



[An Avian Odyssey of 10 Days - Manu National Park](#)

Embark on a meticulously crafted journey through the heart of Manu National Park, designed especially for passionate birders and dedicated wildlife observers. This exceptional tour covers the most ideal habitats for birding, offering unparalleled experiences at top lodges renowned for their biodiversity. Immerse yourself in the lush cloud forests, where vibrant avian life thrives, and witness an array of colorful species in their natural habitat.

Type Service: Shared

Season: All Year Round

Day 1st: Cusco– Wayquecha Lodge

Our journey begins with a scenic 40-minute drive from Cusco to Huacarpay Lake, where we will make our first stop to search for a variety of bird species in this unique wetland habitat.

Following our birdwatching session at Huacarpay Lake, we will continue along the renowned Manu Road. Along the way, our expert guides will lead us to specific locations known for their birding specialties.

We then drive uphill towards the breathtaking high mountains, locally known as the Puna. During our journey, we'll diligently search for several species such as the Sedge Wren, Line-fronted Canastero, and Junín Canastero.

As we descend the Acjanacu Pass, standing at 1,066 feet, we'll encounter scattered vegetation typical of this region. Here, we'll be on the lookout for birds adapted to these habitats, including the Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager, Hooded Mountain Tanager, and the stunning Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager.

Our descent will take us through misty forests where bird flocks are particularly productive. We'll have the opportunity to spot specialists at this elevation, such as the Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Plushcap, White-banded and White-throated Tyrannulet, Pearled Tree runner, Puna Thistle tail, Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Sierran Elaenia, Golden-collared Tanager, Grass-green Tanager, Blue-capped Tanager, Band-tailed Fruiteater, and Barred Fruiteater. In the mixed flocks, we may also observe the Streaked Tuftedcheek and Purple-backed Thornbill as they frequently fly across the road.

We'll spend the full afternoon birding in the elfin forest around the Wayquecha Lodge's elevational range, relishing the unique birding opportunities this area offers. Our day concludes with an overnight stay at the serene Wayquecha Lodge, surrounded by nature's beauty.

Day 2nd: Wayquecha Lodge – Cock of the Rock Lodge

Our day begins with an early morning walk to spot the endemic Red-and-White Antpitta and Urubamba species. We'll explore the Tuneles and Esperanza areas for fascinating targets such as the Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan and Chestnut-crested Cotinga.



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As we make our way through the Cloud Forest, descending the mountain, the vegetation will gradually become denser. This diverse habitat is home to species like the Golden-headed Quetzal, Stripe-faced Wood-quail, Yungas Pygmy Owl, Blue-banded Toucanet, Collared Jay, Mountain Cacique, and Greater Scythebill.

At lower elevations, we will search for Peru's national bird, the Cock-of-the-rock. These vibrant reddish-orange birds are often found displaying at their leks, where several males gather to perform mating rituals.

After this captivating experience, we will diligently seek more high-elevation species such as the Yungas Manakin, Versicolored Barbet, Orange-eared Tanager, Streak-necked Flycatcher, Andean Motmot, and Green Jay. If we are lucky, we may even spot the Lyre-tailed Nightjar at dusk. We'll spend the night at the Cock of the Rock Lodge, surrounded by the serene beauty of the forest

Day 3rd: Cock of the Rock - Guadalupe Lodge

On this day, we will have the opportunity to observe Peru's national bird, the Cock of the Rock (*Rupicola peruviana*), from a designated viewing platform. These vibrant reddish-orange male birds gather in significant numbers to perform their mating ritual dance in a location known as the "Lek."

Following this, we will visit flower feeders that attract a variety of hummingbird species. You will have the opportunity to see Booted Racket-tail, Wire-crested Thorntail, Green Hermit, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Violet-fronted Brilliant, White-bellied Woodstar, Peruvian Piedtail, Long-tailed Sylph, Wedge-billed Hummingbird, Speckled Hummingbird, and the Sparkling Violetear.

In the afternoon, we will depart from the lodge to search for specific target species. If fortunate, we might spot the umbrellabird while descending the mountains. We will pass by a swamp teeming with Hoatzins, often referred to as pre-historic birds due to their unique appearance. Other birds commonly sighted here include Brazilian Teals, Southern Lapwings, Flycatchers, Amazon Kingfishers, Green Kingfishers, Little Woodpeckers, Lineated Woodpeckers, Spot-breasted Woodpeckers, Gray-breasted Crakes, Rufous-sided Crakes, Capped Herons, Little Cuckoos, Silvered Antbirds, and many more.

