Peru

Central: Rare Andean Endemics



White-bellied Cinclodes by Stephan Lorenz

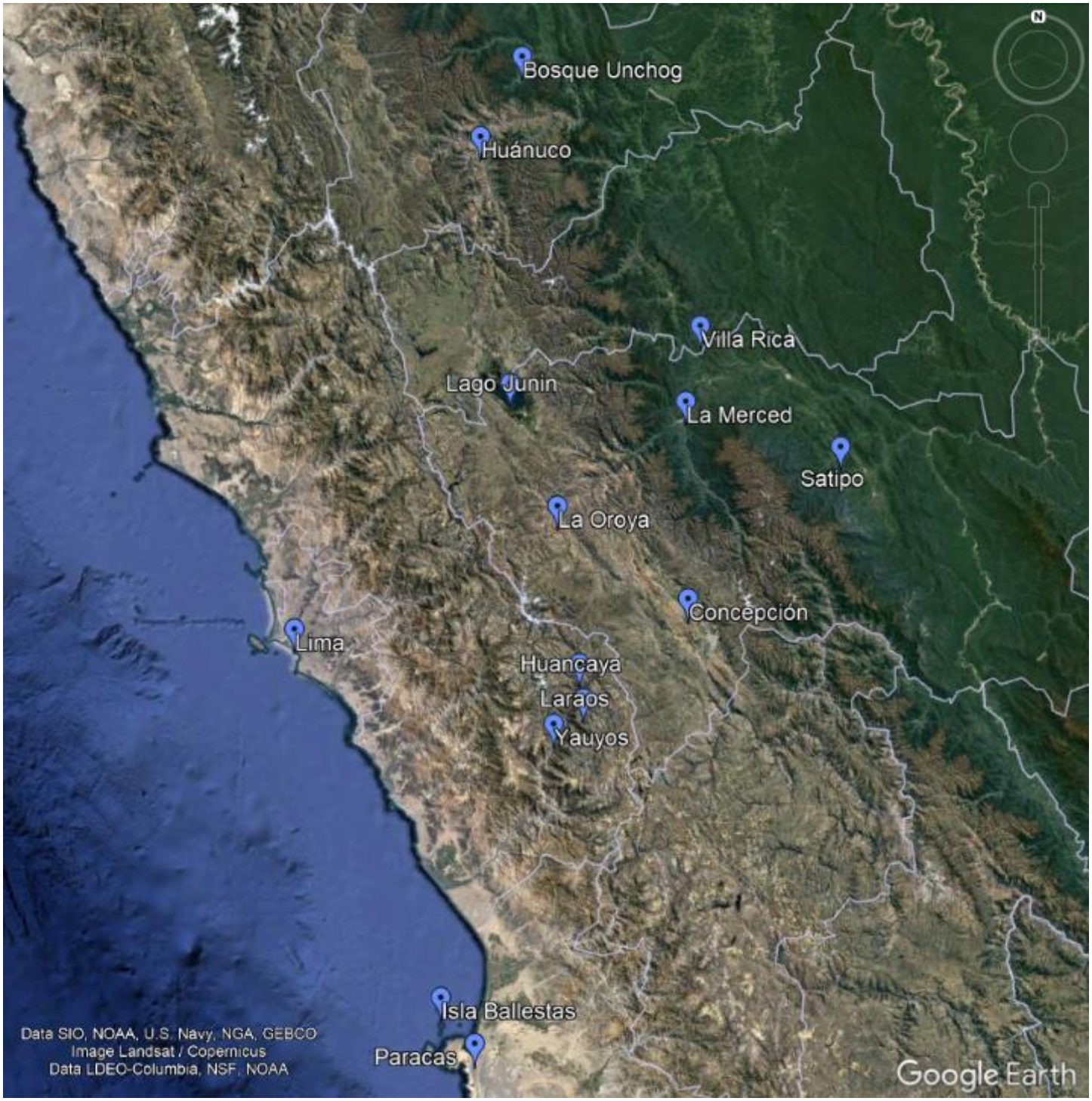
Our tour of Peru's central Andes is designed to search for a wide variety of scare and rare species, many of which are localised endemics, a testament to the rich avian diversity of Peru in general. A mountainous country, Peru's isolated valleys and cordilleras have seen avian evolution at its finest, with many species being described to science in recent years.

We will visit a variety of habitats during our tour, including high-altitude lakes, cloud forests, and Andean grasslands. This will give us the opportunity to find more than 50 endemics, including some of the most sought-after birds in Peru.

