

AWE INSPIRING DESTINATIONS & EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES



PERU

THE COMPLETE TOUR & THE INCA TRAIL*

8-12 DAYS

*4 DAYS INCA TRAIL (1, 2, OR 3 DAYS AVAILABLE)

Peru is without a doubt one of the most intriguing countries in South America. Famous as the home of the epic lost Inca Citadel of Machu Picchu and the mind blowing Nazca Lines, this country's unique past awakens the adventurer in travelers of all sorts. Its awe-inspiring scenery varies from the wild Amazon jungles to vast coastal deserts and the icy peaks of the Andes.

Peru hosts a biodiversity rarely seen within the limits of a single country, with a list of spectacular wildlife far beyond the well-known llamas and circling condors. On top of all that, Peru's friendly, multi-ethnic people are a cultural treasure on their own. The enchanting mix of dozens of distinct indigenous groups and mestizos, all with their own colorful traditions and food delicacies, is an encounter you will not easily forget.

Peru is a country of unimaginable extremes where choosing your trip destinations may prove a true challenge. Whether you decide to go off the beaten track, follow in the footsteps of visitors before you who took the Gringo Trail along some of the best highlights, or go experience the jungle through a relaxing multiple day Amazon boat trip - Peru is likely to amaze you in everything you do.







ITINERARY OUTLINE

Departure, flight to Lima

DAY 1- Arrival, Lima, Peru, flight to Cusco, Sacred Valley, Urubamba, Pisaq, Vilcanota, Mountain Biking

DAY 2 - Sacred Valley, Urubamba, Chinchero, Moray, Maras, Pichingoto short hike.

DAY 3 - The Inca Trail Day1, Piscacucho Km82, Huayllabamba

DAY 4 - The Inca Trail Day 2, uayllabamba – Dead Woman´s Pass – Pacaymayo

DAY 5 - The Inca Trail Day 3, Pacaymayo - Sayakmarka - Phuyupatamarca or Wiñay Wayna

DAY 6 - The Inca Trail Day 4, WiñayWayna - IntiPunku, Machu Picchu, Cusco

DAY 7 - Cusco, Cooking Class

DAY 8 - Cusco, City Tour

DAY 9 - Cusco, Raqchi, La Raya, Puno

DAY 10 - Puno, Uros Islands, Luquina, Kayaking, Lima

DAY 11 - Lima City Tour

Day 12 - Departure

ITINERARY**DAY 1 – Lima, Peru, Cusco, Sacred Vally**

Arrival in Lima, connecting flight to Cusco.

Welcome to Cusco airport. Private meet and greet. Drive through the **Sacred Valley** of the Incas where the altitude is lower than Cusco. Admire the breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and villages on route to **Urubamba**. On your way to the hotel stop for Inca Trail briefing. Arrive at the hotel, check in and refresh.

After time to relax, pic up from the hotel. Driver to a location near **Pisac**, to the square of a small town called **Taray**, where you will pick up your **mountain bikes** and safety equipment. The ride will take you across the country side, with slight slopes on a route that runs parallel to the **Vilcanota river**. You will see the crops typical to the sacred valley in all its splendor. Currently the largest corn in the world is produced in this area. You will visit **Lamay, Calca and Huayllabamba**

Biking Duration: 2-3 hours / Terrain: dirt, gravel.

For electric bicycles it will be possible to increase the tour a few more kilometers.

Your bike ride includes: Private transportation, Professional guide, High-end mechanic bike and equipment, Water, communication equipment, first aid kit, oxygen

After your bike ride, return to the hotel.

Overnight in the Sacred Valley.



DAY 2 – Sacred Valley

After breakfast at the hotel, Depart the hotel for your full day at the **Sacred Valley**.

Enjoy a colorful cultural experience touring the small town of **Chinchoero** that is higher in elevation than Cusco. Walk to the main plaza for a visit of the small colonial church, the nearby Inca ruins with walls built with trapezoidal niches, observe a colorful ancient weaving demonstration. As you are visiting on Sunday you will get a chance to explore an authentic Indian market, where traditional bartering is still practiced.

