

The Northern Peru Birding Route: Chiclayo to Tarapoto





Chiclayo to Tarapoto

Chiclayo is the capital of Lambayeque Region and the 4th largest city in Peru. It is a main commercial centre with a busy tourism industry due to several museums housing collections from the Moche culture. Tours will generally fly into Chiclayo from Lima to start their tour. The city has several good hotels, although most tours will chose to travel straight to Chaparrí EcoLodge. The main route takes between 12 to 14 days, depending on the clients' requirements, with a general itinerary visiting the following sites.

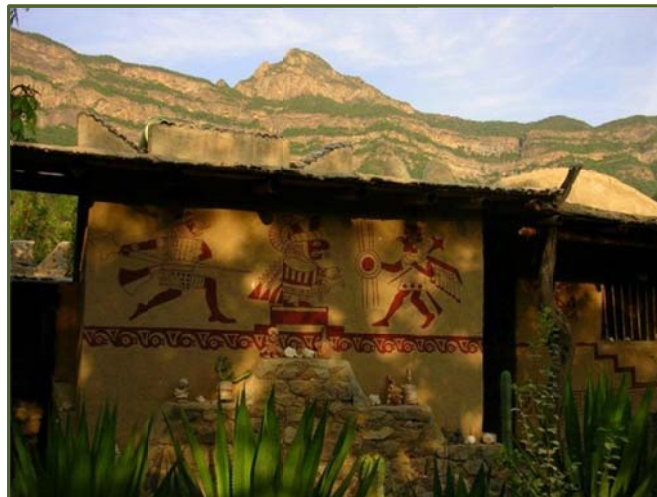
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Chaparrí Ecolodge

Located in the coastal dry forests of northern Peru, Chaparrí is a 34,000 ha private reserve owned by the Santa Catalina de Chongoyape rural community. The lodge is owned by Heinz Plenge (leading wildlife photographer and conservationist) and family. The reserve was the first Private Conservation Area to be declared in 2001 and has since grown into a role model for sustainable community-based resource management, as well as a key site on birding tours. In general tours of the north will either begin or finish their itinerary with a stay at Chaparrí. The lodge provides a relaxing atmosphere in spectacular landscape of the foothills of the Andes with the imposing mount Chaparrí overlooking the lodge. All aspects of the day-to-day running of the lodge



and reserve are by members of the local community, with income from tourism later divided to help such aspects as the local school, medical post and reserve management. Special treats include watching up to six species of hummingbird bathing in the creek in the mornings and the Spectacled Bear rescue centre.

Accommodation: Accommodation is in traditional adobe bungalows, with 12 rooms with en suite bathroom and 4 with shared bathroom. Rates include three meals and guide services and transport can be arranged from the airport or for further touring throughout the north. Electricity and hot water are provided by solar systems. Food is excellent and prepared by Betty and Zoila from the local community. Meals are served in an open area surrounded by birds and other wildlife such as the Sechuran Fox and Collared Peccary.

Access: 60 km of asphalted road east from Chiclayo airport towards Chongoyape, then 14 km on track to lodge. Just as you leave the main asphalted road you will stop at the reserve office in Tierras Blancas village to register and pick up the community guide assigned to your group. The office has a shop with gifts made by the local community. Journey time from Chiclayo to the lodge is between 1.5 to 2 hours.

Facilities: The lodge has mobile phone and internet coverage. Bar and souvenir-snack shop. Horse riding and hiking. The lodge has several trails all of which are easy to walk and bird.

Local guides: Chaparrí has excellent bird guides from the local community who accompany birding groups throughout their stay. They know the best places to find each species and although not fluent in English know the bird names in English. Guides are: Tomas Salazar, Antero Carrasco, Juan Julca, Abraham Vallejos and Ismael Vallejos.

Contacts: info@chaparrilodge.com or www.chaparrilodge.com. Visits must be pre-booked and all visitors are accompanied by a community guide and pay an entrance fee.

Birds: Dry forest and scrub below 600 m. Andean Condor, White-winged Guan, Red-masked Parakeet, Striped Owl, Peruvian Screech-Owl, Scrub Nightjar, Tumbes Hummingbird, Short-tailed Woodstar, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Peruvian Thick-knee, Collared Antshrike, Elegant Crescentchest, Pacific Elaenia, Tumbes Tyrant, Rufous Flycatcher, Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, White-tailed Jay, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, Superciliated Wren, Tumbes Sparrow, White-headed Brush-finch, Collared Warbling-finch, Sulphur-throated Finch, White-edged Oriole.



Casupe

Casupe is a small village just outside the Chaparrí reserve and part of the neighbouring rural community of Tocmoche. In general Casupe is visited as part of staying at Chaparrí lodge, with an early start and back for lunch the usual programme. Chaparrí Reserve has been helping the Casupe community with training and assistance and the community has now formed its own association for the conservation and promotion of tourism in the area. At present facilities are basic but will improve with time. As the altitude range in the area is from 700 m to 1,400 m, it provides new birds not found lower down in Chaparrí.

Most tours bird the road between Casupe village at 1,000 m and a pass known as Peña del Loro at 1,400 m. A packed-picnic breakfast at Peña del Loro, with fantastic views of the mountains and lowland plains, is the perfect way to start a good mornings birding along the 5 km downhill to Casupe. Casupe is probably the easiest spot in the north to see key Tumbesian endemic species such as White-winged Guan, Ochre-bellied Dove, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner and Gray-breasted Flycatcher, as well as many more.



Accommodation: For tour groups accommodation is covered by staying at Chaparrí lodge. Camping is possible coordinating with the community.

Access: As for Chaparrí, but after leaving the main road drive through Tierras Blancas to the junction for Tocmoche; going left takes you to Chaparrí, going right to Casupe. From this junction it is about 20 km to Casupe. The road up to Casupe passes through some very good dry forest, allowing birding stops along the way. Note that after passing Yaipón you are now in Cajamarca Region.

Facilities: Basic shops with soft-drinks and snacks. Some houses also have restaurants which serve the daily bus and limited traffic from Chiclayo to Tocmoche.

Local guides: Locals from the community are being trained to receive tourists, although at present there are no specialized bird guides. Groups from Chaparrí will be accompanied by their Chaparrí bird guide. Locals Concepción 'Conce' Cabrera and his brother Francisco 'Panche' are the main contacts in Casupe. There are several interesting hikes in the area, which the locals can guide.

Birds: Foothill dry forest and scrub 700-1,400 m. White-winged Guan, Bicoloured Hawk, Montane Solitary Eagle, Ochre-bellied Dove, Red-masked Parakeet, West Peruvian Screech-Owl, Striped Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Grey-chinned Hermit, Long-billed Starthroat, Ecuadorian Trogon, Ecuadorian Piculet, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Chapman's Antshrike, Grey-breasted Flycatcher, Tumbes Pewee, Piura Chat-Tyrant, Snowy-throated Kingbird, Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, Plumbeous-backed Thrush, Slaty Thrush, Grey-and-gold Warbler, Three-banded Warbler, Tumbes Sparrow, White-winged Brush Finch, White-headed Brush Finch, Black-cowled Saltator.

Tinajones

Inaugurated in 1969 and with a capacity of 320 million cubic metres, Tinajones is Peru's fourth largest reservoir. It borders the same rural community of Santa Catalina de Chongoyape, which owns the Chaparrí reserve. This site is usually visited on the way in to or out of Chaparrí lodge, spending a few hours of birding.

Access: As for Chaparrí. From the reserve office in Tierras Blancas the reservoir is less than a kilometre. A track runs round the reservoir allowing access to either the north or south side.

