

ITINERARY
NORTHERN PERU: ENDEMICS GALORE
October 3-22, 2026



Johnson's Tody-Flycatcher is endemic to a small region in Peru south of the North Peruvian Low. Not much is known about this attractive little bird; it was described relatively recently, and although its distribution is quite small, it seems to locally common in some areas. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.

We include here information for those interested in the 2026 Field Guides *Northern Peru: Endemics Galore* 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

Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:

- 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 the 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 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

Peru is a country of extreme contrasts: it includes tropical rainforests, dry deserts, high mountains, and rich ocean. These, of course, have allowed it to also be a country with a unique avifauna, including a very high rate of endemism. Nowhere is that endemism more apparent than in the north of the country, a region that has been a magnet for world birders for many decades! Here, one can encounter some of the Tumbesian endemics of the deciduous forests of the northern coast, the Marañon endemics of the extensive dry valleys within the Andes, and also some of the humid forest Andean endemics of the north of the country. Some of these are political endemics of the country of Peru, and others spill across the border into Ecuador (birds do not obey human politics, and borders and biogeographic barriers are rarely

concordant, you see), but many are birds that get the juices flowing for many who pore over the field guide eyeing the exotic therein. North Peru has been a region that has proven itself bountiful to those who wish to explore it, for even though avian exploration there began as long ago as the late 1600s, new species are still being described as recently as in the past several years! And there are yet more to come!

This tour is sandwiched, geographically speaking, in between other tour routes that Field Guides offers: to the north is the Southwest Ecuador Specialties tour (among others), which gets within spitting distance of the Peruvian border, to the south is the Central Peru tour, which explores the great Cordillera Blanca and Carpish ranges on either side of the upstream end of the Marañón River, and to the east, we offer the Marvelous Spatuletail tour which explores the rich humid forests of the Alto Nieva and Mayo river valleys. Yet, we still have much to see in northern Peru that these tours simply don't encounter! The arid coast has a host of endemics that don't reach Ecuador, not to mention the northern end of the rich, but frigid, Humboldt Current, which itself is home to huge numbers of seabirds! The western portion of northern Peru's Andes is a complicated series of dry montane woodlands, humid cloudforests, and dry intermontane valleys, the most biogeographically important of which is the great Marañón valley, which not only prevents cloudforest birds from crossing its uninhabitable expanse, but also has its own array of endemics that are rather local. The "North Peruvian Low" is another feature important to the landscape here: it is the lowest pass in the Andes between the Pacific and Atlantic (Amazonian here) lowlands between Colombia and southern Patagonia! As such, it too is an important barrier to Andean humid forest and treeline species. We will have a chance to visit both sides of these important biogeographical barriers, and see how the avifauna changes across them, as well as visiting the dry forests separated by the Andes themselves. To say we will have an opportunity to see a lot of birds is an understatement!

The north of Peru is also culturally rich: it is the home of Cajamarca, the northern capital city of the Incan Empire (and the site where one of the most important Spanish victories in the conquest of the Americas took place), as well as the pre-Incan Moche and Chavin civilizations of the Pacific coast, and the Chachapoyan culture of the mountains around the Utcubamba valley, and modern-day culture, which boasts some of Peru's most cherished cuisine. The tour will require some long drives and changing our hotels on many nights, and many picnic meals, but we have eliminated camping from the itinerary. Starting in 2022, we have also changed the tour route to limit overlap with other tours and concentrate on the avifauna that sets this region apart.



Another Peruvian endemic we'll seek is the charming Yellow-faced Parrotlet. This is another range-restricted species, confined to the dry Upper Marañón Valley. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.

The purpose of this tour is in fair part announced by the title: endemics galore. We will put substantial effort into seeing the birds that are special to this region. We will, of course, look at anything that presents itself to us, but there are several sites where we have limited time and a large potential list of species, so we will have to use “triage” to target the most important species and let the other chips (and chirps) fall where they may. Be prepared *not to see* a higher-than-usual percentage of the 650+ species that are included on the checklist. The checklist reflects the collection of reasonable possibilities that have been heard or seen on our route over the years, some of them regularly, others just a few times. This trip does not require birding expertise, and some people see over 250 life birds while others see a fifth as many. Part of the purpose is simply to see wondrous Northern Peru in an enjoyable birding format. Finally, another purpose of this tour is to demonstrate the effect of the biogeographic barrier presented by the North Peruvian Low (largely comprised of the Marañon/Huancabamba river valleys) and the change of species in the humid forests on either side.

The rewards are substantial, but this is a harder-than-average tour. What is required to enjoy the trip is the combination of fairly good physical condition and a good measure of flexibility and patience: Everything will not go as planned, and we don't even try to plan the weather (apart from avoiding the wet season). Meals in the field take some time (though staff does most of the work), and there may be some travel on bumpy roads in remote areas and long days on the road. Still, by spending so much time in the out-of-doors, we get to do much birding.

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:** In the mountains, there is limited level ground, so a good sense of balance is important. Most of our birding will be on roadsides or on brief walks into habitat near the road. We will spend several days birding at about 8,800 ft to 10,000 ft.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** Climbing in and out the van multiple times a day will be necessary. Long van rides on a few days will also test your stamina. Also a couple of the lodging sites will be in noisy towns, but these are for only one night each.
- **PACE:** Days will start pre-dawn, with breakfasts typically at 4:30-5:30 am, some being picnic breakfasts to get us closer to our birding destination at a good hour. We will be on our feet birding all morning for up to 6 hours, walking perhaps 2 miles at a time primarily on roads. On some days we will return to the lodge for lunch followed by a short break, but on travel days, we will likely be birding through the day with time to rest our legs as we are on the bus. We will have afternoon outings most days and sometimes optional owling. Picnics will figure heavily on this tour, some may be unmemorable.
- **ELEVATION:** We range from sea-level, on the coast, to a maximum of about 12,000 ft at Abra Barro Negro. While we are in the mountains, we will spend extended periods between 5000 and 8,000 ft. At the highest elevations, we will not be exerting ourselves, mostly walking along roadsides.
- **WEATHER:** Climate is highly variable. Typically, the Pacific slope and Marañon and Chinchipe valleys will be sunny and fairly warm (80s F, possibly into the 90s), but dry. In the more humid montane areas, it will probably be cloudy at times, and perhaps even foggy. Morning temperatures at higher elevations could be as low as the 40s F, and if the day is cloudy or windy, it can remain cold through the day. If it is sunny at these sites, it can get into the low 80s F by early afternoon, and sunscreen, hat, and long sleeves will be necessary to prevent sunburn! In the humid mountains, humidity is expected, and rain is always a possibility. Most lodging is not likely to have heat.
- **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 bus on occasion.
- **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:** If you do not feel you will be able to do the strenuous trail hike, there is always the option to stay back in Pomacochas, and if enough participants do to warrant one of the guides to stay behind as well, alternative activities may be available to them. 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 the guide for the tour.

