WESTERN PERU

Feathers & Traditions

August 8 - 19, 2027



Inca Tern ©Eileen Rudden

Western Peru is a land of extraordinary contrasts, where the legacies of ancient civilizations meet some of South America's most remarkable landscapes and wildlife. This journey takes us to coastal desert and the wildlife-rich waters of the Pacific, to high Andean grasslands and dramatic Colca Canyon. Along the way, we will encounter an exciting array of Peru's endemic and range-restricted birds, all while enjoying comfortable accommodations and excellent cuisine.

Our tour offers a fascinating combination of birding, archaeology, and cultural discovery. With a list of almost 1900 bird species, Peru is excelled only by Colombia—and just barely—in avian diversity. More than 120 species are endemic to Peru, and this country also hosts a number of range-restricted birds that may be easier to see here than elsewhere in South America. Among them are representatives of such familiar families as

the waterfowl and hawks, but Peru, thanks to its tremendous diversity of habitats and elevations, is also home to a vast number of such exotic and exotically named groups as jacamars, crescentchests, and royal flycatchers. There are colorful tanagers, shade-dappled antpittas and tapaculos, and even penguins to inspire any traveling birder's imagination.

For all its lavish natural diversity, though, Peru also possesses an almost unbelievably rich cultural heritage, reaching back some 8000 years. Indeed, Peru is considered one of the six cradles of human civilization. Museums and archaeological sites offer insight into the lives of the residents of Caral, the first known city in the Americas; the skilled weavers and potters of the third-century BC Paracas culture; nobles and workers in the vast Inca empire; and native peoples and Spanish adventurers during the long colonial period. The influences of this dazzling mixture of cultures are still seen today in architectural styles and in village customs and practices.

Peru's distant past is illuminated not just by archaeological artifacts and ancient buildings. The ice of the high peaks of the Andes has preserved the very bodies of some of the people who played a role in the country's long-ago history. The most famous of these "ice mummies" is "Juanita," victim of a ritual sacrifice almost 600 years ago; her body and the apparel and goods she was buried with, now on respectful exhibit in the Andean Sanctuaries Museum, have proved a priceless source of information for anthropologists and other scientists.

Bringing together Peru's wonderful cultural heritage, its culinary traditions, and its impressive natural diversity, this tour offers a comprehensive look into a country justly famous for its landscapes, its birds, and its warm hospitality.

Day 1: August 8th: Arrival in Lima

Our journey begins in Lima, Peru's vibrant capital, historically known as the City of Kings. Founded by Francisco Pizarro in 1535, Lima is a fascinating blend of colonial architecture, archaeological treasures, modern neighborhoods, and world-renowned culinary traditions.

On arrival at Lima's Jorge Chávez International Airport (airport code LIM), participants will be met by our local representative for the transfer to our attractive hotel in the upscale San Isidro district, in the northwestern part of Peru's vibrant capital; a room will be reserved in your name. After checking in, you will have time to relax or, your arrival schedule permitting, to enjoy a leisurely stroll in nearby El Olivar Park, where centuries-old olive trees are home to such delightful birds as the Croaking Ground Dove, Peruvian Pygmy Owl, and Blue-gray Tanager.

Dinner this evening is on your own. Overlooking the park, our hotel's restaurant offers a menu of local products imaginatively prepared with the techniques of international cuisine.

NIGHT: Hotel El Olivar, Lima

Day 2: August 9th: Lima

After a first breakfast together as a group, we will begin our journey here in the vibrant capital of Peru. Lima was founded by Francisco Pizarro in 1535, and today, nearly five hundred years later, the city is a fascinating blend of colonial architecture, archaeological treasures, and modern neighborhoods.

This morning, on a leisurely birding walk through El Olivar Park, we will get to know a variety of urban birds, perhaps including resident species such as the dark-morph Vermilion Flycatcher, Pacific Beardless-Tyrannulet, and Amazilia Hummingbird.