Continue to **Moray** for a visit of the famous enormous circular depressions on the ground. Recent studies have thrown out the theory of this place being an agricultural lab and instead thought to be a place for ceremonies or even a landing pad. You decide. Afterwards, you will drive down to the colonial town of **Maras** for a visit of the Plaza before continuing to the **Maras salt ponds** spread out in the center of the mountains with a serene view.

After your visit you will depart on a 45 minute to 1 hour, downhill hike to **Pichingoto** which is above the entrance to the ponds. Box lunch included.

End the day back at your hotel.

Overnight at the Sacred Valley.



DAY 3 – Inca Trail Day 1

After early breakfast at the hotel, 6:30 AM departure for your special experience, 4 days hike of the **Inca Trail**. Drive for about 1 hours to **Piscacucho** Km 82 (2,670m/8,760ft) to start the famous hike. You will meet your porters and camp crew to start the adventure. First you will have our passports ready to check in at the Inca Trail Check Point. Then cross the bridge over the **Urubamba River** to begin the hike with a short climb. You will follow the river on leveled terrain and catch spectacular views of **Mount Veronica** (5,750mt/ 18,865ft) and the beautiful vegetation along the way. On route you will see the **Llaqtapata** archeological site below and have time for pictures while your guide provides the history behind the complex. Your hike will continue through farmland until we reach your campsite at **Huayllabamba** (2,925m/9,154ft).

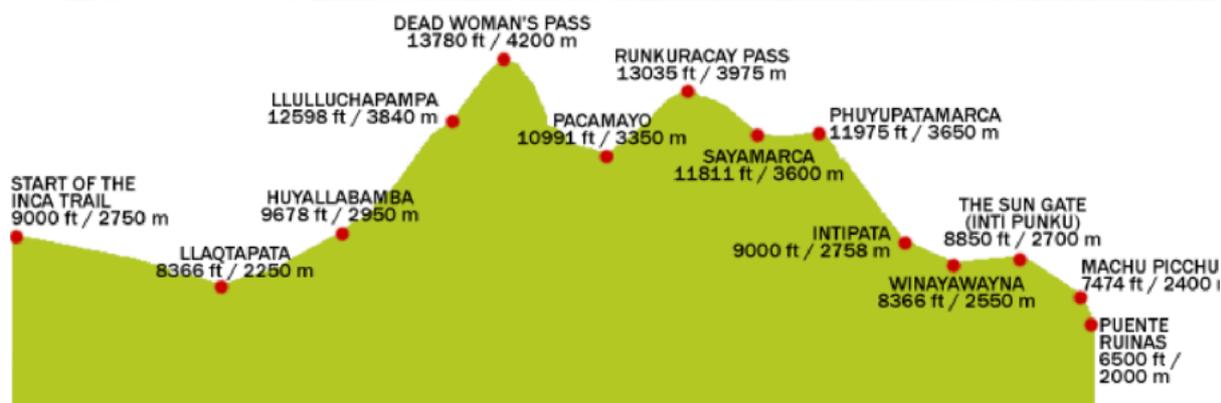
Meals : Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Walking Distance : 11 KM or 6.8 miles
Approximate hiking time : 6 to 7 hours



DAY 4 – Inca Trail Day 2

This morning enjoy a hearty, energetic breakfast to prepare you for the most challenging day of the trek. You will start the hike early in the morning walking through the sub-tropical forest going up to **Llulluchapampa**. Then continue climbing up the steep trail for about 4 to 5 hours reaching **Abra Huarmihuañusca, "Dead Woman's Pass"** (4200m/13,779 ft). You will stop along the way to catch your breath and enjoy the fantastic vistas ahead of you. Finally, you will feel triumphant to have achieved a tremendous climb. Here you will rest and enjoy the surreal views of the mighty **Andes mountains**. Thereafter, you will descend for about 3 hours to the **Pacaymayo Valley** (3,500m/11,480ft), your next campsite. Enjoy the views of the nearby waterfalls and snow covered peaks.

