



Peru

Pacific Coast and Andean Endemics

Tour Leader: Eric Ripma

August 21-September 4, 2026

Itinerary Overview:

August 21: Arrival in Lima, Peru - Transfer to Hotel
August 22: Pucusana, Lomas de Asia, Los Pantanos de Villa - Transfer to Tarapoto
August 23: Cordillera Escalera Reserve, Koepcke's Hermit Conservation Center
August 24: Amazonian Lowlands Near Cainarachi
August 25: Ricuricocha Lake, Waqanki Lodge - Transfer to Waqanqi Lodge
August 26: Punta de Tahuishco, Waqanki Lodge, Rioja
August 27: Morro de Calzada Amazon Center, La Llanteria - Transfer to Abra Patricia Owllet Lodge
August 28: Arena Blanca Reserve, Abra Patricia
August 29: Abra Patricia, Fundo Alto Nieva
August 30: Huembo Reserve, San Lorenzo Road - Transfer to Leymebamba
August 31: Atuen Valley, Marañon Valley - Transfer to Celendin
September 1: Road to Cajamarca, Jesus - Transfer to Cajamarca
September 2: Chonta Valley, Cumbe Mayo
September 3: El Gavilan Area
September 4: Transfer to Lima - Departure From Lima

Detailed Itinerary:

August 21: Arrival in Lima, Peru - Transfer to Hotel

Upon arrival, you will be picked up at Jorge Chavez International Airport in Lima and transferred to the hotel for the night.

-Overnight: Lima, Peru

August 22: Pucusana, Lomas de Asia, Los Pantanos de Villa - Transfer to Tarapoto

In the morning we will make a short drive south to Pucusana Island where we will take a boat around the island to observe the many seabirds that nest on the cliffs. We will be looking for many species such as Humboldt's Penguin, Inca Tern, Blackish Oystercatcher, Peruvian and Blue-footed Boobies, Guanay and Red-legged Cormorants, Peruvian Pelican, and many others. We will also keep an eye out for Surf Cinclodes, an endemic of Peru, that spends its life feeding along the surf line of rocky coastlines.

Afterwards we will drive further down the coast to visit and inland to Lomas de Asia. Here we'll be looking for a few species of hummingbirds including Amazilia and Oasis Hummingbirds and Purple-collared Woodstar. Other possibilities include Collared Warbling Finch, Thick-billed and Coastal Miners (both endemics), and Raimondi's Yellow-Finch. On our way back to Lima we'll make a stop at Los Pantanos de Villa (Villa Marshes). This coastal marsh is usually buzzing with birds. Some of the waterbirds we may see include Chilean Flamingo, White-tufted and Great Grebes, Gray-hooded and Gray Gulls, and many species of shorebirds. We'll also be looking for Peruvian Thick-knee, Grassland

Yellow-Finch, and the spectacular Many-colored Rush-Tyrant!



Inca Tern

In the evening we'll take flights from Lima to Tarapoto. Upon arrival, we'll transfer to our hotel where we will be spending the next two nights.

-Overnight: Tarapoto, Peru

August 23: Cordillera Escalera Reserve, Koepcke's Hermit Conservation Center

We will begin our morning birding the Cordillera Escalera Reserve which protects habitats in the Escalera Mountains that border the Amazonian lowlands. Since this reserve is located on the border of both Andean and Amazonian habitats, we will be looking for a diverse list of birds. Our main targets include Dotted Tanager, Striolated Puffbird, Plumbeous Euphonia, Wattled Guan, Golden-collared and Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, White-throated Woodpecker, and Lanceolated Monklet.

We'll spend the afternoon visiting the Koepcke's Hermit Conservation Center. The star of the show here is the endemic Koepcke's Hermit which can usually be seen visiting the feeders. There are also many other hummingbird species that visit these feeders such as Black-throated Brilliant, Gould's Jewelfront, Blue-fronted Lancebill, and many Golden-tailed Sapphires. On the trail, we will be looking for Golden-headed Manakin, White-plumed Antbird, and several species of tanagers. After we leave the conservation center we'll head back towards Tarapoto. On our way we may make a couple of stops along the road where we could see Scarlet-crowned and Lemon-throated Barbets.

-Overnight: Tarapoto, Peru

August 24: Amazonian Lowlands Near Cainarachi

We will have an early start to make a drive to lower elevations to visit savannah habitat east of the town of Cainarachi. These savannahs provide habitat for many species such as Red-breasted Meadowlark, Pale-eyed Blackbird, Three-striped Flycatcher, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Hooded Tanager, and many others. In the tall patches of forest that are interspersed throughout the savannah we will be looking for Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper, White-eared and Yellow-billed Jacamars, Yellow-bellied and White-bellied Dacnis, and others. We will also visit the Huallaga River and have a chance to see Lesser Hornero, Yellow-billed and Large-billed Terns, Olive-spotted Hummingbird, and Glittering-throated Emerald. There will be many species throughout this day of birding that we won't have another chance to see during this tour.