Facilities: Tierras Blancas has basic shops and the reserve office has toilets. The main town of Chongoyape is 2 km away.



Local guides: Groups from Chaparrí will be accompanied by their Chaparrí bird guide.

Birds: Comb Duck, Blue-winged Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, White-tufted Grebe, Great Grebe, Least Bittern, Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black-faced Ibis, Slate-colored Coot, Spotted Rail, Peruvian Thick-knee, Oasis Hummingbird, Crested Caracara, Many-colored Rush Tyrant, Short-tailed Field Tyrant, Tumbes Swallow, Masked Yellowthroat, Parrot-billed Seedeater, Tumbes Sparrow.



Eten marsh

Eten Port and Eten Town are about 15 km south of Chiclayo with a kilometre of road separating the two. The site lies just off the road between the two Eten, easily located by looking for an old church in ruins. The site has a small marsh, sand dunes, saline ponds, outlet of Reque river and easy access to the beach. Tours will spend a few hours here birding. Depending on the time of year expect migratory species. Also of interest is the Humboldt Penguin breeding and reintroduction project, on Media Luna beach, 2.5 km south of Puerto Eten.



Access: An interesting loop is to travel from Chiclayo to Pimentel on the coast, then along the coast, past Santa Rosa, to Monsefú and onto Eten (Ciudad de Eten). Driving out of Ciudad de Eten towards the Puerto de Eten look for the old church on the right, which is the place to park. On the way back you can drive from Eten to Monsefú and straight back to Chiclayo.

Facilities: No on-site facilities.

Birds: Comb Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, Yellow-billed Pintail, Ruddy Duck, White-tufted Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Chilean Flamingo, Waved Albatross, Sooty Shearwater, Blue-footed Booby, Peruvian Booby, Red-legged Cormorant, Guanay Cormorant, Peruvian Pelican, Tricolored Heron, Plumbeous Rail, Slate-colored Coot, Peruvian Thick-knee, Black-necked Stilt, American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, Collared Plover, Snowy Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Least Seedsnipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Lesser Yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Surf-bird, Stilt Sandpiper, Sanderling, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Gray-hooded Gull, Gray Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Belcher's Gull, Kelp Gull, Peruvian Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Inca Tern, Common Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Elegant Tern, Black Skimmer, Coastal Miner, Wren-like Rushbird, Many-colored Rush Tyrant.



Bosque de Pómac Historical Sanctuary

The Bosque de Pómac Historical Sanctuary is a State protected area of 5,800 ha conserving important archaeological sites and *Prosopis* dominated coastal dry forest. Dotted through the sanctuary are the remains of 36 adobe pyramids and other structures (called huacas) from the Sican culture, which were later adapted by the Incas. In 1995 the Señor de Sicán was discovered in Huaca El Oro, with artefacts housed in the Sican Museum in Ferreñafe. Part of the Huaca Las Ventanas has been restored; while other huacas are still being excavated by archaeologists.



Accommodation: Best accommodation in the vicinity is Los Horcones near Túcume and Los Faiques near Salas, which has its own forest for additional birding.

Access: From Chiclayo travel to Ferreñafe (some 21 km), then towards Batán Grande. Before Batán Grande look for the main entrance for the sanctuary at Zaranda, also known as La Curva (the curve). Transport can be driven through the sanctuary on a variety of trails; birding along the way. Key species is the Peruvian Plantcutter which is easy to find near the *Algarrobo Milenario* (a very old *Prosopis* tree), a kilometre down the track from the entrance.

Facilities: The visitor centre at the main entrance has toilets, resting area, parking and a shop. Main tourist attractions are well signposted in the sanctuary. The sanctuary is managed by SERNANP, the Peruvian protected area service and there is a small entrance fee and all visitors must register.

Local guides: There is a group of voluntary guides at Pómac, who are not specialized in birds, but will provide good information on the history of the area.

Birds: Pearl Kite, Savanna Hawk, Harris's Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Peruvian Thick-knee, Lesser Nighthawk, Band-winged Nightjar, Peruvian Sheartail, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Guayaquil Woodpecker, Aplomado Falcon, Collared Antshrike, Coastal Miner, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Pacific Elaenia, Gray-and-white Tyrannulet, Tumbes Tyrant, Rufous Flycatcher, Peruvian Plantcutter, Tumbes Swallow, Chestnut-collared Swallow, Cinereous Finch, Collared Warbling-Finch, Sulphur-throated Finch, Parrot-billed Seed-eater, Chestnut-throated Seed-eater, Tumbes Sparrow.

Los Faiques Lodge

A very pleasant lodge in a quiet setting, with excellent food prepared by the own Manuel Gonzales. The lodge is a good option for breaking up the journey through the north, more so as it has its own forest.

Access: located 9 km along road to Salas.

Contact: Manuel Gonzales Tel: 979299932 Email: salas_peru@yahoo.com, www.losfaiques-salas.com

Birds: Peruvian Screech-Owl, Peruvian Pygmy-Owl, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Streak-headed Woodcreeper & White-tailed Jay.





Abra Porcuya

After visiting the lowland sites in Lambayeque the route heads in-land to start the main journey to Tarapoto. You will travel along the 'old' Pan-American Highway towards to the town of Olmos; an optional stop along the way is Tucume Museum, located on-site of an important huaca. The museum grounds also provide some additional birding. The steps of the Cruz de Motupe near km 68 might also give Great Inca-Finch.



Just before the town of Olmos is the junction to start the journey to Tarapoto, here the kilometre posts are reset to zero and will count the way to Tarapoto. The next 46 kilometres are a slow ascent to the pass of Abra Porcuya, which at 2,140 m is the lowest pass along the Andean cordillera (also influencing bird distribution and speciation). The spot for birding is near the village of Limón de Porcuya, some 10 km before the pass. Note that this site is in Piura Region.

Access: The village of Limón de Porcuya is at km 36. Leaving the village there is a track on the left (about 200 m before km post 37) which takes you up higher into montane scrub and secondary growth habitat at 1,800 m. Birding from this track requires no physical effort.

Facilities: None at the site, the village has some basic shops. Tours will have stocked up on snacks or packed-lunches.

Birds: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Band-tailed Pigeon, Bare-faced Ground-Dove, Ochre-bellied Dove, Gray-chinned Hermit, Speckled Hummingbird, Long-billed Starthroat, Peruvian Sheartail, Andean Emerald, Ecuadorian Piculet, Chapman's Antshrike, Scaled Antpitta, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Watkins's Antpitta, Rufous-necked Foliage-gleaner, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, Line-cheeked Spinetail, Necklaced Spinetail, Rufous-winged Tyrannulet, Pacific Elaenia, Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant, Piura Chat-Tyrant, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, Speckle-breasted Wren, Three-banded Warbler, Black-crested Warbler, Gray-and-gold Warbler, Rufous-chested Tanager, Silvery Tanager, Rusty Flowerpiercer, Plushcap, Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch, Collared Warbling-Finch, Black-cowled Saltator, Black-capped Sparrow, Gray-browed Brush-Finch, White-winged Brush-Finch, White-headed Brush-Finch, Bay-crowned Brush-Finch, Blue Seedeater, White-edged Oriole, Yellow-tailed Oriole, Lesser Goldfinch.

Jaén

After Abra Porcuya is a drive of a couple of hours, through interesting landscape, to the next port of call – Jaén. On the way down look out for the large reservoir near Huabal, this is part of the infrastructure of the trans-Andean pipeline to pump water from the Huancabamba river, through the mountain, to Olmos to irrigate agriculture. Jaén is a large and busy town, with a warm climate.