Once known as the City of Kings, Lima's historic core is now listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Here in the city center stands the Casa Aliaga, a remarkable colonial residence that has been occupied by the same family since the city's founding five centuries ago. After admiring the handsome courtyards, beautifully preserved interiors, and antique furnishings, we will enjoy a special lunch here.

After lunch, we will visit the Dominican convent of Santo Domingo. Founded at virtually the same time as the city itself, the convent's buildings were repeatedly toppled by

earthquakes in the first century of its existence; the beautiful complex we see today dates largely to the eighteenth century. We will take in the spirit of the convent's lovely cloisters, historic artworks, and Baroque architecture before returning to our hotel for some relaxed time before dinner.

NIGHT: Hotel El Olivar, Lima

Day 3: August 10th: Lima to Paracas

We will check out of our hotel after breakfast and set out on the drive to Paracas. Straight through, the journey would take about three and a half hours, but of course, we will break the trip with stops for birding and a box lunch along the way.

Our first stop will be Pantanos de Villa Wildlife Refuge, an important wetland complex on the coast about two hours from El Olivar. More than 200 bird species have been recorded here, and we will be searching for the refuge's shallow lagoons and reedbeds for resident and migratory birds including the Great Grebe, Cinnamon Teal, Many-colored Rush Tyrant, and a variety of herons and shorebirds.

We will continue south to the remarkable Lomas de Asia, desert hills that burst into a lush green each spring and fall when coastal fog brings moisture from the Pacific. Separated from each other by forbiddingly parched desert habitats, the lomas are essentially islands of vegetation in a dry sea; as a result, many endemic plant genera and species have evolved here—by one estimate, some 40% of the plants here are found nowhere else on earth. If conditions are right, at this season we can hope to find the Collared Warbling Finch, Cactus Canastero, and Raimondi's Yellow-Finch.

We will pause for lunch, then continue to the Paracas Peninsula, where the desert meets the Pacific Ocean. We expect to arrive at our seaside resort in the late afternoon.

NIGHT: The Legend by Hilton, Paracas



White-cheeked Pintail ©Eileen Rudden

Day 4: August 11th: Paracas National Reserve & Pisco Distillery

This morning's short drive will take us to Paracas National Reserve, spanning some 650,000 acres of land and sea. Here we will explore sweeping dunes, cliffs, beaches, and rich ocean waters as we look for the Peruvian Pelican, Peruvian Booby, and a wide range of gulls, terns, and shorebirds. On rocky shorelines, we will hope to encounter the aptly named Seaside Cinclodes.

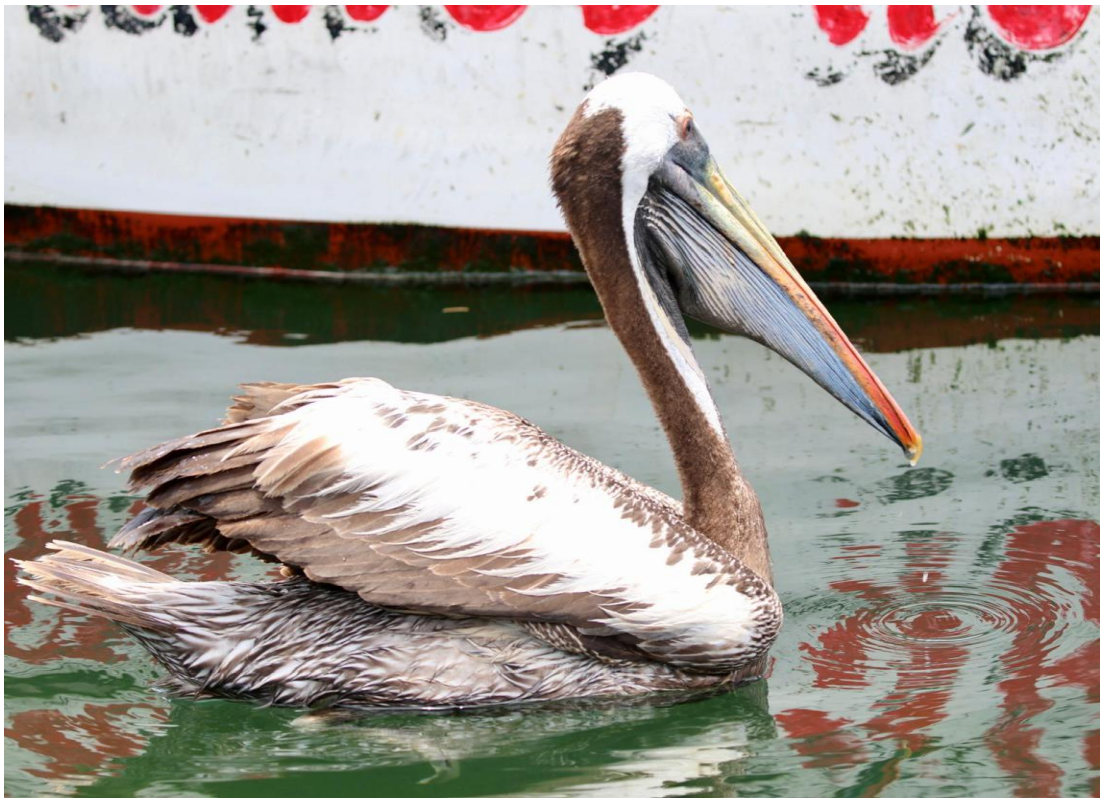
We will proceed to visit the Julio C. Tello Museum, which bears the name of the remarkable Peruvian archaeologist who dedicated his life to the study of the culture that thrived here from about 800 to about 100 BC. That sophisticated coastal civilization

