Peru

Northern - Cordillera Azul to the Marañón Valley & Tumbes



Marvelous Spatuletail by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Northern Peru hosts an abundance of highly sought-after endemic avifauna which combined with spectacular scenery, makes for one of the worlds definitive birding destinations. Our specially crafted Northern Peru tour will seek out more than 50 endemics and several future endemic splits.

We begin with two of the worlds 'newest' and most rarely seen species, Scarlet-banded Barbet and Cordillera Azul Antbird. While no longer a dedicated expedition, the Plataforma area offers the chance at some spectacularly rare and attractive species.

We'll then explore the Tarapoto area, where we'll search for the tricky Dotted Tanager and rare Koepcke's Hermit. A side trip into the Amazon may turn up Yellow-billed jacamar and Scarlet-crowned Barbet before we head slowly northwards, searching for the highly localised endemics Masked Fruiteater, Painted Manakin and Mishana Tyrannulet before spending a good number of days in the brilliant, and little-known forests of Abra Patricia. Top bird species here include Bar-winged Wood Wren, Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher, Royal Sunangel, the scarce Yellow-scarfed and White-capped Tanagers and the enigmatic Long-whiskered Owlet.

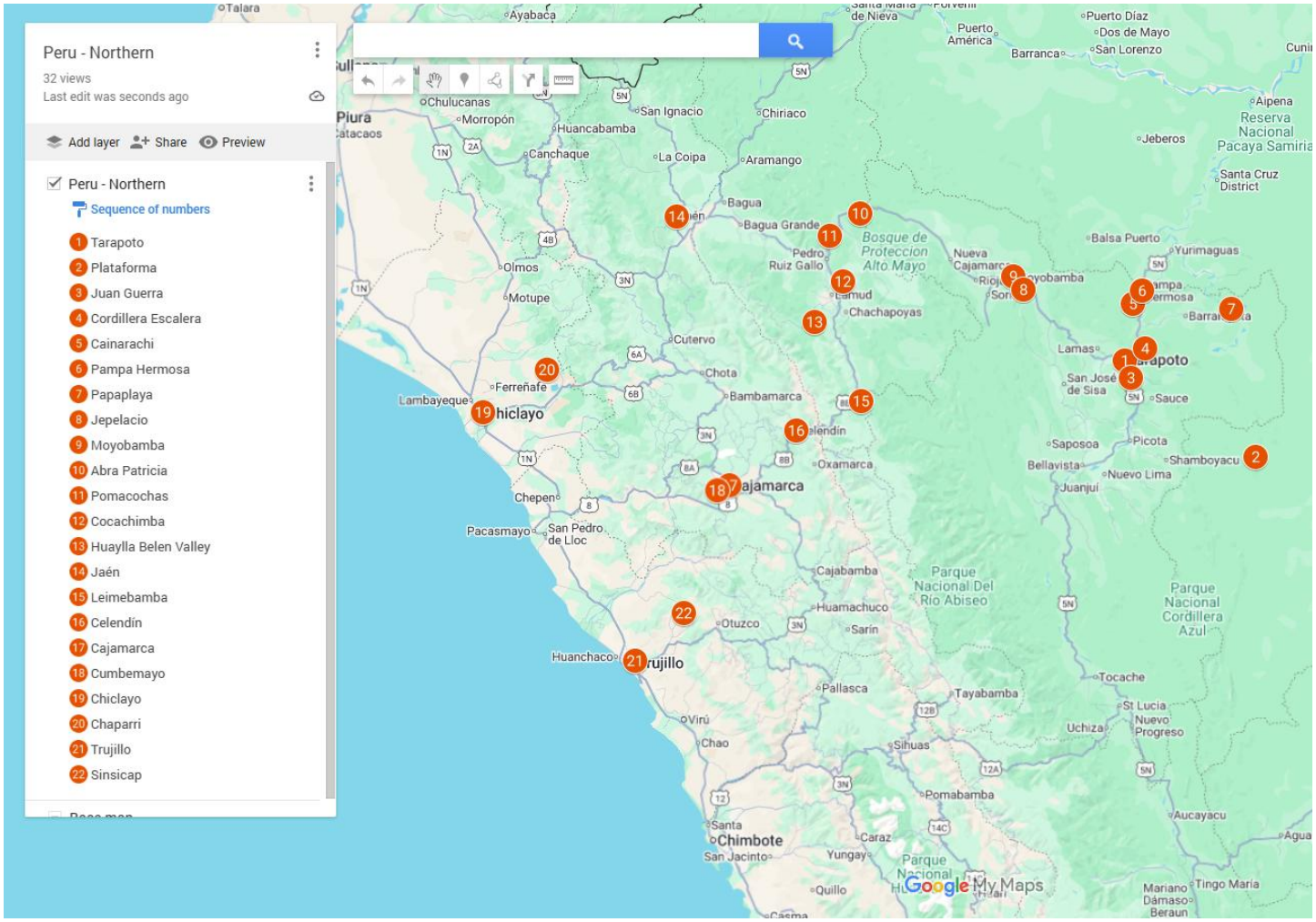
Near Cocachimba, we seek one of the great highlights of the trip, Marvelous Spatuletail! Heading into the drier Marañón Valley, we'll seek Little Inca Finch, Maranon Crescentchest and Maranon Spinetail. Coppery Metaltail

