

Peru Private Journey

MAGICAL MACHU PICCHU AND THE LAND OF THE INCAS



WHEN TO GO

January to December

For our Private Journey trips, you choose your own group and your preferred dates—there are no set departure dates. Private Journeys are available to groups as few as two people or as large as you like. While many guests choose to book this tour exactly as is, our Area Specialists can work with you to customize it to your wishes. Contact us for availability, questions, or to book your adventure!



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Peru Private Journey

MAGICAL MACHU PICCHU AND THE LAND OF THE INCAS

Discover the spectacular land of the sun-worshipping Incas, with its breathtaking mountain landscapes, mystical fortress-cities, and thriving cultural and artistic heritage. With your private guide, you'll head out to the beautiful Urubamba Valley, sacred to the Incas, to explore the stupendous ruins of Písac, with its Inca-built terracing, and majestic Ollantaytambo, the hilltop fortress where rebel Manco Inca and his men held out against Pizarro's forces. You'll experience two days at glorious Machu Picchu, a stunning city of stone perched on a sheer precipice 1,500 feet above the Urubamba River. So well hidden in the jungle-covered ramparts of the Cordillera Vilcabamba that the Spaniards never knew of it, this "lost city" allows a vivid experience of the Inca world. In Cusco, enjoy an insider's walking tour of the ancient heart of the Inca Empire, and nearby Inca sites including awe-inspiring Saqsayhuaman, the majestic fortress overlooking city.

ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—and enjoy the WT touch on all aspects of the journey.



Wilderness Travel

1102 Ninth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

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Itinerary

This private journey includes optional hikes and excursions to nearby ruins that you should request when confirming your trip.

DAY 1

ARRIVE / LIMA, PERU

Welcome to the capital of Peru! Lima is renowned as one of the great gastronomic capitals of the world. It also offers exceptional museums, a wide spectrum of arts and crafts from all parts of the country, and many cultural delights. Upon arrival, you'll make your way to the Wyndham Costa Del Sol Lima Airport Hotel, which is conveniently located within a two-minute walk across the street from the international terminal. If you have time, you may want to explore the Miraflores district, centrally located with lots of fantastic dining options. Meals are on your own today. Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 2

CUSCO / PÍSAC / SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS

This morning, take a spectacular flight over the Andes to Cusco (11,200'). On arrival, you are met by your guide for a private morning tour of the important Inca ruins overlooking Cusco, including Q'enqo (Kenko), a great rock monolith artfully carved to take advantage of its natural shape, perhaps that of a sitting puma. Stairs lead to the top of the rock where there are more fascinating carvings. Continue to Tambo Machay, built to incorporate a natural spring that emerges from the hillside, and Puca Pucara, an ancient Inca road checkpoint.

You'll then head out to the beautiful Urubamba Valley, home of the stupendous ruins of Písac, a fortress that is still an enigma to archaeologists. It was a classic Inca pucara, a huge defended area into which the entire population of a wide area could retreat during a military threat, but despite its natural defenses, the Incas made no stand here against the Spaniards. Písac is particularly well known for the Inca-built terracing that sweeps around the mountain spur on which the ruin is perched. The fine Inca terracing of the landscape around Písac reflects a level of engineering ingenuity unrivaled anywhere else in South America. On your tour, you hike past the largest known Inca burial site, explore the temple complex, and visit the village below, which has excellent artisan shops. Overnight in the Urubamba Valley...BL (Hotel Pakaritampu) BLD (Hotel Rio Sagrado)

Active Option: Beginning in a small village at 12,000 feet in the Urubamba Valley, descend past one of the oldest Inca cemeteries known to archaeology, where bodies have been set into caves in the high cliffs. Continue your hike right down to fantastic Písac, a famous temple ruin clinging to a mountain spur. After a picnic lunch with views high over the Urubamba Valley, descend further



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	8 days
Arrive:	Lima, Peru
Depart:	Cusco, Peru
Lodging:	7 nights in hotels, including overnight at Machu Picchu
Meals:	All meals included except 1 lunch and 3-5 dinners depending on lodging choice (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Archaeology, Cultural Adventures, Walking
Trip Level:	1 2 3 4 5 6 Easy walking and cultural touring at elevations to 11,500 feet

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the mystical wonder of Machu Picchu
- Explore stunning Inca monuments and Quechua villages in the Sacred Valley
- Roam the back streets of Cusco, ancient capital of the Incas

Itinerary (cont'd)

into the lovely colonial town of Písac. After exploring the town, continue to your hotel in the late afternoon.

