SOUTHERN PERU

Feathers & Traditions - An Exquisite Journey of Birds & Culture

September 1 - 12, 2027



Machu Picchu © D. Valencia

Join us on this exquisite adventure, where birding and cultural immersion intertwine for a complete and well-balanced travel experience. We'll discover the wonders of Peru's most iconic historic sites and grandest landscapes, ranging from Cuzco—the ancient Inca capital rich with architectural treasures—to awe-inspiring Machu Picchu, and from the celebrated Sacred Valley of the Incas to breathtaking Apurimac Canyon, home to majestic Andean Condors.

From Cuzco, we'll explore the region's stunning geography, from river valleys to Andean peaks, passes, forests and lakes. Our travels will reveal incredible birdlife, second only to Colombia in global diversity. We'll marvel at vibrant Giant and Sword-billed hummingbirds flitting among Andean flowers, and spot regional endemics such as the gorgeous Bearded Mountaineer and White-tufted Sunbeam hummingbirds, Inca Wren, Rusty-fronted Canastero, Saffron-crowned Tanager, the stunning Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch, Apurimac Brush-Finch, and much more.

Southern Peru is about much more than birds, and our program provides an intimate look at the vibrant local culture, visiting ancient Inca ruins (in addition to Machu Picchu), strolling through bustling markets, and connecting with indigenous communities. We'll fully embrace the rich heritage and traditions that have shaped this captivating country for centuries, a country many regard among the most culturally interesting in the Western Hemisphere.



Quinua Plan © D. Valencia

Of course, Peru is also famous for its world-class cuisine, a tantalizing fusion of flavors, textures, and influences drawn from various cultures. The result is a diverse and deliciously unforgettable culinary experience! We will sample the local fare throughout our tour route. We'll enjoy a range of accommodation, from hotels to guest lodges, some set among charming gardens alive with birds.

September 1, Day 1: Travel to Lima

Tour participants should plan to arrive in Lima, Peru (Jorge Chávez Lima-Callao International Airport; airport code LIM) any time today. After clearing immigration and customs you will transfer to the Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, located immediately at the airport across from the departing flight terminal, where a room has been reserved in your name. Most flights from the United States arrive in the late evening. When making your airline reservations, please keep in

mind the flight to Cusco (Day 2) may depart in the morning. If time permits, we recommend arriving a day early in order to get rested following the overnight flight and to allow for flight delays sometimes associated with winter weather in your home area. Some travelers who arrive early will spend a day or two in Lima touring the city.

NIGHT: Grand Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, Lima

September 2, Day 2: Flight to Cusco; transfer to Urubamba Valley

We will gather in the hotel lobby this morning with a representative of our ground operator, who will lead us to the LATAM check-in counter. A 90-minute LATAM Airlines flight (07:50 a.m./9:15 a.m.). This morning will take you to Cusco, where you will meet your leader. Welcome to the enchanting city of Cusco, once nestled in the heart of a lakebed and inhabited by the Inca civilization before the Spanish conquest. Standing at an impressive elevation of 10,990 ft, this historic gem captivates travelers worldwide with its rich inca and colonial heritage, complemented by an array of delectable culinary experiences. As we arrive, our initial glimpse of the southern part of the city will merely be a prelude to the immersive adventures awaiting us in the days to come. Our first destination, the Huacarpay Wetlands, a designated RAMSAR site, offers a haven for a great diversity of residents and migratory water birds. Birds are usually numerous and relatively easy to see here (elevation of about 10,500 feet) and in the surrounding arid hills. Among the possibilities are White-tufted Grebe, Puna Ibis, Yellow-billed and Puna teals, Yellow-billed Pintail, Andean Duck, Aplomado Falcon (uncommon)Plumbeous Rail, Slate-colored Coot, Andean Lapwing, Andean Gull, Spot-winged Pigeon, Bare-faced Ground-Dove, Andean Flicker, Wren-like Rushbird, Spot-billed and Rufous-naped ground-tyrants, White-browed Chat-Tyrant, Yellow-winged Blackbird, Band-tailed Seedeater, and Greenish Yellow-Finch. This also is an excellent location in which to look for the spectacular Bearded Mountaineer, a hummingbird endemic to Peru. Black-tailed and Green-tailed trainbearers and Sparkling Violetear are seen here occasionally. After enjoying a delicious lunch amidst the stunning lagoon backdrop we'll proceed and venture to the awe-inspiring Rumiqolqa

Gate (meaning stone gate in “Quechua”) a significant checkpoint that historically regulated the movement of people, animals and goods within the southern region of the Cusco valley. Following this we continue towards the southern expanse of the Urubamba Valley, our next highlight is the remarkable Inca site of Pisac, situated at a breathtaking elevation of 10,000ft. Originally constructed during the reign of the illustrious Pachacuti Inca, the ninth sovereign around 1438. This architectural marvel boasts intricate farming terraces, ingenious water aqueducts, storage facilities and religious centers seamlessly integrated into the majestic mountain terrain, providing a panoramic view of the Urubamba Valley and River below. The surrounding area offers a haven for birders, with the possibility of spotting prized avian species such as the endemic Bearded-Mountaineer, Giant Hummingbird, Black-throated Flower-piercer, Mountain Caracara, Golden-billed Saltator and many more. We’ll conclude our day’s journey with a warm welcome to our inn in the charming village of Yucay at a delightful elevation of 9,375 ft, where you can relax and loosen up, taking in the serene ambiance of this picturesque region.

NIGHT: Posada del Inca Yucay, Urubamba Valley

September 3, Day 3: Hummingbirds and exploration of the Sacred Valley

After a restful night and a satisfying breakfast, we embark on an exploration of the renowned Sacred Valley of the Incas. This intermontane valley, once an invaluable part of the Inca realm, still retains its agricultural significance, owing to its fertile lands shaped over millennia by the meandering waters of the Urubamba River. A brief 20-minute drive leads us to the serene community of Yanahuara, where we will have the opportunity to visit a captivating hummingbird garden and bird feeding station initiated during the pandemic by local resident Cesar Cusihuaman and his family. Nestled among native flowers and carefully placed feeders, this sanctuary offers sightings of up to 14 species of hummingbirds including the magnificent Sword-billed Hummingbird, Shining Sunbeam, Tyrian Metaltail, Sparkling Violetear, Black and Green-tailed Trainbearers. Other delightful avian sightings might include the Red-crested Cotinga, Blue and Yellow Tanager, Spot-winged Pigeon, the endemic Chestnut-breasted



Sparkling Violet-ear © D. Valencia

Mountain-Finch and various other exquisite species. Following the visit to the hummingbird garden, our journey leads us to the remarkable site of Moray, these enigmatic circular terraces, ingeniously constructed within a natural depression, are believed to have served as experimental agricultural laboratories for the Inca civilization. It is thought that the diverse plant species from various environments and altitudes were cultivated here, allowing Inca agronomists to assess and enhance the resilience of these crops in the face of diverse environmental challenges such as erratic weather patterns, varied soil compositions and fluctuating water availability. The remarkable efforts at Moray fostered the development of robust plant species, eventually benefiting the numerous farming communities across the vast Inca empire.