There are a few good spots for birding around Jaén. The junction for Jaén is known as Chamaya, turning left the road to Jaén passes some small ravines on the left, which are worth exploring. Just north of Jaén is the Seminario Trial and rice fields.

Accommodation: Most tours will stay at El Bosque hotel on the road in to Jaén.

Access: Jaén is accessed from the main highway from Olmos, turning left at the town of Chamaya and continuing for 17 km. Two kilometres after Chamaya are some good ravines for birding. For the Seminario Trial and rice fields, access is easy, walking short distances or birding from the vehicle.

Facilities: No facilities at three spots mentioned. Jaén is a large town with good facilities.



Birds: Chamaya: Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Little Inca-Finch. Seminario Trial: Chinchipe Spinetail, Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Marañon Crescentchest, White-lined Tanager. Rice fields: Spotted Rail, Gray-breasted Crane, Paint-billed Crane.

Gotas de Agua

Gotas de Agua is a private conservation area owned by Luciano Troyes and family. Luciano is a secondary school history and geography teacher in Jaén and is dedicated to the conservation of this 1,800 ha of forest. A good trail system allows easy exploring through the forest and there is also an orchid garden.

Accommodation: Most tours will overnight in Jaén. The reserve is improving accommodation in the main house for small groups.

Access: Access is easy from Jaén. On the road in to Jaén from Chamaya there is a small roundabout just as you enter Jaén (Cuadra 11 of Av. Meson Muros), here go right along Av. Oriente. The reserve entrance is 6 km along this road, which becomes a track after one kilometre.



Facilities: Toilets, showers, camp site, basic lodging and kitchen. A good trail system and small observation tower. Entrance fee.

Local guides: Luciano can show the best spots for certain species.

Contacts: Luciano Troyes Rivera. Tel: (#)958574342 Email: lutrori@hotmail.com

Birds: Tataupa Tinamou, Speckled Chachalaca, Ecuadorian Ground-Dove, Blue Ground-Dove, Peruvian Screech-Owl, Spot-throated Hummingbird, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Pacific Parrotlet, Barred Antshrike, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Lined Antshrike, Collared Antshrike, Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Marañon Crescentchest, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Chinchipe Spinetail, Rufous-breasted Chat-Tyrant, Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Brown-capped Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Little Inca-Finch, Drab Seedeater, Red-crested Finch, Dull-colored Grassquit, Streaked Saltator, Black-capped Sparrow, Yellow-tailed Oriole, White-lined Tanager.

La Coipa - Tamborapa

La Coipa is a village located north of Jaén, after Tamborapa. The spot is on the road to the village, which passes through some good forest covering low lying hills. Target species is the Marañon Spinetail, although the area has many more interesting birds.

Access: Drive north from Jaén to Tamborapa, cross the river, then about 2 km is the turn left for La Coipa. Drive until km 7 where there is a track leading off left. From here there is 700 m of level trail which can be birded, eventually arriving at a stream and more dense vegetation.

Facilities: No facilities on site.

Contacts: Land is owned by Señora Francisca Izquierdo, Asociacion Agricola Ganadera La Manga, who allows access. Tel: 999920299

Birds: Tataupa Tinamou, Ecuadorian Ground-Dove, Blue Ground-Dove, Gray-chinned Hermit, Spot-throated Hummingbird, Andean Emerald, Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Military Macaw, Great Antshrike, Northern Slaty-



Antshrike, Marañon Crescentchest, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Marañon Spinetail, Green-backed Becard, Black-and-white Becard, Speckle-breasted Wren, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Buff-bellied Tanager, White-lined Tanager, Red-crested Finch.

Bagua Grande

Bagua Grande is a large town on the main highway. The site is actually 20 km further along the road near Km 246 and consists of checking out the rice fields next to the road for crakes and other species.

Birds: Savanna Hawk, Short-tailed Hawk, Paint-billed Crake, Gray-breasted Crake, Blue Ground-Dove, Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Marañon Spinetail, White-winged Swallow, Silvery Tanager, Little Inca-Finch, Saffron Finch, Drab Seed-eater, Red-crested Finch, Yellow-tailed Oriole, White-vented Euphonia.

Gocta Lodge and Gocta Falls

From the crossroad town of Pedro Ruiz the journey south up the Utcubamba valley is one of the most pleasant journeys in the north. Good birding can be had along the river and road on the journey up, keeping an eye for Torrent Duck, Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Peruvian Pigeon, Koepcke's Screech-Owl, Mitred Parakeet, Torrent Tyrannulet, and Marañon Thrush.



Depending on the tour itinerary, the first stop along the valley may well be a side trip to Gocta Falls and a night there. The falls have been ranked as the fifth highest in the world and the walk to them provides for some good birding. The fall is set in an impressive natural amphitheatre of limestone rock. From the road there is 6 km of track to the village of Cocachimba, where the community is well organized to receive tourists. The village itself is very pleasant and the locals very friendly, making Cocachimba an attraction in itself.

Accommodation: For tours Gocta Lodge is the norm; all rooms have views of the falls. The village has 2 or 3 small hostels, which are good for independent travellers. An alternative for accommodation is the Casa Andina hotel, near the Chachapoyas-Leymebamba junction, at km 39.

Access: From Pedro Ruiz drive 14 km to the junction for Cocachimba and Gocta, then 6 km of track climbing slightly to Cocachimba village. The falls can be seen from the village, although it is a 6.5 km or 2 hour walk to the base of the falls, but horses can be hired in the village.

Facilities: Gocta Lodge has a swimming pool and the usual facilities one would expect. The hostels and restaurants in the village are more than adequate and the local food is very good. There are moderate fees to walk to the falls, guide or horses.

Local guides: The community has a tourism association, with guides rotating to attend visitors, who will accompany visitors to the falls. Horses can be hired which might be advisable for those not so accustomed to hiking in the Andes. Ruben Santillan is a local guide with a good knowledge of the birds and some entertaining stories of the local history. Other guides with an interest in birds are brothers Wilson and Ilton Yalta.

Contacts: Tel: Gocta Lodge: (042) 526694, Cel: 950-465396, info@goctalodge.com, www.goctalodge.com.

Edinson Santillán, President, Asociación Comunal de Turismo Cocachimba, Cel: #954028538, #971871962, gocta_peru@hotmail.com

Birds: Scarlet-fronted Parakeet, Mitred Parakeet, Scaly-naped Parrot, Band-winged Nightjar, Marvellous Spatuletail, Speckled Hummingbird, White-bellied Hummingbird, White-bellied Woodstar, Little Woodstar, Green-



backed Trogon, Andean Toucanet, Speckle-chested Piculet, Rusty-winged Barbtail, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Variable Antshrike, Variegated Bristle-Tyrant, Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher, Pale-edged Flycatcher, Blackish Tapaculo, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Marañon Thrush, Great Thrush, Andean Solitaire, White-eared Solitaire, Black-faced Tanager, Rufous-crested Tanager, Buff-bellied Tanager, Silver-backed Tanager, Beryl-spangled Tanager, Saffron-crowned Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager.

Huembo

The Huembo Interpretation Centre is a conservation easement of 39 hectares established in 2005. Through this easement, the reserve is owned by the local community but managed by ECOAN, a leading Peruvian conservation NGO. The reserve is part of various activities with local communities, including shade grown coffee, fruit trees, and other agro-forestry products, as well as environmental education. The importance of the reserve is its population of the highly endemic and threatened Marvelous Spatuletail – regarded by many as the highlight of the Northern Peru Birding Route. This species and a further twenty or so hummingbirds can be easily seen at the feeders. Tours will spend a few hours here.