Hiking Time: Approximately 4 hours

Classic Accommodation: Hotel Pakaritampu

Optional Upgrade: Hotel Rio Sagrado

(See the Lodging section for photos and descriptions)

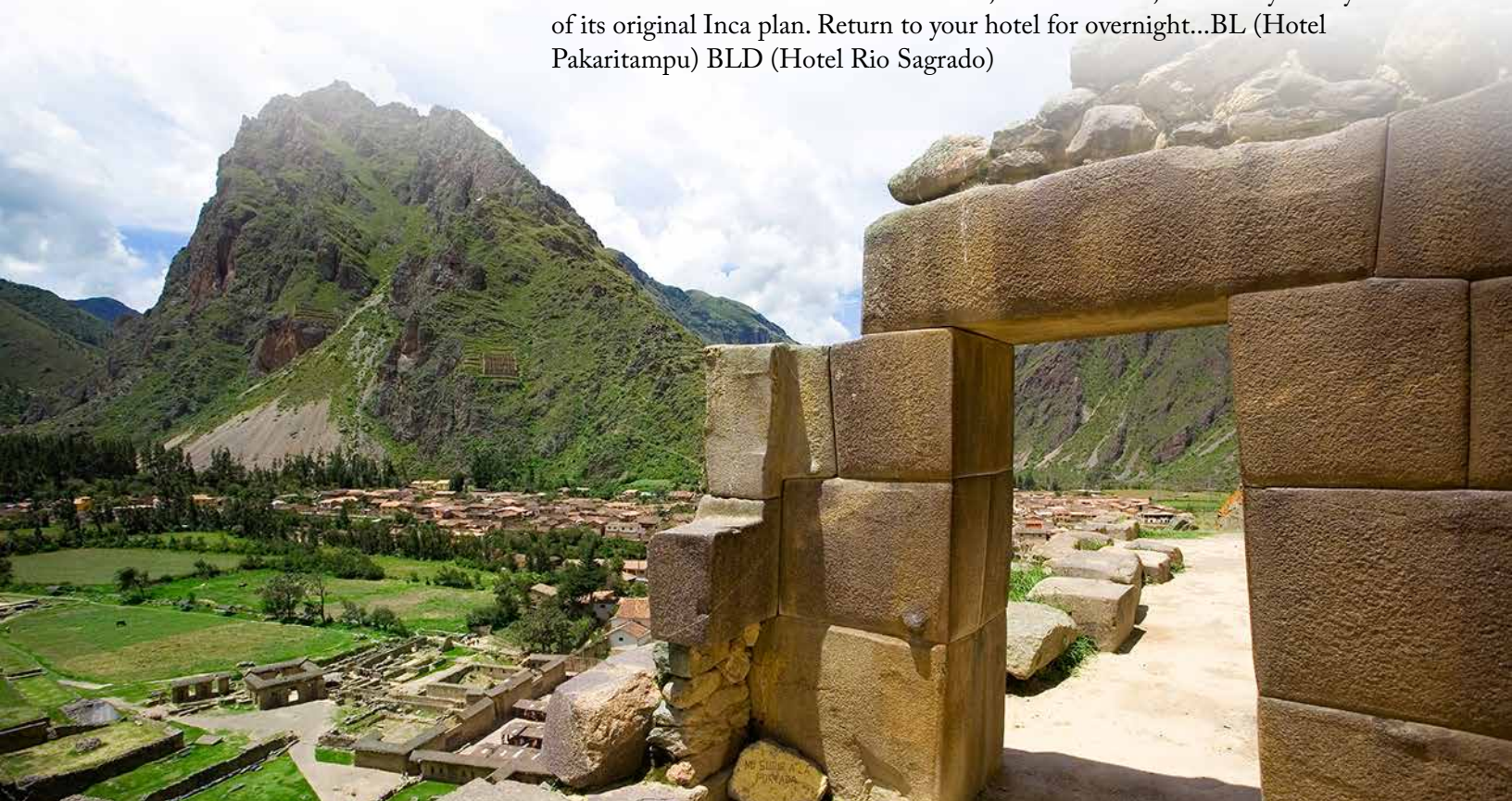
“The itinerary was well planned and everything went very smoothly. The hotels were comfortable, their surroundings were beautiful, and their staffs were gracious and helpful. We have traveled extensively in North America and Europe and have never before been on a tour of any kind. This was a unique experience and we are delighted to have done it.”