Just some of the birds we are targeting include Golden-backed Mountain Tanager, Pardusco, Rufous-browed Hemispingus, Junin Grebe, Creamy-bellied Antwren, Fiery-throated Metaltail, Marcapata Spinetail, Eye-ringed Thistletail, Black-spectacled Brushfinch, several antpittas and tapaculos, Masked Fruiteater, Bay-vented and White-cheeked Cotingas, Royal, White-bellied and Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes, Tit-like Dacnis and Yellow-scarfed Tanager.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Lima**
Day 2	**Lima, flight to Huánuco. Carpish Tunnel & Paty Trail**
Day 3	**Bosque Unchog**
Day 4	**Bosque Unchog/Paty Trail & Panao**
Day 5	**Huánuco to Junin**
Day 6	**Boat ride on Lago Junín, travel to Villa Rica**
Day 7	**Bosque Schollet**
Day 8	**Villa Rica to La Merced, birding Hacienda Armorique**
Day 9	**Hacienda Armorique**
Day 10	**La Merced to Upper Satipo Road**
Day 11	**Lower Satipo Road to Apalla Calabaza**
Day 12	**Apalla Calabaza to Concepción**
Day 13	**Mantaro Valley & Royal Cinclodes quest**
Day 14	**Concepción to Huancaya via Yauyos & Laraos**
Day 15	**Huancaya to Paracas**
Day 16	**Boat trip to Isla Ballestas, transfer to Lima & final departure**


Bosque Unchog
Huánuco
Villa Rica
Lago Junin
La Merced
Satipo
La Oroya
Concepción
Lima
Huancaya
Laraos
Yauyos
Isla Ballestas
Paracas
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA
Google Earth

Birding sites in detail



Golden-backed Mountain Tanager by Stephan Lorenz

Carpish Tunnel & Paty Trail. The Carpish Tunnel was a famous upper montane forest site. Years of clearing for hydrangea flowers farming has taken its toll, but the site still produces worthwhile birding. Taken in combination with the nearby Paty Trail, we'll pivot between both sites.

Key species around Carpish Tunnel are Tschudi's Tapaculo, Chestnut Antpitta, White-browed Hemispingus, Plushcap, Brown-flanked Tanager, Andean Pygmy Owl, Yellow-billed Cacique, Smoky Bush Tyrant and Montane Woodcreeper.

A short walk on the Paty Trail should reveal Peruvian Wren, more chances for Chestnut Antpitta and Bay Antpitta, White-collared Jay, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Tricolored Brushfinch, Peruvian Tyrannulet, Band-tailed and Masked Fruiteaters, Inca Flycatcher, Bay-vented Cotinga, Flame-faced Tanager and Unstreaked Tit-Tyrant.

Bosque Unchog. Early starts are required to get up to the mountains above Huanuco, and reach this key birding site. These remote wet elfin forests are home to some of the most sought-after birds in Peru, including the endemic Golden-backed Mountain Tanager, Bay-vented Cotinga, and Pardusco.

Pardusco is also relatively common, and it can be found in small flocks, whereas Bay-vented Cotinga is very sparsely distributed, and it can be difficult to find. The very attractive Golden-backed Mountain Tanager can also prove elusive. They tend to wake up and start moving about once the sun rises, moving quite substantial distances between feeding areas, so we are likely to be engaged in a game of sit and wait, for them to move about.

Whilst targeting the above mentioned endemics, we are sure to see a good number of other species such as Rufous-browed Hemispingus, Coppery Metaltail, localised Neblina Tapaculo, Line-fronted Canastero, Ochraceous-breasted Flycatcher, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Large-footed Tapaculo, Chachapoyas Antpitta (which was part of the Rufous Antpitta complex pre-split), Tschudi's Tapaculo, White-chinned Thistletail, Many-striped Canastero, Kalinowski's Chat-Tyrant, Red-rumped Bush Tyrant, Paramo Pipit, Blue-backed Conebill,



Bay-vented Cotinga by Stephan Lorenz



Rufous-browed Hemispingus by Stephan Lorenz

Golden-collared Tanager, Yellow-scarfed Tanager, Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager, Curve-billed Tinamou, and Andean Snipe.

Although scarce, we may see the distinctive 'Coppery-naped' sub-species of Sapphire-vented Puffleg, a potential future split.

To reach Bosque Unchog, we will drive up narrow road to the small village of Cochabamba, from where we will hike to the forest. The road below Cochabamba gives us an opportunity to find the endemic, Brown-flanked Tanager (which we may also find on the Satipo Road).

Panao. We'll spend some time in the Panao area looking for the newly described Panao Antpitta (split from Rufous Antpitta complex). Whilst here, we may also find Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Curve-billed Tinamou, White-bellied Woodstar, Tschudi's Tapaculo, Line-cheeked Spinetail, Brown-flanked Tanager and Black-throated Flowerpiercer.

Huánuco to La Oroya. We'll beging our drive to La Oroya by making a short stop in some cacti habitat to search for the secretive, endemic Rufous-backed Inca. Powerful rivers hold both Torrent Duck and White-capped Dipper, whilst grassland plains closer to Junín may produce our first Vicuñas of the tour.

