



ADVENTURES AT THE EQUATOR!  
**NORTHERN PERU**  
December 1-18, 2015

*I was introduced to Peru in September 2014, and the combination of phenomenal birding and delightful hospitality prompted us to schedule a tour for this coming December! From the dry Pacific Coast habitats to the northern Andes and Amazon Basin, this adventure offers an outstanding introduction to equatorial birding. Read through our itinerary below with a Peru map and field guide (or your computer), and dream of what awaits. Immerse yourself in hundreds of hummingbirds (at one time!); cross one of the world's most magnificent mountain ranges; explore cloud forests high above the Amazon Basin; and visit some extraordinary community preserves, all part of a birding experience that will leave you breathless!*

*Your host and lead guide,  
Steve Shunk*



## TOUR SUMMARY

Our tour begins and ends in the national capital of Lima, Peru, where our two US guides and our Peruvian tour leader, Wilson Diaz, will meet you just outside customs. We head directly for the coastal district of Miraflores, where we will spend our first 2 nights. The itinerary for the next 14 days will follow an extraordinary route, from Pacific Coast to Amazon Basin, with abundant wildlife and scenic highlights.

*NOTE: This is a custom itinerary designed especially for Paradise Birding. We specifically requested that, whenever possible, we stay multiple nights in each location; that we not bird from dawn to dusk; and that we occasionally take afternoon breaks. These requests were made to help you thoroughly enjoy each of the special places we have chosen to visit and to give everyone ample opportunity to see the unique birds of this special region, without racing from spot to spot. Despite our casual approach, we still have a chance to see over 400 bird species—be prepared to be pleasantly overwhelmed!*

Tuesday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>—Lima Arrivals and Welcome Dinner

Arrive in Lima and make a short drive to the Miraflores district. Check-in at Hotel Casa Andina Select. Dinner and night in Miraflores.

Wednesday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>—Birding Lima and Miraflores region

Casual 8 a.m. breakfast at the hotel, followed by our first full day, offering relaxing birding with extraordinary birds. We will drive south to Pucusana for cliffside birding in search of Inca Tern and Humboldt Penguin. The nearby marshlands of Puerto Viejo may produce Great Grebe, Peruvian Thick-knee, and Many-colored Rush-Tyrant. After our box-lunch on the beach, we will search the rocky shoreline for the Peruvian endemic Surf Cinclodes. Return to hotel by 4 p.m. for afternoon break, followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Second night at Miraflores.



Thursday, Dec 3—Lima to Chiclayo

After 8 a.m. breakfast, we check out of the hotel and drive to El Olivar Park, in the San Isidro district, where we will enjoy some of the common birds to be seen over the following days, including Eared Dove, Bananaquit, Saffron-Finch, and Blue-black Grassquit. We should also see White-necked (Guayaquil) Squirrels frolicking about. After lunch in the park, return to Miraflores and transfer to Lima airport for 1.5-hour afternoon flight to Chiclayo. Transfer to Hotel Casa Andina Select in Chiclayo, and break before dinner at the hotel.

Friday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>—Chiclayo to Chaparrí

After 7:30 breakfast, we will drive about 3.5 hours to the amazing Chaparrí Nature Reserve, with several birding stops en route. Birds along the way may include Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Savanna Hawk, Pacific Parrotlet, Short-tailed Field-Tyrant, Parrot-billed Seedeater, Sulphur-throated Finch, and Peruvian Meadowlark. We arrive at Chaparrí Lodge in time for a delicious lunch of traditional Peruvian foods.

*Chaparrí is a private, community-owned reserve of 34,000 hectares (84,000 acres, or 131 miles<sup>2</sup>) comprising tropical dry forest in the lee of the Andes. This region is well-known for its population of endemic White-winged Guan, and we will visit a Spectacled Bear rehab center, where recovered captive bears are being prepared for their return to the wild.*

After lunch and a short break, we hike along a lush creek to the bear rescue center. Common dry-forest birds along the hike may include Amazilia Hummingbird, Collared Antshrike, and Tropical Gnatcatcher, along with possible Peruvian specialties such as White-winged Guan, Tumbes Tyrant, and Elegant Crescentchest. Dinner and night at Chaparrí Lodge.