Sandra S., West Falls, NY

DAY 3

CHINCHERO / OLLANTAYTAMBO / SACRED VALLEY

The Urubamba Valley was sacred to the Incas for many reasons, a key one being that it has an agreeable climate and fertile plains, a rare combination in the high Andes. It is also the route to the jungle, from which the Incas liked to bring tropical fruits and plants including coca, which was used in rituals. This morning, visit Chinchero, an old colonial settlement built upon Inca foundations atop a mesa overlooking the valley. The small market here is wonderful, with its traditionally dressed Quechua people and an excellent selection of weavings and handicrafts. Later, explore the major temple-fortress of Ollantaytambo and the classic village below it. Majestic Ollantaytambo, set out on a river cliff at the lower edge of a canyon, is the fortress where rebel Manco Inca and his men held out against Pizarro's forces in one of the only battles the Spaniards lost. At its top are huge granite blocks that mark an unfinished sun temple where the mummified remains of Inca nobles were buried. The charming traditional village below the ruins is a “living” Inca village, one of the few that retain the stonework, narrow streets, and family courtyards of its original Inca plan. Return to your hotel for overnight...BL (Hotel Pakaritampu) BLD (Hotel Rio Sagrado)



Active Option: From Chinchero, set off on the gentle downhill hike that brings you through a series of wooded canyons and into a vast landscape overlooking the Sacred Valley, which spreads out below you in a stunning panorama. Descend to the Urubamba Valley where you are met for the drive to your hotel. Hiking Time: Approximately 3-4 hours

DAY 4 MACHU PICCHU

This morning, you have two options to reach Machu Picchu. You can board the morning train with your guide for a short ride through the Urubamba Valley to Machu Picchu. At the Machu Picchu station, head up to the ruins by bus and explore the sanctuary on an afternoon tour, visiting the reconstructed ruins of staircases, altars, temples, and fountains and enjoying the incredible setting. You also have the option of taking the train to Kilometer 104 for the one-day hike up to Intipunku, Gate of the Sun. Along the way, you'll pass Wiñay Wayna, the last major site on the trail before you get to Machu Picchu. Wiñay Wayna ("Forever Young") is one of the most beautiful small Inca ruins, especially when it is seen from a distance, clinging to the side of a ravine. It's named for an orchid, once abundant in this region, that blooms year-round and hence had the Quechua name of "forever young." A large round structure commands the site and below is a flight of stairs that leads down past 10 ritual baths, a feature of major Inca sites. Continue to Intipunku, where a magnificent view unfolds before you: the storybook ruins of Machu Picchu, straddling a green ridge high above the Urubamba River. This spot has an absolutely classic view of Machu Picchu, and you will hike down into the ancient city just as the Incas would have done. The cost for this one-day permit is \$95 per person (subject to change) and must be purchased in advance due to the limited number of permits. Overnight at hotel...BLD

Optional hike details: 6 miles, 5-6 hours. 2,600' ascent from the train station to the trail. Highest elevation on the hike is 8,860'.

Classic Accommodation: The Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel at Aguas Calientes
Optional Upgrade: Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge
(See the Lodging section for photos and descriptions)

Machu Picchu: So well hidden in the jungle-covered ramparts of the Cordillera Vilcabamba that the Spaniards never knew of it, Machu Picchu allows us a glimpse into the Inca world. American historian Hiram Bingham, who had a fascination with Peruvian archaeology, found the site in 1911 while searching for the ruins of Vilcabamba, known to be the last place where the rebel Manco II took refuge. A villager told Bingham about some ruins on a high ridge above the Urubamba River and led him there; thus, Bingham found the ruins not of Vilcabamba, but of a mysterious Inca city



"It was excellent from start to finish. I've taken many group tours, and this sets a new standard for excellence!"

