



BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Pantanos de Villa & Pucusana

Three coastal ecosystems in one day — private south-coast wetlands, a Pucusana boat trip, and the Azpitia Valley. Prefer Pantanos de Villa? Choose it when you book.

Photo © Jean Paul Perret

DURATION

Full day

DEPARTURE

Early morning from Lima

GROUP SIZE

1–5+

FROM

\$275 per person

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

Our Pantanos de Villa & Pucusana birding tour is the most complete birding day trip from Lima — three coastal ecosystems in a single day, just south of the city. It pairs the coastal wetlands of Lima's south shore — including a private wetland reserve our groups have special access to — with the Humboldt-Current seabird cove of Pucusana and the desert scrub of the Azpitia Valley, so one full day samples freshwater marsh, open ocean and dry valley in a single loop. For anyone searching for a Pantanos de Villa birding tour, a Pucusana boat trip, or simply the best full-day birdwatching near Lima, this is the tour that shows you the widest cross-section of the region's birds.

The wetland leg of the day centres on the coastal lagoons of Chilca — a quiet stretch of reedbed, marsh and saltflat a few minutes down the Panamericana from Pucusana — and, best of all, a small private wetland reserve inside a gated seaside community that our groups have special access to. Almost undisturbed, it is the most reliable place we know anywhere for the jewel-like Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, often at arm's length, with Wren-like Rushbird, Plumbeous Rail and Least Bittern in the reeds, Great and Pied-billed Grebes, Puna Teal, White-cheeked Pintail and Chilean Flamingo on the water, and migrant shorebirds, gulls and terns trading along the shore. Heading straight south also skips Lima's city traffic — more of the morning with binoculars up. And if you would rather bird the classic reserve, just say so when you book: Pantanos de Villa — Lima's Ramsar site, with 207 species on its eBird list and a free checklist below — remains available as the wetland stop on request, at no extra cost.

TARGET SPECIES

Great Grebe	Pied-billed Grebe
Cinnamon Teal	White-cheeked Pintail
Andean Duck	Gray-hooded Gull
Peruvian Pelican	Peruvian Booby
Guanay Cormorant	Many-colored Rush-Tyrant
Wren-like Rushbird	Plumbeous Rail
Least Bittern	Peruvian Thick-knee
Humboldt Penguin	Inca Tern
• Surf Cinclodes	Red-legged Cormorant
Harris's Hawk	

· endemic to Peru

DAY BY DAY

Dawn at the coastal wetlands

We begin at first light in the wetlands of Lima's south coast: a private reserve inside a gated seaside community that our groups have special access to, and the lagoons of Chilca. Walking flat tracks beside the reedbeds while the marsh is at its most active, we look for Many-colored Rush-Tyrant — nowhere shows it better — plus Wren-like Rushbird, Least Bittern and Plumbeous Rail, with grebes, waterfowl and Chilean Flamingo out on the open water. Prefer to start at Pantanos de Villa instead? Just tell us when you book.

Pucusana & the island boat trip

From the wetlands it is only a few minutes to the fishing town of Pucusana, where we take a boat around its bay and island for the full Humboldt-Current seabird show. Inca Tern, Peruvian Booby, Guanay and Red-legged Cormorants, Peruvian Pelican and the endemic Surf Cinclodes are all likely, with a chance of Humboldt Penguin, storm-petrels offshore and the endangered Marine Otter.

Lunch on the coast

We break for lunch at a local restaurant, usually with fresh seafood straight off the boats. It's a chance to rest and run through the morning's list before the afternoon stop.

A quick stop in the Azpitia Valley, then Lima

We finish with a quick stop inland in the Azpitia Valley along the Río Mala, a green mix of farmland and desert scrub with a different community of birds — the same short valley visit we used to make in the Lurín Valley, relocated to quieter Azpitia. We look for doves, Amazilia and Oasis Hummingbirds, Long-tailed Mockingbird, Scrub Blackbird and dry-country seedeaters before beginning the drive back to Lima.

Ready to book, or want it tailored?

wildandestours.com/pantanos-de-villa-pucusana/ · sales@wildandestours.com

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