

PERU: MANU NATIONAL PARK

2011

Friday September 9 to Sunday September 25

Machu Picchu Extension to September 28

Guided by Gary Rosenberg

Price \$5200

Machu Picchu Extension Price \$1400

17 day tour that covers the best of Manu National Park. Includes the Manu Road with two night stays at Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge and Amazonia Lodge. Three night stay up the Rio Manu at a tent camp near Cocha Salvadore. Five night stay at Manu Wildlife Center. About 500 species of birds can be expected. Up to nine species of monkeys. Incredible mammals such as Tapir and Giant Otter. A trip up the Rio Manu is a once in a lifetime experience, with a chance for Jaguar. Wonderful oxbow lakes. Canopy birding from excellent canopy towers. Very comfortable accommodations, particularly at Manu Wildlife Center. Best wilderness experience we know of in Amazonia. Lots of specialties including Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. Includes a visit to a Macaw clay lick. Extension to Machu Picchu after Manu.

There is no place that we know of in South America that compares to Manu! Located southeast of Cusco, the immense park covers elevations from high *Paramo* in the Andes to an amazing expanse of lowland Amazonian rainforest. The actual bird list for the park exceeds 1000 species, and it is one of the few *wild* places left on Earth that have huge areas undeveloped and even unexplored, with indigenous people living within the park that have never had any contact with the outside world! Despite the seemingly remoteness of Manu, it is actually quite accessible by way of the Manu Road, that traverses a transect from Cusco to the Amazonian Lowlands, and then along the Madre de Dios River to the Manu River. Our 17 day tour is designed to sample the best Manu has to offer, staying first at a small rustic lodge near treeline in the eastern Andes, then at Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge at mid-elevations, famous for its Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek, then two nights at Amazonia Lodge on the Madre de Dios River, then three nights at a tent-camp at Cocha Salvador, up the Manu River in the heart of Manu National Park, and finally at wonderful Manu Wildlife Center, with it's famous Macaw clay lick nearby. This tour is unsurpassed in scenic beauty, spending virtually all the time in untouched, virgin rainforest, full of macaws, monkeys, large mammals, and more than 500 species of birds.

The tour begins and ends in Lima. We'll fly to Cusco and continue directly up into the high Andes to Wyquecha Lodge for a two night stay, a small rustic lodge near treeline on the eastern side of the high pass between Cusco and Manu. We'll have a full day to

explore the high-elevation temperate forest as we descend to Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge for a two-night stay. The birding here is fantastic, and our main target will of course be Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, but the tanager flock here are also incredible. We'll search specifically for the *Manu Tanager*, a yet-to-be described new tanager to science that we shared in the discovery of during a previous tour to this area! Next we'll descend further into the lowlands an Amazonia Lodge. We'll have two nights at this very comfortable lodge located on the Madre de Dios River, and which has a bird list pushing 600 species. Just sitting on the porch and birding the garden with its hummingbird bushes and feeders will be a highlight of the tour. Our next destination is Cocha Salvador located up the wild Manu River. Our accommodations there will be a comfortable tent camp – really tent bungalows with beds, so it won't really be roughing it as much as the name makes it sound. The advantage is that the trip up the Manu River, and staying near (and visiting) Cocha Salvador is simply stunning. There is even a reasonable chance for seeing Jaguar! Finally, we'll conclude with a five-night stay at Manu Wildlife Center, allowing us access to incredible forest trails, a wonderful Macaw lick, another beautiful oxbow lake with Giant Otters, and a couple of excellent towers to sample the wilds of the rainforest canopy. We'll depart via Puerto Maldonado.

For those wishing to visit famous Machu Picchu, we offer a three night extension immediately following the Manu tour.

Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1: The tour begins this evening in Lima at 6:00 pm with an introductory meeting, followed by dinner. **Night neat the Lima Airport.**

Hotel: Hotel Manhattan

Days 2-3: This morning we will take a very early flight to Cusco where we will be met by Manu Expeditions and we'll board our coach for the trip to Manu. Our destination this evening is Wayquecha Lodge on the east slope of the "pass" along the Manu Road. To reach this pass we first pass by the Huacarpay Lakes, where we'll stop briefly to look for an endemic hummingbird, the Bearded Mountaineer, as well as few other specialties such as Streak-fronted Thornbird and Rufous-fronted Canastero. There will be a nice selection of water birds on the lakes, including White-tufted Grebe, Puna and Andean (Speckled) Teal, Puna Ibis, Andean Lapwing, and Andean Gull. Other land birds possible around the lakes include Giant Hummingbird, Cinereous Harrier, Wren-like Rushbird, Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, Andean Negrito, Rufous-naped Ground-Tyrant, Yellow-winged Blackbird, and Hooded Siskin. Leaving the lakes the beginning of the Manu Road passes through numerous dry inner-montane valleys. We'll make a few stops en route looking for a number of dry country specialties along the way, such as Aplomado Falcon, Andean Swift, Andean Flicker, Slender-billed Miner, Bar-winged Cinclodes, Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant, Brown-bellied Swallow, Chiguanco Thrush, Blue-and-yellow Tanager, Peruvian and Mourning Sierra-Finches, and the real target bird for the morning, the Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch. As we climb up the final pass we'll look for another endemic in the brushy hillsides, the Creamy-crested Spinetail. Time permitting we'll bird

