



# ANDES TO AMAZON BIRDING TOUR

## Basic Information

**Itinerary:** 10 days and 9 nights

**Elevations:** 2900mts/9280ft to 550mts/1760ft

**Price:** Rates starting at \$ 4320 /person (based on double occupancy, 2 travelers)

Rates starting at \$ 3360 /person (based on double occupancy, 3-4 travelers)

**\*Single Supplement: \$ 470 USD**

## Includes:

- Double occupancy cabin w/private restroom at stations
- Double Occupancy room at Cock of the Rock Lodge
- Double Occupancy room at Manu Wildlife Center
- Entrance fee to Tambo Blanquillo Clay Lick
- English-speaking birding specialist
- Private driver and ground transportation where relevant
- Private boat transfers where relevant
- 3-meals per day; unlimited water, tea and coffee
- Access to extensive trail systems at each station as well as Canopy Walkway
- **Does not include:** Airfare to/from Puerto Maldonado, alcoholic beverages, laundry, tips, or any other service not specifically mentioned.

## For more information or to make a reservation

**Contact:** [reservas@amazonjourneys.pe](mailto:reservas@amazonjourneys.pe) / [reservas@conservacionamazonica.org](mailto:reservas@conservacionamazonica.org)

**Visit:** [Amazonecolodge | Conservation Birding Lodges in the heart of the Amazon Rainforest](#)

## **Day 1: Birding Huacarpay Lake, the puna grasslands, and the elfin forest on our way from Cusco to Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station and Birding Lodge**

After an early morning departure from Cusco we'll make our way towards Manu Road to access Wayqecha Biological Station. Since the drive is long and weaves through many habitats not found at the station we'll stop frequently to see what birds we can spot. Our first stop will be Huacarpay Lake, south of Cusco, where we'll look for highlights such as the Puna Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, Many-colored Rush Tyrant, Wren-like Rushbird, Plumbeous Rail, Giant Hummingbird, Green-tailed Trainbearer, and the endemic Bearded Mountaineer. As the road takes us high over the mountains we'll look for highland specialists such as the Taczanowski's Ground-Tyrant, Peruvian Sierra-Finch, Slender-billed Miner, Creamy-crested Spinetail, Mountain Caracara, and the endemic Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch.



We'll have a relaxing lunch break in the mountains, where we can enjoy the view of the inter-Andean valley and the ecological gradient from the puna grassland to the elfin forest. As we move on into the stunted elfin forest we'll look for Moustached Flowerpiercers, Shining Sunbeams, Tyrian Metaltails, Great Thrushes, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrants, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanagers, Puna Thistletails and White-throated Tyrannulets. We'll arrive at Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station and Birding Lodge, on the east slope of the Andes, late in the afternoon. Before the

Sunsets on our view of the Amazon basin we'll look for some station residents such as the Masked Flowerpiercer, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, and the Rufous-capped Thornbill.

### **Day 2: *Birding at Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station and Transfer to Cock of the Rock Lodge***

Early in the morning we'll visit the canopy walkway, which allows visitors to rise over 40 meters above the forest floor. Aside from the amazing views and fascinating insight into a hidden ecosystem, we'll also look for birds up top such as the Mountain Cacique, Blue-and-black Tanager, and the Ochraceous-breasted Flycatcher. Also keep your eyes peeled for Rufous Antpittas, Band-tailed Fruiteaters, Masked Trogons, Crimson-mantled Woodpeckers, Streak-throated Bush Tyrants, Tufted Tit-Tyrants, Andean Swallows, and Black-throated Flowerpiercers.

After lunch we'll leave Wayqecha for the Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge. At the lower cloud forest, we may encounter the Solitary Eagle, Inca Jay, Crested Quetzal, and Highland Motmot. Also look for mixed flocks with Montane Foliage-gleaners, Bluish Flowerpiercers, Saffron-crowned Tanagers, Yellow-throated Tanagers, Yungas Manakins, Slaty-capped Flycatchers, Three-striped Warblers, Tropical Parulas, and Blue-naped Chlorophonias among others. Continuing down the 1,500-meter elevation change of Manu Road we'll look for Cinnamon Flycatchers, Andean Solitaires, Green Jays, Blue-banded Toucanets, Golden-headed and Versicolored Barbets, as well as Black-and-chestnut Eagles.

We will end the day at the Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge, checking the hummingbird feeders for Many-spotted Hummingbirds, Violet-fronted Brilliants, Speckled Hummingbirds, White-bellied Woodstars and the spectacular Booted Rackettails.

