



## WILD WATCH PERU

### Birding at Abra Malaga 2 Days

**Rate:** \$ 350 per person (Discount for groups & families)

**Duration:** Start at 5:30 AM and Finish at 4:30 PM

**Highlights:** Sword Billed Hummingbird, Stripe Headed Antpitta, Puna Tapaculo, Red and White Antpitta, Undulated Antpitta, Urubamba Antpitta, Rusty Fronted Canastero, Andean Condors, Giant Hummingbird, Creamy Crested Spine-Tail, Marcapata Spine tail, Puna Thistletail, Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, Inca Wren, Parodi's Hemispingus, Cusco Brush-Finch, Red Crested Cotinga, Golden Plumed Parakeets, Band Tailed Pigeons, Golden Headed Quetzals, and breasted mountain toucans. (from 100 to 120 bird species)

**Minimum participants:** 02

**Max participants:** 06

**Type Service:** Group Basis Rate & Private Option

**Frequency:** All year round

#### DAY 1

### **Cusco - Abra Malaga - Wet Slopes**

We leave Cusco or any location at Sacred Valley early in the morning on the way to Malaga Pass driving uphill which is high Andean with beautiful Puna grasses, rugged landscapes, and jagged peaks (with snow-capped Veronica quietly dominating the cordillera in these parts) and high temperate forest from tree line down to about 9000 feet.

Much of the area below 9000 feet on the east slope has been badly disturbed so our birding will be along the "Wet-side" endemics including Marcapata Spine tail, Puna Thistletail, Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, Inca Wren, Parodi's Hemispingus, and Cusco Brush-Finch. Also possible are Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Line-fronted Canastero, and Diademed Tapaculo, the flocks will be all interesting with High Mountain Tanagers, Dacnis, Flower-Piercers, Conebills, and Flycatchers.

The Understory of the Chusquea Bamboo Forest is quite interesting for the Endemic Red and White Antpitta, Undulated and Rufous Antpittas, and of course Trilling and Diademed Tapaculos. We will be also looking for canopy forest birds like; Red Crested Cotinga, Golden Plumed Parakeets, Band Tailed Pigeons, Golden Headed Quetzals, and breasted mountain toucans.

While driving back on the pass we will look for some birds at the high elevation such as Paramo Pipit, Junín, and Line Fronted Canastero, and some aquatic birds at the marsh, Andean Goose, Yellow Billed Teal, Andean Lapwing and unexpected shore birds.

After this exciting walk, we drive back to the Peña's Archeological site to look for some other interesting birds such as the great Sabrewing, Sword Billed Hummingbird, Rufous Breasted Mountain Finch, Creamy Crested Spine tail, and Streak Throated Bush-Tyrants, return to Ollantaytambo to Overnight.



## WILD WATCH PERU

### DAY 2

## Abra Malaga - Dry Slopes- Ollantaytambo or Cusco

We get up early in the morning to find our share during our second morning at Abra Malaga we'll head to the "dry side," watching for Andean Ibis, Gray-breasted Seedsnipe, White-tufted Sunbeam, Creamy-crested Spinetail.

We will also bird along a lush mixture of Polylepis forest while descending by drastic transect from the pass to look for the Streak Headed Antpitta, Royal Cinclodes, White Browed and Tawny Tit-Spinetail, Ash Breasted Tit-tyrant, Giant Conebill, Red Rumped Bush-Tyrant, D'orbigny's Chat-Tyrants and the Andean Hillstar. The moss-festooned trees of the wet slope (on the north side of the pass) are still extremely rich with birds, as is the scrubby canyon of the dry slope (on the south side of the pass).

This, of course, is not always apparent since often one can walk along the road, even under highly favorable weather conditions, and see very little. The main reason for this is that birds in this cloud forest travel in mixed-species flocks, so the situation is often feast or famine for the birder.

Yet few phenomena in the tropics hold the excitement off easing one's eyes on these flocks when they do materialize out of the fog or out of a shady enclave untouched as yet by the sun. Return drive to Cusco and arrival expected at 4:30 PM

### Inclusions

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- Specialized Guide Birding & Telescope
- Birding list (Ebird optional)
- Box Lunch (vegetarian available)
- Entrance tickets to Birding Sites
- Snacks (fresh fruits, cookies, chocolate)
- Unlimited Purified Water
- Private Overland Transport

### Exclusions

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- Alcoholic Drinks
- First-day Breakfast & Dinner
- Single Supplement Fee
- Hotel at Ollantaytambo