



BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Pelagic Birding

A full offshore day up to 30 nautical miles into the Humboldt Current, with chumming for storm-petrels and albatrosses.

Photo © Jean Paul Perret

DURATION

~7 hours offshore

DEPARTURE

4:30 AM from Lima

RANGE

Up to 30 nautical miles

GROUP SIZE

1-6

FROM

\$605

per person

1 pax \$1,980 · 2 pax \$1,045 · 3 pax \$770 · 4+ pax \$605

Our Pelagic Birding tour is the real thing — a full offshore day on the Humboldt Current, out to as far as 30 nautical miles from the Peruvian coast, in search of the albatrosses, petrels and storm-petrels that almost never come within sight of land. The cold, nutrient-rich water off central Peru is one of the most productive seabird systems on the planet, and this trip is built for serious listers and photographers who want the deep-water specialities, not just the inshore seabirds. We leave Lima at 4:30 AM, drive an hour south to the fishing port of Pucusana, and board a private, properly equipped boat for around seven hours at sea.

The heart of the day is the pelagic zone and the chumming session, roughly 25 nautical miles out, where a slick of fish oil and scraps pulls the tubenoses in to the boat. This is where Peru's albatrosses appear — Waved, Salvin's and Buller's, and in the cooler months Chatham and Black-browed — gliding in on stiff wings alongside Southern and Northern Giant-Petrels and Southern Fulmar. Storm-petrels patter over the slick in numbers: Wilson's, Elliot's, the sought-after Ringed (Hornby's), Markham's, Wedge-rumped and Black, while Cook's, Galápagos and White-chinned Petrels, Buller's, Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters and the tiny Peruvian Diving-Petrel work the swell around us.

TARGET SPECIES

Humboldt Penguin	Inca Tern
Peruvian Booby	Peruvian Pelican
Guanay Cormorant	Blackish Oystercatcher
• Surf Cinclodes	Sooty Shearwater
Pink-footed Shearwater	Wilson's Storm-Petrel
Sabine's Gull	Chilean Skua
Parasitic Jaeger	Waved Albatross
Hornby's Storm-Petrel	Markham's Storm-Petrel
Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel	Salvin's Albatross
Buller's Albatross	

· endemic to Peru

DAY BY DAY

4:30 AM — Hotel pickup in Lima

We pick you up from your Lima hotel well before dawn and drive an hour south to Pucusana, timing our arrival for first light and calm early-morning seas. An early start is essential — it buys us the full working day offshore and the best sea conditions.

~5:30 AM — Board at Pucusana

At the harbour we board a private, fully equipped boat with safety gear exceeding Peruvian maritime requirements and set out across the sheltered bay. We warm up on the inshore seabirds — Inca Terns, boobies, cormorants, Peruvian Pelican and South American Sea-lions — as we clear the islands.

Morning — out through the coastal zone

We work the Pucusana coast and islands, then point the bow west and run out through the coastal zone into progressively deeper water. Shearwaters, Peruvian Diving-Petrels and the first storm-petrels start to appear as the water changes colour beneath us.

Midday — the pelagic zone & chumming (~25 nm)

Around 25 nautical miles out we reach the true pelagic zone and put out a chum slick to draw the tubenoses to the boat. This is the climax of the day — albatrosses banking in, storm-petrels pattering over the oil and, with luck, scarce petrels and a South Polar Skua — with time to photograph them at close range from a drifting boat.

Afternoon — the long run back

We turn for home in the early afternoon, birding steadily on the way in as the deep-water species give way to the coastal ones. The return leg often turns up birds we missed on the way out, so the scanning never really stops.

Late afternoon — Pucusana Islands & back to Lima

We finish by working the Pucusana Islands and their sea-lion colonies before docking, after roughly seven hours at sea. From the port it is about an hour back to your Lima hotel, arriving in the late afternoon.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- A snack (water, crackers, fruit)

NOT INCLUDED

Ready to book, or want it tailored?

wildandestours.com/pelagic-birding/ · sales@wildandestours.com

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