-Overnight: Tarapoto, Peru

August 25: Ricuricocha Lake, Waqanki Lodge - Transfer to Waqanki Lodge

This morning we will start by visiting Ricuricocha Lake. This area has a great mix of habitats which results in a long list of birds. On the lake or in the marshy borders of the lake we will look for Comb Duck, Hoatzin, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Rufous-sided Crake, Greater Ani, and Chestnut-bellied Seed-eater. In the surrounding forest we will look for many species such as Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Mankin, Planalto Hermit, Ashy-headed Greenlet, Plain-crowned Spinetail, Northern Slaty Antshrike, Chestnut-vented Conebill, and Rufous-fronted Thornbird.



Rufous-crested Coquette

After birding the lake, we will begin our drive to Waqanki Lodge in Moyobamba where we will be spending the next two nights. The area around the lodge is impressively diverse with over 600 species recorded here on eBird. We will arrive in time for some birding on the grounds of the hotel. The gardens and hummingbird feeders attract over 20 hummingbird species including White-chinned and Golden-tailed Sapphires, Blue-tailed Emerald, Black-throated Hermit, Wire-crested Thorntail and

Rufous-crested Coquette. The forest edge around the lodge can be great birding too. Many tanagers such as Golden, Paradise, Blue-necked, and Black-bellied (endemic) are regularly seen.

-Overnight: Waqanki Lodge, Moyobamba

August 26: Punta de Tahuishco, Waqanki Lodge, Rioja

After an early breakfast we will start birding at Punta de Tahuishco, a patch of forest in the city of Moyobamba. We will be looking for a number of species such as Pale-breasted Thrush, Lettered Aracari, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Yellow-tufted and Little Woodpeckers, and Riparian Parrotlet. Afterwards, we will drive back to the lodge and spend the rest of the morning birding the hummingbird garden and trails around the lodge. In addition to all the hummingbirds, we will be looking for specialties such as Ash-throated and Rusty-backed Antwrens, Mishana Tyrannulet, Fiery-throated-Fruiteater, and Fiery-capped and Painted Manakins.

We will spend the afternoon birding rice fields near Rioja. An abundance of waterbirds can be found in this area, and we will be looking for some specialties of the area including Pale-eyed Blackbird, Black-billed Seed Finch, and Paint-billed Crake. Other possibilities include Masked Duck, Spotted Rail, Blue-gray Saltator, Wattled Jacana, Oriole Blackbird, Red-capped Cardinal, Black-capped Donacobius, and many more.

-Overnight: Waqanki Lodge, Moyobamba

August 27: Morro de Calzada Amazon Center, La Llanteria - Transfer to Abra Patricia Owllet Lodge

We will start this day by beginning our drive west towards Abra Patricia Owllet Lodge. However, we won't drive far before we arrive at our first destination for the day; Morro de Calzada Amazon Center. This private reserve protects the habitat of the isolated Calzada Hill that rises out of the surrounding lowlands. The feeders at this reserve attract Russet-crowned and Rufous-sided Crakes among others. On the trails we will look for Painted (endemic) and Fiery-capped Manakins, Tataupa Tinamou, and possibly Red-shouldered Tanager. We'll also be looking for many other species including Buff-throated Tody-Tyrant, Mishana Tyrannulet (endemic), White-browed Purpletuft, White-fronted Nunbird, and Bluish-fronted Jacamar. After birding the forested areas, we will spend some time in some savannah habitat around Calzada where we will look for Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch and Orange-backed Troupial.

After lunch we will begin our drive towards the Alto Mayo Mountains. We will make a few stops as time permits, but we will be sure to stop at an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek and at the La Llanteria hummingbird feeders where we will be looking for Ecuadorian Piedtail, White-tipped Sickbill, and Green Hermit. We will end the day at the Abra Patricia Owllet Lodge with great views of the surrounding mountains!

-Overnight: Abra Patricia Owllet Lodge



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock

August 28: Arena Blanca Reserve, Abra Patricia

We will begin our morning at the Arena Blanca Reserve's feeders. These feeders are some of the most diverse in Peru and we will be looking for a few hard-to-see species such as Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail and Little and Cinereous Tinamous! A few other species come into these feeders too including Gray-fronted Dove, Speckled Chachalaca, and Orange-billed Sparrow. We will also spend some time watching their hummingbird feeders where we will hope to see Rufous-crested Coquette, Wire-crested Thorntail, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Amethyst Woodstar, Many-spotted Hummingbird, and some



Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail

15-20 other species. In the surrounding forest we will be looking for specialties such as Black-bellied Tanager, Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Zimmer's Antbird, and Lafresnaye's Piculet.