About the Birding Areas



Coastal Desert—Virtually the entire coast of Peru is desert, as the cold Humboldt Current produces fog but very little rain over the coastal plain. Where the terrain is flat, as in coastal northern Peru, any spot that can support vegetation of any type can support crops, with the result that little native vegetation remains. Thus, some bird species are threatened; one of these, Peruvian Plantcutter, will be a particular target near Chiclayo. Here it occurs in a few nice wooded patches that have, for various reasons, escaped clearing. We'll seek it in patches of desert-thorn woodland near Chiclayo characterized by *Algarrobo* trees (*Prosopis pallida*, in the same genus as the mesquites of the desert Southwest). Other specialties of the same habitat include the uncommon Rufous Flycatcher, the *Myiarchus* with the most divergent plumage; Cinereous Finch, a species without obvious close relatives; and Tumbes Swallow, a little-known swallow of restricted range that occurs in the Bosque Pomac Sanctuary. Other species we should encounter in the same area include West Peruvian Dove, Croaking Ground-Dove, Peruvian Thick-knee, Pacific Parrotlet, Peruvian Pygmy-Owl, Amazilia Hummingbird, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Necklaced Spinetail, Pale-legged (Pacific) Hornero, Coastal Miner, Collared Antshrike, Gray-and-white Tyrannulet, Mouse-colored (Tumbes) Tyrannulet, Fulvous-headed Scrub-Tyrant (formerly called Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant), Tumbes Tyrant, Snowy-throated Kingbird (rare), Fasciated and Superciliated wrens, and Collared Warbling-Finch. Visits to the beach and nearby marsh and dune habitats will also showcase a wealth of waders (including boreal

migrants from North America that should be arriving in numbers around now), seabirds (gulls, terns, boobies, pelicans, and the like), and land birds such as the endemic Coastal Miner, the colorful Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, and the recently split Peruvian Pipit (formerly part of Yellowish Pipit).

Tumbesian Dry Tropical Forests—With elevation and distance inland from the Humboldt Current, rainfall increases and the vegetation shifts from barren sand or desert scrub (along the coast) to a semi-deciduous woodland. The dry, semi-deciduous forests of the Tumbesian Center of Endemism occur from the Cordillera de Chongon of Ecuador south to Lambayeque, Peru. We will bird this habitat at Chaparri and Casupe reserves, both snuggled up against the west side of the western cordillera.

We will encounter a moderate number of Tumbesian endemics during our efforts to see the White-winged Guan and the Piura Chat-Tyrant, but this tour does not represent a thorough coverage of the Tumbesian specialties. For those not encountered on this route, we urge you to consider our **SOUTHWESTERN ECUADOR SPECIALTIES** tour.

At first glance, much of this Tumbesian habitat appears in good shape—sizable trees are still standing, often draped with *Tillandsia* or other epiphytes. At second glance, and each subsequent look, it becomes apparent that goats rule arid northern Peru, and that humans have been a pervasive influence for a long time.

For the tasty White-winged Guan, the result has been near-extinction, though a captive breeding program (with some successful reintroductions) and some efforts toward conservation and education offer some hope. We will see free-living, multi-generation products of the reintroduction program at the community reserve of Chaparri. Other specialties in the region include Tumbes Hummingbird (erratic but usually seen), Tumbes Tyrant, Piura Chat-Tyrant (scarce), and Tumbes Sparrow. At lower elevations we may see Red-masked Parakeet, Peruvian Screech-Owl, Scrub Nightjar, Short-tailed Woodstar, Ecuadorian Piculet, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Collared Antshrike, Elegant Crescentchest, Pacific Elaenia, Sooty-crowned and Baird's flycatchers, White-tailed Jay, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, Speckle-breasted Wren, Gray-and-gold Warbler, Black-capped Sparrow, White-headed and White-winged brush-finches,

Collared Warbling-Finch, Sulphur-throated Finch, and White-edged Oriole. At higher elevations, possibilities include Gray-chinned Hermit (the Pacific slope form *porcellae*), Line-cheeked Spinetail, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner (furtive), Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner (also furtive), Chapman's Antshrike, Three-banded Warbler, Bay-crowned and White-winged brush-finches, and Black-cowled Saltator.



*The White-winged Guan is an endangered Tumbesian specialty that we will watch for in the dry forests of Chaparri.
Photograph by participant Paul Koker.*

The Andes north of the North Peruvian Low—the Huancabamba valley, as unimpressive as it may appear at first glance, is one of the most important biogeographic features of the Andes mountain range: the Huancabamba Deflection, or North Peruvian Low, the lowest Andean pass between Colombia and Patagonia! Here, many species of humid cloudforests from as far north as Venezuela reach south to this valley and stop abruptly, often to be replaced on the south side by a related form that then continues often all the way to the southern limit of true cloudforest in Bolivia. This pass also has permitted limited flow of more arid-habitat species between the Pacific coast and the Marañón valley, into which the Huancabamba river flows.

