



NEOTROPICAL®
NATURE & BIRDING TRIPS

Peru

MACHU PICCHU - FROM THE
ANDES TO THE AMAZON



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2026 ITINERARY



Machu Picchu from the Andes to the Amazon

Birding, Culture & Landscapes in one unforgettable journey

Join us on an extraordinary journey through the heart of Peru, a country where natural wonders and ancient history meet in perfect harmony. This expedition begins on the Pacific coast, exploring the marine ecosystems where seabirds like the Humboldt Penguin, Inca Tern, and Red-legged Cormorant thrive among dramatic coastal cliffs.

From the coast, we fly to Cusco, the historic capital of the Inca Empire, and begin our exploration of the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu, one of the world's most iconic archaeological sites.

Our adventure continues along the legendary Inca Trail, one of South America's most biodiverse routes. Descending from the high Andes through páramo, cloud forest, and finally into the lush Amazon basin, we experience a dramatic transition of ecosystems and species diversity. From Andean Cock-of-the-rocks and colorful tanagers in the cloud forest to macaws, toucans, and monkeys in the lowland rainforest, each day offers new photographic and birding highlights.

This tour combines Peru's most breathtaking landscapes with its cultural treasures, offering an immersive experience that celebrates both wildlife and heritage, from the peaks of the Andes to the depths of the Amazon.



DAY 1 **Arrival to Lima**

Welcome to Peru! Upon arrival, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel in the vibrant Miraflores district. Depending on your arrival time, you may explore the area, enjoy a quiet evening, and prepare for the adventure ahead — from the Pacific coast to the high Andes and deep into the Amazon rainforest.

Overnight at Tierra Viva Miraflores Centro or similar (-/-/D).

DAY 2 **Birding the Pacific Coast – Pucusana and Pantanos de Villa**

Our journey begins along the dramatic Pacific coast. We'll explore the fishing village of Pucusana and take a short boat ride to photograph Humboldt Penguins, Red-legged Cormorants, Peruvian Boobies, and the elegant Inca Tern. In the afternoon, we visit the Pantanos de Villa wetlands, a refuge for herons, stilts, and migratory shorebirds. This is the perfect introduction to Peru's incredible diversity, from marine cliffs to coastal lagoons.

Overnight at Tierra Viva Miraflores Centro or similar (B/L/D).



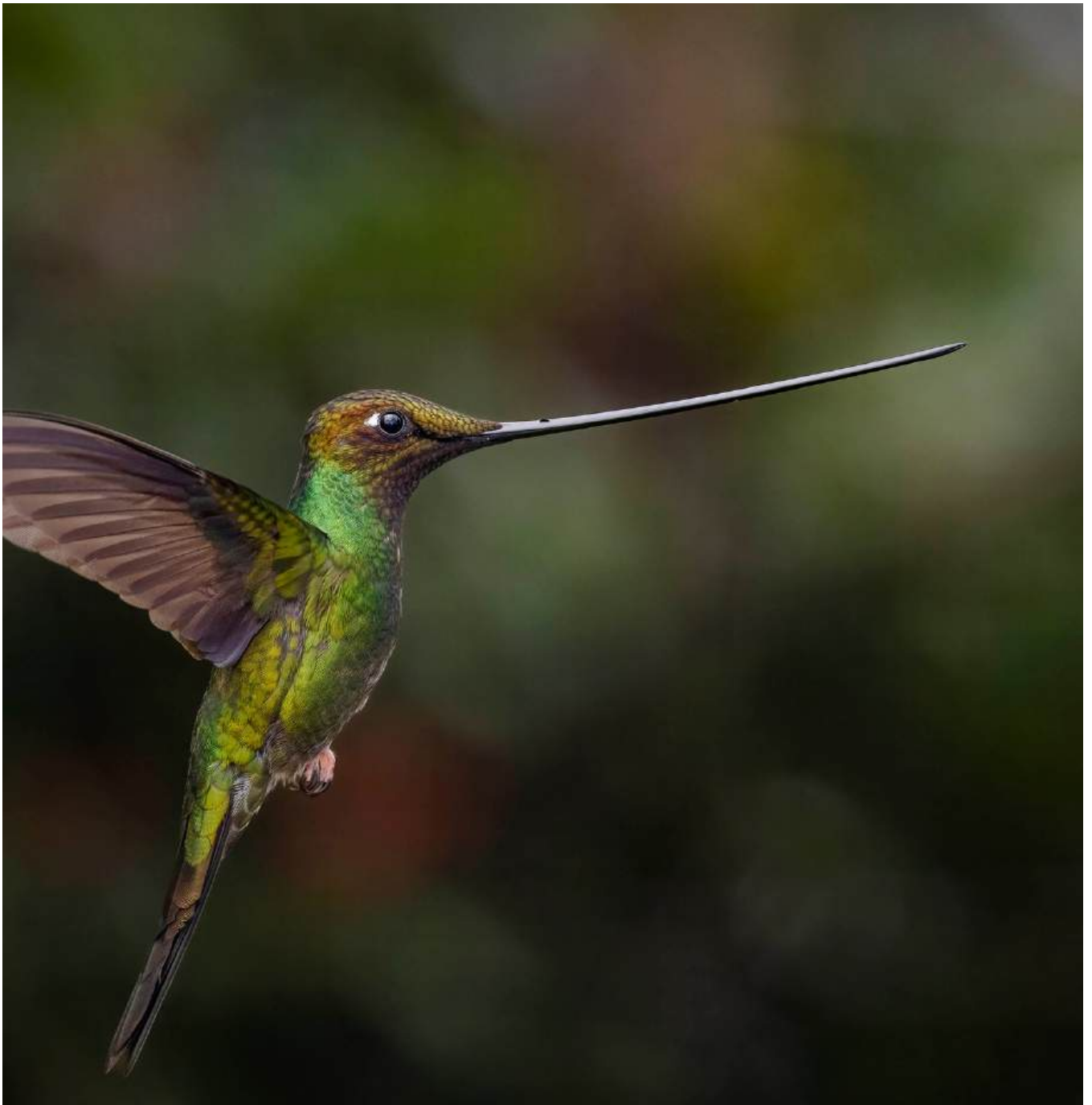
DAY 3 Flight to Cusco - Gateway to the Andes