To see this fabulous place, a brief and straightforward walk along even terrain is all that is required, making it easily accessible for all participants. This leisurely stroll provides an excellent opportunity to fully appreciate the captivating nature and the historical significance of this ancient Inca agricultural laboratory. A delightful experience awaits as we head to a local restaurant, where we'll savor a delicious meal crafted from fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Get ready to indulge in a flavorful lunch that highlights the vibrant tastes of the region, offering an authentic and unforgettable dining experience. To conclude our enriching day, we will visit the ancient Maras Salt Pans, these historic salt pans have withstood the test of time, remaining in use from ancient periods to the present day. Remarkably more than 4,000 individual pools have been meticulously maintained, each fed by a natural saline underground water source. The salt extraction process relies on the natural evaporation of the water (mainly between mid-May to mid-Oct), resulting in the formation of high-quality salt that has been cherished for generations and recognized worldwide by international gastronomy community. To wrap up the

day we will enjoy a scenic drive back to our hotel, perfect opportunity to relax and reflect on the day's remarkable adventures.

NIGHT: Posada del Inca Yucay, Urubamba Valley

September 4, Day 4: Abra Malaga Pass

We will depart relatively early today for a drive up a magnificent side canyon leading to the famous Abra Malaga Pass. Our route takes a winding but recently paved side road that eventually crosses the mountains at 14,160 ft. The road is spectacular for its scenery alone, with snow-capped mountains, glacier-filled valleys, golden panoramas and modern-day descendants of the Incas. We will spend most of the day birding along the road making strategic stops in diverse high elevation habitats such as scrub zone and puna grasslands. Along this route we should see llama and alpaca tended by Indians who still wear their colorful, traditional dress. Three Peruvian endemics may be found here: White-tufted Sunbeam, Creamy-crested Spinetail and Chestnut-breasted Mountain-Finch and with any luck we should find all three of them. Other notable species include Andean Ibis; Andean Goose; Andean Condor; Puna (Variable) Hawk; Shining Sunbeam, Great Sapphirewing, Scaled and Tyrian Metaltails; Giant Hummingbird; Tufted tit-tyrants; Brown-backed, White-browed and Rufous-breasted chat-tyrants; Brown-bellied Swallow; Black-throated Flowerpiercer; Greenish and Bright-rumped Yellow-Finches; Other less common possibilities include Tawny Tit-Spinetail and Stripe-headed Antpitta. Our birding today will not involve strenuous walking, although just moving even short distances at these elevations requires effort. As we walk this road, we should be rewarded with magnificent views of the mountains.

We start heading back at mid-afternoon allowing time to stop briefly at the Inca city of Ollantaytambo. This unique spot stands as a testament to history, serving as the temporary stronghold for Manco Inca during the fierce battle against the Spanish back in 1536. Remarkably, this ancient city has preserved its distinct urban planning, dating back to the mid-1300s. Widely regarded as the most typical Inca city in Perú, it is surrounded by ruins and walls that attest to a long occupation by earlier civilizations. The city itself appears as if lifted from an

earlier time, composed mostly of ancient stone walls, narrow cobbled stone streets, open aqueducts to transport water and a population that adheres to mostly traditional dress. After a fulfilling day of birding and immersive exploration of Peruvian history we arrive back at the hotel just in time for some well-deserved relaxation. Enjoy a rejuvenating hot shower and take a moment to unwind before getting ready for the rich flavors of the region during dinner.

NIGHT: Posada del Inca Yucay, Urubamba Valley

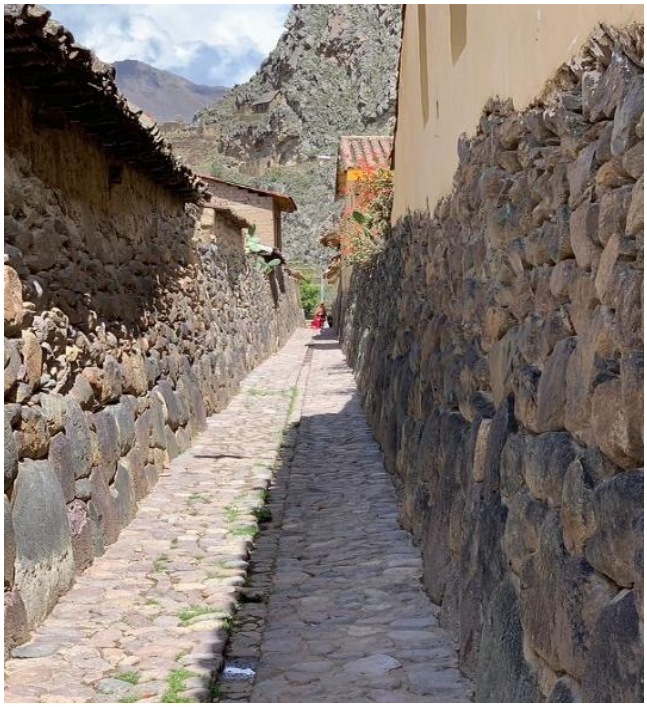


Maras Salt Pans © D. Valencia

September 5, Day 5: Machu Picchu

Following breakfast, we will depart for the Ollantaytambo Train Station (25-minute drive from the hotel). Prepare to embark on a scenic train journey that winds through the picturesque Urubamba Valley, which gradually transforms into the awe-inspiring Urubamba Canyon. Over time, the mighty Urubamba River, a significant tributary of the great Amazon, has meticulously carved this dramatic canyon, leaving us with an incredible natural wonder to admire during our train ride. Along the route we may spot Torrent Duck, White-capped Dipper and tremendous

