



**Dates: October 9<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Includes:**

- 02 Nights at Sonesta Hotel (4\*) in Cusco w/private restroom
- 02 Nights at Wayqecha w/private restroom
- 01 Night at Cock of the Rock lodge w/private restroom
- 04 Nights at Manu Biolodge w/private restroom
- 01 Night at Pakaritampu (3\*) at Ollantaytambo w/private restroom
- 01 Night at Sumaq Hotel Machu Picchu Hotel (5\*) w/private restroom
- 01 Tour leader free on single occupancy
- Private English-speaking Birding Guide for the whole trip
- Private driver and ground transportation where it is relevant.
- Roundtrip train tickets to/from Aguas Calientes
- Entrance fee and private guide to Machu Picchu
- Bus round trip to/from Machu Picchu
- Access to extensive trail systems at the station, feeders and hide along the Manu Road.
- Meals as indicated; unlimited water, tea and coffee.
- **Does not include:** Meals as not indicated, International and internal airfare to/from Lima, alcoholic beverages, laundry, tips, bank fee or any other service not specifically mentioned.

DATE	POINTS OF INTEREST	TOUR DETAILS	MEALS
<b>Day 1</b> October 9, 2026	Arrive at Cusco	Pick up and Transfer to the hotel Take the day to relax and acclimatize <b>Overnight Sonesta Hotel</b>	None
<b>Day 2</b> October 10, 2026	Cusco - Wayqecha	Pick up from your hotel in Cusco at 0700 Transfer to the lodge and box lunch on the route <b>Overnight Wayqecha</b>	B - BL - D
<b>Day 3</b> October 11, 2026	Wayqecha	Full day birding Wayqecha and Surrounds <b>Overnight Wayqecha</b>	B - L - D
<b>Day 4</b> October 12, 2026	Wayqecha – Manu Biolodge	Full Day Birding Wayqecha – Manu Biolodge <b>Overnight Manu Biolodge</b>	B - BL - D
<b>Day 5</b> October 13, 2026	Manu Biolodge	Full Day Birding Manu Biolodge <b>Overnight Manu Biolodge</b>	B - L - D
<b>Day 6</b> October 14, 2026	Manu Biolodge	Full Day Birding Manu Biolodge <b>Overnight Manu Biolodge</b>	B - L - D
<b>Day 7</b> October 15, 2026	Manu Biolodge	Full Day Birding Manu Biolodge <b>Overnight Manu Biolodge</b>	B - L - D
<b>Day 8</b>	Manu Biolodge - Cock-of-the-Rock-	Full day birding Manu to Cock-of-the-Rock <b>Overnight COTR Lodge</b>	B - BL - D



October 16, 2026 Lodge

<b>Day 9</b> October 17, 2026	Cock-of-the-Rock-Lodge - Ollantaytambo	Early Breakfast at Cock of the Rock Lodge Box Lunches on route and traveling to Ollantaytambo Arrive for dinner <b>Overnight Pakaritampu</b>	B - BL - D
<b>Day 10</b> October 18, 2026	Ollantaytambo – Abra Málaga – Aguas Calientes	Early morning birding at Abra Malaga Lunch at Pakaritampu hotel then take the train to Aguas Calientes (Vistadome leaving at 15:37 – arriving 17:02) and check in at Aguas Calientes Dinner at the hotel <b>Overnight Sumaq Hotel Machupicchu</b>	B - L - D
<b>Day 11</b> October 19, 2026	Aguas Calientes – Cusco	Early Breakfast at the hotel Morning visit Machu Picchu with a cultural local guide Lunch Take the train back to Ollantaytambo (Vistadome leaving at 14:55 – arriving 16:31) Transfer to Cusco, arrival in the late afternoon (18:30). Farewell group dinner (20:30) <b>Overnight Sonesta Hotel</b>	B – L - D
<b>Day 12</b> October 20, 2026	Cusco - OUT	Transfer to Cusco airport	B

## ITINERARY

The Manu Biosphere Reserve has the highest diversity of life on Earth and is one of the most important conservation units in the world. The Cloud forests and Mountains of Manu is a trip to the more temperate orchid and epiphyte laden montane and foothill forests. Here Spectacled Bears, Quetzals, Antpittas, Andean Guans and Cock-of-the-Rocks still live unmolested, along with a myriad of Tanagers and Flycatchers. We stay at a selection of the most comfortable and bird friendly lodges in the area. Unlike other companies we own and run 2 of the 3 lodges you will stay at and most importantly all funds generated are 100% reinvested in our nonprofit conservation arm.

