



BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Marcapomacocha & Ticlio

The classic Diademed Sandpiper-Plover day trip from Lima — high-puna cushion bogs above 4,500 m and the rarest of Andean waders.

DURATION

Full day (~14 hours)

DEPARTURE

Pre-dawn from Lima

ELEVATION

~4,000–4,800 m

GROUP SIZE

1–4

FROM

\$275

per person

1 pax \$660 · 2 pax \$365 · 3+ pax \$275

Our Marcapomacocha birding tour is the classic high-Andes day trip from Lima, and the single most reliable place on Earth to find the exquisite Diademed Sandpiper-Plover. In a few hours we climb from the coast to the roof of the central Andes, crossing the Ticlio pass — one of the highest road crossings in the world at nearly 4,800 metres — to spend the morning working the cushion bogs and glacial lakes of the Marcapomacocha plateau, at the edge of the Junín puna above 4,500 metres. It is a long, thin-air day, but the target birds are as good as high-Andean birding gets.

TARGET SPECIES

- Diademed Sandpiper-Plover
- Olivaceous Thornbill
- Dark-winged Miner
- Grey-breasted Seedsnipe
- Silvery Grebe
- Andean Condor
- White-bellied Cinclodes
- Black-breasted Hillstar
- Junín Canastero
- Giant Coot
- Puna Ibis
- Andean Goose

• endemic to Peru

DAY BY DAY

Pre-dawn — depart Lima up the Central Highway

We leave Lima at around 3:00 AM and drive up the Carretera Central in the dark, climbing steadily out of the coastal desert into the high Andes. Timing the drive this way puts us on the puna at first light, when the bogs are at their most active and the wind is still down.

The Ticlio pass

We cross the Ticlio pass at nearly 4,800 metres — one of the highest road crossings anywhere in the world — pausing for the thin air and to scan the first high-Andean specialties. From here the road drops onto the Marcapomacocha plateau and its lakes and bogs.

The cushion bogs (bofedales)

We work the bofedales on foot, slowly and quietly, for the day's star birds — the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover and the critically endangered White-bellied Cinclodes, both cushion-bog specialists. Olivaceous Thornbill, Grey-breasted Seedsnipe and Andean waterfowl feed among the cushions, and your guide knows exactly which flushes hold territories.

Lakes & open puna

We scan the glacial lakes and surrounding puna for Giant Coot, Silvery and White-tufted Grebes, Puna Ibis, Black-breasted Hillstar, Dark-winged Miner and Junín Canastero, with Chilean Flamingos on the shallows and Andean Condors along the ridgelines. This is big, wild high-Andean scenery, and the birding stays productive all morning.

Afternoon — descent to Lima

In the early afternoon we begin the long descent back down the Central Highway toward the coast, dropping through the elevational zones as the puna gives way to desert. We arrive back in Lima in the evening.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- Private transportation from Lima
- Expert bilingual birding guide
- Boxed breakfast and lunch

NOT INCLUDED

- Personal expenses and tips



Pair of White-bellied Cinclodes on a puna bog

Ready to book, or want it tailored?

wildandestours.com/marcapomacocha-birding-tour/ · sales@wildandestours.com