employed advanced technologies to control the supply of fresh water to irrigate their crops; today, though, they are best known for the fine pottery and elaborate textiles they produced, outstanding examples of which are on display.

Our delicious lunch, featuring traditional Peruvian cuisine, will be among the vineyards of the historic San Nicolás estate, home of 1615 Pisco. Peru's celebrated national drink, distilled from wine made from the best quebranta grapes, has been produced here for over four hundred years, beginning with the Jesuits who brought the first grapes to South America. We will learn more about the art and history of pisco production and enjoy a tasting of the different varieties. An additional special highlight here will be an exhibition of the magnificent Peruvian Paso, an elegant horse renowned for its exceptionally even gait.

We plan to be back at our hotel in time to freshen up before dinner.

NIGHT: The Legend by Hilton, Paracas



Peruvian Pelican ©Eileen Rudden



Surf Cinclodes ©David Wilbur

Day 5: August 12th: Ballestas Islands, Pachacamac & Return to Lima

We will start out early today for a morning boat excursion to the rugged Ballestas Islands, off the coast of Paracas. Now a wildlife sanctuary, the islands' spectacular cliffs, caves, and natural arches are the product of the actions of wind and ocean waters on ancient volcanic rock. The cold, nutrient-rich waters of the Humboldt Current support an extraordinarily productive marine ecosystem, with vast schools of anchovy providing food for marine mammals and seabirds. We will have excellent opportunities to observe Peruvian Boobies, Guanay Cormorants, Blackish Oystercatchers, Peruvian Pelicans, South American Sea Lions, and even the rare and poorly known Marine Otter. Unsurprisingly, the islands are also

famous for their rich deposits of guano, the natural fertilizer that played such an important role in Peru's economic history.

Once back on shore, we will have time to finish packing before checking out of our hotel and beginning the drive north to Lima. We will stop to visit the temples and plazas of Pachacamac, a major pre-Inca ceremonial center, then continue to our airport hotel and dinner.

NIGHT: Grand Costa del Sol Wyndham Lima Airport, Lima



Humboldt Penguin ©Eileen Rudden

Day 6: August 13th: Caral–The Dawn of Urban Civilization in the Americas

North of Lima, in the Supe Valley, the Sacred City of Caral comprises monumental pyramids and imposing circular plazas dating back some five millennia. One of the oldest known urban settlements in the Americas, Caral is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Our guide will help us imagine the cultural and ceremonial life of this remarkable site, where significant archaeological finds have included ancient musical instruments and knotted cords used for record-keeping, a system subsequently perfected by the Inca.

