



VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS

ITINERARY

SOUTHERN PERU: BIRDING THE ENCHANTING MANU ROAD

OCTOBER 1–11, 2024

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Crimson-mantled Woodpecker © Andrew Whittaker

There are certain locations for birders and naturalists that are firmly ensconced in the imagination, places where great birds and great bird spectacles evoke visions of birding splendor. Mindo, Ecuador. Pipeline Road, Panama. The Pantanal in Brazil. To this select list belongs Peru's Manu Road.

From its start above tree line outside the city of Cusco to its terminus in the Amazonian lowlands, the Manu Road traverses a bit more than 100 miles of the Andes, passing through several major forest types inhabited, it is said, by more than a thousand species of birds.

This new trip takes us on an unforgettable journey through the breathtaking mountain landscapes of southern Peru, an unparalleled opportunity to explore sections of the Manu Road, mostly within world-famous Manu National Park. Based in three ecolodges at different elevations, we will have a little more than a week to immerse ourselves in this haven of intact tropical forest filled with dazzling birds.

In the cloud forest, we'll delight in a tapestry of colorful hummingbirds and tanagers and stunning Andean Cocks-of-the-rock at their morning mating rituals. Other prizes here include Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Andean Motmot, Lyre-tailed Nightjar, and Crimson-mantled Woodpecker. We'll search the lush lowland forest for tinamous, trogons, woodpeckers, barbets, honeycreepers, and local celebrities such as the bizarre Hoatzin, King Vulture, Amazonian Antpitta, and Rufous-crested Coquette. We will also visit feeding stations and hummingbird gardens where a dozen or more species are possible at once, affording extraordinary photographic opportunities.



Andean Cock-of-the-rock © Robert (Spike) Baker

Back in the upper montane forest, we'll re-enter a world of trees with spreading canopies adorned with delicate orchids, home to the Andean Guan and hummingbirds with names like Shining Sunbeam and Amethyst-throated Sunangel, along with White-collared Jay and a range of gorgeous mountain tanagers. As we journey through this birding paradise, we'll be surrounded by spectacular scenery at every turn.

At the end of each day, we'll retreat to our comfortable and relaxing accommodations, where we'll indulge in delightful Peruvian fare offering a symphony of tastes, textures, and ingredients that will leave you craving more.

This trip will be led by Doris Valencia, a native Peruvian with superb birding skills and a charming personality. In addition to her skills in the field, Doris possesses a masterful command of Peruvian history and culture, qualities that greatly enhance the experience of those fortunate enough to travel with her.

October 1, Day 1: Travel to Lima. Tour participants should plan to arrive in Lima, Peru, (Jorge Chávez International Airport, airport code LIM) at any time today. After clearing immigration and customs, a short distance walk outside the terminal will take you to the Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, located right at the airport across from the departure terminal, where a room has been reserved in your name. Most flights from the United States arrive in the late evening. Due to the late arrival time of most flights, dinner tonight is on your own.

When making your airline reservations, please keep in mind that Day 2's flight to Cusco may depart in the morning. If possible, we recommend arriving a day early in order to rest after the overnight flight and to allow for any flight delays. Some travelers who arrive early will spend a day or two in Lima touring the city; our office will be pleased to help with additional arrangements, such as extra days in Lima or a city tour.

NIGHT: Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, Lima

October 2, Day 2: Flight to Cusco; Laguna Huacarpay and the Manu Road. A VENT representative will meet everyone in the lobby approximately an hour and a half prior to the departure of your domestic flight, to lead the way to the airline counter and assist with checked luggage delivery to the airline. A 90-minute flight from Lima



Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager © Andrew Whittaker

takes us to the glorious capital of the Incas, Cusco, at a breathtaking elevation of 10,990 feet. Once gathered with your VENT leader, we will set out on an unforgettable journey to Manu National Park, one of the most extensive conservation areas in the world. We will start at the vibrant wetlands of Huacarpay, a very important RAMSAR site—a mesmerizing haven for Andean waterfowl, the elegant Puna Ibis, Andean Gull, and the charming White-tufted Grebe. We will also keep an eye out for the Bearded Mountaineer, a gem-like hummingbird found nowhere else in the world.

