

Peru – Spectacled Bears & Andean Condors

Naturetrek Tour Itinerary

Outline itinerary

Day 1	Fly Lima
Day 2	Fly Arequipa
Day 3	Arequipa; drive Chivay
Day 4/5	Chivay and the Colca Canyon
Day 6	Arequipa
Day 7	Fly Chiclayo; transfer Chaparri Lodge
Day 8/10	Wildlife excursions from Chaparri Lodge
Day 11	Transfer Chiclayo; fly Lima
Day 12	Palominos Islands. Depart
Day 13	Arrive London

Departs

September

Focus

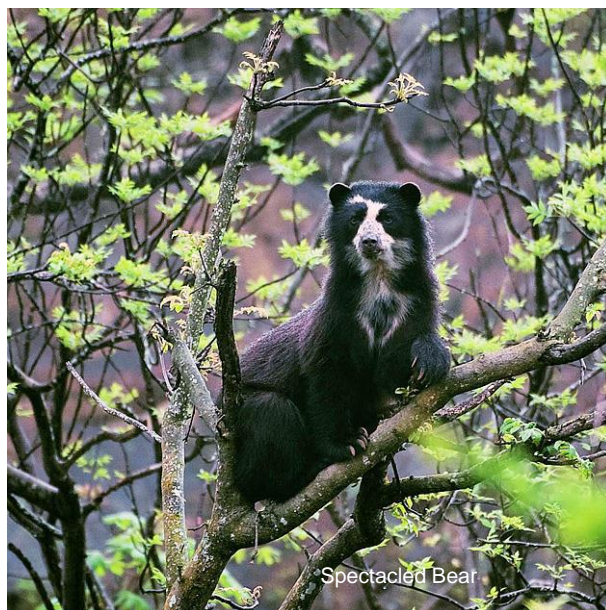
Birds, mammals and other wildlife.

Grading

A. Easy

Dates and Prices

See website (tour code PER07) or brochure



Spectacled Bear



Andean Condor



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Introduction

Peru is a vast, spectacular and immensely varied country that supports an enormous wealth of wildlife, including a number of the world's iconic species. On this tour, two of these species – Spectacled Bear and Andean Condor act as a tantalising focus that will lead us to some contrastingly different and very special regions of the country and an exciting range of wildlife, scenery and culture. We begin our holiday in the south-west of Peru, starting with a flight to the attractive colonial city of Arequipa. From here we travel across breathtaking, volcano-studded landscapes of the high, dry altiplano where we'll be hoping to see Vicunas and a range of Andean birds. Our stay in the south-west will include two morning visits to the Colca Canyon, the world's second deepest, in search of Andean Condors as they leave their roosts and rise high on the thermals over the canyon below. We next travel to the far north-west of Peru, a region famous for its tropical dry forests which are home to an extraordinary variety of endemic birds and other wildlife, including Spectacled Bears. We conclude our tour with a boat trip to the Palominos Islands in search of sea lions and Humboldt Current seabirds, before returning to the airport for our flights home.

Itinerary

NB. Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather and other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

Day 1

In Flight

We depart from London on an evening scheduled flight to Madrid where we connect with a non-stop service to the Peruvian capital of Lima, arriving at Jorge Chávez International Airport during the early morning of day 2.

Day 2

Fly Lima to Arequipa

Upon arrival in Lima and a quick breakfast we connect with our onward LAN flight to Arequipa in south-west Peru. Arriving in Arequipa mid-morning we will have plenty of time today to acclimatise and to settle into our comfortable hotel close to the centre. After a light lunch we will explore some of the principal historic sites of this, Peru's second largest city. Arequipa lies at an altitude of 2,325 metres and is situated in the dry western ranges of the Andes with the massive volcanic peaks of El Misti and Chachani providing an ever-present backdrop. The city is famous for its grand Spanish colonial buildings constructed out of a white volcanic stone known locally as Sillar. We will have time this afternoon to explore something of the old city centre and enjoy a guided tour of the beautiful Monasterio de Santa Catalina, a walled 16th century convent, now largely a museum, whose labyrinthine streets, and tranquil plazas and courtyards allow us to step back in time into a forgotten world.

Day 3

Chivay

After a leisurely breakfast we will continue with our gentle explorations of Arequipa, taking a morning drive up to the Mirador en Yanahuara for an overview of the city and surroundings.

After an early lunch we'll set off for Chivay and the Colca Canyon, a 4 hour drive away. So as to minimise the effects of altitude sickness (we cross a pass over 4,500 metres in altitude) we will not make too many stops en route to Chivay, instead saving our reverse drive on day 6 for a more thorough exploration of these magnificent landscapes.

