



WILD WATCH PERU

Birding at Laguna Huacarpay & Sacred Valley "Ensifera Camp"

Rate: \$ 160 per person (Discount for groups & families)

Duration: Full Day that start at 5:30 AM and Finish at 5:00 PM

Highlights: Rusty fronted Canastero, Bearded Mountaineer, Torrent Duck, Green tailed Trainbearer, Giant Hummingbird, Streak fronted Thorn bird, blackish rail, Sword Billed Hummingbird, Chestnut breasted mountain finch, Rust & Orange Tanager, Red Crested Cotinga, white bellied Hummingbird, Many Colored Rush-Tyrant (from 60 to 80 bird species)

Minimum participants: 02

Max participants: 08

Type Service: Group basis rate & private option

Frequency: All year round

DAY 1

Cusco – Huacarpay lake – Sacred Valley (Ensifera Camp)

We leave Cusco at 5:30 AM, the first stop will be the Huacarpay lake, located some twenty-five kilometers south of Cusco, which are situated above 10,500 feet. One of the lakes resembles an extensive saltpan interrupted here and there by beds of reeds, another a shallow crater. Both are lined with marsh vegetation, which are 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 definitely 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, 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 Rush birds, and the beautiful Many-colored Rush- Tyrant. The scrubby slopes are home to a number of land birds, including; Bare-faced Ground-Dove, Giant Hummingbird (at nine inches, the largest-bodied of the hummers). Streak-fronted Thorn bird, large flocks of Greenish Yellow-Finches (usually). Ash-breasted Sierra-Finches, Band-tailed Seedeaters, and the endemic Rusty-fronted Canastero. Another Peruvian endemic, the spectacular Bearded Mountaineer, feeds at 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 Black 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. Following the Urubamba River and passing by the Pisac, Calca and Urubamba towns in the heart of the Sacred Valley. Finally, a visit to the Ensifera Camp Garden where we will have our typical breakfast and



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observe for the Sword Billed hummingbird, White Tufted Sunbeam, Chestnut-breasted Mountain finch and other interesting birds and returning to Cusco at around 5:00 PM.

Inclusions

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

Exclusions

- Alcoholic Drinks
- First day breakfast & Dinner