



Cock of the Rock Lodge

Located on the lush eastern slopes of the Andean cloud forest, the Cock of the Rock Lodge looks out over the magical Manu Biosphere Reserve. The area around the lodge is populated by Spectacled Bears - the inspiration for Paddington - several species of monkeys, Quetzals and a host of other tropical birds as well as the famous Cock of the Rock itself.

This brightly coloured red-and-black bird is the national bird of Peru and each morning and evening the males stage a noisy and colourful display at a "lek" just near the lodge.

The lodge protects and supports a private 12,500-acre cloud forest reserve and a wide selection of trails in the reserve give easy access to the enormous variety of wildlife and scenery available in the area.



Day One - Into the cloud forest

This morning we will set out from Cusco on our overland trip into the Manu cloud forest. We will cross two sub-chains of the Andes as well as a steppe-like landscape known as Puna. On the way we will pass stone Chullpas, or burial chambers, constructed by the pre-Inca Lupaca culture, and we can hope to see some of the bird species of the high Andes, including the Giant Hummingbird and Mountain Caracara.

After a boxed lunch at a mirador affording stunning views out over both the cloud forest and the huge expanse of the Amazon basin, the road suddenly descends into the lush eastern slopes of the Andes. We travel down through the mist and cloud, emerging into a forest of evergreen trees. Turning off the highway, we travel down into the cloud forest to the Coack of the Rock Lodge.



Day Two - Cock of the Rock Lodge

Rising early this morning, we will visit the traditional display site, or "lek", of the Andean Cock of the Rock. There is no other spot in the world where so many of these spectacular birds can be seen so easily. From our special observation blind, we will see up to two dozen birds strut and display from just 15 feet away.

After returning to the lodge for breakfast, the rest of the day can be spent exploring the cloud forest near the lodge, or some of the miles of trails that wind through the valley, with the chance to see cloud forest birds like tanagers and hummingbirds, or even the elusive Spectacled Bear...

Why not finish the day by bathing in the cool, clear waters of the San Pedro river as it flows down past the lodge from the virgin forests of the surrounding mountains and into the Amazon basin.



Day Three - Back to Cusco

We will rise early again today for another chance to see the Cock of the Rock display, before returning to the lodge to board our coach for the return journey to Cusco.

