



Abra Málaga by Nick Athanas

Peru: Birding Manu Road

Leader: Mark Faherty
October 6–22, 2020

Manu National Park and the adjacent biosphere reserve is the size of Massachusetts! This extraordinary wilderness has the highest diversity of life on Earth and is one of the most important conservation units in the world. Our tour provides a superb birding experience across the full range of habitats. Imagine seeing this: a Cock-of-the-Rock, an active macaw lick, mammal and tapir licks, incredibly scenic mountain vistas with spectacular endemics such as the Bearded Mountaineer. You will experience gorgeous cloud forests filled with tanagers and well-placed bird blinds in the Amazonian rainforest to see shy birds like tinamous. There will be three full days in the lowlands of Manu with birding trails, oxbow lakes, and canopy towers. A fantastic combination of comfortable lodges and wildlife attractions, this trip is not to be missed!



Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan by Nick Athanas



Golden-collared Tanager by Nick Athanas

ABOUT THIS TRIP

FOCUS: This is primarily a birding trip, but we will also enjoy looking for a fantastic variety of mammals, including Giant Otters, Spectacled Bears, Woolly Monkeys, and Brown Capuchin Monkeys, as well as an extraordinary variety of flowering plants (15,000 species).

PACE AND COMFORT: As with most birding trips, our days will start early. We will be in the field most of each day. Most of the walking will be on easy to moderate trails, however there is one day (Oct 21) where the trail is quite difficult. Travelers have the option to relax at the lodge instead of heading out with the group for a given day's activities. Most of the trip is below 5,000 feet in altitude, but there will be one night at 11,000 feet and two nights at 9,000 feet.

TRANSPORTATION: We'll be in vans or small buses depending on the size of the group. Roads are often dirt. There are two motorized canoe transports (great birding along the way) as well as two internal flights.

LODGING: Except when we are in Lima and Cusco, our lodges will be well located near outstanding forests and birding sites. All hotels will all have private rooms with en-suite bathrooms.

WEATHER: We will be traveling just before the usual rainy season (November to April): however, there may be occasional rainfall. Temperatures during the day will warm (70s-90s), but can drop to the 40s-50s at night in some locations.

BIRDS: Several rarely seen and highly sought-after birds among a list that should approach 250 species (plus good chances to see some mammals).

SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

- Great Tinamou
- Horned Screamer
- Puna Teal
- Razor-billed Curassow
- Bearded Mountaineer
- Pale-winged Trumpeter
- Least Seedsnipe
- Solitary Eagle
- Golden-headed Quetzal
- Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan
- Rufous-headed Woodpecker
- Orange-cheeked Parrot
- Red-and-green Macaw
- Chestnut-backed Antshrike
- Royal Cinclodes
- Cactus Canastero
- White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher
- Many-colored Rush Tyrant
- Andean Cock-of-the-rock
- Fiery-capped Manakin
- Grass-green Tanager



Cactus Castanero by Nick Athanas



Wyndham Costa del Sol Hotel



White-collared Jay by Nick Athanas

Day-to-Day Itinerary – Main Trip

(Day-to-day activities may be modified somewhat at the tour leader's discretion based on weather, road conditions, new birding sites, logistical reasons, and other factors.)

Day 1, October 6: Arrive In Lima

The tour will start this evening in Lima. The hotel is next to the airport terminal and is very easy to find, so an airport transfer is not necessary. (*Dinner is included in the hotel unless you arrive very late.) **Overnight:** Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport | D*

Day 2, October 7: Birding Deserts and Oases

After breakfast, we'll drive about two hours north of Lima to the Lomas de Lachay Reserve. Low hills rise out of the almost barren deserts into the coastal fog, which provides just enough moisture to support verdant bushes and scattered trees. Several birds can be found in this unique habitat that we can't see elsewhere, including Least Seedsnipe, Collared Warbling-Finch, Band-tailed Sierra-Finch, Oasis Hummingbird, Peruvian Pipit, Mountain Parakeet, and Thick-billed and Coastal Miner, both of which are endemic to Peru. After a picnic lunch, we'll visit a different part of the reserve dominated by cacti, where we search for the endemic Cactus Canastero and have a chance to find the rare Raimondi's Yellow-Finch.

The Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport is a modern hotel connected directly to the airport terminal, but quiet enough that you'll forget. Amenities include a spa and 24-hour fitness facilities, with an indoor pool, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam room. Altitude: sea level.

Overnight: Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport | BLD

Day 3, October 8: To Cusco and Huacarpay Lakes

This morning, we will take an early flight to the ancient city of Cusco. Depending on the flight schedule, we may drop our bags off in the hotel (and have a traditional coca tea), or we could head straight out birding to the Huacarpay Lakes, about 30 minutes southeast of town. Here we will see a variety of high Andean species such as Puna Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, Plumbeous Rail, the exquisite Many-colored Rush Tyrant, Andean Negrito, Rusty-fronted Canastero, Golden-billed Saltator, and more. We'll look especially for the spectacular and endemic Bearded Mountaineer, which often feeds in flowering bushes near the lake.

The Hotel Costa del Sol Ramada Cusco is a 17th-century colonial mansion that combines historical architecture and murals with all the comforts of a modern, contemporary hotel. Altitude: 11,000 feet.

Overnight: Hotel Costa del Sol Picoaga (or similar) | BLD

Day 4, October 9: Cusco to Manu

Today, we will leave very early, first driving several hours on a rough road through scenic intermontane valleys. We'll make selected stops for two endemics: Creamy-crested Spinetail and Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch, and stop for anything else we might encounter along the way. We'll reach the 11,500-ft Ajacnac Pass by around lunch time, and spend the afternoon birding temperate forest downhill towards our lodge, hoping to run into mixed species flocks that could have dozens of brilliant birds like Golden-collared and Grass-green Tanager, Mountain Caciue, White-collared Jay, Black-capped and Superciliaried, Hemispingus, Pearled Treerunner, Citrine Warbler, and more. It's hard not to be awed by the steep slopes blanketed with cloud forest as far as the eye can see.

Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge has a restaurant and 12 rustic double cabins with private

bathrooms and hot water showers. The lodge is in the Kosñipata Valley helping to protect a 12,500-acre cloud forest reserve managed by the conservation group Peru Verde. Altitude: 4800 feet.

Overnight: Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge | BLD

Days 5–6, October 10–11: Upper and Middle Manu Road

We have two full days in this magnificent area. Just a few minutes' drive from our lodge is a spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek furnished with comfortable blinds to observe the amazing males during their mating rituals. Birding up and down the road near the lodge, we will quickly build up a list of mid-elevation birds. Possibilities include Solitary Eagle, Golden-headed and Crested Quetzal, White-eared Solitaire, Blue-banded Toucanet, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Yungas Manakin, and a dazzling array of tanagers. One day, we'll return to the higher elevations where beautiful hummingbirds like Violet-throated Starfrontlet and Amethyst-throated Sunangel flit through the roadside vegetation, and we'll have a great chance to see Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan. We'll target some tough birds like Red-and-white Antpitta, and jump out of the bus at the first sign of a mixed-species flock, and may see such gems as Barred and Band-tailed Fruiteater, White-browed Conebill, Chestnut-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Fulvous Wren, and White-banded Tyrannulet. **Overnight:** Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge | BLD

Day 7, October 12: Lower Manu Road

After a final morning in the birdy cloud forests, we will descend further down Manu Road, targeting foothill forest species like Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Two-banded and Golden-bellied Warbler, Ornate Flycatcher, and Peruvian Piedtail. In the afternoon, we will arrive at an excellent lodge, Villa Carmen, where we'll spend three nights.



Crested Quetzal by Nick Athanas

The Villa Carmen Biological Station is located on over 7,500 acres of land within the spectacular Manu Biosphere Reserve in Southern Peru. Spanning an elevational gradient of 1,700 to almost 4,000 feet above sea level, Villa Carmen hosts an



Villa Carmen

incredible array of species found in a variety of habitats, ranging from cloud forest to montane and lowland rainforest. The double cabins have 24/7 electricity and private bathrooms with hot showers. Three delicious, organic meals a day made with local ingredients. Altitude: 1600 feet.

