Peru

Central: Iquitos Endemics

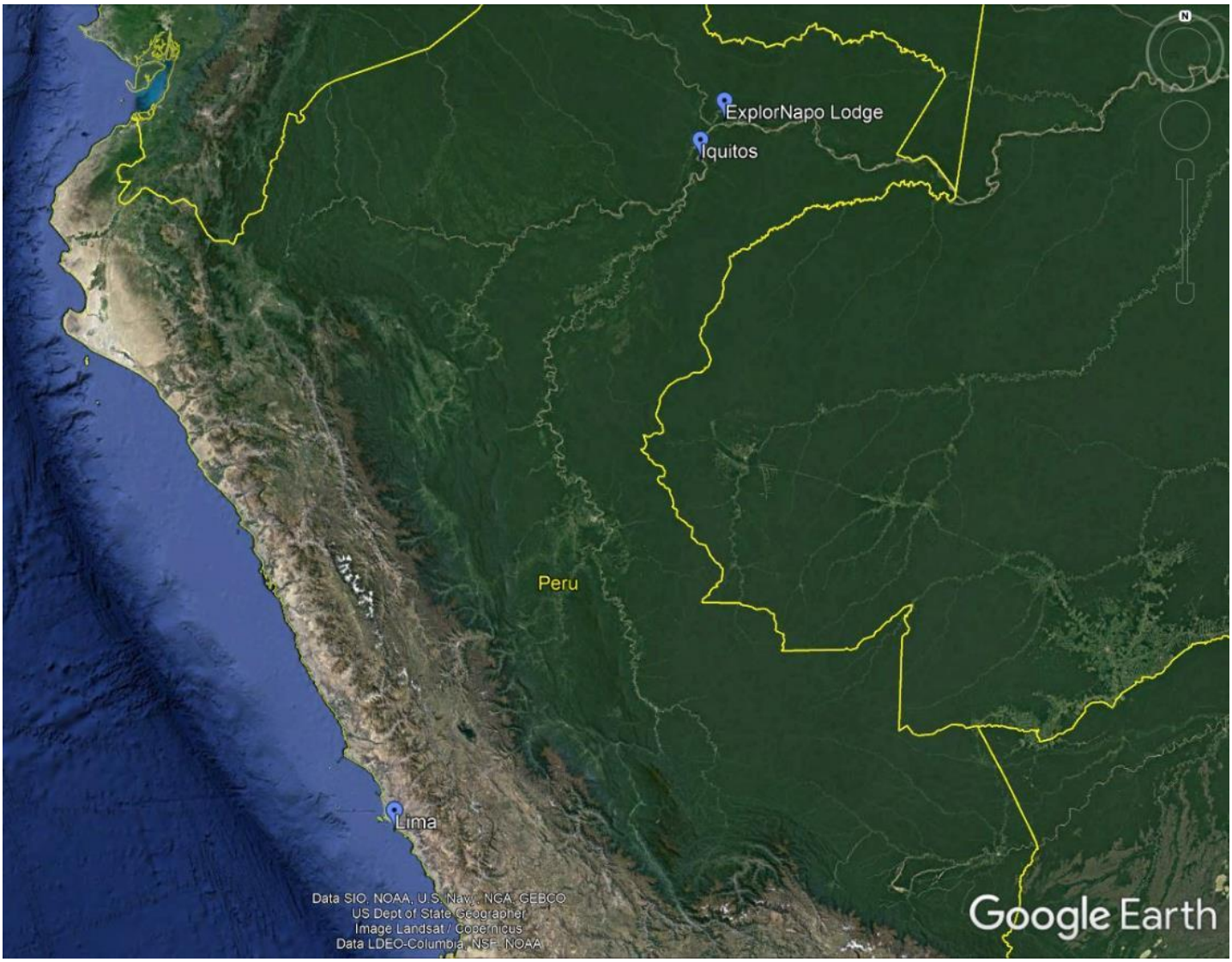


Black-necked Red Cotinga by Adam Riley

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.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Iquitos**
Day 2	**Allpahuayo Mishana (km 25 trails)**
Day 3	**Allpahuayo Mishana (km 28 trails) & transfer to ExplorNapo**
Days 4 & 5	**ExplorNapo trails & towers**
Day 6	**ExplorNapo to Iquitos**
Day 7	**Birding River Islands en route to Muyuna Lodge**
Days 8 & 9	**Muyuna Lodge Trails & waterways**
Day 10	**Muyuna Lodge to Iquitos & final departure**



Birding sites in detail

Iquitos. 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.



Paradise Tanager by Forrest Rowland

Allpahuayo Mishana (km 25 trails). This reserve 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 the day'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.

Allpahuayo Mishana (km 28 trails). We make our way a little further downstream to pick up any 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!



Pompadour Cotinga by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Iquitos to ExplorNapo. After returning to Iquitos, we'll 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.

ExplorNapo. 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!



Black spotted Bare-eye by Dubi Shapiro

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.



Ochre-striped Antpitta by Adam Riley

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.

At night 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.

Iquitos 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.



Collared Puffbird by Clayton Burne

Muyuna Lodge. The immediate surrounds of our lodge are home to 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 Acouchi and many others might turn up on a night walk, or one of outings here.

The 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!



Paradise Jacamar by Dušan Brinkhuizen

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-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!



Bicolored Antbird by Forrest Rowland

In the evenings 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.

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, primarily Amazonian Forest birding. Several difficult target species that may require repeat efforts.
Accommodation	🟥 🟨 ⬜	Comfortable in Iquitos, rustic in the forest lodges with 'natural temperature' showers, no AC. Some lodges have generator power for restricted hours only (ie: not through the night).
Walking / Trails	⬜ 🟨 ⬜	Birding is primarily on trails (mostly flat), small boat & a canopy walkway which requires climbing up & walking on a rope & net walkway which do sway a little.
Vehicles / Roads	⬜ 🟨 ⬜	Various boats (speed launches for long transfers, smaller boats for birding islands).
Photography	🟥 🟨 ⬜	Worthwhile to difficult, typical rain forest conditions of variable light & fast-moving birds.
Annoyances	⬜ 🟨 ⬜	Hot & humid conditions.

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 10;
- 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.
- 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.
- The hotels are generally of a comfortable standard in Iquitos, changing to more rustic and basic the further down the Iquitos River we travel. Shared toilets, communal showers and no AC or fans are the norm.

- Electricity is not reliable, or indeed provided for at some lodges for parts of day and/or night. Any medical devices (ie: CPAP machines) will require your to bring your own battery back ups.
- 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 Iquitos on day 1 with a welcome dinner. The tour will conclude in the late afternoon of day 10 in Iquitos.

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.

Coronel FAP Francisco Secada Vignetta International Airport (IATA: IQT), Iquitos is the main port of arrival, and Jorge Chávez International Airport (IATA: LIM), Lima is the main port of 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.