We will spend a night in a rather basic hotel in the small (and noisy!) town of Huancabamba, where we may see the recently split Tumbes Pewee (formerly part of Tropical Pewee), Marañón Gnatcatcher which has only just been split from Tropical Gnatcatcher by eBird/Clements), Long-tailed Mockingbird, Spot-throated Hummingbird, Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch, and some more common species. We may also be lucky and find Gray-winged Inca-Finch (a small pocket survives on some arid slopes here) and Black-necked Woodpecker, both Peruvian endemics at their northernmost limits in this valley. However, from here, we will drive a fairly new road east, skirting some humid temperate cloudforest that will be home to species that are more characteristic of southern Ecuador than Peru such as Little Sunangel, Chestnut-naped Antpitta, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, Orange-banded Flycatcher, Turquoise Jay, the *atriceps* form of Plain-tailed Wren, Pale-naped Brushfinch, the nominate form of Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager, among others. After passing through a lower area of agricultural lands (mostly coffee and fruit), we will visit a small but surprisingly birdy patch of forest in the subtropical zone where mixed flocks of colorful tanagers may crowd fruiting melastome trees with the likes of Red-headed Barbet, Andean Solitaire (of the northern form *venezuelensis*), the local *paynteri* form of White-winged Brushfinch (almost certainly a separate species!), Black-chested Fruiteater, and we may be able to call in some rare furnariids such as Spectacled Prickletail and Brown-billed Scythebill. Much of the Peruvian end of this range of mountains is difficult to access, and much of the habitat at these elevations has been converted into coffee fincas (as you will see!), so we'll find what we can from the edge of this road. On the plus side, the possibilities are enormous, and there are always pleasant surprises to see here! At the far end of this road, we'll descend into the Chinchipe valley and head south through agriculture and arid woodlands similar to what we saw on the Pacific slope as we head to Jaen (pronounced "High-EN").



*The valley of the Río Marañon is steep, and acts as a divider between species found on the east and west.
Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*

The Marañón Valley—The Amazon is a river without any single headwater, but on looking at a map, it is hard not to call the Río Marañón just that. As a body of water, the Marañón isn't especially impressive—it's just another big tributary to a really big river. But the deep canyon it has carved through major cordillera of the Andes is truly awesome.

Our tour visits what might be called the central Marañón valley: upstream from the wet, flat stretches as the river rolls toward Iquitos and below the high, puna country of its headwaters. We will cross the Río Marañón twice by road, the first time east of Jaen in an area where the river first starts to emerge from the Andes, and the second time at Balsas (about 3000 feet elevation), a region of very impressive topography.

Not only does the valley of the Río Marañón serve as a major barrier to the distribution of Andean forest birds, but the lower elevations of the central portion are an (evidently old) island of arid conditions. These arid and semi-arid habitats are quite varied for a relatively small area, and the distribution of some species within the Marañón Valley is quite local. North of Jaen, in the valley of the Río Chinchipe, is a more mesic woodland with greater similarity to the Tumbesian forests; toward Bagua Grande is a more arid scrubland; and further south, above Balsas, is a similar-looking (but higher elevation) arid scrub with yet more distinctive birds. Yellow-faced Parrotlet (which we finally found in 1998 and have seen well on most tours since) has gone from common to endangered in the last thirty-five years, but now appears to be making a slight comeback. Other Marañón specialties include Peruvian Pigeon, Spot-throated Hummingbird (we will almost guarantee this one!), Marañón and Chinchipe (recently separated from the coastal Necklaced Spinetail) spinetails, Chestnut-backed Thornbird, Northern ("Marañón") Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus punctatus leucogaster*), Marañón Crescentchest, Marañón Thrush, Buff-bellied Tanager, and three fabulous inca-finches (Little, Gray-winged, and Buff-bridled). Many other species are represented by endemic races.

Forests of the Eastern Andes— Our route takes us along the margin of the eastern Andean range along the east side of the Utcubamba valley. We will drive up the impressive canyon of this tributary to a lodge near the famed Gocta Waterfall, from which we will look for Marvelous Spatuletail, which occurs in small patches of disturbed forest along the edge of the Utcubamba valley nearby. At first it is hard to believe that the rackets are all part of one bird, but then the happy reality sets in. *Warning:* Adult male spatuletails are a distinct minority (2 out of 35 sightings in one survey, although our ratio has been higher). We will put substantial effort into seeing an adult male. Although the forest is degraded and remnant, there are some other nice birds in the area, such as Purple-throated Sunangel, Peruvian (recently split from Booted) Rackettail, Southern Emerald-Toucanet, Speckle-chested Piculet, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Silvery and Buff-bellied tanagers.

Our next morning will take us up onto a fairly recently visited road that passes through a patch of high cloudforest. This area should provide us opportunities to see several Peruvian endemics such as Gray-browed Wren (recently split by eBird/Clements from Plain-tailed Wren), Russet-mantled Softtail, Utcubamba Tapaculo (recently split from Blackish), and some difficult antpittas, including Rusty-tinged, Pale-billed, and Chachapoyas. Another target here is the local Mountain Avocetbill, a rare hummingbird that is only known from a handful of sites in the Peruvian part of its range. Of course, there are a number of other cloudforest species likely here including flycatchers, tanagers, and others.

Our route takes us south along the Utcubamba valley, passing a cliff roost of Mitred Parakeets along the way, and to the town of Leimebamba, a quaint and quiet village nestled at the head of the Utcubamba valley. From here, we cross over Abra Barro Negro (“Black Mud Pass”), at the crest of a ridge between the Marañon and Utcubamba basins. Near tree line here we will bird some lovely humid temperate forest for such little-known specialties as Coppery Metaltail (endemic), Sapphire-vented (“Coppery-naped”) Puffleg (endemic subspecies), Russet-mantled Softtail (endemic), White-chinned Thistletail (endemic subspecies *peruviana*), Rufous-backed (aka: Buff-throated) Treehunter (slim chance), the endemic Utcubamba and Neblina tapaculos, and Yellow-scarfed Tanager (endemic), Mountain Cacique, and the endemic *stictocephala* form of Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager (another split waiting in the wings). Other species of interest in these high forests and grasslands are Curve-billed Tinamou, Andean Condor, Golden-plumed Parakeet (erratic), Andean Parakeet, Speckle-faced Parrot, Violet-throated Starfrontlet (at the northern extent of its range), Rainbow Starfrontlet, Mountain Velvetbreast, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Great Sapphirewing, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Andean Flicker, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Strong-billed Woodcreeper, Chachapoya or Graves’ Antpitta (a recently described member of the Rufous Antpitta complex), Undulated, Leymebamba (aptly named!), and Chestnut-crowned antpittas (usually heard anyway), Barred Fruiteater, White-collared Jay, Moustached Flowerpiercer, Drab Hemispingus, Superciliaried Hemispingus (of the gray, *leucogaster* group), and Plushcap.