views of Mt. Veronica (18,500 ft) are part of this fascinating trip. Upon arrival, we will check into our charming hotel. For the remainder of the morning, we will delve into the lush wonders of the cloud forest, eagerly anticipating our first encounters with the vibrant array of tanagers and lively hummingbirds. The hotel's exquisite gardens provide us with the perfect opportunity to catch sight of the striking Blue-necked, Saffron-crowned, Silver-beaked, Blue-Gray and Silvery Tanagers among numerous other avian delights. Following our morning birding adventure, we'll gather for a delightful lunch at the hotel restaurant. Afterwards, a brief 10-minute walk will lead us to the nearby bus stop, where we'll embark on a 25-minute bus ride to the awe-inspiring wonder of the world, the renowned Machu Picchu some 1,500 ft higher. Located on a high ridge, the old city is surrounded on three sides by sheer cliffs that fall away to the river far below. Across the river on all sides are huge mountains covered with cloud forests. In the distance, even higher snow-capped mountain ridges can be seen. We may never know the true origins of this remarkable site, but whether ancient fortress, secret city, or elaborate agricultural project, it humbles us as we stand before such a magnificent panorama. Our leader, Doris Valencia, a Cusco resident, will take us on a guided walking tour of the ruins. During the tour we will also keep an eye skyward occasionally for a few birds around the ruins.



Ollantaytambo © D. Valencia

However, it is the subtropical forests far below, which we will see tomorrow, rather than the scrub vegetation around the perimeter of the ruins that are most interesting for birds. Near the ruins, it is possible to see White-collared and White-tipped swifts; White-winged Black-Tyrant; White-crested and Sierran Elaenia, Blue-and-white Swallow and possibly the gorgeous Inca Wren (endemic).

We'll endeavor to soak up the enchanting aura and splendor of this extraordinary location for as long as possible, allowing us to fully immerse ourselves in the captivating mystique of this exceptional site. After our exploration we'll take the bus back to town, where a delicious dinner awaits us at the exquisite Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel.

NIGHT: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

September 6, Day 6: Machu Picchu



Andean Cock of the Rock Male © D. Valencia

After a restful night's sleep and a delightful breakfast, the early morning hours will be dedicated to exploring the hotel grounds in search of a variety of captivating hummingbirds including the Long-tailed Sylph, Speckled Hummingbird, Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Booted Racket-tail and more. Other sightings may include Andean Motmot, Speckled-faced Parrot, Dusky-green Oropendola, Brown-capped Vireo and the striking Andean Cock of the Rock. Notably the hotel also boasts a meticulously maintained orchid garden, adding to the natural beauty of the surroundings.
Around mid-morning we will have the option for a second visit to the magnificent Machu Picchu site, allowing for personal exploration or the opportunity to join Doris for a guided walk, immersing ourselves in the unique atmosphere of this ancient wonder. A delicious lunch awaits at a local restaurant, followed by a leisurely afternoon where you can unwind in the hot tub or simply relax in the comfort of your room. As the day draws to a close, dinner will be served at the hotel restaurant, providing a perfect end to another fulfilling day of exploration and relaxation.

NIGHT: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

September 7, Day 7: Machu Picchu to Apurimac Valley



Chestnut-breasted Coronet © D. Valencia

On our last morning, we have the opportunity to explore one of the many trails in the hotel grounds in search of species that we may have missed days before, we will be looking for the cute Ocellated Piculet, the endemic Masked Fruiteater, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Capped Conebill, Versicolored Barbet and others. Breakfast. At approximately 08.30 am we will board the morning train back to Ollantaytambo Train Station. Upon our arrival we will be greeted by our driver and vehicle, embarking on a scenic journey to the Anta's Plains located above the Urubamba Range, leading us to the quaint and picturesque community of Mollepata. This quaint and charming town, known for its thriving avocado farming, boasts a captivating colonial chapel adorned with a splendid collection of colonial art adding to the town's rich cultural charm. The landscape on route is characterized by its dramatic features, including narrow and deep valleys, impressive chasms, chilly plateaus and towering peaks, offering a truly mesmerizing sight to behold. Our journey leads us to the welcoming comforts of the Pincopata Lodge (9,200 ft), a splendid glamping experience offering breathtaking views of the distant mountains belonging to the Vilcabamba Range. Lunch awaits, setting the stage for an afternoon of exploration within the captivating new habitat nestled in the dry Apurimac Valley. Prepare to encounter various endemics and range-restricted avian species, offering a unique and immersive birdwatching experience. Our afternoon will be filled with a combination of leisurely drives and easy walks as we venture into the habitats surrounding

our inn, in search of the elusive endemics Apurimac Spinetail and Brushfinch. Additionally keep an eye out for other prized sightings, including the striking White-eared Puffbird, Golden-billed Saltator, Mitred Parakeet, Sparkling Violetear, Aplomado Falcon, Black-chested Buzzard Eagle and the captivating Purple-backed Thornbill.

After savoring a delightful dinner, we will embark on an evening adventure in the nearby gardens in search of two elusive owl species. Keep your eyes peeled for the near endemic Koepcke's Screech Owl as well as the legendary Buff-fronted Owl, adding an air of mystique to our nighttime exploration.

NIGHT: Pincopata Ecocamp, Cusco

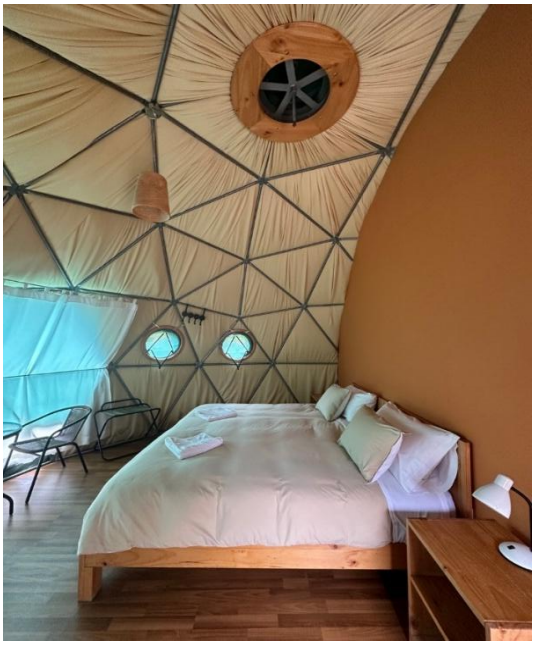
September 8, Day 8: Apurimac Valley and Andean Condors