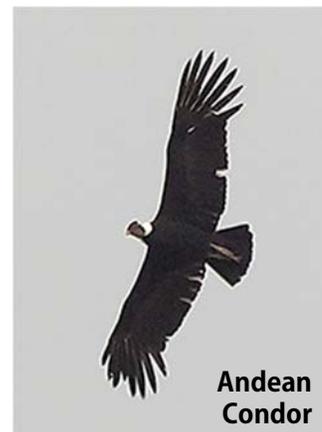
Saturday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>—Chaparrí & Casupe

Early risers (6 a.m.) will enjoy a short walk to the nearby creek for a special hummingbird treat: just in front of the lodge, several hummer species stop by each morning for their morning bath. Usual visitors are Tumbes Hummingbird, Amazilia Hummingbird, Oasis Hummingbird, Purple-throated Woodstar, and Short-tailed Woodstar. After 7 a.m. breakfast at the lodge, we head for the dry forests of the high Andes foothills to look for a new suite of birds. Just a few possibilities include Porculla Hermit, Ecuadorian Trogon, Red-masked Parakeet, Ecuadorian Piculet, and Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner.

After our box-lunch at the tiny village of Casupe, we descend back to the valley floor to explore Tinajones Reservoir. The wetland here can produce Southern Pochard, Black-faced Ibis, and a good selection of sandpipers and swallows; Chilean Flamingos have also been seen here. Final dinner and night at Chaparrí lodge.

#### Sunday, Dec 6th—Chaparrí to Túcume

After 8 a.m. breakfast, we will enjoy some casual birding around the lodge and its feeding station, where White-tailed Jay, Tumbes Sparrow, Croaking Ground-Dove, Golden-bellied Grosbeak and others are feeding practically at our feet. We will have lunch at the lodge, followed by a 2.75-hour drive to reach Los Horcones de Tucume Lodge, north of Chiclayo. Dinner and night at Tucume.



#### Monday, Dec 7th—Túcume to Jaén

After 7 a.m. breakfast at the lodge, we begin our drive to Jaén. Shortly after departure, we will make a side trip for our first chance to see the legendary Andean Condor and the endemic Great Inca-Finch. We then drive toward the Andes, reaching the mountain pass of Porculla before noon. Just before the pass we will stop to look for such specialties as Piura Chat-Tyrant, Rufous-necked Foliage-Gleaner, Black-cowled Saltator, and Chestnut-crowned Antpitta.

After a box-lunch, we cross Porculla pass and enter the Río Marañón valley—the Marañón is the mainstem source of the Amazon River. Here, the river has powerfully eroded the Andes, creating a high arid valley that is home to many endemic birds. We arrive in Jaén in mid-afternoon to check-in at hotel Luna del Valle. Those who wish to enjoy a casual afternoon of birding will drive about 15 minutes to explore the rice fields north of the city, looking for Spotted Rail, Paint-billed Crake, and other waterbirds. Lesser Nighthawks are regularly seen flying at dusk. Dinner and night in Jaén.

#### Tuesday, Dec 8th—Birding the Jaén Region

We will depart after breakfast and spend the morning exploring the dry forests north of Jaén, between the towns of Tamborapa and La Coipa where we will look for special Marañón birds like Marañón Spinetail, Black-and-white Becard, Speckled-breasted Wren, Buff-bellied Tanager, and more. We will take our box-lunch at the town of Tamborapa, followed by afternoon birding along the road between Tamborapa and Tamborillo in search of Chinchipe Spinetail and Gray-headed Antbird. Return to the hotel in Jaén for an afternoon break, followed by dinner at the hotel.

#### Wednesday, Dec 9th—Jaén to Abra Patricia

We leave the hotel early this morning and head for Fundo Gotas de Agua private reserve. Upon arrival, we will enjoy coffee and snacks before an exciting morning of birding. We will look for several Marañón specialties, such as Little Inca-Finch, Marañón Gnatcatcher, Marañón Crescentchest, Spot-throated Hummingbird, Red-crested Finch, Ecuadorian Ground-Dove, Black-capped Sparrow, and Streaked Saltator. After a couple hours of easy hiking, we will relax and enjoy a full breakfast of traditional foods at Gotas de Agua. After breakfast we continue crossing the Andes, with a few stops to look for raptors, rails, and other waterbirds in the rice fields along the road, followed by another traditional meal in the town of Pedro Ruiz.