Accommodation: There are rooms available for independent travellers or small groups, although larger tours will probably stay in Pomacochas, 10 minutes further along the road, or Owlet Lodge at Abra Patricia.

Access: Easy, next to road between km 315+700m.

Facilities: Visitor centre with a small museum on local history, toilets. Good trail system, with hummingbird feeders. Accommodation for small groups.

Local guides: The reserve is managed by local Santos Montenegro, who is well known in the area for his work to protect the Spatuletail.

Contacts: reservas@ecoanperu.org,
www.ecoanperu.org/lechucitabigotona/huembo

Birds: Andean Guan, Sickle-winged Guan, White-rumped Hawk, Short-tailed Hawk, White-throated Quail-Dove, Brown Violetear, Green Violetear, Sparkling Violetear, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Purple-throated Sunangel, Speckled Hummingbird, Long-tailed Sylph, Tyrian Metaltail, Marvelous Spatuletail, Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Mountain Velvetbreast, Violet-fronted Brilliant, White-bellied Woodstar, Little Woodstar, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Spot-throated Hummingbird, White-bellied Hummingbird, Andean Emerald, Speckle-chested Piculet, Variable Antshrike, Rufous-vented Tapaculo, White-crowned Tapaculo, Tschudi's Tapaculo, Montane Woodcreeper, Montane Foliage-gleaner, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Speckle-breasted Wren, Citrine Warbler, Russet-crowned Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, Buff-bellied Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Beryl-spangled Tanager, Olivaceous Siskin.





Rio Chido - San Lorenzo

Six kilometres along the road from Huembo is the turnoff for San Lorenzo village, next to the Rio Chido. The relatively new road to the village means birding is easier along this stretch, but birding the higher areas requires more of a hike and as such is often offered as an optional activity. Area consists of patches of montane cloud-forest, bamboo thickets and riverine vegetation.

The area has several key-species; Pale-billed Antpitta (photo), Rusty-tinged Antpitta, Russet-mantled Softtail, Rufous-capped Antshrike and Large-footed Tapaculo, all of which have restricted ranges.



Access: Junction is at km 321; from there it is 4 km to the village. Access to some parts requires walking uphill on the local tracks and may prove difficult for some people.

Facilities: Village has a couple of basic shops. Main town of Pomacochas is only 10 minutes away.

Birds: White-throated Screech-Owl, Green-fronted Lancebill, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Emerald-bellied Puffleg, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Powerful Woodpecker, Mitred Parakeet, Speckle-faced Parrot, Scaly-naped Parrot, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, Pale-billed Antpitta, Rusty-tinged Antpitta, Rusty-breasted Antpitta, Trilling Tapaculo, Large-footed Tapaculo, Rufous-vented Tapaculo, Olive-backed Woodcreeper, Montane Woodcreeper, White-capped Tanager, Rufous-crested Tanager, Black-capped Hemispingus, Superciliaried Hemispingus, Drab Hemispingus, Gray-hooded Bush Tanager, Rufous-chested Tanager, Grass-green Tanager, Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager, Silvery Tanager, Blue-and-black Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch, Gray-browed Brush-Finch, Yellow-breasted Brush-Finch.

La Florida – Pomacochas

The small town of La Florida is located next to the picturesque highland lake of Pomacochas, at 2,200 m. The road into town gives the best views of the lake. A well maintained visitor's centre on the shore of the lake is the best spot for birding. Boat trips are possible across the lake to visit local communities on the far shore and additional birding.

After Pomacochas there is a 40 km drive to the next big stop at Abra Patricia. The road passes through several new settlements which have grown as colonizers have moved in over the last decades and much of the landscape is denuded of natural vegetation. The village of La Esperanza, at km 350, is the base of the NGO Neotropical Primate Conservation run by Sam Shanee from England and his Israeli wife Noga. Sam and Noga have been working hard for several years now with the local communities to conserve forests and stop illegal trade in primates.

Accommodation: Tours that overnight in La Florida will probably stay at Puerto Pumas hotel, otherwise tours will continue to Owllet Lodge.

Access: Pomacochas is at km 326. Visitor's centre is accessed by driving out of town to an obvious right turn that leads straight town to the lake edge and centre. There is a small fee at the centre.



ACP Abra Patricia and Owlet Lodge

The area of Abra Patricia, a pass before the descent to the eastern lowlands, became well-known in the late 1970s and early 1980s with the discovery of several new species; Long-whiskered Owlet, Ochre-fronted Antpitta and Johnson's Tody-Flycatcher. The area around the pass, at 2,200 m, is now a private conservation area owned by ECOAN, with the Owlet Lodge providing great accommodation and a base to explore the area over a few days.



There is a good trail system around the lodge and an excellent observation tower with views over the canopy. Driving on the highway to the lower part of the reserve is another trail along a short ridge where the Royal Sunangel is found. The area is extremely diverse in birds with more than 300 species recorded.

Accommodation: Three well-built bungalows, with four single or double rooms per bungalow. The design is such that a pair of rooms shares a common entrance area and toilet and shower. Meals are served in the main building, with comfortable sofas, permanent hot beverages and snacks. Food is very good and prepared by a local chef.

Access: Lodge is located next to road at km 364. Birding is good around the lodge on well-maintained trails. The night-walk to see the Owlet is more strenuous, with an hour walk down through the forest, and then back up. Tours use their transport to explore the forest at different altitudes along the main road during their stay.

Facilities: Good trail system, excellent observation tower, hummingbird feeders. Internet and telephone. 24 hour coffee and snacks available.

Local guides: Roberto Bazan and Ever Garcia are the resident bird guides.

Contacts: reservas@ecoanperu.org, ecoanperu.org/lechucitabigotona/owlet

Birds: Hooded Tinamou, Great Tinamou, Little Tinamou, Andean Guan, Wattled Guan, Sickle-winged Guan, Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail, Gray-bellied Hawk, White-rumped Hawk, White-throated Quail-Dove, Cinnamon Screech-Owl, White-throated Screech-Owl, Andean Pygmy-Owl, Long-whiskered Owlet, Rufous-banded Owl, Rufous-bellied Nighthawk, Swallow-tailed Nightjar, Lyre-tailed Nightjar, Green Hermit, Gray-chinned Hermit, Reddish Hermit, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Royal Sunangel, Wire-crested Thorntail, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Emerald-bellied Puffleg, Collared Inca, Rainbow Starfrontlet, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Golden-headed Quetzal, Andean Motmot, White-faced Nunbird, White-fronted Nunbird, Versicolored Barbet, Black-mandibled Toucan, Little Woodpecker, Barred Forest-Falcon, Collared Forest-Falcon, Barred Parakeet, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Lined Antshrike, Streak-headed Antbird, Blackish Antbird, Undulated Antpitta, Rusty-tinged Antpitta, Ochre-breasted Antpitta, Ochre-fronted Antpitta, Ash-colored Tapaculo, Blackish Tapaculo, Trilling Tapaculo, Rufous-vented Tapaculo, Rusty-winged Barbtail, Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner, Striped Woodhaunter, Equatorial Graytail, Rufous-headed Pygmy-Tyrant, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Black-throated Tody-Tyrant, Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant, Johnson's Tody-Flycatcher, Rufous-tailed Tyrant, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Green-and-black Fruiteater, Barred Fruiteater, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Amazonian Umbrellabird, White-collared Jay, Green Jay, Bar-winged Wood-Wren, Black-faced Tanager, Buff-bellied Tanager, White-shouldered Tanager, White-lined Tanager, Black-bellied Tanager, Hooded Mountain-Tanager, Grass-green Tanager, Lacrimose Mountain-Tanager, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Yellow-throated Tanager, Yellow-scarfed Tanager, Fawn-breasted Tanager, Blue-and-yellow Tanager, Orange-eared Tanager, Golden-naped Tanager, Silvery Tanager, Green-throated Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Blue-and-black Tanager, Beryl-spangled Tanager, Metallic-green Tanager, Blue-browed Tanager, Turquoise Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Opal-crowned Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Golden-eared Tanager, Saffron-crowned Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Green-and-gold Tanager, Golden Tanager, Swallow Tanager, Black-faced Dacnis, Blue Dacnis, Purple Honeycreeper, Green Honeycreeper, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, Black-throated Flowerpiercer, Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch, Gray-browed Brush-Finch, Tricolored Brush-Finch,



Ashy-throated Chlorospingus, White-winged Tanager, Red-hooded Tanager, Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia.