We will arrive in Chivay in time to check-in to our wonderfully-positioned hotel before dinner.

Day 4/5

Chivay & the Colca Canyon

We will set off shortly after dawn on two mornings to drive through a mosaic of agricultural terraces, picturesque villages and dry cactus-studded slopes backed by towering snow-capped mountains. Our destination is the viewpoint of Cruz del Condor at the Colca Canyon and we aim to arrive just as the Condors leave their roosting ledges and begin flying. Our first half hour or so at the canyon should produce some wonderful views of these awesome and impressive birds. Eventually they will rise high above us and disperse to forage over the surrounding mountains. The Colca Canyon lays claim to being the deepest canyon in the world and it is certainly spectacular! The views along the valley and down to the river far below are dramatic indeed.

After the condor action has finished, we will take a walk along the canyon rim to further enjoy the views and look for birds such as Bare-faced Ground Dove, Streaked Tit-Spinetail, Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant, White-browed Chat-Tyrant and Mourning Sierra-Finch. Andean Swifts whizz around overhead and raptors other than condors might include a passing Cinereous Harrier, or Variable Hawk.

Around the Chivay area there are some other nice habitats which we will take time to explore. A small lagoon can hold Andean Coots, Speckled Teals, Andean Ruddy Ducks and Silvery Grebes, whilst areas of arid scrub often yield great views of Giant Hummingbird, Spot-winged Pigeon, Black-throated Flowerpiercers and Mountain Parakeets.

Chivay itself has a bustling, colourful market, while birding from the pleasant hotel grounds can produce Torrent Ducks on the river, White-capped Dipper, White-winged Cinclodes, Golden-billed Saltators and Black Metaltail.

Day 6

Chivay/Arequipa

Today we make the reverse journey back to Arequipa.

Climbing out of Chivay over a spectacular high pass, our first stop will likely be at the Pampa de Troca, a vast marshy plain lying at an altitude of about 4,000 metres. We will spend some time watching a range of high Andean birds that are likely to include Andean Goose, Crested Duck, Speckled Teal, Giant Coot, Andean Lapwing and Andean Gull. With luck, some Chilean Flamingoes and Puna Ibis will be out on the pools, and along the shorelines we can look for Grey-breasted and Rufous-bellied Seedsnipes, various ground-tyrants and handsome little Andean Negritos. Noisy Andean Flickers are common on the rocky

slopes nearby and small birds of the grassland and scrub include various sierra finches and the striking little Black Siskin.

We will stop at a café at the Chivay/Puno junction and then continue on to the old semi-deserted mining settlement of Sumpay. Here we can take a short walk down into a beautiful little gorge to visit a cave with Neolithic paintings. Thought to be 8,000 years old these amazing paintings mostly depict Vicunas, hundreds of them, but looking carefully one can find the unmistakable image of at least one Puma and with it an insight into both the reality and the imagination of those people all those thousands of years ago – wonderful! Outside in the gorge and on the surrounding slopes we'll look for Plain-breasted Earthcreeper, Peruvian Sierra-Finches and Black Siskins.

Our journey then progresses out onto the high golden grassland of the Pampa do Aguarda Blanca where we are likely to see herds of wild Vicuna, a common and characteristic animal in the region. As we approach Arequipa we journey through a region of boulder-strewn slopes and gullies with tall columnar cacti and other sparse scrub where we hope to see various localised birds including White-throated Earthcreeper, Creamy-crested Canastero and Streaked Tit-spinetail.

We overnight once again in our comfortable hotel in Arequipa after a fascinating journey.

Day 7

Chiclayo/Chaparri Lodge

Our flight departs for Lima mid-morning. Upon arrival in the capital we will have a light lunch before flying north again to Chiclayo.

North-west Peru boasts some rugged and dramatically beautiful scenery and the dry coastal lowlands, or 'Tumbesian region', from Chiclayo northwards form one part of the most diverse centre of bird endemism on the planet, home to rare species such as the White-winged Guan and the endemic Tumbes Tyrant, as well as mammals including White-tailed Deer and Sechuran Fox.

After we land in Chiclayo we will travel inland to the Chaparri Ecological Reserve, a community-owned private reserve in the dry forests of the Tumbesian region. Arriving in time for dinner we will settle into our comfortable and traditional bungalows before starting to get familiar with the local wildlife, much of which is endemic to the region.

