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Peru – A Privileged Destination for Birdwatching

Peru is positioned as an ideal destination for birdwatching on a global scale with the second-highest number of bird species in the world. Visitors who spend time birdwatching in Peru stay for an average of 16 nights, much longer than the stay of the average tourist. With good reason!

Biodiversity

With more than 1800 species of birds, of which 117 are endemic, Peru's vast biodiversity makes it a number one destination for birdwatching. Peru is one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet with 84 of the 117 life zones that exist. There are 12 national parks, 11 national reserves, 7 national sanctuaries, 10 reserved areas, 6 protection forests and 7 communal reserves (areas destined for the conservation of wild fauna for the benefit of the surrounding populations.)

North route

The north zone of Peru offers infinite opportunities to appreciate all types of birds, mostly endemic species, in their maximum splendor. Among the birds that are most prized and sought after by tourists are the spatula tailed hummingbird and the white-winged guan, which is considered one of the most emblematic of Peru and had been believed to be extinct for 100 years. The coastal cities of Trujillo and Chiclayo are excellent dry forest zones for watching key species and an important destination is Tumbes, whose mangroves are the ideal habitat for multiple bird varieties adapted to the tropical climate. In the jungle region of the Amazon, the Paso Abra Patricia, together with the Biological Station Lechucita Bigotona, have become the most well-known bird sighting centers in the whole country.

SAN MARTÍN This region boasts a variety of bird routes that offer unique opportunities to observe and appreciate avian diversity. One of them is the Alto Mayo Protected Forest, an expansive forest that is home to numerous species, including the iconic Andean cock-of-the-rock, the colorful paradise tanager, and the stunning golden-headed quetzal. Guided birdwatching tours through this protected area allow visitors to explore its diverse habitats, including cloud forests, rivers, and waterfalls while encountering a wide range of bird species. The Tarapoto region is another important route where birdwatchers can spot fascinating species such as the horned screamer, the blue-crowned motmot, and various species of parrots and toucans.

CAJAMARCA Abra Barro Negro in Cajamarca, situated at high altitudes, offers a unique ecosystem where birdwatchers may encounter the majestic Andean condor soaring through the skies, as well as the impressive torrent duck and the Andean flicker. The route to the Marañón Valley is an area known for its lush vegetation and diverse bird species. Birdwatchers can observe colorful species such as the endemic marañón crescentchest, the white-winged guan, and the marañón thrush. Additionally, the Marañón Valley is home to numerous hummingbird species, including the sparkling violetear and the green-tailed trainbearer.

AMAZONAS One of the notable bird routes in Amazonas is through the Chachapoyas region, known for its cloud forests, which are home to an abundance of species. You can expect to encounter the magnificent Andean cock-of-the-rock, the iconic long-wattled umbrellabird, and the stunning golden-headed quetzal. The Chachapoyas region is also frequented by mixed-species flocks, allowing visitors to observe multiple bird species interacting together. Another significant bird route is along the Marañón River, which takes birdwatchers through riverine forests and wetlands, offering opportunities to spot water-loving species such as the black skimmer and the Amazon kingfisher. Along the riverbanks, visitors may also catch glimpses of macaws, herons, and other bird species that depend on this unique ecosystem.

GLOBAL BIG DAY In 2021, Peru was crowned world champion in birdwatching on the Global Big Day 2021 and came second in 2022. <https://ebird.org/globalbigday>

About PROMPERU

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