especially when deplaning with a heavy carry-on amid a group of passengers accustomed to the altitude. The highest elevation we'll reach on the tour is almost 13,500 feet (4100m) where we cross a high pass coming back to Cusco from the east slope. We'll start our birding (by walking slowly) at around 11,000 feet (3350m) near the Huacarpay Lakes on our first afternoon in Cusco. If you suffer from altitude sickness, you might consider Diamox (Acetazolamide) to use for our highest elevations.

DOCUMENTS: A passport valid for six months beyond the date of your return 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. Tourist cards have recently been replaced with an electronic visa, so you no longer need to worry about a loose paper you could lose.

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.

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 \$5875 for one person in double occupancy from Lima. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 11, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 11, the flights within Peru (Lima/Cusco/Lima), all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Lima, 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 \$1175 (*Singles are limited at Cock of the Rock Lodge and Wayqecha Cloud Forest Research Station.*) 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 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 mail your **deposit of \$575** per person, or 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 January 31, 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 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.

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