A short flight takes us from the Pacific coast to the Andean highlands. Upon arrival in Cusco, the historic capital of the Inca Empire, we take the day to rest and acclimatize to the altitude while exploring the city's cobblestone streets, ancient Inca walls, and colorful markets.

Overnight at Hotel Sacha Centric or similar (B/L/D).

**WINGS OF THE ANDES
IN THE REALM OF THE SWORD-
BILLED HUMMINGBIRD”**





DAY 4 Hummingbirds of the Sacred Valley

We visit the enchanting Ensifera Hummingbird Garden, a sanctuary dedicated to the region's dazzling pollinators. Among the vibrant flowers, we'll photograph the incredible Sword-billed Hummingbird — the only bird in the world with a bill longer than its body — as well as Green-and-white- Hummingbird, Great Sapphirewing, and other Andean species. Later, we continue through the Sacred Valley to the picturesque town of Ollantaytambo, one of the last living Inca settlements.

Overnight at Ollantaytambo Tierra Viva Valle Sagrado Hotel or similar (B/L/D).



DAY 5 Machu Picchu – Wonder of the World

A true highlight of the expedition awaits as we board the scenic train to Aguas Calientes and ascend to the legendary citadel of Machu Picchu, one of the most extraordinary archaeological sites on Earth. We'll spend the day exploring its ancient temples, agricultural terraces, and breathtaking viewpoints, uncovering the mysteries of the Inca civilization that once flourished among these mist-covered peaks. Framed by lush cloud forest and dramatic Andean scenery, this experience offers countless opportunities for photography and reflection. As the day concludes, we return to the Sacred Valley, carrying with us the unforgettable memory of this sacred mountain sanctuary.

Overnight at Ollantaytambo Tierra Viva Valle Sagrado Hotel or similar (B/L/D).



DAY 6 Into the Andes – Wayquecha Upper Manu Road

We begin our descent toward one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth, the Manu Biosphere Reserve. The day starts near Cusco with a visit to a small high-Andean reserve where we'll search for the spectacular Bearded Mountaineer, one of Peru's most desired endemics.

As we continue our journey, the landscape unfolds dramatically — from open puna grasslands dotted with llamas to deep valleys cloaked in mist. By afternoon, we arrive at Wayquecha Biological Station and Lodge, perched on the edge of the cloud forest at 2,900 meters. This area marks the transition between Andean and montane ecosystems, offering breathtaking mountain views and superb birding right from the trails.

At this elevation, we'll explore forests filled with mosses, and orchids, looking for gems such as Golden-collared Tanager, Gould's Inca, Deep-blue Flowerpiercer, Perled Treerunner, Urubamba Antpitta and many others. As night falls, the clouds drift through the treetops, creating an ethereal atmosphere unique to this part of the Andes.

Overnight at Wayquecha Lodge (B/L/D).



DAY 7 **Cloud Forest Magic – Cock of the Rock Lodge**

Today we continue descending along the legendary Manu Road, one of the most biodiverse routes on the planet. The scenery changes dramatically as we leave the high Andes behind and enter the lush cloud forest, where the air becomes warmer and filled with birdsong. Ferns, bromeliads, and orchids cover every branch, and waterfalls tumble down the steep slopes.

