

BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Huacarpay Lake

Cusco's classic wetland morning — the endemic Bearded Mountaineer in the tree-tobacco, endemic canasteros on the dry slopes, and reedbeds full of rails and rush-tyrants, 45 minutes from the city.

Photo © Jess Findlay

DURATION

Half day

DEPARTURE

Early morning from
Cusco

ELEVATION

~3,020 m

GROUP SIZE

1–4

FROM

\$185 per person

1 pax \$370 · 2 pax \$215 · 3+ pax \$185

Our Huacarpay Lake Birding Tour is the essential half-day for birders based in Cusco. Forty-five minutes south-east of the city, the Lucre–Huacarpay wetland system — a Ramsar site since 2006 — spreads its lagoons, reedbeds and wet meadows beneath dry, cactus-studded hillsides at about 3,020 metres. Because the lake sits well below Cusco itself, it doubles as one of the most comfortable ways to spend an acclimatisation day: flat, unhurried birding with two Peruvian endemics as the prize.

TARGET SPECIES

- **Bearded Mountaineer**
Many-colored Rush-Tyrant
Plumbeous Rail
Cinnamon Teal
White-tufted Grebe
Cinereous Harrier
Giant Hummingbird
Yellow-winged Blackbird
Streak-fronted Thornbird
- **Rusty-fronted Canastero**
Wren-like Rushbird
Puna Teal
Yellow-billed Pintail
Puna Ibis
Aplomado Falcon
Black-tailed Trainbearer
Golden-billed Saltator
Andean Lapwing

· endemic to Peru

DAY BY DAY

Early morning — depart Cusco

We collect you at first light and drive 45 minutes south-east through Oropesa — Peru's bread capital — dropping gently to the Lucre basin so the sun is just reaching the reedbeds as we arrive. The early start catches the marsh at its most vocal.

The reedbeds

We work the cattail fringes for the wetland's characters: Wren-like Rushbird, the kaleidoscopic Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, Plumbeous Rail and Yellow-winged Blackbird, with Cinereous Harrier drifting low over the reeds. Patience at the reed edge is usually rewarded with point-blank views.

Open water & shorelines

From the causeways and viewpoints we scope the lagoons — Puna and Cinnamon Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, White-tufted Grebe, Puna Ibis, Andean Lapwing and Black-crowned Night-Herons at their roost — easy, comfortable scanning with the scope doing the work.

Tree-tobacco & hummingbirds

Then the main event: we check the flowering stands of tree tobacco for Bearded Mountaineer, the huge endemic hummingbird that rules them. Giant Hummingbird, Black-tailed and Green-tailed Trainbearers and Sparkling Violetear share the same flowers, so the vigil is never dull.

Dry slopes & Inca shores — return to Cusco

We finish on the arid hillside and lakeside terraces for Rusty-fronted Canastero, Streak-fronted Thornbird and Golden-billed Saltator, then drive back — with an optional stop in Oropesa for its famous chuta bread — reaching Cusco by early afternoon with the rest of your day free.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- Private transportation from Cusco
- Expert bilingual birding guide

NOT INCLUDED

- Meals
- Personal expenses and tips

Ready to book, or want it tailored?

wildandestours.com/huacarpay-lake-birding-tour/ · sales@wildandestours.com

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