Days 8-10

Chaparri

Chaparri is one of the best places to see Spectacled Bears – although they are present in low densities, they can be relatively confiding if there are any present in the area, because of the longstanding protection and lack of disturbance which the reserve has afforded them. Largely vegetarian, and the only species of bear occurring in South America, they will be our principal target here, and with patience and good luck we have a reasonable chance of encountering one during our stay. There will also be a chance to see some bears which are part of a rescue and rehabilitation project at Chaparri. We'll also visit the humid, higher altitude forests towards Toccoche where we have further chances of finding Spectacled Bear. Chaparri and its surroundings offer much more than just bears, however, and during our stay we'll be hoping to find

mammals such as Guayaquil Squirrel plus a wide range of localised and colourful birds including Pacific Parrotlet, Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Elegant Crescent-chest and White-edged Oriole.

One of the highlights of a visit to the reserve is a chance to see the critically threatened White-winged Guan which is thriving under the protection of the community; this valley is now home to some 30 individuals, approximately 20% of the world population. The reserve is also home to other rare specialities such as the Tumbes Tyrant, Rufous Flycatcher, Elegant Crescentchest and Sulphur-throated Finch, as well as more widespread but spectacular species including both Andean Condor and King Vulture; we will keep an eye skyward for other soaring raptors. The delicately proportioned endemic Sechuran Fox is particularly common here and we should see them easily around the lodge. In the mornings we'll have a chance to enjoy the spectacle of hummingbirds coming to bathe in the stream near our lodge while we relax with a cup of early morning coffee or tea! The numbers and species vary from day to day but should include at least Purple-collared Woodstar, Amazilia and Tumbes Hummingbirds. We'll also scope the rocks above for a preening Andean Condor! During the heat of the day we will relax in the shade either in a hammock or watching the bird feeders that attract White-tailed Jays, Tumbes Sparrows and Superciliated Wrens among others species, while after dusk a West Peruvian Screech-owl may be added to our list.

All in all, Chaparri is a wonderful example of a community-owned eco lodge. Charming, rustic and peaceful, and surrounded by great scenery and wildlife.

Day 11

Chiclayo – Bosque del Pomac

Chaparri is an absolutely delightful base and it will be with regret that we have to tear ourselves away today, but we need to drive on to the coast. After leaving Chaparri we will stop at the Tinajones reservoir and look for species such as Black-faced Ibis, part of an isolated and now very rare population, and the impressive Great Grebe.

Moving on, we'll spend the day exploring various sites on the coastal plain around the city of Chiclayo, including the atmospheric Bosque del Pomac with its ancient adobe pyramids and areas of Mesquite forest, home to the endemic Tumbes Swallow and the endangered Peruvian Plantcutter, a rare and enigmatic species now restricted to just a few sites in this part of Peru.

At the Pomac archaeological sanctuary, in addition to many of the endemic birds of the region, we will see some of the site's huge adobe pyramids. During a short visit to the Tumbes Reales Museum in Lambayeque we will be able to marvel at the treasures of the Lord of Sipan. Discovered as recently as 1988, these riches are displayed in a fantastic museum (recently named as one of the world's 10 best small museums by *Art News* magazine of New York).

After a pleasant evening meal in Chiclayo after a busy day, we board an evening shuttle down to Lima. On arrival we walk across from the terminal into our very comfortable and convenient hotel for the night.

Day 12

Palominos Islands

We will spend the bulk of our last day on a boat trip out to the Palominos Islands, a small archipelago that lies just a few miles offshore. While not as dramatic as the celebrated Ballestas Islands further south, the Palominos nevertheless support a healthy population of Humboldt Current seabirds including Guanay Cormorants, Peruvian Boobies, Peruvian Pelicans and the strikingly attractive Inca Tern. Additionally, the Palominos are noted for their population of Southern Sea Lions and we are likely to enjoy some close encounters with these large and impressive marine mammals both in the water and hauled out on the rocks. This exciting excursion will provide a great finale to our action-packed trip.

Back on dry land, we'll have the opportunity to change clothes and freshen up before checking in for our transatlantic flight home.

Day 13

London

We will arrive back at Heathrow in the early evening.

Tour Grading

This is primarily a mammal and bird watching tour, but the diverse nature of the scenery, as well as the additional rich historical and cultural heritage in the regions we'll visit will make the tour suitable and enjoyable for people with a wide range of interests. The tour is comprised mainly of easy and short, half-day walks. The nature of the terrain necessitates some quite long periods of travel – by plane and minibus (as with all wildlife tours in Peru) and you should be aware of this before signing up to the tour.

Weather

Rather mixed, ranging from warm sunshine, frosty starts at altitude, and possibly odd spells of rain. Prepare for a bit of everything!

Clothing

Please inspect the separate clothing list, sent to you on booking, thoroughly.

