

PERU

Lima * Cusco * Urubamba * Machu Picchu * Puno * Amantani Island

12 nights / 13 days

Daily programme:

Day 1: Arrival Lima

You will be met upon arrival at Lima International Airport and transferred to your hotel in Lima.

Overnight Lima

Day 2: Lima

You will be collected from your hotel for your Lima Tour. Your tour will start at Intihuatana Park located on the Miraflores cliffs, which has a spectacular view of the bay of Lima and where paragliders from all over the world gather to fly over the area. Then, you will be transferred to the Pucllana Temple, a pre-Inca pyramid found in the Miraflores district, to mark a contrast. You will then visit the El Olivar Park, an ancient olive plantation, which is now part of the city, located in the San Isidro district, and from there you will be transferred to Lima's historical downtown, a World Heritage listed by UNESCO. You will stop at the Main Square, located in front of the Presidential Palace, the Lima Municipality and the Archbishops Palace, beautiful colonial buildings that are an important part of its identity. A few blocks away, you will visit Santo Domingo Convent, one of the most impressive religious architectural complexes of the 17th century. It contains the relics of the three Peruvian saints, Santa Rosa de Lima, San Martin de Porres and San Juan Macías, and a library with a collection of 25 thousand old books. The visit ends up at your hotel, at Larcomar or at the Indian market

Overnight Lima

Optional: Half-day tour to Barranco and Pachacamac (Shared service) ZAR 445.00 additional

Start the tour in the bohemian district of Barranco, a charming area for those who seek to discover an alternative style in the Peruvian capital. This neighbourhood has a long association with the arts, from peculiar coffee shops and private workshops to first class street art painted on the walls, endless galleries and even dance studios. This without mentioning its colonial architecture and excellent Peruvian restaurants. Visit Barranco's Main Square, where the local church is located, the traditional 'Puente de los Suspiros' and the iconic path that leads to the beach in front of the city. After this visit, continue to Pachacamac, the most important ceremonial centre of the coast of Peru during pre-Hispanic times. Appreciate its various constructions made in that date from different centuries. Throughout time, Pachacamac was occupied by different civilisations such as the Lima, Wari, Ichma civilisations and the Inca Empire (15th century); always maintaining its splendour. Some of its outstanding buildings are the Adobitos Temple (1st century AD), the Old Temple of Pachacamac (1st century AD), the New or Painted Temple (8th century AD), the pyramid with a ramp (13th century AD) and the Temple of the Sun (15th century AD). Then, visit the site museum that exhibits the ceramics and weavings found in the area during excavations. At the end of this tour, you are transferred back to your hotel.

Day 3: Lima – Cusco

Lima hotel check out and transfer to the airport for your flight to Cusco.

Flight Lima/Cusco (Not included in the package price)

Enjoy a comfortable transfer from Cusco Airport to your hotel. A representative will meet and greet you, and then transfer you to the selected hotel in Cusco.

Rest of the day free to explore on your own.

Day 4: 01 Jan 22, Sat: Cusco

Breakfast at the hotel and the morning free to explore on your own. In the afternoon enjoy a guided tour of this charming city, which was the capital of the Inca Empire. The tour starts with a visit to Santo Domingo Convent, a large Renaissance-baroque complex, which was built over the Inca Coricancha temple. It was one of the most important temples dedicated to worshipping of the sun, and its foundations are still prominent at the base of the convent. Ancient chronicles say the temple was covered in gold leaf and filled with golden representations of nature. Then, visit the Cathedral, the most imposing monument of the Main Square. Head to the hills above Cusco to visit the remains of the fortress of Sacsayhuaman, whose imposing ramparts offer a stunning panoramic view of Cusco, and the ruins of the temple and amphitheatre of Qenqo, where it is believed the Incas practised agricultural rituals. Admire Qenqo and then finally visit Puka Pukara ('Red fortress' in Quechua) an Inca military complex located on a prominent hill. Its dwellings squares, bathrooms, aqueducts, walls, and towers can still be appreciated. Afterwards, return to your hotel.

Overnight Cusco.

Day 5: Cusco - Sacred Valley

Breakfast in the hotel. You will be collected from the hotel during the morning to visit the town of Chinchero, a traditional Cusco urban centre located at an elevated point with a beautiful view of the valley. The inhabitants of this area preserve the artisan traditions and the inherited knowledge of the Incas and display them in their clothes and customs. In Chinchero there are also archaeological remains and a beautiful seventeenth-century church, one of the first Catholic buildings in Peru. Following this, you are transferred to the Living Museum of Yucay, a centre Andean traditions interpretation, where demonstrations of the elaboration of textile work, adobe, pottery, and silverware are carried out in the same way in which they used to in antiquity, an original recreation of Inca traditions. Also, residents of the museum include llamas, sheep, and alpacas, and they can be fed! Enjoy a delicious lunch in the sacred valley and, on the way to the fortress, witness the Andean essence that is breathed in the place, which still maintains Inca urban planning and is inhabited since then. Go up the iconic steps of the iconic enclosure, built next to the mountain. At the end of this activity, you are transferred back to your hotel.