Our drive promises not just breathtaking birdlife but also stunning views of picturesque Andean communities nestled amid colorful fields of potatoes and quinoa. Each stop along these Andean roads is an opportunity to encounter the exquisite birds that call this magnificent landscape home. On the west side, we may find the endemic Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch or Creamy-crested Spinetail. The pass of Ajanacu, at 12,000 feet, marks the official entrance to the national park, signaled by a remarkable change in vegetation. As the landscape around us transforms from the arid west side of the Andes to the verdant and lush eastern flank, we will pass through beautiful elfin forest, laden with delicate orchids and home to such birds as the Hooded and Scarlet-bellied mountain tanagers, Rufous-capped Thornbill, Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, and Chestnut-crested Cotinga. As we continue along the road to the comfortable Cock of the Rock Lodge, at 5,000 feet in the

cloud forest of Manu, we may meet with mixed flocks including the Crimson-mantled Woodpecker; Strong-billed Woodcreeper; Golden-collared Tanager; and Masked, Moustached, and Deep-blue flower-piercers. We will also be on the lookout for Andean Guans and Andean Motmots.

NIGHT: Cock of the Rock Lodge, Kosnipata Valley, Manu National Park

October 3-4, Days 3-4: The Cloud Forest of Manu National Park. The tropical cloud forest is an enchanting ecosystem of unparalleled biodiversity, characterized by magnificent trees draped in delicate mosses, bromeliads, www.ventbird.com

and orchids. We have two days to delve into the richness of this unique environment, teeming with natural wonders. Our birding here is along roads and serene trails, offering the ideal vantage points for a myriad of avian species. The meticulously tended lodge gardens are a haven for an array of hummingbirds, including beauties such as Violet-fronted Brilliant, the endemic Peruvian Piedtail, the timid Green Hermit, and the Many-spotted and Speckled hummingbirds. Feeding stations attract vividly hued tanagers such as the Golden, Silver-beaked, and Golden-eared, as well as Orange-bellied and Thick-billed euphonias and even the striking Versicolored Barbet. A real highlight is the elaborate mating ritual of the fabulous Andean Cock-of-the-rock, an impressive member of the cotinga family. We will visit the lek to witness the early morning gathering of the brilliantly colored males as they perform their finest displays in a bid to attract a female.



Golden-headed Quetzal © Steve Hilty

We will spend the tranquil afternoons in search of mixed flocks of furnariids, flycatchers, tanagers, chlorospinguses, and other fascinating species. As we quietly walk or drive along the road, we may spot Golden-headed and Crested quetzals. Birds of prey might include the impressive Black-and-chestnut Eagle. As daylight fades, we will undertake an entirely different but equally enthralling exploration—our nocturnal outings may reveal the elusive Band-bellied and Rufescent Screech- owls or the fantastic Lyre-tailed Nightjar. Both Capuchin and Woolly monkeys are also among the potential sightings—and with luck, we might catch a sight of the clever Tayra.

NIGHTS: Cock of the Rock Lodge, Kosnipata Valley, Manu National Park

October 5, Day 5: From Cloud Forest to Foothills. This morning we will gradually descend from the ethereal beauty of the cloud forest into the foothills of the Andes, along the way witnessing yet another breathtaking transformation in the landscape and its vegetation as the terrain grows more mellow. Here at lower elevations, a whole new ensemble of bird species appears. Antbirds such as the Warbling and White-browed dominate in the forest, while vast expanses of *Guadua* bamboo provide a haven for the endemic Black-backed Tody-Flycatcher, Red-billed Scythebill, Rufous-headed Woodpecker, and Stripe-chested Antwren. Parrots may include the

enchanted Blue-headed and the loud Blue-and-yellow macaw. As we pass through this area of the park, we will also glimpse some of the local communities, where coca leaves and an assortment of fruits are cultivated. At an elevation of 1,800 feet, the 7,600 forested acres of the Manu Biological Station are protected by the non-



