

PERU EXPERIENCE: MID-RANGE TOUR

LIMA, AREQUIPA, LAKE TITICACA, CUSCO, MACHU
PICCHU, LIMA

Duration: 11 days / 10 nights



Includes:

- Sightseeing with English speaking guides
- Unless otherwise stated, all accommodation is of a 3* rating with private bathroom and includes breakfast and service taxes
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary
- All internal land, water and air transport
- All entrance/park fees
- Passengers will be escorted throughout the whole tour by our experienced English-speaking tour leaders

Not Included:

- International airfares
- International and local departure taxes
- Visas
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Laundry costs
- Tips and items of a personal nature

BONUS Inclusions:

- Salsa dancing class in Lima
- Have lunch at a unique Peruvian Cevicheria
- Visit a local Chica factory in the Sacred Valley

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ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival into Lima

Arriving into Lima International Airport late in the evening, you will be met by our personalised tour leader. You will then be transferred to your hotel, conveniently located in the seaside suburb of Miraflores.

Miraflores takes its name from its many beautiful flower beds. The area has a big Central Park and numerous cosy restaurants, bars and pubs.

Overnight Lima

Meals included: N/A

DAY 2: Lima

Take the morning to sleep-in and relax and we will meet downstairs for a briefing on our exciting Peruvian Journey.

This afternoon you will experience a guided sightseeing tour to the most attractive and important sites in Lima, the "City of Kings".

Lima is a city of contrasts with remains of its Colonial past to the ultramodern, high-rise buildings of the financial centre. This tour offers you the possibility to see this eclectic mix for yourself. Our tour will include a visit to the Lima Monumental, passing by the historical squares of San Martin and Plaza de Armas; the City Hall and the Cathedral with its religious art museum.

We will also visit the Convent and Church of San Francisco - the greatest monumental complex of Colonial Art in America and with a Cultural World Heritage listing. During your visit you can admire the 21 Basilica, the Convent of Cloisters, the Capitulary and Clementine Rooms, the Chorus and Library of the monks and the underground Catacombs among other things.

Visit the residential districts of San Isidro and Miraflores, passing by Huaca Pucllana - a ceremonial scaled pyramid made of hand-made bricks which used to be the main administrative centre of the Lima Culture.

We will then visit El Olivar Park with olive trees brought from Spain in the XVth Century, the Central Park of Miraflores and Larcomar - a symbol of Lima's modernity. Here we will enjoy views of the Park of Love overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Tonight dinner has been arranged at a typical Peruvian restaurant close to the hotel.

Overnight Lima

Meals included: Breakfast & dinner

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DAY 3: Lima - Arequipa

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight to Arequipa – the white city. We will be met by our transfer company and taken to our accommodation in Arequipa.

In the afternoon, we will enjoy a guided city tour of Arequipa. We will visit the Plaza de Armas (Main Square) – one of most beautiful within Perú, the Cathedral, the church and cloister of Jesus Company, the Church of San Francisco and the Convent of Santa Catalina. The Convent was built in the XVIth century and is an exclusive visit considering that it was closed to visitors for more than 400 years.

We will then visit the outskirts of Arequipa. Visits to the beautiful districts of Yanahuara, known as the "balcony of Arequipa"; Caima with its colonial church; and Sabandia with its typical XVIIth century water mill, are also included on this afternoon. We will then transfer back to our hotel.

Overnight Arequipa

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 4: Arequipa – Lake Titicaca

This morning you will be transferred to the Arequipa airport to take the flight to Juliaca. You will then meet our transfer and take a short bus ride to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca.

There is time for lunch before your afternoon visit to the famous Chullpas of Sillustani. These ancient funereal towers, dating back to pre-Inca times are examples of the most ancient cultures found on the altiplano. They were used by the Aymaras to bury their important leaders. Lake Umayo, located in front of the Chullpas, adds further beauty to this area.

Tonight we will enjoy a dinner at a typical Peruvian restaurant.

Overnight Puno

Meals included: Breakfast & dinner

DAY 5: Lake Titicaca

After breakfast, we will head out on our boat tour across Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. Legend has it that the first Inca rose out of its azure waters and today you will see how these island people live very similarly to the first Inca.