In the morning, we'll embark on an exciting birdwatching session around the campgrounds, we may come across Great Thrush, Spectacled Redstar, Rust-and-Yellow Tanager, Cinereous Conebill and more. Around mid-morning, we'll journey to the community of Chonta, preparing ourselves for a 1.6-mile hike to the stunning Andean Condor lookout, which offers a breathtaking view of the spectacular Apurimac Canyon. The ~2-mile hike, characterized by a combination of gravel and dirt paths, presents occasional gentle inclines and declines. Our goal is to reach the lookout in time to witness the majestic master of the skies the fabulous Andean Condor as they return to their roosting spots. Observing these magnificent birds in their natural habitat at eye level is a truly breathtaking experience. In addition to the spectacle of the condors, keep an eye out of flyovers of the elegant White-collared and Andean Swift, the vibrant Andean Parakeet, Hooded Siskin, the striking Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrant and Mountain Caracara. After this unique adventure, we'll make our way back to our transportation and continue our scenic drive to the historic Inca Capital of Cusco. Upon arrival in Cusco, you'll be able to check in at the hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening. Tonight, a delicious dinner will be served at the hotel restaurant.

NIGHT: Palacio del Inca Hotel, Cusco

September 9, Day 9: Cusco: Capital of the Incas

Today's itinerary offers a special opportunity to delve into the history of the illustrious Incan Capital, Cusco. Inhabited by various ancient communities since time immemorial, the city holds a rich cultural tapestry waiting to be discovered. Our journey begins with a visit to the legendary Koricancha Temple of the Sun, boasting exquisite architectural marvels crafted during the reign of the renowned Pachacuti Inca, the ninth sovereign. Once adorned with sheets of gold and silver, this site was revered as the sacred abode of deities such as the sun, moon and other celestial beings.



Glamping Apurimac Valley © D. Valencia

We'll then proceed to the lively San Pedro Market, a bustling hub frequented by locals for their daily provisions. Originally designed by the renowned Gustave Eiffel, this market offers a bustling display of produce sourced from various regions of the country. Stands adorned with a vivid array of colorful potatoes, fruits, flowers and more contribute to the market's lively atmosphere, providing a delightful glimpse into the traditional and vibrant culinary culture of the region. Get ready to immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of this cultural gem as we stroll through its diverse and enticing stalls.

The profound legacy of the Inca civilization remains intertwined with the diverse influences that followed the arrival of the Europeans. This unique blend of religious beliefs, customs and traditions known as syncretism has shaped the rich cultural fabric of the region, leaving an enduring imprint on the vibrant tapestry of Cusco's history and heritage. The Cusco Cathedral our next stop on this morning of exploration stands as a compelling testament to the fascinating syncretism that emerged during the colonial period, its intricate design, crafted by local artisans beginning as early as the 1560's, embodies a unique fusion of Catholicism and indigenous

Andean beliefs, seamlessly blending local cultural elements with the grandeur of European artistic traditions. Exquisite wooden choir and sculptures serve as striking examples of the exceptional craftsmanship and artistic expression prevalent during the colonial era.

As we conclude our morning exploration, we'll make our way to the very happening San Blas neighborhood, celebrated as the hub of local artisans. Explore the various workshops and ateliers of renowned artists, offering the perfect opportunity to acquire unique and exquisite pieces. The narrow-cobbled stone streets lined with colonial buildings and the charming colonial church nestled in the picturesque plaza provide a delightful cultural treat. After a morning filled with discovery, indulge in a delicious lunch at one of the town's distinguished restaurants. The afternoon is yours to enjoy at your leisure, whether you choose to continue your exploration or simply relax.

In the late afternoon we invite you to join us for a private session at the Cusco Planetarium. Skies have long beckoned humanity to seek answers and understand the profound connection to the universe, especially for the early Andean people. Celestial exploration has not only reflected the earthly realm in the heavens but has also paved the way to the understanding of nature, the creation of calendars and the pursuit of spiritual and religious transcendence. In the Andes, the interplay between the cosmos and humanity unfolded through intricate worship and profound rituals, holding a central place of importance within the cultural tapestry. These ancient practices served as a cornerstone of spiritual connection, fostering a profound relationship between the celestial realm and the people of the Andes, perpetuating a rich heritage that remains deeply ingrained within the region's cultural fabric.

NIGHT: Palacio del Inca Hotel, Cusco

September 10, Day 10: Birding around Cusco

Immersed in the rich history and cultural resonance of the Cusco Valley, our journey today takes us on a short drive north of the city to the breathtaking Sacsayhuaman Archaeological Park situated at an elevation of 12,000 ft. We will explore the park's numerous sacred sites, trails,



Giant Hummingbird © D. Valencia

farming terraces and scenic vistas adorned with native flora of Polylepis, Gynoxys and Chachacomo trees mixed with Andean scrub offering the perfect habitat for a variety of special birds including the Tit-like Dacnis, the vibrant and territorial Sparkling Violetear and the elegant Tufted Tit-tyrant. As we continue our exploration, we may even encounter an array of water birds at the nearby Huayllarcocha Lagoon such as Puna Ibis, Slate-colored Coot, Andean Goose, Rufous-webbed Tyrant and the elusive Aplomado Falcon. Lunch will be at one of Cusco's finest restaurants, followed by an opportunity to explore the charming old town on foot, conveniently located near our hotel. As the day draws to a close, we invite you to join us for a special farewell dinner, reflecting on the unforgettable moments and experiences shared during our time in the enchanting land of the Incas.

NIGHT: Palacio del Inca Hotel, Cusco

September 11-12, Day 11 & 12: Return to Lima; international departure

In the mid-morning, we will arrange a seamless transfer to the airport for an early afternoon flight back to Lima on September 11th (Latam 2076 12:45 p.m. arrive 2:20 p.m.). Upon arrival a short walk across the main terminal will lead you to the conveniently located airport hotel. Take this time to unwind, relax and prepare for your journey back home. Please note dinner tonight is your own. Generally speaking, flights depart for the USA after 10:00 p.m. on Day 11, arriving in the USA early the following morning, September 12. Those wishing to avoid the long overnight flight should consider spending a final night in Lima and taking an international flight the following morning (if available).