### **Day 1: October 9th: Arrive in Cusco**

Arrive in Cusco, we recommend a mid-morning flight from Lima to Cuzco. We recommend Latam for all flights. Take it easy in Cuzco for the first day. Our general advice is just hanging out walking slowly in the center plaza surroundings. Very important not underestimating the altitude sickness. The elevation may hit you if you are not careful. Eat very light on that day.

### **Day 2: October 10th: Birding Huacarpay Lakes, the Puna grasslands, and intermontane valleys on our way to Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station and Birding Lodge.**

**A brief introduction to Wayqecha.** Your journey begins at Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station, perched at nearly 3,000 meters above sea level. Wayqecha supports a wide range of research on local biodiversity, ecosystem dynamics, and the impacts of climate change on montane forests. The station serves as a hub for environmental education and training programs for local students, and it operates a camera trap network to study elusive cloud forest animals. In addition to scientific work, Wayqecha engages nearby communities in efforts related to forest restoration and sustainable ecotourism. Since its



establishment, the station has supported more than 80 research projects, generated over 70 scientific publications, and contributed to the discovery and description of over 625 new species.

We pick you up from your Cusco hotel early as this is a long day with many birds and sights to see. Your bird tour leader will greet you after breakfast and we will then head out south of town to Huarcapay Lakes. The lakes are surrounded by Inca and pre-Inca ruins. Here we will make a brief stop for a variety of high Andean waterfowl including Puna, Yellow-billed and Cinnamon Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, Andean Duck and other wetland-associated birds. White-tufted Grebe and Slate-colored Coot will be here too. Depending on the time of year migrant North American shorebirds (waders) may also be present. We will be specifically on the look-out for Wren-like Rushbird, Many-colored Rush-tyrant, Yellow-winged Blackbird, Puna Ibis, Plumbeous Rail and Andean Negrito. Birds of prey we may see include Aplomado Falcon, Cinereous Harrier, Variable Hawk and Black-chested Buzzard-eagle. In the surrounding arid scrub, we will look for the endemic Rufous-fronted Canastero and Streak-fronted Thornbird. We will continue our journey over the highest point of the journey above Huancarani. We should find the endemic Bearded Mountaineer feeding in the tree tobacco (*Nicotania* sp.), along with Giant Hummingbird and Trainbearers. Peruvian, Ash-breasted and Mourning Sierra-finches will also be here, as well as Greenish Yellow-finch, Golden billed Saltator and Blue and Yellow Tanager.

Later we'll look for the endemic Chestnut-breasted Mountain-finch. We should see Andean Hillstar, Andean Flicker, Black-throated Flowerpiercer and Chiguanco Thrush and other high Andean birds including ground-tyrants and Canasteros. Our next stop will be to look for the endemic Creamy-crested Spinetail. Traveling on we will arrive at the last Andean pass, Ajcanacu, and if the weather is clear we will be able to look out over the Amazon basin as it stretches into the distance, just as the Incas did when they would worship the sun rising over the endless rainforest. In the afternoon we'll arrive at the Wayqecha Cloud Forest Birding Lodge at an altitude of 2,800 meters. Wayqecha boasts six freshly renovated cabins which offer from your balcony a magnificent view to watch clouds roll across the Andes and Cloud Forest. Each cabin features comfortable beds (your choice of single, double or twin) with private, well appointed, bathrooms with hot showers. A brand-new dining room, lounge and bar welcome you for meals and provide comfortable seating for reviewing your lists at the end of the day.

**Day 3: October 11th: Birding Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station and Birding Lodge 3300m/11,000ft to 2600m/8500ft**

After an early hot breakfast, we then have a full day exploring the humid temperate forest from tree line down for such species as Mustached Flowerpiercer, Tit-like Dacnis, Golden-collared Tanager and Puna Thistletail. We will then spend the rest of the day birding downhill through the forest, looking for mixed feeding flocks that will contain Grass-green Tanager, Hooded Mountain-tanager, Black-throated Tody-flycatcher, Barred Fruiteater, White-banded and White-throated Tyrannulets and many more. If we are lucky, we may see Peruvian Treehunter, Golden-plumed Parakeet or even Greater Scythebill. Possibilities are many but we hope to encounter mixed species flocks comprising tanagers, flycatchers and ovenbirds. Gray-breasted Mountain-toucan, Collared Jay and Mountain Cacique are some of the many species we may find. One evening we may go to a favorite spot where we have had luck calling in Swallow-tailed Nightjar. We will then return for a second night at Wayqecha Lodge.