*Pale-billed Antpitta is one of several endemic and difficult to see antpittas we'll look for in the eastern Andes.
Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*

The Western Andes—West of Abra Barro Negro and the Río Marañon, we will cross one high, moist ridge with remnant patches of *Polylepis* and other high-elevation woodland. Although depauperate in comparison with the mountains east of the Marañon, the region is still birdy, and some of the species are quite interesting. We will look particularly for Black Metaltail (endemic), Line-cheeked (which has absorbed the formerly endemic Baron’s) Spinetail, Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail (of the race *cajabambae*; endemic), Striated Earthcreeper (endemic; near the northern limit of its range), Cajamarca Antpitta (another member recently split from the Rufous Antpitta complex), Black-crested Tit-Tyrant (one of five tit-tyrants on this route), Jelski’s Chat-Tyrant (a tough skulker), and White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant (challenging). Some other interesting birds in this area are Andean Tinamou, Plumbeous Rail, Rainbow Starfrontlet, Sword-billed

Hummingbird, Great Sapphirewing, Giant Hummingbird, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant, Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet, Tit-like Dacnis, Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch (subspecies *baroni*), and Golden-billed Saltator. We will go through some high puna areas, where we could see a few birds of that habitat, such as Mountain Caracara, Andean Flicker, Slender-billed Miner, Paramon Pipit, and Many-striped Canastero. Here too we'll make an effort to see the Green-headed Hillstar (until recently considered a form of Andean Hillstar). On our way to Cajamarca we'll search a riparian valley for two more endemics, both at the northern end of their ranges: Rufous-eared Brush-Finch (rare) and Plain-tailed Warbling-Finch.

The arid mountains near Cajamarca have proven to be home to two recently (in the past 40 years) rediscovered endemics: Great Spinetail, formerly in the monotypic genus *Siptornopsis*, but recently subsumed into *Synallaxis*, which builds its large stick nests in acacias and spreading columnar cacti on the arid slopes; and Gray-bellied Comet, which sips nectar from terrestrial bromeliads, yellow-flowering *Tecoma* trees, and the bright pink flowers of *Delostoma integrifolium*, a shrub that grows in profusion on the steep slopes of the upper Río Chonta valley. We'll spend an early morning to the south of Cajamarca in search of the Great Spinetail and then head northeast of town in search of the Gray-bellied Comet. Other possibilities in these habitats include Bare-faced Ground-Dove, Black Metaltail (endemic), Andean Swift (here at the northern limit of its range), White-winged Cinclodes, White-winged Black-Tyrant (of the distinctive northern form *heterogyna*), Black-lored (split from Masked) Yellowthroat, Blue-and-yellow Tanager, Golden-rumped Euphonia, and the beautiful Buff-bridled Inca-Finch (endemic). The newly paved road from Cajamarca to the south has shortened and made much more comfortable the drive to the Spinetail's breeding area, and the Comet's breeding area is not far from our hotel. With luck we could finish in time to enjoy the natural hot springs and bathtubs before a delicious dinner at our comfortable hotel.

La Libertad area—with our newly revamped itinerary, we will now be spending our last few nights in Peru's second largest city, Trujillo. This will be our base for visiting two sites: Sinsicap and Chao. The former requires a drive up into the mountains to the southeast of the city to a semi-arid agricultural zone that will share some birds with the Palambra area we visited earlier on the tour. Our main targets here will be a few endemics including Russet-bellied Spinetail, another member of the Necklaced Spinetail group (we should have seen Necklaced, Chinchipe, and Great spinetails so far this tour, so this is four of the five species in the group, all possible on the tour!), Bay-crowned Brushfinch, Unicolored Tapaculo (one of the easier, marginally, tapaculos to see, and an endemic), Piura Chat-Tyrant (much easier here than at Palambra), and Giant Hummingbird, among others. Our final morning will take us to the little coastal agricultural valley of the Río Chao, home of the fifth member of the Necklaced Spinetail group, the undescribed "Chao" Spinetail. What a fitting way to say "goodbye" to our birding in Northern Peru!



Russet-bellied Spinetail is another species with a small range. These furnariids are found in scrubby woodlands on the west slope of the Andes. Although they can be difficult to spot, we've seen them well on our tour.

Photograph by guide Dan Lane.



*The Peruvian Plantcutter is found only in the arid northern coastal region of Peru. We'll look for them near Chiclayo.
Photograph by guide Dan lane.*

Itinerary for Northern Peru: Endemics Galore

Note: This day-by-day itinerary is less fixed than normal. Although it is difficult to be flexible with a tour, we will try, where possible, to make changes depending on our birding success, to allow more time where it can be best spent. Thus, we might end up emphasizing one area more than another. Further, the (ever-changing) timing of flights between Lima and Chiclayo makes it hard to say what will happen on those travel days.

Current flight schedules are such that **we'll likely be flying north to Chiclayo around 5:00-6:00a.m. on Day 2.** Most flights from the US depart in the afternoon and arrive in Lima late; if a participant were to arrive 24 hours late, they would likely miss not only our flight to the north, but the first two days of birding. **We encourage you to come a day early and begin the tour rested.** You could spend your extra day birding, visiting a museum, exploring Miraflores, or simply relax at our very comfortable airport hotel. Alternatively, you may continue on to Chiclayo to visit the museums around that city, which offer a peek into the unique pre-Incan Moche culture of the North Peruvian coast, and the group will meet you and our ground crew at the airport in Chiclayo on Day 2. Our office can help you with reservations for air and hotels. *Be sure our office knows your arrival plans.*

Our tour itinerary will likely be close to the following:

Day 1, Sat, 3 Oct. Standard group arrival in Lima. If you are not coming a day or more early, we recommend the earliest flight possible to get you to Lima this evening. Upon arrival in Lima, you will pass through Immigration (now with digital visa, so you no longer need a tourist card) and proceed to the baggage claim. Use available carts to retrieve your luggage and guide it through Customs, where you'll need to pass all baggage (including hand luggage) through an X-ray machine. Then roll your cart or luggage (or get a porter) to the Hotel Costa del Sol, which is within easy walking distance on the airport grounds, just across the street toward the parking lot from the terminal, or you can ascend to the second floor and walk across on a flying bridge to the second floor of the hotel, but then have to return to ground floor to check in. Upon check-in you must surrender your passport for copying (a requirement of most hotels in Peru nowadays), and be sure to check for a message from your guides about the plan for tomorrow (this will likely be slipped under your door by the guide, but may be at the desk). Night at Hotel Costa del Sol, Lima airport.

