ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Peru

Central: Iquitos Endemics

6th September to 15th September 2023 (10 days)



Black-necked Red Cotinga by Adam Riley

Peru is one of the leading South American destinations in which to enjoy tropical Amazon rainforest. Our time in Iquitos will be divided between Allpahuayo Mishana, Explornapo and Muyuna Lodge. With an area species list of over 600 species, we shall certainly have our hands full with an amazing volume of exciting species!. While quite impossible to mention all the possible highlights, some of the major target species encompass Ancient Antwren, Allpahuayo Antbird, Nocturnal Curassow, Wattled Curassow, Rufous and White-winged Potoos, Pompadour Cotinga, Northern Chestnut-tailed Antbird,

Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, Castelnau's Antshrike, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Zimmer's Woodcreeper and Black-necked Red Cotinga, Dugand's Antwren, Pavonine Quetzal and Crested Eagle.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

IQUITOS ITINERARY

Day 1	**Arrive in Iquitos**
Day 2	**Allpahuayo Mishana (km 25 trails)**
Day 3	**Allpahuayo Mishana (km 28 trails) & transfer to ExplorNapo**
Days 4 & 5	**ExplorNapo Trails and Towers**
Day 6	**ExplorNapo to Iquitos**
Day 7	**Birding River Islands en route to Muyuna Lodge**
Days 8 & 9	**Muyuna Lodge Trails and Waterways**
Day 10	**Muyuna Lodge to Iquitos and depart**

THE TOUR ROUTE MAP…



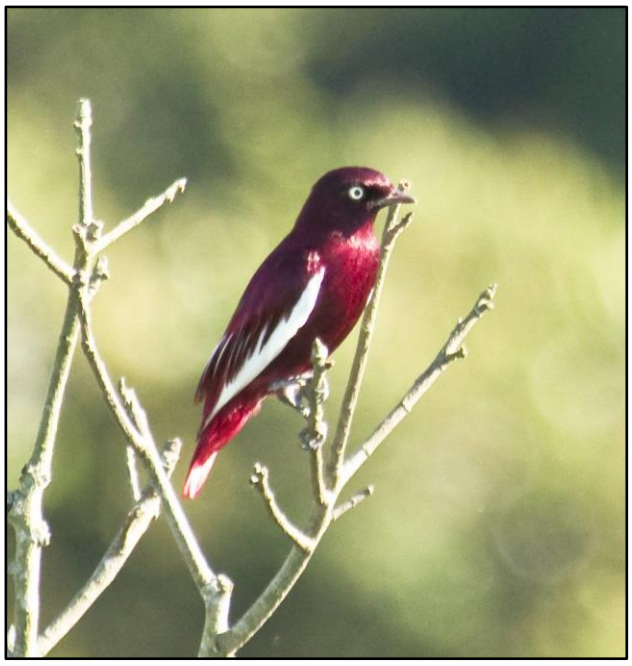
THE TOUR IN DETAIL…



Paradise Tanager by Forrest Rowland

Day 1: Arrive in Iquitos. Guests will be met at Iquitos airport and transferred to our accommodation. Lodging has been chosen for its proximity to birding sites, and to ensure as peaceful an environment as possible in the growing, thriving city of Iquitos. Now home to over 700 000 Peruvians, Brazilians, Ecuadorians and immigrants from across the continent seeking prosperity, Iquitos has been recognized as the fastest-growing city in Peru. While resource development and extraction are the main economy, tourism has quickly grown to become the third-largest producer in the region. With hundreds of miles of Amazonian wilderness in all directions, and dozens of eco-lodges, it's no wonder that this has become the hub of exploration and enjoying a real rainforest experience.

Day 2: Allpahuayo Mishana (km 25 trails). We will start out not far from the city of Iquitos at the Allpahuayo Mishana Nature Reserve. It protects a parcel of white-sand forest and the extreme endemism within this unique habitat was only fairly recently discovered, prompting this reserve to be established. We will make an early start in the hopes of seeing two rare and beautiful nocturnal species, the Rufous and the very difficult White-winged Potoos. During this morning's birding we will be searching in particular for those species that were discovered here at this very site: Iquitos Gnatcatcher, Mishana Tyrannulet, Allpahuayo Antbird and Ancient Antwren. Other highly localized species that we will be targeting this morning include the stunning Pompadour Cotinga, Brown-banded Puffbird, Northern Chestnut-tailed Antbird, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, Orange-crested Manakin, Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, Citron-bellied Attila, Cinnamon-crested Spadebill and Yellow-throated Flycatcher plus the 'Camparina' Flycatcher, a possibly undescribed species.



