

Private Peru Adventure

This trip gives you a look at the 'must sees' of Peru. Explore Lima, spend a night with a local family on Lake Titicaca, discover the back lanes of Cusco and walk the high trails to magnificent Machu Picchu - the 'Eagle's Nest' of the Inca Empire.



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 / Lima

Your trip starts today in Lima. You are met at the airport and transferred to the joining hotel by a representative of Gecko's. No activities are planned so you may arrive at any time. Upon arrival at the hotel, please check for a notice in the lobby from your Tour Leader confirming the time and place of your tour briefing and any other relevant information. Please refer to your itinerary for the joining hotel name and address.

Day 2 / Lima

Today we to explore the capital of Peru, Lima. We take in a visit to the colonial city centre, taking in some of the many excellent museums that house priceless artefacts from the ancient Inca and coastal civilisations. The desert city of Lima, once deemed 'La Ciudad de los Reyes' or 'The City of Kings', is a vast buzzing metropolis of over 8 million people. The heart of the city is full with Spanish colonial splendour, fine art and baroque architecture. Meals included: 1 breakfast

Day 3 / Lake Titicaca (Amantani Island Homestay)

We catch an early morning flight to Juliaca and then transfer by bus to Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca. We then board the boat and travel across the waters of Lake Titicaca to the floating reed islands inhabited by Uros Indians. We make a brief stop at one of these unusual islands and then continue across the lake to our homestay on beautiful Amantani Island. This island is more remote than most and not as spoilt as the popular island of Tequile, which has unfortunately felt the heavy impact of tourism. After arriving in Amantani, our tour leader divides our party up into smaller groups and we move into various family homes for our overnight stay. Please be warned that the facilities are quite basic. Many homes have no electricity and the bathroom and toilet facilities are not the best! Despite this, the homestay experience is sure to be a highlight of our trip to the region and offers great opportunities for cross-cultural exchanges



Please note that Puno is situated 3830 metres above sea level. At this altitude you may again experience some of the effects of altitude sickness such as dizziness, insomnia and a shortness of breath. If this is the case we recommend that you avoid any strenuous activity and allow yourself some time for acclimatization.

Overnight: Amantani Island Homestay

Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 dinner

Day 4 / Lake Titicaca

We enjoy breakfast with our host family and then have time to explore the island. There are two mountain peaks on the island that offer excellent hiking opportunities, Pachatata (Father Earth) and Pachamama (Mother Earth). Along the way terraced hillsides with stone walls, grazing alpacas and the national flower, Cantua, which grows all over the island. The inhabitants of Amantani Island practice a very traditional lifestyle, free from the luxuries of city living and are also renowned for their handmade textiles and ceramics. In the afternoon we board our boat and leave the terracotta red soils of Amantani Island to cross the deep blue waters back to Puno on the mainland.

We then make our way to Sillustani, where located on a small peninsula are well-preserved burial towers called 'chullpas'. Constructed by the Colla people in pre-Incan times, these 'chapullas' often have lizards carved into their stone exterior; lizards are considered a symbol of life because of their ability to regrow their tails. The complex engineering feat involved in the construction of these conical towers, which stand up to a height of 12 metres, continues to amaze archaeologists even today.

Meals included: 1 breakfast

Day 5 / Puno - Cusco

We travel by bus to Cusco. At first we climb up to the Le Raya Pass (4321m), before continuing past the hot springs at tiny Aguas Calientes and descending beneath spectacular mountain countryside. We arrive in magnificent Cusco in the late afternoon.

Established on the foundations of the original Inca town, Cusco is a city of contrasts, both modern and ancient. Known the world over for the incredible archaeological ruins of nearby Machu Picchu, travellers flock to this trekkers haven to soak up its awesome culture and beautiful surroundings. At an altitude of over 3300 metres Cusco is also a great place to acclimatise in preparation for the hike to Machu Picchu.

