

NORTH PERU TOUR SUMMARY – MAY – JUNE 2025

Tour starts at Tarapoto and ends at Chiclayo

16 – 19 May – Optional 3 day pre-tour to Plataforma. Arrive in Tarapoto on 16th, o/n Tucan Suites Hotel, travel up to Plataforma on 17th, all day on 18th looking for the recently discovered Scarlet-banded Barbet and Cerro Azul Antbird along with other specialities; return on 19th May and join the group at Pumarinri.

Mon 19 May – Pumarinri. Main tour starts. Guest arrival at Tarapoto Airport (several flights a day from Lima), transfer to Pumarinri Lodge for 4 nights. Early arrivers can start birding in the vicinity of the Lodge. Our guide for this tour is expected to be Henry who has been with us many times.

Tues 20 May – Pumarinri, Chasuta, Shapaja. Birding along trails through forest at Pumarinri in morning and eastwards to Chasuta. Enjoy a variety of common tanagers, honeycreepers, woodcreepers, toucans & aracarís, flycatchers, waterside birds. Boat trip along Huallaga River to Shapaja in afternoon & look for Hoatzins, spotlighting in evening (& each night on demand). 7 species of owls have been recorded near the Lodge. o/n Pumarinri.

Wed 21 May – Nuevo Lamas. All day birding up the Nuevo Lamas trail. Higher altitude birds. o/n Pumarinri.

Thurs 22 May – Quebrada Upaquihoa, Huallaga River. Drive south from Pumarinri to Quebrada Upaquihoa via the village of Buenos Aires, white sand forest birding in morning, sand islands and boat back to Pumarinri from Puerto Sangama. Dry forest birding & riverside birds. o/n Pumarinri.

Fri 23 May – Juan Guerra, Tarapoto. Leave Pumarinri, birding at Juan Guerra on way back to Tarapoto. Siesta at Tucan Suites in afternoon, or visit Tarapoto. Perhaps Ricoricocha in evening. 2 nights at Tucan Suites.

Sat 24 May – Tunnel at La Escalera, Aconabikh, Pongo de Caynararchi. Up to the Tunnel, concentrate on birds not seen at top of Nuevo Lamas. There is a trail on the right, just before the Tunnel. Aconabikh for hummers & Golden-headed Manakin. Lowlands, perhaps further than we used to go. Pongo de Caynararchi and further for Long-billed Woodcreeper, White-shouldered Antbird, Scarlet-crowned & Lemon-throated Barbets. o/n Tucan Suites.

Sun 25 May – Ricoricocha, Quiscarrumi, Moyobamba. Use the early morning at Ricoricocha wetlands (e.g for crakes, Tataupa Tinamou), then leave Tarapoto c.8 am for Moyobamba (via Oilbirds at Quiscarrumi Bridge). Birding at Morro de Calzada and Rioja ricefields. Late afternoon canoe trip along backwaters of Rio Romero (rarer kingfishers, antbirds & woodpeckers, otters & primates). Overnight at Hotel Puerto Mirador, Moyobamba.

Mon 26 May – Mishquiyacu, Waqanki, lowlands. Most of day at Waqanki. Morning walk up Mishquiyacu trail, then look at hummingbird feeders before lunch. Roadside sites for open country birds (e.g km 476) Look for crakes & rails. 2nd night at Puerto Mirador.

Tues 27 May – Aguas Verdes, Afluente, Abra Patricia. Leave early for Aguas Verdes for birding from hides; Little & Cinereous Tinamous & Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail. Various stops on the steady climb into the cloud forest including Afluente. Arrive Owlet Lodge for late lunch. Birding around Lodge in the afternoon. Walk down from c.5 pm for some evening day-birds, then for Long-whiskered Owlet. 3 nights at Owlet Lodge.

Wed 28 May – Abra Patricia trails all day, high altitude hummingbirds & tanagers, antpittas. Spotlighting for Cinnamon Screech Owl.

