

BIRD AND WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY IN
**MACHU PICCHU AND THE
MANU NATIONAL PARK
PERÚ**



6th to 18th September, 2026



On this tour, we travel to the heart of the Andes and the Peruvian Amazon to explore one of the richest birdwatching areas in the country and the whole world. The entire tour is structured along a linear itinerary of just 100 km in length, which we will travel slowly to enjoy its enormous biodiversity accompanied by local guides specialised in bird photography and identification.

THE MANU NATIONAL PARK

MACHU PICCHU

Wildlife watching, amazing scenery,
Andean and Amazonian culture, ethnography,
historical heritage.



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6th - 18th September 2026

Trip length: 13 days



Group size

6 travellers



Tour Leader

Yanina Maggiotto



Local guide

Steve Sánchez o Jeremy Cornejo



Official language

Spanish and English

- Place of origin-Cusco
- Machu Picchu
- Waykecha Biological Station
- Waykecha Biological Station
- Bamboo Manu Ecolodge
- Manu Biological Station
- Cock of the rock Lodge
- Cock of the rock Lodge
- Cusco
- Place of origin



Basic information about our destination

Republic of Perú



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•**Area of the country:** 1.285.215 km²

•**Regions visited in the country:**

Cusco and Madre de Dios (the Andes and the Amazon).

•**Language:** Peru is a multilingual country, where Spanish is the official language throughout the territory but coexists with a large number of indigenous languages.

•**Currency:** Nuevo Sol (current exchange rate 1 sol = 0,24€).

•**Climate:** The areas visited on the tour have a temperate and rainy climate; in mountainous areas, temperatures can drop to around 8°C, while in the low-lying Amazonian areas they are around 27°C. The trip takes place in the middle of the dry season.

•**Altitude:** The trip runs between Cusco, in the heart of the Andean mountain range at an altitude of 3.400 m, and the Manu National Park, in the Amazon, just 300 m above sea level.

•**Historial overview :** The Inca Empire was the last indigenous state in Peru until the 15th century. The following century saw the conquest of Peru, which became a viceroyalty of the Spanish Empire. Independence from the Spanish crown was declared on 28th July 1821.

Peru is one of the largest countries in South America and one of the richest in biodiversity. **The Andes mountain** range runs North to South of the country, separating the arid and desert landscapes of the Western Pacific coast from the endless forests and mighty rivers of the Amazon basin to the East. Peru's bird list exceeds 1,800 species, with a significant number of endemics and a surprising number of birds new to science described in recent years (at least 42 species since 1960). This figure makes it **the second most bird-diverse country in the world, surpassed only by Colombia.**

During this photography tour, we will travel from Cusco along the slopes of the Andes to the cloud and Amazonian forests of the famous Manu National Park. The Manu Road, which follows the park's boundaries, is one of the best places in South America for photographing birds and wildlife. We will visit several lodges and gardens with waterholes, feeders and hides, which provide excellent opportunities to photograph birds such as the fantastic Andean Cock-of-the-rock, King Vulture, Golden-headed Quetzal, various tanagers and hummingbirds, including the Rufous-Crested Coquette, Wire-crested Thorntail and Booted Racket-tail. We can also expect to see mammals in front of our cameras, including various species of monkeys.

As a cultural excursion, we will visit the famous 'Lost City of the Incas', situated high on a mountain in the cloud forest: Machu Picchu. This magnificent site is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.



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Day 1 Ciudad de origen–Cusco

Once in Cusco, reception at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation and dinner in Cusco. After a long intercontinental flight, we will spend our first day in Peru resting and acclimatising to the high altitude in this Andean city, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. After checking in, there will be time to rest and acclimatise to the altitude (3,400 metres above sea level).

Overnight stay at the Hotel Internacional San Agustín or similar in Cusco (3 stars).

Day 2 Machu Picchu

Today we will visit the famous “Lost City of the Incas”: Machu Picchu. This magnificent citadel is one of the Seven Wonders of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In the morning, our driver will take us to Ollantaytambo, from where we will take the train to the village closest to Machu Picchu, Aguas Calientes. The train follows the course of the Willkamayu–Urubamba River, offering spectacular views of the mountains, high plains and cloud forest.