NIGHT: Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, Lima

ESSENTIAL TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR SIZE: This tour is limited to 10 tour participants.

TOUR LEADER(s): Doris Valencia and a **local leader**



Doris Valencia is a keen Peruvian birder and naturalist. Her passion for the outdoors and birding has its roots in her childhood in southeastern Perú. She leads birding trips throughout Perú including the famous Manu National Park, Tambopata Candamo National Reserve, Machu Picchu, northern Perú and others. Doris unites great birding skills with a wide-ranging interest in all aspects of natural history. She is also an avid student of Peruvian history. Her lectures on the history of Machu Picchu are superb. Doris is the director of the Pacha Conservancy Project, which works with reforestation, outdoor education, research, and community outreach in the fragile cloud forest north of Cusco- Perú.

TOUR COSTS & PAYMENT INFORMATION

TOUR FEE: $8,495 per person based on double occupancy or **$9,895** for a person requiring single accommodations. This includes all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 11, accommodation as stated in the itinerary, all ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does **not** include airfare to either from the starting/ending city; however, flights within the tour (if any) are included. The fee also excludes laundry, personal expenses, alcoholic beverages, and other items of a personal nature. For information about gratuities, please see the "TIPPING" sub-section below. If the minimum group size is not met, each participant will be charged a small-group supplement—shared equally and communicated in advance—to allow the tour to proceed.

NOTE: As Machu Picchu's popularity continues to grow, we require that your two-day entrance ticket ($110) be purchased in advance through VENT at the time of booking. Please be aware that permits for Machu Picchu are limited and subject to availability, so early

booking is highly recommended. Once the tickets are purchased, they are non-refundable in the event of cancellation.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: You may register for this tour through the VENT website or by calling our office (512-328-5221). The deposit for this tour is **$1,000** per person. A second deposit of **30% of the remaining tour fee** is due 180 days prior to departure (March 5, 2027). We accept MasterCard and Visa for both deposits.

PAYMENTS: All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard or Visa), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days (May 4, 2027) prior to the tour departure date.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two months prior to your departure date. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: Tour prices are based on the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If rates change drastically, it may be necessary to impose a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges have been passed on to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

FUEL SURCHARGES: Our prices are based on fuel prices at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TIPPING: An important part of the value of a VENT tour is knowing that tips for local service providers at our destinations—restaurant staff, hotel staff, drivers, local guides, and various other support staff—are included in your tour fee. If you would like to offer any of your local guides an additional tip, $5 to $10 a day is a common amount.

Tips for your VENT tour leader(s) are **not** included, but it is customary to tip one or both if you feel that you have received exceptional service. To assist in your planning, we recommend tipping your VENT tour leader(s) $15 to $20 per day, or the equivalent of approximately 2–4% of the tour fee.

If you plan to give tips by cash, they should be given directly to your tour leader at the end of the tour and **not** sent to the VENT office. Some of our tour leaders use mobile payment applications such as Venmo, PayPal, and Wise. If you would like to use this method, please ask your tour leaders directly whether they can accept tips through such an application.

We emphasize that tipping is optional and that these amounts are only recommendations. The amount you decide to tip is based entirely on your experience and at your discretion.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

CANCELLATION BY PARTICIPANT:

- **More than 120 days prior to the tour start date:** A refund of all monies paid will be issued, less 50% of the deposit (including initial and second deposit)
- **120 days or fewer prior to the tour start date:** No refund will be provided.
- **Optional add-ons:** Some tours offer optional add-ons that are designated as non-refundable. Any such add-ons are clearly identified as non-refundable at the time of booking. By selecting and purchasing an optional add-on, the participant acknowledges and accepts its non-refundable status. Fees paid for non-refundable add-ons are not refundable under any circumstances, regardless of when the tour is cancelled.

This cancellation policy applies to all participants and all tours (Pre-Tours and Extensions are considered self-contained tours separate from the main tour). Because unexpected events can occur, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance.

CANCELLATION BY VENT:

If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant with a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant.

If VENT cancels or delays a tour or any portion of a tour as a result of any Force Majeure event, VENT will use its reasonable best efforts to refund any payments on the balance of the tour fee to participant; provided that, VENT will have no obligation to provide a participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to a participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement. A "***Force Majeure***" event means any act beyond VENT's control, including, without limitation, the following: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

This VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy does not apply to air tickets purchased through VENT or to any special arrangements, such as additional hotel nights, that fall outside of the services described in the tour itinerary.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of $50,000. CST #2014998-50.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE/PROTECTION REQUIREMENT: This tour visits remote locations where immediate access to primary medical care may not be available. **For this reason, travel insurance/travel protection which covers you for emergency evacuation is required for participation on this tour**. This coverage is included in the **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™** program. Alternatively, comparable service can be obtained through **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist** plan. If you choose not to purchase insurance/travel protection through Ripcord or Medjet, you are required to obtain it through another provider. Please refer to the TRAVEL INSURANCE/TRAVEL PROTECTION section for additional information.

SUGGESTED OPTIONS: To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with **Redpoint Travel Protection** as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend its comprehensive **Ripcord** plan, which includes a medical evacuation benefit**.** With this in mind, it is important to note that medical evacuation is not offered by Redpoint as a stand-alone policy or benefit. For travelers not interested in comprehensive travel insurance, VENT recommends **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist®** plan. Medjet is not an insurance company, and Medjet Assist is not an insurance product; rather, Medjet is a membership-based air-medical transport company specializing in moving hospitalized travelers from an admitting hospital to a medical facility of choice. Medjet does not provide medical evacuation service from the point of injury or illness; yet the MedjetAssist plan offers robust enough travel protection to satisfy the medical evacuation insurance requirement in place for many VENT tours.

