



## The Perfect Blend of History and Ornithology 5 Days

*Birding at Abra Málaga, Vilcabamba, Vitcos, Espíritu Pampa & Machu Picchu*

Embark on an unforgettable birding adventure in Peru as we explore the most exclusive archaeological sites and discover the unique bird species of Machu Picchu, Espiritu Pampa, and Vilcabamba. Immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of Peru while witnessing the diverse avifauna of these hidden gems. Our expert guides will optimize your time and budget, ensuring a remarkable journey through remote landscapes and pristine habitats. Uncover the secrets of ancient civilizations and marvel at the avian treasures of Peru's birding paradise.

**Duration:** 5 days / 4 nights

**Minimum participants:** 2 travelers

**Max participants:** 6 plus guide

**Type Service:** Group basis rate.

**Rate:** \$ 890.00

**Season:** All Year Round

### Day 1

#### **Cusco – Abra Málaga - Santa María – Vilcabamba**

Depart from Cusco, the gateway to the majestic Andes, and embark on an exciting journey to Abra Malaga. As we ascend through the breathtaking landscapes, keep your eyes peeled for bird species along the way. Drive along the Abra Malaga, a renowned location known for its complex habitat of polylepis forest.

Here, we'll explore this unique ecosystem which harbors a variety of endemic and rare bird species. With the guidance of our expert birding guides, we'll search for iconic species such as the Royal Cinclodes, Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, and White-browed Tit-Spinetail. The stunning scenery and rich birdlife.

After exploring the Abra Malaga area, we'll continue our journey to Vilcabamba, a captivating destination nestled in the verdant mountains. On arrival, settle into your accommodation and enjoy a delicious dinner at Huancacalle – Vitcos. We will take a night walk listening to the melodic calls of nocturnal birds and tuning in to the vibrant sounds of the temperate forest. This is a perfect opportunity to spot owls, nightjars, and other elusive night-dwelling species.

### Day 2

#### **Vilcabamba – Sendero Huancacalle – Vitcos – Cocha Pata Lagoon**

After a delicious breakfast, we'll begin our day with a fascinating walk through the archaeological site of Vilcabamba. As we explore the ruins, keep your binoculars ready for bird sightings amidst the ancient structures. The diverse habitats here attract a variety of bird species, offering a unique



## WILD WATCH PERU

blend of history and ornithology.

Following our archaeological exploration, we'll embark on a birdwatching adventure along the scenic Sendero Huancacalle. This trail winds through lush vegetation, offering excellent opportunities to observe Tanager Flocks, flycatchers and eye out for charismatic species like the Vilcabamba Tapaculo and Spinetail. Our knowledgeable guides will share insights about the avian life and point out the unique bird species we encounter along the way.

After a satisfying morning of birdwatching, we'll visit the enchanting Cochapata Lagoon. This picturesque wetland area is teeming with birdlife, creating a haven for water-loving species. Here, you may spot the Andean Duck, and other interesting aquatic birds.

Take the opportunity to capture stunning photographs of the surrounding scenery while enjoying the tranquility of this natural oasis. The bamboo patches are also promising habitat to look for the colorful [Johnson's Tody-Flycatcher](#)

As the day draws to a close, we'll return to our accommodation in Vilcabamba. Enjoy a delectable dinner and reflect on the exciting birding experiences of the day.

### Day 3

#### **Vilcabamba – Car Drive to Espiritu Pampa Archeological Site**

After breakfast, we'll embark on an exhilarating car drive along the scenic mountainous roads to Espiritu Pampa. As we traverse through the breathtaking landscapes, keep an eye out for bird species that frequent these high-altitude habitats.

Arriving at Espiritu Pampa, we'll begin our exploration of this remarkable archaeological site. Here, hidden amidst the dense rainforests of the Vilcabamba region, lies the captivating remnants of an ancient Inca city. As we delve into the history and marvel at the architectural wonders, our experienced birding guides will lead us on a birding adventure within the site. The combination of cultural exploration and birdwatching offers a truly immersive experience.