In Aguas Calientes, we will take a bus to the citadel of Machu Picchu, situated atop a mountain in the cloud forest. The impressive ruins of Machu Picchu, which in Quechua means ‘old mountain’, were revealed to the scientific world in 1911, when the American archaeologist Hiram Bingham was guided to the site by local villagers.

Contemporary archaeologists believe that Machu Picchu was built as a sacred site and a retreat for the important Inca emperor Pachacútec. The Incas began construction of Machu Picchu around 1430 AD, in the classical Inca style, using polished stone walls laid without mortar. Its main structures are the Intihuatana, the Temple of the Sun and the Hall of the Three Windows. The citadel was a well-hidden and protected site, and was abandoned at the time of the Spanish conquest. Surprisingly, the conquistadors never found or plundered it.

Our visit to Machu Picchu will last approximately three hours. After the visit, we will return to Cusco by train and coach.

Overnight at the Hotel Internacional San Agustín or similar in Cusco.

Day 3 Wayquecha biological Station

The highlight of this photography tour is the famous Manu National Park. The park can be reached by car in approximately 3.5 hours, travelling north-east from Cusco. The journey to the park is spectacular, with beautiful views of Andean highlands dotted with potato fields, deep valleys with rivers and snow-capped mountain peaks completing the landscape. The road passes through several Andean communities and cultural sites.

In the small village of Paucartambo, farmers dressed in colourful traditional costumes sell freshly baked bread, cheese and fruit.

Along the way, we'll have opportunities to photograph some interesting Andean species, such as the Puna Ibis, the Andean Flicker and the Mourning Sierra-finch.

The 'Manu Highway' begins at the park entrance, at the Acjanaco Pass (3,560 metres above sea level), with puna grasslands and dwarf forest, and continues down the slopes of the Andes through cloud forest, ending in the Amazonian lowlands at 150 metres above sea level.

We will spend some time at the higher altitudes at the park entrance, where we will have the opportunity to photograph species such as the White-collared Jay, Grass-green Tanager, Golden-collared Tanager, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Masked Flowerpiercer, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Black-faced Brush-Finch, Pearled Treerunner, Andean Guan, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Tyrian Metaltail, amongst others.

Following the road downwards, we will reach the first lodge where we will spend the night in Manu National Park, situated at 3,000 metres above sea level in the Kosñipata Valley. This lodge forms part of a research centre called the Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station. The individual wooden cabins are comfortable, with private bathrooms and hot water. There is electricity at night and Wi-Fi in the dining room. The views from the cabins out over the surrounding valley are spectacular.

Several trails around the lodge wind through Andean grasslands, dwarf forest and cloud forest, and offer an excellent way to explore the area. The highlight is the canopy walkway, a high suspension bridge that allows us to view the forest from a completely different perspective. Around 200 species of birds have been recorded in the area. Flocks of various tanager species can be seen visiting the fruit trees, including the Golden-collared Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager and Grassgreen Tanager, amongst others.

In the gardens around the cabins and the dining room, there are hummingbird feeders offering good opportunities to photograph species such as the Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Tyrian Metaltail, Collared Inca, Violet-throated Starfrontlet, as well as other birds such as the Hooded Mountain Tanager, Masked Flowerpiercer, Black-faced Brushfinch, Andean Guan and Great Thrush.

Overnight at the Wayqecha Biological Station.



Day 4 Wayquecha biological Station

A full day of photography at the Wayquecha Biological Station.

We will start the day with a visit to the feeding stations for the Leymebamba Antpitta and two endemic antpittas: the Urubamba Antpitta and the Red-and-white Antpitta. The rest of the day we will work at the waterholes and feeding stations and in the station's gardens, making the most of the photographic opportunities offered by this cloud forest environment.

Overnight at the Wayquecha Biological Station.

Día 5 Bamboo Manu Ecolodge

Early in the morning we will continue our journey along the Manu road, descending towards warmer climates. Along the way we may encounter lowland and secondary forest species such as the Swallow Tanager, Turquoise Tanager, Green-and-gold Tanager, Blue-crowned Trogon, Bat Falcon and Speckled Chachalaca, amongst many others.

We will stop at the beautiful Manu Endemic Station, where excellent hummingbird species visit the feeding stations, such as the White-browed Hermit, Green Hermit, Pale-tailed Barbthroat, Great-billed Hermit, Wirecrested Thorntail, Gray-breasted Sabrewing and, on occasion, the Buff-tailed Sicklebill.