and the scarce Russet-mantled Softtail await at Abra Barro Negro before we descend once more into the stunning Marañón Valley searching for the beautiful Buff-bridled and Grey-winged Inca Finches and Yellow-faced Parrotlet. Near the town of Cajamarca, we are likely to add the rediscovered, Grey-bellied Comet, critically endangered Cajamarca Antpitta, and the dazzling Black Metaltail.

After Cajamarca, we journey to the Pacific Coast, stopping to search for the endemic Great Spinetail, Rufous Flycatcher and Peruvian Planctcutter en route. Having reached the coast, we travel north to our base at Chaparri, deep in the Tumbes region. From here, we shall explore several habitats, targeting White-winged Guan (with as little as 300 birds estimated to survive in the wild), near endemic Tumbes Hummingbird, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, beautiful Elegant Crescentchest and Cinereous Finch. We end the tour in Trujillo after searching for some of Peru's most poorly known endemics such as Russet-bellied Spinetail and Piura Chat Tyrant near Sinsicap.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Tarapoto, transfer to Bellavista (lower Plataforma Road)**
Day 2	**Bellavista to Plataforma**
Days 3 & 4	**Plataforma**
Day 5	**Plataforma to Tarapoto**
Day 6	**Tarapoto to Pampa Hermosa via Quebrada Upaquihua, Juan Guerra & Cordillera Escalera**
Day 7	**El Pongo to Tarapoto via Cainarachi & Papaplaya**
Day 8	**Tarapoto to Moyobamba via Jepelacio**
Day 9	**Moyobamba (Punta de Tahuishco, Morro de Calzada & Rioja)**
Day 10	**Moyobamba to Abra Patricia**
Days 11 & 12	**Abra Patricia (El Progreso, Yambrasbamba Valley & Owlet Lodge)**
Day 13	**Abra Patricia to Cocachimba via San Lorenzo**
Day 14	**Huaylla Belen Valley**
Day 15	**Cocachimba to Jaén**
Day 16	**Jaén (Tamborapa & Bosque de Yanahuanca) to Leimebamba**
Day 17	**Leimebamba & Rio Atuén**
Day 18	**Leimebamba to Celendín via Abra Barro Negro**
Day 19	**Celendín to Cajamarca (Rio Chonta)**
Day 20	**Cajamarca area (Cumbemayo & Jesus)**
Day 21	**Cajamarca to Chiclayo via Abra El Gavilán & San Pablo**
Day 22	**Chiclayo to Chaparrí via Bosque de Pomac & Santa Rosa**
Day 23	**Chaparrí**
Day 24	**Chaparrí to Trujillo via Casupe**
Day 25	**Day trip to Sinsicap & Cerro Campana, return to Trujillo & final departure**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Sequence of numbers
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Birding sites in detail



Scarlet-banded Barbet by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Tarapoto to Plataforma. Depending on time available to us, we may bird some of the diverse microhabitats. Interesting species may include Stripe-chested and Ornate Antwrens, Blue-rumped Manakin, Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater, Rose-fronted Parakeet, Rufous Casiornis, the gorgeous Band-tailed Manakin, as well as a few white sand forest specialities like Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin.

Plataforma. Since being discovered in 1996, the usual expedition to find the Scarlet-banded Barbet involved much hiking and remote camping, simply to reach the general location. Fortunately, a far easier site was found called Plataforma. Visiting Plataforma has become much easier over time, as roads have improved greatly, but even during sublime conditions (no rain), the 60km drive can take a while to cover.