Fundo Alto Nieva

This is a 40 ha reserve next to the road at km 374+200m. The property is in between the bottom end of the ECOAN reserve and the limit of the Alto Mayo Protection Forest. The land was bought by Carlos Calle from Lima who is interested in conserving the forest and providing a reliable spot for several sought after species, such as the Royal Sunangel and Long-whiskered Owllet.



Access: Located at km 374 on main road. From road to reception area is 300 m. At present there is a cabin for the guys who administer the reserve, toilets and covered area.

Facilities: There are toilets, shower, and a roofed area for shelter or camping. Two *cabañas*, with two beds and toilet. Ten kilometres of trails and hummingbird feeders. Just down the road is a basic shop and restaurant and where vehicles are parked. In the opposite direction and still close is a *mirador* or observation point which looks out over the valley of the Alto Mayo river. There are strict rules as to the use of playback.

Local guides: Kenny Rodriguez and Wilmer Montenegro are permanently on-site managing the reserve (Wilmer is the brother of Santos from Huembo).

Contacts: Carlos Calle, Tel: 995090370, ventas@guiacalles.com, <http://perubirds.org/rutas>

Birds: Long-whiskered Owllet, Ochre-fronted Antpitta, Royal Sunangel, Rusty-tinged Antpitta, Speckle-breasted Piculet, Johnson's Tody-Flycatcher, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, White-capped Tanager, Crested Quetzal, Uniform Antshrike, White-tailed Hillstar, Ornate Flycatcher, Swallow-tailed Nightjar, Cinnamon Flycatcher, Cinnamon-Breasted Tody-Tyrant, Inca Flycatcher, Spotted Barbtail, Black-faced Tanager, Common Bush-Tanager, Cinnamon-Breasted Tody-Tyrant, Green and black Fruiteater, Rufous-Vented Tapaculo, Montane Foliage-Gleaner, Undulated Antpitta, Cinnamon Screech-Owl, Black-Mandibled Toucan.

Venceremos

Venceremos is a park guard station for the Alto Mayo Protection Forest at km 382+700m. Parking, toilets, shelter, trails and hummingbird feeders.

Birds: Green Hermit, Tawny-bellied Hermit, Bronzy Inca, Violet-fronted Brilliant, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Booted Racket-tail, Rufous-vented Whitetip, Long-tailed Sylph, Greenish Puffleg, Speckled Hummingbird, Wedge-billed Hummingbird & Royal Sunangel.



Elmer's Llantería – El Afluyente

A popular spot for birding the lower section of the protection forest is around the tyre-repair shop 'llantería' and restaurant near km 389+300m at 1,375 m. The owner Elmer Chuque also owns part of the forest here, the parking area in front of the shop and has made recent improvements for birders with improved toilets. His sons are becoming keen birders, so any encouragement from visitors is welcome. The village of Afluyente is 2 km further downhill.



The area is well known for its large mixed flocks, which can have 20 to 30 different species, with Tanagers well represented. The sought-after Lanceolated Monklet will need more patience. There are hummingbird feeders here as well.

Access: Park at Llantería and bird up and down the road.

Facilities: Toilets, parking, basic shop, tyre-repair. Contributions to upkeep are welcome.

Birds: Ecuadorian Piedtail, Collared Trogon, Masked Trogon, Lanceolated Monklet, Versicolored Barbet, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Speckle-chested Piculet, Lined Antshrike, Ash-throated Antwren, Yellow-breasted Antwren, White-crowned Tapaculo, Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner, Montane Foliage-gleaner, Spotted Barbtail, Ash-browed Spinetail, Speckled Spinetail, Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Marble-faced Bristle-Tyrant, Golden-faced Tyrannulet, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Scaled Fruiteater, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, White-lined Tanager, Fulvous Shrike-Tanager, Black-bellied Tanager, Vermilion Tanager, Orange-eared Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Blue-browed Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Saffron-crowned Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Green-and-gold Tanager, Golden Tanager, Swallow Tanager, Black-faced Dacnis, Ashy-throated Chlorospingus, White-winged Tanager, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, Bronze-green Euphonia, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Blue-naped Chlorophonia.

Aguas Verdes – Norbil's White-sand Reserve

Aguas Verdes is the next village after Afluyente at km 400 and 1,180 m. The bridge over Rio Serranoyacu before the village at km 397 is a good spot for parking and birding. Just before the bridge is an old road which leads down to the river and is good for birding. There is also a Cock-of-the-Rock lek near the village.



New to the birding route is the small 6 ha reserve set up by local Norbil Becerra, a carpenter by trade, who is changing attitudes in his community by conserving the forest. His forest is on white sands, which are known to hold several bird species adapted to this habitat type. The reserve is just behind the village, with a trail leading into the forest to where Norbil has constructed a small observation tower to watch the hummingbird feeders and wait for rarities such as Little Tinamou and Rufous-breasted Wood-quail.

Access: From Norbil's house there is an 800 m walk to the observation tower in the forest.



Facilities: No facilities in the forest. Shops, toilets, etc. in the village.

Contacts: Norbil Becerra, Av. Moyobamba 425, in front of market. Tel: 972615423. Entrance fee of 30 soles.

Birds: Norbil's tower: Cinereous Tinamou, Little Tinamou, Rufous-breasted Wood-quail, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Green-fronted Lancebill, Green Hermit, Reddish Hermit, Black-throated Hermit. General area: Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail, White-throated Quail-Dove, Lyre-tailed Nightjar, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, White-necked Jacobin, Green Hermit, Gray-chinned Hermit, Reddish Hermit, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Brown Violetear, Black-eared Fairy, Wire-crested Thorn-tail, Many-spotted Hummingbird, White-bellied Hummingbird, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Violet-fronted Brilliant, Green-backed Trogon, Blue-crowned Trogon, Lanceolated Monklet, Gilded Barbet, Versicolored Barbet, Black-mandibled Toucan, Speckle-chested Piculet, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, White-throated Woodpecker, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Lined Antshrike, Russet Antshrike, Stripe-chested Antwren, Slaty Antwren, Yellow-breasted Antwren, Rufous-winged Antwren, Zimmer's Antbird, Thrush-like Antpitta, Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Spectacled Bristle-Tyrant, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater, Scaled Fruiteater, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Gray-tailed Piha, Screaming Piha, Golden-winged Manakin, Wing-barred Piprites, White-winged Becard, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, Chestnut-breasted Wren, White-shouldered Tanager, White-lined Tanager, Black-bellied Tanager, Yellow-throated Tanager, Orange-eared Tanager, Golden-naped Tanager, Silvery Tanager, Burnished-buff Tanager, Masked Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Yellow-bellied Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Blue-and-black Tanager, Metallic-green Tanager, Turquoise Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Golden-eared Tanager, Saffron-crowned Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Green-and-gold Tanager, Golden Tanager, Swallow Tanager, Black-faced Dacnis, Blue Dacnis, White-winged Tanager, Thick-billed Euphonia, Bronze-green Euphonia, White-vented Euphonia.