In the afternoon we will arrive at our next accommodation: the Bamboo Manu EcoLodge. We will spend the night in the lodge's simple but charming wooden cabins. All cabins have electricity and private bathrooms with cold-water showers. Wi-Fi is available in the dining area, where Delicious local meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are served.

In the lodge garden, we'll have good opportunities to photograph various species of tanagers at the fruit feeders, such as the Masked Tanager, Silver-beaked Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager and Turquoise Tanager, as well as other species such as the Red-capped Cardinal and Buff-throated Saltator.

Overnight at the Bamboo Manu EcoLodge.





Days 6,7,8 y 9 Manu Biological Station

We will set off in the morning from the Bamboo Manu EcoLodge towards our next photographic destination: the Manu Biological Station, formerly known as Villa Carmen, located near the village of Pillcopata.

The station, managed by Amazon Conservation, lies in a transition zone between the Andes and the lower Amazon, at an altitude of between 480 and 1,200 metres. It is considered a biodiversity hotspot within the buffer zone of Manu National Park and is home to a huge variety of species of butterflies, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals. Over 650 bird species have been recorded in the area.

The Manu Biological Station lodge features charming wooden cabins with mosquito nets, private bathrooms with hot showers, electricity, Wi-Fi and spectacular views of a small lagoon. In the spacious dining room, professional chefs prepare buffet-style meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Over the next few days we will explore the various trails around the Manu Biological Station, as well as the lagoon, where we will have excellent opportunities to observe and photograph species such as the Bluethroated Piping-Guan, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Purplish Jay, Red-capped Cardinal, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Ringed Woodpecker and the fascinating Hoatzin.

We will also be able to go on night walks in search of species such as the Spectacled Owl, Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, Black-banded Owl, Scissor-tailed Nightjar and Silky-tailed Nightjar.

We will visit a beautiful private reserve managed by the local community, Mirador Pico de Hoz. The reserve covers 6 hectares of reforested land, featuring gardens, footpaths and a small pond. There we will be able to photograph various species of hummingbirds at the feeding stations, such as the White-necked Jacobin, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Pale-tailed Barbthroat, White-bearded Hermit, Great-billed Hermit, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Long-billed Starthroat and the fantastic Butterfly Coquette.

The owner, Jonathan, has established a special relationship with an Amazonian Antpitta, as well as with an Undulated Tinamou, Goeldi's Antbird, White-browed Antbird, White-lined Antbird and a Russet-crowned Crake, which visit the feeders at certain times of the year.

This reserve is also the only place in Peru visited by the impressive King Vulture. From a hide we will have excellent opportunities to photograph this beautiful vulture, as well as other species such as the Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, Turkey Vulture and Black Vulture.

We will also visit Inka Amazonia, another garden with feeding stations run by a local family. This place offers excellent opportunities to photograph various species of hummingbirds, such as the White-browed Hermit, Gould's Jewelfront, Black-throated Hermit, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Blue-fronted Lancebill, the endemic Koepcke's Hermit and the tiny Rufous-crested Coquette.

The fruit feeders are visited by the Lemon-throated Barbet, Turquoise Tanager, Yellow-bellied Dacnis, Masked Tanager, Green Honeycreeper and Speckled Chachalaca.

There is a beautiful, spacious covered wooden terrace, furnished with tables and chairs, from where we can photograph the birds.

Overnight stays at the Manu Biological Station.



Days 10, 11 y 12 Cock of the rock Lodge

We leave our lodge early in the morning to make our way back along the Manu road to our next accommodation: Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge. Over the next two days we will be photographing around the lodge.

Along the way, we'll have further opportunities to observe and photograph species such as the Paradise Tanager, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Olive-backed Woodcreeper, Montane Woodcreeper, Montane Foliage-gleaner and Crested Quetzal, and perhaps even the Woolly Monkey.

The Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge, named after Peru's national bird: the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, is beautifully situated in the cloud forest, beside a river at 1,600 metres above sea level. The evergreen trees are covered in mosses, lichens and bromeliads. The lodge aims to have a minimal impact on the environment, whilst offering cosy and comfortable accommodation.

The individual wooden cabins feature comfortable beds with mosquito nets, private bathrooms and showers with hot water, but they do not have electricity. The cabins can be lit at night using solar-powered lamps. There is electricity and Wi-Fi in the dining area in the evenings, where you can charge phones, batteries, etc. In the open-plan dining area, delicious, high-quality meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are prepared by a professional chef.

