

TOP SIGHTINGS 2015



Andean Condor sighted near Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba

Last 28th of July celebrated 194 years of independence in Peru. This special day was crowned with the sighting of an Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*), during a trek with the family of Inkaterra Sales and Marketing Director Liza Masias. Led by

explorer guide José Lavilla, the excursion started at the Taucca community (near Chinchero) and continued until reaching Huchu Qosqo archaeological center, where the majestic bird was found posing over an Inca wall on the edge of a mountain ridge. The sighting confirms the great biodiversity found at Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba's areas of influence, where more than 30 bird species have been registered.



Caiman Lizard near Lake Sandoval

In October, halfway up to Lake Sandoval, Inkaterra Explorer Guide Carlos Torres and a group of travellers made a stop to observe one of the small ponds near

Sandoval Trail. Out of the blue, Carlos saw a rare creature he had never seen before. It was a caiman lizard (*Dracaena guianensis*), a species of which little is known in the wildlife and it is also threatened by poaching and loss of natural habitat. Some seconds later after surfacing, the lizard climbed to a tree and was camouflaged amid the branches.



**Neotropical otter
sighted in front of
Inkaterra Machu
Picchu Pueblo**

During a birding excursion at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, a group of travellers led by Inkaterra Explorer Guide Braulio Puma arrived at one of the viewpoints inside the property, hoping to get lucky enough to spot a

rare bird near the mighty Vilcanota River. It was a great surprise not to find a bird, but a Neotropical otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) sitting over a rock while relishing a big fish.

A solitary animal that feeds mostly on fish and crustaceans, the Neotropical otter has a conservation status classed by IUCN as Data Deficient since 2008. It is found in diverse riverine habitats from Central to South America, including the island of Trinidad. Travellers were fascinated by the chance of filming it for quite a while.



**Orange-cheeked
parrots found near
Inkaterra Hacienda
Concepción**

540 bird species have been inventoried at the Inkaterra areas of influence in the Amazon rainforest, placing Madre de Dios as one of South America's top destinations for bird

watching. On November, during a boat ride to Collpa Cachuela near Inkaterra Hacienda Concepción, a group of Orange-cheeked parrots (*Pyrrhuloxia barrabandi*) was sighted while eating clay, enthralling travellers with the intense orange color around their masseters. Other birding excursions at Inkaterra Hacienda Concepción include a visit to Lake Sandoval, a water mirror inhabited by Howler monkeys, caimans and giant river otters; and the Inkaterra Canopy Walkway, a trail system at 30 meters above the ground, allowing adventurers to enjoy a privileged view of the rainforest canopy.



**Wild Andean Bear
sighted near Inkaterra
Machu Picchu Pueblo
Hotel**

Last November, while looking for the native Cock-of-the-rock during a birding excursion led by Inkaterra Explorer Guide Braulio Puma, a group of three travellers was able to spot a wild Andean bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) from a viewpoint at Inkaterra Machu Picchu

Pueblo Hotel. The birders found this great male specimen (approximately two meters tall) camouflaged amid the bushes on the other side of the Vilcanota River. Soon afterwards the bear moved to a barren area, allowing guests to take clear pictures and footage. Due to its facial pattern (an ID equivalent to human fingerprints), it is most probable that this same bear has been observed near the hotel in past occasions. The sighting confirms the unique biodiversity living in the Machu Picchu cloud forest as well as the importance of the Inkaterra Andean Bear Rescue Center. The project rehabilitates specimens found in inadequate captivity conditions, with the purpose of studying and conserving the only bear species native to the Southern Hemisphere.