We will spend the afternoon birding along the road on the way back to our lodge. Many tanagers, flycatchers, hummingbirds, swifts, and many, many more are possible, and we will focus on species that we haven't seen up to this point. We'll end the day back at our lodge enjoying the grounds and the views!

-Overnight: Abra Patricia Owlet Lodge

August 29: Abra Patricia, Fundo Alto Nieva

We will start the morning by birding around the grounds and hummingbird feeders of our lodge. Some of the hummingbirds we can expect to see include Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Emerald-bellied Puffleg, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Long-tailed Sylph, Sword-billed Hummingbird, and Collared Inca. After breakfast we will explore the trails where we hope to see some stunning tanagers including Grass-green, Yellow-scarfed (endemic), and Beryl-spangled. Other species we hope to see include Johnson's Tody-Flycatcher (endemic), Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Chestnut Antpitta (endemic), and many others.

In the afternoon we'll visit Fundo Alto Nieva where we will spend time watching hummingbird feeders and birding the surrounding habitat. Royal Sunangel, a near-endemic hummingbird, can usually be seen visiting the feeders. Other hummingbird species we will look for include Peruvian Racket-tail, Rufous-vented Whitetip, and Buff-thighed Puffleg. Other species we will look for include Ochre-fronted and Rusty-tinged Antpittas (both endemics) and Buff-throated Tody-Tyrant. When it gets dark, we will begin to look for the endemic Long-whiskered Owlet, a nearly mythical bird that can only be found in this area of Peru!

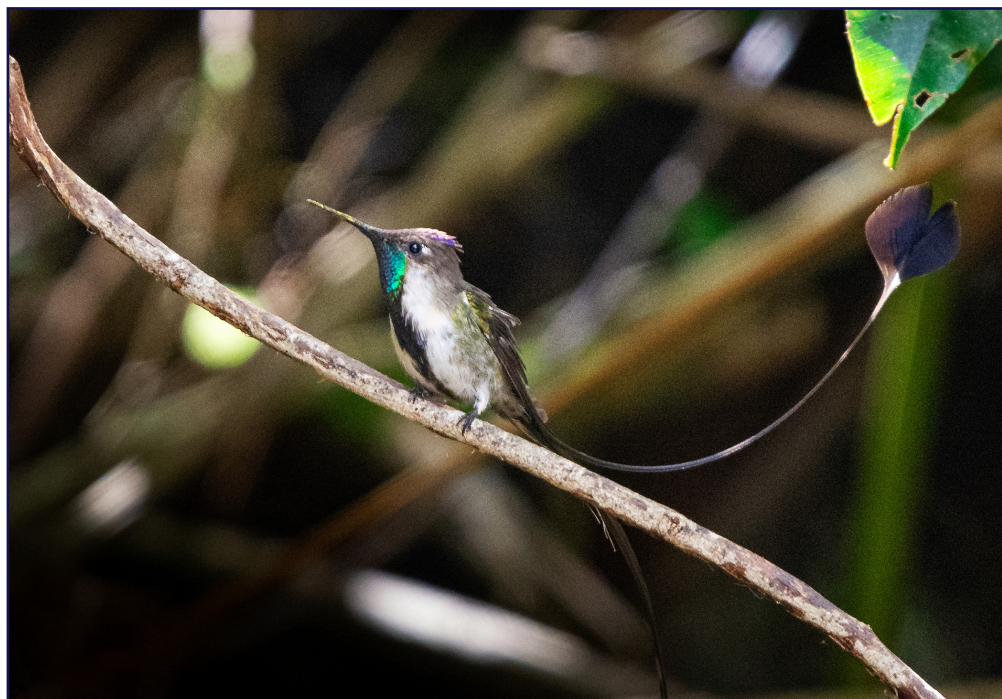
-Overnight: Abra Patricia Owlet Lodge

August 30: Huembo Reserve, San Lorenzo Road - Transfer to Leymebamba

We will leave Abra Patricia Owlet Lodge this morning and continue driving west across the mountains of Peru. Our first stop will be at Huembo Reserve where we will be looking for the Marvelous Spatuletail. This hummingbird that is endemic to Peru is one of the most spectacular birds in the world! We will be sure to spend plenty of time with this amazing bird. The rest of the morning will be spent birding the road to San Lorenzo. Some of the birds we could see here include Black-crested Warbler, Sickie-winged Guan, Speckle-faced Parrot, Maroon-belted Chat-Tyrant, and many more.