Thurs 29 May – Abra Patricia, further afield, roadside stops to east & back.

Fri 30 May – Abra Patricia to Gocta. Leave Abra Patricia in morning, travel to Gocta for 4 nights. Huembo reserve for hummers and possible new high altitude bush birds. Information needed as to whether Pale-billed Antpitta still up Rio Chido Trail. Go as far as San Lorenzo & the Trout Farm &

check for Maroon-belted Chat-Tyrant (now split from Slaty-backed); also Torrent Duck. Check the road condition for access to Huaylla Belen. Overnight Gocta Lodge (4 nights).

Sat 31 May – Huaylla Belen. All day up Huaylla Belen for cloud forest birds, especially antpittas.

Sun 1 June – Gocta Falls. Drive down hill and up other side to San Pablo. Walk San Pablo trail to centre of Falls, back mid-afternoon. Hummingbird feeders at Cocochimba, especially for Marvellous Spatuletail. Listen in the evenings for Buff-fronted Owl.

Mon 2 June – Gocta & Pedro Ruiz westwards. Drive to main road at Pedro Ruiz, then westwards to Bagua Grande & the roadside quarry for dry scrub birds (Little Inca Finch, Maranon Crescentchest, Short-tailed Field Tyrant etc).

Tues 3 June – Gocta to Leymebamba. Leave Gocta Lodge and travel up the valley southwards to Leymebamba. Visit Kuelap Archaeological site on route if it has re-opened. Birding along the Utcubamba River, e.g for Torrent Duck. o/n Casa Mallqui (or other suitable hotel), 2 nights.

Wed 4 June – Rio Atuen, north side of Abra Barro Negro. Birding up the Rio Atuen, private garden with hummingbird feeders, Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan, Golden-headed Quetzal etc. Later, travel up the lower slopes of the road up to Abra Barro Negro. Mummies museum in the afternoon if time.

Thurs 5 June – Abra Barro Negro & Maranon River at Balsas. Drive to top of Abra Barra Negro, birding along the high ridge & elfin forest in morning, and on route down to Balsas for lunch. Back to Leymebamba in the evening. Spotlighting for Koepcke's Screech Owl, nightjars etc.

Fri 6 June – Leymebamba to Gocta. Roadside stops on route. o/n Gocta Lodge.

Sat 7 June – Gocta to Jaen. Birding sites at Bagua Grande, Corral Quemado and near the Maranon River on route. Later around the town of Jaen, northwards to Tamborapa. o/n Hotel El Bosque.

Sun 8 June – Jaen to Olmos. Evening birding in Olmos area. (Henry to advise). o/n a hotel in Olmos.

Mon 9 June – Olmos to Chiclayo. Birding around Olmos (Henry to advise). Birding at Bosque de Pomac. o/n a hotel in Chiclayo (Casa de la Luna?).

Tues 10 June – Coast at Puerto Eten & Morro Rock. Morning birding the coast for a variety of gulls, terns, waders, wildfowl, grebes, coastal specialities like Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Peruvian Thick-knee & perhaps Least Seedsnipe. Morro Rock for Inca Terns, colonies of cormorants, Blue-footed & Peruvian Boobies, even Waved Albatross is possible from here.

In the afternoon, **End of main tour**, start of (optional) **Chaparrí Extension**. For those leaving, fly Chiclayo to Lima & home. For Extension, 2 hour drive through low dry scrub, gaining altitude, to Chaparrí, a charming but rustic Lodge on the dry west side of the Andes, full of character. o/n Chaparrí Lodge for 3 nights.

Wed 11 June – Chaparrí. Birding the trails near the Lodge. See captive Spectacled Bears, may be possible to see wild ones.

Thurs 12 June – Casupe. Day at another higher birding site at c.1000m with different local species.

Fri 13 June – Return Chaparrí to Chiclayo, flights back to Lima & home.