From the dining room, we have magnificent views of the garden, which features hummingbird feeders and flowers visited by the Green Hermit, Violet-fronted Brilliant, Rufous-booted Racket-tail, Wire-crested Thorntail, and occasionally the spectacular Buff-tailed Sicklebill. Large-headed Capuchin Monkeys regularly visit the garden and even occasionally the dining room, in search of something tasty to take away. The window panels fitted with mosquito netting (without glass) can be opened to observe and photograph the birds in the garden.

We will visit the beautiful garden of Don Víctor and his family, the Manu Tanager Garden. The Fernández family is one of the few families living along the Manu road. Don Víctor is working hard to create a beautiful garden with hummingbird feeders and fruit feeders. His efforts are bearing fruit, as many species have already arrived at the feeders, such as the Versicoloured Barbet, Rusty-naped Tanager, Golden Tanager, Golden-eared Tanager, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, and hummingbirds such as the Long-tailed Sylph, Bronze Inca and Rufous-booted Racket-tail.

We will also visit a lek of the colourful Andean Cock-of-the-Rock near our lodge, where we can watch the males during their noisy courtship rituals to attract the females. The lek is situated near the road and features a covered wooden terrace. We will also be able to visit the river near the lodge, which is regularly visited by the spectacular Torrent Duck, offering excellent photo opportunities.

Overnight stays at the Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge.



Día 12 Cock of the rock Lodge-Cusco

We will leave our lodge early and make several photo stops along the way back to Cusco. We will have further opportunities to photograph species such as the Golden-headed Quetzal, Crested Quetzal, White-eared Solitaire, Barred Fruiteater, Blue-banded Toucanet, Hooded Mountain Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Golden-collared Tanager, Inca Jay, Black-and-chestnut Eagle, and many more.

Overnight at the Hotel Internacional San Agustín or similar in Cusco.

Días 13 Cusco

Our driver will collect you from your hotel and take you to Cusco Airport, marking the end of the tour.





€ Price

€5.990,00/person

Minimum group size
of 4 people

€5.120,00/person

Maximum group
size of 6 people

Reservation deposit and payment

Reservation deposit: 1.350,00 €

Final payment: see section below
"Booking Terms and Conditions"

Price included

- Transfers between the hotel and the airport
- Accommodation in hotels and lodges as described in the itinerary
- Meals (except in the city of Cusco)
- Drinking water always available in the minivan and at the lodges
- Private vehicle (minivan) with driver and air conditioning
- Professional guide specialising in bird and wildlife photography
- Professional cultural guide at Machu Picchu
- Entrance fees to Manu National Park, local gardens, and lek
- Entrance fees and transfers to Machu Picchu

Price does not included

- International flights and taxes
- Domestic flights and taxes (Lima – Cusco, Cusco – Lima)
- Meals in Cusco
- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages
- Personal expenses (laundry, phone calls, etc.)

Reservation Deposit

- A non-refundable deposit of 1.350,00 € is required to confirm your reservation in March.
- Final payment deadline: May 2nd.
- Important Note: The tour departure is guaranteed with a minimum of 4 participants. Please wait for our confirmation before booking your flight. We will confirm the tour 5 months prior to the departure date.
- If the tour cannot proceed due to insufficient participants, we will refund the 1.250,00 € deposit you paid to confirm your reservation. (€100 non-refundable management fee)

Cancellation and refund policy

The 1.350,00 € booking deposit is non-refundable, except in the case of tour cancellation by Wild Spain Travel, as mentioned above.

If you decide to cancel your travel plans, the refund will be as follows:

2-4 months prior - 60% refund

2-1 month prior - 40% refund

Less than 30 days prior - No refund

If you decide to return home before the end of the trip, please note that we will not be able to offer refunds or reimbursements for the unused portion of the tour.

⚙ Important notes about the tour

- We recommend booking a flight that departs on the evening of September 3rd or in the early morning of September 4th. This way, you'll arrive in Cusco in the morning and have time to rest and acclimatize to the altitude in this city.
- On days 2 and 3 of the programme, we will be staying at the Wayquecha Lodge at high altitude and in a very humid environment. Because of this, it tends to be cold inside the rooms at night, so we recommend wearing thermal clothing and warm pyjamas.
- On days 4, 5 and 6 of the programme, when we will be staying at the Cock of the Rock Lodge, it is important to bring external batteries (power Banks), camera batteries and sufficient memory cards, as this accommodation, like some others, will only have 4 hours of electricity per day.

