



BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Lomas de Lachay

A fog-fed desert reserve with four Lima endemics, 100 km north of the city.

Photo © Alfredo Fernández

DURATION

Full day

DEPARTURE

Early morning from
Lima

DISTANCE

~100 km north of Lima

GROUP SIZE

1–5+

FROM

\$275

per person

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

Our Lomas de Lachay birding tour is the finest fog-oasis birding day trip from Lima, leading into one of the last and best-preserved lomas ecosystems in Peru. Just 105 km north of the capital — an easy two- to two-and-a-half-hour drive up the Panamericana Norte into Huaura Province — the Reserva Nacional de Lomas de Lachay rises from the coastal desert as a true fog oasis, watered not by rain but by the Pacific garúa that drifts inland off the sea. For anyone searching for Lomas de Lachay bird watching or a birdwatching tour near Lima, Peru, this is the day we recommend first.

The day unfolds as a journey through habitats. We begin outside the reserve, birding the irrigated farmland and fields along the approach — good ground for open-country species like the Peruvian Thick-knee — before we enter the Reserva Nacional de Lomas de Lachay itself. Inside, we work slowly up through the reserve's succession of transition zones and ecosystems, from bare lower desert into the fog-fed lomas and its cactus scrub. And while Lachay is best known for its green season — roughly June to November, when the Pacific garúa rolls in and the hills bloom with wildflowers — it is a rewarding birding day trip from Lima year-round: every season has its own light, mood and specialities, and the drier months are every bit as fascinating in their own right.

TARGET SPECIES

- Coastal Miner
- Raimondi's Yellow-finch
 - Least Seedsnipe
 - Peruvian Thick-knee
 - Peruvian Meadowlark
 - Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle
 - Mountain Parakeet
 - Oasis Hummingbird
- Thick-billed Miner
- Cactus Canastero
 - Tawny-throated Dotterel
 - Burrowing Owl
 - Variable Hawk
 - Andean Tinamou
 - Peruvian Sheartail

· endemic to Peru

DAY BY DAY

Early morning

We leave Lima before first light and drive about 100 km north up the Panamericana Norte, reaching the reserve in roughly two hours. In the fog season the garúa often still hangs over the hills as we arrive — just the conditions we want.

Agricultural fields (outside the reserve)

Just outside the reserve we bird the irrigated farmland and hedgerows along the approach, the best open-country habitat of the day. Here we look for Peruvian Thick-knee, Peruvian Meadowlark, Long-tailed Mockingbird and Burrowing Owl before we head in.

Desert & transition zone

Inside the reserve the bare lower desert climbs into the fog-fed transition zone, where the first green vegetation appears. This is prime ground for the endemic Coastal and Thick-billed Miners, with Least Seedsnipe and the elegant Tawny-throated Dotterel on the open flats.

Fog forest core

At the heart of the reserve the lomas thicken into green fog forest, its richest habitat, where we walk a gentle waterhole trail as birds come in to drink. We watch for Raimondi's Yellow-Finch in the grassy openings, along with Oasis Hummingbird, Peruvian Sheartail and Andean Tinamou.

Cactus Ecosystem

We finish in the columnar-cactus scrub, home to the endemic Cactus Canastero and other dry-country specialists. Raptors such as Variable Hawk and Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle often ride the thermals overhead before we begin the drive back to Lima.



The Lomas de Lachay fog oasis turned green during the wet season, Lima, Peru

Photo © Alfredo Fernández

Ready to book, or want it tailored?

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