

## CUZCO CITY TOUR

**Duration:** Half or full day tour

**Fitness level:** Low

**Includes:**

- English speaking professional guide
- Private transport

**Not included:**

- Tourist ticket approximately US\$25 per person
- Entry to Korikancha & the Cathedral approximately US\$8 per person
- Tips for the guide



**Highlights of the Cuzco City tour:**

**THE CATHEDRAL:** This spectacular building is the main feature of Cuzco's Plaza de Armas. Built in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century over the Inca palace of Suntur Wasi, its construction took almost a century (94 years). The high altar is solid silver and the original altar is a masterpiece of Andean wood carving. Artists from Cuzco and Europe worked in its design. **The most important places are the chapel of Virgin of the Remedies and Inmaculada Concepción and others.**

**KORIKANCHA:** The *Temple of the Sun* was constructed when the Inca King Pachacutec governed. It served as the house of the Inca who taught the worshipping of the Sun and where chosen virgins were sacrificed to the main God. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Santo Domingo church was built on walls of the temple. Excavation has revealed more than five chambers of the *Temple of the Sun*, which shows the best Inca stonework to be seen in Cuzco. It is known as one of the most important temples built by the Incas.

**SAQSAYHUAMAN :** These ruins are located 2kms to the north of Cuzco. In the Inca times the city of Cuzco had the shape of Puma (a scared animal in the Inca times, representing strength) with the Saqsayhuaman site as its head.

This important Inca site was destroyed by the Spanish. Still today we can see the ruins of the fabulous cyclopean walls, where some of stones used are more than five meters high and weigh more than 350 tonnes. These incredible walls were constructed with the help of thousand's of workers lead by the Inca King Pachacutec and the stones are fitted together with absolute perfection. Saqsayhuaman was thought for centuries to be a fortress, but the layout and architecture suggest a great sanctuary and temple to the sun.

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**LUNCH:** We will stop for lunch at one of the many restaurants in Cuzco (drinks not included). Here you will experience a delicious traditional Peruvian meal.

After lunch you have the option to finish your tour and return to your hotel. Alternatively continue on with us to visit some of the other fascinating Inca sites surrounding Cuzco.

**QENQO:** The word Qenqo means maze. Here the Incas used to worship and study the stars. The stones in this site represent a cougar which wakes up on the start of the winter solstice (June 24). Underneath the stones and rocks are subterranean corridors, a quick but mysterious tour which we will enjoy.

**PUKAPUKARA:** Pukapukara literally means "Red Fortress" and this site was an administrative and military centre for the Incas. Here we will find aqueducts, short terraces, passages, turrets, and niches. This site also affords a magnificent view over the valley.

**TAMBOMACHAY:** Tambomachay consists of a beautifully wrought ceremonial stone bath and is therefore popularly known as *El Bano del Inca* or the Inca's Bath. Water still flows by a hidden channel out of the masonry wall, straight into the stone bath. This site was considered a place of worship to the important resource of water.

END OF OUR SERVICES

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