

Manu National Park 4 days / 3 nights Program

DAY 01: We leave Cusco early in the morning in one of our vehicles. Approximately mid-morning we visit the interesting tombs of Ninamarca, commonly known as "Chullpas". We continue to Paucartambo, a picturesque Spanish colonial town, and then to the Acjanacu pass, which marks the beginning of the Cultural Zone of Manu Biosphere Reserve. Here, a thick cloak of clouds provides perpetual humidity and makes an ideal habitat for epiphytic plants such as bromeliads. This varied and fascinating world is home of the Cock of the Rock, Spectacled Bear, Orchids, Tree Ferns (one of the oldest living plants), mosses and lichens. This cloud forest exists between 2,000 and 3,500 m.a.s.l. and at least 50% of the plant species found here are endemic to this region. Overnight at our "Orquídeas de San Pedro Lodge".

Day 02: Today we wake up very early to observe the Cock of the Rock (*Rupicola peruviana*), Peru's national bird from a platform. The male birds are a vibrant reddish orange, and as many as several dozen come together for an exhibition of a mating ritual dance in a place called Lek. The males display their crest, showing off and posturing for the females. The females, fewer in number, watch to select the most suitable males. After breakfast we continue in our vehicle (*1) down the narrow road between waterfalls and canyons toward the town of Pilcopata (*2) and then to Atalaya Port. here we board our covered, outboard motor boat and head down the Alto Madre de Dios River for approximately 15 minutes toward our private reserve of "Erika" a comfortable / rustic lodge owned also by Manu Ecological Adventures where we will hike through the interesting trail system that this transitional area between high and low jungle offers. Overnight at the lodge.

***1 Optional:** Descend with mountain bikes from our San Pedro Lodge (1700 m.a.s.l.) Cloud Forest to Pilcopata (700 m.a.s.l.) – only for very experienced people – depends on availability and weather conditions.

***2 Free Option:** Here in Pilcopata town we will make the final settings for a 1 ½ river rafting (class I and II) trip down the Koshñipata River where we will have the opportunity for a dip and of course enjoy the spectacular view of the Koñeq Canyon. Continuing down the Alto Madre de Dios River to Erika Lodge.

***3 New!!! Option:** We walk through the trail that leads us to the observation platform located 15 feet above the mammal lick itself where we wait for the lumbering peccaries to arrive, we observe and photograph them in action. Important: The observation depends on luck on availability and weather conditions.

DAY 03: Erika Lodge is located in a transition zone between high and low jungle (600 m.a.s.l. to 1,150 m.a.s.l.), encompassing different habitats. This altitude range explains the high diversity of wildlife found around this lodge, so immediately after breakfast, we will start walking near the riverbanks, during the hike our guide will talk about insects, medicinal plants, trees, reptiles, mammals, etc. This afternoon we board our boat, and after five minutes, we will walk for another 30 minutes approximately through a very nice trail to observe and talk about the interesting flora found such as sensitive plants, heliconias, fruit plantations, etc. until we arrive to Machuwasi Lake where with the help of a telescope we can observe great egrets, tucanets, carpenters, Keskadees, cardinals, etc. Short night walk to observe American bullfrogs, horned frogs, tree frogs and an incredible variety of insects.

****4 Free Option: Canopy zip down:** At Erika Lodge, our guests traverse from tree to tree and platform to platform using pulleys on horizontal traverse cables zip lines), as they sail through the treetops of the tropical rainforest canopy, and over the trails far below. Expert guides assist you in this exciting journey through the different layers of the rain forests and explain what's going on around you from the time you leave the ground, until you rappel back down to the forest floor.*

DAY 04: This day we will get up very early to board our boat again for only five minutes down river to a Parrot clay Lick called "Collpa" on the riverbanks, where many species of parrots such as the blue headed parrot, white-eyed parakeet, feed for mineral and salt supplements to their diet of seeds and fruits. Immediately after we continue to Atalaya Port where the bus will drive us to Cusco city, arriving late in the night.

SERVICES INCLUDED: Specialized and bilingual guide, 01 at Orquideas de San Pedro Lodge, 02 nights at Erika Lodge, meals (vegetarian option also possible to offer), first aid kit including anti-ophidian shots, all land and river transportation, captain and river rafting equipment, mountain biking equipment, special guide for the Canopy Zip down and required equipment, safety box for values and storage for luggage at Cusco's main office..

THINGS YOU SHOULD BRING ALONG ON A TRIP TO MANU

Binoculars

Camera and films (ASA 200 and 400 for the inner forest)

Warm clothing (in case of a cold front), long sleeve shirts and long pants (cotton) wide brim hat and sun glasses for sunny days

100% waterproof rain gear (long poncho or rain wear)

Insect repellent (at least 50% DEET)

Sunscreen lotion

One pair of lightweight ankle height boots (hiking boots) and sandals

Flashlight, enough batteries (alkaline) and bulbs

Towel, swimming suit

Personal medicines and/or supplies (liquid for contact lenses for example)

One day pack and one back pack or duffel bag of luggage

Price : US\$ 375.