

ITINERARY

BIRDWATCHING NATURE & CULTURE

10D / 9N

BIRDWATCHING, NATURE & CULTURE

Follow part of the route of the Birding Rally Challenge 2012 and 2013.

A great way to discover Peru's richness and biodiversity in a unique experience within the country's most attractive and varied environment of the Coast, the Highlands and the Amazon Rainforest. Ten days during which you will be able to watch some of the 1,747 bird species registered in Peru, with some emblematic species like the Andean Cock of the Rock, Scarlet Macaw, Endemic species of birds like the Inca Wren, Green and White Hummingbird, Boreal and Austral migratory birds and many other colourful species; also native orchid-, fern-, butterfly species, as well as natural beauty. Experience Cusco cultural contrasts between amazing archaeological sites, stunning narrow streets and splendid colonial churches; and explore the most remarkable Inca landmark, Machu Picchu, one of the new 7 Wonders of the World.

10 days / 9 nights: Lima (3 nights), Puerto Maldonado (2 nights), The Sacred Valley of the Incas (1 night), Machu Picchu (2 nights), Cusco (1 night)

DAY
1

LIMA

Arrive in Lima. Welcome and transfer to your hotel.

Lima, the Spanish Vice-Royal capital of South America, is home to some of the most remarkable colonial mansions, churches, and squares on the continent. The cosmopolitan districts of San Isidro, Barranco, and Miraflores offer a great variety of museums, restaurants, and shopping opportunities.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight at Country Club Lima Hotel or similar.



DAY
2

LIMA

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, start a sightseeing adventure with a visit to Plaza San Martín and Plaza Mayor, Government Palace, Archbishop Palace, the Cathedral and City Hall, as well as the San Francisco Church which constitutes the best example of colonial religious art in America.



Visit the Larco Museum, founded in 1926. This private Museum displays 45,000 archaeological objects considered to be pre-Columbian art icons around the world; chronologically exhibited in impressive galleries showing the continuous development of 3,000 years of Peru's pre-Columbian history.



Lunch at Cafe del Museo.

Surrounded by beautiful gardens, this museum is located inside a unique viceroyalty mansion dating back to the XVIII century, and over a pre-Colombian Ceremonial Temple, a "huaca". Within the Museum, the finest old Peruvian gold and silver collection may be found, as well as one of the most famous erotic art collections.

Dinner at leisure. Overnight at your hotel - B / L / -

DAY 3

LIMA

Breakfast at your hotel.

Transfer from your hotel in Lima to take you to the Villa Wetlands for a private guided visit. This portion of marshlands, located at about 20 minutes south of the Capital, is one of the few protected areas found within the city of Lima where it is possible to observe wild fauna and flora.

It has an extension of 396 has., within which it is possible to observe some of the 178 registered local and migratory bird species, many herons, gulls and ducks in the lagoons and during the migration a lot of shorebirds as well.



After the visit, we proceed to nearby private Hacienda Santa Rosa, in an atmosphere and tradition of a typical turn-of-the-century Peruvian coast ranch, with the flamboyance and rhythmic step of the famous Peruvian horses "caballos de paso". You will enjoy a superb farewell creole lunch in the enchantment of an old ranch and warmth of the owners' caring attention, with a spectacular live performance of the fine Paso horses, with an elegant rider, accompanied by a couple of young and exquisitely skilled Marinera dancers - typical and most popular Peruvian coast dance.

Return to Lima, dinner at leisure. Overnight at your hotel - **B / L / -**

DAY
4

LIMA
PUERTO MALDONADO
INKATERRA RESERVA AMAZONICA

You will soon be arriving in Puerto Maldonado, the gateway to one of the world's most remote and extraordinary rainforest environments. Your journey will take you into the heart of the Tambopata National Park, where you will experience the magnificent beauty, the sounds, the scents, the colours and the solitude of the rainforest. You will find yourself surrounded by a vast natural environment, in a way that most people have never experienced before.

The Southern Rainforest is one of the last easily accessible tropical rainforest in the world. This exuberant natural paradise is considered to be a global mega diversity hot spot; it has remained intact due to limited road access and to the protection offered by 3 National Parks.

Upon arrival, you will be greeted at the Puerto Maldonado Airport by our staff members, who will assist you with your luggage. Next, you will be driven to the river port, while hearing an introductory talk about the city and surrounding areas, as well as about the characteristics of the Amazon region. Your 45-minute boat ride on the Madre de Dios river will end upon arrival at the fascinating world of Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica. If you have luggage in excess of what you will need, you may leave it at the Inkaterra office in Puerto Maldonado.

Our Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica staff will greet you and will provide information about the lodge's safety rules and the schedule of excursions during your stay. They will also assign your cabaña.

Lunch in the dining room.



Breakfast
at your hotel

Transfer to the airport
to take your flight
to Puerto Maldonado.





Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica offers various à-la-carte excursions, with duration of ¼ day, ½ day, or one day, and at three levels of intensity. Travellers may create their own itinerary according to their preferences. Excursions may vary according to weather conditions, without previous notice. Since this may be your first rainforest experience, we want to provide you with a suggested itinerary designed to help you get the most out of your trip.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Trail System.

A guided walk along one of the trails is a wonderful introduction to the incredible world of the Amazon rainforest. The trails wind past such important giant trees of the forest as the kapok and the strangler fig, and you may see superb examples of bird and insect life.

Twilight River.

Take a boat ride along the Madre de Dios river to see the change in the environment as twilight gives way to darkness. Wildlife is replaced by special species adapted to darkness, such as nightjars, owls, capybaras, and caimans. You may choose to take the Twilight Rainforest excursion as an alternative.

Cocktails and dinner in the dining room of the lodge's main pavilion.

Evening Nature Presentations on Amazonian topics, and particularly on bird observation in the Amazon rainforest. are held every evening by interpreter-guides, you are very welcome to join the presentations.

Relax on the porch of your cabaña, listening to the forest sounds at night, before retiring for the night. **B / L / D**



DAY
5

INKATERRA RESERVA AMAZÓNICA



Wake up early to observe the sun rise over the Madre de Dios River. Buffet breakfast with eggs, cereals, local fruits, and fresh bread.

Gather in the Eco-Center for your morning excursions.

Excursion to Lake Sandoval. A 40-minute boat ride takes you to the Tambopata National Reserve. Spend an hour-and-a-half walking the 3 km. (1.8 mile) trail through the wildlife-rich reserve, and you will arrive at the breathtaking oxbow lake called Lake Sandoval. Here you will have an excellent opportunity to see the endangered *giant river otter*. Also residing in and around the lake are some monkeys like the rare *Red Howler*, *Brown capuchin* and *Common Squirrel monkeys*, *red-bellied macaws*, *black caymans*, and *side-neck turtles*. Observation of bird species of the wetlands and the lake.



Return to the lodge for lunch.



In the afternoon, visit to the Inkaterra Canopy Walkway and the Anaconda Walk. A five-minute boat ride takes you to the Canopy Inkaterra Interpretation Center. Ascend the first tower, 30 meters (99 feet) above the forest floor. Spend an hour-and-a-half walking on the bridges that stretch between seven platforms, as you see giant strangler fig trees, orchids, toucans, woodpeckers, trogons, and with luck, monkeys or a three-toed sloth. A 30-minute walk takes you to a nearby wetland area, an important rainforest ecosystem that is host to many exotic plants and birds.

Return to the Lodge and nature presentation in the Eco - Center.

Cocktails and dinner at the main dining room.

Spend the night in your superior cabaña - B / L / D



DAY
6

INKATERRA RESERVA AMAZONICA
PUERTO MALDONADO
CUSCO – SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS

Breakfast at the lodge.

Morning check-out. Assistance with your luggage and return by boat on the Madre de Dios river to Puerto Maldonado.

Visit to the Butterfly House in Puerto Maldonado, where you will be able to observe several dozens of the more than 3,800 varieties of butterflies and moths found in Peru.

Assistance with your luggage, prior to boarding your flight to Cusco.



Upon arrival at Cusco International airport, transfer to the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

The Sacred Valley of the Incas is the best place to start the exploration of Cusco. It offers privileged climate, beautiful sceneries, picturesque villages and friendly local people at a moderate altitude. Travellers should not miss the opportunity to experience a variety of fulfilling activities which include: Inca sites, local artisans markets, adventure activities and a relaxing countryside.

Stop at Awanakancha where you can watch Andean artisans demonstrate weaving and dyeing techniques. Different South American camelid species can also be seen here, including *llamas, guanacos, vicuñas and alpacas*.

Then you will visit the Písac village and its traditional market which contains two sections: a daily one for tourists and a once-a-week for the local community. Traditionally, people of the highlands come down to exchange their produce such as vegetables, weavings and pottery, for essentials such as salt sugar and rice in a trade called "trueque". On the town's plaza, the church and a small interesting "Museo folclórico" can be found.

Box lunch taken on route. Arrival to you hotel.

Dinner & overnight at Hotel Sol y Luna or similar.

DAY
7

SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS
MACHU PICCHU

Breakfast at your hotel.

Transfer on a 30-min. drive to Ollantaytambo train station where you will board a train through the Urubamba Valley to Machu Picchu.

Upon arrival, you will be greeted at the train station by our staff and taken to our award-winning Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel.



Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, a rustic boutique hotel in the heart of the Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary. Cozy whitewashed cottages constructed from local materials line the stone pathways, giving this intimate 85-room, suite and villa hotel the look of a lovely Andean village.

Lunch at our main restaurant.

In the afternoon, transfer to the bus station for a 25-minute to Machu Picchu to enjoy a privately guided visit through the world renowned Inca Citadel, recognized as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.



Return to the hotel.