Day 2, Sun, 4 Oct. Flight to Chiclayo; birding en route to Chaparrí. We expect an early flight to Chiclayo, so we will plan to meet for breakfast (meeting time will be clarified by guide the day before) in our hotel restaurant for a simple buffet breakfast, and then go across the street to catch our flight to Chiclayo. Once there, we'll meet our bus crew, who'll be with

us for the entire trip. We will visit the coastal town of Rafan near Chiclayo to see a few of the local arid habitat endemics (Peruvian Plantcutter, Peruvian Sheartail, Tumbesian (recently split from Mouse-colored) Tyrannulet, Cinereous Finch, etc.) before driving inland into the arid foothills of the western Andes, heading to Chaparrí, stopping in just before Chongoyape to bird around the edge of Tinajones Reservoir. The water levels are highly variable, but there is often something interesting around, such as Comb Duck, Black-faced Ibis, or Spotted Rail, and the scrub in the area may have some species of interest such as White-browed (formerly Tropical) Gnatcatcher, Burrowing Owl, Coastal Miner, Short-tailed Field-Tyrant, and others. In the late afternoon we will continue to our lodge at Chaparrí (accent on the “i”) Reserve. Once we get into our bungalows at Chaparrí, we’ll meet for the list, dinner, and some nearby owling (for Peruvian Screech-Owl and Scrub Nightjar) right after dinner; you’ll want your headlamp or flashlight. Night at Chaparrí Lodge.



The Tumbes Tyrant is a beautiful small flycatcher found in northeastern Peru. Photograph by guide Richard Webster.

Day 3, Mon, 5 Oct. Chaparrí. Chaparrí is a private, community-owned reserve of 34,000 hectares, well known for its White-winged Guan population, which has been re-established from captive-bred birds. Like many other cracids where completely protected, the guans are trusting and easily seen. In addition to the guan, a number of Tumbesian species are found in the arid woodlands or are attracted to the permanent water in the stream. Our breakfast may be interrupted by the arrival of White-tailed Jays, and we will have our first chance to see the lovely Tumbes (Chat-)Tyrant, Pacific Elaenia, White-headed Brush-Finch, and the flashy White-edged and Yellow-tailed orioles. We’ve been amazed to see large flocks of Sulphur-throated Finches coming to drink in the creek in the morning; we have often missed this species entirely on past tours, but it seems to be reliable here. The stream also attracts several species of hummingbirds to bathe. In addition to birds that have become tame in the safety of the reserve, a couple of mammals have as well, particularly the lovely little Sechura Fox. Night at Chaparrí Lodge.

Day 4, Tue, 6 Oct. Casupe. We’ll need to depart early to reach an area at slightly higher elevation in the foothills than Chaparrí. The forest here is a stunted, bromeliad-laden semi-deciduous woodland, and is home to species such as Ochre-bellied Dove (hard to see), Peruvian Pygmy-Owl, Red-masked Parakeet, Ecuadorian Trogon (rare), Whooping Motmot (rare), Ecuadorian Piculet, Chapman’s Antshrike, Henna-hooded and Rufous-necked foliage-gleaners (both difficult), Gray-breasted Flycatcher, Pacific Elaenia, Baird’s Flycatcher, Three-banded and Gray-and-gold warblers, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, and White-winged Brushfinch, among others. We’ll have a picnic lunch here. In the afternoon we will return to Chiclayo. If time permits, we will pay a visit to a set of marshes on the coast near the city at Puerto Eten where gulls, terns, shorebirds, ducks, boobies, pelicans, and others can be numerous, and the occasional Chilean Flamingo may be present. Night at the Casa Andina Select Chiclayo.

Day 5, Wed, 7 Oct. Drive to Canchaque. We'll start out from Chiclayo early to reach the lovely reserve of Bosque Pomac, which features typical arid forest and scrub that was the original habitat of the river valleys of northwestern Peru before agriculture converted them into sugarcane, rice, and other cash crops. We should have seen many of our targets possible here at Chaparri, but Pomac is a good place to see such specialties as the Peruvian Plantcutter, Rufous Flycatcher, Tumbes (Chat-)Tyrant, Cinereous Finch, Tumbes Swallow, and others. Here, too is the impressive "Árbol Millenario," which is an ancient *Algorrobo* (a native mesquite tree) with broadly spreading limbs. We will concentrate on what we've not already seen, and depart onward once we find them, continuing north and east on a lengthy drive into the Pacific slope foothills of the Andes, reaching the town of Canchaque where we will check into our charming lodge just outside of town. We'll head upslope in the later afternoon to see what birds we find, but our main target will become available at dusk when we will make an effort for a star nightbird: Buff-fronted Owl, a rare and hard to see relative of our Northern Saw-whet Owl. Night at El Cafetal Hotel in Canchaque.

Day 6, Thu, 8 Oct. Palambla to Cruz Blanca (the Continental Divide) and Huancabamba. This morning we will pack our gear in the vehicle early and head upslope for a picnic breakfast and a full morning of birding on the picturesque slopes of Cruz Blanca. Here, we'll have another opportunity to see some of the Pacific slope semi-humid montane forest birds such as Line-cheeked Spinetail, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, Black-cowled Saltator, and the *piurae* form of Black-eared Hemispingus, as well as species such as Henna-hooded and Rufous-necked foliage-gleaners, Gray-headed Antbird (all rare). In addition, we should also have a chance at some forms new to us such as the Cajamarca Antpitta, recently split from the now-dismantled Rufous Antpitta, the Pacific slope *subcinereus* form of Blackish Tapaculo, and perhaps even the rare and local Blue Seedeater. After lunch, we will head to the east side of the pass and down into the valley of the Huancabamba river, one of the westernmost tributaries of the Amazon (!), into the small town of Huancabamba to our basic hotel here. This little town is a local center of commerce, and can be noisy and bustling. Our hotel is adequate, but has no elevator and seems to funnel in the nighttime music and shouting. Night in Huancabamba.