The surrounding valley is a mosaic of agriculture and arid hills, home to the Coastal Miner, Parrot-billed Seedeater, and Fulvous-faced Scrub Tyrant. After lunch, we will return to Lima, arriving in the late afternoon or evening.

NIGHT: Grand Costa del Sol Wyndham Lima Airport, Lima



Caral site ©Radio Nacional Peru

Day 7: August 14th: Flight to Arequipa – Discovering the White City

A ninety-minute flight this morning will take us south to Arequipa, beneath the dramatic peaks of Misti, Chachani, and Pichu Pichu, at an elevation of approximately 7,600 feet above sea level. The white or pale pink volcanic stone, or sillar, of the city's distinctive colonial buildings is responsible for its popular alternative name, the White City.

In addition to the historic Plaza de Armas, we will also visit the colorful maze of lanes, courtyards, and religious buildings that make up the Santa Catalina Monastery. Established in 1579, the monastery was destroyed twice as much as damaged by earthquakes; most of the present structures date to the late seventeenth century. Today, the monastery houses not just a community of Dominican nuns but a fine gallery holding some 400 pieces of colonial art.

Less than half a mile away stands the church of La Compañía, renowned for its elaborate stonework. Construction on this gem of colonial architecture began in 1578, but this church, too, like Santa Catalina, was badly damaged by a series of earthquakes; the elaborate west front of the present three-nave structure bears the date 1698. With its incredibly ornate façade, this church marks a highpoint in the history of the Andean, or mestizo, style of the Spanish colonial Baroque. The mestizo style was developed in Peru beginning in the 1630s; it uses the conventional forms of contemporary European architecture but ornaments the buildings with indigenous symbolic material.

We also plan to visit the Andean Sanctuaries Museum, founded in 1996 to house artifacts collected during archaeological studies in the southern Andes. Today, the museum's holdings include important ceramic objects, anthropomorphic dolls, metal statuettes, and household implements created by Peru's indigenous civilizations. The collection is most famous, however, for its mummies, human bodies preserved for centuries by the freezing temperatures of the High Andes. The body of a young girl, victim of a ritual sacrifice in the mid-fifteenth century, discovered on Peru's Mount Ampato, is now known as the Juanita Mummy; the body's remarkable state of preservation has given archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians new insight into the diet, rituals, genetics, and other aspects of pre-colonial Inca life.

After our city tour, we will return to the hotel for dinner.

NIGHT: Casa Andina Premium Hotel, Arequipa

Day 8: August 15th: Chiguata – Birding High Andean Woodlands

Chiguata is a traditional community in the scenic highlands, surrounded by terraces, ravines, and native Andean woodlands. Stands of queñua (Polylepis), chachacomo (Escallonia), and other high-altitude vegetation harbor many species characteristic of the western Andes, among them the Andean Tinamou, Andean Hillstar, Mountain Parakeet, Black-hooded Sierra Finch, and the very localized Tamarugo Conebill. We will search for these and other high-elevation birds as we enjoy spectacular views of the volcanoes all around us.

Depending on weather conditions and bird activity, we may also drive higher up the road to visit Laguna de Salinas. Here, at 14,100 feet, we have a good chance of seeing all three of Peru's flamingo species: the Andean, Chilean, and James's.

After lunch in the field, we will do more birding at our usual comfortable pace, then return to Arequipa in the afternoon.

NIGHT: Casa Andina Premium Hotel, Arequipa

Day 9: August 16th: Colca Canyon

Our spectacular journey to the Colca Valley takes us through Salinas y Aguada Blanca National Reserve, where wild Vicuñas and High Andean birds live among vast puna grasslands, wetlands, and volcanic landscapes. Along our route, we will search for high-altitude species such as the Crested Duck, Andean Goose, and Andean Avocet.