Included in the price

The price includes all accommodation, food, transfers and transport, internal flight airport taxes, as well as non-alcoholic drinks with meals and water during the day, all entrance fees to reserves, archaeological sites and museums.

Extra expenses

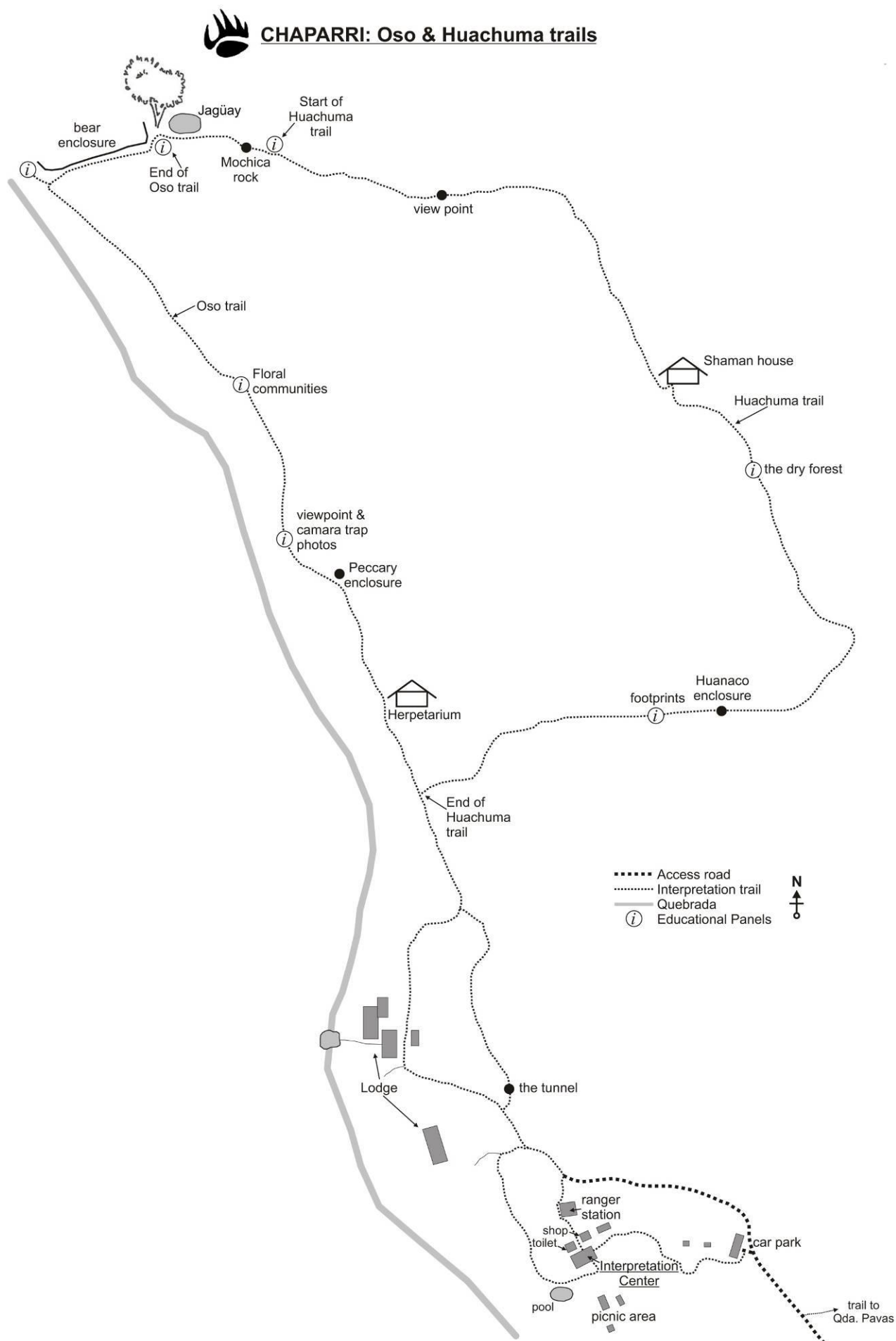
Laundry, alcoholic drinks, extra snacks and other personal expenses are not included.

How to book your place

In order to book your place on this holiday, please give us a call on 01962 733051 with a credit or debit card, book online at www.naturetrek.co.uk, or alternatively complete and post the booking form at the back of our main Naturetrek brochure, together with a deposit of 20% of the holiday cost plus any room supplements if required. If you do not have a copy of the brochure, please call us on 01962 733051 or request one via our website. Please stipulate any special requirements, for example extension requests or connecting/regional flights, at the time of booking.