*Gray-winged Inca-Finch has a very restricted range, but can be found in the desert scrub near Huancabamba.
Photograph by guide Dan Lane.*

Day 7, Fri, 9 Oct. Huancabamba to San Ignacio. We'll depart early this morning to drive the road along the edge of the Tabaconas-Namballe reserve. This is the most accessible cloudforest north of the North Peruvian Low, and will give us a chance to see several species we'll have no other chances to see on the tour, such as Little Sunangel, Chestnut-naped Antpitta, Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatcher, Orange-banded Flycatcher, Turquoise Jay, the *atriceps* form of Plain-tailed Wren, Pale-naped Brushfinch, the nominate form of Buff-breasted Mountain-Tanager, among others. We may also be lucky and find Gray-winged Inca-Finch (a small pocket survives on some arid slopes here) and Black-necked Woodpecker, both Peruvian endemics at their northernmost limits in this valley. We'll have a picnic breakfast and lunch on

way. After lunch, we will find ourselves in a remnant patch of impressively productive subtropical forest that has been preserved from the encroaching coffee fincas all around. This area can be incredibly birdy, so much so, in fact, that we will return tomorrow morning to see what we can find in this forest. After a long, winding drive, we'll arrive at the bustling town of San Ignacio, along the Chinchipe valley, which flows from Ecuador south to the Marañón river. Night in San Ignacio.

Day 8, Sat, 10 Oct. Birding near San Ignacio and then to Jaén. This morning we'll return to the subtropical cloudforest we passed through yesterday afternoon to enjoy the morning bird activity. Here, we may have an impressive experience with colorful "*Tangara*" tanagers (formerly all in this genus, but recently this genus has been split up... still, it's easiest to consider them "*Tangaras*"), tyrant flycatchers, and others that flit from one fruiting melastome to another, often at eye-level. Some specialties we will hope to see are rare species such as Red-headed Barbet, Brown-billed Scythebill, Spectacled Prickletail, Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Black-chested Fruiteater, Chestnut-bellied Thrush, Andean Solitaire (of the northern form *venezuelensis*), Golden-collared Honeycreeper, the very local *paynteri* form of White-winged Brushfinch (quite distinct from the one we saw two days earlier, and almost certainly a good split!), and more. After a picnic lunch and a pinch more birding in this enchanting habitat, we'll head back to the pavement of the highway by San Ignacio and turn south to the city of Jaén (pronounced "High-EN"). Night in the luxurious Hotel Urcos, Jaén.

Day 9, Sun, 11 Oct. Jaén to Gocta. This morning we'll bird a remnant patch of arid scrub and deciduous forest north of Jaén called Bosque de Yanahuanca for Ecuadorian Ground-Dove, Marañón Spinetail, Chinchipe Spinetail (finally elevated to full-species status, separate from Necklaced Spinetail), the *leucogaster* race of Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Marañón Crescentchest, and subspecies *interior* of Pale-edged Flycatcher. While looking for the endemics we will enjoy some of the world's more colorful birds (such as Vermilion Flycatcher and Golden Grosbeak) and some of the dullest (such as Dull-colored Grassquit and Drab Seedeater). Other species of particular note that we have seen here include Tataupa Tinamou (generally only heard), Military Macaw (scarce), Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Speckle-breasted Wren (of the Marañón race *sclateri*), Marañón Sparrow (until recently, considered part of Black-capped Sparrow), Buff-bellied Tanager, and Red-crested Finch. As the day heats up, we will retreat to our hotel for lunch and to check out. From here, we'll head toward the bustling town of Florida de Pomacocha, making a few birding stops en route. We'll cross the Río Marañón just beyond where the Río Chamaya enters the river. If we haven't already seen it, we can make stops for Little Inca-Finch, and we may decide to check the rice fields near Bagua Grande. On rare occasions, when the water levels are perfect and the fields allow good visibility down the rows, rails can be seen; Paint-billed Crake or Spotted Rail is an outside possibility. More likely are Yellow-tailed Orioles, and this is the one area where we have seen Ecuadorian Ground-Dove. The paved road follows the rushing Río Utcubamba upriver to Cochachimba, where our lodging will be. This stretch can be good for Fasciated Tiger-Heron, and we've occasionally seen Peruvian Pigeons and Marañón Thrush in the taller trees along the river. Night in Cocachimba.

Day 10, Mon, 12 Oct. Birding the Gocta area and then drive to Chachapoyas. One of the most famous endemics of the Utcubamba valley is the well-named Marvelous Spatuletail—perhaps the world's most spectacular hummingbird. Here at Cocachimba is a feeding station for the species as well as other hummingbirds species such as Little Woodstar, Andean Emerald, Gray-chinned Hermit, and perhaps Purple-throated Sunangel. Other species here include Rufous-capped Antshrike, Buff-breasted Tanager, and Speckle-chested Piculet. This area is also famous for the spectacular Gocta Waterfalls that we should be able to see from the lodge area. Night in Cocachimba.

Day 11, Tue, 13 Oct. Cerro Tilla, drive to Leymebamba. This morning, we'll check out of our hotel after an early breakfast and drive up into the mountains west of the Utcubamba valley. Here, there is a stretch of road that passes through some cloudforest that is home to several specialties. Among the endemics that interest us are the local Russet-mantled Softtail, the Gray-browed Wren (recently split by eBird/Clements from Plain-tailed Wren), with an impressive vocal duet, and several skulking antpittas: Rusty-tinged, Chachaoyas (Graves'), and the spectacular Pale-billed. In addition, we are likely to encounter several other cloudforest species here such as the rare and local Mountain Avocetbill, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Mountain Velvetbreast, Leymebamba Antpitta, Trilling, Utcubamba, and Ash-colored tapaculos, Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, Barred Fruiteater, Red-headed Tanager, and Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia, to name a few. After a picnic lunch, we will return to the highway and continue south to Leymebamba, stopping along the spectacular Río Utcubamba canyon for such possibilities as Torrent Duck, Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Mitred Parakeet, Speckle-chested Piculet, Black-necked Woodpecker, Line-cheeked (Baron's) Spinetail (recently lumped), and Marañón Thrush, if we're still missing any of these from our list. In Leymebamba we'll spend our two nights in a fairly basic hotel; while simple, the family that runs it have been our hosts on many occasions, and it is a friendly, comfortable, and (most importantly!) quiet environment. Night in Leymebamba.