El Tambo - Rioja

After Aguas Verdes there is a near 70 kilometre drive to the next centre of action around the large town of Rioja, at km 470. On the way you will notice a largely agricultural landscape, with many settlements along the road. Some 12 km before Rioja is the Yacumama recreational centre, good for birding both inside the centre and outside along the track that continues left from the main gate.

Some 5 km before Rioja is the junction left for Yuracyacu, before km 465. Five kilometres along this road is the village of Tambo, where the local community can organise canoe trips through the flooded forests. The dry land vegetation near the village is basically the same as the area around Posic, with the same birds.

Access: Five kilometres along road to Yuracyacu. Canoes are boarded a further kilometre down the road. Access through the flooded forests depends on water levels.

Facilities: Basic shops. Rioja is 10 km away.

Contacts: Fidericio Vargas, President of the Rondas Campesinas in Tambo, or Juan Huamán.

Birds: The scrub, savanna and forest patches: Buckley's Forest-Falcon, Russet-crowned Crake, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, Burnished-buff Tanager. Flooded forest: Capped Heron, Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Russet-crowned Crake, Wattled Jacana, Smooth-billed Ani, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, Black-throated Mango, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Lettered Aracari, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Ivory-billed Aracari, Channel-billed Toucan, Ringed Kingfisher, Amazon Kingfisher, Lafresnaye's Piculet, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Black Caracara, White-eyed Parakeet, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Cobalt-winged Parakeet, Blue-headed Parrot, Masked Tityra, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-capped Donacobius, Black-billed Thrush, Black-faced Tanager, Magpie Tanager, White-shouldered Tanager, White-lined Tanager, Black-bellied Tanager, Turquoise Tanager, Paradise Tanager, Purple Honeycreeper, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch, Orange-backed Troupial, Crested Oropendola.





Morro de Calzada

Next stop is the village of Calzada, some 10 km before Moyobamba, with its solitary mountain called Morro de Calzada. A steep hiking trail leads to the top at 1,450 m, but it is not necessary to climb the hill for birding. The hill and forest is managed by the municipal council of Calzada as a tourist attraction. This spot has proved fruitful for various nightjars. Between Calzada and Moyobamba is the private reserve of Fundo La Julianita (54 a), with similar forest to Calzada and the flatter terrain here might be better for some birders. After Calzada, but just before Moyobamba near km 489, a left turn and after 500 m is a pond on the right, with occasional Masked Duck and other fowl. Another interesting reserve from Moyobamba is Tingana with its flooded forests.



Access: From the main highway the junction for Calzada is at km 483. Calzada is a small village with a few shops. The road to the hill is due east out of the village, after 2.5 km is the reception area, with parking, toilets and permanent guardian.

Facilities: Parking, toilets. Calzada village has some shops and restaurants. Small entrance fee.

Contacts: Municipalidad Distrital de Calzada, office on main square.

Birds: Cinereous Tinamou, Little Tinamou, Tataupa Tinamou, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Blue Ground-Dove, Rufous-banded Owl, Striped Owl, Rufous Nightjar, Blackish Nightjar, Spot-tailed Nightjar, White-necked Jacobin, Rufous-breasted Hermit, White-bearded Hermit, Black-throated Hermit, Black-throated Mango, Wire-crested Thorntail, Rufous-crested Coquette, Greenish Puffleg, Black-throated Brilliant, Long-billed Starthroat, Blue-tailed Emerald, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Gray-breasted Sabrewing, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Golden-tailed Sapphire, White-chinned Sapphire, Green-backed Trogon, Amazonian Trogon, Blue-crowned Trogon, Rufous Motmot, Broad-billed Motmot, Swallow-winged Puffbird, Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Lettered Aracari, White-throated Toucan, Channel-billed Toucan, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Red-stained Woodpecker, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Great Antshrike, Barred Antshrike, White-flanked Antwren, Warbling-Antbird, Blackish Antbird, White-browed Antbird, Spot-winged Antbird, Spot-backed Antbird, Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Mishana Tyrannulet, White-eyed Tody-Tyrant, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, Long-tailed Tyrant, Grayish Mourner, Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Golden-winged Manakin, Striped Manakin, Fiery-capped Manakin, Golden-headed Manakin, White-browed Purple-tuft, White-winged Becard, Scaly-breasted Wren, White-shouldered Tanager, White-lined Tanager, Black-bellied Tanager, Burnished-buff Tanager, Purple Honeycreeper, Green Honeycreeper, Yellow-backed Tanager, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch, Yellow-browed Sparrow, Purple-throated Euphonia, Golden-bellied Euphonia.

Waqanki - Moyobamba

Next stop is Moyobamba, the capital of San Martín Region. Flanking the town to the south is the low lying ridge of Mishquiyacu-Rumiyacu. Some 86 ha of this forested area is the private reserve of Waqanki (990 m), run by Jose Altamirano and family. There is a good trail system, hummingbird feeders, observation tower, orchid and bromeliad garden and some 300 bird species. The reserve now has accommodation, called the Fruiteater Lodge, so tours can avoid the hustle and bustle of Moyobamba. Feeders attract some 25 or so hummingbird species, including the little but bold Rufous-crested Coquette.





Accommodation: Fruiteater Lodge has 10 modern rooms with private bathroom. Meals are provided as well.

Access: Driving into Moyobamba turn right at first roundabout, following signs for the Baños Termales San Mateo. Three kilometres along this road there is a sign and turnoff right for Waqanki, with about 300 m of access track.

Facilities: Ample trail system, feeders, observation tower.

Local guides: Jose y Carlos Altamirano.

Contacts: Caridad Altamirano agracrid@gmail.com or Jose Altamirano joseoag@gmail.com

Birds: Cinereous Tinamou, Little Tinamou, Tataupa Tinamou, Wattled Guan, Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail, Tropical Screech-Owl, Vermiculated Screech-Owl, Band-bellied Owl, Short-tailed Nighthawk, Spot-tailed Nightjar, Rufous Potoo, White-necked Jacobin, Buff-tailed Sicklebill, Rufous-breasted Hermit, Green Hermit, Great-billed Hermit, Black-throated Hermit, Gray-chinned Hermit, Reddish Hermit, Black-throated Mango, Wire-crested Thorntail, Rufous-crested Coquette, Violet-fronted Brilliant, Blue-tailed Emerald, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Gray-breasted Sabrewing, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, White-chinned Sapphire, Green-backed Trogon, Collared Trogon, Masked Trogon, Broad-billed Motmot, Western Puffbird, Lanceolated Monklet, Rufous-capped Nunlet, White-fronted Nunbird, Versicolored Barbet, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Lettered Aracari, Ivory-billed Aracari, Golden-collared Toucanet, Black-mandibled Toucan, Lafresnaye's Piculet, Spot-winged Parrotlet, Ornate Antwren, Pygmy Antwren, Stripe-chested Antwren, Slaty Antwren, Blackish Antbird, Black Antbird, White-plumed Antbird, Short-tailed Antthrush, Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser, Ocellated Woodcreeper, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Mishana Tyrannulet, Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant, White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, Little Ground-Tyrant, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Screaming Piha, Green Manakin, Striped Manakin, Fiery-capped Manakin, White-crowned Manakin, Golden-headed Manakin, Green-backed Becard, White-winged Becard, White-lined Tanager, Black-bellied Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, Bronze-green Euphonia, Blue-naped Chlorophonia.