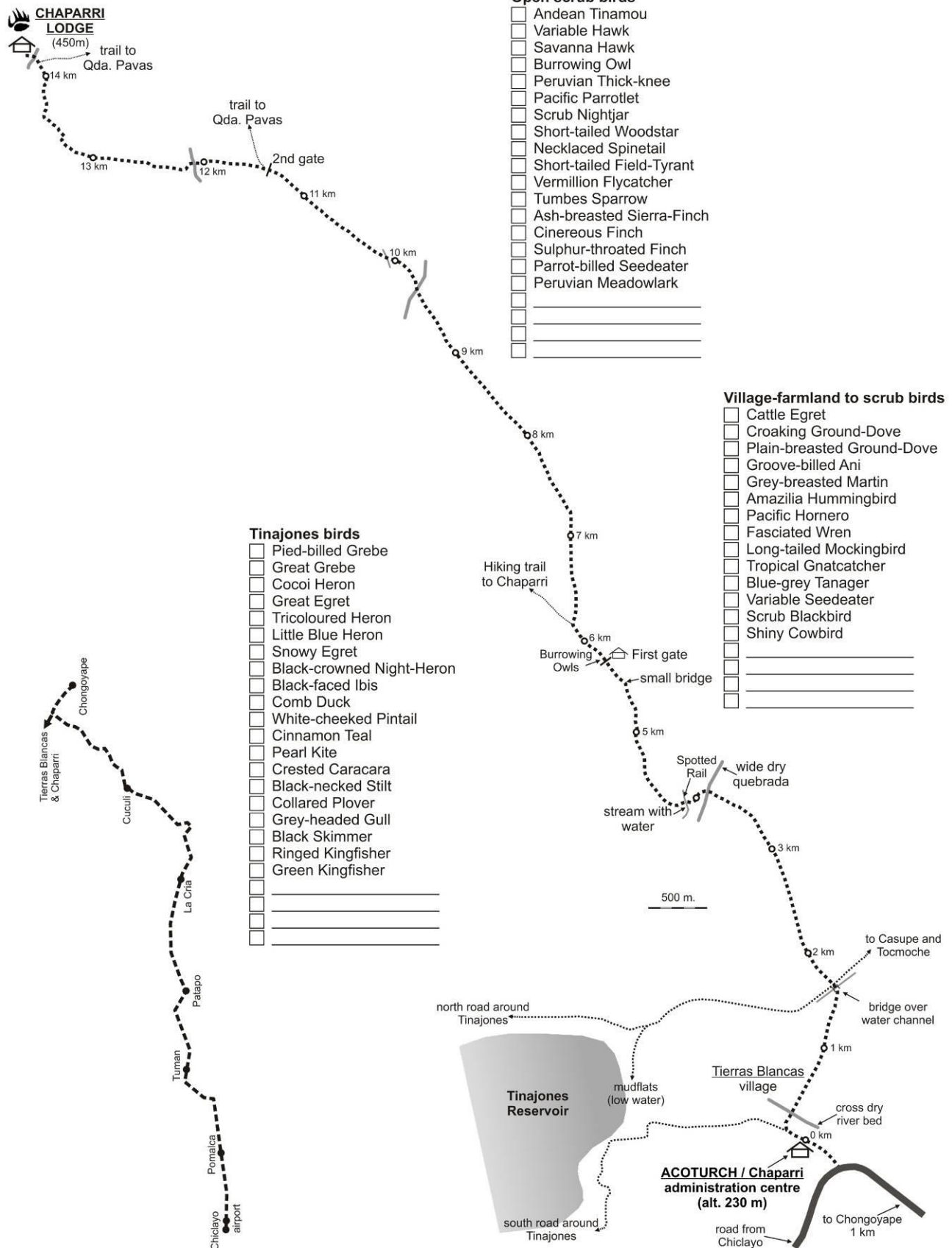


El Misti Volcano





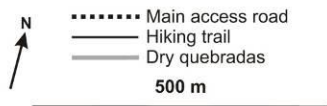
CHAPARRI: Tierras Blancas to Lodge





CHAPARRI: Quebrada Pavas trail

<u>Distances:</u>	<u>metres</u>
Lodge to Qda. Pavas house	3,100
Qda. Pavas to road (c.2nd gate)	2,600
2nd gate to Lodge	2,900
Total circuit	8,600



The trails from the lodge to Qda. Pavas and from Qda. Pavas to the road are marked every 50m with the distance painted on rocks.

Qda. Pavas was the original site of the first reintroduction of the White-winged Guan. The old field station here is a good resting point and from where the quebrada can be explored. The trail above the quebrada leads higher up the valley.