Hoatzins © Andrew Whittaker

profit Amazon Conservation. The station preserves a wide variety of habitats in the Andean foothills including old-growth rainforest, lower mountain forest, secondary forest, and streams and rivers, all with a highly diverse flora and fauna. In recent years, this full-time research facility has also welcomed birders and other naturalists to its comfortable cabins. Depending on when we arrive, we may have a chance to explore the grounds in search of the bizarre Hoatzin, Blue-throated Piping-Guan, or Blue-crowned Trogon.

NIGHT: Manu Biological Station, Kosnipata, province of Paucartambo, department of Cusco

October 6–7, Days 6–7: The Foothills of Manu National Park. We will begin our days in this stunning transitional zone by awakening to a tremendous diversity of birds. Right in the enchanting gardens of the lodge itself, we may find White-necked Jacobins, Gray-breasted Sabrewings, White-chinned Sapphires, and Violet-headed Hummingbirds. The lodge is also the starting point for well-maintained forest trails, where any step might reveal elegant flycatchers, vibrant tanagers, or the secretive Manu, White-lined, and Goeldi's antbirds.

With ample time here, we will have the chance to visit lower elevations too, where in addition to many other avian specialties, we can hope to come across the critically endangered Blue-headed Macaw. We'll be privileged to visit two remarkable gardens nurtured by local families, where feeding stations offer a glimpse into the lives of such captivating birds as the Scarlet-hooded Barbet, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Masked Crimson Tanager, Green and Purple honeycreepers, Green-and-gold Tanager, and a variety of oropendolas. At the hummingbird feeders, Rufous-crested Coquettes, Long-billed Starthroats, and stunning Blue-fronted Lancebills will be icing on the cake. With luck, we might catch a view of the majestic King Vulture soaring overhead or even feasting on a carcass by the river.



Rufous-crested Coquette © Doris Valencia

Each day at the biological station concludes with an experience of culinary delight, with meals tailored to individual preferences.

NIGHTS: Manu Biological Station, Kosnipata, province of Paucartambo, department of Cusco

October 8, Day 8: From the Foothills to the Upper Montane Forest. This morning we pay one more visit to the lodge gardens to look for species we might have missed before. Then we'll retrace part of our earlier drive, leaving the foothills behind and perhaps spotting our final flocks of parrots and macaws. As we gain elevation on the way to Manu's higher reaches, we will stop along the way to check for mixed flocks, potentially including Spectacled Redstart, Mountain Wren, Black-headed Hemispingus, and the vibrant Orange-eared, Spotted, Beryl-spangled, and Blue-necked tanagers. This portion of the journey also promises glimpses of the endemic Inca Flycatcher, Smoked-colored Pewee, Andean Solitaire, Yellow-throated Tanager, gorgeous Blue-banded Toucanet, and numerous other birds.

We expect to reach our next lodging by mid-afternoon. At an elevation of 10,000 feet, the Wayquecha Biological Station serves as a crucial buffer along the southern boundary of Manu National Park. The station's 1,450 acres present an exceptional opportunity to explore the lush cloud forest and upper montane forest, where consistently high moisture sustains an impressive diversity of flora, which in turn fosters thriving populations of birds, amphibians, and mammals. Our mid-afternoon arrival gives us time to enjoy the well-tended grounds and gardens, which attract such stunning avian treasures as the Long-tailed Sylph, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, and Chestnut-breasted Coronet.