*We'll visit some hummingbird feeders in hopes of finding an adult male Marvelous Spatuletail like this beauty.
Photograph by guide Richard Webster.*

Day 12, Wed, 14 Oct. Birding out of Leymebamba. We'll have breakfast early and then drive up to the temperate forest patches above Leymebamba. The road we'll visit runs up a canyon through some patchy cloudforest and eventually to treeline near the village of Atuen. Among our targets here are the rare Russet-mantled Softtail, Golden-plumed Parakeet, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Mountain Cacique, and several tanagers, tyrant flycatchers, and others. It can be quite chilly until the sun comes out here, at 9700 feet (2900m). Listen for Strong-billed Woodcreeper, the recently-split Utcubamba Tapaculo, and Chachapoyas (or Graves') Antpitta, another recent split from the former Rufous Antpitta. At the top of this road, we'll reach treeline where another recently-split endemic antpitta can be found, though apparently it is difficult to provoke into singing and showing itself: the Atuen Antpitta, formerly part of the Tawny Antpitta (now restricted to north of the Marañon).

In the afternoon we'll head back to Leymebamba where those interested can visit a fabulous little museum specializing in the Chachapoyan culture. After a short tour of the museum, we'll visit some nearby hummingbird feeders that usually teem with hummers, from Purple-throated Sunangels and Rainbow Starfrontlets to Sword-billed Hummingbird and possibly even Marvelous Spatuletails! Another activity might be an afternoon walk along a road through the Canyon of the Condors, where Andean Condors roost in small numbers, and we may luck upon Golden-headed Quetzal, and perhaps Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush and Koepcke's Screech-Owl as the light wanes. We'll return to our hotel in time for dinner and another good night's sleep. Night in Leymebamba.

Day 13, Thu, 15 Oct. Leymebamba to Celendín via Balsas. This is a long day, as we drive from Leymebamba to the Río Marañon at Balsas and on to Celendín; it is also one of the most scenic days of the trip. We'll start by ascending to a 12,000-foot ridge called Abra Barro Negro ("Black Mud Pass"; 3600m) with some nice remnant shrub forest and patches of puna. We'll look for Coppery Metaltail, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, White-chinned Thistletail (form *peruviana*), Neblina Tapaculo, and Undulated Antpitta near tree line if the clouds grant us visibility.

From vista points shortly west of Abra Barro Negro, one can see sections of the Marañon itself, 10,000 feet below! We will descend through disturbed habitat and then down through dramatically beautiful desert with natural thorn scrub with large columnar cacti. This is where we've had good luck with the Yellow-faced Parrotlet, but luck and work both seem to be important elements. Buff-bridled Inca-Finches are regular here along the roadside as well, and watch for the big stick nests of the scarce Chestnut-backed Thornbird. Descending further through irrigated groves of mangos, we'll cross the Marañon at Balsas, and climb, climb, climb back up the other side, crossing a pass and descending to the valley of Celendín, where we'll spend the night in a fairly comfortable, if basic, hotel on the Plaza de Armas at 8600 feet. Night at Villa Madrid Hotel in Celendín.

Day 14, Fri, 16 Oct. Return to Balsas from Celendín. Early this morning, we'll return most of the way to Balsas (where we used to camp), giving us another chance for birds we might have missed in the arid valley the afternoon before, including Yellow-faced Parrotlet, Peruvian Pigeon, and Marañón Thrush. On a past tour here we've seen Bicolored and Zone-tailed hawks, and Andean Condor has appeared three times. Then we'll climb back up the desert slopes (making a stop or two for photos or perhaps another Buff-bridled Inca-Finch) toward an irrigated agricultural district known as Hacienda Limón. The slopes and quebradas around this little village are habitat for two very local endemics-- Chestnut-backed Thornbird and Gray-winged Inca-Finch--as well as many more widespread species including Andean Tinamou, Little Woodstar, Lesser Goldfinch, Black-lored (formerly part of Masked) Yellowthroat, and the endemic Buff-bellied Tanager.

Continuing toward Celendín, we'll bird ever-higher slopes through the arid temperate zone to a high zone of more humid temperate shrub and remnant *Polylepis*. Here wooded canyons are interspersed with agricultural lands, where we have had good luck with Black-crested Tit-Tyrant and Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, as well as Golden-billed Saltator and the *baroni* race of Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch. Night at Villa Madrid Hotel in Celendín.



Jelski's Chat-Tyrant is a small, colorful flycatcher found in the western Andes of northern Peru. They prefer moist forests, so we'll watch for them around Celendín. Photograph by guide Richard Webster.

Day 15, Sat, 17 Oct. Celendín to Cajamarca. Heading toward Cajamarca, we'll ascend ever-higher and more arid ridges through mostly agricultural country. We'll bird patches of forest on the east side of the western cordillera above Celendín, where we will look for various species with hyphens in their names: Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail, Black-crested Tit-Tyrant, Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant, White-tailed (rare) and Black-billed shrike-tyrants, Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet, Tit-like Dacnis, and Peruvian Sierra-Finch. We will also be open to admiring species with less highfalutin' names, including Black Metaltail, Striated Earthcreeper (now in a monotypic genus), and Cajamarca Antpitta. In the puna zone, around 11,600 feet, we plan to walk through a grassland to a community of purple-flowered *Brachyotum* that, if in bloom (i.e., in wet years), concentrates hummingbirds. There are usually some trainbearers (both species possible) and a few Green-headed (formerly part of Andean) Hillstars. Paramo Pipits inhabit the bunch grass, and we could flush up a scarce Short-eared Owl as we climb through the puna grassland.

Back in civilization, we'll spend tonight at a good hotel with fine food and hot spring water that can be drawn right into our cabañas! Baños del Inca (named for good reason) is about 9000 feet. Night at Hotel Laguna Seca in Baños del Inca near Cajamarca.

Day 16, Sun, 18 Oct. Cajamarca area. We'll start early and devote the first part of the morning to a search for the Great Spinetail. A small breeding population has been found on the arid slopes of some valleys to the southeast of Cajamarca near the towns of Jesus and San Marcos. Other species that are found in the area include White-winged Black-Tyrant (the endemic northernmost race *heterogynus*, which may be a separate species), Black-lored Yellowthroat, Golden-

rumped Euphonia, and Buff-bridled Inca-Finch. Our search will entail a picnic breakfast near the road and then a search of the acacia-cactus habitat for big stick nests and/or vocalizations that will lead us to a pair of Great Spinetails. Depending on our luck, we may spend only a couple of hours here, or we may be here for much of the morning, perhaps climbing up a steep, rocky trail.