Patapampa Pass, approximately 16,000 ft above sea level, is at the highest elevation of our tour. If the weather is clear, we will have panoramic views of the surrounding volcanoes here before beginning our descent into the Colca Valley, with its pre-Inca agricultural terraces and traditional villages.

We will arrive at Colca Lodge in the afternoon, leaving us time to relax, to bird, or to soak in the delightful hot springs before dinner.

NIGHT: Colca Lodge, Colca Valley



Andean Condor ©Stan Hill

Day 10: August 17th: Colca Canyon

After this morning's delicious breakfast, we will set out for Cruz del Cóndor, a celebrated lookout over immense Colca Canyon. Here we can hope to see the magnificent Andean Condor, one of the world's largest flying birds, as it glides on thermals in front of the canyon walls. While we take in this memorable spectacle, we may also encounter the Black Metaltail, Streaked Tit-Spinetail, Canyon Canastero, or Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle.

Our return trip to the lodge takes us past centuries-old terraces, dramatic cliffs, and villages where Collagua and Cabana cultural traditions still endure. We will stop to visit the nearby pre-Inca site of Uyo Uyo. Believed to have been built originally by the Collagua culture, the city was later occupied by the Incas, who themselves abandoned it after the arrival of the Spanish. Set on a terrace high above the Colca River, the ruins here are notably well preserved, giving a good sense of the daily life of what was once the most important settlement in the Colca Valley.

In addition to its great archaeological value, the area around Uyo Uyo can be excellent for finding the Giant Hummingbird, Golden Grosbeak, and Spot-winged Pigeon. At the end of a rewarding day of birding and exploration, we will return to Colca Lodge for dinner.

NIGHT: Colca Lodge, Colca Valley

Day 11: August 18th: Return to Arequipa and flight to Lima

After breakfast in our lodge, we will set off through the spectacular landscapes of the Andes for the journey back to Arequipa. As time allows, we may make some brief stops along the way for birding or photography; lunch today will be in the field.

From Arequipa airport, we will take a mid-afternoon flight to Lima, where we will transfer to our airport hotel for the night. This evening's farewell dinner will be a celebration of the many natural and cultural treasures we have experienced in western Peru.

NIGHT: Grand Costa del Sol Wyndham Lima Airport, Lima

Day 12: August 19th: Departure from Lima

Participants will board their international flights home today, taking with them memories of remarkable birds, ancient civilizations, and warm Peruvian hospitality.

ESSENTIAL TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 10 participants.

TOUR LEADERS: This tour will be led by **Doris Valencia** and a local leader.



Doris Valencia is a keen Peruvian birder and naturalist. She was born in Cusco, the capital of the Inca. Her passion for the outdoors and birding has its roots in her childhood. She spent her early years in the Madre de Dios region (southern Amazon) where her parents managed an eco-lodge. She leads birding trips throughout Perú and Colombia and is expanding to Ecuador. Doris unites great birding skills with a wide-ranging knowledge 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. She is also an entrepreneur and has been working to promote women in the tourism industry as guides and naturalists, especially from the communities that surrounds important bird areas.

TOUR COSTS & PAYMENT INFORMATION

TOUR FEE: $8,395 per person based on double occupancy or **$9,675** for a person requiring single accommodation. This includes all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 11, accommodations 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 nor from the starting/ending city; however, flights within the tour (if any) are included. The fee also excludes laundry, personal expenses, 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.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: You may register for this tour through the VENT website or by calling our office (512-328-5221). The initial deposit for this tour is **$1,000** per person. At 180 days (February 9, 2027) VENT will collect a second deposit that brings the total deposit amount to 40% of the tour price. 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 (April 10, 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 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 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 REQUIREMENT: This tour visits remote locations where immediate access to primary medical care may NOT be available. For this reason, travel insurance which covers you for emergency evacuation is required for participation on this tour. This coverage is included in the Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™ program. Through Ripcord, "emergency evacuation" can be purchased as a stand-alone benefit or as part of a comprehensive travel insurance policy. If you choose not to purchase insurance through Ripcord, you are required to obtain it through another provider.