a little by the pass itself and look for either Line-fronted or Scribble-tailed Canasteros, Puna Tapaculo, Brown-backed Chat-Tyrant, Grass Wren, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, White-browed Conebill, and both Moustached and Black-throated Flower-Piercers. Once across the pass, the environment changed dramatically, passing from dry valleys to wet, Amazonian slope cloud-forest. The view looking down toward the Madre de Dios and Manu is stunning. We'll descend a short distance down the other side of the pass to our lodging for the next two nights. Wayquecha Lodge is a small biological station perfectly situated to break up our journey from Cusco to Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge. We used to camp, but this rustic lodge allows for eco-tourists now, so we take advantage of it. At dusk we'll try for Swallow-tailed Nightjar. On Day 3, we'll have all day to re-visit the high pass, and bird the temperate forest around the lodge. **Nights at Wayquecha Lodge.**

Day 4: Waking up at Wayquecha, the dawn chorus in the high temperate forest, and the breathtaking views of the forested valleys below will be very exciting. Our plan for today will be to bird our way slowly down slope ending the day at San Pedro (at 1700 m), where our lodging is. The temperate cloud-forest birding is well worthwhile, and we'll leisurely stroll downhill along the road being followed by our bus, periodically driving short distances, but basically birding for the day along the road, which passes through untouched forest. The possibilities are many, and given this will be our only chance for many of the high-elevation species, we'll pay particular attention to finding species such as Scaly-naped Parrot, Shining Sunbeam, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Masked Trogon, Golden-headed Quetzal, Blue-banded Toucanet, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Marcapata Spinetail, Puna Thistletail, Red-and-white Antpitta, Trilling Tapaculo, Sierran Elaenia, White-banded Tyrannulet, White-winged Black-Tyrant, Chestnut-belted (Slaty-backed) Chat-Tyrant, Inca Flycatcher, Barred Fruiteater, Barred Becard, White-collared Jay, Pale-footed Swallow, Fulvous Wren, White-capped Dipper, Great Thrush, Superciliaried Hemispingus, Rust-and-yellow Tanager, Grass Green Tanager, Blue-backed Conebill, Masked Flower-piercer, Black-faced Brush-Finch, Spectacled Redstart, and Citrine Warbler, just to name a few. As we descend during the day to lower and lower elevations, the diversity of possible birds increases. Our lodging for the night is at a location known as San Pedro, which marks the half way point between the pass and the Madre de Dios River. The elevation here is perfect for high number of foothill species, particularly tanagers, and we'll have the better part of two days to sample this richness. **Night at San Pedro.**

Day 5: We'll have a full day of birding around San Pedro. We'll have an early breakfast and start the morning at a wonderful Cock-of-the-Rock lek, an easy five minute walk up the road from the lodge! Most Cock-of-the-Rock leks we know of in other parts of Peru, and Peru, involve hiking to, usually on steep trails, but the one here is right on the road! Arriving at the blind in the pre-dawn hours, we'll watch and listen as several males become more active and do their thing! After enjoying this wonderful experience, we'll leisurely stroll up the road and bird the very rich foothill forest. This elevation is one of the best for tanager diversity, and some of the fancy members of this family we have a chance of seeing include, Slaty Tanager, Black-eared Hemispingus, Black-goggled, Silver-beaked, Yellow-throated, Fawn-breasted, Orange-eared, Paradise, Green-and-gold,

Golden-eared, Spotted, Golden, Blue-necked, and Beryl-spangled Tanagers. Other specialties within walking distance of our lodge include, Solitary and Black-and-chestnut Eagles, Wire-crested Thorntail, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Golden-headed and Crested Quetzals, Highland Motmot, Black-streaked Puffbird, Versicolored Barbet, Black-billed Treehunter, Olive-backed Woodcreeper, Chestnut-backed and Uniform Antshrikes, Stripe-chested Antwren, Yellow-rumped Antwren (rare), Slaty Gnateater, Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulet, Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, Lemon-browed Flycatcher, Yungas Manakin, Green Jay, Gray-mantled Wren, Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager, and Two-banded Warbler, and both Russet-backed and Dusky-green Oropendolas, just to name a few. In the afternoon we'll bird our way down to what we refer to as "Tanager Corner" where in 2000 we (Dan Lane and I on a Manu tour) were the first to discover a new species of tanager, which has yet to be described to science! The birding here is fun, with lots of tanagers and flycatchers – and there is always a chance for the new tanager! **Night at San Pedro.**