We have time to target both Scarlet-banded Barbet and Cordillera Azul Antbird, as well as many other specialties of the area. We don't have to go far to reach the preferred habitat of the barbets. On this isolated ridge in the Cordillera Azul, one of the last ranges before the expanse of Amazonia begins, we will be quite literally surrounded by birds seldom seen on any tour, anywhere. While the barbet is the clear prize, numbering less than 1 000 individuals, there will be plenty of great birds, low and high, to keep us busy and make this remote camping experience downright extraordinary!

Recently observed species at this site include the 'Blue-cowled' form of Versicolored Barbet and 'Garlepp's form of Rose-fronted Parakeet (both likely splits), Jet, Golden-headed and Yungas Manakins (an amazingly disjunct, northern population), Fiery-throated, Scarlet-breasted & Scaled Fruiteaters, Andean Laniisoma (observed several times at this location!), Grey-tailed Piha, Roraiman Flycatcher, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Scaled Antpitta, Golden-headed Quetzal, Foothill Schiffornis, Red-necked Woodpecker, Subtropical Pygmy Owl, Curl-crested Aracari, Blackish Antbird, Slaty, Dot-winged, Rufous-rumped and Foothill Antwrens, Buff-tailed Sicklebill, Metallic-green, Blue-browed, Paradise and Saffron-crowned Tanagers, Chestnut-crowned Gnateater and Yellow-throated Spadebill, amongst many, many others.



Golden-headed Manakin by Adam Riley

Depending on weather conditions, we will also head out for some owling sessions, seeking some of the numerous nocturnal species such as Ferruginous



Dotted Tanager by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Pygmy, Foothill Screech, Black-banded, Band-bellied, Striped and Black-and-white Owls, and a chance for Long-tailed Potoo.

Quebrada Upaquihua. We will spend time exploring the drier forests of Quebrada Upaquihua in the Huallaga Valley. These isolated forest fragments hold a series of birds found only here (at least in Peru), such as Planalto Hermit and Rufous Cassiornis as well as other species with highly localised distributions like Ashy-headed Greenlet, Rusty-backed Antwren and Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin. The Critically Endangered Rio Mayo (San Martin) Titi Monkey is also found in the area.

Juan Guerra. The environs of Juan Guerra provide opportunities for White-browed Antbird, Stripe-chested Antwren, Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Great Antshrike, Mishana Tyrannulet, Tataupa Tinamou, Black-fronted Nunbird, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, Drab Water Tyrant, Squirrel Cuckoo, and Magpie Tanager.

Cordillera Escalera. The Cordillera Escalera is a forested ridge north of Tarapoto, and the last outlying ridge before the Amazonian lowlands. This ridge is home to some very localised species such as the endemic Koepcke's Hermit and the recently found Plumbeous Euphonia (seen on a previous Rockjumper tour here led by Rob Williams). We also have a chance of finding White-tipped Swift, White Hawk, Yellow-bellied & Dotted Tanagers, Red-stained Woodpecker, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Blackish Pewee, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Cliff Flycatcher, Great-billed Hermit, Blackish Nightjar, Gould's Jewelfront, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, White-necked Thrush, Silver-beaked Tanager and Golden-headed Manakin. With plenty of luck, we may come across some of the region's rarer denizens such as Yellow-cheeked Becard, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet or White-throated Woodpecker. The lower elevations in the area have more classic Amazonian avifauna and we will work our way over the ridge trying to find a good range of species from the Amazon too.

Cainarachi & Papaplaya area. The road between these two towns provides access to the Amazonian lowlands. Stand out species we'll be looking for include Yellow-billed Jacamar, Hoatzin, Red-breasted Meadowlark, Pale-eye Blackbird, Three-striped Flycatcher, Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper and Scarlet-crowned Barbet.

Jepelacio. Well spend a full day exploring this remote area beyond the town Jepelacio in search of the rarely seen, endemic Masked Fruiteater and Ash-throated Antwren. Other species we may encounter include specialties such as Painted Manakin, Ochre-fronted and Rusty-tinged Antpittas, Mishana Tyrannulet, and Scaly-breasted Fruiteater.



