



## Birds of the Sacred Valley of the Incas

**N**estled between Cusco and Machu Picchu the majestic Andean mountains engulf the spectacular Sacred Valley of the Incas. Shrouded in adventure, the Sacred Valley is a sea of green that houses the plethora of fauna that lives amidst the trees, waiting excitedly to be discovered.



Perfectly located in the Andean mountains stands our luxurious Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba property, which offers guests the chance to catch the birds mid flight whilst participating in our

“bird watching expedition”. Using various trails, bird watchers or “Twitchers” are encouraged to spread their wings and delve deeper into the valley in search of the 30 different species that call Urubamba home. The excursion, which lasts a couple of hours is the ideal way discover Inkaterra’s feathered friends.



From Hawks to Hummingbirds, guests and staff at Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba regularly spot the birds at play in their environment. Not only are they caught frolicking amidst the Andean treetops and open space, but on several occasions we have witnessed the hatching of these beautiful birds. Recently, beneath the fennel plants outside the ecological farm at Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, two Inkaterra guides discovered a nest of small bird’s eggs, muted blue and purple in colour. “We were so excited to identify that the nest housed a flock of Rufous-collared Sparrows” (South America’s most common species of bird).



Photo courtesy of José Lis Lavilla

Another exhilarating sighting was on the 28th July, the Independence day of Peru, where the team spotted an Andean Condor, which gave another reason to celebrate. Whilst trekking to Huchu Qosqo archaeological centre, the majestic bird was caught posing over an Incan wall on the edge of the mountain ridge.



Photo courtesy of José Lis Lavilla

These positive sightings confirm and emphasise the unique biodiversity found at Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba and the surrounding valley