

A TASTE OF PERU: MID-RANGE TOUR

LIMA, CUSCO, MACHU PICCHU, PERU'S CHALLENGE SITE, LIMA

Duration: 7 days / 6 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
- Visit a local Chica factory in the Sacred Valley
- Overnight in Aguas Calientes near Machu Picchu – visit the site at dawn
- Dinner at a traditional Peruvian Restaurant in Cuzco
- Visit the Peru's Challenge Community project at Pumamarca

PERU

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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 - Cuzco

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Cusco. On arrival in Cusco you will have time to settle into your hotel.

Have lunch at a popular restaurant close to your hotel.

This afternoon we will 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 4: Cuzco - 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

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DAY 5: 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 6: Peru's Challenge

Today, we will visit the rural community of Pumamarca on the outskirts of Cuzco. Here we will 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 will return to the school to observe the Parents Group as they learn new skills in weaving, ceramics, jewellery making and the making of cards.

We will then return to Cuzco and transfer to your hotel.

Tonight we will have dinner at a traditional Peruvian restaurant.

Overnight Cuzco

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 7: 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

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