Rufous-crested Coquette by Rob Williams



Royal Sunangel by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Moyobamba. We'll visit a lodge with several good hummingbird feeders that have recorded over 25 species - it really is armchair birding at its best. Rufous-crested Coquette is certainly one of the numerous highlights here, as is White-chinned Sapphire, Black-throated Hermit, Black-throated Mango and Grey-breasted Sabrewing. We shall also stretch our legs around the garden, where we may find the localised endemic Mishana Tyrannulet and Huallaga Tanager along with the recently described Varzea Thrush.

Punta de Tahuishco. We visit these scenic gardens where several common species can be found such as Lettered Aracari, Pale-breasted Thrush, Gilded Barbet, Lafresnaye's Piculet, Cobalt-winged Parakeet, Yellow-browed Tody-flycatcher, Blue-necked and White-lined Tanagers, Riparian Parrotlet and possibly Point-tailed Palmcreeper.

Morro de Calzada. This site offers another completely new set of birds to the previous locales. Species of the scrubby habitat include Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Black-billed Seed Finch and Pale-eyed Blackbird and Point-tailed Palmcreeper, while the forests could turn up Buckley's Forest Falcon, Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Mishana Tyrannulet, White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant and the stunning Fiery-capped Manakins! Perhaps the highlight bird here is the recently described Painted Manakin, endemic to the Loreto and San Martin departments of Peru.

Rarer species possible here include Spot-winged Parrotlet, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Painted, Green and Blue-rumped Manakins, Chestnut-throated Spinetail and both Foothill and Ash-throated Antwrens.

Given such an elevation range, the species listed here represent less than one-fortieth of the birds in the area, so we must remain on our toes for whatever might turn up! This is still an exciting area for discovery where new sites for rare species, as well as actual new species, are still being found by researchers on a regular basis. Today's motto should perhaps be this: Expect the unexpected!

Arenas Blanca. Owned by a former logger turned conservationist, this can be a good site for the usually tricky Rufous-breasted Wood



Long-whiskered Owl by Dušan Brinkhuizen



Ochre-fronted Antpitta by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Quail, whilst Little and Cinereous Tinamous make up the trilogy of species far more frequently heard than seen. With the aid of seed feeders, we stand a good chance of getting fabulous visuals of these species. The surrounding forests are also home to Black-throated (Black-breasted) Brilliant, Lined Antshrike, Rufous-winged, and Yellow-breasted Antwrens, Plumbeous-crowned and Ecuadorian Tyrannulets, Red-shouldered, Huallaga and Vermilion Tanagers – and tonnes more.

Abra Patricia area (El Progreso, Yambrasbamba Valley & Owlet Lodge). We have several days to thoroughly explore the Abra Patricia area, home of some of the least known of Peruvian birds. We will be hoping for mixed bird flocks that should contain radiant Blue-browed and Metallic-green Tanagers, Tyrannine Woodcreeper, Spotted and Rusty-winged Barbtails and the newly described Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher (Tody-Tyrant).

We will be birding several altitudinal zones between 1 000 and 2 200m (3 300 to 7 200 ft) and along the way, we'll be looking for Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant, endemic Bar-winged Wood Wren, near endemic Royal Sunangel, Equatorial Greytail, White-capped and Scaly-naped Parrots, endemic Inca Flycatcher, Emerald-bellied Puffleg, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Montane Woodcreeper and the outrageous, but scarce, White-capped Tanager. During this time, with some persistence, we also hope to see the endemic Ochre-fronted, Chestnut and Rusty-tinged Antpittas as well as Yellow-scarfed and Silvery Tanagers, endemic Rufous-vented Tapaculo – the list of possibilities seems endless!

Our list will certainly grow as we sift through the various habitats, other birds we will be looking out for include White-throated Hawk, Peruvian, Sulphur-bellied, Peruvian and Ecuadorian Tyrannulets, Barred and Scaled Fruiteaters, perhaps the spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Speckle-chested Piculet, Barred Becard, the very scarce Lanceolated Monklet, rarely recorded Masked Fruiteater, White-collared Jay, Sepia-brown Wren and, in addition, we will also search for a newly described species related to Bicolored Antvireo.



Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher by Clayton Burne

Luck and persistence may even deliver the otherwise scarce Barred Antthrush, White-faced Nunbird or Chestnut-crested Cotinga. We won't ignore night birds either and will work after dark to find goodies such as Rufous-banded Owl, Lyre-tailed Nightjar, Rufous-bellied Nighthawk and Cinnamon Screech Owl. This is also the type locality for Long-whiskered Owlet, which has become regular of late! We stand a good chance of finding this bizarre and tiny endemic that, until 2011, was virtually unknown.

