



Half Day Birding in Cusco

(Huacarpay lake and Hummingbird Gardens)

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, 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 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, 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 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 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. 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 such; Giant Hummingbird (Southern & Northern), Bearded Mountaineer (Endemic) White Bellied Hummingbird, Green Tailed Trainbearer and some other species Chestnut Breasted Mountain Finch (Endemic), Blue and Yellow Tanager, Black Back grossbeak. Immerse yourself in the beauty of these tiny avian wonders, as they hover and flit through the garden's vibrant flora then we will be returning to Cusco by noon and transfer to the hotels.



WILD WATCH PERU

INCLUSIONS

- ✓ Birding Specialized Guide
- ✓ English Speaking Guide
- ✓ Entrances Fees to the Birding Sites
- ✓ Purified Water to Refill
- ✓ Shareable Checklists on eBird
- ✓ Snacks (Fresh Fruits, Cookies Juices)
- ✓ Storage Room in City
- ✓ Transfer in City, Airport, Bus Station
- ✓ Transport (Air-Conditioned Minivan or SUV)

NOT INCLUDED

- Binoculars (Available to rent)
- Box Lunch
- First Day Breakfast