This stretch of forest is a paradise for photographers and birders alike. We'll make frequent stops to explore the roadside and short trails in search of dazzling species such as Golden-headed Quetzal, Grass-green Tanager, and Versicolored Barbet. Mixed flocks of tanagers and flycatchers often move through the canopy, providing constant excitement and photographic opportunities.

The lodge's gardens attract numerous hummingbirds, including Booted Racket-tail, Violet-fronted Brilliant, and Many-spotted Hummingbird. In the evening, we can enjoy the sounds of the forest, the rhythmic chorus of frogs, insects, and distant waterfalls, while reflecting on a day immersed in one of the most vibrant ecosystems in South America.

Overnight at Cock of the Rock Lodge (B/L/D).



DAY 8 **Into the lowlands - Manu Biolodge**

We start the morning birding through the last layers of cloud forest before continuing our descent toward the lush foothills of the Amazon. With every kilometer, the landscape shifts, misty moss-covered trees give way to tall tropical giants, and the crisp mountain air softens into the warm, vibrant breath of the rainforest. As we move downhill, we'll scan for Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Golden-bellied Warblers and the charming Peruvian Piedtail, among other foothill specialties.

By mid-afternoon, we arrive at Manu Bio Lodge, a beautiful property nestled between forested slopes and open bamboo stands, a perfect habitat for some of the most unique birds in the region. This area holds treasures such as Rufous-headed Woodpecker, Rufous-breasted Piculet, Bamboo Antshrike, and the unique White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher. We'll also keep an eye out for rarities like the Blue-headed Macaw, as well as vibrant species including Scarlet-hooded Barbet, Round-tailed Manakin, and Fiery-capped Manakin.

Hummingbird and tanager feeders near the lodge burst with color and motion, offering close views of Gould's Jewelfront, Koepcke's Hermit, Buff-tailed Sicklebill, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, and the exquisite Rufous-crested Coquette. As evening falls, the forest comes alive with a new soundtrack, frogs, cicadas, and distant nightjars, a true welcome to the gate way to the Amazon.

Overnight at Manu Bio Lodge (B/L/D).



DAY 9 **Exploring the Amazon Rainforest – Manu Bio Lodge**

Today we'll spend a full day exploring the remarkable diversity of habitats surrounding Manu Bio Lodge, ranging from dense lowland rainforest to open bamboo thickets and serene forest streams winding through the property. Located at the transition between the Andean foothills and the Amazon Basin, this area harbors an astonishing concentration of wildlife and birdlife unique to the Manu region.

We'll set out early along forest trails, greeted by the dawn chorus of Screaming Pihas, Trogons, and Motmots echoing through the canopy. As sunlight filters through the towering trees, we'll search for colorful and rare species such as Gilded Barbet, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Rufous-fronted Antthrush, Manu Antbird, and Chestnut-capped Puffbird. The surrounding bamboo stands are excellent for spotting more elusive birds, including Rufous-headed Woodpecker, Spot-backed Antbird, Rufous-breasted Piculet, and White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher.

Open clearings and forest edges may also reward us with stunning sightings of Military Macaw, Red-bellied Macaw, Scarlet-hooded Barbet, Fiery-capped Manakin, Blue-crowned Trogon, and the charismatic White-bearded Manakin, performing its fascinating courtship display. Every trail and habitat around Manu Bio Lodge offers new photographic and natural history opportunities in one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth.

Overnight at Manu Bio Lodge (B/L/D).



DAY 10 **Return to Cusco – Farewell to the Andes**

After an early breakfast, we enjoy one final morning surrounded by the vibrant sounds and colors of the Amazon before beginning our journey back toward the Andes. As we ascend along the Manu Road, the scenery transforms once again — from lush lowland rainforest through misty cloud forests and into the high mountain valleys that cradle the historic city of Cusco.

Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to Cusco Airport for your flight to Lima, where you can connect with your international departure flights. This marks the official end of our services for this expedition.

If you prefer to spend an additional night in Cusco to start your return journey feeling refreshed, please let us know in advance. We'll be happy to organize any extra accommodation or services and provide the corresponding cost details.

Alternatively, you may choose to extend your adventure to Northern Peru, a region rich in unique habitats and endemic species. This optional extension offers the opportunity to encounter many of northern Peru's most sought-after birds — including one of South America's most iconic hummingbirds, the Marvelous Spatuletail.

