

BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Central Peru Circuit

Peru's densest endemic route — canyon, puna, lake and elfin forest, far from the crowds.

DURATION

7 days / 6 nights

DEPARTURE

From Lima

ELEVATION

~900–4,800 m

GROUP SIZE

2–4 (minimum 2)

PRICE

On request

Our Central Peru Birding Circuit is the ultimate endemic-hunting road trip — a week-long loop through the heart of the Peruvian Andes that strings together the richest endemic sites in the country, far from the crowds of Manu or the north. From the dry canyons above Lima it climbs over the puna, skirts the great lake of Junín, drops down the fabled Satipo Road and finishes in the mossy elfin forests of Huánuco. For serious listers chasing a big haul of Peruvian endemics in a single trip, few routes anywhere in South America can match it — and every site along the way comes with its own free downloadable checklist.

The circuit opens in the Santa Eulalia Canyon, an hour east of Lima, where elevational bands of desert scrub, riverine woodland and the first *Polylepis* hold Great Inca-Finch, Bronze-tailed Comet, Black-necked Woodpecker and White-cheeked Cotinga. We cross the high puna at Marcapomacocha for the exquisite Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, the endemic White-bellied Cinclodes and Black-breasted Hillstar on the cushion bogs, then reach Lake Junín — a vast Ramsar wetland at 4,100 m and the only home on Earth of the near-flightless Junín Grebe and the secretive Junín Rail.

TARGET SPECIES

- Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager
- Pardusco
- Rufous-browed Hemispingus
- Eye-ringed Thistletail
- Black-spectacled Brushfinch
- Junín Rail
- White-bellied Cinclodes
- Bronze-tailed Comet
- White-cheeked Cotinga
- Bay-vented Cotinga
- Coppery Metaltail
- Fire-throated Metaltail
- Junín Tapaculo
- Junín Grebe
- Diademed Sandpiper-Plover
- Great Inca-Finch
- Black-breasted Hillstar

· endemic to Peru

DAY BY DAY

Day 1 — Santa Eulalia Valley

Leave Lima before dawn and climb into the Santa Eulalia Canyon, working its elevational bands from desert scrub to the first Polylepis for Great Inca-Finch, Bronze-tailed Comet, Black-necked Woodpecker and White-cheeked Cotinga. We overnight in the valley after a first day among the inter-Andean endemics.

Day 2 — Marcapomacocha & the puna

Cross the Central Highway over Ticlio and spend the morning on the cushion bogs and glacial lakes of Marcapomacocha at 4,000–4,800 m, for the exquisite Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, the endemic White-bellied Cinclodes and Black-breasted Hillstar. In the afternoon we continue north across the puna toward Junín, scanning for raptors, seedsnipes and puna specialities.

Day 3 — Lake Junín

A full day at Lake Junín (Chinchaycocha), the vast high-Andean Ramsar lake that is the only home on Earth of the near-flightless Junín Grebe and the secretive Junín Rail. We work the reedbeds and shoreline for both endemics, along with Junín Canastero, rafts of Andean waterfowl and Giant Coot.

Day 4 — Satipo Road

Descend the legendary Satipo Road (the Concepción–Satipo highway) off the puna through elfin woodland and cloud forest, birding mixed flocks the whole way down. Targets include the endemic Fire-throated Metaltail, Eye-ringed Thistletail, Junín Tapaculo and Black-spectacled Brushfinch, with tanagers, furnariids and hummingbirds at every stop.

Days 5–6 — Bosque Unchog & Carpish

Two days in the Huánuco cloud forests, centred on the fabled elfin woodland of Bosque Unchog and its flagship Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager, with Bay-vented Cotinga, Pardusco, Coppery Metaltail and Rufous-browed Hemispingus. We also work the Carpish tunnel and the Paty Trail lower down, adding mountain-tanagers, quetzals, barbets and a long list of mixed-flock specialities.

Day 7 — Return to Lima

The long drive back toward Lima, birding en route and mopping up any endemics still on the wish list. We aim to reach the city by evening, with a tally that for keen listers can top twenty Peruvian endemics.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Private transportation from Lima
- Expert bilingual birding guide
- Lodging (6 nights)
- Most meals
- Reserve and access fees

NOT INCLUDED

- Dinner on Day 7
- Personal expenses and tips

Ready to book, or want it tailored?

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