



BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Piuray Lagoon

A half-day at Cusco's high-Andean wetland — grebes, teal, ibis and reed-dwellers, back in the city by early afternoon.

Photo © Alfredo Fernández

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DURATION	DEPARTURE	ELEVATION	GROUP SIZE
Half day	Early morning from Cusco	~3,700 m	1-4

FROM

\$175

per person

1 pax \$355 · 2 pax \$200 · 3+ pax \$175

Our Piuray Lagoon Birding Tour is the perfect half-day introduction to high-Andean wetland birding from Cusco. Just an hour from the city, across the patchwork farmland of the Chinchero plateau, Lago Piuray is a beautiful glacial lake sitting at around 3,700 metres — a reliable, easy-to-bird site that packs a remarkable cross-section of Andean waterbirds, reed-dwellers and grassland species into a single morning. It is an ideal choice for travellers short on time, for anyone acclimatising to Cusco's altitude before a bigger trip, or as a gentle add-on to a Sacred Valley or Machu Picchu itinerary.

TARGET SPECIES

Silvery Grebe
Yellow-billed Teal
Slate-colored Coot
Andean Gull
Many-colored Rush-Tyrant
Andean Ibis
Burrowing Owl
Greenish Yellow-Finch

Puna Teal
Yellow-billed Teal
Common Gallinule
Plumbeous Rail
Puna Ibis
Spot-winged Pigeon
Brown-bellied Swallow

DAY BY DAY

Early morning — depart Cusco

We leave Cusco at first light and drive up onto the Chinchero plateau, reaching Lago Piuray in about an hour. The early start gives us the calm, well-lit conditions when the lake is busiest and the light is best for photography.

The open water

We work the lake edge and vantage points for the raft of Andean waterfowl — Puna, Yellow-billed and Andean Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, Slate-colored Coot, Silvery and White-tufted Grebes and Andean Gull, with Andean Goose and Chilean Flamingo in season. A scope does most of the work here, so it is easy, comfortable scanning.

Reedbeds & shoreline

Along the reed fringes we look for the skulkers — Plumbeous Rail, Common Gallinule and the dazzling Many-colored Rush-Tyrant — while Brown-bellied Swallows hawk low over the water. A little patience at the reed edge usually earns close views of the rush-tyrant.

Fields & margins

We then check the surrounding grassland, stone walls and eucalypts for Puna and Black-faced Ibis, Spot-winged Pigeon, Andean Flicker, Greenish Yellow-Finch and the Burrowing Owls that watch from the field margins. This is also the best area for passerines and the odd raptor quartering the fields.

Midday — return to Cusco

With the morning's birding done we make the short drive back across the plateau to Cusco, arriving by early afternoon. You are left with the rest of the day free — and your sightings logged to eBird if you'd like the record.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- Private transportation from Cusco
- Expert bilingual birding guide

NOT INCLUDED

- Meals
- Personal expenses and tips

Ready to book, or want it tailored?

wildandestours.com/piuray-lagoon-birding-tour/ · sales@wildandestours.com

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