Back on the road, we will gain altitude as we enter the Colán mountain range. As we approach the Andean cloud forest, we will enter humid habitats that host another completely different suite of birds. By mid-afternoon we will reach Abra Patricia Private Reserve, where we will spend the next

3 nights at the comfortable Owlet Lodge, named for the very rare endemic Long-whiskered Owlet. In the gardens of the lodge you will have ample time to casually enjoy myriad hummingbirds coming to the feeders, only a small few of which may include: Green Violetear, Long-tailed Sylph, Speckled Hummingbird, White-bellied Woodstar, Sword-billed Hummingbird, and Collared Inca. Dinner and night at Abra Patricia Owlet lodge.



#### Thursday, Dec 10th—Birding Abra Patricia

An early breakfast at the lodge will be followed by a hike on the “Grallaria trail”, which starts in the upper part of the lodge and goes down the hill for about two and a half hours. The trail transects humid mountain forest that hosts birds such as Ochre-fronted Antpitta, Sharpe’s Wren, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, and Golden-headed Quetzal. Returning to the lodge by 10 a.m., you are on your own to nap, explore the trails, or just be overwhelmed by some of the most spectacular hummingbirds in the world!

After lunch at the lodge, we will have our first chance to spot the enigmatic Long-whiskered Owlet, a tiny owl endemic to this mountain range. We will walk down a trail for about one hour and wait until dusk, when our local guide will attempt to call the owlet. Along the trail, we may also find Ochre-fronted Antpitta, Bicolored Antvireo, and White-fronted Nunbird. This optional excursion can be exhausting along the rugged trail. Those who choose not to make the hike will have 6 p.m. dinner at the lodge; hikers will return to the lodge for 8 p.m. dinner.

#### Friday, Dec 11th—Pomacochas & Huembo

A 5:30 a.m. departure will take us on a 1-hour drive to Pomacochas Lake. Birding on the shoreline could produce Plumbeous Rail, Puna Snipe, Grassland Yellow-Finch and more, after which we will head for breakfast in the nearby town of La Florida. Our next stop at Huembo Conservation Center features protected habitat for the endemic Marvelous Spatuletail hummingbird; other hummingbirds attending the feeders may include: Andean Emerald, Brown Violetear, White-bellied Hummingbird, Purple-throated Woodstar, and Purple-throated Sunangel. The forest inside the reserve is also an excellent place to see Emerald Toucanet, Speckled-faced Parrot, White-sided Flowerpiercer, Silver-backed Tanager, and many others. After visiting Huembo, we will explore a side-road looking for Citrine Warbler, Sickled-winged Guan, and Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager.

After lunch near Pomacochas Lake, we return to Abra Patricia Lodge for a relaxed afternoon. If we miss the Long-whiskered Owlet on the prior evening, we will make a second hike, with the same dinner schedule and our final night at Abra Patricia.

#### Saturday, Dec 12th—Abra Patricia to Waqanki

Breakfast at 6 a.m., followed by birding around the lodge itself, which can bring superb birds like Lulu’s Tody-Flycatcher, Deep-blue Flowerpiercer, Yellow-scarfed Tanager, and Grass-green Tanager.



We will depart Owlet Lodge and enter the Río Mayo valley, making several stops along the road. The first will be at Alto Nieva Private Reserve, just 15 minutes from Abra Patricia, where the main attraction is the endemic Royal Sunangel Hummingbird. Then we will drive to lower altitudes to look for Huallaga Tanager, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, the fantastic Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, and myriad other tanagers, woodcreepers, antbirds, woodpeckers, and more.

Before noon, we will reach the lowest part of the Mayo mountains at the village of Aguas Verdes, where the hummingbird feeders can produce Reddish Hermit, Green Hermit, Blue-fronted and Green-fronted Lancebills, and Violet-fronted Brilliant. After box-lunch at Aguas Verdes, we continue into Río Mayo valley for about 2 hours until we get near the city of Moyobamba. Just before the city, a narrow side road gets close to a small pond where we may see Donacobius, Orange-backed Troupial, and several different seedeaters. In late afternoon, we will check-in for our first of two nights at Waqanki Lodge, just 5 minutes from Moyobamba.