Pompadour Cotinga by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Day 3: Allpahuayo Mishana (km 28 trails) & transfer to ExplorNapo. While the first day's foray into the white sand forests of Allpahuayo Mishana hopefully provided views of all the endemics, we have another morning here, before our boatride downstream, to pick up and stragglers and search for other fine species seen in the mosaic forests, not restricted to White Sand. With luck and good weather, the list of possibilities might include White-throated Tinamou, Black-bellied Cuckoo, Black-

tailed and Amazonian Trogons, White-chested Puffbird, Brown Nunlet, Yellow-billed Nunbird, Yellow-billed, Paradise, and Great Jacamars, Red-necked, Scale-breasted, and Chestnut Woodpeckers, Mouse-colored, Pearly, and Cinereous Antshrikes, Plain-throated, Napo Stipple-throated, and Grey Antwrens, Yellow-browed, Black-faced, White-cheeked, and Common Scale-backed Antbirds, Ruddy Spinetail, Blue-crowned and White-crowned Manakins, and a score of lovely tanagers!



Black spotted Bare-eye by Dubi Shapiro

After this exciting start to our Amazonian birding, we will return to Iquitos and board our boats to head along the mighty Amazon River as we travel to ExplorNapo lodge. Along the river we may see Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns and will keenly scan the water for the two species of river dolphin found here: the Tucuxi and the amazingly pink coloured Amazon River Dolphin. We will arrive in the afternoon to our comfortable lodge and make the most of any daylight we have left! Once darkness descends we can head out in search of Northern Tawny-bellied Screech Owl, Crested Owl, Long-tailed Potoo and the area even boasts a slim chance at the mythical Nocturnal Curassow.

Days 4 & 5: ExplorNapo Trails and Towers. With more than two days to explore this renowned birding area, we are in for some seriously exciting action! There are nearly 600 species known from this small area – more than most countries! – and we are going to be inundated with birds of the deep Amazon. The key to experiencing the bird diversity here is sampling trails in both of the two main habitat types, the seasonally flooded Varzea forest and the higher and drier (and more hilly) Terra firme forests. Another must is spending time on the 500 meter long canopy walkway which will get us the eye level views of those canopy loving species that we normally have to crane our necks to 100 feet or more to glimpse from below!



Ochre-striped Antpitta by Adam Riley

With the characteristic song of the Screaming Piha as our soundtrack, we will head out in search of some of the most elusive but also most-wanted birds in the forest around ExplorNapo including the imposing Crested Eagle, Pavonine Quetzal, the striking Black-necked Red Cotinga, the shy Ochre-striped Antpitta and the canopy-loving Dugand's Antwren. With such a staggering bird list here it is impossible to list more than a few of the possible highlights but these could include Rufous Motmot, Collared and Chestnut-capped Puffbird, Lanceolated Monklet, Paradise, Purplish, Great and Yellow-billed Jacamars, Ivory-billed and Many-banded Aracari, Golden-collared Toucanet, Channel-billed and White-throated Toucans, a variety of parrots including Red-and-green Macaw, Black-headed Parrot and Orange-winged Amazon, a slew of

colourful tanagers such as Paradise, Turquoise, Opal-rumped and Opal-crowned, Black-faced, Yellow-bellied and Blue Dacnis, Green, Short-billed and Purple Honeycreeper, Lawrence's Thrush (arguably the world's greatest mimic) and the beautiful Spangled and Purple-throated Cotinga.

Manakins are always a favourite and these forests are particularly rich for that group with species including Golden-headed, Wire-tailed, Blue-crowned and Blue-backed. We are likely to run into some mixed feeding flocks that will contain up to 50 species in a single flock with many of the aforementioned species joining a dazzling array of woodcreepers, antwrens, antbirds and flycatchers! We will also be alert for an army ant swarm which can lead us to sightings of a number of the obligate swarm followers such as the incredible White-plumed Antbird, Bicolored Antbird and the beautiful Reddish-winged and Black-spotted Bare-eyes. We can even dream of seeing the near mythical Red-billed Ground Cuckoo in such situations.



Collared Puffbird by Clayton Burne

Day 6: ExplorNapo to Iquitos. No three days of birding are alike here and spending most of the day birding here, our list will be equally varied but completely different to the previous days. After spending much of the day on the trails, we will return downstream to Iquitos for the night.

Day 7: Birding River Islands en route to Muyuna Lodge. We depart Iquitos this morning heading to the comfortable Muyuna Lodge on the Rio Yanacayu. Travel time is somewhat dependent on the river level, but is typically in the order of 3 ½ hours. We will bird en route, seeing a number of commoner and widespread species such as Capped and White-necked Herons, Greater Yellow-headed and King Vultures, Western Osprey, Roadside Hawk, Black Caracara, Black Skimmer, Collared Plover, Neotropical Palm Swift, Ringed, Amazon and Green Kingfishers and various macaws and parrots overhead.



