

## THE BEST OF PERU – ULTIMATE TOUR:

**LIMA, NAZCA, AREQUIPA, LAKE TITICACA, CUZCO,  
AMAZON JUNGLE, SACRED VALLEY, MACHU PICCHU**

**Duration:** 27 days / 26 nights



### **Includes:**

- Private sightseeing with English speaking guides
- Unless otherwise stated, all accommodation is of a 5\* or 5\* plus rating with private bathroom and includes breakfast and service taxes
- Most 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
- Traditional ceramics class in Nazca
- Dinner at the Santa Catalina Convent in Arequipa
- Traditional dance class in Puno – the Folkloric capital of Peru
- Reed weaving class in the Uros Islands
- Visit a local alpaca farm and factory
- Visit a local Chica factory in the Sacred Valley

### **Your ULTIMATE tour inclusions:**

- Paragliding in the Sacred Valley
- 3 day/2 night white water rafting trip
- Dinner at Chicholena – one of the best restaurants in Cusco

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## **ITINERARY**

### **DAY 1: 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 large 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 lunch and a briefing on your exciting Peruvian Journey.

This afternoon you will enjoy a city tour of Lima visiting various points of interest, including the Plaza San Martin, the Plaza de Armas and other parts of the Old Town area.

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

Overnight Lima

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

### **DAY 3: LIMA - NAZCA**

After your hearty breakfast you will transfer to Lima airport for your flight to Nazca.

On arrival in Nazca we will transfer you to your hotel and you will have time to settle in. After lunch we will transfer to Nazca airport to enjoy a 45 minute flight over the mysterious Nazca Lines.

The Nazca Lines are an engima. No one has proof who built them or why. Since their discovery, the Nazca Lines have inspired fantastic explanations from ancient gods, a landing strip for returning aliens or a celestial calendar created by the ancient Nazca civilization - putting the creation of the lines between 200 BC and 600 AD.

Overnight Nazca

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & dinner

#### **DAY 4: Nazca - Arequipa**

Today we will enjoy an archaeological city tour of Nazca including the famous Chauchilla cemetery.

In the afternoon take an overnight bus service from Nazca to Arequipa

#### **OVERNIGHT: BUS**

**MEALS INCLUDED:** Breakfast & snack included on bus

#### **DAY 5: Arequipa**

On arrival we will transfer you to your accommodation in Arequipa.

In the afternoon, you will embark on an enjoyable guided city tour of Arequipa. This tour will allow you to explore Arequipa's Plaza de Armas (Main Square) – one of most beautiful in Perú, the Cathedral, the church and cloister of Jesus Company, the Church of San Francisco and the Convent of Santa Catalina. This Convent was closed to visitors and shrouded in secrecy for more than 400 years so we are very lucky to be able to visit this 16<sup>th</sup> century wonder. The Convent has a colourful history and is likened to stepping back in time to a forgotten world of narrow twisting streets, tiny plazas and beautiful courtyards.

Also included this afternoon you will discover the areas surrounding Arequipa city. Spend some time visiting the beautiful districts of Yanahuara, known as the "balcony of Arequipa"; Caima with its colonial church; and Sabandia known for its typical 18<sup>th</sup> century water mill.

We will then transfer you back to your hotel so that you can rest and freshen up before dinner.

Overnight Arequipa

**Meals included:** Breakfast & dinner

#### **DAY 6: Arequipa – Colca Canyon**

After your fulfilling breakfast, we will pick you up from your hotel and begin our scenic drive to the Colca Canyon.

On route you will spot groups of vicuñas (wild South American camelids) in their natural habitat. We stop at Patapampa, also called *the window of the Andes*, and is situated at 4,820 metres above sea level (16,051 feet). From here experience magical views over the beautiful Valley of the Volcanoes as well as the Mismi Volcano.

After we have completed our spectacular descent into the Colca Canyon we will stop for a delicious lunch. This afternoon we will begin our travel through the majestic canyon making our way to Chivay to stop for the night at our hotel.

The people living in the Colca Canyon region are known for their traditional clothing, especially the women's clothes. Their dresses and jackets are beautifully embroidered, and their hats are distinctive. In the Chivay area their white hats are woven from straw and are embellished with lace, sequins and badges.

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Upon arrival in Chivay enjoy free time to visit the La Calera Hot Springs.

Overnight Colca Canyon

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

### **DAY 7: Colca Canyon - Arequipa**

In order to maximise our chance of seeing condors on the journey today, we will depart very early and travel towards the "Cross of the Condor".

