



The Journey: Incredible Incas
Duration: 8-days / 7-nights + 2-nights air
Destination: PERU – Lima, Cusco, Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu



“Discover the ancient secrets that lie deep within these lands. Get to know its people who fix their gaze upon the mountains that quiver with the magic of this living culture.”

Peru is a paradise for archaeologists and researchers who continue to uncover over 20,000 years of history. A history which began even before the magnificent Inca empire, as can be seen through the remains of the first inhabitants of the Andes in Ayacucho (19,500 B.C.), the citadel of Caral (3,000 B.C.), the royal tombs of Sipan (about 100 A.D.), the lines of the Nasca culture (200 B.C-900 A.D.), and continuing on through the colonial and republican periods. Peru’s South American location is home to a section of Amazon rainforest and Machu Picchu, an ancient Incan city high in the Andes mountains. The region around Machu Picchu, including the Sacred Valley, Inca Trail and colonial city of Cusco, is rich in archaeological sites. On Peru’s Pacific coast is Lima, the capital, with a preserved colonial center and amazingly important collections of pre-Columbian art.

Peru is one of the most diverse places on the planet. You can easily travel from an arid desert to soaring mountain ranges to a lush tropical forest in the blink of an eye. Within the country’s three natural regions (coast, highlands and tropical forest), you can find 80% of the existing climates and life zones (84 out of 117) in the world. Peru’s three regions contain a wide variety of ecosystems with unparalleled biodiversity, including over 60 natural protected areas covering approximately 15% of the country. This geographic diversity, as well as the cold waters of the Pacific Ocean, are an important source of a wide



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variety of fresh food products that later become the masterpieces of chefs and a delight to those who appreciate fine food.

Peru is a land of aromas, flavors and textures where traditional and foreign elements fuse together incredibly. To eat in Peru is a fascinating journey into the culinary legacy left behind by the immigrant populations that have arrived throughout the country's history, each one leaving an indelible mark on its cuisine.

Peru offers limitless opportunities for thrill-seekers, or for those who desire to energize themselves with the mysticism of Andean culture, or even those who simply want to relax and have a good time. The possibilities in Peru are infinite. Come, experience and enjoy all that is Peru!

Peru: Incredible Incas - Sample Itinerary			
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	Travel to Lima, Peru - overnight flight		
2	Arrive Lima; transfer and check into hotel; Welcome Dinner		
3	City Tour - Colonial Lima, Cathedral of Lima, Santa Domingo Convent, Larco Museo		Local Dinner
4	Domestic flight to Cusco	Sacred Valley & Pisac Market, Ollantaytambo	Evening On Own in the Sacred Valley
5	Chincheru Weavers	Maras & Morey	Local Dinner
6	Train to Machu Picchu	Machu Picchu Private Tour	Dinner in Aguas Calientes
7	Machu Picchu Citadel	Train to Cusco	Evening On Own
8	Private Walking Tour - Cusco Cathedral, Korikancha & San Pedro Market		Dinner in Cusco
9	Fly from Cusco or Lima; departure to home - overnight flight		
10	Arrive home Airport		



Day 1 – Meals available during flight

Most groups will depart with an overnight flight to Peru.

Day 2 – Meals available during flight; dinner

Arrive Lima today; transfer to your hotel. Get checked in, acclimated to surroundings, have a bit of downtime to rest and relax and then reconvene for a welcome dinner and orientation in the evening.

Day 3 – Breakfast, lunch & dinner



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After breakfast, embark on a private city tour of Colonial Lima! You will be picked up at your hotel to begin an enlightening tour of the city's main avenues, boulevards, and squares. The tour will begin with an exploration of **Colonial Lima**. First, we will stop off at the **Main Square**, where you will get a chance to explore the square on foot and admire the exteriors of the **Government Palace**, the **Cathedral of Lima**, and the **City Hall** - all examples of Lima's still-present colonial architectural opulence.

Next, visit the **Cathedral of Lima** - as you walk through the Cathedral's numerous chapels, you'll travel 'the past' to discover various architectural styles (from Renaissance to Neo-Classical), and learn about the religious history of Peru. Next, we will make our way to the **Santo Domingo Convent**, a religious and architectural gem that houses holy paintings, images, and relics of Peruvian saints, as well as written accounts of the endeavors of the Dominican Order across the country.

Then, you will visit **Casa de Aliaga**, a colonial mansion that currently holds the distinction of being the oldest continuously inhabited private residence in the Southern Hemisphere.