We will arrive at our lodge, Guadalupe, just in time to observe the elusive nightjars (Common Pauraque). These fascinating birds are known to catch insects at dusk, and the road leading to the lodge is an excellent spot to see them.

Day 4th: Guadalupe Lodge – Macaw Clay Lick – Hummingbird Garden - Bamboo Trails

Begin your birding adventure early in the morning at Guadalupe Lodge. A box breakfast will be provided as we need to depart as early as possible for the macaw clay lick along the river.

This site is a birding paradise, famous for sightings of large Scarlet Macaws as well as a diverse array of parakeets and parrots. The vibrant display of colors and the cacophony of bird calls make for an unforgettable birding experience as these magnificent creatures gather to consume essential minerals.

As we soak in the spectacle at the clay lick, our expert guides will share fascinating insights into the behaviors and ecology of the birds we encounter. The surrounding environment is alive with activity, offering countless opportunities for observation and photography.

After spending the late morning at the clay lick, we will embark on our journey back to Guadalupe Lodge. Along the way, we will visit the enchanting hummingbird gardens, home to a remarkable

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collection of hummingbird species. Here, you'll have the chance to observe these tiny, iridescent birds up close, with species such as the Rufous-crested Coquette, Buff-tailed Sicklebill, and many others darting around the vibrant flowers.

Returning to the lodge in time for lunch, you can enjoy a delicious meal while sharing your birding highlights with fellow enthusiasts. The afternoon promises even more excitement as we venture into the bamboo forest, a unique habitat teeming with specialized bird species. Our expert guides will lead the way, helping you spot and identify the likes of the White-cheeked Tody-flycatcher, Bamboo Antshrike, and Rufous-headed Woodpecker.

Day 5th: Guadalupe Lodge – Dorado Lodge

Begin your day with the melodic songs of Amazonian birds as you enjoy breakfast. By mid-morning, you will be transferred to the Atalaya port, where you can appreciate the myriads of colorful birds and rich wildlife. At the river's dock, embark on a motorboat and navigate down the crystalline waters of the Madre de Dios River.

After 40 minutes of navigation, we stop to explore the trails of the Machuhuasi Lagoon (1900 ft). Here, we will look for species such as the Amazonian Antpitta, Rufous-breasted Piculet, and Cabannis Spinetail. Upon arrival at the lagoon, we will be welcomed by the noisy and clumsy hoatzins, which are among the most common birds in the area, along with the Black-capped Donacobius, Horned Screamers, Blackish Rail, Black-billed Seed-Finch, Orange-backed Troupial, Red-capped Cardinal, Pale-eyed Blackbird, and Rufous-sided Crake.

After that there will be a 5-hour boat journey filled with exciting opportunities to spot aquatic wildlife, including capybaras, various bird species, and caimans basking along the riverbank. In the mid-afternoon, you will explore the primary forest in search of bird families and other wildlife, such as monkeys and peccaries. Overnight at Dorado Lodge.

Day 6th: Dorado Lodge – Jaguar Ecolodge

Start your day with an early morning breakfast before we embark on a motorboat journey along the crystalline waters of the Madre de Dios River. Our first destination is the confluence with the Manu River, where we'll briefly stop at the Limonal ranger station for check-in. As we travel upriver, we'll diligently search for any signs of the elusive Jaguar. Although sightings are rare, this river is one of the best locations to spot this magnificent mammal.

As we continue our journey, you'll notice the environment becomes even more vibrant. We'll encounter an array of wildlife, from hundreds, if not thousands, of swallows and butterflies to intriguing species occupying every sandbar. Keep your binoculars ready, as we'll be on the lookout for wildcats and other fascinating creatures.

Our destination is the Casa Machiguenga Lodge, nestled a short distance from the Rio Manu in the heart of Manu National Park. Here, you'll stay in a peaceful setting surrounded by pristine nature. Optional night walks are available for those who wish to explore the nocturnal wonders of the forest.

Day 7th Jaguar Ecolodge – Clay Lick – Salvadore Oxbow Lake – Trails

This morning, we will depart as early possible to return to the cloud forest to get interesting. We will have the better part to enjoy Manu's Wilderness, in the morning, we will explore the Salvador oxbow lake famous for its population of Giant River Otters which usually breed there. They can be

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seen at different times of the day, and this gregarious and playful carnivorous spend a good deal of their time fishing or playing by any side of the lake or just taking a sunbath on their favorite dead logs. We'll have access to a floating catamaran (two large canoes connected by wooden planks) with chairs set up for bird and wildlife viewing (which makes paddling around the lake easy and comfortable). Apart from looking for the giant river otters, we'll have the chance for many of the lake edge species, including the fabulous Hoatzin, Agami, and herons, interesting raptors, colorful macaws oropendolas, and caciques. Just floating around the lake will be one of the joys of the trip, In the forest around the lake we'll also search for more species of monkeys such as white-fronted capuchin, and pygmy marmoset.