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult

### **Day 3: *Exploring Manu Road on our way to Villa Carmen***

We'll start the day early by visiting an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek, as this will be a great opportunity for photos and observation of such a charming bird. After watching their unique display, we'll bird along the road toward the lodge, which will be good for spotting Black-billed Treehunters, Slaty Gnateaters, Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulets, Marble-faced Bristle Tyrants, Slate-throated Redstarts, Variable Antshrikes, Long-tailed Antbirds, Yellow-breasted Antwrens, Bolivian Tyrannulets, Gray-mantled Wrens, Yellow-

throated Bush-Tanagers, and Spotted Tanagers. We'll return to the lodge for breakfast, where we can watch for Wedge-billed Hummingbirds, Wire-crested Thorntails, Buff-throated Saltators, and Golden-eared Tanagers at the feeder stations. After breakfast we'll look for Amazonian Umbrellabirds, White-crowned Tapaculos, Two-banded Warblers, Dusky-green Oropendolas and Olivaceous Siskins in the vicinity of the forest.

Next on the agenda is to head further along Manu Road to Villa Carmen Biological Station and Birding Lodge, where we will spend the night. Villa Carmen is nearly one thousand meters lower than the lodge, so once again the drive down will give us excellent chances to spot new species. Keep your eyes peeled for White-eared Solitaires, Black-streaked Puffbirds, Lanceolated Monklets, Crimson-bellied Woodpeckers, Stripe-chested Antwrens, Lemon-browed Flycatchers, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrants, as well as Beryl-spangled and Golden-naped Tanagers. As the road drops lower and lower we'll emerge into more open areas and agricultural communities where we'll look for King Vultures and Greater Yellow-headed Vultures, Roadside and Gray Hawks, Long-tail Tyrants, Social Flycatchers, Magpie Tanagers, Violaceous Jays, Chestnut-bellied Seedeaters, and hopefully endemic Black-backed Tody-Tyrants.

In the evening, listen for Tawny-bellied Screech Owls, Tropical Screech Owls and Pauraques calling right around the station, and if you have a powerful flashlight you just might be able to spot them.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate to difficult

#### **Day 4: Villa Carmen Biological Station**

The trails at Villa Carmen are a combination of second-growth forest, local native Bamboo (Guadua), primary forest, and successional forest. Together these provide an incredible array of habitats for birds. Walking along the trails you may be able to see White-browed Antbirds, Plain-winged Antshrikes, Pygmy Antwrens, Gray Antwrens, Wedge-billed Woodcreepers, Rufous-capped Nunlets, and Chestnut-backed Antshrikes. Right around the station, we'll be looking for species such as the Plain-crowned Spinetail,

Lesser Kiskadee, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Little Ground Tyrant, Crested Oropendola, and the Yellow-rumped Cacique. Around the fish pond and the marsh vegetation we'll look for the Sunbittern, Blackish Rail, Purple Gallinule, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Uniform Crane, Amazon Kingfisher, and the Gray-necked Wood Rail.

We will also explore bamboo patches and try to pick up bamboo specialists such as the Bamboo Antshrike, Manu and Striated Antbird, Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-capped Nunlet, White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher, Flammulated Pygmy-Tyrant, and the Large-headed Flatbill.



*Andean-Cock-of-the-Rock, Photo by Trond Larsen*



**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Day 5: *Birding the Andean foothills and lowland rainforest near Villa Carmen***

In the morning, we'll do some birding in the foothills of Villa Carmen, looking for Blue-headed Macaws, Military Macaws, Bluish-fronted Jacamars, Chestnut-capped Puffbirds, and Fine-barred Piculets.

In the afternoon, we'll be looking up to the sky and in the trees to spot Black Hawk-eagles, Zone-tailed Hawks, White Hawks, White-collared Swifts, Fork-tailed Palm Swifts, White-winged Swallows, Orange-fronted Plushcrows, Yellow-tufted Woodpeckers, White-lored Tyrannulets, and Band-tailed and Fiery-capped Manakins.



*Blue-headed Macaw, Photo by Holly Wissler*

We'll end with some night birding near the station to look for Tawny-bellied Screech-Owls, Tropical Screech Owls, Black-banded Owls, Common Potoos and Pauraques.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate to difficult

**Day 6: *Birding Atalaya to Manu Wildlife Center***

We'll head out early to the Atalaya Mirador in the hopes of catching the morning flight of the Military Macaws. Once we reach the top we'll see commanding views of the Madre de Dios river, the tropical lowlands, and the foothills of the Andes. We'll bird over a 250 meter elevation gradient alongside the river and road. On the riverbanks look for egrets, herons swallows or possibly even a Sand-colored Nighthawk. Along the road look for a variety of antbirds, woodpeckers, puffbirds, tanagers, and honeycreepers as well as others such as Bat Falcons, King Vultures, and Great and Common Potoos. Remember to also look carefully around the scrubby vegetation.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Day 7: *Birding Manu Wildlife Center to Los Amigos***

Continue this morning via boat from Manu Wildlife Center along the Madre de Dios River to Los Amigos, with a visit to Tambo Blanquillo's spectacular macaw clay lick. This area is an early and daily meeting point of several families of Orange-cheeked parrot (*Pyrilia barrabandi*), Blue-headed parrot (*Pionus menstruus*), Mealy parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) and more small parakeets. A little later in the



morning, Red and Green macaws (*Ara chloropterus*), Scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*), and the Piping guan (*Pipile cumanensis*) arrive to the clay lick.

