

Machu Picchu & the Sacred Valley

Itinerary

10-nights

Day 1

Flight from your home city into Lima, Peru

This is usually a night flight – arriving in the early morning. Itinerary will be adjusted depending on arrival time into Lima.

Day 2

Arrive in Lima, possibly early morning. After going through customs, getting your luggage, etc. pay your \$4 airport tax. **Day at leisure in Lima.**

Day 3

Lima to Cusco. Afternoon tour of Cusco and area.

Breakfast, then you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Cusco. After arriving in Cusco and getting your luggage, walk outside the terminal door and look for a person holding a sign with your group name on it (he will be amongst all of the taxi drivers lined up behind the barricade). This person will transfer you to your hotel. He will give you any vouchers that you will need, go over your schedule in the Cusco area and answer any questions you may have. Later, you will be picked up for a 3 hour city and nearby ruins tour:

❖ **Visit the Cathedral** built from 1560 to 1654 at the site of Viracocha Inca palace. It is the best example of the European art done by natives of Cusco and has the high altar plated with silver, contains masterpieces of woodcarvings and painting. Visit the Koricancha, which displays the best Inca stonework in Cusco.

❖ **Explore the ancient Indian sanctuary of Sacsayhuaman with magnificent Inca walls with massive rocks weighing up to 130 tons fitted together with absolute perfection.**

❖ **The amphitheatre of Qenqo, the fortress of Pukapukara and the spring-shrine of Tambomachay where water still flows by a hidden channel out of the masonry wall are also visited.**

Your Private tour can emphasize Colonial Art and History or Incan Archaeology.

❖ Includes Breakfast



Day 4

Breakfast, then a **full day tour of the Sacred Valley including the market of Pisaj and ruins of Ollantaytambo:**

❖ **Pisaj Market-** Colorful morning **markets** are open, where you can purchase Peruvian weavings, jewelry, and pottery, and see a traditional Indian market where goods are traded and get an introductory view of the local diet.

❖ Lunch stop

- ❖ The Inca town of **Ollantaytambo** is clearly seen as a fine example of the traditional Inca City planning of Canchas or blocks, which are almost entirely intact and still occupied. The tour includes a visit to the village, terraces, temples, irrigation systems, granaries, the fortress and the temple of the Sun built by Pachacuti Inca, using Colla Indians from Lake Titicaca.
- ❖ We may visit the village of Chinchero if time permits.
- ❖ Includes Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5

Trek the Inca Trail from KM 104 into Machu Picchu. After breakfast, you will be transferred to the train station to catch the Autovagon Train to the km 104, where you will get off (a porter will continue on to Aguas Caliente and get your luggage checked into the hotel) and after signing in, begin the "last day trek" of the ancient Inca trail with your Guide. You will hike through Chachabamba ruins, and the flora and fauna of the once overgrown trail. With your Guide continue uphill to Wiñay Wayna. The hike is slow but easy and on the way we see the gorgeous Urubamba canyon with profuse vegetation and surrounded by high mountains, some with snowed capped peaks of with over 5800 meters (19000 ft). The hike is about two hours, arriving to the charming Wiñay Wayna, perched on the mountain and partially covered with exuberant vegetation. The site was a little village of farmers that had a relationship with the lords of Machu Picchu. It has a splendid Temple to the sun god overlooking the canyon and an incredible water system of canals carved on the bedrock. Stop with your Guide for a picnic lunch (provided). In the afternoon continue to Machu Picchu by the last part of the classic Inca trail. This area is know as cloud forest, rich in avian fauna and flora that contains more than 200 species of orchids. After two hours walk by staircases, paved trails and bridges, we arrive to Inti Puncu (the Gate Of The Sun) to have our first look at Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas stumbled upon in 1911. Half an hour more downhill and we get to the ruins to take the bus down to check in to our hotel in Aguas Calientes.

- ❖ Includes Breakfast, Picnic Lunch

Day 6

Machu Picchu Tour

Breakfast, then an early visit of Machu Picchu; guided tour of the complete city set on the mountain with terraced slopes falling away to the Urubamba river. This place for centuries was buried in jungle, until Hiram Bingham stumbled upon it in 1911. The tour includes visits to the temples, palaces, towers fountains and after the tour you will have free time to explore on your own. Later, take the bus back down to check your hotel in Aguas Caliente.

- ❖ Includes Breakfast

Day 7

Machu Picchu Free Day Breakfast, then free day to explore. Keep yesterday's Machu Picchu entrance ticket to get a 50% discount for your ticket today. You will need to buy a bus ticket to get up to the top and back, unless you prefer to walk. This would be the perfect morning to take the hour and a half hike to Huayna Picchu for a magnificent view and to shoot pictures (this is the mountain that all the famous photographs are taken from). It is a well maintained trail – a steep ascent, but not technically difficult. The gate closes at 1:30, so plan on the morning!! If you are short on time or want to conserve your energy, the view from the Hut of the Caretaker of the Funerary Rock is equally good. In the afternoon, make your way back down to the train station and board the train back to Cusco, where you will be met and transferred back to your hotel in Cusco.

- ❖ Includes Breakfast

Day 8

Tambomachay / Huchuy Qosqo Trek

We will drive from the city of Cusco to the Inca ruins at Tambomachay (3,700m). From there we will follow a trail

which ascends to a pass at 4200m. We will then descend into a valley to the village at the bottom. As we descend into this narrow valley we will see another trail to our right which leads to PISAQ. Passing through the village we will cross a new bridge before beginning the ascent to the second pass at around 4300m, where we will be met by wide, open countryside. Continuing north we come to the Qoricocha Lagoon (Quechua for "Golden Lake"). Beyond the lake we reach the highest point of the trek at 4350m, before beginning a gradual descent to the village of Pumamarca, which we will camp close to.

❖ Includes Breakfast, Picnic Lunch, Camp Dinner

Day 9

Huchuy Qosqo Trek.

Just below the village the valley narrows to form a ravine where an Inca staircase will lead us down to the magnificent citadel of Huchuy Qosqo. Huchuy Qosqo is perched above the Urubamba Valley, overlooking the little town of Lamay. It was an administrative center such as Pisaj, has fine buildings made with stone and there is one which is a unique example paved with stones perfectly fitted. On the hillsides there are granaries since it was also an important agricultural center. Continuing along this now magnificent path, with Pitusiray looming above us across the valley, we will eventually pass an Inca stone and adobe gateway. This was the entrance to the ruins of Huchuy Qosqo for people who climbed up from the Urubamba Valley. To descend to the valley, a steep trail below the main ruins takes us to the village of Lamay in the valley. After visiting the town of Lamay, return to Cusco by van.

❖ Includes Breakfast, Lunch

Day 10

Cusco Free Day.

Breakfast, then **free day in Cusco**

❖ Includes Breakfast

Day 11

To Lima – City Tour.

Breakfast, then you will be transferred to the airport. After paying your airport tax of \$4, you will catch your flight back to Lima. You will be met at the airport in Lima and taken on a tour of the Gold Museum, then taken to a restaurant for dinner (own expense) and returned to the airport for your flight home. Pay your departure tax of \$25, then you will depart for your flight home.

❖ Includes Breakfast

Additional expenses: Lunch and Dinner where not noted, gratuities, 2nd day entrance to Machu Picchu, airport and departure taxes, personal expenses.

Includes: Superior accommodations – double occupancy, Private transports throughout trip, flight Lima to Cusco RT, Local Guide(s), entrance to all ruins, museums and attractions where noted [excluding 2nd day entrance to Machu Picchu as noted], Inca Trail Trek Permit, breakfast everyday and some lunch and dinners where noted.