



Tropical Nature Travel
Presents the Cock of the Rock Lodge
Three day/Two night Set Departure Package

Day 01

Today your guide will meet you in the lobby of your Cusco hotel to begin the exciting overland trip to the Manu cloud forest. We pass over two Andean chains of almost 13,100 feet elevation through a steppe-like landscape, or Puna. On the way we pass stone Chullpas, or burial chambers, of the Pre-Inca Lupaca people and will hope to catch site of some of the bird species of the high Andes, including the Giant Hummingbird and Mountain Caracara.

After a delicious boxed lunch at Ajanaco which, if clear, affords views over the cloud forest and the vast sprawling expanse of the lowland rain forest, the road suddenly descends down the eastern slope of the Andes. We plunge downwards, past remnant patches of elfin forest, through swirling mist and cloud, to emerge in a forest of stunted, evergreen trees, festooned with mosses, lichens, bromeliads and other epiphytes. Nestled in this forest within a 2-minute walk of the road, and within earshot of a rushing mountain stream, lies the Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge.

If there is time available, we will have a chance to briefly begin our exploration of the surrounding forest before dinner.

Overnight Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge. Box Lunch and Dinner included.

If you are interested in getting a photograph of the birds you will need to bring a strong flash, as it can be very dark here and many shots will need a flash.

Day 02

Rising before dawn we visit the traditional display ground of the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, which has become famous among scientists, tourists and the international press, as there is no other spot in the world where so many of these spectacular blazing red birds can be seen so easily. From our observation blind, which is within 30-feet of the narrow switchback road that runs through the center of the reserve, we will watch as between 6-20 or more male birds display at a traditional mating ground, 15-feet in front of the blind. We will watch as these outrageous birds strut, curve their wings and dip their crested heads in the hope of attracting a mate.

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Please note that the very best months for viewing Cocks-of-the-Rock are in September, October and November, although the males display every month of the year.

Returning for breakfast the rest of the day can be spent exploring the forest overhanging the single lane road near the lodge, or some of the miles of trails that wind through the valley, to see high elevation cloud forest birds, such as the Golden-headed Trogon, as well as numerous, brightly-colored tanagers and hummingbirds. If you are very lucky you might see a troop of muscular-limbed Woolly Monkeys or Brown Capuchin Monkeys, which regularly forage through the reserve, or perhaps even a Spectacled Bear. Bears are present, but they are shy and hard to see.

This mysterious cloud forest harbors species of flora and fauna new to science. Indeed, in 1995 two Peruvian biology students, sponsored by Selva Sur, carried out basic survey work on orchids, reptiles and amphibians. They recorded two entirely new (previously un-described) species of orchids, and four new species of reptiles and amphibians for Peru.

After an exhilarating exploration of the road and trails, bathe in the cool, clear waters of the San Pedro stream as it flows from the virgin forests of the surrounding mountains toward the rushing Kosñipata River.

Day 03

We will rise again before dawn for another chance to see the displaying Cocks-of-the-Rock. We will return to the lodge for breakfast and then board the bus for the return journey to Cusco, arriving in the early evening for dinner. You will be transferred to your Cusco hotel.

Please read the Pre-departure notes carefully before you begin the trip. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR PROGRAMS MAY VARY SLIGHTLY SO AS TO MAXIMIZE THE WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS DEPENDING ON THE REPORTS OF OUR NATURALIST GUIDES AND STAFF BASED AT THE LODGES