Pomacochas. At 2 400m (8 000ft) elevation, Pomacochas is one of the highest sites of the tour. We can expect to see



Pale-billed Antpitta by Rob Williams

several high-Andean species new to the trip such as Andean Lapwing, Rufous-capped Antshrike and, with luck, Puna Snipe or Plumbeous Rail.

Lower Rio Chido. Alongside the Chido River, we will be looking for several high altitude species such as Mountain Velvetbreast, Lacrimose Mountain Tanager, Chestnut-belted Chat-Tyrant, Black-and-white Becard, Andean Solitaire and many more.

San Lorenzo. From the small town of San Lorenzo, we hike up a fairly steep hill for roughly ninety minutes to reach a patch of high elevation cloud forest in the hopes of finding the endemic Pale-billed Antpitta*. Whilst hiking, we may also find Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant, Peruvian Wren, (Peruvian) Citrine Warbler, White-browed Hemispingus, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Plain-tailed (Grey-browed) Wren, Rusty-tinged and Rufous-breasted Antpittas, Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher and Rufous-capped Thornbill.

**This site requires an optional, arduous hike of approximately 2hrs in one direction. If you are not very fit, you should not attempt this hike. Easier sites are being searched for, but at present, this is the most reliable on our route. These sites are prone to habitat loss, and Pale-billed Antpitta may not be possible by the time the tour takes place.*

Cocachimba. There is only one way to describe today: Marvelous Spatuletail day!!! It is hard to say anything more because nothing can top viewing these stunning, unique birds.

Huaylla Belen Valley. This high Andean basin of sweeping grasslands, elfin forest, and tangled thickets supports both widespread Andean species and some real stars such as Great Sapphirewing, Red-hooded Tanager, Sapphire-vented Puffleg and Peruvian Wren. It is also a good back up site for the tricky Pale-billed Antpitta and Russet-mantled Softail.

Jaén. As we get closer to Jaén, the habitat will change dramatically. Some of the more prominent species we are searching for here include Chinchipe Spinetail, the Maranon form of Northern Slaty Antshrike, Tataupa Tinamou, Red-crested Finch, and if we have time to scour some of the rice fields and local irrigated fields, we might even find Spotted Rail or Paint-billed Crake! Time permitting, we'll head out in the evening to search for West Peruvian Screech Owl.



Buff-bridled Inca Finch by Dušan Brinkhuizen



Maranon Crescentchest by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Tamborapa. Today we will concentrate on finding several lower Marañón endemics. We will seek out the critically endangered Maranon Spinetail, endemic Little Inca Finch, Spot-throated Hummingbird, Maranon Thrush, Buff-bellied Tanager, and skulking Maranon Crescentchest.

Bosque de Yanahuanca. We'll be searching this site for endemics such as Chinchipe Spinetail, Streaked Saltator, Maranon Crescentchest, Maranon Pigeon, Maranon Tyrannulet and Maranon Spinetail amongst others.

Rio Atuén. The dramatic Atuén Valley is still wild enough to be home to Andean Condors, which we may see overhead whilst we search the forest for skulking Large-footed Tapaculo and Atuen Antpitta, Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan, Grey-browed Wren, scarce White-capped Tanager, Peruvian Treehunter, Northern Mountain Cacique, Rainbow Starfrontlet, White-collared Jay, and Red-hooded Tanager.

Abra Barro Negro (Calla Calla). We'll work our way through the famed Abra Barro Negro (Black Mud Pass). Here we will slowly bird the remnant patches of cloud forest and farmlands while making several planned stops for species such as White-chinned Thistletail, endemic, Yellow-scarfed Tanager, the recently split Chachapoyas Antpitta, Shining Sunbeam, the threatened, Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan, and possibly Chestnut-crowned Antpitta as well as the localized Rusty-breasted Antpitta.

Later, after crossing the mountain pass, the habitat becomes even more humid, improving our chances for the sought after Neblina Tapaculo, Utcubamba Tapaculo, Coppery Metaltail, Sapphire-vented (Coppery-naped) Puffleg, Russet-mantled Softtail, and many more.

Abra Barro Negro (Calla Calla) to Celendin. As we plummet down the switchbacks, deep into the driest portion of the Marañón Valley, we make stops for Buff-bridled Inca Finch, a charismatic endemic that inhabits the dry, cactus-covered slopes.