**Day 4: October 12th: Wayqecha 3300m/11,000ft to 2600m/8500ft to Manu Biolodge 1300m/4265ft to 520m/1700ft**  
A brief introduction of Manu Biological Station as a center for developing conservation-based economies, conducting ecological research, and offering training and education opportunities—all while working to protect the surrounding Manu landscape.

Manu Biological Station's unique location at the edge of agricultural and forested zones makes it an unparalleled site for



biodiversity. Its infrastructure is nestled in farmland, yet just a short walk away lies undisturbed primary forest. This ecotone, or transition zone, hosts species from forest interiors, forest edges, and open habitats, greatly enhancing biodiversity and offering visitors unmatched Wildlife encounters. The station enjoys a pleasant tropical climate with warm days and cool nights, and very few biting flies. This makes it an ideal and comfortable introduction to the Amazon for students, researchers, and ecotourists alike, during your stay at Manu Biolodge you will have the opportunity to visit the great laboratory.

## THOMAS LOVEJOY MOLECULAR LABORATORY

Thomas Lovejoy Molecular Biology, Biodiversity, and Climate Change Laboratory is a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to advancing molecular research in the Amazon. The lab supports studies in barcoding, metabarcoding, eDNA, and organismal physiology, and includes a general lab space, digital herbarium, species collections, and pollinator-friendly gardens. Named in honor of renowned scientist Thomas Lovejoy, the lab trains local researchers, contributes to global biodiversity knowledge, and helps monitor ecosystem health in real time.

At breakfast we will again be greeted with a varied dawn chorus, with both Red-and-white Antpitta and Urubamba Antpitta calling (endemics). We'll spend time around the lodge which has some attractive Hummingbird feeders and a worm feeder for the elusive endemic Urubamba Antpitta. We will pay particular attention today to the stretch of upper tropical zone forest between 1,500- and 800-meters altitude. This upper tropical zone forest has disappeared on much of the Andean slopes in South America because of its suitability for cash crops such as tea, coffee and coca. Fortunately, in this part of Peru this forest remains untouched. In winter we will be keeping a keen eye out for a spectacular newly described Inti Tanager, which we have seen on several of our tours. Other birds which we may see on this stretch of road include: Rufous-breasted Wood-quail, Speckle-faced Parrot, Yungas and Russet-crowned Warblers, Long-tailed Sylph, Lanceolated Monklet, Versicolored Barbet, Rufescent Antshrike, Rufous-ored Tyrannulet, Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant, Fulvous-breasted Flatbill, Golden-collared Honeycreeper, White-winged Tanager, Yellow-throated Bush-tanager and the endemic Black-backed Tody-flycatcher. We plan to arrive at the comfortable Manu Biolodge in time for some birding in the lodge grounds. Nights at Manu Biolodge are at an altitude of 500 meters. The welcoming independent cabins have with floor-to-ceiling screened windows. Each well-appointed cabin features comfortable beds (your choice of single, double or twin) with mosquito nets and a luxurious private bathroom. A large dining room, lounge, and bar welcome you for meals and provide comfortable seating for reviewing your lists and relaxing at the end of the day.

### ***Day 5, 6 and 7: October 13th, 14 and 15th: Birding the low foothills, bamboo forest and the edge of the Amazon at Manu Biolodge. 530m/1700ft to 650m/2130m***

We will spend these days working the birdy garden at the Lodge and trails. The lodge has a bird list of over 650 species. There are butterfly bushes in the lodge garden that attract various hummingbird species, including the pretty Rufous-crested Coquette, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Blue-tailed Emerald, Black-eared Fairy and Wire-crested Thorntail. The possibilities around the Lodge are enormous and we will bird a variety of habitats, including floodplain and hill forest. Some of the many species that we will be on the look-out for include: Wattled Guan, Military and Blue-headed Macaws, Pheasant Cuckoo, the endemic Koepcke's Hermit, Chestnut-capped Puffbird, Fine-barred Piculet, Red-billed Scythbill, Thrush-like Antpittas, Rusty-belted Tapaculo, Mottle-backed Elaenia, Red-billed Tyrannulet, Johannis' and Yellow-browed Tody-tyrant, Ornate Flycatcher, Band-tailed, Fiery-capped and Round-tailed Manakins, White-thighed Swallow.