Overnight: Villa Carmen | BLD

Days 8-9, October 13-14: Villa Carmen

Villa Carmen is located in superb Amazonian rainforest in the lower foothills of the Andes. Their bird list is long and growing, and they are also working to add blinds in the forest where shy and difficult birds can be seen including Ruddy Quail-Dove and several species of tinamou. Another standout feature of Villa Carmen is its easy access to bamboo-laden rainforest, which plays host to numerous special birds. The stunning White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher will be high on our want list, along with, Rufous-headed Woodpecker, Rufous-breasted Piculet, Striated Antbird, Bamboo Antshrike, Manu Antbird, Peruvian Recurvebill, and Dusky-tailed Flatbill. We will also spend time on non-bamboo birds such as Round-tailed and Fiery-capped Manakin, Plain-crowned Spinetail, White-lined Antbird, Fine-barred Piculet, and the endemic Black-backed Tody-Flycatcher. We will also be on the lookout for the rare Scarlet-hooded Barbet. **Overnights:** Villa Carmen | BLD

Day 10, October 15: River Trip to Manu

After a few more hours of birding at Villa Carmen, we will drive to the edge of the upper Madre de Dios River and board our motorized canoe that will take us down to Manu Wildlife Center. It's about a 6-hour trip, but the boat will make a couple of rest stops, and we usually see some exciting birds along the way, like Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Yellow-billed Tern, Pied Lapwing, a variety of herons, Bat Falcon, Black Skimmer, Wood Stork, Orinoco Goose, and Horned Screamer. We plan to arrive at the lodge before dark, where we will spend two nights.



Macaws at Villa Carmen by Nick Athanas

Manu Wildlife Center is located in a private, 40,000-acre rain forest reserve adjacent to the one million-acre protected area named the *Amarakaeri Reserved Zone*. This lodge has roomy, private bungalows, en suite private bathrooms and tiled, hot water showers. Altitude: 800 feet.

Overnight: Manu Wildlife Center | BLD

Days 11–13, October 16–18: Lowlands of Manu

We'll have three full days in this amazing area. Diversity is spectacular! We'll bird trails, towers, and oxbow lakes. Large stands of bamboo hold many local and sought-after species, and the extensive varzea, terra firme, and transitional floodplain forest hold a mind-boggling variety of birdlife. A canopy observation tower gives us a chance to see canopy birds at close range, including many species of toucans, aracarís, tanagers, euphonias, woodpeckers, parrots, oropendolas, and others. Some of the more interesting species we will be searching for in the bamboo include Manu Antbird, White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher, and Peruvian Recurvebill. We'll also look for the near-threatened Rufous-fronted Antthrush, Razor-billed Curassow, Pale-winged Trumpeter, Pavonine Quetzal, Purus Jacamar, Western Striolated-Puffbird, and Rufous-capped Nunlet, to name but a few. Great mammal sightings are also possible including monkeys, Giant Otters, tapirs, peccaries, and, on very rare occasions, even a Jaguar. (The

night of Day 11 will be spent in Manu Wildlife Center. Depending on availability, the nights of days 12 and 13 may be in spent at Tambo Blanquillo Lodge.) **Overnight:** Manu Wildlife Center/Tambo Blanquillo Lodge | BLD

Day 14, October 19: Macaw Lick and Travel to Puerto Maldonado

We will need to leave early in order to reach the clay lick, which only allows entry at dawn to avoid disturbing the birds. Activity varies from day to day, but usually hundreds of parrots and macaws are visible from the blinds. Red-and-green Macaw is a highlight and the beautiful, near-threatened Orange-cheeked Parrot is a regular visitor here. We'll spend the rest of the day traveling downriver by boat and vehicle to Puerto Maldonado, where we spend one night.

Cabaña Quintain is located at the main entrance to the *Tambopata Reserve Zone*, considered one of the natural wonders of Peru. Its rooms all have air-conditioning, and private bathrooms with hot water. Altitude: 600 feet.