Day 6: Departing San Pedro early, we'll head straight down to 1000 meters in elevation and begin our birding there. As we descend to lower elevations, the species composition changes, leaving foothill species behind, and having more of a chance for Amazonian species. At 1000 meters we are still in the foothills, and we'll begin the day looking for a number of specialties restricted to this elevation. Some of the fancier possibilities include Lanceolated Monklet, Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Cabanis's Spinetail, Ornate Antwren, White-browed Antbird, Chestnut-tailed Antbird, Ornate Flycatcher, Black-backed Tody-Flycatcher, Cerulean-capped Manakin, Golden-bellied Warbler, Magpie Tanager, Turquoise Tanager, and Crested Oropendola. Passing a few bends we quickly get into our first *guadua* bamboo, a habitat that has a high degree of specialization in southeast Peru. Later in the trip we'll have additional (and better) chances at many of the *bamboo* specialists, but this morning we do have the opportunity at a few, including Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner, Bamboo Antshrike, and both Manu and White-lined Antbirds. We'll descend out of the foothills and pass some more open, disturbed areas near the towns of Patria and Pilcopata, where we'll likely see numerous second-growth species such as flycatchers, tanagers, and seedeaters. This zone is also good for raptors, and we'll keep an eye out for gems such as Black, Ornate, and Black-and-white Hawk-Eagles. Beyond the town of Pilcopata the road crosses a low set of hills where we have seen species such as Blue-headed Macaw, Yellow-billed Nunbird, Black-throated Antbird, Red-billed and Slender-billed Tyrannulets, and White-thighed Swallow. We'll arrive at the Madre de Dios River in the early afternoon, where we'll say good by to our bus, and meet our boatman for the next ten days! It is just a quick crossing of the river by boat to reach Amazonia Lodge, our lodging for the next two nights. Amazonia Lodge is a privately owned property that has a wide array of different habitats, including a wonderful garden, some nice Amazonian forest, and a lovely backwater oxbow lake. We'll have the late afternoon, and the entire next day to enjoy this lovely spot. **Night at Amazonia Lodge.**

Day 7: We'll have all day to bird the grounds and forest surrounding Amazonia Lodge. The "porch" is one of the highlights of the lodge, and sitting there sipping lemonade we'll likely see a nice variety of hummingbirds, including Rufous-crested Coquette, Golden-

tailed Sapphire, Gray-breasted Saberwing, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, and Gould's Jewelfront. The rice feeders attract both Silver-beaked and Masked-Crimson Tanagers, and there's always a nice variety of flycatchers and tanagers coming and going. A small marsh often has Hoatzins, and fun birds such as Black-capped Donacobius, and occasionally Blackish Rail. A stroll down the "jeep track" usually produces a number of great birds, including Undulated and Black-capped Tinamous, Razor-billed Curassow (rare), Dusky-headed and Cobalt-winged Parakeets, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Fine-barred and Rufous-breasted Piculets, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Cabanas's Spinetail, Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, Plain-winged Antshrike, Pygmy Antwren, Southern Chestnut-tailed, Black-throated, Goeldi's, and White-lined Antbirds, Black-spotted Bare-eye, Ringed Antpipit, Johannes's Tody-Tyrant, Band-tailed Manakin, Violaceous Jay, Thrush-like Wren, Hauxwell's Thrush, Magpie Tanager, Swallow Tanager, Purple Honeycreeper, and Russet-backed Oropendola, and many others. Our time at Amazonia Lodge will be short, but the birding is excellent, and it allows us to break up the journey from the Andes to even better birding in the heart of Amazonian Manu. **Night at Amazonia Lodge.**

Day 8: We should have a couple of hours this morning to do early morning birding around Amazonia Lodge. We'll specifically visit a small oxbow lake where we will see Hoatzins, one of the quintessential Amazonian birds, as well as the chance for both Sungrebe and Sunbittern, both Silvered and Band-tailed Antbirds, and a variety of lake edge birds. By 8:00 am or so, we'll need to depart for Manu, as our day will be occupied by traveling by boat down the Madre de Dios to Boca Manu, where the Manu River comes in. We then turn up the Manu and enter wild Manu National Park. This boat trip, although somewhat long (4-5 hours), as well as the next day's boat trip, have proven to be two of the more exciting days and experiences of the trip. The Madre de Dios starts off rocky and fast, with Fasciated Tiger-Herons often seen foraging on the rocky gravel bars, and we'll keep a close watch for raptors, as we have seen numerous Swallow-tailed and Plumbeous Kites, as well as fun birds such as King Vulture and Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle. We might see a boat or two, and an occasional house or lodge along the edge of the river, but the trip travels through virtually untouched forest. As we approach Boca Manu, the landscape will have changed – the river, by now, has become slow and meandering, and the hill forest has been left behind. Turning up the Manu will be the exciting part. Just a few curves up the river the environment will change. Suddenly, there will be orders of magnitude more to look at, from hundreds if not thousands of swallows and butterflies, to every single sandbar being occupied by something interesting, from Pied Lapwings and Collared Plovers, to Horned Screammers and Orinoco Geese. As we travel up river we'll search diligently for any signs of Jaguar, still only a slim chance, but this river is perhaps the best location to find this magnificent mammal. In the mid-afternoon, we'll arrive at our comfortable lodge at Romero, located a short distance up the Rio Manu in the heart of Manu National Park, and our single night here will break up the long travel distance to Cocha Salvador and make our days more relaxing. **Night at Romero.**

Days 9-10: We'll depart Romero in the morning and travel further up the Rio Manu to Cocha Salvador. We'll have the better part of two days to bird the areas around Cocha

Salvador and our campamento. Cocha Salvador is an oxbow lake famous for its population of Giant Otters. We'll have access to a floating catamaran (two large canoes connected by wooden planks) with chairs set up for bird and wildlife viewing (on deck), which makes paddling around the lake easy and comfortable. Apart from looking for the otters, we'll have the chance for many of the lake edge species, including the fabulous Hoatzin, Agami and Rufescent Tiger-Heron, interesting raptors such as Black-collared Hawk, and Slender-billed Kite, Blue-throated Piping-Guan, Scarlet, Red-and-Green, Blue-and-Yellow, and Chestnut-fronted Macaws, numerous kingfishers such as Green-and-Rufous, Amazon, Green, and Pygmy, Greater Ani, lake edge specialists such as Amazonian Streaked-Antwren and Band-tailed Antbird, Dull-capped Attila, Black-capped Donacobius, Red-capped Cardinal, and numerous oropendolas. Just floating around the lake will be one of the joys of the trip! In the forest around the lake we'll also search for the rare Black-faced Cotinga, a species discovered here and described to science in the 1970s.

