



## **CUSCO AND MACHUPICCHU EXTENSION**

Tentative Itinerary

May 9-15, 2020

### **Day 1: LIMA TO CUSCO**

#### **May 9, 2020**

Upon arrival to the Inca Capital, we meet our transport and travel northwest to the Urubamba Valley, the mountain scenery is striking with the high peaks of the Urubamba range of Mountains, colorful fields and more. Late afternoon arrival to hotel. Night in the charming community of Yucay.

Lodging: TBD

Elevation at Yucay: 9.150 FT

### **Day 2: URUBAMBA VALLEY**

#### **May 10, 2020**

After a well deserve sleep and delicious breakfast, we set off to explore the fabulous site of Ollantaytambo, this little community unique in its kind features narrow cobbled stone streets, water aqueducts, Kanchas and more. Today you will also have the chance to explore the site of Moray, a very interesting archaeological site which was built around natural depression up on the Chinchero Plateau, circular terraces are found at various levels, where expert inca farmers experimented with various plants brought from different climates and more. Salt was a very important part of the economy in the colonial times and is still very much these days, enjoy the very attractive Salt Pans of Maras where from over 3,000 water pools salt is extracted through evaporation. Delicious lunch at private home hosted by Tatiana Mujica a local chef who has a very well supplied organic orchard. Transfer back to hotel.

Lodging : Urubamba

### **Day 3: MALAGA PASS**

#### **May 11, 2020**

Early morning departure for a full day birding over the famous Malaga Pass, birding today will focus on both the eastern and western sides of Cusco-Quillabamba Road, the habitats varies from dry andean scrub, to

paramo and upper montane forest, where we hope to find a good selection of Andean specialties, such as Shining Sunbeam, Great Sapphirewing, Giant Hummingbird, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Tit-like Dacnis, Yellow-billed Tit-tyrant and more! the endemics we may find include Creamy-crested Spinetail, Chesnut-breasted Mountain-Finch, White-tufted Sunbeam, Parodis Hemispingus, Unstreaked Tit-tyrant, and there is a chance to see the majestic Andean Condor. If time allows we will visit the nearby Pacha Consevancy at 6,000 FT elevation, this project has a large orchid garden with around 76 species and 400 individuals many of which should be in bloom this time of year, the area is also good for various species of colorful tanagers, the endemic Green- and-white Hummingbird and more. Afternoon drive back to hotel.

Lodging: Urubamba

Elevation at the pass: 14,200 FT

#### **Day 4: URUBAMBA VALLEY TO MACHUPICCHU**

**May 12, 2020**

Enjoy a beautiful train ride starting at the inter-montane valley of Urubamba ending in the deep Urubamba Canyon at Machupicchu with its lush and tropical cloud forest. Good chances to spot the intrepid Torrent Duck and White-capped Dipper sitting on the top of rocks splashed by the powerful waters of the Urubamba River. On arrival, transfer to hotel to leave luggage and get ready for our exploration of this fabulous site in the company of your guide as she reveals important information about its construction and use. Lunch at local restaurant. Afternoon transfer back to hotel.

Lodging: Agua Calientes

Elevation at Aguas Calientes: 6,690 FT

Elevation at the site of Machupicchu : 7.970 FT

#### **Day 5: MACHUPICCHU TO CUSCO**

**May 13, 2020**

Morning dedicated to birding, we will explore part of the Urubamba Canyon in search of Andean Guan, Variable Antshrike, Mitred Parakeet and more. Lunch at local restaurant. Early afternoon train back to Ollantaytambo, once there our transport will drive us back to Cusco, this drive will take up to 02 hours. Depending on time and energy level we may stop at the Piuray Lagoons on route for easy birding. Late afternoon arrival to Cusco.

Lodging: Cusco

Elevation at Cusco: 10,900 FT

#### **Day 6: CUSCO THE INCA CAPITAL**

**May 14, 2020**

Morning visit of nearby Huacarpay Lagoon for some easy birding looking for Puna Teal, Yellow-billed Teal, Many-colored Rush-Tyrant and others. Mid-morning drive back to Cusco. Exploration of this charming city visiting the Temple of the Sun Koricancha and its perfect stone fittings, the colorful and the very happening San Pedro Market . Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the capital city of the Incas on your own. Farewell dinner at once of the fines restaurants in Cusco.

Lodging: Cusco

**Day 7: CUSCO TO LIMA****May 15, 2020**

After a much deserved sleep and a nice breakfast we will transfer to the airport in time to catch your flight back to Lima.