Overnight: Hotel Cabaña Quinta | BLD

Day 15, October 20: Travel to Ollantaytambo

Today, we will take a commercial flight back to Cusco.

Depending on flight schedules, there may be some time for morning birding near Puerto Maldonado, where there are some stakeouts for the localized White-throated Jacamar. After a lunch in Cusco, we will drive north into Sacred Valley to the town of Ollantaytambo, where we will spend two nights.

Pakaritampu Hotel is located in the heart of the Sacred Valley, its comfortably appointed rooms include air-conditioning, and private bathrooms with hot water. Altitude: 9000 feet.

Overnight: Hotel Pakaritampu | BLD

Day 16, October 21: Abra Málaga

We will need an early start as we drive over Abra Málaga, a high mountain pass at 10,682 ft. We will first bird some forest on the far side of the pass for Inca Wren, Puna Thistletail, Three-striped and Parodi's Hemispingus, Scaled Metaltail, the endemic Marcapata Spinetail, and others, before returning to the pass for a short but tough hike to some groves of Polylepis woodland. This Polylepis is habitat for the critically endangered Royal Cinclodes, the endangered Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, and the endemic and endangered White-browed Tit-Spinetail. **The high elevation makes this a difficult hike for many people.** It involves walking about half a mile up to a ridge, then walking down a fairly steep slope to the Polylepis. **Those people not wishing to do this hike can stay with the vehicle or back at the hotel.** Later in the afternoon, we'll make another stop to look for the endemic, near-threatened White-tufted Sunbeam before returning to Ollantaytambo. **Overnight:** Hotel Pakaritampu | BLD

Day 17, October 22: Lima; Journey Home

After some final birding in Sacred Valley, we will drive to the Cusco airport and fly back to Lima, arriving in time for evening international flights back home. (At traveler expense, a dayroom can be reserved if requested.) BL



Lowland Tapir by Nick Athanas



Chestnut-capped Puffbird by Nick Athanas (above)

Cock-of-the-Rock by Nick Athanas (below)



Mass Audubon Naturalist



Mark Faherty has been the Science Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary since August 2007 and has led birding trips for Mass Audubon since 2002. While his current projects involve everything from oysters and horseshoe crabs to bats and butterflies, he has studied primarily bird ecology for the last 20 years, working on research projects in Kenya, Florida, Texas, California, Arizona, Mexico, and the Pacific Northwest. He was a counter for the famous River of Raptors hawk watch in Veracruz, Mexico, and has birded extensively in Peru, Kenya, Panama, Belize, and both Eastern and Western Europe.

Mark is an emcee and trip leader for multiple birding festivals and leads workshops on birding by ear, eBird, birding apps, and general bird identification. He is past president of the Cape Cod Bird Club and current member of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee. Weekly Bird Report, Mark's weekly essay on Cape and Islands bird life, airs each Wednesday on WCAI, the Cape and Islands NPR station. He also co-hosts Bird News, a monthly call-in show all about birds, on WCAI's The Point with Mindy Todd.

Main Tour Price: \$7900 per person, double occupancy. Single supplement: \$1000 (*single rooms are very limited*). Price based on a minimum of 8 travelers. If the group does not reach the minimum, additional small group supplement fee (~\$300) may be added. If we have 9 or 10 travelers, price will be reduced by ~\$300.

Price Includes:

- All meals and accommodations as shown in the itinerary
- Services of Mass Audubon naturalist leader
- Local guides and naturalists
- All excursions and entrance fees
- Extensive trip preparation notes and bird checklist
- Transportation within Peru, including roundtrip flight Lima-Cusco, and one-way flight from Puerto Maldonado-Cusco.
- Medical evacuation insurance
- Carbon offset credits for your international flights
- All tips and gratuities (*included if we have the minimum of 10*)

Price Excludes:

- International airfare
- Passport and visa fees; trip cancellation insurance
- Airport taxes; excess baggage charges
- Items of a personal nature, including alcoholic beverages, laundry, and telephone calls; other items not specifically mentioned as included.
- Hotel on Day 17: dayroom can be provided on request.