Meals : Breakfast, lunch & dinner
 Walking Distance : 10 KM or 6.2 miles
 Approximate hiking time : 7 to 8 hours



DAY 5 – Inca Trail Day 3

After an early breakfast you will start the longest walk of the trek, on a well preserved paved path to the impressive Inca archeological site of **Runkurakay** which is a peculiar circular Inca building which was supposedly used as a control and lookout point. Then continue for you final climb to the **Runkurakay Pass** (3,950m/12,956ft) and see the striking **Vilcanota Mountain range**. Thereafter, you start walking downwards to reach the **Sayacmarca Inca Ruins** (3600m/11,811ft.). These ruins were a small populated village from the Inca times which was used as a Tambo (resting place) for pilgrims that were en route to Machu Picchu. You will have lunch nearby. After lunch you will walk through the heavenly cloud forest admiring colorful birds and orchids to **Phuyupatamarca** (Town of clouds) (3630m/11,909ft) offering wonderful vistas of the **Salkantay Mountain**. These ruins have remarkable remains of water fountains and canals which were left incomplete. Continue descending about 2,000 Inca stone steps to **Wiñay Wayna** (“forever young” (2,650m/8,692ft) your next campsite.

Meals : Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Walking Distance : 14 KM or 8.7 miles
Approximate hiking time : 8 to 9 hours



DAY 6 – Inca Trail Day 4

Today will be a very early start. At 4:00 am you will say goodbye to your porters as they transport the equipment back to Cusco. Start walking through the lovely cloud forest where it becomes denser and greener. Admire some multicolored orchids that beautiful trail along the way. There are great views of the **Urubamba River gorge** and its mountains. Arriving at **Inti Punku** ("sun gate" 2700m/8,858ft), weather permitting, you will see majestic first views of **Machu Picchu** and have time to rest with plenty of time to photograph Machu Picchu below. From **Intipunku**, it's a short hike down to Machu Picchu (2,400m/7,874ft) with spectacular vistas along the way. Continue walking downhill for about 50 minutes to the entrance to start a guided walking tour of the magnificent archeological site with your guide. Visit the extraordinary **Temple of the Sun** with exceptionally carved stones, **Temple of the Three Windows** features huge trapezoidal windows, **Intihuatana** the **solar clock** which translates to the, Hitching Post of the Sun, **Funerary Rock Hut** believed to be a place where the Inca nobility were mummified, and the many temples, terraces, and corridors. After a glorious, eye and mind opening visit with your guide exit the park. Take the bus to **Agua Calientes** for lunch (on your own) before boarding the train to the Ollantaytambo or Poroy station. Arrive in the station where our staff will be waiting to take you to your hotel in Cusco.

Meals : Breakfast & box lunch

Walking Distance : 6Kms or 3.7 miles

Approximate hiking time : 3 hours

Overnight in Cusco.



DAY 7 – Cusco

Cusco or **Qosqo**, once the Capital of the Inca Empire, also called the Imperial City and a UNESCO world heritage site, is one of the oldest continuous inhabited cities. This charming city flourished between c. 1400 to 1534 CE and was the religious and administrative city of the Incas. This region was inhabited by the Chanca civilization who were defeated by the Incas in 1438 CE., giving rise to the Inca Empire.

10:00AM, pick up at the hotel for a **culinary experience** with a unique insight into Peru's food and culture through the use of regional products like quinoa, yellow peppers, and trout. With a local chef you will create fusion gourmet dishes and enjoy the most spectacular views that the city has to offer.

The class starts with a 30 minute tour of the traditional open air **San Pedro market**, the most popular market where the locals shop, offering a great cultural experience. Afterwards we will head to a Rooftop Kitchen facility, with breathtaking views of the city, to start the cooking experience. The class consists of the preparation of an appetizer, main course, and of course pisco sour. Vegetarian options are available (please specify when you reserve). The cooking class takes approximately 2 hours. Upon completion you will return to your hotel and enjoy free afternoon at leisure.

Overnight in Cusco.



DAY 8 – Cusco

Meet your guide and start your tour of Cusco. In the morning, visit to the impressive **Sacsayhuaman** archeological site with its immense stones which the Spaniards took to build the Cathedral and other places in Cusco. Afterward, visit **Q'enqo**, is an ideal spot for history and archaeology buffs, in particular those fascinated by the mysteries of the Inca and the macabre. Continue to **Puca Pucara**, which might have served as an inn where the Incan emperor and his entourage would have rested and lodged for the night. The last set of ruins is at **Tambomachay**, where important water veneration rites may have been carried out.