Rachel R., Edina, MN





“This trip was a fantastic blend of Peru's color and culture through beautiful and unique accommodations, delicious and authentic meals, a superb itinerary, allowing us to fully immerse ourselves in Incan history and enjoy the services of a very personable and knowledgeable guide!”
Jenny C., Calgary, Alberta

now believed to be one of the royal estates of the 9th Inca king, Pachacuti—whose name translates as “Transformer of the World.” Pachacuti was a kind of New World Alexander the Great, whose son and grandson continued and consolidated the expansion of Inca power. Bingham returned in 1912 and 1915 to undertake the difficult task of clearing the thick forest that had engulfed the ruins. Peruvian archaeologist Luis Valcarcel undertook further studies and vegetation clearing in 1934, and in 1940 and 1941, a Peruvian-American expedition led by Paul Fejos did more study. Archaeologists know that Machu Picchu was built, occupied, and then abandoned in the course of 100 years. Discoveries in the 1980s of many other small ruin sites close to Machu Picchu have given weight to the theory that Machu Picchu also served as the administrative center of a huge and populous region. Whatever Machu Picchu's purpose was, it is certainly one of the most stunning archaeological sites in the world.

DAY 5

MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

Explore the wonders of Machu Picchu, with the option to climb Huayna Picchu if you wish. The Palace of Princesses, Temple of the Sun, Temple of the Condor, and the astronomical observatory are only a few of the remarkable restored ruins here. The many beautiful altars, terraces, fountains, and mysterious chambers all display intricate stonework. Transfer to the last afternoon train, which brings you back to Cusco around 6:00 pm. You will be met on arrival in Cusco for transfer to the hotel...BL

Classic Accommodation: Casa Andina Premium Cusco

Optional Upgrade: Hotel Monasterio

(See the Lodging section for photos and descriptions)

DAY 6

CUSCO / CITY TOUR

The morning is free at your leisure. In the afternoon, enjoy a private guided walking tour through central Cusco, once the elegant imperial city of the Incas. The streets of Cusco are lined with massive Inca-built stone walls and the foundations of many colonial and modern buildings are set on Inca stonework. Your walking tour typically includes a visit to the central square called the Plaza de Armas, Cusco's ancient and modern center, and the baroque cathedral, a great repository of colonial art that sits on the foundations of the Inca Wiracocha's palace. You will also visit awe-inspiring Saqsayhuaman, the majestic Inca fortress overlooking Cusco. With its three tiers of outer walls made of massive and perfectly fitted limestone blocks, it is the largest and one of the most impressive Inca sites in existence. The zig-zag configuration of its walls may indicate that it was a temple dedicated to the Inca's important lightning god, although some scholars feel the zig-zags represent the teeth of a puma.

Inhabited by proto-Incas as early as 1100 AD, Cusco was partly rebuilt in the early 15th century by Pachacutec, the Inca warrior-king. He is credited with creating the Incas' form of worship, system of government, and the distinctive

masonry style we still marvel at today. Cusco was laid out in the shape of a puma. The megalithic fortress of Sacsayhuaman formed its head, while palaces, temples, squares, and streets formed the puma's body and legs. Cusco's paved avenues were flanked by temples and rock-hewn palaces with gold- and jewel-encrusted doors, and there were lavish villas for the Inca nobles and their retinues. Cusco's opulent inner sanctum was the Coricancha, or House of the Sun, a glittering temple to the gods, full of golden statues. Today the stonework remnants of this temple form the foundation for the colonial church of Santo Domingo. Overnight at hotel...B

Classic Accommodation: Casa Andina Premium Cusco
Optional Upgrade: Hotel Monasterio
(See the Lodging section for photos and descriptions)

DAY 7

CUSCO / OPTIONAL EXCURSION

Today is free for shopping and sightseeing on your own in Cusco. One can spend a delightful day here just exploring on foot to see the blend of Inca and colonial architecture. The city also boasts an abundance of artisan and craft boutiques and a wide variety of wonderful restaurants and street cafes, all with a welcoming atmosphere. Overnight at hotel...B

