Itinerary

9 Day Best of Peru & Machu Picchu

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Arrive in Lima, Peru

Welcome to Peru! Upon arrival you will be greeted at the airport by our tour representative and transferred to your hotel.

In the afternoon, you will embark on a Lima City Tour. On this fantastic guided tour of Lima you will explore the beautiful and fascinating City of Kings. You will visit iconic places that are rich in history. There will be plenty of picturesque churches and exquisite colonial architecture.

Begin your journey by travelling thousands of years into the past. Your first stop will be the ancient ceremonial centre called “Huaca Pucllana”, which was built centuries before the arrival of the Spanish.

Next, you will drive into the centre of the city so you can stroll around the main square, the Plaza de Armas of Lima. Here you will find imposing architecture which was built a very long time ago. Also, on the main square is the grandiose Lima Cathedral. After that you can tour the Santo Domingo convent and its extensive monastery.

MEALS: Nil

OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION): Allpa Hotel & Suites, Lima

OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION): Casa Andina Miraflores Centro, Lima

Day 2: Lima ~ Cusco

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be picked up from your hotel to transfer to the airport for a short flight to Cusco. On arrival, you will be picked up and transferred to your hotel for check-in. Spend the rest of the day at your own leisure or take advantage of one of our optional tours.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION): Royal Inka I, Cusco

OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION): Casa Andina Standard Cusco Plaza, Cusco

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

- Cusco City Tour

- Cooking Class
- Folklore Show and Dinner

Day 3: Cusco Free Day

Enjoy the whole day at your own leisure exploring Cusco. Alternatively, you can take advantage of one of our optional tours.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION): Royal Inka I, Cusco

OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION): Casa Andina Standard Cusco Plaza, Cusco

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

- Sacred Valley
- Super Sacred Valley & Maras Moray
- Rainbow Mountain
- Maras Moray

Day 4: Cusco ~ Aguas Calinetes

This morning you will be picked up at 8am to head to the train station to board the train to Aguas Calientes, the gateway to Machu Picchu! The train leaves at approximately 11:30am (time may change depending on availability and changes to timetable). After a 2-hour journey of majestic views you will arrive at Aguas Calientes to spend the night. Also known as Machu Picchu Pueblo, this town lies in a deep gorge below the ruins. As a virtual island, it's cut off from all roads and enclosed by stone cliffs, towering cloud forest, and two rushing rivers. Aguas Calientes is surrounded by thermal hot springs, on arrival there will be plenty of time to relax and enjoy a hot bath in the natural springs.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION): Humantay Hotel, Aguas Calinetes

OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION): Casa Andina Machu Picchu, Aguas Calinetes

Day 5: The Marvellous Machu Picchu! ~ Cusco

Wake up early and enjoy breakfast before your guide collects you from the hotel at approximately 5:40am. You will then travel by bus to the entrance of Machu Picchu for your early-morning visit. Depending on the

weather and your confirmed entry time, you may have the opportunity to see the sun rising over the surrounding mountains and archaeological site.

Accompanied by your guide, explore Machu Picchu on an approximately two-hour walking tour. Your visit will follow the specific circuit and entry time confirmed on your entrance ticket. Each circuit follows a designated route and includes different viewpoints, terraces, temples and archaeological areas.

IMPORTANT – MACHU PICCHU CIRCUITS: Machu Picchu entrance tickets are limited and must be secured for a specific circuit, route and entry time. We aim to secure **Circuit 2A, Circuit 2B or Circuit 3B** ; however, your preferred circuit cannot be guaranteed and will be subject to availability after your booking has been made.

Circuits 2A and 2B provide a more comprehensive visit through the citadel. Circuit 2A includes the elevated classic viewpoint, while Circuit 2B includes a lower terrace viewpoint. Circuit 3B explores the lower royal and urban areas of Machu Picchu and generally involves less climbing.

These circuits are popular and can sell out several months in advance, particularly during peak travel periods. We strongly recommend booking as early as possible to improve the likelihood of securing one of these preferred routes.

If Circuits 2A, 2B and 3B are unavailable, the local supplier will attempt to secure a suitable route within Circuit 1. Circuit 1 is primarily a panoramic route and offers elevated views of Machu Picchu, but it does not include the same level of access through the main archaeological areas as Circuits 2 and 3.

If no suitable Machu Picchu entrance tickets are available, we will contact you to discuss the available options before proceeding.

Please note that visitors must remain on their confirmed circuit and follow the designated one-way route. It is not possible to change circuits on the day, return to previously visited sections or independently explore areas outside the confirmed route. The exact sites and viewpoints visited will therefore depend on the circuit secured.

Following your guided visit, take the bus back down to Aguas Calientes, where you will have time for lunch at your own expense. Later, board the train to Poroy. Upon arrival at the train station, you will be met and transferred back to your hotel in Cusco.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION): Royal Inka I, Cusco

OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION): Casa Andina Standard Cusco Plaza, Cusco

Day 6: Cusco ~ Puno, Lake Titicaca

After breakfast, you'll be picked up from your hotel at 06h00 and dropped off at the bus station to take a bus trip, more like a tour - a guide will be on board, and you'll stop at four exciting sites: Andahuaylillas, Raqchi (Wiracocha God Temple), La Raya and Pukara. Andahuaylillas is the Sistine Chapel of South America. This church is one of the most beautiful examples of Andean popular religious art. Raqchi was an Inca church of considerable dimensions; 328 feet long, 85 feet wide and 45 feet high. The temple is divided into two naves, and each nave has 11 large columns. La Raya is the half-way point between Cusco and Puno and also the highest point (14,222 feet above sea level). The landscapes here are

stunning and typical Andean animals like the llama, alpaca and vicuña are familiar sights. It is also the geographic border between two cultures - Quechua and Aymara. Finally, Pukara is the most important and oldest ceremonial centre of the altiplano which holds new lite-sculptures and tombs. After you will proceed to Puno and arrive at about 5pm.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION): Casona Plaza Puno, Puno

OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION): Casa Andina Standard Puno, Puno

Day 7: Uros floating, Taquile & Luquina islands

After breakfast between 7.00am and 8 am, we will take you from the hotel to the port of Puno; there you will board the motorboat to the floating Islands of Uros, located 25 minutes from the port of Puno. More than 65 small islands are still there today and you will visit two. While visiting the guide will explain a little about the history and lifestyle of the people that have been living in these floating islands for many years, you will also have the opportunity to talk with the people of these islands and visit their homes and learn a little about their lifestyle.

Afterward, we will sail towards "Taquile Island," which takes approximately two hours. On the island is a traditional Quechua speaking community, full of ancient agricultural terraces and some ruins dating back to the pre-Inca times. The Taquile population was relatively isolated from the mainland until the 1950s, and the notion of the community and family is still powerful among them. The weaving tradition of this Island goes back to early civilizations, thus keeps elements from pre-Inca Andean cultures alive in the present. The most original garments are the "Chullo," a knitted hat with an earflap; and "The Calendar Waistband," depicting the annual cycles connected to ritual and agricultural activities. When you reach the island, you walk up along a narrow path, enjoying impressive views of Lake Titicaca and seeing gorgeous little houses inhabited by the direct descendants of the Inca Culture. You will then have free time to explore the Island on your own, and afterward, you will meet the group for lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, we will go down to the harbour to take a boat to continue with a one-hour boat ride to the peninsula Chucuito. The remarkable thing about this place is that the tourist feel it is new. The inhabitants of this place are very willing to receive visitors in their community, you will be welcomed directly by the families, and they will take you to their homes and spend the night. Karina community has Lake Titicaca, and hence you will be able to do activities like fishing and farming.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION): Traditional Home Stay, Luquina islands

OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION): Traditional Home Stay, Luquina islands

Day 8: Luquina Island ~ Puno

Today we will enjoy the breakfast with our host family, and then we will participate in the local activities provided. Then we will have lunch and finally, say goodbye to the local family and go down to the harbour to take the boat. Afterward, we will sail towards Puno, which takes approximately two hours. We arrive back to Puno at around 5:00 pm.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION): Casona Plaza Puno, Puno

OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION): Casa Andina Standard Puno, Puno

Day 9: Puno ~ Lima ~ End of Tour

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Juliaca airport for a short flight back to Lima. At Lima airport your tour will end and you can stay on in Peru or take your onward flight home. We hope you enjoyed travelling with us!

MEALS: Breakfast