From the lookout, the view is impressive, with the river flowing 1200m below. After your breathtaking experience watching the condors fly through the canyon, you can choose to walk down into the Colca Canyon for a short trek. This enables you to see this magnificent canyon up close.

Driving a little further into the canyon there is the possibility see some pre-Inca ruins and watch the way of life in this remote land. The landscape throughout the canyon is remarkable for its Inca and pre-Inca terracing which goes on for many kilometres. There are several villages along the way who continue to use these terraces today.

From here we return to Chivay for lunch and continue our journey back to Arequipa. We will arrive back at Arequipa at approximately 5.00pm where we will transfer you to your hotel.

Overnight Arequipa

**Meals included:** Breakfast & lunch

### **DAY 8: 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

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## **DAY 9: Puno - Uros and Amantaní floating islands on Lake Titikaka**

Today you will transfer from the hotel to the lake port in Puno for an unforgettable boat excursion to the Uros and Amantaní islands. At the port you can buy fresh fruits to take to the islands as gifts.

After just a 45minute boat ride, we will visit the floating islands of the Uros people. Here you will have the opportunity to appreciate traditional aspects of their life, like fishing, hunting ducks, and living and constructing nearly everything out of reeds.

Afterwards, we will re-board the boat and travel to Amantaní Island. On the port, we will meet our local host families and walk to their houses.

Lunch will be provided by your host family and you then have free time to explore the island. Nearly the entire island is covered in terraces reinforced with stone walls. Although not architectural masterpieces, the volume of stone that has been moved and placed into position by hand to create the terraces over the centuries is incredible.

In the late afternoon meet at the central plaza to walk to the top of the island to watch the amazing sunset. (Make sure you rug up for the cold as it can be quite windy up top). Return to your host families for dinner and an evening of traditional entertainment.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Overnight with local families

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## **DAY 10: Amantani – Taquile – Puno**

After enjoying breakfast with your host families, saying goodbye and giving gifts for the children (pens, pencils, notebooks, fruit etc.), you will travel by boat 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. Upon arrival, we will transfer you to the hotel in Puno for your overnight stay.

Overnight Puno

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## **DAY 11: PUNO - 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 Cuzco

**Meals included:** Breakfast & dinner

## **DAY 12: CUZCO – CLOUD FOREST, SAN PEDRO LODGE**

We leave Cusco early in the morning in specialised overland vehicles. Approximately mid-morning we visit the interesting Pre- Inca tombs of Ninamarca, commonly known as "Chullpas". We continue to Paucartambo, a picturesque Spanish colonial town, and then to the Acjanacu pass, which marks the beginning of the Cultural Zone of Manu Biosphere Reserve. Here, a thick cloak of cloud provides perpetual humidity and makes an ideal habitat for epiphytic plants such as bromeliads. This varied and fascinating world is home of the Cock of the Rock, Spectacled Bear, Orchids, Tree Ferns (one of the oldest living plants), mosses and lichens. This cloud forest exists between 2000 and 3500 meters above sea level and at least 50% of the plant species found here are endemic to this region.

**Overnight at Orchids lodge "San Pedro".**

**Meals included:** Lunch & dinner

## **DAY 13: Cloud Forest – Atalaya – Erica Lodge**

Today we wake up very early to observe the Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola peruviana*), Peru's national bird. The male birds are a vibrant reddish orange and at about 5:00am as many as several dozen come together for an exhibition of a ritual mating dance. We observe this show comfortably installed on an observation platform called a "Lek". The males display their crest, showing off and posturing for the females. The females, fewer in number, watch to select the most suitable males.

After breakfast we have an optional mountain bike ride. If you choose you will continue by bike down the narrow road between waterfalls and canyons toward Pilcopata town for 2 hours approximately where we will have lunch. For those travelers who prefer not to bike ride we will take a leisurely walk along the road looking for wildlife before we take our bus the rest of the way to Pilcopata town.

After lunch there is another optional tour. Here in Pilcopata you can embark on a 3 hour tropical jungle river rafting trip down the Kosñipata river where we will have the opportunity for a dip and of course enjoy the spectacular view of the Koñeq canyon. (Grade 1 rapids) Continuing down the tropical river of Alto Madre de Dios to Erika Lodge.