#### Sunday, Dec 13th—Birding Waqanki Lodge

After a 7 a.m. breakfast at the lodge, we will make a 15-minute drive to Morro de Calzada, a lone mountain that rises over the valley and supports a great set of birds, including Rufous Motmot, Blackish Nightjar, Mishana Tyrannulet, White-browed Purpletuft, and Pale-breasted Thrush. We will return to Waqanki to spend the rest of the morning at their unbelievable hummingbird feeding station, where the main attractions include: Black-throated Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, White-chinned Sapphire, and the fantastic Rufous-crested Coquette, with 20 NEW hummingbird species possible!

Following lunch at the lodge, you have the early afternoon to yourself, offering a chance to rest, watch hummingbirds, or just wander the grounds and forest. After the hottest hours of the day we will walk up the Quebrada Mishquiyacu Creek in search of Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Montane Woodcreeper, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Varzea Thrush, and Peruvian Warbling-Antbird. Dinner and our final night at Waqanki Lodge.

#### Monday, Dec 14th—Waqanki Lodge to Tarapoto and return to Lima

Breakfast at the lodge will be followed by a full morning at the hummingbird feeders (and birding around the lodge grounds, if you can be pulled away from the hummers!). We will enjoy our final lunch at Waqanki and then transfer to the Tarapoto airport for our return flight to Lima—but not before stopping to look for Oilbirds at Quiscarrumi bridge! Our 1.25-hour flight will have us back in Lima by 7:15 p.m. We will check in at Ramada Airport Hotel and have our farewell dinner onsite.



Tuesday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>—Tour is complete, and participants either depart Lima Airport as scheduled or stay on for the extension to Machu Picchu.

## TOUR FEE

### Includes:

- Minimum registration of 4 persons, maximum of 8.
- Lodging (3- & 4-star) as described above. Specific hotels may change depending on availability.
- Domestic air flights within Peru.
- Ground transportation and driver throughout the tour. We will use a 19-seat Mercedes Sprinter bus for groups with 4 or 5 clients, and a 28-seat minibus for groups with 6 to 8 clients.
- Expert Peruvian guide Wilson Diaz, with local guides at some private reserves, plus Steve Shunk and a second guide from Paradise Birding.
- Meals and non-alcoholic beverages as described, from dinner on Dec 1 through dinner on Dec 14.
- Entrance fees and local guides' gratuities at all nature reserves.
- Drinking water, coffee, and snacks available in the bus during the entire trip.
- Applicable taxes, fees, and licenses.

### Fee does not include:

- International flight to Lima.
- Any kind of travel insurance (which is strongly recommended).
- Meals not specified in the itinerary & alcoholic beverages.
- Personal use items & souvenirs.
- Primary guides' gratuities, which are never expected but always appreciated based on your satisfaction with our skills and service.

2015 TOUR FEE:                      \$6,700 single/\$5,900 double  
DEPOSIT:                                \$95  
FIRST PAYMENT due June 1:    \$3,000  
BALANCE due September 1:        \$3,605 single/\$2,805 double

*REFUND POLICY: Your deposit is non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation more than 120 days prior to the tour, you will be refunded any payments above your deposit. If you cancel between 120 and 90 days prior to the tour, you will receive a 50% refund of fees paid over the deposit. If you cancel less than 90 days prior, you forfeit your entire tour fee, unless you can fill your space with another birder. If you cancel at any time, your deposit is transferrable to any Paradise Birding tour at any time in the future. If Paradise Birding cancels the tour for any reason, you will receive a complete refund.*

To register for this tour, submit a non-refundable \$95 deposit with the registration forms found here: <http://www.paradisebirding.com/2015regforms.pdf>. Soon after receiving your registration form, we will send additional materials about preparing for the tour.

