

Lima, Cusco, Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu – Peru
November 1-6
5 nights / 6 days
Approximate Cost \$1,000 Double / \$1,230 Single

Day 01 - Arrival in Lima

Transfer airport - hotel (you will be welcomed at the airport and driven to your hotel in Lima.)

Lima, also known as the “City of Kings”, was founded in 1535 by the Spanish conqueror Francisco Pizarro. Located directly on the Pacific coast, Peru’s capital city is a melting pot of cultures where you will encounter people, flavors, and history from different regions. The bustling metropolis has something for all tastes and ages: indulge in exquisite, internationally-praised cuisine, catch some waves on the coast, visit museums, and stroll around the historical center or the bohemian district of Barranco.

Overnight at the Hotel Libre

Day 02 - Lima

Colonial & Contemporary City Tour with San Francisco Monastery and Larco Museum

In the historical center, admire the colorful colonial architecture around the “Plaza San Martín” and the main square “Plaza de Armas”, where you can also see the Government Palace, the Cathedral, and the Municipality. From here, visit the San Francisco Monastery and discover its underground maze of tunnels and catacombs. Finally, head to Lima’s contemporary districts, Miraflores and San Isidro, that combine beautiful parks, such as “El Olivar” and “Parque del Amor”, shopping centers, and modern architecture. End your tour at the Larco Museum and appreciate over 45.000 objects including pre-Columbian ceramics, textiles, gold and silver pieces. Don’t miss the museum’s famous and unique erotic ceramics collection from the Mochica culture.

Overnight at the Hotel Libre (B)

Day 03 - Lima-Cusco-Sacred Valley

On the way: Visit of Pisac Market and Ollantaytambo

You will be picked up from your hotel and driven to the airport for your flight to Cusco (**Note: flights are not included in the cost**).

Upon arrival, you will be welcomed at the airport and driven to the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

The Sacred Valley, located at approximately 2800m (9186ft) in the Peruvian Andes, was the heartland of the Inca Empire. Bordering the Urubamba River, its fertile soils were ideal for maize production, which was an esteemed crop and key ingredient to make “chicha”, a fermented maize drink highly consumed by the Incas during festivities and ceremonies. As you drive through the winding roads, stop to explore many fascinating ruins, citadels, and agricultural terraces. Some of the Sacred Valley’s favorite attractions include Pisac, Ollantaytambo, Maras, Moray, and the weaving village of Chincheros.

Start your tour in the small town of Pisac. Well-known amongst locals and tourists, the bazaar-like open market offers a wide selection of Peruvian handicrafts: ceramics, paintings, weavings, and jewelry.

About 58km (36mi.) away, explore the impressive ruins of Ollantaytambo, one of the few places where the Incas won a battle against the Spaniards. Climb up the platforms and enjoy the view above the village and onto the valley. Near the ruins, visit a typical home and learn about the unique way their family has lived for generations in the Sacred Valley.

Lunch at a local restaurant is included.

Overnight at the Hotel San Agustin Monasterio De La Recoleta (B, L)

Day 04 - Sacred Valley-Machu Picchu-Cusco

Machu Picchu Guided Tour (3h 30min)

In the morning, you will be picked up and driven to Ollantaytambo in order to board the train to Aguas Calientes. Enjoy the stunning Andean views filled with small communities and snow-capped mountains in the Sacred Valley. When you arrive to Aguas Calientes, the small village nestled at the bottom of Machu Picchu, take the shuttle bus up to the ancient citadel. Learn about the Inca civilization, the site's discovery, and the different theories on this mysterious and spectacular archeological site.

Machu Picchu is on every traveler's bucket list: it is undoubtedly one of the "must-see" archeological sites in the world. The most remarkable site from the Inca Empire was never found by the Spaniards and was re-discovered during the 20th century. Since then, archeologists continue to investigate, excavate, and reconstruct the ancient city that used to serve as a political, religious, and administrative center. Temples, agricultural terraces, and archeological observatories enclose a history and a mystery that go back thousands of years.

Lunch at a local restaurant is included.

After this exciting day, take the bus back down to Aguas Calientes, board the train to Ollantaytambo and drive back to your hotel in Cusco.

Overnight at the Taypikala Hotel Cusco (B, L)

Day 05 - Cusco

City Tour and Cusco Ruins

Cusco, located at 3,400m (11,150ft) in the Andes Mountains, was the heartland of the Incan Empire. The city blends ancient Andean cultures with Spanish colonial splendor. Visit nearby Inca citadels and temples like "Qorikancha" or "Saqsaywaman", or admire the colonial mansions, balconies, and churches throughout the city. As you stroll along the cobblestone streets, you can appreciate the colorful textiles, handicrafts, and art galleries. From Cusco, deepen your experience and adventure out to the Sacred Valley and to Machu Picchu.

Start your Cusco City Tour in the "Plaza de Armas" and visit the impressive renaissance-style Cathedral. Make your way through small alleys edged with Incan walls until you reach Korikancha, the temple dedicated to the sun "Inti". Believed to be the most important temple for the Incas, it was destroyed by the Spanish conquerors in the 16th century. Its foundations were used to build the Catholic Church Santo Domingo. Continue your journey into the past as you explore the different Inca

ruins around Cusco. Your first stop is Sacsayhuamán, the Inca ceremonial fortress dedicated to the sun. Admire the gigantic rocks used to build the site and the way they were perfectly fitted together. Nearby, head to Qenqo, a temple carved in a gigantic monolith with tunnels and chambers that were hand carved by men thousands of years ago. Visit the Puca Pucara fort, an important military checkpoint for Inca Empire. End your tour at the Inca Baths known as Tambomachay and learn about the aqueducts and channels that allow the water to flow naturally.

Overnight at the Taypikala Hotel Cusco (B)

Day 06 – Departure

After breakfast, you will be picked up from your hotel and driven to the airport.