If you choose not to take the trip on the raft you will instead take a 30 minute bus ride to the port of Atalaya where we will board our covered outboard motor boat and head down the Alto Madre de Dios River for approximately 30 minutes towards "Erika Lodge" where we will spend the next two nights.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

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## **DAY 14: Erika Lodge – Boca Manu - Reserved Zone**

**Free Optional Canopy Tour:** Those guests who would like to take this tour will do so early this morning. At Erika Lodge, our guests traverse from tree to tree and platform to platform using pulleys on horizontal traverse cables zip lines), as they sail through the treetops of the tropical rainforest canopy, and over the trails far below. Expert guides assist you in this exciting journey through the different layers of the virgin rain forests and explain what's going on around you, from the time you leave the ground, until you rappel back down to the forest floor.

After breakfast we leave Erika Lodge and board our riverboat for a four-hour ride down the Alto Madre de Dios River to Boca Manu town. During our voyage we may see bird species typical of the river or forest edge such as: Black Skimmer, Pied Lapwing, Capped Heron, Jabiru Stork, and several species of kingfishers, swallows and flycatchers.

Boca Manu's village is situated a short distance from the confluence of the Manu River with the Alto Madre de Dios River a place where you can buy your last fresh supplies and cold drinks before setting off again in the riverboat. Now we enter the Manu River and the Reserved Zone, and this evening we will stay overnight in some local jungle lodges. This evening we will take a short walk around the area.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## **DAY 15: Boca Manu – Reserved Zone – Salvador Lake**

We depart our camp very early this morning and after a ten minute boat ride, we will arrive at a Parrot Lick called a "Collpa", which is a wall of clay in the riverbank. Many species of parrots such as the blue headed parrot, the white-eyed parakeet, the dusky-headed parrot the chestnut fronted macaw and others feed here for mineral and salt supplements to their diet of seeds and fruits. After registering in the official tourist logbook at Limonal, the Park Rangers Headquarters and eating an early breakfast, we will continue travel up the Manu River for 4 hours approximately into the pristine heart of the reserve. Here we will leave the final traces of human habitation behind us. We arrive Salvador Lake, our base safari campsite (screened dining room, toilets / showers and radio communication is available).

Differences in wildlife abundance will be noted immediately as we will begin to sight macaws, herons, kingfishers and cormorants frequently and improve our chances of encounters with capybaras, caiman, storks, ducks and other wildlife, you will often see animals sunning themselves on beaches, or foraging for food in the trees lining the riverbanks. This boat ride gives us the opportunity to observe the immensity of the rainforest. We arrive early in the afternoon and have lunch before setting off on a jungle trail although at this time of day mammals and birds are not as active as in the early morning, we will concentrate on the forest itself and discuss general rain forest ecology.

In the late afternoon we will return to the lodge.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

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## **DAY 16: Reserved Zone – Salvador Lake**

We rise early this morning, as the forest is awakened by the Red Howler monkey (*Aloatta seniculus*) declaring its territory. A morning walk before breakfast is a great way to catch wildlife in the pursuit of food, as the temperature is very pleasant at this time of day. We explore Salvador Lake by paddling quietly along on a catamaran, giving us the opportunity to observe unique species of birds, monkeys, caimans and with luck the Giant Otter family (*Pteronura brasiliensis*). This endangered species can be seen swimming, fishing, eating and playing.

After we enjoy lunch, we cross the river to walk an 8-km trail to another oxbow lake called Otorongo. This forest, which is estimated to be 200 to 300 years old and includes truly huge Ceiba trees and Strangler figs, and is home to several mammals that are occasionally encountered: Saddleback tamarins, Squirrel, Spider and Brown Capuchin Monkeys, the Collared and the white lipped peccaries. At the lake a strategically located observation tower rises 15 meters above the lake and the jungle floor, from the top you not only get spectacular view of the lake and the surrounding forest but also excellent opportunities to observe birds from the canopy. This tower also gives us more chances to observe wildlife including the Giant Otter. Back at Salvador Lake, late in the afternoon we will use the catamaran and with the help of flashlights we can observe the black caimans rise from the depths of the lake and begin their search for prey. Return to the safari lodge.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## **DAY 17: Reserved Zone – Salvador Lake – Boca Manu**

Once again we wake early, to walk around Salvador Lake and then pack up and slowly go down stream along the fascinating Manu River. We arrive at approximately 3pm at the Valley's Island that belongs to a Native family and it's possible to do a short walk through the forest to observe American bullfrogs, horned frogs, tree frogs and an incredible variety of colourful insects.

We continue to Boca Manu's Village, situated a short distance from the confluence of the Manu and Alto Madre de Dios rivers. From here we descend the Madre de Dios River arriving Juan de Dios Reserve and spend one more night at the Lodge in this magical Amazon jungle.