Transport

- Road trip in a comfortable 9-seater van.
- Train and bus public transport for the Machu Picchu extension.

Accomodation

The hotel in Cusco is a 3-star establishment. The lodges in Manu National Park are comfortable and clean, with en-suite bathrooms and hot showers, except for the Bamboo Manu Eco Lodge, which only has cold showers.

Wi-Fi and electricity are available in the cabins or in the dining areas of the lodges for charging phones, camera batteries and other devices.

Advice

Please, get informed about the recommendation of register your details and the basic information of your trip in the Foreign Affairs Traveller´s Register system on your country.

Photography and wildlife observation equipment

-  Lightweight tripod.
-  Recommended lens: 70-200 mm and 500-600 mm.
-  Binoculars.

Clothing

-  Warm clothing and a raincoat are needed to protect against humidity and rain. Also to keep warm at night. Comfortable footwear with good grip. Temperatures can be rather low in the highest áreas we visit along the tour, while hotter temperatures are expected in the lower places we will visit in the Amazon basin.
-  Waterproof hiking boots.
Clothing in discreet colours. Comfortable, lightweight, long-sleeved clothing should be prioritised to protect the skin from insects in areas where mosquitoes may be abundant. A mosquito net can also be used to protect the face from mosquito bites.
-  A cap or wide-brimmed hat is important for protection from the sun's rays and insects.

Documents needed

- For Spanish citizens, a valid passport with a minimum validity of 6 months from the date of returning from the trip.
- For citizens with passports of other nationalities, please contact the respective consulates and embassies.
- Upon arrival in the country, you will be given the Andean Migration Card (TAM), which proves your entry into the country and must be kept until your departure.

Machu Picchu

- On all train services to Machu Picchu, you may carry a rucksack, bag or briefcase weighing no more than 5 kg and measuring no more than 157 cm (height + length + width).
- Tripods, selfie sticks or any other camera or mobile phone supports are prohibited.
- Drones are also prohibited and may not be flown over the site.
- All types of plastic containers, bags, and any type of food and drink containers made of disposable, non-biodegradable plastic, are forbidden.

Health

- Although no vaccinations are required to travel to Peru, it is recommended that you get vaccinated against yellow fever. For more information, please contact your national Health Authority.
- Bring any necessary medication for personal use. A first aid kit is recommended including paracetamol and diarrhoea tablets. Once at destination, avoid consuming unprocessed foods, drink bottled water and wash fruit and vegetables thoroughly.
- Include some warm clothing and a raincoat.
- Insects are abundant in jungle areas, so it is necessary to use mosquito repellents (there are several brands of repellents recommended by Foreign Health Systems; these should be purchased at a pharmacy after consulting a specialist). It is recommended to wear long-sleeved shirts and clothing that covers the extremities. Long socks and adjustable trousers with elastic ends at the ankles should be worn.
- It is important to rest on the first day to facilitate adaptation to the new time zone of the destination country. This way, you will arrive in Cusco in the morning and can enjoy a full day of acclimatisation to the altitude in this Andean city. Drinking plenty of fluids (non-carbonated), especially coca tea, and avoiding large, heavy meals will help prevent altitude sickness or 'soroche'.
- Instructions will be given for taking medication to help combat altitude sickness at the first stop of the trip, if necessary.

Electricity

The current is 220V/60Hz with type A/B/C plugs with flat or round pins, so a flat plug adapter is useful for charging our electrical devices. A power bank will be useful to charge the devices in remote places where electricity is not always available all day round.

Currency and money

The Peruvian currency is the Nuevo Sol, and the most important foreign currency is the US dollar, although euros can be exchanged in all cities. In any case, it is advisable to bring euros and credit cards (Visa, Dinners, American Express, etc.), which are accepted in most establishments and bank offices. Currency exchange offices are another option.

Our local guides may decide some slight changes on the programme in order to increase the likelihood of sighting and photographing the different target species throughout the trip.

Join Wild Spain Travel on this adventure to
one of the legendary destinations of the
Peruvian Amazon. A trip to be remembered
for a lifetime.

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