While uncovering the secrets of Espiritu Pampa, we'll be on the lookout for the exceptional bird species that call this area home. From colorful toucans and trogons to elusive antbirds and tinamous, the biodiversity here is astonishing. With the guidance of our expert birding guides, we'll navigate the trails and forested areas, maximizing our chances of encountering both resident and migratory bird species.

Take a break from exploring the archeological site and indulge in a packed lunch surrounded by the captivating sounds of nature. Enjoy the tranquility of this remote location, return car drive to Vilcabamba to overnight.

### Day 4

#### **Vilcabamba – Santa Teresa - Hidroeléctrica – Aguas Calientes**

After an energizing breakfast, we'll bid farewell to Vilcabamba and Lucma and continue our journey back by car. As we drive through the picturesque countryside, surrounded by stunning mountain landscapes, keep an eye out for bird species that inhabit these high-altitude regions.

Arrival to Santa Teresa: Our first stop will be in the charming town of Santa Teresa. Here, amidst the lush vegetation and flowing rivers, we'll have the opportunity to stretch our legs and immerse ourselves in the birdlife of this area.

From Hydroelectrical, we'll embark on a scenic birding walk along the railway tracks towards Aguas Calientes Town. This leisurely stroll offers fantastic birdwatching opportunities, with the surrounding vegetation attracting a variety of bird species. Listen to the melodic songs of tropical birds and marvel at their vibrant plumage as we make our way towards our next destination.



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Arrival in Aguas Calientes: In the afternoon, we'll reach the vibrant town of Aguas Calientes, nestled in the heart of the cloud forest at the base of Machu Picchu. After checking into our accommodations, take some time to relax and soak in the breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and lush greenery. We will enjoy a well-deserved dinner in Aguas Calientes, savoring the delicious flavors of the local cuisine.

### Day 5

#### **Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu Ruins –Vistadome Train Ride to Cusco**

Wake up early and embark on a captivating birding walk along the railway tracks near Aguas Calientes. The lush vegetation and diverse habitats in this area attract a wide range of bird species. Listen to the calls of tropical birds, spot colorful hummingbirds flitting amongst the flowers, and keep your binoculars ready for exciting sightings.

After the birding walk, we'll board a minibus and journey to the iconic Machu Picchu ruins. Marvel at the awe-inspiring architecture and immerse yourself in the rich history and mystique of this UNESCO World Heritage site. While exploring the ruins, keep an eye out for bird species that inhabit the surrounding forests and cliffs, such as the Andean Cock-of-the-rock and Torrent Duck.

We'll return to Aguas Calientes for a well-deserved lunch, savoring delicious Peruvian cuisine and sharing stories of our Machu Picchu experience.

In the afternoon, we'll board the Vistadome train for a scenic ride back to Cusco. As we travel through the breathtaking landscapes of the Sacred Valley, keep your eyes open for bird species that may be visible from the train windows. Enjoy the comfort of the train and take in the stunning views as we head back to the bustling city of Cusco.

Arrive in Cusco and bid farewell as our birding tour comes to an end. Take with you the incredible memories of the bird species spotted, the wonders of Machu Picchu, and the overall enchantment of Peru's diverse landscapes and rich avian life.

### Inclusions

- Birding List on Ebird App
- Box Lunch
- Duffel Bags
- Entrance Fees to Attractions Listed
- Entrance Ticket to MachuPicchu Ruins
- Entrance Tickets to Birding Sites
- Free Storage Room in Cusco
- Hostel at Vilcabamba
- Hotel in Aguas Calientes
- Lodging (Double Bed Occupancy)
- Meals (Vegetarian, Vegan Optional)
- Overland Transportation (SUV - Minivan)
- Round Bus Ticket from Aguas Calientes to MachuPicchu
- Snacks (fresh fruits, cookies, chocolate)



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- Specialized Birding Guide with Telescope
- Transfer from the Airport
- Transfer from the Train Station
- Unlimited Purified Water
- Vistadome Train Ticket (Way Out)

### Exclusions

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- Alcoholic Drinks
- Binoculars (You can rent)
- Day 1st Breakfast- Last Day Dinner
- Hotel in Cusco
- Interpreter Machupicchu Ruins
- Single Supplement