Tonight there is the possibility to take a short night walk.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## **DAY 18: Boca Manu - Cusco**

Around mid morning we board our river boat to return to the airstrip at Boca Manu. From here you will return to Cusco by plane. This flight from Boca Manu to Cusco offers spectacular views of the surrounding jungle and the area's meandering rivers.

We will be met at Cuzco airport and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight Cuzco

**Meals included:** Breakfast & dinner

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## **DAY 19: CUZCO**

Today have breakfast in the hotel and enjoy a half-day city tour of Cuzco – the centre of the Inca Empire.

Visit the Main Square, the Cathedral and the Temple of the Sun or Korikancha. Then, we drive out of the City to visit the Inca sites of Kenko, Tambomachay, Puca Pucara and the impressive Fortress of Sacsayhuaman situated high on the hill looking over Cusco city.

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 20: CUZCO – AGUAS CALIENTES – MACHU PICCHU**

After your fulfilling breakfast we will transfer you to Cuzco train station for your train to Aguas Caliente. The train follows the Urubamba River as it tumbles its way towards the Amazon and the sacred city of Machu Picchu.

When you arrive at Aguas Calientes take a short walk to your hotel. The rest of the day, you can explore Aguas Calientes and soak in the hot springs.

Overnight Aguas Calientes

**Meals included:** Breakfast & lunch

## **DAY 21: Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu - Cuzco**

Today you can 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 cloud-forest on a recently discovered Inca pathway trail to the seldom visited Temple of the Moon. Later in the afternoon return to Cuzco by vistadome train.

Overnight Cuzco

**Meals included:** Breakfast & dinner

## **DAY 22: 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, you can try our bargaining skills with the savvy market venders in the ancient Inca village of Pisaq.

After all that shopping and bargaining, we will stop for lunch at a local restaurant in the valley. In the afternoon, we 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, lunch & dinner

## **DAY 23: Sacred Valley - Cuzco city**

This morning we will depart early from Urubamba for our paragliding flights over the Sacred Valley. Spend the morning on the side of the beautiful Andes Mountains where a fulfilling lunch will be supplied after your flight.

After lunch on the way back to Cuzco we will embark on a special private tour of a local Alpaca farm & factory. Here you will discover the many uses of Alpaca wool in the Cuzquenian lifestyle.

Overnight Cuzco

**Meals included:** Breakfast & lunch

## **DAY 24: CUZCO – URUBAMBA RIVER WHITE WATER RAFTING**

This morning you will be picked up at your hotel, and we will drive for one and a half hours to the put-in and our campground on the shores of the Upper Urubamba River. Our professional Rafting Guides will give you a safety talk and provide you with all the proper equipment for Rafting. We will then cruise easily down the river for two and a half hours, running class II and III, introductory type rapids.

When we arrive at the take-out our private bus will be waiting to take us back to CASA CUSI (our campground), where a hot Sauna will be waiting and a full course lunch will be provided. We will spend the night at "CASA CUSI", where we have a thatched roof camping area with comfortable dining area, a sauna and hot tub, hammocks and excellent food. You will fall asleep under the whisper of the river.

Camping by the Urubamba River

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

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## **DAY 25: URUBAMBA RIVER WHITE WATER RAFTING – CUZCO**

After a relaxing Sauna and a good night sleep, we get up for a healthy breakfast and drive up river to the CHUQUICAHUANA (CHUQUI) section of the river, where we will be running class III plus & IV rapids.

Here we will include some extra safety such as a Kayaker or a Cataract. After about 2 and a half hours, we arrive back at "CASA CUSI", where a BBQ meal will be served.

Afterwards we drive back to Cusco arriving in the late afternoon.

Tonight we meet for dinner at a fabulous restaurant in Cuzco

Overnight Cuzco

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## **DAY 26: Peru's Challenge community project**

Today, we are going to visit the rural community of Pumamarca on the outskirts of Cuzco. Here you can help the Peru's Challenge volunteers at the school and have the opportunity to meet the kids and some of the families of the communities.

We will then take a short walk through the fields to the Inca ruins within the Pumamarca community to enjoy a picnic lunch.

After lunch, we return to the school to observe the Parents Group as they learn new skills in weaving, ceramics, jewellery making and the making of cards. In the afternoon we return to Cuzco and transfer to the hotel.

Tonight is an evening of great food and dance with an entertaining folkloric show at one of Cuzco's great restaurants.

Overnight Cuzco

**Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## **DAY 27: Cuzco - Lima**

Today it is time to say 'hasta luego' to Peru.

You will be transferred from the hotel to Cuzco airport to take your flight to Lima and will then meet your connecting international flight home.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

END OF OUR SERVICES

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