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 insure all non-refundable trip costs in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

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 plus a day pack. The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. For the domestic flight in Peru, participants are asked to limit checked luggage to one bag weighing no more than 20 kilograms (about 44 pounds). 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: http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm.

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://state.gov/travelers/ 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.**

VISAS: Citizens of the United States are not required to have a visa for entry. Rules and regulations pertaining to non-U.S. and Canadian citizens may vary; please check with the consulates or embassies.

WHAT TO BRING

CLOTHING: August brings mild, often overcast weather on the Lima and Paracas coast and sunny days with very cold mornings and evenings in the Andes. Bring layered clothing: lightweight long-sleeved field shirts and pants, a fleece or insulated jacket, a windproof layer, and a light rain jacket. A warm hat and gloves are essential for early high-altitude outings. Choose subdued colors rather than bright whites or camouflage. Bring a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, and swimwear for the thermal pools at Colca Lodge.

FOOTWEAR: Comfortable, broken-in walking shoes or light hiking boots with good traction are recommended for rocky, sandy, or uneven trails and roadside stops. Casual shoes or sandals are useful at hotels.

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:

- **Daypack** – 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 very helpful while at the Colca Canyon.
- **Umbrella –** A small collapsible umbrella can be indispensable.
- **Zip bags –** Large plastic zip bags are useful for protecting optical equipment from rain and humidity.
- **Refillable water bottle –** Important as an effort to reduce plastic waste
- **Small flashlight or headlamp –** You should be sure to bring a rugged flashlight with extra batteries or a small head lamp (LED-types work best).

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 leader will have a scope 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: On the coast, Lima is typically cool and humid (about 57–68°F), while Paracas is generally dry but can be windy, especially during the Ballestas Islands boat trip. Arequipa (7,660 ft) usually has sunny days around 68–72°F and chilly nights. Chiguata & Laguna de Salinas and the high plateau can be windy and near or below freezing early in the morning, warming considerably in the sun. Colca Valley days are often pleasant, but mornings and nights can be very cold. August is the Andean dry season, although unexpected weather is possible.

CONDITIONS – PHYSICAL DEMANDS: Walking is generally moderate and at a slow birding pace, mostly on roadsides, established paths, and viewpoints, with occasional slopes, steps, loose rock, and uneven terrain. The Ballestas Islands excursion is by motorboat, boarding and ocean motion require reasonable balance. Altitude is a more significant consideration than hiking difficulty: excursions reach approximately 14,100 ft at Laguna de Salinas and briefly 16,100 ft at Patapampa Pass on the way to the Colca Canyon. Shortness of breath, headache, or fatigue can occur even with limited exertion. Participants should consult their physician about high-altitude travel when appropriate and report symptoms promptly to the leaders.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS: Comfortable high-end hotels are planned for Lima, Paracas and Arequipa. Two nights are spent at Colca Lodge near Yanque, with landscaped grounds and riverside thermal pools; some walking between buildings is required. Meals will be served at hotels and selected restaurants, with occasional early breakfasts and box lunches on longer field days. Please advise VENT of dietary restrictions in advance.

FOOD & WATER: All food is safe to consume, including raw fruits and vegetables and is cooked on site. Purified water is available throughout the trip. Our vehicles will also have water available at all times. All salads and dairy products are perfectly safe to eat at the places we visit.

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 (plural=Soles) (PEN). You can check the latest currency conversion rate by visiting "XE-The World's Favorite Currency Site" at: http://www.xe.com/.

ELEVATIONS AT A GLANCE: Lima / Paracas: sea level • Arequipa: 7,660 ft (2,335 m) • Chiguata: 9,500 ft (2,900 m) • Laguna de Salinas: 14,100 ft (4,300 m) • Patapampa Pass: 16,100 ft (4,910 m) • Colca Lodge: 10,660 ft (3,250 m) • Cruz del Cóndor: approximately 12,500 ft (3,800 m).

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. However, nowadays most electronic devices accommodate these two types of power.

INTERNET ACCESS: Wi-Fi service will be available at all hotels during this trip.