Afterwards, we'll head to the Pueblo Libre District and visit the **Larco Museum**, an eighteenth-century Viceregal mansion that houses more than 3,000 years of Peru's pre-Columbian history. The museum boasts a supremely fine collection of gold and silver jewelry and worship paraphernalia that demonstrates the superb skill of ancient Peruvian gold and silversmiths. The Larco Museum also contains a famous collection of erotic ceramic tomb art that gives insights into various aspects of pre-Columbian sexuality.

Day 4 – Breakfast & lunch included; dinner is on own

After breakfast, we'll meet for our transfer to the airport and then on to our flight to the Sacred Valley.

Upon arrival in Cusco, we will continue the trip toward the **Sacred Valley**, a few miles farther along, you will reach **Pisac**, a beautiful place where Incan and Colonial influences have reached a perfect balance and created the unique way of life of the local inhabitants. You will get a chance to explore this quaint town, famous for its artisan markets where you can find extraordinarily fine jewelry along with ceramic and textile craftwork.

Afterwards, you will visit one of the last remaining Incan towns, **Ollantaytambo**, which was once fiercely guarded by a massive fortress. Discover the large archeological complex of what used to serve as a wayside inn for royal delegations on long journeys. Surviving structures here include multiple walls and towers that were used to protect the citadel from possible invasions.

Our late Sacred Valley lunch will be held at **Wayra Ranch**. You'll be amazed by the dishes you'll receive on your table —local tamales, anticucho kebabs, roast lechón (sucking pork), chicken and salmon trout baked with local herbs, cooked to your taste, with abundant house salad made with products from our organic garden.

During lunch, you will witness a spectacular equestrian exhibition, where Peruvian Paso horses will entertain you with their graceful gait and impress you with their elegant look. The presentation will be led to the rhythm of live marinera music, played and danced to by a group of first-rate artists. It will be an opportunity to get to know an important part of the criolla cultural heritage.

In the evening, dinner is on your own. Enjoy!

Day 5 – Breakfast, lunch & dinner



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After breakfast, we'll continue the trip toward the **Chincheró** village, with an altitude 12,375 feet above sea level (3,772 meters), famous for the extraordinary beauty and quality of its textiles and for its Sunday fair, where local people dress in traditional colorful outfits and travel down from their villages to trade their goods.

Walk along its traditional alleyways, next to your guide, and visit the **weavers' workshop of Nilda Callañaupa**, who 28-years ago decided to bring together like-minded women who shared her passion for weaving, and in time was able to motivate younger women who had lost interest in weaving to learn from their elders and connect once more with this ancestral art. She began working in the yard of her own house in Chincheró, and in 1996 her project became the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco, a strong organization dedicated not only to the preservation, but also the commercialization of beautiful, high quality textiles.

In the afternoon, we will continue the trip toward the **Sacred Valley**. We will cross the Urubamba River and head towards **Salt Pans of Maras**. The sight of this still-operating salt mine, in use since Incan times, will amaze you the stark white of the steeply descending salt pans juxtaposed against the green of the surrounding mountain slopes.

The journey will continue on until we reach the **archeological site of Moray**. Used as an agricultural testing ground, the site's system of circular terraces descends 490 feet (150m) from where you will stand, serving as a perfect testament to the level of advancement achieved by the Incas, who excelled at building masterful constructions in harmony with nature.

Day 6 – Breakfast, lunch & dinner

After breakfast, we'll transfer to Ollantaytambo train station to head up to incredible Machu Picchu. Today we will visit the **Santuario Histórico de Machu Picchu** (Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu). Aboard a comfortable train (Vistadome service), you will depart for the Aguas Calientes train Station, enjoying a spectacular view along the way. Upon arrival, you will board a bus that will take you to the entrance gate of the Machu Picchu citadel.

Rediscovered by Hiram Bingham more than a century ago, **Machu Picchu** is considered one of the **Seven Wonders of the World**. Its architectural beauty, spectacular natural landscapes and the energy held in its enigmatic structures will take your breath away. Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Incans as you explore this magical citadel along with the tour guide.

Day 7 – Breakfast & lunch included; dinner is on own

Following breakfast, we'll have a re-entry to the **Machu Picchu Citadel** followed by a buffet lunch at **Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge**.

Afterwards, we'll be picked up and taken to the Aguas Calientes train Station to board the return train (Vistadome Service). Upon the arrival at the station, a private transfer service will be waiting to take you back to your hotel in the city of Cusco. The remainder of the day is on your own for exploration.

Day 8 – Breakfast & dinner included; lunch is on own

After breakfast, we'll be picked up from the hotel to begin an exploration of the **Imperial City** with a visit to the **San Pedro Market**, the city's main street market. This will give you an opportunity to get to know the products of Cusco, overwhelming you with the sights, aromas, tastes, and colors of the region.