Blue-necked Tanager © David Ascanio

As the day winds down, a delightful dinner awaits in the main building, which has a nice library and a cozy fireplace. Dinner at the station is a wonderful opportunity to meet researchers working on projects in ornithology, biodiversity, ecology, conservation, and more. Their work contributes significantly to our understanding of the complex dynamics of these forests.

NIGHT: Wayquecha Biological Station, Kosnipata Valley, department of Cusco

October 9, Day 9: Upper Montane Forest. In the serene morning hours, the clearing at the biological station comes alive with the calls of Andean Guans, Black-faced Brush-finches and Azara's Spinetails. As the sun climbs higher, the air and trees are filled with melodious calls and vibrant plumages, and the birdbath attracts striking Hooded and scarlet-bellied mountain-tanagers, Masked and Rusty flowerpiercers, and stunning Grass-green, Rust-and-yellow, and Golden-collared tanagers.

We'll spend part of the day visiting a nearby canopy walkway. The scenic trail through the forest to the walkway offers a unique opportunity to find the endemic Red-and-white Antpitta and possibly the recently split Urubamba Antpitta. We will also dedicate some hours to birding along the road, hopefully encountering the fabulous Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, White-collared Jay, Mountain Cacique, and many other species.

As the day draws to a close, we will return to the lodge with our memories of the day's avian marvels still fresh in our minds.



Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan © David Ascanio

NIGHT: Wayquecha Biological Station, Kosnipata Valley, department of Cusco

October 10 & 11, Days 10-11: Morning Birding; Return to Cusco; Flight to Lima; International Departure; Return Home. We will spend our last early morning together on a leisurely short walk to see a few more species—or simply relax over a tranquil breakfast. Before departing for Cusco, we’ll visit a nearby orchid garden, renowned for the beauty of its exquisite collection. Around mid-morning (9:00 a.m.), we will start our return to Cusco, making stops along the way in picturesque and photogenic landscapes where we may find additional Andean species. We will have lunch in the field, then arrive in Cusco in the early afternoon, with ample time to catch the mid-afternoon flight back to Lima.

Upon arrival in Lima, a short walk through the main terminal will take you to our airport hotel, the Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, where a room has been reserved in your name. Please note dinner tonight is on your own. Generally speaking, flights depart for the USA after 10:30 p.m. on Day 10, arriving early the following morning. 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).

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 8 participants.

TOUR LEADER: 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.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for the tour is **\$4,995** per person in double occupancy from Lima. This includes all meals from lunch on Day 2 to lunch on Day 10, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, domestic airfare between Lima-Cusco-Lima, gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Lima and return, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small-party supplement may have to be charged.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$650**.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is \$1,000 per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, the deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. If you would like to pay your deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at <https://ventbird.com>) should be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

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 150 days (May 4, 2024) prior to the tour departure date.

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.

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour

prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement 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 are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:

Cancellation by Participant:

Refunds, if any, for any cancellation by a participant are made according to the following schedule: If participant cancels 180 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of \$500 per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person. If cancellation is made between 179 and 151 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the tour fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 150 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre- and post-tour extensions. For participants' protection, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance that covers trip cancellation/interruption.

If participant cancels:

180 days or more before departure date
\$179 TO \$151 days before date

Participant's refund will be:

Participant's deposit minus \$500*
No refund of the deposit, but any
payments on the balance of the tour
will be refunded.
No refund available

*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months from the date of participant tour cancellation, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person. To qualify, cancellation must occur 180 days or more before departure date; deposit transfers must be made at the time of cancellation; and one transfer per deposit.

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: 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 **Ripcord** plan. Designed for all types of travelers, Ripcord is among the most comprehensive travel protection programs available.

Critical benefits of Ripcord include a completely integrated program with a single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims; **medical evacuation from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice**; comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, 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:

<https://ripcordtravelprotection.com/ventbird>; or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help and 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, mid-payment, 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 cost in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Coronavirus (COVID-19):

In line with the decision made by the federal government (including the CDC), 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.