Apart from the lake, the forest around Cocha Salvador is some of the best Amazonian rainforest we have seen, and a nice network of trails allows us to leisurely stroll on flat trails and bird this incredible environment. We'll also have access to a small canopy tower that overlooks another beautiful Oxbow. It is difficult to describe Amazonian forest and its potential and possibilities. How does one describe a location with more than 500 species of birds possible! The famous Ted Parker once did a "big day" here in Manu on foot and canoe and recorded close to 350 species of birds in a 24 hour period! So the potential is rather high, and just some of the many fantastic birds we'll look for include, Ornate and Black-and-white Hawk-Eagles, Pale-winged Trumpeter, White-bellied Parrot, Black-bellied Cuckoo, Ocellated Poorwill, Needle-billed Hermit, Pavonine Quetzal, Paradise Jacamar, Striolated Puffbird, Gilded and Lemon-throated Barbets, White-throated and Channel-billed Toucans, Chestnut and Red-necked Woodpeckers, Plain Softtail, several foliage-gleaners and woodcreepers, Dusky-throated and Bluish-slate Antshrikes, White-browed Antbird, Rufous-capped and Rufous-fronted (rare) Anthrushes, Rusty-belted Tapaculo, White-bellied Tody-Tyrant, Rufous-tailed Flatbill, Screaming Piha, Blue-backed Manakin, Cinereous Mourner, White-necked Thrush, and Olive Oropendola.

Day 11: We'll have another early morning to bird one of the many trails close to our camp, perhaps looking for some of the real specialties such as Razor-billed Curassow or Pale-winged Trumpeter that are possible early in the day. By 9:00 am we'll board our boat and begin the journey down the Rio Manu back to the Rio Madre de Dios. This trip will again be very exciting with lots of bird activity on the many sandbars, and we'll watch the skies for any raptors. This again will be another opportunity for catching a glimpse of a Jaguar. From the mouth of the Manu, it is about an hour and a half down the Madre de Dios to Manu Wildlife Center, our base for the next five nights. We'll arrive in the late afternoon in time to get settled before dark, and likely with enough time to bird around the lodge, or on one of the many trails that radiate out from the lodge clearing. The lodge itself is lovely and very comfortable, and allows us access to a number of incredible birding areas. **Night at Manu Wildlife Center.**

Days 12-15: We'll have four full days to cover the many great birding localities at Manu Wildlife Center. One of the highlights will be a morning visit to a wonderful parrot and macaw clay lick. We'll arrive early and eat our breakfast in the blind, and then watch as numerous Blue-headed, Mealy, and Yellow-crowned Parrots come down to eat the clay. Smaller numbers of Orange-cheeked Parrots, as well as Dusky-headed, Cobalt-winged, and Tui Parakeets are possible. A bit later in the morning, the Red-and-green Macaws come in and repeat the performance – really quite a sight!

Another location we will visit is Cocha Camungo, another lovely oxbow lake that we will paddle around. Here we have a good possibility for a few specialties, including Purus Jacamar, Black-billed Seed-Finch, and Pale-eyed Blackbird. Both here, and at Cocha Blanco (another oxbow we'll visit), we'll have additional chances for Giant Otters, and the lake edge birding is always exciting, with birds such as Hoatzins, Wattled Jacanas, Black-collared Hawk, Snail and Slender-billed Kites, Greater Anis, kingfishers, Amazonian Streaked Antwren, Band-tailed and Silvered Antbirds, Lesser Kiskadee, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Dull-capped Attila, Buff-breasted Wren, Grayish Saltator, and Solitary Cacique all possible.

We'll certainly visit the canopy platform which is also always a big highlight of the trip. The platform is accessible via a sturdy spiral metal staircase supported by guide wires, and overlooks a wonderful section of untouched rainforest. The birdlife in the canopy is astounding, and unless one is actually up in the canopy, one can't fully appreciate the incredible diversity, seldom experienced from the forest floor. It is a great place for scarce cotingas, puffbirds, toucans, flycatchers, and tanagers. Some of the canopy specialties we'll hope for include Double-toothed Kite, Slate-colored Hawk, Plumbeous and Ruddy Pigeons, White-bellied Parrot, Black-bellied Thorntail, Blue-crowned Trogon, Great Jacamar, Striolated Puffbird, White-fronted Nunbird, Ivory-billed and Curl-crested Aracaris, Cream-colored and Ringed Woodpeckers, Chestnut-winged Hookbill, Long-billed Woodcreeper, Spot-winged Antshrike, Chestnut-shouldered Antwren, White-lored Tyrannulet, Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher, spangled Cotinga, Bare-necked and Purple-throated Fruitcrows, Pink-throated Becard, Turquoise, Green-and-gold, Opal-crowned and Opal-rumped Tanagers, Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak, and Olive and Casqued Oropendolas.