Apart from the lake, the forest around Salvador Lake and the lodge are some of the best Amazonian rainforests we have seen, and a nice network of trails allows us to leisurely stroll on flat trails the rest of the day. During midday we will explore the terra Firme, the route takes you through Terraza Forest" forest which is the habitat for Brazil nut (*Bertholletia excelsa*) among other species of trees as you move deep into the heart of the forest is also an excellent place to run into troops of monkeys. We will reach the Macaw Clay Lick that attracts the red and green macaws visiting this clay lick is also always a big highlight of the trip. (Please notice that the time to visit the Salvador lagoon on this day is subject to availability)

Day 8th Jaguar Ecolodge – Dorado Lodge

This morning, we will embark on our boat journey down the Rio Manu. En route, we will stop at the trailhead of the Otorongo Oxbow Lake (Temporary closed due activity form the uncontacted tribe), allowing us to explore the pristine forest and get a firsthand impression of its beauty. The trail network offers access to a canopy tower overlooking the lake and swamps, as well as several wooden platforms for observing aquatic wildlife and alligators.

This section of the forest is home to one of the largest kapok trees, and visitors can walk near its root system to appreciate its enormous size. We will briefly immerse ourselves in the untouched rainforest before continuing our boat trip, which will be filled with exciting bird activity on the many sandbars and sights of side-necked turtles sunning on the logs. This will also be another opportunity to catch a glimpse of the magnificent Jaguar.

After approximately four hours, we will reach the Limonal ranger station for registration and a brief restroom stops. Lunch will be served on the boat, and we will arrive at Dorado Lodge by mid-afternoon, allowing us ample time to explore the surroundings and learn more about the Machiguenga culture. Optional night walks are available based on the group's preferences.

Day 9th Dorado Lodge – Guadalupe Lodge

This morning, we will visit the parrots clay lick that sits along the river banks. Later, we will embark on a journey up the fast flowing, braided, and clear waters of the upper Madre de Dios River. As we begin our five- hour journey back to Atalaya, this will be our last chance to spot the capybara, the world's largest rodent.

We will keep a close watch for raptors, as numerous Kites, as well as Vultures and Eagles, have been spotted in this region. The riverbanks and surrounding areas are teeming with wildlife, making for an exhilarating wildlife observation experience.

One of the highlights of our journey will be a stop at a natural hot spring. Here, you can indulge in a

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relaxing bath, letting the warm, mineral-rich waters soothe your muscles and rejuvenate your spirit. This tranquil pause amidst the wilderness offers a perfect blend of relaxation and nature appreciation. Continuing our navigation along the upper Alto Madre de Dios River, we will witness an abundance of bird activity on the many sandbars. Arrival to Atalaya and ground Transport to Guadalupe Lodge.

Day 10th Guadalupe Lodge – Cusco

Start your day with an optional morning walk to witness the magnificent blue and yellow macaws soaring over the palm forest. Along the way, you may also encounter other colorful bird species, such as toucans and woodpeckers. Upon your return, a delicious breakfast will be ready for you to enjoy. After breakfast, you will need to pack and prepare for the journey back to Cusco. The return trip offers ample opportunities to spot additional wildlife and appreciate the vibrant cloud forest, complete with stunning waterfalls and cascades. As we make our way back, you'll have impressive views of the lush cloud forest, offering glimpses of its diverse wildlife. The estimated arrival time in Cusco is around 4 pm.

INCLUSIONS

- Specialized Birding Guide (Bilingual) with spotting scope
- Private ground Transportation and motorboat
- 9 nights Total (Wayquecha, Cock of the Rock, Dorado, Jaguar Ecolodge and Guadalupe Lodge (private toilets, WIFI, showers, mosquito net)
- Entrance tickets to the attraction and gardens
- Meals Dinner from Day 1st Breakfast to Lunch Day 10th
- Snacks & Purified Water
- Free Storage Room in Cusco
- Rubber Boots
- Duffel Bags

NOT INCLUDED

- Alcoholic Drinks
- Binoculars
- Breakfast Day 1st / Dinner Day 10
- Single Supplement