Birding through the riverine and agricultural vegetation, we will have further opportunity to find Maranon Pigeon should we have missed it previously, while in the Bombax woodlands we will seek out the endangered endemic Yellow-faced Parrotlet. Afterwards, we will slowly bird our way up the valley searching for specialities of this area, specifically targeting several localised endemics - Chestnut-backed Thornbird, Rufous-eared Brushfinch and Grey-winged Inca Finch, among other more widespread



Yellow-faced Parrotlet by Clayton Burne



Black-crested Tit-Tyrant by Adam Riley

Andean species. We will also devote time searching for the White-rumped form of White-winged Black Tyrant, endemic Jelski's Chat-Tyrant. Owling in the area may turn up Koepcke's Screech Owl.

Rio Chonta. The primary location for the endangered, endemic, inexplicably rare Grey-bellied Comet. We are likely to also find specialties such as Black Metaltail and Andean Flicker whilst waiting for the comet to show itself.

Cumbemayo. Time permitting, we will head over to the 'City of Rocks' near Cumbemayo. This high-elevation site is a great place to pick up several species of sierra-finch, ground-tyrant, as well as Stripe-headed Antpitta, Bright-rumped Yellow Finch, Green-headed Hillstar, Slender-billed Miner and Giant Hummingbird.

Jesus. This small town not too far from Cajamarca is home to the increasingly rare and difficult Great Spinetail. Additionally, we'll also be looking for Buff-bridled Inca Finch, Amazilia and Spot-throated Hummingbirds, Black-necked Woodpecker, and Maranon Gnatcatcher.

Fundo El Rejo. We'll be birding remnant humid forest and *Polylepis* scrub, searching for Andean species we may not have seen so far, including the likes of Peruvian Sierra Finch, Black-crested Warbler, the Maranon sub-species of Black-crested Tit-Tyrant and Many-striped Canastero, among several other possible cinclodes, pipits, and ground tyrants in the high Puna grasslands. We will also make a special effort to see the newly split and critically endangered Cajamarca Antpitta. In the *Polylepis* scrub, we will search for Line-cheeked (formerly split as Baron's) Spinetail, Striated Earthcreeper, Utcubamba Tapaculo and Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail. This stretch of road is also one of the best places to see the rare White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant.

Abra El Gavilán. The remnant scrub in this area holds two target endemics, Rufous-backed Inca Finch and Unicolored Tapaculo, both of which we will hopefully get reasonable views of. Other interesting species to be found here include Paramo Seedeater, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Black-crested Tit-Tyrant, and Purple-throated Sunangel.



Grey-bellied Comet by Dušan Brinkhuizen



Peruvian Plantcutter by Adam Riley

San Pablo. In the San Pablo area, we'll be looking for Bay-crowned Brushfinch, Elegant Crescentchest, Rufous-winged Tyrannulet, Three-banded Warbler and the Marnon form of Collared Antshrike, a possible future split.

Chaparrí. We'll explore the Chaparri preserve's trails and microhabitats for all the low-elevation Tumbesian endemics. This preserve occupies a large area of semideciduous and dry scrub endemic to the foothills and lowlands of the Tumbes region. We'll familiarise ourselves with several localised species such as Montane Solitary Eagle (rare), Tumbes Hummingbird, Tumbesian Tyrannulet, Grey-and-gold Warbler, Short-tailed Woodstar, Grey-and-white Tyrannulet, Tumbes Tyrant, Rufous Flycatcher, Baird's Flycatcher, Necklaced Spinetail, Collared Antshrike, Elegant Crescentchest, White-tailed Jay, Superciliated Wren, White-headed Brushfinch, White-edged Oriole, and both Cinereous and Sulphur-throated Finches!

Night birding can be productive, and we will search for Peruvian Pygmy Owl (also seen by day), West Peruvian Screech Owl, and the scarce Anthony's Nightjar. With luck, several extraordinary mammal opportunities could be in store for us too, with Tayra, Southern Tamandua and Spectacled Bear all being possible.