While in transit to Los Amigos, look for: Cooi and Capped Herons, American Woodstorks, Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns, Collared Plovers, Pied Lapwings, Sand-Colored Nighthawks, and Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers along the shore.

Upon arrival to the station, ascend 280 steps from the river to higher ground before checking into your cabin. Enjoy dinner followed by a presentation given by the station's Science Coordinator.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate to Difficult

### **Day 8: *Los Amigos Station and Surrounds***

Starting early, we will travel to oxbow lake to look for: Black-tailed Trogon, Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Black-fronted Nunbird, White-winged Becard, Boat-billed Flycatcher, and the White-browed Antbird.

Once we reach the lake we'll paddle around in small canoe looking for a variety of lowland lakeside species. Keep your eyes peeled for: Hoatzins, Sungrebes, Striated Herons, Rufescent Tiger-Herons, Greater Anis, American Pygmy Kingfishers, Amazonian Streaked-Antwrens, Silvered Antbirds, Black-capped Donacobiuses, and Pale-eyed Blackbirds. Watch above for birds such as Plumbeous Kites, Red-throated Caracaras, Scarlet Macaws, Red-bellied Macaws, and Crimson-crested Woodpeckers flying over.

After we return to station for lunch we'll head out to explore the bamboo forests in the nearby vicinity. This dense habitat will give us the chance to spot many bamboo specialists, including the Bamboo Antshrike, Striated Antbird, Ihering's Antwren, Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner, White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher, Flammulated Pygmy-Tyrant, Long-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, and many others. When we finish up we'll be able to enjoy a beautiful sunset at the station, with amazing views of the river, lowland rainforest, and the Andes.

### **Day 9: *Los Amigos Station and Surrounds***

Today begins with birding around Brazil Nut trees in the local terra firme (upland forest that doesn't flood). This habitat is great for species such as: Pavonine Quetzal, Pale-winged Trumpeter, White-fronted Nunbird, White-throated Jacamar, Sclater's Antwren, Rufous-capped Antthrush, Royal Flycatcher, and the Fiery-capped Manakin. Eventually we'll reach Pozo Don Pedro, a palm swamp filled with moriche palms (*Mauritia flexuosa*).

This habitat, locally known as aguajal, will give us great opportunities to spot residents such as Blue-and-yellow Macaws, Point-tailed Palmcreepers, Sulphury Flycatchers, as well as Agami Herons, American Pygmy Kingfishers, and large families of Hoatzins. As we return to the station we'll look out



for mixed flocks, hoping to spot some target species like the White winged Shrike-Tanager, Red-billed Pied Tanager, Chestnut-winged Hookbill, Red-necked Woodpecker, Golden-collared Toucanet, and the Broad-billed Motmot.

After lunch at the station we'll explore the local trails for any birds we may have missed before. We'll look for regular visitors to the gardens such as Undulated Tinamous, Reddish Hermits, White-necked Jacobins, Blue-crowned Trogons, Lettered Aracaris, Paradise Tanagers, Black-faced Dacnis, Chestnut-capped Puffbirds, Dusky-capped Greenlets, and Bare-necked Fruitcrows. We'll also search the nearby forest for Black-faced Antbirds, Olive-backed Foliage-gleaners, Golden-crowned Spadebills, Dwarf Tyrant-Manakins, and Green-backed Trogons. Lastly we'll scan mixed flocks for new birds, hopefully including the Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner, Spot-winged Antshrike, and the Long-winged Antwren among others.

### **Day 10: *Los Amigos Station to Puerto Maldonado***

Today will begin with an early departure while leaving by boat for Puerto Maldonado. As we navigate the river we'll look for anything we may have missed coming down, such as Jabirus, White-winged and White-banded Swallows, Black Skimmers, Gray Hawks, Red-and-green Macaws, and White-tailed Kites. As we leave the river and continue along the highway we'll look for anything we can spot on the way to the airport such as Red-breasted Blackbirds and Southern Lapwings. Once we reach Puerto Maldonado we'll make sure you get on your return flight to Cusco or Lima.