About Redpoint Travel's Ripcord Plan

Ripcord is a completely integrated travel insurance program with single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims. Critical benefits include comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, medical evacuation from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice; medical expense coverage, death of pet, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or political or security reasons, waiver for pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, and a "Cancel for Any Reason" benefit. Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.*

For a price quote or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: **Ripcord Travel Insurance;** or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help > Preparation and Insurance > Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

*To be eligible for the pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver and the optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) upgrade, you must purchase your policy within 15 days of making your first trip payment. The CFAR benefit provides reimbursement for 75% of covered costs and

increases the policy premium by approximately 50%. Policies may be purchased either for the full value of the tour fee at the time of deposit or in segments as individual tour payments are made (deposit, second deposit, final balance, additional arrangements, etc.). The "pay as you go" approach reduces up-front expense and ensures that the amount paid toward your full policy premium is in proportion to the amount paid toward the full tour fee. If you choose to "pay as you go," you must cover each deposit or payment within 15 days and ensure all non-refundable trip costs in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Redpoint considers COVID-19 illness as any other seasonal respiratory illness. Providing only a positive Covid-19 test result will likely not be considered a covered event per the terms and conditions of the company's policy. Redpoint maintains a Coronavirus FAQ page on its website that addresses questions and concerns travelers may have regarding COVID-19 and Redpoint's policy. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of relevant topics.

About Medjet's MedjetAssist Plan

MedjetAssist is a membership program that functions like AAA for motorists. The company's primary service is air medical transport. Critical benefits of MedjetAssist include a staff on call and ready to provide assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; all-expenses-paid air medical transport in the United States and internationally to medical facility of choice, regardless of medical necessity; repatriation of remains; and no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

For travelers under 75, MedjetAssist may be purchased as Short-Term Memberships of 8, 15, 21, and 30 days, or Regular Annual Memberships from 1 to 5 years. For travelers 75–84, Medjet offers a Diamond Membership that is the same program but with a few additional conditions.

For a price quote or to purchase MedjetAssist, please visit: Medjet.com/VentBird or call 1-800-527-7478. Pricing is based on type and term of membership.

GETTING THERE & REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

AIR TRAVEL: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic

or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Per person fees apply for each set of travel arrangements: $50 domestic; $75 international.* Many of our travelers choose to make their own air travel arrangements, but we emphasize the benefits to using our services. If you book your air arrangements yourself, Victor Emanuel Travel is unable to provide support in managing any flight delays and/or cancellations that could occur before and during a tour. When you purchase air tickets through Victor Emanuel Travel, our staff has ready access to your air ticket record and can provide assistance as problems arise. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements. **Please be sure to check with the VENT office prior to purchasing your air ticket to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. VENT cannot be held responsible for any air ticket penalties.**

*An air ticket will be purchased by Victor Emanuel Travel on behalf of the traveler with the traveler's consent. A purchase is considered final upon receipt of payment. If a ticket is subsequently reissued at the behest of the traveler (i.e. voluntary change of plans), the same fee rates apply for the reissue process, in addition to any fees that may be charged by the airline.

BAGGAGE: Please limit baggage to one piece of luggage and one carry-on. The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. Please consult your pre-departure materials and/or airline to find out specific weight restrictions.

As a precaution against lost luggage, we suggest that you pack a change of clothes, toiletries, medications, important travel documents, optics, and any other essential items in your carry-on bag. Due to ever-changing circumstances in the government's attempts to improve airport security, we recommend that you check the website of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for information pertaining to permissible carry-on items.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

PASSPORTS: A valid passport is required for six months beyond your entry date into Peru. Please check the expiration date on your passport. **If it is not valid for six months beyond your entry**

date into Peru, you will need to get it renewed. You will also want to make sure that you have at least two blank pages in your passport for stamps.

If you need a passport, you should get it well in advance of your trip departure date. For additional fees, a passport can be issued on an expedited basis. In the United States this can be done at the nearest passport office, most post offices, or the county clerk's office. You may also visit https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html for information on how to get or renew a passport. As a safety measure, photocopy the first two pages of your passport and keep the photocopies in a safe place, so if your passport is lost you will have proof of identification. Your passport should be signed and easily available at all times. You will need it for check-in at the airport on your first day of departure, so **do not pack it in your checked luggage.**

WHAT TO BRING

CLOTHING: Except for the days in and around Machu Picchu, this tour stays in the dry Andean valleys, where we expect cool mornings, warm to hot days, and little or no rain. Around Machu Picchu, we may experience high humidity, rain, and some mosquitoes.

Light field clothing and casual attire are suitable for this trip. The following items are recommended:

- **Pants and Shorts**: A couple of pairs of pants are essential. Many people prefer lightweight pants made of cotton or other material, but denim, though not as comfortable, is certainly acceptable.
- **Field Clothing**: Outdoor stores such as Cabela's and REI carry field clothing that many birders find appealing. Pants and long-sleeved shirts made of lightweight, durable materials with multiple pockets and ventilated seams are popular. These provide useful protection from the sun and occasional biting insects.
- **Shirts:** A couple of long-sleeved T-shirts in addition to other comfortable styles suitable for warm weather. We do not recommend short-sleeved shirts as much, as they offer no protection from biting insects or the sun.

- **Hat:** A hat, particularly of a wide-brimmed style, for protection from the sun is essential. At the very least, please bring a baseball-style cap.
- **Outerwear:** Dry to warm weather is anticipated on most of this trip, but a warm sweater or jacket will come in handy for the mornings and evenings, especially at Malaga Pass and in Cusco. In the event of sudden rain at Machu Picchu, you'll want to have a water-repellent jacket as well.
- **Swimsuit:** The hotel in Machu Picchu has a hot tub.

FOOTWEAR: We recommend a good trail-walking shoe or light hiking boot when in the field. Athletic shoes are acceptable. Lighter shoes or sandals will come in handy when relaxing around the hotels.

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Laundry service is available at all hotels on a charge-per-item basis. Items dropped off in the morning at the front desk are usually returned late the same afternoon or early the next morning.

EQUIPMENT: One of the most important aspects of an enjoyable travel experience is being prepared with proper equipment. The following items will come in handy during your trip to Peru:

- **Backpack** – Good for carrying extra clothing, field guides, supplies, optical equipment, etc.
- **Notebooks and pens**
- **Travel alarm clock –** Battery-operated is best if you are not using the alarm on your phone.
- **Polarized sunglasses with good UV protection**
- **Sunscreen, lip balm, skin lotions**
- **Personal toiletries**
- **Cameras, lenses, memory cards, and extra batteries**
- **Collapsible walking stick –** Highly recommended for those who have trouble walking, and certainly necessary at Machu Picchu
- **Umbrella –** A small collapsible umbrella can be indispensable.