Casupe. We will arise early to make the most of our time in the higher elevation forest near the village of Casupe, which will likely produce a whole host of endemic species we have yet to encounter in the lower, drier climes. In this bromeliad-laden, misty forest we will search for such specialities as Ochre-bellied Dove, Ecuadorian Piculet, Ecuadorian Trogon, Rufous-necked and Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaners, Grey-breasted Flycatcher, Chapman's Antshrike, Three-banded Warbler, Tumbes Pewee, isolated *porcullae* sub-species of Grey-chinned (Porculla) Hermit and Black-cowled Saltator, amongst others. The headline species for the day, however, may very well be the critically endangered White-winged Guan, which is also established as a re-introduction at Chaparri. Here, at Casupe, we may get lucky to observe one of the few native, wild populations of this critically endangered poster-bird, but it is very rare!



White-winged Guan by Adam Riley

Cerro Campana. We'll enjoy some light birding en route to Cerro Campana, where we will end the day looking for



Great Inca Finch by Rob Williams

disjunct populations of Cactus Canastero, Streaked Tit-Spinetail, and our 5th…and final…inca finch: Great Inca Finch!

Sinsicap. Our final day of the tour will begin with a final foray into the high Andes, above Trujillo, in search of Russet-bellied Spinetail, Bronze-tailed Comet, Bay-crowned Brushfinch, Pied-crested Tit-Tyrant and Piura Chat-Tyrant, among others. This mountain town is surrounded by a mixture of fields, scrub, and forest, frequented by a good number of interesting birds, and we might also come across Pacific Parrotlet, Black-necked Woodpecker and Golden Grosbeak, as well as having another shot at Unicolored Tapaculo, should we have missed it earlier.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease	🟥 🟨 ⬜	This is a moderate to difficult tour. You should have a VERY GOOD level of fitness & stamina, as well as being in good health. Not suitable for dedicated photographers; inexperienced birders; or anyone with mobility or health challenges. Early starts on almost all days, many long days in the field.
Birding Ease	🟥 🟨 ⬜	Moderate to demanding. Bird density is low, some visuals in high canopy, many skulking species (antpittas & tapaculos), several difficult/low density target species.
Accommodation	🟥 🟨 🟩	Mostly comfortable to good, some nights at a basic lodge at Plataforma.
Walking / Trails	⬜ 🟨 ⬜	Easy to moderate. Some optional tougher hikes. Trails can be muddy/slippery after rain.
Vehicles / Roads	🟥 🟨 ⬜	Transport by minibus or midibus, and 4x4 around Plataforma. Several long to very long drives, some roads are in poor to rough condition, diversions due to landslides are not unusual.
Photography	⬜ 🟨 ⬜	Average to reasonable. Some hummingbird feeders.
Annoyances	🟥 🟨 ⬜	Climate ranges from hot & humid to cold, even very cold at high altitudes. Rain is to be expected at any time. Thick cloud can impact time in cloud forests.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 25;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- Drinking water on vehicles;
- All guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, 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.

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 you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is 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. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- Please do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20 kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18lb) for hand luggage. We have many long drives in vehicles with limited space.
- Fitness: We will be birding some mountainous and high-altitude areas on foot and along forest trails. Trails are sometimes steep and, depending on weather conditions, slippery. A good level of fitness is required for this tour.
- 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 expected, and you should bring adequate rain gear as well as an umbrella. We spend some days at particularly high altitudes that are often very cold and windy with the potential for snow and sleet; warm gear is certainly required. The thinner atmosphere exposes one to higher concentrations of ultraviolet light, precautions should, therefore, be taken against sunburn and sunglasses are advised.

- 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.
- Most accommodation on is in typical 2 – 3-star standard hotels in cities. Lodges in rural areas are primarily designed for birders, they are comfortable, clean, have hot water and private bathrooms. The exceptions are around Abra Patricia where there is one bathroom for every two rooms (ie: each cabin has two rooms and one bathroom). At Plataforma (Scarlet-banded Barbet area), the lodge is very basic. There is no hot water, no internet access and shared bathrooms. All rooms are small and are located on the second floor of the house, the bathroom is on the first floor. The beds are clean and a mosquito net.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour starts in Tarapoto on day 1 with a welcome lunch before a transfer to Bellavista. We require that you arrive in Tarapoto the previous day to ensure there are no delays on our departure to Bellavista. The tour will conclude in the late afternoon of day 25, after a transfer from Sinsicap to Trujillo.

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.

Jorge Chávez International Airport, Lima (IATA: LIM) is the main port of entry for international flights into Peru. The towns and cities of Tarapoto (IATA: TPP) and Trujillo (IATA: TRU) are easily reached on internal flights from Lima.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.