One of the unique habitats found in southeastern Peru and this region of Amazonia is tall *guadua* bamboo that is found along the river edge in disturbed situations. There are several specialties that are restricted to this interesting habitat, and we'll spend at least a morning searching for birds such as Rufous-headed Woodpecker, Dusky-cheeked and Brown-rumped Foliage-gleaner, Red-billed Scythebill, Bamboo Antshrike, Striated Antbird, Manu Antbird, Rufous-fronted Antthrush, Flammulated Pygmy-Tyrant, White-cheeked Tody-Tyrant, Dusky-tailed and Large-headed Flatbills, and Moustached Wren.

And, of course, there is the "*terra firme*" forest and a wonderful trail system. We'll spend one full day walking a trail out to an interior forest clay lick, that sometimes attracts parakeets such as Rock and Painted, as well as Dusky-billed Parrotlet. The forest trail has great mixed species flocks of antbirds and ovenbirds, as well as the chance for numerous

other birds such as Golden-collared Toucanet, Pavonine Quetzal, Paradise and Great Jacamars, Round-tailed and Blue-backed Manakins, Black-faced and Peruvian Warbling-Antbirds, Rufous-tailed Flatbill, and even Red-billed Pied-Tanager (very rare), not to mention most of the other forest species listed above. The forest is also an excellent place to run into troops of monkeys, with no fewer than *nine* species possible.

Day 16: We'll sadly depart Manu Wildlife Center early this morning for our full day boat trip further down the Madre de Dios to Puerto Maldonado and our re-introduction into civilization! We depart via the river, and jet from Puerto Maldonado as small plane service in and out of Manu is sometimes less than reliable, so we choose the secure route. Plus, this gives us the opportunity to spend the late afternoon and early morning birding around Puerto Maldonado, which has some very fun birding, and the possibility for a number of unique species for the tour. Additionally, another morning on the river is always exciting. We'll arrive at Labarintho in the mid afternoon and board a bus that will take us the rest of the way to Puerto Maldonado. En route to the hotel we'll stop and search for *Moriche* Palm specialties such as Red-bellied Macaw, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, and Sulphury Flycatcher. In the pastureland around Puerto Maldonado we'll look for White-tailed Kite, Red-breasted and White-browed Blackbirds, and Grassland Sparrow – all recent invaders from the south. We'll arrive at our hotel before dark in time to clean up and have a nice dinner. **Night in Puerto Maldonado.**

Day 17: After a final early morning birding excursion outside of Puerto Maldonado, we'll take a late morning flight back to Cusco and, for those not staying for the Machu Picchu extension, on to Lima, where the tour ends with international flights home. If your flight is late in the evening, a day room near the hotel will be arranged for you. For those staying for Machu Picchu, we'll deplane in Cusco and have the afternoon to relax and shop. **Night in Cusco or flights home from Lima.**

Extension Day 1: This morning we will board an early train from Cusco to Machu Picchu, one of the most amazing archeological sites in the world! The train trip takes about three and a half hours as it climbs out of the dry valley that houses Cusco, crosses over a pass and through high-elevation pasture and agricultural land, and then drops into the scenic and historical Urubamba River valley. The train follows the river as it descends in elevation into the subtropical zone and the town of Aguas Calientes. It is striking making this transition from dry hillsides with terracing, to lush rainforest around Machu Picchu. Along the way we'll make a point of counting the Torrent Ducks and White-capped Dippers, both common along the raging river. Arriving in mid-morning, we'll board a bus that will takes us from the river valley below up to the famous ruins. A local guide will give us an in depth historical tour of Machu Picchu, and we'll have plenty of time to see this incredible place. After a wonderful buffet lunch we'll bird the switchbacks just below the ruins in search of Inca Wren, a species only recently described to science in the 1980's. In the late afternoon we'll take the bus back down to the river and walk the last kilometer back into Aguas Calientes birding in the lush forest that lines the Urubamba. There are a number of specialties that we'll search for, including Torrent Duck, Mitred Parakeet, Highland Motmot, Ocellated Piculet, Streaked Xenops, Variable Antshrike, Sclater's and Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulets, Masked Fruiteater, Pale-

eyed Thrush, Pale-legged Warbler, Silver-backed, Saffron-crowned, Fawn-breasted, and Rust-and-yellow Tanagers, and Tricolored Brush-Finch, among others. We'll return to our hotel in Aguas Calientes to clean up and have a wonderful dinner at a local restaurant. **Night in Aguas Calientes.**

Extension Day 2: This morning is flexible. Normally we have a leisurely breakfast and then bird our way back down the Urubamba River to the lower section of the "switchbacks" in search of any of the birds that we may have missed the previous day. If we experienced poor weather the day before, we'll have the option of returning to the Machu Picchu ruins. We'll return to Aguas Calientes for a nice lunch, have some time set aside for last minute gift shopping – Aguas Calientes is an excellent place to shop. In the mid-afternoon we'll board our train for Cusco, arriving in time for a nice dinner. **Night in Cusco.**

