

BIRDWATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA

# Sacred Valley Birding Tour

One day, three Sacred Valley hotspots — Piuray's high-Andean wetland, the Yanahuara hummingbird sanctuary, and Torrent Ducks on the Urubamba.

Photo © Alfredo Fernández

## DURATION

Full day

## DEPARTURE

Early morning from  
Cusco

## ELEVATION

~2,800–3,700 m

## GROUP SIZE

1–4

## FROM

**\$275**

per person

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

Our Sacred Valley Birding Tour is the finest single day of birdwatching within reach of Cusco — a first-light departure that trades the city for the high lakes, cloud-forest sanctuaries and river canyons of the Valle Sagrado de los Incas. In one relaxed day you climb and drop through nearly a thousand metres of elevation, moving between roughly 2,800 and 3,800 metres and, with that, between three completely different habitats: a high-Andean lake, a flowering hummingbird sanctuary and a torrent-fed river gorge. Each holds its own community of birds — from puna waterfowl to some of the most sought-after Peruvian endemics of the southern Andes — and the day suits first-time visitors, serious listers and photographers alike, travelling by private vehicle with an expert bilingual guide.

## TARGET SPECIES

- Torrent Duck
- **Green-and-white Hummingbird**
- Shining Sunbeam
- Tyrian Metaltail
- **Creamy-crested Spinetail**
- Red-crested Cotinga
- Blue-and-yellow Tanager
- Andean Gull
- Yellow-billed Teal
- Slate-colored Coot
- Puna Ibis
- Spot-winged Pigeon
- Many-colored Rush-Tyrant

- **Bearded Mountaineer**
- Giant Hummingbird
- Sparkling Violetear
- Green-tailed Trainbearer
- **Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch**
- White-browed Chat-Tyrant
- Peruvian Sierra-Finch
- Puna Teal
- Silvery Grebe
- Plumbeous Rail
- Andean Ibis
- Burrowing Owl
- Andean Swift

· endemic to Peru

## DAY BY DAY

### Early morning — depart Cusco

We leave Cusco at first light to catch the coolest, most active hours of the day, climbing gently onto the Chinchero plateau as the sun comes up over the ranges. The scenic hour-long drive is productive in itself, with Andean Flicker, sierra-finches and the odd roadside raptor on the way up.

### Piuray Lagoon

We spend the first part of the morning working the shoreline, reedbeds and surrounding fields of this high-Andean lake. Expect Andean Goose, Puna and Yellow-billed Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, Slate-colored Coot, Silvery and White-tufted Grebes, Andean Gull and Lapwing, Plumbeous Rail, Puna and Black-faced Ibis, Spot-winged Pigeon, Burrowing Owl and Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, with Chilean Flamingos often out on the water.

### Yanahuara Hummingbird Sanctuary

Descending into the Sacred Valley, we settle in at the feeders and flowering gardens of the Yanahuara sanctuary for close, photographable hummingbirds. Giant Hummingbird, Sparkling Violetear, Tyrian Metaltail, the endemic White-tufted Sunbeam and the namesake Sword-billed Hummingbird come in alongside the endemic Green-and-white Hummingbird, Bearded Mountaineer, Creamy-crested Spinetail and Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch, with Undulated Antpitta and Red-crested Cotinga at the forest edge.

### Lunch in the valley

We break for a relaxed lunch at a carefully chosen local restaurant in the Sacred Valley, with time to rest and run through the morning's list. Feeders and gardens around the restaurant often add a species or two while we eat.

### Pachar & the Urubamba River

In the afternoon we work the rapids where the Río Vilcanota (Urubamba) cuts through the Andean slopes, scanning the white water for Torrent Duck and Torrent Tyrannulet. The riverside scrub and Inca terraces add Andean Swift, Green-tailed Trainbearer, White-browed Chat-Tyrant, Blue-and-yellow Tanager, Peruvian Sierra-Finch and the giant, endemic Bearded Mountaineer, with a chance of Inca Wren and Cuzco Brushfinch in the thickets.

### Late afternoon — return to Cusco

As the light softens we make the comfortable drive back to Cusco, arriving before nightfall. Your guide logs the day's sightings to eBird, so you leave with a complete checklist of everything we found.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### INCLUDED

- Private transportation from Cusco
- Expert bilingual birding guide
- Lunch at a local restaurant

### NOT INCLUDED

- Personal expenses and tips

## Ready to book, or want it tailored?

[wildanddestours.com/sacred-valley-birding-tour/](https://wildanddestours.com/sacred-valley-birding-tour/) · [sales@wildanddestours.com](mailto:sales@wildanddestours.com)

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