



BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Apurímac Canyon Condors (Chonta)

Wild Andean Condors at eye level over a 1,900-metre canyon — plus the Apurímac valley's own endemic birds, in one full day from Cusco.

Photo © Debbie DAJ Photos

DURATION

Full day (~13 hours)

DEPARTURE

5:30 AM from your Cusco hotel

ALTITUDE

2,600–3,600 m (canyon rim ~3,400 m)

WALKING

~7 km round trip on a good community trail

FROM

\$285 per person

1 pax \$590 · 2 pax \$345 · 3+ pax \$285

Two and a half hours west of Cusco, the Apurímac River has carved one of the deepest canyons in the Americas — and above it, at the community-run Chonta viewpoint, wild Andean Condors ride the thermals so close that they pass at, and often below, eye level. No cages, no baiting: this is one of Peru's most reliable places to watch the world's largest flying bird doing exactly what it evolved to do.

For birders the Apurímac valley holds a second prize: its dry inter-Andean scrub is home to birds found nowhere else on Earth. On the slopes around Limatambo and on the walk in to the mirador we target Apurimac Spinetail, Apurimac Brushfinch, Creamy-crested Spinetail, Rusty-fronted Canastero and Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch — a compact set of Peruvian endemics that pairs perfectly with the condor spectacle.

TARGET SPECIES

Andean Condor
 • Apurimac Brushfinch
 • Rusty-fronted Canastero
 Giant Hummingbird
 Tyrian Metaltail
 Andean Flicker
 Mountain Caracara
 American Kestrel

• Apurimac Spinetail
 • Creamy-crested Spinetail
 • Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch
 White-bellied Hummingbird
 Red-crested Cotinga
 Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle
 Aplomado Falcon
 Variable Hawk

· endemic to Peru

DAY BY DAY

5:30 AM — Cusco to the dry Apurímac slopes

Early hotel pick-up — boxed breakfast in hand — and a scenic descent toward Limatambo. As the sun reaches the cactus-and-scrub slopes we make our first birding stops: Apurimac Spinetail, Apurimac Brushfinch and Rusty-fronted Canastero live in these hedgerows, with Giant Hummingbird and White-bellied Hummingbird on the flowering columns.

Chonta village and the walk in

We climb to the adobe village of Chonta (3,350 m), pay the community entrance fee and take the good, mostly level 3.5 km trail toward the rim — birding as we go: Creamy-crested Spinetail, Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch, Tyrian Metaltail, Andean Flicker and Red-crested Cotinga are all possible.

Midday — condors over the Apurímac

From the three overlooks the canyon drops 1,900 vertical metres to the river. Condors patrol the rim on the late-morning and afternoon thermals — most passes are at or below eye level, the dream angle for photography. We set up the scope, serve a field lunch on the rim and simply watch.

The walk out and Killarumiyoc

Mid-afternoon we retrace the trail, picking up anything the morning owed us, and — time and interest permitting — stop at Killarumiyoc, an Inca moon temple carved from a single granite outcrop, with Aplomado Falcon and Mountain Caracara in the surrounding fields.

Evening — return to Cusco

We are back at your Cusco hotel around 6:30–7:00 PM, checklist done over the last light on the Anta plain.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Private transport from/to your Cusco hotel
- Expert English-speaking bird guide
- Chonta community entrance fee
- Boxed breakfast for the road
- Field lunch, snacks and water
- Spotting scope for the group

NOT INCLUDED

- Dinner
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities

Ready to book, or want it tailored?

wildandestours.com/apurimac-canyon-condors-birding-tour/ · sales@wildandestours.com

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