Extension Day 3: We'll take a morning flight from Cusco back to Lima, where we will be met at the airport and transported south along the coast for a half day of coastal birding. We'll visit Playa San Pedro and the marshes at Villa. We have the opportunity for numerous coastal birds, all of which will be new for the trip. Some of the many birds we'll look for include White-cheeked Pintail, Great Grebe, Humboldt Penguin, Peruvian Booby, Red-legged and Guanay Cormorants, Black-bellied, Semipalmated and Snowy Plovers, Blackish Oystercatcher, Peruvian Thick-knee, Whimbrel, lots of shorebirds, Belcher's Gray, Kelp, and Gray-hooded Gulls, Peruvian and Inca Terns, Croaking Ground-Dove, Amazilia Hummingbird, Vermilion Flycatcher, Long-tailed Mockingbird, Yellowish Pipit, Grassland Yellow-Finch, and Peruvian Meadowlark. We'll have day rooms at a hotel near the airport, which we'll return to for cleaning up and dinner before being transferred to the airport for our international flights. **The tour ends this evening at the Lima airport.**

Maximum size of group: The maximum group size for our Peru: Mindo and the Western Andes tour is nine.

Tour Leader for your Peru Tour: Gary Rosenberg

Gary Rosenberg lives in Tucson, where he has designed and led about 25 birding tours to Peru during the past 25 years. He has spent nearly two years of his life (in terms of number of days in the field) birding in Amazonia, and has visited Manu 12 times. He has been birding since early childhood, studied Ornithology for a Master's degree at Louisiana State University, where he participated in four research expeditions to Peru, and is the author or co-author of numerous scientific and popular articles on bird identification and behavior. Gary is also a passionate photographer, and has had numerous bird photos published in magazines and books. He is currently the secretary of the Arizona Bird Committee, which evaluates rare bird reports within Arizona. His current areas of expertise, apart from Peru, include most areas in North America, in particular Arizona, Florida, and Alaska, as well as Costa Rica, Panama, and Ecuador.

Pace of the tour: The pace of this tour is Easy to Moderate. Most of the birding will be done from roads, and along reasonably level forest trails. The trails are generally well-maintained, and mostly flat. There is considerable travel by boat, but the boat is very comfortable with cushioned bucket seats. The best birding in the Neotropics is done in the early mornings, so one should expect relatively early breakfasts (5:30). We will try and schedule mid-day siestas during the hottest part of the day, when possible. On the morning we depart Lima, we may leave predawn to reach the airport for our very early flight. On at least a few nights, there will be before-dinner owling excursions that may prevent our normal break between birding and dinner.

Tour Price: \$5200. The cost of the tour includes all accommodations, food, within-tour transportation (including round-trip flight from Lima to Cusco and back to Lima from Puerto Maldonado), baggage handling (when needed), entrance fees, water during the day's tour activities, and guide services, as indicated by the itinerary. In general the hotels and lodges we use on the tours are nice and comfortable, and often the best-available in the more remote areas we visit. In the cities we stay in above average (but not necessarily the most expensive) hotels. Meals are typically taken in local restaurants near the hotels and lodges.

The following items are not included in the tour price: travel to and from the location the tour begins and ends, laundry, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement = \$700

Please note that single rooms may not be available at Wayquecha Lodge (two nights)

Machu Picchu Extension Price: \$1400. The cost of the extension includes additional hotel rooms in Cusco, Aguas Calientes, and again back in Cusco, as well as a day room in Lima on the last day, all food, transportation and entrance tickets at Machu Picchu, additional cost of the air flight (stopping off in Cusco), and all guide services, as indicated in the itinerary.

Single Supplement (for Extension) = \$250

Deposit policy: At the time of booking a tour, a \$300 deposit is required to secure a space on the tour. This deposit is refundable or transferable up until 120 days prior to the departure date of the tour. The deposit must be received within 14 days of booking, or the reserved space will be released. Up to the 120 day prior to departure date, a deposit may be transferred to another Avian Journeys tour without penalty. Between 119 and 90 days prior to tour departure, cancellation of a reservation will result in forfeit of 50% of the \$300 deposit. Cancellation of a reservation within 90 days of the tour departure date will result in forfeit of the deposit.

Tour Registration: To register for this Peru tour, please first contact Avian Journeys by email or phone to check on availability. Once we have confirmed that there is space on the tour, please fill out the registration form, which is available on the “Register for a tour” page, and mail it to Avian Journeys. It is very important that you read all the information in this document, and then make sure you sign and date the waiver at the end of the registration form. A \$300 deposit is necessary to secure a space on the trip. Full payment for the tour will be invoiced 100 days prior to the departure date, and must be received within 90 days of departure.

Cancellation policy: Cancellation by a tour participant greater than or equal to 90 days prior to the departure date will result in full refund of payments to Avian Journeys (minus 50% of the deposit if the cancellation occurs between 119 and 90 days prior to the tour departure). Cancellation by a tour participant within 90 days of a tour will result in a refund of amounts we are able to recover from our hotels and ground agents. Fixed cost amounts can not be refunded. In general, the amount we can potentially refund may be as low as 50% or 25% of the cost of the tour.