Please visit the **Coronavirus FAQ** page at the following link:

https://redpointtravelprotection.com/covid_19_faq/.

AIR INFORMATION: 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: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>.

CLOTHING: Except for the few hours in and around Cusco and the Huacarpay Wetlands where this tour stays in the dry Andean valleys, we expect cool mornings, warm to hot part of the day and little or no rain. Once beyond the Ajanacu Pass (official entrance to the Manu National Park) we will be in the eastern flanks of the Andes and we will certainly experience high humidity, rain and mosquitoes.

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

- **Pants and Shorts:** Two to three 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:** Cold to warm/hot 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 night while in Cock of the Rock Lodge and Wayquecha Biostation. In the event of sudden rain, you'll want to have a water-repellent jacket and pants as well.

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 lodges.

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Laundry service is available at all lodges by the kilo. Items dropped off in the morning are usually returned late the same afternoon or early the next morning.

CLIMATE & WEATHER: The dry season in Cusco runs from mid-April through mid-November, but showers are possible at any time, especially in the eastern part of the Andes. Days at the cloud forest are likely to be around 60° F, but it is often warm at midday, reaching 75° F. Evenings are cooler. While in the foothills, morning can be 65° F, warming up as the day goes on, reaching up to 95° F, with cooler and humid nights. On the contrary, up at Wayquecha Biostation, temperatures would fluctuate between 50° F to 70° F. Overall, participants should expect pleasant, sunny days with cool mornings and warm to hot mid-days to afternoons. The chance of precipitation is moderate due to the high humidity.

CONDITIONS: Your trip to Manu National Park will be a relaxing but full travel experience, including moderate walking along forest trails, short drives and visits to hummingbird gardens and bird-feeding stations. In addition to birding, we will experience an abundance of flora and fauna. 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.

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Elevations during this tour: We will be touring most of the time in the eastern slopes of the Andes where the elevation varies between 1,650 ft. (while at Manu Biostation) to the highest point at 12,000 ft. (Ajanacu Pass, the official entrance to Manu National Park). The rest of the time our elevation will fluctuate between 1,500 ft. to 10,000 ft.

Meals: Most of our meals will be served at the various lodges we will be staying with some occasional field lunches. Breakfasts will be buffet style while at Manu Biostation and Wayquecha Biostation, and served to the table while at Cock of the Rock Lodge. During lunch and dinner our group will have an assigned table and we will be offered a set menu. We will also have some box lunches while we are birding. Given sufficient notice, the kitchens can accommodate special dietary needs; please inform us of any special needs when you register for the tour.

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 when walking along forest trails. Lodges have well-developed paths and walkways leading to the most important birding areas. We will always move at a reasonable pace.

Daily routine: Our activities include full birding and nature pursuits. At times, the emphasis will be either on birding or natural history, depending on the birding activity. Most days will start with breakfast between 5:30 and 7:00 a.m., followed by a drive to a specific birding location or walk to some forest trail or visit to a garden. We will have lunch back at the lodges. On some days, we should be back at lodge at mid-afternoon and carry a pack-lunch with us. Dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. most evenings.

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
- **Umbrella** – A small collapsible umbrella can be indispensable
- **Refillable water bottle**
- **Small flashlight or headlamp**

BINOCULARS & SPOTTING SCOPES

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.

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 and Canada are required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Peru. The visa can be obtained free of charge upon arrival in Lima. Rules and regulations pertaining to non-U.S. and Canadian citizens may vary; please check with the consulates or embassies.

CURRENCY & MONEY MATTERS: 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, bar bills and personal items. It is best to carry small denominations; bar bills can only be paid in cash either in Peruvian soles or USD. Bills need to be in good condition as worn and old ones are not accepted for exchange. 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 if needed, in addition to proper plug adapters. However, nowadays most photography equipment as well as smart phones do take 220V for charging.