Lago Junín. This is the second largest lake in Peru behind the massive Lake Titicaca. Lago Junín also holds a flightless endemic, the Junín Grebe, which lives and breeds in the floating reed beds far from shore. We'll head out on a small boat in search of this declining endemic, working our way through the far more numerous (and visually similar) Silver Grebes.



Junin Grebe by Stephan Lorenz

Other more typical species we can expect to find include Wren-like Rushbird, Many-colored Rush Tyrant, Andean Avocet, Puna Plover, Chilean Flamingo, Puna and Cinnamon Teals and Andean Gull. If we are lucky, we may flush the distinctive sub-species of Black Rail (Junín Rail).

The rocky and scrubby shoreline has several attractions such as Junín Canastero, Black-breasted Hillstar, Black Siskin, Black-billed Shrike-

Tyrant, endemic Dark-winged Miner, and Andean Negrito.



Cerulean -capped Manakin by Stephan Lorenz

Bosque Schollet. Fast becoming a key cloud forest site close to Villa Rica, our time at Bosque Shollet is sure to turn up several entertaining species such as the endemic Masked Fruiteater, stunning, Crimson-bellied Woodpecker, Trilling Tapaculo, Bluish Flowerpiercer, Golden-collared and Yellow-scarfed Tanagers, and if we're lucky, the range restricted Cloud-forest Screech Owl. Bamboo thickets have played host to the scarce Peruvian Treehunter, and even the mega Maroon-chested Ground Dove if conditions are right.

Villa Rica. We'll spend time birding the scattered shade coffee plantations near to Villa Rica. Several Amazonian species reaching the edge of their distribution here, but we are primarily looking for the endemic Creamy-bellied Antwren, as well as Cabanis's Spinetail, Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant and Cerulean-capped Manakin.

Commoner species we may expect to find are Blue-headed and Red-billed Parrots, Peruvian Tyrannulet, Silver-beaked, Blue-necked, Paradise and Silver-backed Tanagers, Black-faced Dacnis and Greyish Saltator.

Hacienda Armorique. This coffee farm recently opened itself to ecotourism, allowing access to stands of quality montane forest. Of primary interest is the rare Cloud-forest Screech Owl which is reliable here. We have more chances for the endemic Creamy-bellied Antwren, endemic Rufous-webbed Brilliant, endemic Green-and-white Hummingbird, the 'Blue-chinned' sub-species of Versicolored Barbet (a probable future split), Cabanis's Spinetail, Rufous-capped Nunlet, endemic Cerulean-capped and Round-tailed Manakins and Bluish-fronted Jacamar.

We'll also be searching for more widespread, but tricky species such as Tataupa Tinamou, Inambari Woodcreepers, Lanceolated Monklet, Short-tailed Antthrush, Wattled Guan, Stripe-chested Antwren and Blackish Antbird.

Satipo Road – Upper. Similar in many ways to the more famous Manu Road further south, though not nearly as pristine, this long and winding dirt road cuts through a series of deep valleys, creating a diverse and isolated habitat that is home to a number of endemis and potential new species.



Crimson-bellied Woodpecker by Stephan Lorenz



Black-spectacled Brushfinch by Stephan Lorenz

We'll be searching primarily for Fiery-throated Metaltail, Eye-ringed Thistletail, Marcapata Spinetail, Tschudi's Tapaculo, Junín Antpitta, Jalca Tapaculo, and Junín Tapaculo.

We should also come across several mixed flocks containing the eye-catching Lacrimose Mountain Tanager, 'Peruvian' Citrine Warbler (a probable future split), Tit-like Dacnis, Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan, Grass Green Tanager, and endemic Inca Flycatcher.

Satipo Road – Lower. The lower parts of the road are home to Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, 'Streak-crowned or Cerulean-streaked' sub-species of Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager, Flame-faced, Golden, Paradise and Bay-headed Tanagers, Blue-banded Toucanet, Streaked Tuftedcheek, Peruvian Wren, 'Taczanowski's' sub-species of Slaty Brushfinch (a probable future split), Barred Fruiteater, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Dusky-green Oropendola, Ocellated Piculet, Andean Cock-of-the-rock and Amazonian Umbrellabird.

Mantaro Valley. An early departure will see us on the road towards Andamarca, a small village in the dry Rio Mantaro Valley. We'll be searching for the recently described and endemic Black-spectacled Brushfinch and Junin Antpitta, as well as endemic Creamy-crested Spinetail, whilst bamboo patches are host to 'Mantaro' Wren, a possible new species to science.

Further down the road, we'll search drier habitat for another undescribed and potential new species, 'Mantaro' Thornbird. There is also a population of Azara's Spinetail that could be elevated to full species status 'Mantaro' Spinetail, as well as the endemic, Brown-flanked Tanager, Fiery-throated Metaltail and Jalca Tapaculo to search for, in case we missed any of them earlier.