*We look forward to seeing you in Peru this winter!*

Stephen Shunk, Paradise Birding  
P.O. Box 547  
Sisters, OR 97759

Phone: 541-408-1753  
E-mail: [steve@paradisebirding.com](mailto:steve@paradisebirding.com)

**See below for the optional 4-day extension to Machu Picchu!**

*Extend your Peru vacation to see ancient Incan ruins and high Andes habitats:*

# Cuzco & Machu Picchu

## December 15-18, 2015

*You are making the trip to Peru, so perhaps you should spend a few days at the legendary Machu Picchu! We have designed a very special extension to our regular tour that will showcase some of the world's most renowned archaeology in the high Andes Mountains for a birding and cultural excursion you must not miss. Picture yourself here ...*

### EXTENSION ITINERARY

Tuesday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>—Lima to Cuzco

We will have a very early breakfast at our airport Ramada Hotel to ensure ample time for our 8 a.m. flight to Cuzco. We arrive at 9:20 a.m. to meet our local guide for the next two days, and then we drive about two hours into the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We will check-in at Casitas del Arco Iris hotel in the Sacred Valley and enjoy lunch at the hotel.

You will have the afternoon at your leisure to help you adjust to the altitude (over 9,000 feet), but this will not keep us from some outstanding birding! Even around the hotel we can find such spectacular hummingbirds as the Great Sapphirewing, Shining Sunbeam, and the largest of all hummers, the Giant Hummingbird. Dinner and night at Casitas del Arco Iris hotel.



Tuesday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup>—Machu Picchu

After a 6:45 a.m. breakfast at the hotel, we take a short drive to the town of Ollantaytambo, where we will board the train for Aguas Calientes, the entrance gate to Machu Picchu. Our Vistadome or Expedition train (depending on availability) will take us two hours across spectacular mountainous terrain. Upon arrival, we board a shuttle bus to the Machu Picchu archeological site.

The archaeological site of Machu Picchu is located at the peak of a mountain surrounded by the mighty Urubamba River, which runs east through the canyon almost half a mile below the citadel. Our guided visit includes the Temple of the Sun, The Tower, the Priestly Mansion, the Temple of the Three Windows, the Central Temple, the Plaza, and the fountains and channels that form the "Inca Baths". As we explore Machu Picchu we have a good chance for some special birds, such as Inca Wren, Parodi's Hemispingus, Cusco Brush-Finch, and Tricolored Brush-Finch.



After our visit to the ancient city, we will have a buffet lunch at Sanctuary lodge, a luxury lodge located inside the Machu Picchu protected area. Lunch will be followed by two hours of birding in the forest near Aguas Calientes, where we will search for Green-and-white Hummingbird, Highland Motmot, Ocellated Piculet, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Masked Fruiteater, and more.

At about 5 p.m., we take the return train to Ollantaytambo and then transfer to Casitas del Arco Iris for our dinner and night in the Sacred Valley.

Wednesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>—Cuzco

We will have breakfast at Casitas del Arco Iris and then transfer to the Ramada Cuzco hotel. Our morning will include a guided city tour, with our first stop at the colonial style Main Plaza and the main cathedral church, followed by the Sun Temple, known as the Qorikancha; this temple, with its once gold-covered walls, was one of the most important buildings in the time of the Inca civilization, built to honor the Sun God, Inti. While exploring the city gardens, we will keep our radars on for Rufous-collared Sparrow, Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch, or Cinereous Conebill.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we will visit the Sacsayhuamán archaeological site, about 20 minutes from the city center. This site is surrounded by walls built with giant stone blocks. A few more birds can be added to the final list here, including Creamy-crested Spinetail, Rusty-fronted Canastero, and Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch, among others.

We return to the hotel by 4 p.m., and enjoy our farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Night at Ramada Cuzco hotel.

Thursday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>—Cuzco to Lima

After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart at 8:45 a.m. for our drive to Cuzco airport and 11:20 return flight to Lima. We will arrive in Lima at 12:45 for same-day or next-day departures. We recommend those who are leaving on Friday stay at the Ramada Lima Airport hotel.

EXTENSION TOUR FEE PER PERSON: \$2,980 *single*; \$2,620 *double*; *payment due with final tour payment.*

*In addition to the items listed as inclusions and exclusions for the main tour, the Machu Picchu Extension includes:*

- Train tickets to Machu Picchu.
- Expert cultural guide in Machu Picchu and Cuzco.
- Entrance fees to all nature reserves and archaeological sites.



Rufous-tailed Sapphires at Waqanki