Casa de Seizo - Moyobamba

Close to Waqanki is another lodge, Casa de Seizo - Rumipata, owned by Japanese couple Seizo Siraishi and his wife Aurora. Trails behind the lodge lead into the forest. Seizo is an excellent chef and rearing ponds provide fresh fish for dishes including sushi.

Accommodation: The lodge has 9 comfortable rooms with ensuite bathrooms.

Access: As for Waqanki, but continue to Baños Termales 300 m further along the road and take right turn and a further 300 m to the lodge. Trails behind the lodge enter forest.

Facilities: Wi-fi, trails. Meals can be arranged when booking.

Contacts: Seizo Siraishi, Tel: 942951603, rumipata@hotmail.com

Birds: Little Tinamou, Tropical Screech-Owl, Band-bellied Owl, Common Potoo, White-necked Jacobin, Rufous-breasted Hermit, White-bearded Hermit, Great-billed Hermit, Black-throated Hermit, Reddish Hermit, Planalto Hermit, Black-throated Mango, Wire-crested Thorntail, Rufous-crested Coquette, Violet-fronted Brilliant, Long-billed Starthroat, Blue-tailed Emerald, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Gray-breasted Sabrewing, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Golden-tailed Sapphire, White-chinned Sapphire, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Mottle-backed Elaenia, White-bellied Pygmy-Tyrant, Band-tailed Manakin, Black-bellied Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Green-and-gold Tanager, Red-crowned Ant-Tanager.



Quiscarrumi Bridge

From Moyobamba the next destination is Tarapoto, about 100 km away. Some 12 km from Moyobamba, after driving through El Triunfo village is Quiscarrumi bridge. Under the bridge is a narrow steep ravine with an Oilbird colony; the birds are visible from the bridge. The local community is protecting the site and making improvements with a parking area and trail down into the ravine. After the oilbirds the journey continues straight to Tarapoto, with an interesting drive and drop in altitude to an even more tropical climate.



Facilities: The village is called San Miguel de la Marginal, where the locals are helping to protect the site. To walk down into the ravine requires permission and a guide.

Birds / Aves: Greater Yellow-headed Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Oilbird, Lettered Aracari, White-eyed Parakeet, Cobalt-winged Parakeet, Rufous-rumped Antwren, Mottle-backed Elaenia, Black-faced Tanager, Turquoise Tanager, Swallow Tanager, Golden-bellied Euphonia, White-vented Euphonia.

Yurimaguas road and the Tunnel

Tarapoto is a large and busy town situated near the confluence of the Mayo and Huallaga rivers. The Yurimaguas road to the north-east rises in altitude as it crosses through the Cordillera Escalera Regional Conservation Area (149,870 ha) and provides excellent birding from the road. On the way out of Tarapoto at km 8 is the entrance to Fundo Wayra Sacha, see below. Further along are the Ahuashiyacu Falls (930 m) with parking and good facilities to bird this section. Further still is the parking for the Biodiversity Centre, which is a zoo located in the forest, but it is best to bird from the road around here. About one kilometre further up the road is a pass near km 18 and 1,020 m, with a tunnel cut through the ridge, which is unsurprisingly known as the Tunnel in the birding world. There is a parking area on the left just before the tunnel. Birding is good from the road all the way up to and around the Tunnel. Good mixed flocks can be seen crossing the road. Some key species include Blackish Nightjar, Ruddy Foliage-Gleaner, Rufous-winged Antwren, Golden-headed Manakin, Dotted Tanager and Yellow-bellied Tanager.



Facilities: Mostly roadside birding. Toilets, shops and parking at falls and zoo centre.

Birds: Gray Tinamou, Little Tinamou, Wattled Guan, Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, Double-toothed Kite, White Hawk, Band-bellied Owl, Blackish Nightjar, White-necked Jacobin, Koepcke's Hermit, Great-billed Hermit, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Black-throated Brilliant, Gould's Jewelfront, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Gray-breasted Sabrewing, Napo Sabrewing, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Green-backed Trogon, Amazonian Trogon, Western Puffbird, Black-streaked Puffbird, White-fronted Nunbird, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Ivory-billed Aracari, Curl-crested Aracari, Golden-collared Toucanet, Red-throated Caracara, Rose-fronted Parakeet, Maroon-tailed Parakeet, Cobalt-winged Parakeet, Fasciated Antshrike, Russet Antshrike, Rufous-tailed Antwren, White-flanked Antwren, Rufous-winged Antwren, Black-faced Anthrush, Long-tailed Woodcreeper, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant, Grayish Mourner, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Scaled Fruiteater, Screaming Piha, Fiery-capped Manakin, White-crowned Manakin, Golden-headed Manakin, Blue-crowned Manakin, Violaceous Jay, Scaly-breasted Wren, White-breasted Wood-Wren, White-lined Tanager, Black-bellied Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Turquoise Tanager, Opal-crowned Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Swallow Tanager, Black-faced Dacnis, Blue Dacnis, Short-billed Honeycreeper, White-winged Tanager, Carmiol's Tanager, Golden-bellied Euphonia, Bronze-green Euphonia.



Fundo Wayra Sacha

This private reserve is owned by couple Cesar Ramírez and Stephanie Gallusser. Site consists of 20 ha of primary and recuperated forests and a small part is dedicated to organic agriculture. Cesar and Stephanie are butterfly experts and the reserve has some 180 different species. Great Potoo has been recorded regularly near the house. The access trail from the road is a pleasant and easy walk, birding along the way. House has some hummingbird feeders attracting Koepcke's Hermit and others.

Accommodation: Camping is available and rooms are being built.

Access: Entrance is at km 8 on Yurimaguas road and then turn left onto access track. Track continues for 2.3 km through forest to the front gate of the fundo, the house is 100 m after the gate. Site is located in the buffer zone of the Cordillera Escalera Regional Conservation Area.

Facilities: Dry toilets, water, shower, kitchen and area to rest.

Local guides: Cesar and Stephanie are familiar with the more common birds and where to find species like the Great Potoo.

Contacts: Cesar Ramírez and Stephanie Gallusser, Calle La Merced 270, Barrio Punta del Este, Tarapoto. (42)522261 - 942903257 - 942486026. Please phone before visiting. sgallusser@gmail.com
www.wayrasacha.com.pe

Birds: Hook-billed Kite, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, White Hawk, Striolated Puffbird, Fiery-throated Fruiteater, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Great Potoo, Long-tailed Potoo, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Red-necked Woodpecker, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Ivory-billed Aracari, Lettered Aracari, Many-banded Aracari, Golden-collared Toucanet, Black-banded Owl, Mottled Owl, Spectacled Owl, Amazonian Pygmy Owl, Crested Owl, Tropical Screech Owl, Tawny-bellied Screech Owl, Blue-crowned Trogon, Golden-headed Manakin, Red-headed Manakin, Blue-crowned Manakin, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Koepcke's Hermit, Gray-breasted Sabrewing, Collared Inca, Rufous-crested Coquette, Carmiol's Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Green-backed Becard, White-shouldered Tanager, Dotted Tanager, Green-backed Trogon, Orange-bellied Euphonia, Purple-throated Euphonia.

ACONABIKH – Koepcke's Hermit

This site is relatively new and proving very popular with birders. The owner is Jerik Perez from Tarapoto. Located on the Yurimaguas road at 24.5 km, the site has good trails set in 40 ha and an observation tower surrounded by hummingbird feeders attracting more than 20 species.

Access: On the Yurimaguas road past the Tunnel for another 6 km to km 24.5, where there is an entrance gate to the reserve on the left.