- **Refillable water bottle**
- **Small flashlight or headlamp**

Binoculars – We strongly recommend good binoculars of at least 8x32, 8x42, or 10x42 magnification. We recommend that you NOT bring mini binoculars of any kind. Some people like “minis” because they are small and lightweight, but they have an extremely small field of view and very poor light-gathering power. Trying to find a bird in your binoculars using minis is like trying to read a book through a keyhole. You will be very frustrated, and even if you do manage to get the bird in your binoculars before it flies, you will have a poor view. You will find that 8x32 or 8x42 binoculars are compact and light enough.

Spotting Scopes – Your tour leaders will have scopes available for group use throughout the trip, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

DESTINATION INFORMATION & LOCAL CONDITIONS

CLIMATE & WEATHER: The dry season in Cusco runs from mid-April through mid-November, but showers are possible at any time. Days in Cusco are warm, with temperatures reaching 70° F. Early morning temperatures in the Sacred Valley in September are likely to be around 60° F, but it is often warm at midday, reaching 75° F. Evenings are cooler. Machu Picchu, in the tropical cloud forest, is relatively humid, and temperatures there can reach 80° F.

Overall, participants should expect pleasant, sunny days with cool mornings and warm to hot afternoons. The chance of precipitation is low (although sudden rains can occur at Machu Picchu, given its cloud forest location).

CONDITIONS: Your trip to Cusco and Machu Picchu will be a relaxing but full travel experience, including walking tours and visits to major historical sites and natural areas. In addition to birding, we will experience an abundance of cultural, historical, and anthropological activities.

The physical demands on this tour are easy to moderate, but our excursions involve a moderate amount of walking and standing. All walking will be at a slow pace, and we emphasize that no one will be subjected to physical demands exceeding their capabilities.

Elevations during this tour: We will be touring most of the time in/about inter-Andean valleys where the elevation varies between 9,000 ft (while in the Urubamba Valley) to the highest point 14,200 ft (while birding along the road to the Malaga Pass). The rest of the time our elevation will fluctuate between 10,000 ft to 12,000 ft. After spending a good amount of time in the Urubamba Valley and then Machu Picchu (6,000 ft at the town of Aguas Calientes and 8,000 ft at the site of Machu Picchu), we should be fully acclimatized for our time spent in the Apurimac Valley and Cusco.

Meals: Most of our meals in Machu Picchu and Cusco will be in hotel dining rooms and local restaurants. Breakfasts will be buffet-style, with no assigned seating; at lunch and dinner, our group will have assigned tables, and we will be offered set menus or à la carte service. We will also have some box lunches while we are birding.

Given sufficient notice, the kitchens can meet special dietary needs; please inform us of any special needs when you register for the tour.

Pincopata Eco-camp: Dome sleeping tents. All of them are strategically located along the Salkantay Trail, within the great Vilcabamba mountain range. All domes are 28m2 / 300 ft2 and include either a king-size bed or 2 twin beds. They are fully equipped with a private bathroom (toilet, sink, and hydromassage shower), wood burning stove and enough blankets to keep you warm. Dinner and drinks are served in the dining dome or the lobby/bar dome. Camps are powered by solar energy and water turbine systems. Water is filtered and treated with UV light, making it safe to drink the tap water, which in turn reduces the use of plastic bottles. Toilets are on a two flush system: liquid waste is first filtered and then goes into the ground. Organic non-detergent products are used in both the kitchens and bathrooms.

Walking: This tour involves moderate amounts of walking. Participation requires that you be able to walk unassisted (or with a walking stick) at least half a mile at a time.

A moderate amount of standing and walking is necessary at all of the archaeological sites we visit. The most famous Inca sites, including Machu Picchu, Pisac, Sacsayhuamán, and Ollantaytambo, all have well-developed paths and walkways leading to the most important ruins. The gravel trail at Apurimac Canyon has moderate ascents and descents, and may not be

suitable for everyone, this trail involves a 2-mile roundtrip easy/moderate hike to reach the Condor Look-out. Visiting Machu Picchu requires walking up and down ramps and staircases. We will always move at a reasonable pace.



DAILY ROUTINE: Our activities include both birding and historical and cultural pursuits. At times, the emphasis will be either on birding or on history, but many of our outings incorporate both activities; in fact, the birding is best around the ruins or in hotel gardens. Most days will start with breakfast between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m., followed by a drive to archaeological sites or birding spots. We will have lunch in a local restaurant. Depending on the day, we should be back at the hotel mid-afternoon; some afternoons will be free for exploration on your own from our conveniently located lodgings. Dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. most evenings.

CURRENCY & SPENDING: Your trip fee includes all necessary expenses; however, you may want to bring some cash to cover personal expenses not included in the program, such as gifts, laundry, gratuities, meals on your own, and personal items. It is best to carry small denominations as hotels may be unable to provide change for large bills. Bills need to be in good condition as worn and old ones are not accepted for exchange. Major credit cards are accepted at all hotels for gift shop items, laundry, etc. Please check with your bank and credit card issuer for more information regarding banking and the use of ATM and credit cards overseas.

The official currency of Peru is the Sol (PEN). You can check the latest currency conversion rate by visiting “XE- The World’s Favorite Currency Site” at: http://www.xe.com.

ELECTRICITY: Power in Peru is 220V, with use of outlet types “A” and “C” most prevalent. The “A” type outlet accommodates a flat two-bladed plug while the “C” type outlet, also known as the European-style outlet, accommodates a plug with two round pins. To ensure that use of American standard 110V equipment with the flat- pronged plugs will work, you should bring an all-purpose transformer to convert the current for 110V use, in addition to proper plug adapters.

INTERNET ACCESS: WIFI service is available at all hotels during this trip, though service at our glamping facility during our visit to the Apurimac River area can be slow.

LANGUAGE: Spanish is the primary language spoken in Peru. English is spoken by the principal staff in hotels.

TIME: Peru observes Peru Standard Time (PET) all year, without any seasonal changes. PET is one hour ahead of Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and four hours ahead of Pacific Daylight Time (PDT).

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Laundry service is available at all hotels on a charge-per-item basis. Items dropped off in the morning at the front desk are usually returned late the same afternoon or early the next morning.

