

NORTH PERU ITINERARIES

2017

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PRE-TOUR – PLATAFORMA – 4 days from 23 August 2017

This is an optional pre-tour for people wishing to look for the recently discovered and very range-restricted Scarlet-banded Barbet at a site c.150 kms south of Tarapoto. Hot off the press comes the news that another new species has been discovered here, an antbird apparently related to the Wing-banded Antbird. Both these species were seen on our 2016 tour. Unlike the rest of the tours where we use quality lodges and hotels throughout, this involves 2 nights at a basic and remote (but comfortable) hostel and the rough journey can take up to 8 hours. However, the birding should be very rewarding.

Wed 23 Aug – TARAPOTO

Arrive Tarapoto. Transfer by minibus (20 minutes) to Tucan Suites, a quality hotel in Tarapoto. Transfers from the airport at any pre-arranged time. Local birding or sightseeing for anyone arriving in daylight. Baggage not required at Plataforma can be left for transfer to Pumarinri.

o/n Tucan Suites, Tarapoto

Thurs 24 Aug – TARAPOTO to PLATAFORMA

Transfer by minibus to Bellavista and then by 4WD vehicle up to the remote village of Plataforma. This is a rough journey and is likely to take most of the day.

o/n in a hostel in Plataforma

Fri 25 Aug – PLATAFORMA

All day birding along the muddy forest trails around Plataforma. As well as Scarlet-banded Barbet, we look for Yungas & Blue-rumped Manakins, Rufous-breasted Ant-thrush, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Lined Antshrike & Rufous-tailed Foliage-gleaner.

o/n in a hostel in Plataforma

Sat 26 Aug – PLATAFORMA to PUMARINRI

Return from Plataforma down to Bellavista and then to Pumarinri to join those arriving for the main tour.

TOUR – TARAPOTO to CAJAMARCA - 21 days from 26 August 2017

Sat 26 Aug – PUMARINRI

Arrive Tarapoto. Transfer by minibus to Pumarinri Amazon Lodge, about a 40 minute journey. Transfers from the airport at any pre-arranged time. Local birding or sightseeing for anyone arriving in daylight.

o/n Pumarinri

Sun 27 Aug – PUMARINRI – trails, boat trip.

Birding on the slopes of the Huallaga River at c.230 metres altitude. Local trails. Boat trip upriver in afternoon, chance of Hoatzin & Fasciated Tiger Heron. Spot lighting by the Lodge in the evening for a variety of owls, including Tropical Screech, Ferruginous Pygmy, Crested, Band-bellied & Black-banded.

o/n Pumarinri

Mon 28 Aug – PUMARINRI – Pucayaquillo Waterfall

All day at Pumarinri. Walk trail to Pucayaquillo Waterfall, good forest birding with chance of several antbirds & many tanagers, White Hawk & Mishana Tyrannulet. Opportunity to swim in the waterfall pool. Spot lighting around lodge in eve.

o/n Pumarinri

Tues 29 Aug – QUEBRADA UPAQUIHUA & HUALLAGA RIVER

Leave Pumarinri for the day & drive south down main road past roadside wetland to Buenos Aires. Head north-west from there to some good areas of dry forest at Quebrada Upaquihoa. Good for antbirds, parrots & tyrant

flycatchers, Band-tailed Manakin. Return from Puerto Sangama to Pumarinri by boat – terns, perhaps skimmers, roosting nighthawks & nightjars.

o/n Pumarinri

Wed 30 Aug – JUAN GUERRA, TARAPOTO

Leave Pumarinri & drive back in direction of Tarapoto, spend morning at the dry forest at Juan Guerra, look for Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Great Antshrike, Chestnut-capped Puffbird & many more. Late lunch at Tucan Suites at edge of town, local birding in afternoon or relax, tour the town, etc.

o/n Tucan Suites

Thurs 31 Aug – THE TUNNEL at CERRO ESCALERA

Day trip north-eastwards from the town to the high forested ridge at Cerro Escalera and the 100 metre 'Tunnel'. Cock-of-the-Rock lek, Dotted Tanager, Plumbeous Euphonia, Black Antbird, other rarities. Hummingbird feeders & trail at Aconabikh on north side of ridge and down to lowlands.

o/n Tucan Suites

Fri 1 Sept – TARAPOTO to MOYOBAMBA

Morning birding at Ricuricocha wetlands near Tarapoto. Late morning head west, stopping on route at Oilbird roost site under Quiscarrumi Bridge, then to Moyobamba for lunch. Savanna birding in afternoon – Masked Duck, Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, etc. Evening spotlighting for Stygian Owl.

o/n Waqanki or Puerto Mirador

Sat 2 Sept – MOYOBAMBA & WAQANKI

Morning walk up forest trail at Mishquiyacu (perhaps Fiery-throated Fruit-eater, White-plumed Antbird); then up the tower to view up to 15 species of hummingbirds. Lunch at Waqanki, savanna birding in afternoon. Evening spotlighting for nightjars & Band-bellied Owl.

o/n Waqanki or Puerto Mirador

Sun 3 Sept – RIO ROMERO

Early morning at Santa Elena. Take canoe ride for 4 or 6 hours along backwaters of Rio Romero in riverine forest. Good for rarer kingfishers, lowland woodpeckers, waterside antbirds, Sungrebe; also monkeys & otters.

o/n Waqanki or Puerto Mirador

Mon 4 Sept – MOYOBAMBA / AGUAS VERDES to ABRA PATRICIA

Leave & drive west to Reserva Arena Blanca for tinamous at feeding station & more hummers at feeders. Then on to Afluente, hummers at Venceremos and then to Owlet Lodge, Abra Patricia for lunch. Trails in afternoon. Evening walk to look for Long-whiskered Owlet.