Facilities: Toilets, resting area, trails, hummingbird feeders, observation tower. Entrance fee.

Local guides: Elias Roncal Campos and Hilder José Delgado Bravo.

Contacts: Tel: 942880505, jerikpc@hotmail.com, www.aconabikh.org

Birds: Cinereous Tinamou, Little Tinamou, Chestnut-headed Crane, Amethyst Woodstar, Blue-fronted Lancebill, Black-throated Brilliant, Rufous-Crested Coquette, Black-eared Fairy, Long-billed Starthroat, Gould's Jewelfront, Green Hermit, Grey-breasted Sabrewing, Koepcke's Hermit, Many-spotted Hummingbird, Reddish Hermit, Black-throated Hermit, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Green-backed Trogon, Black-streaked Puffbird, Pygmy Antwren, White-flanked Antwren, Gray Antbird, White-plumed Antbird, Black Antbird, White-browed Antbird, Black-faced





Antbird, Black-faced Antthrush, Ecuadorian Tyrannulet, Black-and-white Tody-Flycatcher, Blue-backed Manakin, Fiery-capped Manakin, Blue-crowned Manakin, Violaceous Jay, Scaly-breasted Wren.

Juan Guerra and Shapaja road

Juan Guerra is a small town 16 km south of Tarapoto. Leaving the town to the south there is a track east that passes through reasonable vegetation after about 1 km. Back on the main road, after 2 km, is the junction for Shapaja and Colombia Bridge, continuing along the road for Shapaja for about 600 m is an area to park and bird. Both these spots have several species of interest including; Northern Slaty-Antshrike (*huallagae* form), Tataupa Tinamou, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Chestnut-throated Spinetail, Barred Antshrike and Mishana Tyrannulet. Further along the Shapaja road, at km 16, is Pumarinri Lodge, set on the banks of the Huallaga river.



Access: Roadside birding and short trail into forest.

Birds / Aves: Tataupa Tinamou, Comb Duck, Masked Duck, Rufous-sided Crake, Black-throated Mango, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Green-backed Trogon, Swallow-winged Puffbird, Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Stripe-chested Antwren, White-browed Antbird, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Band-tailed Manakin, Ashy-headed Greenlet, White-lined Tanager, Buff-throated Saltator.

Pumarinri Amazon Lodge

The lodge is located next to the main road with easy access from Tarapoto. Set in 68 ha of private reserve on the banks of the Huallaga River.

Accommodation: Lodge has eight spacious rooms with views over the Huallaga river. Internet is limited to the restaurant area. Food is highly recommended.

Access: Thirty kilometres or 45 minutes from Tarapoto, driving south to Puente Colombia and then taking the road left for Shapaja. The lodge is at km 16 along the Shapaja road.



Facilities: Birding is good in and around the lodge. There are also daily excursions and other activities available.

Contacts: Tel: 042 526694, info@pumarinri.com, www.pumarinri.com/lodge

Birds: Little Tinamou, Gray Tinamou, Black Caracara, White Hawk, Wattled Guan, Spix's Guan, Marbled Wood-Quail, Hoatzin, Crested Owl, Tropical Screech-Owl, Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, Band-bellied Owl, Spectacled Owl, Andean Emerald, Gray-breasted Sabrewing, Blue-fronted Lancebill, White-necked Jacobin, White-chinned Sapphire, Green Hermit, Koepcke's Hermit, Pale-tailed Barbthroat, Collared Trogon, Blue-crowned Trogon, White-tailed Trogon, Rufous Motmot, Striolated Puffbird, Yellow-ridged Toucan, Golden-collared Toucanet, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Gray Antbird, Undulated Antshrike, Scale-backed Antbird, Warbling Antbird, Dot-winged Antwren, White-browed Antbird, Black-faced Antbird, Spot-winged Antbird, White-plumed Antbird, Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Thrush-like Antpitta, Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant, Screaming Piha, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Green Manakin, Fiery-capped Manakin, Golden-headed Manakin, Red-capped Manakin, Ashy-headed Greenlet, Buff-rumped Warbler, Carmiol's Tanager, Black-bellied Tanager.



Quebrada Upaquihua

Crossing Colombia Bridge the road follows the Huallaga river south to Juanjui. Good stop along the road here is Puerto Lopez on the river, near km 656. Continue on the main road to the village of Buenos Aires at km 665. Here the road turns left sharply into the village, while a track continues straight ahead, take this track. This track goes to Santa Rosa, but you only need to go as far as km 10 for the right habitat. Good birds include: Planalto Hermit, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Chestnut-throated Spinetail, Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant, Rufous Casiornis, Mishana Tyrannulet and Ashy-headed Greenlet.

Access: Best birding is between km 10 and 11. About 30 m past the post for km 10 is a trailing leading down into the forest.

Facilities: No facilities. Buenos Aires has shops and restaurants.

Birds: Undulated Tinamou, Tataupa Tinamou, Crane Hawk, Russet-crowned Crake, Tropical Screech-Owl, Rufous Nightjar, Black-throated Hermit, Planalto Hermit, Black-throated Mango, Rufous-crested Coquette, Gray-breasted Sabrewing, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, White-chinned Sapphire, Black-tailed Trogon, Green-backed Trogon, Blue-crowned Trogon, Swallow-winged Puffbird, Red-stained Woodpecker, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Collared Forest-Falcon, Great Antshrike, Barred Antshrike, Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Rufous-winged Antwren, Dot-winged Antwren, Rusty-backed Antwren, Gray Antbird, Blackish Antbird, White-browed Antbird, Chestnut-tailed Antbird, Black-throated Antbird, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Chestnut-crowned Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Chestnut-throated Spinetail, Plain-crowned Spinetail, Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Mishana Tyrannulet, Flammulated Pygmy-Tyrant, Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Rufous Casiornis, Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Band-tailed Manakin, White-lined Tanager, Black-bellied Tanager, Guira Tanager, Chestnut-vented Conebill.



Plataforma

Plataforma or Flor de Café is an optional site offered on the tour due to the ruggedness of the journey to get there. The target species is the Scarlet-banded Barbet; highly restricted in range to the northeast of the Cordillera Azul. Once in the right area the species can be common with sightings before Plataforma and trails leading out of the village.

Access: From Tarapoto drive 95 km to Bellavista. From here you have to cross the river and then hire high clearance trucks for the journey ahead. Depending on weather the journey from Bellavista to Plataforma can take between 6 to 8 hours and the journey back 8 to 12 hours or longer. A main town on the way is Pueblo Libre for supplies if needed.

Facilities: Site is remote and accessed on poor tracks.

Contacts: Sr. Fernando Perez RPM #9726508260 is one of the drivers that covers the route Bellavista – Plataforma.

Birds: Gray-headed Kite, Black Hawk-Eagle, Blackish Nightjar, Wire-crested Thorntail, Napo Sabrewing, Collared Trogon, White-fronted Nunbird, Scarlet-banded Barbet, Versicolored Barbet, Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, Rose-fronted Parakeet, Foothill Antwren, Blackish Antbird, White-crowned Tapaculo, Rufous-breasted Antthrush, Long-tailed Woodcreeper, Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner, Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner, Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner, Ash-browed Spinetail, Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, Slaty-capped Flycatcher, Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater, Fiery-





throated Fruiteater, Gray-tailed Piha, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Jet Manakin, Blue-rumped Manakin, Wing-barred Piprites, Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Orange-eared Tanager, Green-throated Tanager, Blue-necked Tanager, Spotted Tanager, Blue-browed Tanager, Golden-eared Tanager, Green-and-gold Tanager, Golden-collared Honeycreeper.

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