Trip insurance. At the time of payment of your deposit for the tour, we highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. The following companies offer trip insurance, and/or emergency medical insurance: <http://www.travelinsured.com>, <http://www.accessamerica.com>, www.aaa.com. One never knows when personal illness, or an illness in the family is going to strike. Given that a cancellation by a participant within 90 days of departure might result in a loss of most, if not all of the cost of a tour, trip insurance is a good idea. Furthermore, insurance is recommended in case of an illness on a tour, and in a worse case scenario, the need for an emergency medical evacuation, which can be prohibitively expensive. Purchasing insurance is a personal choice, and Avian Journeys does not recommend one company over another.

Travel to Peru

Once the tour is confirmed, you will need to purchase your airline ticket to Peru. Several major airlines, such as American, Continental, and Iberia Airlines service Lima Peru. We strongly suggest planning your arrival in time for the Introductory Meeting on Day 1. If you are unable to arrive early on Day 1, please be aware that we will be departing very early on Day 2 with a dawn flight to Cusco, and there is the possibility that you will get very little sleep. If you decide to arrive a day early, we would be happy to arrange for an extra night's hotel in Lima.

In this age of the Internet, booking a flight online is easy! Each individual airline has their own web site for booking flights, such as www.AA.com for American Airlines, and www.continentalairlines.com for Continental Airlines. Alternatively, one can visit sites such as www.orbitz.com or www.expedia.com which list multiple airline options.

IMPORTANT. You will need a valid passport to enter Peru. The passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your date of entry. A visa is not needed to enter Peru – you will need to fill out an entry form provided to you by the airlines and present this

along with your passport to immigration. You will also be asked to fill out a customs declaration.

Entering Peru

Entering Peru is easy and should be stress free. When you deplane, follow the crowd to immigration. Hopefully your line will not be long, although there is a chance that multiple planes arrive simultaneously, and the immigration line can be long. Patience is a virtue! The immigration process is quick and professional. You will be handed back a small portion of your entry form. **Please keep this piece of paper in your passport and try not to lose it.** Once through immigration you will arrive at the baggage claim area. Locate your carousel and retrieve your bags. You will next hand your customs declaration to a uniformed customs agent and likely be asked to pass your luggage through an x-ray machine. This is just a formality, and it is unlikely that they will ask you to open any bags.

Once through immigration and customs, you will pass through a door and be engulfed by a crowd of agents and loved ones meeting the flight. There will be a person with a sign with YOUR NAME on it, and/or AVIAN JOURNEYS. Our ground agent in Peru is MANU EXPEDITIONS. One, two, or all three of these should be on the sign. The person making the transfer usually speaks English and will help you with your luggage. They will transfer you to the hotel, which is only about 5-10 minutes from the airport.

The language of Peru is Spanish. While many Peruvians speak some English, please be aware that English is a second language. Typically the persons making the transfer, and those at the reception at the hotel speak some English. Learning a few important words, such as the Spanish word for “beer” is recommended.

The currency of Peru is the Nuevo Sol. It is easy to change some money upon arrival at the airport. All hotels and lodges on the tour will accept U.S. cash and those in Lima and Cusco will accept all the major credit cards. We do not recommend bringing Travelers Checks – these have become more difficult to cash in recent years. ATM machines are usually available in the major cities.

Be aware that Lima, although on the coast, is usually chilly, and if you are arriving in the evening, the temperature will be cool (not cold). A light jacket or sweater is advised.

Health Issues

We recommend checking with the CDC at www.cdc.com for recent warnings and recommendations for preventive medications and/or inoculations required (or suggested) for the areas you will be visiting in Peru. Be prepared that they will likely suggest a preventative for both Yellow Fever and Malaria.

In general we believe you will probably be surprised by the general lack of biting insects. While some areas might have some mosquitoes, and small biting flies (no-

seems), they usually don't present much of a problem, but it is always wise to be prepared. Chiggers are also occasionally present. We do recommend a relatively strong insect repellent that contains "DEET".

Hotels and Food

Avian Journeys and Manu Expeditions (our ground agent in Peru) have many years experience organizing tours in Peru. The hotels and lodges we have selected are both comfortable and well-situated for the birding. Most of the hotels and lodges provide laundry service.

Wayquecha Lodge. This small rustic lodge is located just on the "Amazonian" side of the last pass along the Manu Road. We used to have Manu Expeditions provide one night of camping for this night, but the formation of a small biological Station that doubles as an eco-tourist lodge eliminates the need to sleep in tents. The lodge has several cabins with each one having two rooms that share a common bathroom. Each room has two bunk beds. There is no steady electricity, but they do have a generator. While we don't intend to put *anyone* in an upper bunk, there will likely be no singles available. Please keep in mind that this will be for two nights, it eliminates a slightly rougher night of camping, and we wake up in one of the most fantastic spots imaginable!

Cock-of-the-Rock or Paradise Lodge at San Pedro. The tour will be staying at one or the other of these two very nice lodges. Both are situated next to each other and have either single or double cabins or rooms. Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge has no electricity, but does have a generator for charging batteries. Both are very well situated for visiting the nearby Andean Cock-of-the-Rock Lek. All rooms have private bathrooms.

Amazonia Lodge. This comfortable lodge is a converted "finca" and has both single and double rooms. Bathroom facilities are shared – there are two sets of showers and toilets. There is hot water for bathing. There is electricity provided by a generator, or solar charged batteries.