Optional Excursion to Tipon, Andahuaylillas, and Pikillacta: We also offer the option of exploring the seldom visited walled Inca ruins at Tipon, believed to have served as an estate for Inca nobles and beautifully engineered with water channels, Andahuaylillas, with its picturesque colonial church, the churches at Urcos and Huaró, and Pikillacta, home to an enormous set of pre-Inca ruins (0 to 800 AD) belonging to the Wari Empire. This option is at an additional cost of \$200 per person...BL

1.5 hours hiking

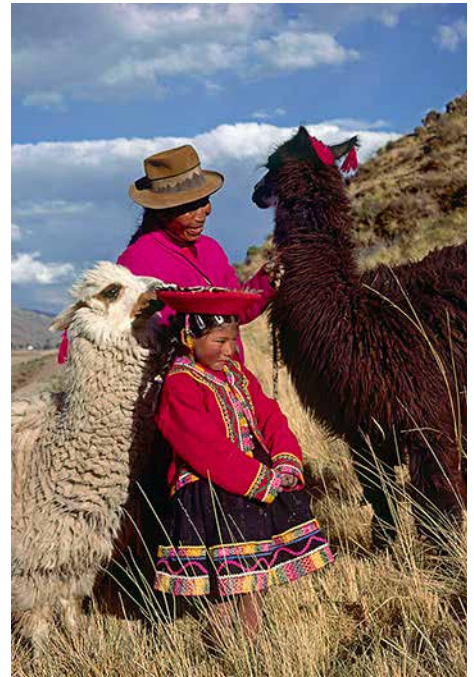
DAY 8

DEPART

Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Lima and depart on homeward-bound flights (or join one of our optional extensions)...B

DISCOVER THE GALÁPAGOS!

Schedule your Peru Private Journey to coordinate with one of our deluxe natural history adventures in the Galápagos Islands. Snorkel with a cavorting sea lion, hike past a blue-footed booby feeding its young, swim with sea turtles, and sea kayak amid the amazing geology of this volcanic archipelago. Our 16-passenger classic sailing yacht is the only tall ship in the islands, and our 14-passenger yacht offers the ultimate luxury experience! No matter which boat you choose, you'll enjoy delicious meals served al fresco, access to remote sites big cruise ships can't visit, and gain insight into the flora and fauna from the very best naturalists in the islands. We designed several Galápagos itineraries, with departures throughout the year. Call for details.



“Extremely pleased. Wonderful trip. Don't think it could have been any better.”

Scott C., Austin, TX

Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$4295 (6-10 members)

\$4595 (3-5 members)

\$4795 (2 members)

Single supplement: \$875

Optional KM104 permit: \$105

Upgrade options available in each location.

Peak season rates may apply to holidays such as May 1, Independence Days (July 28 and 29), Christmas and New Year's.

Prices are based on double occupancy and not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Make it Your Trip!

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Accommodations based on double occupancy, as described in this itinerary
- All meals included except 1 lunch and 3-5 dinners depending on lodging choice as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Land transportation as noted
- Entrance fee to Machu Picchu on Day 4 and second entry on Day 5
- Airport transfers
- Private guided tours as noted

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, any activities described as optional, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas; and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Latin America Manager or email us at latinamerica@wildernesstravel.com with any questions that you may have about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$1000

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$500 per person

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance



Extend Your Adventure!

To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our *Peru Private Journey* webpage and click on the "Extensions" tab: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/peru/peru-private-journey/extensions



AMAZON RAINFOREST EXTENSION: RESERVA AMAZONICA

Enter the enchanting world of the Amazon rainforest as you listen to the dawn chorus of bird songs, hear the howls of monkeys in the high forest canopy, walk lush rainforest trails, explore by boat along vine-draped waterways, and learn about the ecosystem of a tropical rainforest from knowledgeable local guides. Accommodations are at Reserva Amazonica, set in a 40-square-mile private ecological reserve adjacent to Peru's Tambopata National Reserve.

4 days. From \$795.