Paradise Jacamar by Dušan Brinkhuizen

After settling in to our lodge, we shall head out and bird the immediate surrounds where we may find the gorgeous Collared Puffbird, shy Rufous-necked Puffbird, Silvered and Plumbeous Antbirds, Blue-crowned and White-tailed Trogons, White-throated Toucan, Varzea Schiffornis, Rufous-capped Nunlet, Grey-chested Greenlet, Scaled Spinetail, Orange-fronted Plushcrown, Slate-coloured Hawk, Sungrebe, Short-tailed Parrot, Festive Amazon and Red-and-white Spinetail. We may also be particularly lucky to find a family group of Pygmy Marmoset, the New World's smallest primate. The primates here are of special interest,

with some 7 species of monkey likely! Tayra, Northern Tamandua, Paca, Green Acouchy and many others might turn up on a night walk, or one of outings here.

This evening we will head out for a spot of owling, where we are sure to find a selection of interesting nocturnal species such as Spectacled Owl, Great and Common Potoos, Ladder-tailed Nightjar or Paraque.



Bicolored Antbird by Forrest Rowland

Days 8 & 9: Muyuna Lodge Trails and Waterways. We have two full days to bird the Varzea forest around Muyuna Lodge. This lodge is now famous as the best place to see Wattled Currasow, although it will take some hard work to see this impressive cracid. We will of course rack up another huge list of birds today with many possibilities including elusive Zigzag Heron, garrulous Horned Screamer, Muscovy Duck (in their natural form!), ancient Hoatzin, bizarre-looking Boat-billed Herons, Rufous-capped Nunlet, Plain-breasted Piculet, Blue-cheeked and Bluish-fronted Jacamars, Scarlet-crowned and Gilded Barbets, Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Long-billed and Striped Woodcreepers, striking Point-tailed Palmcreeper, localized Black-tailed Antbird, Band-tailed Antbird, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Saturnine and Bluish-slate Antshrikes, Blue-chinned Sapphire, Rose-fronted Parakeet, Chestnut-capped Puffbird, Slender-billed Xenops, Amazonian Antshrike and Grey-chested Greenlet amongst so many more. A few of the less-frequently seen, though very possible, species we might hope to find include Cinereous and Undulated Tinamous, Little Cuckoo, Long-tailed Potoo, White-bearded and Needle-billed Hermits, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Black-banded Owl, and some other lovely species amongst the 400+ recorded on this small property!

One of the benefits of Muyuna Lodge is access not only to the specialized Varzea we focus on here, but also to the riverine and island-succession habitats. Biodiversity runs amok in the Amazon Basin, with no better example being the river island endemics – species so specialized as to their habitats that some only occur on river islands 2 to 5 years old, while other species only occur on islands more than 25 years of age. It's incredible! We will spend at least one highlight-packed morning, visiting a few islands of differing age and development looking for the likes of Sand-colored Nighthawk, Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Grey-breasted Crake, White-winged Parakeet, Festive Amazon, Dusky-billed Parrotlet, Castelnau's Antshrike, Leaden Antwren, Ash-breasted and Black-and-White Antbirds, Zimmer's Woodcreeper, Pale-legged, Pale-billed, and Lesser Horneros, Dark-breasted, White-



Festive Amazon by Dubi Shapiro

bellied, Plain-crowned, Parker's, and Red-and-White Spinetails, Brownish Elaenia, River Tyrannuet, Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, Riverside Tyrant, Oriole Blackbird, Orange-headed Tanager, Bicolored and Pearly-breasted Conebills, and several species of Seedeaters, as well as a number of Terns and Shorebirds!

Day 10: Muyuna Lodge to Iquitos and depart. After some final birding in the Amazonian lowlands, we will return to Iquitos by boat to connect with a flight to Lima.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 10;
- Bottled drinking water throughout;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Reserve entrance fees;
- All activities as mentioned in the itinerary; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- **ANY** flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls and
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

Special Notes:

- This Peru tour is designed to be an intensive birding experience for the dedicated birder and we will make every attempt to get good views of as many bird species as possible.
- This tour **DOES** require a good level of fitness. Participants should be in very good general health as much of the birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time. Should you have any physical limitations, please notify us in advance of departure.
- Kindly stick to 20 kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18lb) for hand luggage.
- Peru is a large country and there is great variety in the climate, mostly determined by altitude. While we time our tours to coincide with the relative 'dry' season, rain is always possible and you should bring adequate rain gear as well as an umbrella.
- Crime is not commonplace for tourists in Peru; however, it is prudent to exercise caution as you would for any travel destination. Do not unnecessarily flaunt cash and valuables and do not leave valuables exposed in the vehicle.
- We will be birding in some remote areas well away from modern medical facilities.
- The hotels are generally of a comfortable standard throughout.

ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include any airfares. Day 1 of the tour is set aside as an arrival day in Iquitos. The tour will conclude mid-morning on day 10 at Iquitos airport.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Jorge Chávez International Airport, Lima (IATA: LIM) is the main port of entry for international flights into Peru for this tour, and is serviced by most international airlines. Coronel Francisco Secada Vignetta International Airport (IATA: IQT) is the primary point of arrival and departure for this tour. Most international departures leave from Lima, necessitating a short internal flight. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**