Just 45 minutes boat ride, we can visit the floating islands of the Uros people. You will have the opportunity to appreciate traditional aspects of their life, like fishing, hunting ducks, and constructing nearly everything out of reeds.

Then it is onto to the famous textile island of Taquile. On Taquile you will admire its terraces, a great variety of buildings and stunning textile works. This memorable visit allows you to view the local community during its different daily functions working in perfect harmony.

After our lunch on the island, we will walk down to the port and catch our boat back to Puno.

On arrival in Puno, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Overnight Puno

Meals included: Breakfast & lunch

DAY 6: Lake Titicaca - Cuzco

Today will travel to Cuzco in style on what is said to be one of the ten most beautiful train rides in the world. Relax in the first class carriages as you wind your way through the high altiplano region of the majestic Andes Mountains.

On arrival in Cuzco this evening, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Overnight Lima

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 7: Cuzco City

Today we will have breakfast in the hotel and enjoy a half-day city tour of Cuzco – the centre of the Inca Empire. First, we will visit the main Cathedral on Plaza de Armas. It was built over the Inca palace of Suntur Wasi, its construction took almost one century (94 years) artists from Cuzco and Europe worked in its design. The most important sites inside are the chapel of Virgin of the Remedies and Inmaculada Concepción. "El Señor de los Temblores", Saint of this city, keeps this name since 1650 of March 31, the date when he was taken out of the Cathedral to calm the earthquake.

Then we will visit the Sun Temple of Qorikancha. Its construction took place when Pachakutec governed and it was one of the most important temples built by the Incas. It was the house of the bishop who taught the worship of the Sun, where the chosen virgins were sacrificed to the main God.

The ruins of Saqsayhuaman will be our last stop. These are located 2kms to the north of Cuzco. In the Inca times the city of Cuzco had the shape of Puma and its head was the Saqsayhuaman site. However this was destroyed by the Spanish, but still today we can see fabulous cyclopean walls, where some of the rocks used are five metres high and weigh more than 350 tonnes. The ruins were constructed with the help of thousands of workers lead by the Inca king - Pachakutec.

This afternoon is yours to wander Cuzco's narrow cobblestone streets, museums, churches and experience its terrific atmosphere.

Overnight Cuzco

Meals included: Breakfast & lunch

DAY 8: Cuzco - Sacred Valley

After breakfast at the hotel, we will travel through the famous Sacred Valley of the Incas. First stop is a tour of the agricultural Inca ruins of Pisaq. Next, we can try our bargaining skills with the savvy market vendors in the ancient Inca village of Pisaq. (held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays)

After all that shopping and bargaining, we will stop for lunch at a local restaurant in Urubamba (not included). In the afternoon, we will travel through the Valley to the small village of Ollantaytambo, the only Inca town that was not defeated by the Spanish, and explore the mighty ruins.

Then we will transfer to our hotel for a well-deserved overnight stay.

Overnight Urubamba

Meals included: Breakfast

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DAY 9: Sacred Valley - Aguas Calientes

After breakfast we hop on a train and follow the Urubamba River as it tumbles its way towards the Amazon and the sacred city of Machu Picchu.

Disembark the train at Aguas Calientes and take a short walk to our hotel.

The rest of the day, we can explore Aguas Calientes and soak in the hot springs. (not included).

Overnight Aguas Calientes
Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 10: Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu - Cuzco

Today we will rise early and take advantage of viewing Machu Picchu under early morning light. This is the best time to view the 'Lost City of the Incas,' as our local guide can provide an in-depth interpretation of the various buildings and history without the pressure of the many tour groups arriving at midday.

You can climb the pinnacle mountain of Huayna Picchu for one of the most spectacular views of Machu Picchu or wander through the cloudforest on a recently discovered Inca pathway trail to the seldom visited Temple of the Moon.

Later in the afternoon we return to Cuzco by backpacker train.

Overnight Cuzco
Meals included: Breakfast & dinner

DAY 11: Cuzco – Lima

Today it is time to say 'hasta luego' to Peru, catch a flight to Lima and meet our connecting flight back to Australia.

Meals included: Breakfast

END OF OUR SERVICES