We will also have the possibility of night birding whilst staying here and in the past, we have seen Mottled Owl, Black-banded Owl, Tawny-bellied Screech-owl, Great, Long-tailed and Common Potoos. The area around Manu Biolodge lodge is characterized by large stands of Chusquea bamboo and we will spend the morning looking for some specialties of this micro-



habitat, such as White-cheeked and Flammulated Tody-tyrants, Large-headed Flatbill, Dusky-cheeked Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-headed Woodpecker, Manu, White-lined and Goeldi's Antbirds, Red-billed Scythebill, Bamboo Antshrike, Ornate and Dot-winged Antwrens. Scarlet-hooded Barbet is here too, along with a wide variety of foothill species. There are feeders where Amazonian Antpitta and Tinamous attend. One day we'll bird the road to Atalaya planning to be at the Atalaya look out over the Madre de Dios River and visit two sets of Hummingbird feeders to add yet more species to our Hummingbird list. There is much to see here at this comfortable lodge and not only birds, we shall surely meet some troops of primates and other Amazon wildlife. Nights Manu Biolodge.

In addition to time spent in the field looking for wildlife, we will also spend time learning about the many wonderful conservation activities taking place in and around the Manu Biological Station, including a tour of the Thomas Lovejoy Molecular Laboratory.

***Day 8: October 16th: Manu Biolodge 530m/1700ft to 650m/2130m to Cock of the rock Lodge.***

We will then leave the Lodge and spend the whole day birding down a little-travelled road, bordered with pristine forest, until we reach our next destination. Some of the special birds which we will look for today include: Black and Chestnut Eagle, Andean Guan, Scaly-naped Parrot, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Bar-bellied Woodpecker, the Marcapata Spinetail (endemic) and Fulvous Wren (endemic), Barred and Band-tailed Fruiteaters, Ochraceous-breasted Flycatcher, Barred Becard, Pale-footed Swallow and many tanagers. We will also encounter a wide variety of hummingbirds including Gould's Inca, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Purple-backed Thornbill, Scaled Metaltail and White-bellied Woodstar. We are planning to arrive at Cock of the rock Lodge in the afternoon to visit an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek, this will be a great opportunity for photos and observation of such a charming bird. We will then spend the night at the comfortable Lodge at an altitude of 1,300 meters at San Pedro.

***Day 9: October 17th: Cock of the Rock Lodge to Ollantaytambo***

After a dawn breakfast overlooking the birdy garden and Hummingbird feeders, accompanied by the singing of Andean Solitaires and Paradise Tanagers, we will leave Cock-of-the-Rock to drive for about 6 and a half hours through the Andes to the Inca town of Ollantaytambo. We will stop along the way at the Enisfera Hummingbird Garden where we have a good chance of seeing the enigmatic Sword-billed Hummingbird and others at close range, here we have the chance to have a great lunch in the middle of the Sacred Valley. Then we'll will continue to arrive late afternoon at Pakaritampu hotel.

***Day 10: October 18th: Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu***

Early start, after breakfast, we'll visit the high Polylepis above Abra Malaga. This area is protected by the Andean Ecosystems Association (ECOAN), an organization dedicated to the restoration of high mountain ecosystems in Peru since 2021. The scenery will be dramatic, with good possibilities for Line-fronted Canastero, Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant (endemic), White-browed Tit-Spinetail (endemic), Tawny Tit-Spinetail, Giant Conebill, Stripe-headed Antpitta, Puna Tapaculo, Tit-like Dacnis, Blue-mantled Thornbill, Andean Condor, Thick-billed Siskin, Junin Canastero (endemic) and more. Other possibilities throughout the day include: Drab, Three-striped, Black-eared and Black-capped Hemispingus', Golden-collared and other Tanagers, White-throated and White-banded Tyrannulets, Andean Ibis, Unstreaked Tit-tyrant (endemic), White-rumped Hawk, Sierran Elaenia, Marcapata Spinetail (endemic), Inca Wren (endemic), Diademed and Trilling Tapaculo plus a lot more. We'll return to our hotel to have lunch and take our luggage to continue with our journeys to Machu Picchu, we will take the train 2-hour traveling journey to Machu-Picchu, arriving in the afternoon. Dinner follows at the luxury hotel. Night at Sumaq Hotel Machu Picchu.

