



BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Machu Picchu Birding Tour

Four days across the best of Cusco — the Sacred Valley, the Abra Málaga pass and the cloud forest of Machu Picchu.

Photo © Carlos Calle

DURATION

4 days / 3 nights

DEPARTURE

From Cusco or
Ollantaytambo

ELEVATION

~2,000–4,316 m

GROUP SIZE

2–4 (minimum 2)

PRICE

On request

Our Machu Picchu Birding Tour turns the world's most famous ruin into a four-day birding journey across the best of the Cusco region — the Sacred Valley, the legendary Abra Málaga road and the cloud forest of the Machu Picchu Historic Sanctuary itself. Rather than a rushed day-trip, it strings together three of southern Peru's richest birding landscapes into one unhurried loop, pairing a guided visit to the citadel with dedicated birding at every stop. For anyone searching for a Machu Picchu birding tour that is as much about the birds as the archaeology, this is the complete Cusco endemic experience — and every site comes with its own free downloadable checklist.

TARGET SPECIES

- Royal Cinclodes
- Bearded Mountaineer
- Cuzco Brushfinch
- Marcapata Spinetail
- Golden-headed Quetzal
- Torrent Duck
- Sword-billed Hummingbird

- White-browed Tit-Spinetail
- Inca Wren
- Masked Fruiteater
- Andean Cock-of-the-rock
- Green-and-white Hummingbird
- White-capped Dipper
- Andean Motmot

· endemic to Peru

DAY BY DAY

Day 1 — Sacred Valley

From Cusco we drop into the Sacred Valley, birding the highland lake of Piuray above Chinchero for Andean Goose, Puna Teal and Chilean Flamingo, the cloud-forest hummingbird sanctuary above Yanahuara for its endemic hummingbirds, and the Río Vilcanota around Ollantaytambo for Torrent Duck, Bearded Mountaineer, Inca Wren, Cuzco Brushfinch and a first haul of Cusco endemics. Overnight in Ollantaytambo.

Day 2 — Abra Málaga

A full day crossing the Abra Málaga pass above Ollantaytambo, working the elevational bands from humid cloud forest up through Polylepis woodland to the 4,316 m puna. The queñua holds the critically endangered Royal Cinclodes and White-browed Tit-Spinetail, with mountain-tanagers, thistletails and hummingbirds along the way, before we return to the valley for the night.

Day 3 — Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes

Take the morning train from Ollantaytambo down the Urubamba gorge to Aguas Calientes, birding the river and lower cloud forest on arrival for Torrent Duck, White-capped Dipper, Andean Cock-of-the-rock and the endemic Inca Wren. Afternoon and dusk birding the gorge and forest edges around town, with a chance of Golden-headed Quetzal. Overnight in Aguas Calientes.

Day 4 — Machu Picchu

A guided visit to the citadel at its quietest, combined with birding the sanctuary's upper cloud forest — Masked Fruiteater, Golden-headed Quetzal, Cuzco Brushfinch, tanagers and hummingbirds — before the return train to Ollantaytambo and transfer to Cusco.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Private transport and rail (Ollantaytambo—Aguas Calientes)
- Expert bilingual birding guide
- Lodging (3 nights)
- Machu Picchu entrance and bus
- Breakfasts

NOT INCLUDED

- Some meals
- Personal expenses and tips

Ready to book, or want it tailored?

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