Junin Antpitta by Stephan Lorenz

Huaytapallana. We'll visit this realtively new site for the critically endangered, near-endemic Royal Cinclodes. The area also holds the endemic Striated Earthcreeper, Puna and Andean Ibis, Puna Ground Tyrant, Glacier Finch and recently described Jalca (Millpo) Tapaculo.

Yauyos & Laraos. This area contains several micro habitats such as montane tropical humid forest where trees are covered in bromeliads to lakes and wetlands surrounded by Polylepis



Marcapata Spinetail by Stephan Lorenz

forest. During our time here, we'll be looking for endemic Bronze-tailed Comet, Giant Hummingbird, endemic Black Metaltail, Andean Parakeet and scarcer endemic Canyon Canastero, endemic, Black-necked Woodpecker, Pied-crested and Tufted Tit-Tyrants, Black-winged Ground Dove, endemic Rusty-bellied Brushfinch, Stripe-headed Antpitta, endemic White-cheeked Cotinga and Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail.

Laguna Incacocha. The scenically stunning Laguna Incacocha (at nearly 4 600m) is home to perhaps the most attractive ovenbird of all, the critically endangered White-bellied Cinclodes. We'll search our way around its preferred boggy habitat at very high elevation. We are likely to find several other species on the lake shores, such as Chilean Flamingo, Andean Goose, Andean Lapwing, Slender-billed Miner, Bright-rumped Yellow Finch, and Puna Ibis.

Humedales de Pisco. Time permitting, we'll make a short stop at wetlands near the town of Pisco. We should find common western Peruvian species such as Croaking Ground Dove, West Peruvian Dove, Peruvian Sheartail, Oasis Hummingbird, Harris's Hawk, Short-tailed Field Tyrant and Peruvian Meadowlark, the primary attraction here.

Paracas National Park. This easily accessible National Park has several endemics and numerous waders can be found. It is probably the easiest place to find Peruvian Tern and Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes.

Exposed mud banks hold many of the more typical western South American waders such as Blackish and American Oystercatchers, Grey, Semipalmated, Wilson's and Snowy Plovers, Marbled Godwit, Wandering Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated, Western, Least and Pectoral Sandpipers.

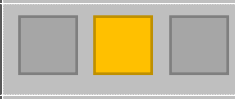
Heading towards the fishing village, the rocky habitat in the bay area should produce Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes and Surfbird at close quarters. Further exploration into the park may turn up the endemic Coastal Miner, South American Sea Lion, South American Fur Seal and possibly Marine Otter.



Royal Cinclodes by Stephan Lorenz

Islas Ballestas. This small group of islands not far from shore offer many of the same species to be found at Paracas National Park, but several offering much closer visuals and photographic options. Typical species we'll be on the lookout for include Humboldt Penguin, Peruvian Diving-Petrel, Peruvian and Blue-footed Boobies, Red-legged and Guanay Cormorants, Belcher's, and Grey Gulls, Peruvian, South American and Inca Terns, Peruvian Seaside Cinclodes, Sooty Shearwater, Elliot's Storm Petrel, and perhaps Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel if we are lucky.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		This is a moderate to difficult tour. You should have a GOOD level of fitness, stamina & be in good health. Not suitable for dedicated or avid photographers; inexperienced birders; or anyone with mobility or health challenges.
Birding Ease		Moderate to demanding. Bird density is low, often in forest. Several difficult target species that may require repeat efforts.
Accommodation		Comfortable in the large towns to more basic on the Satipo Road.
Walking / Trails		Mostly roadside birding with some moderate to difficult hikes in cloud forest.
Vehicles / Roads		Reasonable quality tarred roads between cities & towns, tracks & gravel roads in rural areas. 4x4 vehicles used on some days. Several long drives on winding roads & high passes.
Photography		Reasonable, typical cloud forest conditions of variable light and frequent cloud.
Annoyances		Some birding at high altitude. Isla Ballestas boat ride is not private. Twisting drives can led to motion illness.

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 dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 16;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- 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.**

- This tour DOES require a GOOD level of fitness and stamina. Participants should also be in good general health. Much of the forest birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time.
- We will be away from modern medical facilities for much of this tour.
- This tour is designed to be an intensive birding experience and we will attempt to obtain good views of as many endemic bird species as possible.
- Due to the nature of some trails, a collapsible hiking pole may be beneficial.
- Long drives on most days of the tour.
- Domestic flights have a baggage limit of 15kg per person for checked luggage and 5kg for hand luggage.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour starts in Lima on day 1 with a welcome dinner. The tour will conclude in the afternoon of day 16 after a transfer from Paracas to Lima.

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 (IATA: LIM), Lima is the main port of entry and departure for this tour.

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.