***Day 11: October 19th: Machu Picchu back to Cusco***

After a early breakfast we will visit the the ruins, we are taken on a guided tour of this mystical archeological complex. White-tipped Swifts may be flying overhead. ¡MACHU PICCHU - one of the most magical and mysterious places on Earth! Situated on



the spine of a jungle cloaked granite peak towering some 2,000 ft. above an entrenched meander of the roaring river below, the site is frequently shrouded in misty clouds pierced by the powerful equatorial sun.

Constructed from precisely sculptured granite blocks carefully joined with the projecting exposed stone of the surrounding mountain, the site may well be the finest architectural achievement of the new world, otherwise romantically known to the tourist world as "The lost city of the Incas". After a sumptuous buffet lunch at the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge we will return on the train to Ollantaytambo then transfer to Cusco for a farewell dinner. Night at Sonesta Hotel.

### ***Day 12: October 20th: Cusco flight to Lima***

After breakfast, transfer to the Cusco airport to take the flight and return home.

## **TRAVEL AND PACKING TIPS**

### **Documents**

Remember your passport! You may also want to make copies of other important documentation you will be traveling with, like credit cards, as a backup. We highly recommend buying a policy to protect the investment of your trip. Flight delays, missed connections, damaged baggage or inclement weather are all examples of issues covered by a policy but not by AMAZON JOURNEYS.

### **Food and Water**

Peruvian food is hearty and tasty but not spicy. Bottled water will be available throughout the trip. It is also handy to keep a roll of toilet paper or tissues with you for your use, as not all restrooms will provide toilet paper. It is also important that you do not flush used tissue (there is a wastebasket in each stall for this purpose).

### **Altitude**

The elevation at Wayqecha is about 9,000 feet (2700 meters), and Cusco is over 11,000 feet (3400 meters) / Manu Biolodge is about 1800 feet (550 meters). Keeping hydrated is important, as is rest and eating lightly. Coca tea is also known to help for altitude, and some have found that high-electrolyte drinks also help. Acetazolamide (Diamox) is the recommended preventative medication.

### **Tipping**

Tipping the guide and/or the driver is completely optional.

### **Electricity**

Peru uses the standard 2-prong plugs seen in the US. If you have any electronic devices that have 3-prongs (such as a laptop), we recommend you bring an adaptor. The power is available at the lodge's 220 volts, for 110 volts a special adaptor.

Wayqecha has power through photovoltaic energy and Manu Biolodge has electricity from the town, if for some weather reason is not available the electricity we have is a generator working for emergency situations.

### **Internet**

Internet service is available at all the Lodges and hotels in Cusco and Manu Road, although connectivity at Wayqecha is limited. The network is shared among all visitors and staff, so we kindly ask that you use it responsibly and avoid high-bandwidth



activities such as video streaming or large file uploads/downloads. Please note that service interruptions may occur due to weather conditions, power fluctuations, or other natural factors beyond our control.

### **Climate/Packing**

Bringing a variety of layers for a full range of weather is essential. Wayqecha could be in the 40s or even the 30s at night, and in the 50s to 60s during the day, with sporadic mists to downpours of rain. Manu Biolodge is generally pleasant, warmer in the day to the mid to high 80s, and cooler at night in the 60s. Please also be prepared for the rainy season, generally from December through March.

### **Packing list for all stations:**

- Short sleeve shirts
- Light long sleeve shirts
- Lightweight long pants
- Sun cap (good for intense, high-altitude sun and for light rain)
- Insulating layer (for Wayqecha)
- Stocking cap and scarf (for Wayqecha)
- Sweater and/or fleece (a necessity for Wayqecha)
- Rain coat or poncho
- Flip-flops/sandals (personal preference for showering)
- Sturdy, comfortable walking shoes
- Several pairs of socks
- Rubber rain boots (if you do not want to use the ones available at the lodge)
- Small umbrella
- Insect repellent (recommended with DEET) (Manu Biolodge and Los Amigos)
- Small day pack for travel days and short hikes
- Altitude and motion sickness medication for drive or boat trip (if you are prone to motion sickness).
- Personal medications (including for headaches or upset stomach).
- A couple of plastic bags (to store wet or dirty items).
- Water bottle.
- Toiletries (including Kleenex or toilet paper).
- Sunscreen.
- Headlamp/flashlight.
- Binoculars