o/n Owlet Lodge

Tues 5 Sept – ABRA PATRICIA

All day at Abra Patricia (2,300 metres), birding the trails and roadside on foot from the lodge in morning, look for Ochre-fronted & Chestnut Antpittas, White-faced Nunbird, many tanagers including Yellow-scarfed, flowerpiercers, & furnarids; and birding late afternoon to evening, spotlighting for Cinnamon Screech Owl.

o/n Owlet Lodge

Wed 6 Sept – ABRA PATRICIA & afternoon drive to GOCTA

Abra Patricia morning birding, drive to nearby sites for Royal Sunangel, Bar-winged Wood Wren & Yellow-throated Tanager. Depart mid-afternoon & continue west to Pedro Ruiz. Turn south onto minor road to Cocochimba and to Gocta Lodge. Try for Marañon Crescentchest on route.

o/n Gocta

Thurs 7 Sept – RIO CHIDO TRAIL & HUEMBO

Early drive back east to climb Rio Chido Trail above San Lorenzo for some special rarities including several antpittas. Lunch at Trout Farm, then on to Huembo in the afternoon for a variety of hummingbirds including Marvellous Spatuletail.

o/n Gocta

Fri 8 Sept – GOCTA FALLS (the low road)

Walk directly from Lodge to foot of Gocta Falls. All day from c.7 am to 4 pm. Cock-of-the-Rock leks, good for furnarids, chance of tapaculos & Black-streaked Puffbird. Evening walk in nearby scrub if time.

o/n Gocta

Sat 9 Sept – HUAYLLA BELEN VALLEY

Early start for trip to remote high altitude valley, cloud forest with antpittas, maybe Greater Scythebill and Rufous-browed Hemispingus; alpine valley for Puna Snipe.

o/n Gocta

Sun 10 Sept – ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE AT KUELAP

Day at Kuelap ruins, an ancient Chachapoyas settlement high above the road, with a local expert historical guide, some birding, good for Sword-billed Hummingbird & Streaked Tuftedcheek. Continue to Leymebamba.

o/n Casa Mallqui, Leymebamba

Mon 11 Sept – RIO ATUEN VALLEY and LEYMEBAMBA

Morning up the Rio Atuen valley above Leymebamba to private forest with hummer feeders. Possible Sword-billed Hummingbird, Golden-headed Quetzal, Andean Condor & Grey-breasted Mountain-Toucan. Lunch at café near the Museum of the Mummies, visit to the Museum and evening birding & spotlighting around the Lodge (Koepcke's Screech Owl, Band-winged Nightjar).

o/n Casa Mallqui, Leymebamba

Tues 12 Sept – ABRA BARRO NEGRO & UPPER MARANON VALLEY

Leave Leymebamba for Abra Barro Negro, the high pass rising to 3600 metres, roadside stops for high altitude specialities (e.g Moustached & Masked Flowerpiercers, Great Sapphirewing, White-chinned Thistletail, Scarlet-bellied & Hooded Mountain-Tanagers), then down to Balsas in the hot, dry Maranon valley (Buff-bridled Inca Finch, Yellow-faced Parrotlet), lunch there. Across the river and up to Celendín in the Central Andes, roadside stops including El Limon.

o/n Hostal Turistico, Celendín

Wed 13 Sept – CELENDÍN, CRUZ CONGA AND ENCANADA TO CAJAMARCA

Leave Celendin, continue west over Andes to Cruz Conga and La Encanada for high altitude specialities (Rufous Antpitta, Rufous-webbed Tyrant, Black-crested Tit-Tyrant), the Rio Chonta area (for Grey-bellied Comet), then continue to the town of Cajamarca.

o/n Hotel Casona del Incas, Cajamarca

Thurs 14 Sept – CAJAMARCA

Explore road to Chugur & San Marcos (for Great Spinetail) and other sites near Cajamarca.

o/n Hotel Casona del Incas, Cajamarca

Fri 15 Sept – CAJAMARCA (or on to CHAPARRI)

Early morning birding at Rio Chonta or other local sites. End of Tour 1, leave from Cajamarca Airport. Those on extension drive from Cajamarca to Chaparri Lodge via Saucepampa.

o/n Chaparri Lodge

EXTENSION at CHAPARRI & PACIFIC COAST – 5 days from 15 SEPT 2017

Fri 15 Sept – CHAPARRI

Arrival at Chaparri Lodge. Perhaps spotlighting.

o/n Chaparri Lodge

Sat 16 Sept – CAJAMARCA (or on to CHAPARRI)

All day birding trails around the Lodge, area is extensive and hilly dry forest & scrub. Site of captive breeding program for the endangered White-winged Guan. Lots of dry forest specialities. Local guide from the Lodge.

o/n Chaparri Lodge

Sun 17 Sept – CHAPARRI and CASUPE trails

Most of day at higher altitude birding area at Casupe. Various roadside stops for speciality birds (Piura Chat-Tyrant, Ecuadorian Piculet, Ecuadorian Trogon, Black-cowled Saltator, foliage-gleaners).

o/n Chaparri Lodge

Mon 18 Sept – CHAPARRI – CHICLAYO

Leave Chaparri for Chiclayo via Laguna Tinajones, then drive to coastal town of Pimentel for coastal birding, lagoons, marshes, beaches. Cliff-top bird colonies, pelicans, cormorants, boobies, Inca Terns; sea-watching.

o/n Casa de la Muelle, Pimentel

Tues 19 Sept – COAST – PIMENTEL to PUERTO ETEN – CHICLAYO

Coastal birding in morning. Departure on afternoon flight from Chiclayo.

PRICES

Pre-tour at Plataforma

US\$950

Tour – Tarapoto to Cajamarca

US\$5100 – singles \$5450

Extension – Chaparri & Pacific Coast

US\$1200