

Megadiversity Tour: From the Andes to the Manu Lowlands



Route: Lima/Cusco/Urubamba/Machu Picchu/Cusco/Manu cloud forest (Cock-of-Rock Lodge)/ Amazonia Lodge/Manu Wildlife Center/Cusco/Lima

Highlights: Birding the Andes and famous Machu Picchu ruins and environs, plus all altitudes of the Manu area with a list of almost 1,000 species (10% of the global total).

Guide: Thomas Valqui

ITINERARY

Day/01

Arrive in Lima, transfer to hotel, then visit the Villa marshes (depending on arrival time). Overnight at Sonesta EL Olivar *****

Day/02

Birds we will be looking for in this typical coastal marshes are Peruvian Thickknee, 5 species of Ducks, Great Grebe, Gray-hooded Gull, Many-colored Rush-tyrant, Wren-like Rushbird, etc. Overnight at Sonesta EL Olivar *****

Day/03

Fly to Cuzco first thing in the morning and transfer by bus to our hotel in the town of Urubamba in the Sacred Valley (Valle Sagrado). At a lower elevation than Cuzco, we will barely feel the elevation and will begin to acclimatize while doing some easy birding in the Valley in the morning. Good birds to find in the gardens are Hummingbirds: Giant Hummingbird, Green-tailed Hummingbird, Green-tailed Trainbearer, etc. Overnight at Sonesta Posada del Inca Yucay***



Day/04

Short bus trip to the town of Ollantaytambo (pictured above), where we will take the train to Aguas Calientes, transfer to hotel. Visit the famous Machu Picchu ruins with birding on the walk up to the Puerta del Sol. Here we will try to get the endemic Cuzco Brush-Finch and Inca Wren, and other specialties like the Tricolored Brush-Finch. Overnight at Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel***

Day/05

Morning in Aguas Calientes, birding in the gardens of the hotel or along the trail tracks. The Sclater's Flycatcher and the Inca Wren are probably our target birds, but we will have plenty of activity with Tanager flocks, Barbets and others! In the afternoon, we will return to Cuzco by train. Overnight at Novotel****

Day/06

Morning visit to the Huacarpay Lakes in Cuzco. The afternoon will be left free for a city tour, shopping, or relaxing. Overnight at Novotel or similar

Day/07

Leave early for Manu National Park and the famous Manu Road. We will bird through typical Andean scrub and fields on our way to the highest part of Manu National Park, at the Acjanaco pass, with breakfast and lunch on the road. After some birding at tree line we start our descent through cloud forest on the Manu road, arriving at the Lodge just after sunset. Overnight at Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge

Day 08 & 09

We will spend two days birding the cloud forest along the road above and below the Lodge. Overnight at Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge.

Day 10 & 11

Continuing down the Manu Road, we will bird our way through subtropical forest to Atalaya, crossing the Alto Madre de Dios River to the Amazonia Lodge. We will spend two days birding habitats from the lodge at the base of the Andes. We will cover the extensive trail system in search of the almost 600 species recorded in this lodge. Overnight at Amazonia Lodge.

Day/12

Travel by boat to the Manu Wildlife Center, where we will spend 4 days. This trip will take most of the day, but will give us an opportunity to see typical river birds and wildlife as we relax on the boat. Overnight at Manu Wildlife Center.

Day 13 & 14

We will spend the next 2 days birding in a variety of habitats. Our activities will include extensive birding in terra firme forest, where the grid will give us access to several known territories of hard to get birds, follow mixed species flocks and spend time in flooded forest. We will also visit the bamboo island for almost all of the specialists of this unique habitat, look for the Rufous-fronted Antthrush in the Heliconia thickets by the Antthrush trail, and visit a typical large oxbow lake. For many the highlight will be the colorful spectacle of the macaws and parrots at the clay-lick, which we will enjoy from a specially designed blind. Overnight at Manu Wildlife Center.

Day/15

An early morning with some birding along the river will take us to the airstrip at Boca Manu, where we will spend a few hours birding secondary habitats and forest edge, before returning to Cuzco by small-chartered aircraft. You will have the afternoon free for city touring, shopping, or relaxing. Overnight at Novotel or similar

Day/16

Return to Lima. Overnight at Sonesta El Olivar

Day/17

Transfer to the airport

Megadiversity: From the High Andes to the Manu Lowland	
Trip length	17 days/16 night
Departure Date	August 6, 2007
Per person cost	2/3 \$4990.00 4/up \$4450.00
Single supplement	\$900.00
	Add this trip to my planner
<i>Prices based on two people sharing. Includes guided tours by specialist, transportation in Manu (bus, boat and plane), entrance fees, accommodations at hotels & lodges, Machu Picchu train, meals as noted. International and domestic airfares, airport taxes, personal expenses, some meals are NOT included.</i>	
Important: Though we have never heard of anyone contracting yellow fever anywhere in Peru or neighboring countries, Peru nevertheless requires a current yellow fever vaccination for trips to the rainforest regions.	