Aguaje Tent Camp at Cocha Salvador. Very well-situated across the Manu River from Cocha Salvador. Each tented bungalow is of the "walk-in" style, and has two beds with mosquito netting. Bathroom facilities are shared in a separate building. Meals will be taken in a separate building with a kitchen and small dining room. As the camp is set right in the rainforest on the bank of the Manu River, the birding in camp, particularly the night birding is fantastic. There is no electricity.

Manu Wildlife Center. We consider this the best "Amazonian" lodge we have visited. The cabins are comfortable, each with a private bath, hot water, a very nice lounge with full bar, and almost gourmet food. The birding is fantastic right around the lodge, and excellent forest trails take off directly from the compound. There is no electricity in the cabins, but the lounge provides an area for charging batteries during limited hour when they run the generator.

The food in Peru varies from standard international food (meat, chicken, fish) at the larger hotels, to relatively gourmet food at some of the lodges (such as Manu Wildlife Center). Most of the hotels and lodges we stay at cater to birders and provide early breakfasts for our groups. Lunches are either taken at the hotel and lodges, or we have box lunches provided by them. All dinners will be at the hotels and lodges. A non-alcoholic beverage will be provided with all meals – bottled water is available everywhere. Beer and wine is available everywhere, except perhaps at Aguaje Camp on the Rio Manu. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not included in the price of the tour.

Electricity

Peru does **NOT** have the same electric current as the United States – the entire country is on 220 volts. If you are from a country that uses 220 volts. Most chargers today have a voltage range of 100-240 volts. Please make sure you are aware of this, check your charger (s) and plan accordingly. Most of the lodges we stay at have some sort of electricity (generator) to recharge batteries, **except** the Aguaje Tent Camp. If you have any questions about electricity, please contact Avian Journeys.

Meeting the Group

There will be a meeting in the lobby of the hotel at 7:00 pm on Day 1. This meeting is designed to “get acquainted” with the other participants on the tour, and to meet the leader. Immediately following the meeting we will have dinner. Again, we recommend trying very hard to arrive in time for this meeting.

What to Bring

Clothing – Over the years we have discovered that “everyone” has their own tastes regarding clothes. We will suggest that you consider quick-drying pants and shirts, particularly if you plan on doing your own laundry. Many of the higher quality field clothes available from companies such as “Ex Oficio” or “REI” also offer protection from UV rays. We also recommend clothes with “neutral” colors, such as browns, tans, and greens that blend with the natural environment, which is less threatening to forest birds. Bright reds and pinks should please be avoided.

Footwear – Comfortable footwear is perhaps the most important item to consider, as we are on our feet most of the day, every day! We suggest lightweight hiking boots, preferably waterproof to a certain degree. “Goretex” type boots are an excellent choice. Rubber boots are probably essential for all the lodges once we get to the Madre de Dios, as there might be very muddy trails and/or muddy edges to the river, etc. We understand that many simply don’t like walking around in rubber boots all day, but there WILL be times that you will want them. If you are considering rubber boots, we recommend a particular brand called “Extra Tuff,” available online at <http://www.xtratufboots.com/>. We have found these very comfortable.

Clothing in Cusco and Wayquecha Lodge. Please keep in mind that Cusco is at about 10,000 feet elevation, and the day we cross over the pass to Wayquecha Lodge, the temperatures can be quite cool. We recommend dressing in layers, and having at least one warm piece of clothing for that night. We understand that this is the ONLT night that you will need this, so you might consider the alternatives. Perhaps some light-weight “Thermal” underwear is an option.

The following items are important:

Binoculars (waterproof)
Camera (optional)
Hat
Rain Jacket (lightweight)
Small Umbrella (ESSENTIAL!!)
Small Flashlight w/ replacement batteries
Small LED Headlamp (useful at poorly lit lodges)
Alarm Clock
Plastic Bags (to protect equipment)
Insect Repellant
Sunscreen
Water Bottle
Small backpack
Ear Plugs (optional)

Photography: Our leaders are typically very interested in photography, in particular “digiscoping”, and within the context of the tour, photography is encouraged. Certain sensible guidelines will be adhered to, such as not approaching a bird for photos until all in the group has had a satisfying look, and we will avoid unnecessary disturbance of a bird, particularly if it is nesting. At the end of the tour the leader will share his or her photo highlights, making them available on CD, or downloadable from a social network web site.

Field Guides and References. All books listed below are available from **Amazon.com**.

Fjeldså, Jon and N. Krabbe. 1990. *Birds of the High Andes: A Manual to the Birds of the Temperate Zone of the Andes and Patagonia, South America*. Apollo, Denmark. A good reference book, but not convenient to bring into the field.

Forsyth, Adrian and Ken Miyata. 1984. *Tropical Nature*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Hilty, S.L. 1994. *Birds of Tropical America*. Chapters Publishing, Ltd., Shelburne, CT.

Hilty, S.L. and W.L. Brown. 1986. *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia*. Princeton University Press.

Schulenberg, Thomas S., Douglas F. Stotz, Daniel F. Lane, John P. O'Neill, and Theodore A. Parker. 2007. *The Birds of Peru*. Princeton University Press.

**Princeton New Jersey. This is the new, long-awaited field guide for Peru.
Excellent and essential!**

Ridgley, R. S. and G. Tudor. 1989. *The Birds of South America Volume 1: The Oscine Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Ridgley, R. S. and G. Tudor. 1994. *The Birds of South America Volume 2: The Suboscine Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

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