Dinner and overnight in the comfort of your casita at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel – **B / L / D**

DAY
8

MACHU PICCHU

Breakfast buffet at the main restaurant

A four-hour excursion will take you along the Vilcanota river into the Mandor Valley, inhabited by varied and fascinating birdlife, like the *Andean Guan*, *Green jay*, colourful tanagers among others. Relax enjoying the waterfall, before walking back to the hotel in the shadow of Machu Picchu.

Return to the hotel for lunch at the restaurant.

Spend the rest of the day enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the hotel gardens, or choose among some of our programmed eco-activities which are proposed within the hotel grounds, exclusive to our guests.



PROGRAMMEND ECO-ACTIVITIES:

- **Nature Walk** – Along the hotel's trails, visiting the Rocotal Observatory, sacred pre-Inca pictographs and an enchanting waterfall. Discover the fascinating yet fragile ecosystem of the Machu Picchu cloudforest and learn about its many endemic plants and animals.
- **Orchid Trail** – Walk through the orchid garden (372 species), the world's largest collection of native orchid species in their natural setting within a private facility (American Orchid Society); to observe some of the orchids in bloom (best orchid season between mid-October and April). From the largest orchid flower in the world to species new to science that have been discovered on the hotel grounds, some of them only visible through a magnifying glass.
- **Organic Tea Plantation** – Visit our organic tea (*Camellia sinensis*) plantation and tea house to discover the wonders of the making process. Take part as the freshly picked leaves are pressed over wooden blocks and finally seal your own tea bag.
- **Twilight Walk** – This early evening walk is designed to connect on a spiritual level with the environment and the historical energy of the Machu Picchu area. With special attention placed on nature's core elements like an enchanting waterfall, also sacred pre-Inca pictographs, and then the walk pauses at the Rocotal Observatory.

Dinner and overnight in the comfort of your at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. **B / L / D**

DAY
9

INKATERRA RESERVA AMAZÓNICA

Walk early in the morning to take advantage of the optimum time for cloudforest bird watching. Begin at a river observatory, with the possibility of sighting the sought after *Torrent duck* and the *White capped dipper*. Then proceed to a productive tanager feeding area, where *Silver beaked, Blue necked, Fawn breasted* and *Saffron crowned tanagers* can be found. Along the hotel's pathways, be on the lookout for the *Andean cock of the rock*, the *Golden headed quetzal* and many of the 18 different hummingbirds identified on the grounds, including the *Booted racket tail* and the *Green and white hummingbirds*, which are native to the area.



Breakfast buffet at the main restaurant and check-out.

In due time our staff will assist you back to the train station. Morning train to Ollantaytambo.

Upon arrival at the train station, welcome by our staff and enjoy a private guided excursion through the ancient salt mines of Maras, salty springs that emerge from the hillside and the Incas built terraces to capture the flows and harvest salt. Visit the huge circular agricultural terraces at Moray, also built by the Incas in natural sinkholes on a limestone plateau and used as an agricultural laboratory.



Lunch at a local restaurant.

Transfer to Cusco and your hotel.

Cusco was the ancient capital and spiritual heart of the Inca Empire, as well as an important colonial center. Strolling its cobblestone streets, you will spot both marvellous Incan architecture and Andean Baroque structures from the Colonial Period. Cusco today is also known for its extraordinary handicrafts, and is home to some of Peru's most talented textile and ceramic artists, as well as to superb restaurants and lively nightlife.

Spend the rest of the day and dinner at leisure.

Overnight at Inkaterra La Casona – B / L /-

DAY
10

CUSCO
LIMA

Breakfast at your hotel.

After breakfast, take a pleasant walk through the narrow cobbled streets of Cusco and see the mystery of the famous twelve-sided stone, observe some of the finest examples of Inca Architecture, and stroll the artistic district of San Blas, where the finest artisans have resided since the colonial era.



Continue and visit the recently restored cathedral, located next to the main plaza, and see the city's greatest collections of colonial art. Then, stop by the famous QoriKancha, or Temple of the Sun, originally the Inca Empire's richest temple, where, then the Spanish Built a Catholic church.

Lunch at leisure.

In due time, transfer to Cusco International airport to take your flight to your next destination. - B / - / -



END OF OUR SERVICES

Meal Symbols: B: Breakfast – L: Lunch – BXL: Box Lunch – D: Dinner

Included:

- Transfers in private transportation except at Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica
- Train tickets to and from Machu Picchu
- Bus tickets to and from the Machu Picchu ruins
- Entrance ticket to the Machu Picchu ruins
- Excursions and tours with private local English speaking guide.
- Eco-activities at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel, exclusive to our guests
- Accommodation as indicated in the itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- 10% service, and local tax (VAT 18%) where applicable

Not Included:

- International and local airfares
- Hotels, and meals not described in the itinerary
- Visits and entrance tickets to unspecified ruins, parks or other sites
- International airport tax (TUUA)
- Local tax (18% V.A.T. only applicable to Peruvian and foreign residents in Peru for their stay and meals taken at hotels); to be exempted from this tax you will need to show your original passport and Andean Immigration Card at the moment of registration at hotels.
- Personal expenses and insurance