AREQUIPA AND COLCA CANYON EXTENSION

Take in the colonial splendor of Arequipa, set on the edge of the Andes and surrounded by spectacular mountains, including snow-capped El Misti, a 19,000-foot volcano that makes a striking backdrop for the city. Explore the city's harmonious and beautifully preserved colonial center of white stone architecture, recently listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, then head out into the countryside to enjoy the grandeur of massive Colca Canyon, one of the deepest in the world, flanked by glaciers and volcanoes. The canyon's walls preserve some of the finest Inca terracing in Peru and shelter traditional Indian villages. Here you may spot Andean condors circling up from the canyon depths.

4 days. From \$1450.



LAKE TITICACA EXTENSION

Enormous Lake Titicaca, the ethereal lake of Inca legends, lies in an austere beautiful setting, ringed by dramatic Andean peaks. From Cusco, a scenic train journey across the high and wild altiplano brings you to the lakeside town of Puno, set at 12,500 feet. From here, visit the traditional weaving community on Taquile Island and the Uros community on their "floating" islands.

3 days. From \$1150.

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents required for your trip.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Lima, Peru

Suggested Airport: Lima (LIM)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, anytime

Meeting Place: Upon arrival, you will make your way to the group hotel, which is located within a two-minute walk across the street from the international terminal.

DEPARTURE

Cusco, Peru

Suggested Airport: Cusco, Peru (CUZ), with an onward connection in Lima (LIM)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 8, after 1:00 pm

At the end of the trip (Day 8), we will transfer you to the Cusco airport for your departing flight.*

*Be sure to leave a 3-hour connection time in Lima before your international flight home.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Peru. Airlines with the most convenient schedules for this trip include American Airlines, United Airlines, and Delta.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once tickets have been purchased, please forward a copy of your email confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS

We are happy to arrange additional hotel nights for you in Cusco or Lima. Please contact our office to book these reservations.

Accommodations

DAY 1 (1 NIGHT): LIMA, PERU



WYNDHAM COSTA DEL SOL LIMA AIRPORT HOTEL

Very conveniently located at the Lima international airport, this hotel is just a two-minute walk across the street from the terminal, and you can wheel your bags (no need to take a taxi). Rooms are well appointed and comfortable.

DAYS 2 TO 3 (2 NIGHTS): SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS, PERU

In the Sacred Valley of the Incas, we stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:



HOTEL PAKARITAMPU

A cozy hotel with a countryside feeling, the Pakaritampu is just a few blocks from the main plaza in the traditional village of Ollantaytambo. There is a lodge-style lounge with a large fireplace, a library, and games—perfect for relaxing after a day exploring Ollantaytambo. Guest rooms are simple and comfortable, and Wi-Fi is available throughout the property. The service is friendly, the food is tasty, and there are lushly landscaped grounds for birdwatching and great mountain views.



HOTEL RIO SAGRADO (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

Nestled into a steep hillside above the roaring Urubamba River, this superb Belmond property is a tranquil retreat with a prime location and 21 spacious suites with private garden decks and stunning views out over the Urubamba Valley. Hot-stone massages are among the treatment options at the on-site spa. The restaurant serves seasonal Andean cuisine; ingredients are locally sourced and many items even picked from the kitchen garden. The hotel has extensive landscaped gardens with endemic plants—and baby alpacas roam around the grounds!

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Peru Private Journey* webpage and click on “Accommodations.”

DAY 4 (1 NIGHT): MACHU PICCHU RUINS, PERU

At the Machu Picchu Ruins, we stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:



MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL

Located in Aguas Calientes below the Machu Picchu ruins, this hotel is spread over 12 acres of lush cloud forest. The rooms are comfortable bungalows with fireplaces and private terraces for admiring the tropical foliage and watching birds. Not having TVs in the rooms adds to the “away from it all” feeling, and you can take guided early morning bird walks or stroll one of the most extensive orchid gardens in the world. Meals are exceptionally good, and check out the hotel’s traditional-style Andean sauna. It’s easy to get to and from Machu Picchu by bus (a 30-minute ride). People love this hotel’s peaceful natural setting, and you can walk across a bridge into Aguas Calientes town for a visit to the extensive local handicraft market.



MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY LODGE (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

You can’t get closer to the Machu Picchu ruins than this! With only 31 rooms, this property is famously set right at the gate of Machu Picchu. Not only does this save you from having to make the 30-minute bus trip to get up to or back from the ruins each day, but it also allows you the luxury of popping back to the hotel for a rest or a bite to eat whenever you like throughout the day. The hotel features a garden with a view of Huayna Picchu, two restaurants, and the food and service are wonderful. While the rooms are small and few offer views of the ruins, the Sanctuary remains the absolute top choice of travelers who decide that if they are only going to do it once, they might as well do it right!

DAYS 5 TO 8 (3 NIGHTS): CUSCO, PERU

In Cusco, we stay at one of the following properties:



CASA ANDINA PREMIUM CUSCO

Just three blocks from the Plaza de Armas in the heart of old Cusco, this charming hotel is a renovated colonial manor house. It features a series of interior garden courtyards and a small sitting room and bar with a wonderful stone fireplace—a great place to relax after a day of exploring the city. The hotel’s entire staff is most helpful, and the restaurant is known for its selection of Novo Andino dishes.



HOTEL MONASTERIO (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

A 16th century monastery that is now an elegant hotel, the Monasterio has a stunning historic ambiance, with several inner courtyards, a chapel, wonderful furnishings, and antique paintings and carpets. The grand lobby bar, warmed by a fireplace, is a great place to sit and unwind at the end of a busy day. The hotel also has a great location just steps from the Plaza de Armas. As with any historic building, the guest rooms vary in size and configuration, but all are well appointed. This hotel even offers to pump oxygen into guest rooms to help acclimatization to Cusco’s high altitude! The Monasterio is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World.

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 2, according to our trip grading system. It features vehicle-based sightseeing and day walks, with hotel accommodations throughout. Most of the walking is at considerable altitudes, ranging from 8,200 feet at Machu Picchu to 11,200 feet at Cusco. We do recommend you make special efforts to get in good physical condition for the trip, as it will greatly increase your enjoyment.

WEATHER

Being so close to the equator, Peru has only two climate seasons: a dry season from April to October, and a wet season from December to March. For hiking in the mountains, April to October is ideal; the countryside is green and lush, the skies are often blue and sunny, and the mountain vistas are at their clearest and most magnificent. However, it can be rainy any time throughout the year or be dry for several weeks during the wet season. Rains usually come as afternoon thunderstorms. Because of the mild nature of the wet season, this journey can be enjoyed year-round.

Altitude is the main factor controlling the climate. In the mountains, you'll encounter sunny days with daytime temperatures ranging between 65°F and 70°F, dropping to the 40s and lower at night. The sun is very strong at high altitude and it can often be warm enough to hike in shorts and a t-shirt. However, it can also get extremely cold; if you're familiar with mountain weather, you know how suddenly it can get cold even in the daytime if the sun slips behind a cloud. Nighttime temperatures can drop to below freezing. Rain should not be a problem on our hikes, but always keep in mind that mountain weather is unpredictable and sudden storms can occur, especially on high mountain passes. The best preparation for the changeable climate of the high Andes is to dress in layers. Lima lies in a coastal desert where rainfall is rare and temperatures are usually warm (70s and 80s).

GUIDED SERVICES

You will have a private guide in Cusco, the Sacred Valley, and at Machu Picchu, as specified in the itinerary.

CHILDREN

This is an excellent trip for children and families. The recommended minimum age is 10. Triple rooms (subject to availability) can be requested.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Latin America Manager or email us at latinamerica@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

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Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lima	79/68	80/69	80/69	76/66	72/63	69/61	67/60	66/60	67/59	69/61	72/63	76/66
Cusco	64/45	64/46	65/46	66/43	67/39	66/35	66/34	66/37	67/41	68/44	67/45	66/45
Rainfall - Inches												
Lima	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Cusco	5.9	4.5	3.8	1.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.9	1.9	2.7	4.3

TOUCAN CLUB

Please note that Toucan Club discounts do not apply for our Private Journeys. However, your participation on these trips will count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular expeditions. For more information regarding our Toucan Club bonus program, please visit our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2020
Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 2020 & 2019
Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*, 2020
World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 9-time winner
Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner
Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner
50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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