

BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Inca Tern Photo Workshop

A full-day coastal photography workshop dedicated to Lima's most iconic seabird, the Inca Tern.

Photo © Alfredo Fernández

DURATION

Full day (7:00 AM–6:00 PM)

AVAILABILITY

Year-round

GROUP SIZE

1–5+

FROM

\$275

per person

1 pax \$550 · 2 pax \$330 · 3+ pax \$275

Our Inca Tern Photography Workshop is a full day on the Lima coast dedicated to a single bird — the Inca Tern, the most beautiful and photogenic seabird of the Humboldt Current, and one of the most sought-after subjects in South American wildlife photography. With its slate-grey plumage, blood-red bill and legs and the extravagant white 'moustache' curling back from each cheek, it is a portrait photographer's dream, and the rocky Lima coastline holds them in numbers at point-blank range. This workshop is built to get you frame-filling images of wild Inca Terns in beautiful light, whatever your level.

We work the coast around Chorrillos and the cliffs and islets of Lima's southern shoreline, where Inca Terns loaf, preen, court and fish just metres away. Because the birds here are relaxed and used to people, you can concentrate on the things that make a great bird image — catchlight in the eye, wingtip detail, the drape of that moustache, birds banking against the surf — rather than on getting close. Peruvian Pelicans, boobies, Red-legged and Guanay Cormorants, Blackish Oystercatchers and passing gulls and terns share the same rocks, so there is always something else to point the lens at between Inca Tern sessions.

TARGET SPECIES

Inca Tern (primary focus)

· endemic to Peru

DAY BY DAY

7:00 AM — Hotel or airport pickup

We collect you from your Lima hotel (or the airport) in a private vehicle and drive down to the coast. Starting early gives us the soft morning light and the calmest conditions of the day.

8:00 AM — Orientation

Over the first coffee we talk through the plan for the day, the behaviour of the Inca Terns and the settings that work best for them. We check your camera setup and dial in a starting point for exposure and autofocus before the first birds.

9:00–11:00 AM — First photo session

The main morning session on the rocks with wild Inca Terns at close range — portraits, preening, courtship and birds lifting off against the surf. Your guide works alongside you, fine-tuning composition and settings shot by shot.

11:00 AM — Coffee break & image review

We pause for coffee and look back through the morning's take together, picking out what is working and what to push further. It's a chance to rest the shutter finger and reset for the next session.

11:30 AM–1:00 PM — Second session

Back out for a second session focused on behaviour and stronger compositions — flight, interaction and framing the birds against clean backgrounds and the ocean. We change position to work new angles and light as the sun climbs.

1:00 PM — Lunch at a seaside restaurant

We break for a relaxed lunch at a seafood restaurant on the coast, with time to recharge and talk photography. The midday light is harsh anyway, so it's the ideal time to be off the rocks.

2:00–3:30 PM — Editing & post-processing

An unhurried session going over editing and post-processing on your own images, from culling and cropping to bringing out detail in the plumage and that red bill. You leave knowing how to finish the files you've shot, not just capture them.

3:30 PM — Third photo session

As the afternoon light softens we head back out for a final session, using the warmer, lower sun for a different look — rim-lit birds, richer colour and long shadows across the rocks.

6:00 PM — Return to Lima

We pack up as the light goes and drive you back to your hotel in the evening — card full and, usually, already planning the edit.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Pickup/drop-off
- Private transportation
- Exclusive location access
- Lunch
- Professional photography guidance

NOT INCLUDED

- Personal camera equipment
- Flights
- Accommodation

Ready to book, or want it tailored?

wildandestours.com/inca-tern-photo-workshop/ · sales@wildandestours.com

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