HOW TO BOOK

Email or call us at travel@massaudubon.org or 800-289-9504 to reserve your place.

APPLICATIONS, RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS

Early applications are strongly encouraged. Trip rosters usually must be finalized 4 months before departure! **All applications must be accompanied by a completed reservation form and \$500 deposit.** Deposits can be by check or credit card (Visa or MasterCard). We reserve the right to decline your application. In the case of questionable health, we reserve the right to require a physician's certification to affirm you are capable of the activities. Final payment is due 90 days before the departure date. **Final payment must be by check or money order.**

RATES: All tour prices are based on double occupancy. If you would like us to find you a roommate, we will do our best, but cannot guarantee a share. If we cannot find a share, you will need to pay the single supplement. All forms and fares are accurate at the time of publication (July 2019) but are subject to change at any time prior to departure. It is our policy to only pass on the actual amount of any increases in airfares or land costs such as those increases due to the devaluation of the dollar. Rarely, a price increase may be called for if the group falls below the minimum, as listed in the itinerary.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: A U.S. passport valid for at least six months beyond the trip's departure date is required.

FLIGHTS: You, the traveler, are responsible for booking and paying for your own international flights. Once you reserve your space, we will provide you with suggested flights and tell you which flights our staff will take. You may book flights directly with the airline, online, or with a travel agent. Please be aware that most tickets are non-refundable,

therefore you should not book your flight arrangements until you have checked with us to be sure the tour has the minimum number of participants for the trip to go. We ask that you provide us with your flight details

TRIP INSURANCE: A brochure and application for optional trip cancellation, illness, and baggage insurance will be sent to you upon registration. We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself. See insuremytrip.com.

PHOTOS: Mass Audubon reserves the right to make use of any photographs taken on the tour. We guarantee that no photos of a compromising nature will be used. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If you need to change your booking, you must inform us immediately in writing. All cancellations must be done in writing and are effective upon receipt in the Massachusetts Audubon Travel Office. Cancellations received up to 121 days prior to departure will be refunded deposits less a \$300 per person fee. For cancellations between 120 and 90 days prior to departure, no deposits will be refunded, but any payment balance will. There are no refunds for cancellations 90 days or less from departure. We strongly urge all travelers to purchase trip cancellation insurance. You will be sent information from the Massachusetts Audubon Society upon receipt of your deposit.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY: Although every precaution is taken to safeguard you and your belongings, group travel trips by their nature involve a certain amount of risk. Trip participants should understand that the domestic and international trips sponsored/operated by Massachusetts Audubon Society (Mass Audubon Tours)—hereafter collectively M.A.S. —involve known and unknown risks. M.A.S. assumes no responsibility for injuries, death, financial losses or damage to clients' property caused by or occurring during participation in any of the travel trips sponsored/operated by M.A.S. Trip participants must assume responsibility for having sufficient skill and fitness to participate in the trips and activities offered or sponsored by M.A.S. Trip participants must also certify that they have no medical, mental or physical conditions which could interfere with their abilities to participate in the activities and/or trips they are participating in and they must assume and bear the cost of all risks that may be created, directly or indirectly, by any such condition. It is the responsibility of trip participants to have in place adequate insurance to cover any injury, damage or emergency transportation costs related to their travel and/or participation in trip activities and/or to bear the costs of such injury, damage or emergency transportation costs. Because of the risks associated with the travel trips sponsored by M.A.S. we urge all trip participants to supplement their own insurance with travel or vacation or

emergency response types of insurance. M.A.S. requires that all trip participants acknowledge and assume these risks by reading and signing an M.A.S. Release and Waiver and Assumption of Risk contract prior to departure.

CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL: Travelers will be provided with an itinerary and trip preparation information. It is expected that travelers will read this information prior to trip departure. Travelers will be responsible for completing an application reservation form, including the personal information and a release of liability (see attached). Travelers will be expected to abide by the terms set for in the invoice. During the tour, travelers are asked to respect and follow the directions of their guide and leader.