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

TIME: Peru observes Peru Time (PET), UTC−5, year-round, without seasonal clock changes. It matches U.S. Eastern Standard Time and U.S. Central Daylight Time. During this August tour, Peru will have the same local time as U.S. Central Daylight Time.

LAUNDRY: Laundry will be available at the city hotels in Lima and Arequipa, generally charged per item. Service and turnaround depend on the hotel, do not rely on it during short stays.

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.

Malaria & Yellow Fever: Malaria and Yellow Fever are serious diseases spread by mosquitos. Vaccination for Yellow Fever is not required for entry to Peru; however, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommends a yellow fever vaccination for all travelers who intend to visit most forest areas of the country up to an elevation of 2,300 meters (7,550 feet). Malaria has been confirmed in Peru, including the chloroquine-resistant strain in rural areas. The CDC recommends an anti-malarial prophylaxis for all travelers to most areas of the country up to 2,500 meters (8,200 feet). There are several

options for malaria prophylaxis. Please consult your health care provider and/or the CDC for more information. Although both Yellow Fever and Malaria are endemic to Peru, VENT has not had a problem with either disease on a Peru tour in many years.

Typhoid: VENT recommends vaccination against Typhoid, a bacterial disease that is found in Peru. Typhoid, or Typhoid Fever, is caused by *Salmonella Typhi*. It is transmitted through consumption of contaminated food and water, typically when someone who is infected uses the bathroom and does not wash their hands. Symptoms may include high fever, weakness, stomach pain, headache, diarrhea or constipation, cough, and loss of appetite.

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: This route is Mosquitoes and black flies free, however in some occasions there could be an uncommon small fly high in the andes, this is a rare occurrence. We suggest a mild-type repellent for your face and hands and any exposed skin to be applied as needed.

A good source of general health information for travelers is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636). You can check the CDC website at https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html (click on Travel Health).

SUGGESTED READING & TRIP PREPARATION

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.

*Schulenberg, Thomas S., et al. Birds of Peru. Princeton University Press, 2010. An essential field guide to Peru's extraordinary bird diversity, including coastal and high-Andean species.

*Harrison, Peter, Martin Perrow & Hans Larsson. Seabirds: The New Identification Guide. Lynx Edicions, 2021. An excellent reference for identifying seabirds, particularly useful for our visit to the Ballestas Islands.

*D'Altroy, Terence N. The Incas. Wiley-Blackwell, 2014. A comprehensive introduction to Inca history, culture, and traditions.

*Kim MacQuarrie, The Last Days of the Incas. A readable work of narrative nonfiction about the final years of the Inca Empire.

*Fjeldså, Jon & Niels Krabbe. Birds of the High Andes. Apollo Books, 1990. A detailed reference to the birds of the Andean highlands, particularly relevant to our excursions around Arequipa and the Colca Valley.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology apps

***eBird.* Cornell Lab of Ornithology.** Among the largest and most successful citizen science projects in existence, eBird is an essential tool in promoting bird study and conservation. Among a range of benefits, eBird allows users to keep a variety of lists in a single application. When taxonomic splits are incorporated, lists are automatically updated. Additionally, trip leaders can share daily lists, so one only need accept a shared list and it will upload to your files. Highly recommended.

***Merlin Bird ID.* Cornell Lab of Ornithology.** Merlin is an app designed as a birding coach for beginning and intermediate birdwatchers. Excellent for use in the field, Merlin asks the

observer a series of questions about his or her bird sighting, including date and location, and color, size, and behavior of a bird. Merlin then processes the viewer's responses to present a shortlist of possible identifications, from which the user can choose the likely bird. Species profiles include a brief physical description, photographs, and sound samples. The Photo ID feature allows anyone with a camera to snap a photo and obtain a list of suggestions. Merlin's Sound ID feature allows identification of birds through audible recognition. To use Merlin, download the app and the appropriate regional "pack." Highly recommended.

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 October 26, 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.

Tour Code

10/22/2026 /DV

10/26/2026/ PN / assistant initials

Publish Date: