

HIGHLIGHTS OF CUSCO AND MACHU PICCHU

Day 1 Cusco

On arrival to Cusco our representative will meet you at the airport to take you to your hotel. The rest of the morning will be free to relax and acclimatize.

In the afternoon your guide will meet you at your hotel for a private walking tour of the city. We will visit Nazarenas square, the artisan's neighborhood of San Blas and its beautiful colonial church, on the way we will visit the famous 12 angle stone and returning from San Blas we will visit the main square of Cusco. We will continue to the market of San Pedro, a vibrant, colorful market giving you an inside look at the local culture of the city. From the market we will take our car to the archaeological sites of Sacsayhuaman and Qenko. Finishing back at your hotel.

The rest of the afternoon is free. This is a good moment to do some shopping. Cusco offers high quality garment in Alpaca wool, silver jewelry, and other fine handicrafts.

Note: If you prefer you can opt to have a SIC (Seat-in-Coach Basis Tour, which means you will share an air-conditioned coach or van with other tourists and you will have an english speaking guide) or Private City Tour with your own english speaking guide and transport. The itinerary starts visiting the Cathedral of Cusco on the Plaza de Armas and continuously the temple of Qoricancha, also known as the temple of the Sun. After these visits, we will continue to the upper part of Cusco to visit several archaeological sites. The first stop will be at Sacsayhuaman, a ceremonial complex of the Incas. We will also visit Qenqo, Puka Pukara and Tambomachay. At the end, we will return to Cusco and drop you off at your hotel.

Overnight in Cusco
No meals included

Day 2 Sacred Valley

This will be a full day tour where you will enjoy the varied landscapes of the beautiful Río Urubamba Valley, known as "Valle Sagrado de los Incas", along the way we can see attractive colonial towns and isolated villages of indigenous communities that continue their tradition for weaving, pottery and agriculture. Main attractions will be the handicraft markets and the lofty Inca citadels of Pisac and Ollantaytambo, it is definitely the perfect match between a cultural experience, the andean sunlight and delicious typical food.

We will visit first the famous Pisac Colorful Indian market to see the handicrafts and taste delicious empanadas baked in huge typical ovens. Afterwards, continue to the Pisac ruins above the town for a visit of the Sun Temple and admire the many surrounding terraces. We will continue to Urubamba to enjoy lunch, then off to one of the original Inca towns of Ollantaytambo to be amazed by the ruins that sit in front of the quaint town. At the end of our tour we check-in to our hotel in the Sacred Valley.

Overnight in the Sacred Valley
Breakfast and lunch included

Day 3 Short Inca Trail - Machu Picchu

Transfer to the train station of Ollantaytambo to take the scenic train journey to the starting point of the trail. We disembark at Km 104 to begin the hike of the recently discovered ancient Inca trail to Machu Picchu. We cross the Vilcanota (Urubamba) River climbing up through abundant vegetation that is home for hundreds of bird and orchid species. We will emerge from the cloud forest at Wiñaywayna which is a beautiful ceremonial site divided into two sectors and fashioned from finely-carved stones fitted together with great precision. We will continue our hike to the Sun Gate where we will get our first views of Machu Picchu; here, the final stretch of the royal Inca trail will take us to the citadel itself, hidden in undergrowth for four centuries and now laid out for our appreciation. From the Sanctuary we will take the bus to Aguas Calientes town and to your hotel.

Note: Keep in mind that for the Inca Trail you will need a trekking permit; permits usually sell out and it is advisable to book this tour at least three months in advance in order to have the permits confirmed. If the Inca trail is fully booked we can organize a day hike in the Sacred Valley or you can travel by train to Machu Picchu and hike to the lesser know parts of Machu Picchu area.

Overnight in Aguas Calientes town.
Breakfast and box lunch included

Day 4 Machu Picchu

After breakfast your guide will accompany you for an early bus for the sunrise at Machu Picchu. The first buses start leaving at 5.30am and take 30 minutes to get to Machu Picchu. The doors to Machu Picchu open at 6am. You will have about 4 hours for your visit in the Citadel when you will be able to enjoy this magnificent place before the crowds arrive later in the morning. Our professional guide will slowly show you around the main areas recounting myths and legends passed down over the centuries and explaining about some of the advanced building techniques the Incas used. After the tour will be time to head back down to the town by bus. Here you can find many restaurants offering lunch and afterwards you will board the return train through the Sacred Valley to Poroy town with a transfer back to Cusco arriving at approximately 8.30pm

Overnight in Cusco
Breakfast included

Day 5: Fly to Lima

It is time to say goodbye to Cusco, at a scheduled time, we will transfer you to Cusco airport for your flight to Lima, then you will have time to relax until your scheduled international flight.

Optionally we can offer you a transfer service to Miraflores where you have plenty of restaurant options for lunch or simply walk down the Malecon and a convenient time a pick up for the airport for your international flight.

Breakfast included

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