*On Sundays, also visit the local market *

Located as its name says in Urubamba, the heart of the Sacred Valley, 50 minutes from the centre of Cusco and only 10 minutes from Ollantaytambo, the starting point for exploring Machu Picchu and last train station before arriving at the wonderful citadel.

Day 6: Urubamba – Sacred Valley

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer from your hotel in the Sacred Valley to the community of Huilloc with guide available. Participate in an experiential activity with the members of the community. Upon completion, you are transferred back to your hotel in the Sacred Valley.

Enjoy a delicious home-cooked Andean lunch prepared with local products harvested in traditional and sustainable ways. Lunch will take place at a local villager's home.

Overnight Urubamba

Day 7: Urubamba – Sacred Valley

Breakfast the hotel and the day free to explore on your own.

Overnight Urubamba

Day 8: Machu Picchu

After breakfast at the hotel, a transportation service will pick you up and transfer you to the Ollanta Station to board the train to Aguas Calientes, the nearest town to Machu Picchu. Following a scenic journey through dramatic Andean landscapes, arrive at the station in Aguas Calientes. Here you board a coach for a 25-minute ride to Machu Picchu. The 'Lost City of the Incas' is believed to have been built in the 1450s by Inca emperor Pachacuti as a holiday retreat, yet within a century the city would be abandoned following the Spanish conquest. The Spaniards never found it, so it was spared the destruction they brought on other Inca sites. Instead, it was slowly swallowed up by the jungle and hidden from harm. A guided tour explains the origins behind this awe-inspiring citadel, presenting its most prominent landmarks such as the monumental Main Square, the Royal Quarters, the Temple of the Three Windows, the Circular Towers, the Sacred Sun dial, and the Burial Grounds.

Return to Aguas Calientes for lunch **(Lunch not included)**

****Train tickets to Machu Picchu in Expedition service. From / to Ollanta station.**

Overnight Machu Picchu

DAY 9: Cusco

The delicious breakfast at the hotel is followed by a relaxing morning at leisure.

In the afternoon, transfer to the Aguas Calientes station and take the train back to Ollanta station. From here you will be transferred to your hotel in Cusco.

The second entrance to Machu Picchu is not included.

Overnight Cusco

Day 10: Cusco – Puno

A transportation service will pick you up from your hotel to the bus station. A representative will assist you during the journey.

To begin your trip from Cusco to Puno, board the touristic bus that will take you through the wonderful Andes sceneries. First, stop in Andahuaylillas, a town located 40 kilometres from Cusco

that has as its main attraction the Church of Andahuaylillas, nicknamed the 'Sistine Chapel of America', due to the impressive art found in it. After this, make a stop in Checacupe, a beautiful town known for its hanging and rock bridges. Then continue the route to Racchi, where the Wiracocha Temple is located, a surprising 30-meters wide by 20-meters high construction of rectangular shape. Have a tasty box lunch in Sicuani, followed by a brief stop in La Raya, the highest point between Puno and Cusco, over 4,313 metres above sea level. Then, arrive at the town of Pucara, where the Pucara Lithic Museum is located. Developed between the years 100 and 300 AC, this town was the first proper urban settlement of the lacustrine highlands. Finally, arrive in the city of Puno.

A short trip from the bus station, arriving at your hotel where a representative will assist you with the check-in.

Overnight Puno

Day 11: Puno – Uros – Amantani Island

You will be picked up from the port of Puno and taken to the floating islands of Uros.

The Uros are an ancient culture that inhabits a series of artificial islands built on the basis of reeds growing in the lake itself. These are constructed by weaving reed in the areas where it grows thicker and thus forming a natural layer. On it they build their houses and cook outdoors to prevent fires. After a journey of one and a half hours you reach Amantaní, a circular island 3.4 kilometres in diameter on average. The people have maintained their identity and highland customs and have attracted the attention of the tourist industry through living experiences. At Amantaní you will be welcomed by the inhabitants and put up in one of their homes that has been prepared to receive visitors.

Overnight Amantani Island

Day 12: Amantani Island – Taquile - Puno

After breakfast with the locals, you will set off by boat from Amantaní to the island of Taquile. In contrast to the other islands in the lake, where the people speak Aimara, here they speak Quechua. It was part of the Inca Empire and vestiges of that culture can still be seen in their buildings. However, the Spanish also came here, forbade them from wearing their traditional costumes and forced them to use peasant dress. When you arrive, you will be given a short description of the island and a tour round it before lunch. After lunch you will go to the harbour for the trip back to Puno.

Overnight Puno

Day 13: Puno

Breakfast at your hotel and a transportation service will take you from the hotel to Puno airport. A local representative will assist you along the way.

Service ends