In the afternoon, begins with a stroll through the bohemian district of **San Blas**, famous for its attractive narrow streets, its cozy square, ateliers and art shops. Walk to the **Hatunrumiyoc street** to admire the twelve-angle stone and maybe a picture with the Inca. The walk will to the **Plaza de Armas** (main square), visit the **Cathedral** with its famous paintings by the Cusco school and beautiful alters and wood carvings. Stroll to the **Qoricancha Sun Temple**, a Sacred Inca building which had walls covered in gold during the Inca era.

Overnight in Cusco.



DAY 9 – Cusco to Puno

Check out of your hotel and early departure from Cusco. The direct Private Transfer from Cusco to **Puno** route offers unique opportunities to make stops alongside the main highway such as at **Huacarpay lagoon**, **Raqchi** archaeological site with over 200 barns (food stores, to save food in the drought time), agricultural terraces, stone walls, and **qolqas** (store houses). Also here located one of the largest temples built in the time of the **Inca Pachacutec** to devote as worship to the god Wiracocha. **La Raya** the highest point on the route from Cusco to Puno at 4,338 M is a remote and cold place, where you will see the snowy peaks of the Andes Mountains Range. Arrival to Puno and transfer to hotel. Just before arriving in Puno, visit the Sillustani pre-Inca cemetery, with tower like structured tombs located on the shores of Lake Umayo. These chullpas were built in 13th and 14th Century to house the Aymara nobles during the pre-Inca and Inca period. The Incas conquered them in the 15th century.

Box lunch included.

Overnight in Puno.



DAY 10 – Lake Titicaca, Uros Islands, Lima

Early morning, after breakfast, you will depart your hotel in Puno and transfer to the main port. Board a motor boat and cruise on **lake Titicaca** to visit the traditional Islands of the **Uros**, where you can observe the ancient culture that maintains its customs and lifestyle based on woven mats of totora reed (a native plant that grows around the lake). Upon arrival in **Luquina**, and after instructions for the correct handling of the **kayak** and use of appropriate clothing; start paddling for an average of 1 to 3 hours along the shores, observing along the way; the towns, local crop fields, tutelary hills of the peninsula and nearby islands.

Upon returning to Luquina, you will have a typical lunch, at “La Casa del Pescador” (The Fisherman’s House). After that, with your guide you will return to Puno and transfer to Juliaca’s airport.

Flight to Lima. Private transfer from Lima airport to your hotel

Overnight in Lima.



DAY 11 – Lima

Lima (Peru's Capital) located on the coast, was founded by Pizarro in 1535 as The City of Kings. The Viceroyalty of Peru was created in 1542, where the Spanish governed the South American countries except Venezuela and Brazil. Lima is full of history, culture and love displaying its elegance and dominance with its contemporary, colonial and pre-Inca sites.

In the morning head to the **Historic Centre** of Lima (UNESCO site), and walk through its most important streets to observe its architecture and monuments. Visit **Convent of Santo Domingo**, one of the best preserved from the colonial times and climbs its tower, to have a great view of the city. Then, visit the **Larco Museum**, impressive Pre-Columbian Art private collection. Try mousse made of "Lucuma", a Peruvian endemic fruit at the Café del Museo. Observe a Pre-Columbian archaeological site, in the middle of the residential area.

In the afternoon, you will visit the beautiful district of Miraflores. Learn from your guide about the history and development of this emblematic and most visited district of Lima. Visit the beautiful attraction inaugurated in 1993 and celebrates "love" in all its forms. At its center, an iconic sculpture - "**El Beso**" (The Kiss) - by acclaimed Peruvian artist Victor Delfín, depicts lovers embracing in an endless kiss. Enjoy, from the cliffs of Miraflores, awesome views of Lima and its Pacific Ocean. Continue to **Barranco**, the artsy neighborhood of Lima, where you will enjoy a short walk to enjoy the beautiful murals and artsy areas. End your tour by crossing "**The Bridge of Sighs**" making a wish!

Overnight in Lima or night flight back to the USA.



DAY 12 – Wednesday, January 1 - Lima, Departure

Breakfast at the hotel.

Private transfer to Lima International Airport.

Optional additional day in Lima and night flight to the USA.

