



## WILD WATCH PERU

### Birding at Laguna Huacarpay & Sacred Garden – Rumichaca Lake

**Rate:** \$ 150 per person (Discount for groups & families)

**Duration:** Full Day that starts at 5:45 AM and Finish at 4:30 PM

**Highlights:** Fronted Canastero, Bearded Mountaineer, Torrent Duck, Green-tailed Trainbearer, Giant Hummingbird, Streak fronted Thorn bird, blackish rail, Torrent Duck, Chestnut-breasted Mountain finch, Rust and orange Tanager, Red Crested Cotinga, white-bellied Hummingbird, Many Colored Rush-Tyrant (from 60 to 80 bird species)

**Minimum participants:** 02

**Max participants:** 06

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

**Frequency:** All year round

#### DAY 1

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#### Cusco – Huacarpay lake – Sacred Garden – Rumichaca Lake

We will visit the lake early morning, located some twenty-five kilometers south of Cusco, which is situated above 10,500 feet. One of the lakes resembles an extensive saltpan interrupted here and there by beds of reeds, and another a shallow crater. Both are lined with marsh vegetation, which is highly rich in nutrients, attracting birds for miles around. The lakes are surrounded by xeric ravines (quebradas in Peruvian Spanish) and rocky hills covered with shrubs, various cacti, tree tobacco, and small trees. The area deserves at least several hours of attentive birding and is a popular place to start our tour since the viewing conditions are easy.

You'll want your scopes for this area, though your guide will have a scope along too. The marshy shores and waters of the lakes support Andean water birds and waders, including; White-tufted Grebe, Puna Ibis, Puna Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, and Andean Duck, Plumbeous Rail, and Andean Lapwing. In addition, there are usually a few boreal shorebird non-breeders or migrants (quite a few later in the season). The extensive rush beds shelter Cinereous Harriers, Yellow-winged Blackbirds, Wren-like Rushbirds, and the beautiful Many-colored Rush-Tyrant.

The scrubby slopes are home to some land birds, including; Bare-faced Ground-Dove, and Giant Hummingbird (at nine inches, the largest-bodied of the hummers). Streak-fronted Thornbird, large flocks of Greenish Yellow-Finches (usually). Ash-breasted Sierra-Finches, Band-tailed Seed eaters, and the endemic Rusty-fronted Canastero.

Another Peruvian endemic, the spectacular Bearded Mountaineer, feeds on the tubular yellow flowers of the wild Tree Tobacco that grows in the outwash plains near the lakes.

Hanging above the slopes on occasion are chested buzzard eagles and below them hurtle Aplomado Falcons in pursuit of some unsuspecting dove. After birding around the lake we will drive along the Sacred Valley road passing by interesting Andean landscapes and Incan Ruins.



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As part of the morning time, we will make a stopover at the renowned Sacred Garden. Here, bird enthusiasts can indulge in the joy of observing a variety of endemic hummingbird species. Immerse yourself in the beauty of these tiny avian wonders, as they hover and flit through the garden's vibrant flora. Lunch in Town.

Later prepare for a captivating journey as we drive uphill, unveiling a collection of endemic bird species amidst the awe-inspiring beauty of the Andean Lake and landscape. Upon reaching the Puna grassland, you will be treated to sightings of unique avian wonders that call this habitat home. Spend the afternoon surrounded by majestic mountains, overlooking the Sacred Valley, as you immerse yourself in the natural splendor of the Andes.

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