Cock of the Rock Lodge does not have electricity in the cabins, only lamps powered by solar energy and hot showers powered by propane gas. However, they have a charging station at the main building where batteries, phones and others can be charged from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Manu Biostation has 24/7 electricity.

Wayquecha Biostation has electricity for most of the day; this goes out at 9:00 p.m.

INTERNET ACCESS: Wi-Fi service is available at all lodges during this trip, though service at these remote facilities can be slow, especially if we have a storm or rain.

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).

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 regarding recommendations for avoiding COVID-19. Please visit the **Coronavirus Travel Update** page of our website <https://ventbird.com/covid-19> for our official statement regarding COVID-19 and the operation of our tours. Please visit the CDC website for the most up to date information about COVID-19 and associated guidance for proper health and hygiene: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

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.

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

Biting Insects: Mosquitoes and black flies can sometimes be a nuisance in the cloud forest, but for sure in the foothills. We suggest a stick-type repellent for your face and hands and any exposed skin. Chiggers can also be a problem for some travelers in the foothills so spraying your clothes and tucking your pants into your socks works fine.

A Note About Chiggers: This tour visits areas where chiggers are known to occur. Chiggers are tiny parasitic mites found in most warm weather areas of the southern United States and the world’s tropics. They are especially numerous in grassy areas, where, in the immature stage, they attach themselves to other animals or humans who make contact with the grass as they pass by. Chiggers do not suck blood and the majority of species do not carry disease. They do feed on bodily fluids through a process in which a digestive enzyme is produced by the chigger which essentially liquefies the skin around the area where the chigger is attached. The chigger is not usually attached to the skin for more than a few hours before it either falls off or is knocked off. Our bodies respond by producing a hardened area as a defense against the chigger’s digestive enzyme. Though the chigger may be long gone, it is the presence of the hardened area, and the body’s natural process of reabsorbing it that typically causes intense itching, often lasting for a week or more. Chiggers like to attach themselves to areas of thin skin, like around the ankles, beltline, undergarment lines, knees, and elbows.

Chiggers can be avoided by following these procedures:

- Avoid walking or standing in areas dominated by grass. These areas are where one is most likely to encounter chiggers.
- Tuck your pants into your socks to avoid direct skin-to-grass contact. Chiggers can find their way through clothing, but this is a standard and effective prevention technique.
- Apply insect repellent to your skin and clothing. Please refer to the Insect Repellent section that follows for important information about selecting and applying repellent.

- Powdered sulfur applied to waist, bottoms of pants, sock and boots is also effective at repelling chiggers. However, be warned that clothes will retain the sulfur odor for several washings. If using sulfur, never touch your eyes, nose, or mouth before washing your hands first.
- Shower at the end of each day in the field. Use a washcloth to vigorously rub your legs, feet, and ankles.

By following these methods, you should be able to avoid all chigger bites, as well as tick bites. If, however, you are bitten by chiggers anyway, you can reduce or eliminate the symptoms by applying benzocaine or hydrocortisone creams, calamine lotion, After Bite, or any number of anti-itch products.

Malaria and Yellow Fever: As you prepare for your upcoming journey to Manu, we want to ensure your health and safety during your travels. While there have been no reported cases of yellow fever or malaria in the area we will be visiting, it is essential to prioritize precautionary measures to safeguard your well-being. To mitigate any potential risks, we strongly recommend consulting your healthcare provider or travel medicine specialist before your trip. They can provide personalized guidance based on your medical history and current health status. These experts can offer invaluable advice on preventive measures, vaccinations and medication that may be necessary or advisable for your journey. Your health and safety are of utmost importance to us. By seeking professional medical advice tailored to your individual needs and adhering to recommended precautions, you can enjoy your travels with added peace of mind.

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.

An 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 is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment has to 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>

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: 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.

TIPPING: Tipping (lodge staff, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT: 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 December 29, 2023, 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.

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2/8/23-PN/RS