

NORTH PERU ITINERARIES

Tour for 2020

BIRDERS REST

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BIRDING NORTH PERU

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PRE-TOUR – PLATAFORMA – 4 days from 22 August 2020

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. Since this site was found, another new species has been discovered here, an antbird now given the name Cerro Azul Antbird. Both these species were seen on our 2016 tour. This involves staying 2 nights at a simple guesthouse and the rough journey can take up to 8 hours. However, the birding should be very rewarding.

Sat 22 August – TARAPOTO

Arrive Tarapoto Airport. 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

Sun 23 August – 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, but expect some productive stops on route.

o/n guesthouse in Plataforma

Mon 24 August – PLATAFORMA to TARAPOTO

All day birding along the forest trails around Plataforma.

o/n guesthouse in Plataforma

Tues 25 August – TARAPOTO to PUMARINRI

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

MAIN TOUR – TARAPOTO to CAJAMARCA - 21 days from 25 August 2018

Tues 25 August (= Day 4 on pre-tour) – 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

Wed 26 August – 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. Spotlighting by the Lodge in the evening for variety of owls.

o/n Pumarinri

Thurs 27 August – PUMARINRI – Pucayaquillo Waterfall

All day at Pumarinri. Walk trail to Pucayaquillo Waterfall, good forest birding with chance of antbirds & many tanagers, opportunity to swim in the waterfall pool. Spotlighting around lodge in eve.

o/n Pumarinri

Fri 28 August – QUEBRADA UPAQUIHUA & HUALLAGA RIVER

Leave Pumarinri for the day & drive south to village of Buenos Aires. Head north-west from there to some good areas of dry forest at Quebrada Upaquihoa. Return from Puerto Sangama to Pumarinri by boat – terns, perhaps skimmers, roosting nighthawks & nightjars.

o/n Pumarinri

Sat 29 August – JUAN GUERRA, TARAPOTO

Leave Pumarini & drive back in direction of Tarapoto, spend morning at the dry forest at Juan Guerra. Late lunch at Tucan Suites at edge of town, local birding in afternoon or relax, tour the town, etc.

o/n Tucan Suites

Sun 30 August – 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'. Hummingbird feeders & trail at Aconabikh on north side of ridge and down to lowlands.

o/n Tucan Suites

Mon 31 August – 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

Tues 1 September – 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 on site, savanna birding in afternoon. Evening spotlighting for nightjars & Band-bellied Owl.

o/n Waqanki or Puerto Mirador

Wed 2 September – 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, and to Owlet Lodge, Abra Patricia for lunch. Evening walk to look for Long-whiskered Owlet.

o/n Owlet Lodge

Thurs 3 September – ABRA PATRICIA

All day at Abra Patricia (2,300 metres), birding the trails and roadside on foot from the lodge in morning and late afternoon to evening, spotlighting for Cinnamon Screech Owl.

o/n Owlet Lodge

Fri 4 September – ABRA PATRICIA

Another full day at Abra Patricia birding more trails, targeting species not seen yesterday (perhaps antpittas, tapaculos, Chestnut-breasted Wren, White-faced Nunbird, etc.), spotlighting for more night birds & mammals.

o/n Owlet Lodge

Sat 5 September – 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.

o/n Gocta Lodge

Sun 6 September – RIO CHIDO TRAIL & HUEMBO

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

o/n Gocta Lodge

Mon 7 September – 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 and tanagers, chance of tapaculos & Black-streaked Puffbird. Evening walk in nearby scrub if time.

o/n Gocta Lodge

Tues 8 September – DRY FOREST AT BAGUA GRANDE & CORRAL QUEMADO

Travel westwards from Pedro Ruiz as far as Bagua Grande, birding in drier scrub and forest at lower altitude.
o/n Gocta Lodge

Wed 9 September – 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.

o/n Casa Mallqui, Leymebamba

Thurs 10 September – 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

Fri 11 September – 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, then down to Balsas in the hot, dry Maranon valley (Buff-bridled Inca Finch), lunch there. Across the river and up to Celendín in the Central Andes, roadside stops including El Limon.

o/n Hostal Turistico, Celendín

Sat 12 September – 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

Sun 13 September – CAJAMARCA

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

o/n Hotel Casona del Incas, Cajamarca

Mon 14 September – CAJAMARCA (or on to CHAPARRI)

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

EXTENSION at CHAPARRI & PACIFIC COAST – 5 days from 14 SEPT 2018

Mon 14 September (= Day 21 of main tour) – CHAPARRI

Transfer to Chaparri Lodge.

o/n Chaparri Lodge

Tues 15 September – CHAPARRI - trails

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

o/n Chaparri Lodge

Wed 16 September – CHAPARRI and CASUPE trails

Most of day at higher altitude birding area at Casupe. Various roadside stops for speciality birds.

o/n Chaparri Lodge

Thurs 17 September – CHAPARRI – CHICLAYO

Leave Chaparri for Chiclayo via Laguna Tinajones, then drive to coastal town of Pimentel for coastal birding, lagoons, marshes, beaches.

o/n Casa de la Muelle, Pimentel

Fri 18 September – COAST – PIMENTEL to PUERTO ETEN

Coastal birding for most of day. Return to Chiclayo for evening flight to Lima. End of tour.