Transfer-out (B / L / -)

TOUR SUMMARY

- **Length: 10 days**
- **Start/End city: Lima**
- **Physical difficulty: moderate**
- **Focus: Birding + Photography**
- **Group size: 8 participants + guide**

PRICING PER PERSON

USD \$4980

Single supplement \$240

WHATS'S INCLUDED

- Private transportation
- Private service of a specialized TL birding bilingual guide and local guides.
- Internal flights Lima – Cusco – Lima
- Accommodation in double occupation, single room occupation adds a price supplement.
- All meals listed in the itinerary with soft drink or purified water.
- Transfers In-Out.
- All excursions and activities listed in itinerary.
- Entrance fees to all the reserves and activities listed in the itinerary.
- Train and Bus Tickets Ollantaytambo – Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Tips for guides, drivers and hotel staff.
- Personal expenses.
- Trip Cancellation & Medical Emergency Insurance.
- Any other item not specified.



CLIMATE

This expedition covers a remarkable range of elevations, from sea level on the Pacific coast to over 3,500 meters in the Andes and down again to the lush Amazon basin, meaning travelers will experience a wide variety of climates throughout the journey.

Lima and the Pacific Coast are generally mild and dry, with morning mist and temperatures ranging from 18°C to 25°C (64–77°F). Light clothing and a windbreaker are usually sufficient.

In the Andean highlands around Cusco and the Sacred Valley, the air is cooler and thinner, especially in the mornings and evenings. Daytime temperatures average 15–22°C (59–72°F), but early mornings nights can drop to 5°C (41°F) or lower at higher elevations such as Wayquecha Lodge. Warm layers and a good jacket are essential.

As we descend along the Manu Road, the climate becomes gradually warmer and more humid. In the cloud forest, expect occasional rain and mist, while in the Amazon lowlands, temperatures typically reach 28–32°C (82–90°F) during the day, with high humidity and possible afternoon showers.

Overall, this is a trip of contrasts, from crisp Andean mornings to tropical rainforest afternoons. The diversity of climates mirrors the diversity of ecosystems we explore, offering travelers the chance to experience nearly every facet of Peru's natural beauty in a single journey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bring lightweight and comfortable clothing for the day, but also pack extra layers for the cool mornings and rainy afternoons in the mountains.
- Don't forget sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat for additional protection.
- Sturdy, waterproof boots and a lightweight rain jacket will be useful, especially in the more humid areas.

This tour offers a unique experience where the changing weather conditions will be an integral part of the adventure, allowing us to explore diverse ecosystems and enjoy an unparalleled biodiversity.

TIME ZONE:

UTC/GMT -5 hours

VISA

- United States: U.S. citizens do not need a visa for tourism purposes. They can stay up to 180 days per calendar year with a valid passport. Natvisa
- Canada: Canadian citizens are also visa-exempt for short stays (up to 90 days). A valid passport is required.
- European Citizens: Citizens of the European Union and several other European countries do not need a visa for short stays (up to 90 days). A valid passport or national ID card is sufficient.
- Asian Citizens: China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam: Citizens from these countries are visa-exempt if they hold a valid Schengen or U.S. visa. Upon arrival in Colombia, they can obtain a Permiso de Ingreso y Permanencia (PIP), allowing entry without a Colombian visa. B A L | Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP
- Other Asian Countries: Citizens from countries not listed above may need to apply for a tourist visa through a Colombian embassy or consulate.
- For the most accurate and up-to-date information, please consult the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If you need assistance with visa applications or have further questions, feel free to ask!

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VISA-EXEMPT TRAVELERS

- Passport: Valid for at least **six months** from the date of entry.
- Proof of onward travel: Return ticket or onward journey.
- Financial means: Evidence of sufficient funds for the duration of stay.
- Health insurance: Recommended for the duration of stay.

HEALTH AND SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Vaccinations:

No specific vaccinations are required for entry into Peru, but the following are recommended for travelers:

- Hepatitis A – Recommended for most travelers.
- Tetanus and Diphtheria booster – Ensure your routine vaccinations are up to date.
- Typhoid – Recommended for travelers visiting rural areas or eating at local markets.
- Yellow Fever – Strongly recommended for travelers visiting the Amazon region (including Manu). Proof of vaccination may be required when entering certain jungle areas or neighboring countries afterward.
- Altitude Considerations:

The Andean sections of this journey (Cusco, Sacred Valley, and Wayquecha Lodge) are located at elevations between 2,800 and 3,600 meters (9,000–12,000 feet). Most travelers adjust well with proper pacing and hydration, but some may experience mild symptoms of altitude sickness.

If you know you are sensitive to high altitude, it's a good idea to:

- Rest and move slowly during your first day in Cusco.
- Stay well hydrated and avoid alcohol for the first 24 hours.
- Consider bringing or asking your doctor about acetazolamide (Diamox), a medication that can help prevent symptoms.
- Local remedies such as coca tea are also commonly used to ease adjustment naturally.
- Always consult your physician or a travel medicine specialist at least 4–6 weeks before departure to receive personalized recommendations based on your health history and planned itinerary.



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