In the afternoon we will continue on towards Leymebamba where we will be staying for the night. Along our way we will look for the near-endemic Marañon Crescentchest and Marañon Thrush as well as the endemic Speckle-chested Piculet and Black-necked Woodpeckers. We will also be looking for Mitred and Scarlet-fronted Parakeets, Torrent Duck, and Fasciated Tiger-Heron. By the early evening we will arrive at our lodging in Leymebamba which sits at about 7,000 feet.

-Overnight: Kentitambo - Hummingbird Inn



Marvelous Spatuletail

August 31: Atuen Valley, Marañon Valley - Transfer to Celendín

We will begin this morning in the nearby Atuen Valley looking for a number of high elevation species. We will be looking for the endemic Large-footed Tapaculo as well as the stunning, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, and the range restricted Rainbow Starfrontlet and Rufous-capped Thornbill. Other possibilities include Mountain Caracara, Golden-headed Quetzal,



Gray-winged Inca-Finch

Andean Flicker, and White-collared Jay.

Afterwards, we will continue west on the main road towards the Marañon River where we will be looking for the endemic Utcubamba and Neblina Tapaculos, Chachapoyas Antpitta, Coppery Metal-tail, and Russet-mantled Softtail. There will also be a number of non-endemic species we will be looking for including Purple-throated Sunangel and White-chinned Thistletail. Once we start dropping to lower elevations, closer to the Marañon River, we will be looking for other endemics such as Buff-bridled and Gray-winged Inca-Finches, Yellow-faced Parrotlet, and Chestnut-backed Thornbird. By the early evening we will arrive in Celendín where we will be spending the night.

-Overnight: Celendín

September 1: Road to Cajamarca, Jesus - Transfer to Cajamarca

We will spend this morning birding along the road to Cajamarca. This road traverses high elevation habitats from about 8,600 feet in Celendín to about 9,000 feet in Cajamarca. We will again be looking for endemics such as Cajamarca Antpitta, Plain-tailed Warbling Finch, and Rufous-eared Brush-finch. We will also be looking for the range-restricted Jelski's Chat-Tyrant, Peruvian Sierra Finch, and White-tailed Shrike-Tyrant.

In the afternoon we will spend some time birding the area around the town of Jesus where we will be looking for the endemic Great Spinetail, Buff-bridled Inca-Finch, and Chestnut-backed Thornbird. We will also be looking for other specialties such as Amazilia and Spot-throated Hummingbirds and White-winged Black-Tyrant.

-Overnight: Hotel Tartar, Tarapoto

September 2: Chonta Valley, Cumbe Mayo

We will begin today by visiting the beautiful Chonta Valley just to the east of Cajamarca. This canyon has some of the best Andean scrub habitat close to Cajamarca. We will be looking for the endemic Gray-bellied Comet and Black Metaltail, Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail, and if we are really lucky, the rare Rufous-breasted Warbling Finch. Other species we may see here include Peruvian Pygmy-Owl, Golden-billed Saltator, Giant Hummingbird, White-browed Chat-Tyrant, Line-cheeked Spinetail, and Black-crested Tit-Tyrant.

In the afternoon, we will visit Cumbe Mayo. This area has spectacular "rock forests" which are volcanic rock pillars, some of which are as tall as 60 feet, that jut out of the surrounding plains. This area is also of interest due to its human history; canals in this area are thought to be 3,000 years old! The birding is great too and we will be looking for several specialties including Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch, Slender-billed Miner, Tackzanowski's Ground-Tyrant, Many-striped Canastero, and Stripe-headed Antpitta.

-Overnight: Hotel Tartar, Tarapoto



Gray-bellied Comet

September 3: El Gavilan Area

We will start this morning at El Gavilan pass at almost 10,500 feet. We will be looking for some high elevation specialties such as Rufous-backed Inca-Finch, Striated Earthcreeper, and Unicolored Tapaculo, all of which are Peruvian endemics. Other species we may see include Tyrian Metaltail, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Streak-backed Canastero, Scrub Blackbird, Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant, Yellow-breasted Brushfinch, and Black-crested Warbler.

After birding the high elevation pass, we will move down the pacific slope to look for some specialties of the Tumbesian region. This region encompasses southern Ecuador and northwest Peru and encompasses a variety of habitats which host a number of endemic birds and other wildlife. Some of the species we may see include Bay-crowned Brushfinch, Elegant Crescentchest, Pacific Parrotlet, and Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, all of which are regional endemics.

-Overnight: Hotel Tartar, Tarapoto

September 4: Transfer to Lima - Departure From Lima

After breakfast we will transfer to the Cajamarca airport for flights back to Lima.

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Lima, Peru: \$7,799

Single Supplement: \$750

Minimum Participants: 6

Maximum Participants: 8

Price Includes:

2 Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Peru

Flights within Peru

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from Lima, Peru

Airport Taxes

Passport and Visa Fees

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Travel Insurance

Tips

Deposit:

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (May 23, 2026).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

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