Once we've seen the spinetail well, we'll retrace our route, probably making a short stop near a highland lake with a Silvery Grebe, ducks, maybe some migrant shorebirds, as well as an occasional Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant or Slender-billed Miner. Then we'll continue back past Baños del Inca for lunch, and then head to the upper Río Chonta valley, where the Gray-bellied Comet is found. We'll search for the Comet, Andean Swift, White-winged Cinclodes, Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant, and a few other species that might be new for us. We expect to return to our luxury hotel in time for a proper soaking before a good dinner at the restaurant. Night at Hotel Laguna Seca in Baños del Inca near Cajamarca.



White-winged Cinclodes is a bird found along high elevation streams from central Peru to central Argentina. We'll seek this species near Cajamarca. Photograph by guide Dan Lane.

Day 17, Mon, 19 Oct. Drive from Cajamarca to Trujillo. This morning, we will evaluate our plan depending on whether we still have local specialties to chase up or not. After any morning birding, we'll depart Cajamarca and head back towards the coast, which entails a long drive, crossing Abra Gavilán at the Continental Divide. We may make some stops to stretch our legs and have lunch as we descend to the Pacific slope, and we may see if we can detect any Pacific slope species we may have missed earlier in the trip along the way. But this is mostly a travel day as we head to Trujillo—one of Peru's largest cities, and where we will spend the next two nights in a nice hotel. Night at Casa Andina in Trujillo.

Day 18, Tue, 20 Oct. Day trip to Sinsicap. We'll have an early departure to drive up into the arid mountains east of Trujillo toward the little hamlet of Sinsicap. This sleepy agricultural community is surrounded by fruit orchards and montane scrub. There are scraps of native habitat mostly lining the gullies that cross through the orchards and continue downslope, but in these are a few endemic species we will want to see. The most range-restricted of them is the Russet-bellied Spinetail, but we will also have opportunities for Unicolored Tapaculo, which is as spectacular looking as it sounds (but it IS endemic, so...), Piura Chat-Tyrant, Black-necked Woodpecker, as well as Bay-crowned Brushfinch, Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, the western form (*maculata*) of Speckled Hummingbird, and a few other odds and ends. We'll have to have picnic breakfast and lunch to be sure we get out early enough to try for these species, and will wend our way back to Trujillo in the afternoon. Night at Casa Andina in Trujillo.

Day 19, Wed, 21 Oct. Morning to Chao and then afternoon flight to Lima. Our plan this day will be to make one last birding foray to the small coastal village of Chao, which lies about an hour and a half south of Trujillo. Here is a patch of wind-stunted coastal acacia and mesquite scrub that is home to a bird presently called "Necklaced Spinetail" but in fact is

an undescribed species. We will spend a few hours seeking it before returning to our hotel in Trujillo with time to finalize packing, have a delicious ceviche lunch, and then fly to Lima in the afternoon. Most flights to the United States depart around midnight, so if you are not planning to spend the night at the Costa del Sol hotel at the Lima airport, you may want to have your bags mostly packed for the international flight before we depart Trujillo.

Day 20, Thu, 22 Oct. Arrival home. Buen viaje y que les vayan bien!

About Your Guides

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 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'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.

"Dan Lane is superior in all aspects as a guide—excellent recognition of bird sounds, patient in drawing birds in for views, able to relate to group members with relaxed courtesy and helpfulness. We rate Field Guides the highest." J.N. & E. H., Amazonian Ecuador: Sacha Lodge

Fernando Angulo is a Peruvian ornithologist and conservation biologist who first fell in love with birds as a teenager through falconry, but later became an instrumental figure in the efforts to breed and re-establish the critically endangered White-winged Guans in northwestern Peru. He grew up in Lima but moved to the northern coastal city of Chiclayo where he lived for over two decades, only recently returning to Lima. He has traveled his home country from one end to the other, directing conservation efforts, shorebird censuses, verifying the distributions of endangered species such as Long-whiskered Owlet, Gray-bellied Comet, and Purple-backed Sunbeam, not to mention guiding tours. In the process, Fernando has seen most of Peru's bird species. His travels have taken him much farther afield—from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego to Europe and even Madagascar—and he speaks several languages (Spanish, English, German, and even Argentinian) fluently. Fernando has also headed the Unión de Ornitólogos del (UNOP) which provides an outlet for Peruvian biologists to publish their findings and is an active member of the growing Peruvian ornithological and birding community. Finally, Fernando is a great connoisseur of Peruvian cooking, and is a wealth of knowledge of the culture, history, and ecology of his home country. Go ahead, ask him anything, you will not be disappointed!

Please check <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Dan's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$9425 from Lima

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1100

DEPOSIT: \$950 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: April 6, 2026

LIMIT: 10

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!

A NOTE ON ACCOMMODATIONS: On seven nights our lodging will be in simple hostels/hotels (though all have private baths). The Chaparrí lodge is rustic but clean and comfortable. Although there is no camping, we will have most meals (breakfast and lunch) in the field. We'll have an excellent and experienced catering team, all of whom work together beautifully to provide for our needs.

A NOTE ON ALTITUDE: We will reach altitudes of around 12,000 feet on this tour on three different days, two between Leymebamba and Balsas and one between Celendín and Cajamarca toward the end of the trip. The highest hotels are 7000-9000 feet (ten nights). We will bird at a measured pace at the higher elevations, having had some time to acclimatize as we work our way up.

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.

Non-US citizens should check with the consulates of each destination for current entry requirements.

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

Arrival: Lima on October 3, as early as possible. We strongly recommend arriving a day early since the internal flight on October 4 departs early in the morning.

Departure: Lima on October 21, after 10:00pm.

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.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The tour fee is \$9425 for one person in double occupancy from Lima.

It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 18, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 19, the flights within Peru, all ground transportation, entrance fees, 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 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 \$1100 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 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 send your deposit of \$950 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 April 6, 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.

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 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 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.