Food and Water: All food is safe to consume, including raw fruits and vegetables and is cooked on site. Purified water is available throughout the trip. All salads and dairy products are perfectly safe to eat at the places we visit.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH: VENT follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for standard travel precautions, which includes vaccination against a variety of preventable diseases. Among these so-called Routine Vaccinations are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult

travelers), and Varicella (Chickenpox). You should also be up to date with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

If you are taking personal medication, prescription or over the counter, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

COVID-19: We continually emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. Although VENT no longer maintains any of its COVID-era prevention protocols, we strongly recommend best practices for protecting yourself and your fellow travelers against COVID-19 illness. These measures include receiving the primary series vaccinations for those eligible, staying "Up to Date" with COVID-19 booster shots, wearing high filtration N-95 or KN-95 masks when in airports and on airplanes, and avoiding risky social settings in the lead-up to your tour. These recommendations are firmly rooted in CDC guidance for avoiding COVID-19.

SUN EXPOSURE: The sun's ultraviolet rays are dangerous under prolonged exposure (sometimes only a matter of minutes), even in winter and early spring. Anytime you are outdoors you will want to protect your skin, including your lips, eyes, nose, and ears. A severe sunburn is potentially very painful and will affect your level of enjoyment. Always protect yourself when outdoors and be sure to bring an ample supply of high SPF sunscreen and lip balm. We strongly recommend the use of ultra-violet blocking, polarized sunglasses.

BITING INSECTS: Mosquitoes and black flies can sometimes be a nuisance in /around Machu Picchu. We suggest a stick-type repellent for your face and hands and any exposed skin.

INSECT REPELLENTS: There are insect repellents for the skin and an insect repellent used to treat clothing that should not be applied to the skin.

Insect repellents for the skin are commonly available in three forms:

- **DEET:** (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide): A chemical compound that is marketed under various brand names (OFF!®, Cutter™, Ultrathon™, etc.) and offered in a variety of formulations including sprays, lotions, time-release preparations, and disposable wipes. The formulations will state a percentage of the active ingredient DEET on the packaging. DEET may be applied to exposed skin directly and/or sprayed on clothing. Please be careful when applying DEET as it can damage plastics and lens coatings.
- **Picaridin:** A synthetic formulation that is derived from piperine, a substance found in plants that produce black pepper.
- **Herbal insect repellents:** Various mixtures of organic ingredients such as oils from eucalyptus, citronella, cedar, and other herbs. The herbal repellents are more difficult to categorize because of the difference in ingredients from one brand to another. There is considerable variation in their effectiveness.

Insect repellent for clothing is marketed in one approved formulation:

- **Permanone® (Permethrin):** is an odorless spray-on repellent that may be used for pre-treatment of clothing, gear, and tents. It should not be used directly on the skin or sprayed on clothing while it is being worn. The pre-treatment process requires a number of hours to complete and must be done outdoors, so it is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment must be repeated more often than commercial treatment using Insect Shield® technology. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online.
- **Insect Shield® apparel:** Clothing pre-treated with Permanone is made by a variety of manufacturers. It is available for purchase from some sporting goods suppliers. The clothing is advertised as retaining its repellency for up to 70 washings.

The US EPA offers a search tool to help choose a repellent that is best for a particular situation. For example, some repellents work for mosquitoes, but not for ticks.

https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/which-insect-repellent-right-you

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta Georgia. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

Malaria & Yellow Fever: Malaria and Yellow Fever are present in Peru but not in any of the areas we'll visit on the tour. This tour operates entirely at relatively higher elevations and the chances of contracting either disease is very low to non-existent. We do not feel that an anti-malarial regimen course is necessary. However, you should check with your health care provider and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for more information.

SUGGESTED READING: A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

Birds:

Schulenberg, T. S., D. F. Stotz, D. F. Lane, J. P. O'Neill, & T. A. Parker III. *Birds of Peru*. 2010. Second edition. Relatively compact (but remember, there are almost 1,800 species in this book), although not as small or lightweight as field guides to North America and Europe. **This is the most important field guide for this tour.**

Behavior and Ecology:

Forsyth, A., and K. Miyata. *Tropical Nature: Life and Death in the Rain Forests of Central and South America.* 1984. Does not deal much with birds, but a fantastic introduction to all kinds of topics relating to tropical wildlife—bugs, frogs, plants, botflies, and much more. Extraordinarily well written, a classic that ought to be read by anyone contemplating a visit to the American tropics.

Hilty, S. *Birds of Tropical America: A Watcher's Introduction to Behavior, Breeding and Diversity*. 2005. Highly recommended for background information on how things work in bird communities at tropical latitudes. Topics include the diversity of birds, hummingbird communities, mixed-species flocks, antbirds and army ants, colorfulness, song structure, and much more.

TERMS, CONDITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., a Texas corporation, and/or its agents (together, "***VENT***") act only as agents for the participant in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in airfare or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the participant, as tour rates only provide for arrangements for the time stated.

VENT reserves the right (i) to substitute hotels of similar category, or the best reasonable substitution available under the circumstances, for those indicated and (ii) to make any changes in the itinerary that are deemed necessary by VENT or which are caused by third party transportation schedules (i.e. railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, etc.).

VENT reserves the right to substitute leaders or guides on any tour. Where VENT, in its sole discretion, determines such substitution is necessary, it will notify tour participants.

VENT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure with or without cause or good reason. See the VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy set forth above.

Tour prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on November 13, 2026, and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change thereto.

VENT reserves the right to decline any participant's Registration Form and/or refuse to allow any participant to participate in a tour as VENT deems reasonably necessary, in its sole discretion. VENT also reserves the right to remove any tour participant from any portion of a tour as VENT deems necessary, in its sole discretion, reasons for such removal include but are not limited to, medical needs, injury, illness, inability to meet physical demands of a tour, personality conflict or situations in which such removal is otherwise in the best interest of the tour, the tour group and/or such participant. A participant may also voluntarily depart from a tour. If a participant is removed from a tour or voluntarily departs from a tour, such participant will be responsible for any expenses associated with such removal or departure, including but not limited to, transportation, lodging, airfare and meals, and VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any such removed or departed participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by such participant.

Baggage is carried at the participant's risk entirely. No airline company, its employees, agents and/or affiliates (the "***Airline***") is to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not on board the Airline's aircraft. The participant ticket in use by any Airline, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the Airline and the purchaser of the tickets and/or the participant. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for VENT tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airlines Reporting Corporation.View the complete Terms and Conditions on our website.

the Airlines Reporting Corporation.

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9/29/26 – PS/SB