Just a few blocks away, you'll discover one of the most impressive buildings of Incan Cusco: the **Korikancha** (the Golden Temple) - a temple dedicated to the worship of the Sun God, whose interior walls were said to have been covered in gold.

We will continue the day with a stroll through the Main Square, where we will visit the **Cathedral** and admire its exquisite vestibules and priceless paintings from the Cusco School of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Day 9 – Breakfast only; meals available during flight

Following breakfast at our hotel, we'll get ready to depart incredible Peru. Dependent upon flight considerations, we may depart direct from Cusco or fly to Lima prior to our international flight.

Day 10 – Meals available during flight

Arrive at home airport.

Trip Inclusions

- Round-trip flights to/from Peru plus domestic Peru flights to/from the Sacred Valley
- Airport transfers & group transportation in Peru
- 7-nights' accommodation with sample hotels of:
 - ✦ Lima - Casa Andina Private Collection Miraflores; 5-star; traditional room; Check In: 14.00 / Check Out: 12.00; <http://colturperu.com/en/Hoteles/cusco-ciudad/casa-andina-private-collection-cusco>
 - ✦ Sacred Valley - Casa Andina Private Collection Valle; 4-star; superior room; Check In: 12.00 / Check Out: 10.00; <http://colturperu.com/en/Hoteles/cusco-valle-sagrado/casa-andina-private-collection-valle>
 - ✦ Aguas Calientes - El Mapi; 3-star; Superior Deluxe room; Check In: 13.00/ Check Out 11.00; www.elmapihotel.com
 - ✦ Cusco - Casa Andina Private Collection; 4-star; Superior room; Check In: 12.00/ Check Out: 10.00; www.colturperu.com/en/Hoteles/cusco-ciudad/casa-andina-private-collection-cusco
- Meals in destination - Breakfasts daily, 5 lunches, 5 dinners (does not include flight days)
- All activities & excursions as shown in above itinerary
- Travel insurance for each participant

Not Included

- Airport transfers in your home city
- Departure tax from Peru if not included with airline ticketing (departure tax is approximately \$31 per passenger however most USA carriers include this in their ticketing rates. This fee will be specified when airline seats are ticketed.)
- Airline baggage fees; please pay direct at airport during flight check-in
- Meals prior to arrival in Peru or after departure from Peru, or not shown as 'included' above
- Gratuities at hotels and restaurants, gratuities for guides
- Cost of passport & visa fees
- Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- Hotel incidental bills – internet services, spa services, purchases billed to room, etc
- Food, beverages, sightseeing and transportation not shown as included above
- Personal expenditures
- Baggage handling in destination



Important Notes

- Dependent upon your international airline, meals may be included in costs or at additional cost during flight. We will notify you of the specific inclusions once your ticketing has been completed.
- All guests are quoted on double occupancy in the hotel property. If single occupancy is required, please understand that a supplemental fee will be required.
- Should the numbers in your group change, please contact us directly for potential cost revisions.
- A 'Release of Liability' waiver is required from all participants, including those organizing the trip, prior to travel. Additionally, local suppliers may also have select waivers which require signature.
- Each person registering is supplied with a basic travel insurance policy that meets minimum standards. If you wish to expand your coverage, you may wish to add a private, supplemental policy.
- Due to fluctuation in air rates, please understand that the initial quote issued is based on a credible assumption, however it may vary at the actual time of booking. Flights will be reserved once first deposits have been received and are generally available approximately 11-months prior to departure. If at that time flight rates exceed the assumption and it increases the cost of the trip, the organizational lead will have an option to decline the booking at no penalty to your group.
- Each guest should be prepared to present a credit card at check-in for security deposit holds and in-room charging.
- If traveling internationally, each guest should ensure they are aware of passport and Visa requirements. For Peru entry, as of last updates, **passports must be valid for 6 months after your scheduled return date.**
- Foreign visitors are exempt from the 18% VAT (Sales Tax) in accommodation and meals where the passengers are staying. This exemption is already included in prices. The documents required to validate this exemption are a) individual passports and b) migration cards (obtained when entering the country on arrival). These two items must be supplied by every guest or VAT fees will apply.
- **PeruRail carry-on baggage allowance for Days 6 & 7:** Each passenger may take 1 bag– 05 kg/11 lb – 62 inches/157 cm (length + height + width). Baggage that exceeds these measurements will not be allowed as a carry-on on the train. Passengers should only take necessities for this overnight excursion; all other baggage will be held for us with safe keeping.