Meals included: 1 breakfast

Day 6 / Sacred Valley

The Sacred Valley, located between the towns of Pisac and Ollantaytambo, was greatly treasured because of its climate, fertile land and the presence of the Urubamba (Sacred) River. Today we still see evidence of the Inca's engineering skills in the ruins of ancient aqueducts, irrigation canals, dams on the Urubamba River, imposing sets of terraces and centres of worship dedicated to Pachamama (Mother Earth). On our full day tour of the Sacred Valley we visit the Awana Kancha tourist centre where we see llama, alpaca, vicuna and guanaco all in the one place, the ruins at Qenko, the colourful market town of Pisac and the towering Inca citadel at Ollantaytambo. Built on a steep mountainside this grand citadel served as both a temple and fortress. A walk up to the top is rewarded by fine views over the village and out further into the valley. We then take to the surrounding hills and visit the impressive ceremonial ruins of Sacsayhuaman, where massive stone blocks that form the walls of this site give us an awesome picture of how highly developed Inca engineering was

Meals included: 1 breakfast

Day 7 / Inca Trail to Yuncachimpa (13km)

We leave Cusco by bus and travel over the mountain range and down into the Urubamba Valley to the picturesque town of Ollantaytambo. Built on a steep mountainside this grand citadel served as both a temple and fortress and is one of the few sites where the Incas were able to defeat the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century. Their success was however short lived, with the Spaniards returning with force to claim victory. Here we have time to gaze upon the massive Inca fortifications before continuing to Kilometre 82 - the starting point of our trek. Today is a relatively easy hike past the ancient hilltop fort of Huilca Raccay and the beautiful archaeological site of Llactapata. Along the way there are stunning views of snow-capped Veronica Peak (5860m). Our first camp is just past the village of Wayllabamba at 3000 metres.

Overnight: Camping

Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner

Day 8 / Inca Trail to Pacaymayo (11km)

Today is the most difficult part of the trek as we climb to Warminwanusca, or 'Dead Woman's Pass' (4200m). This is the first of three Andean high passes we traverse and the highest point on the Inca trail. Stopping to catch our breath we take in the superb panorama of the Vilcanota and Vilcabamba mountain ranges, the ruins of Runkuracay ahead and Rio Pacamayo (Sunrise River) in the valley below. Here the trail changes from dirt to steps and stone pathways. Although not difficult we still need to make a steep descent to the valley below and our camp at

Pacamayo (3600m). Located in a basin beneath the cliff tops, the campsite faces down the valley with a view over the cloud forest.

Overnight: Camping

Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner

Day 9 / Inca Trail to Winaywayna (15km)

We climb up to the unusual, round ruins of Runcuracay which is believed to have been an Inca tambo or post house. Forging on we continue to climb the Inca staircase and sighting the small mountain lake of Cochapata on the way to our second pass at 4000m, from where we are rewarded with spectacular views of Pumasillo (6245m) and the entire snow-capped Vilcabamba range. From here it is a steep descent to our third pass and the ruins of Sayacmarca, where we enter the beautiful cloud forest full of orchids, ferns, flowers and hanging moss. The scenery will blow you away! Butterflies flutter across the trail and the air is pure and clean as we head to the breathtaking Winaywayna, (2450m).



Overnight: Camping

Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner

Day 10 / Inca Trail to Machu Picchu (5km) - Cusco

The final leg of the trek to Machu Picchu is the most spectacular of all. We arrive at sunrise at Inti Punku, the Gateway of the Sun, where through a rectangular doorway we experience a panoramic view of Machu Picchu. After taking a short path down, it's time for us to explore! The secrets of the Incas are slowly revealed to us on a guided tour. For those who have plenty of energy left and who aren't afraid of heights, there is a climb to Huayna Picchu - a mountain overlooking the site. The view from here is superb! The climb to the top takes up to 90 minutes and care must be taken, especially if the steps are wet. We depart by catching a bus down to the hot springs at Aguas Calientes and returning to Cusco on a late-afternoon train.

Meals included: 1 breakfast

Day 11 / Cusco

Your tour ends today after breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport to meet your ongoing flight.

Meals included: 1 breakfast

About Peregrine

Peregrine has been operating adventure holidays since 1977. Today we can help you discover all four corners of the globe, from the Polar regions, to Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and beyond. We offer high-quality, excellent-value, small-group adventures to interesting areas of the world, in harmony with the local people and the environment.

Trip grade

Active

These trips involve some activity and occasional hard travelling days. Accommodation can sometimes be quite basic. Physical preparation is important and a flexible, open-minded approach is essential. On treks you may be hiking up to six hours a day through steep terrain, sometimes at altitude, and a good level of physical fitness is required.

Fitness

A reasonable level of fitness is beneficial for this holiday and pre-trip physical preparation for the Inca Trail trek would be a definite advantage.

Included

An experienced local leader in Peru and there will be the services of local guides at some sites. All transport, accommodation, sightseeing and meals as indicated.

Not included

International flights, arrival and departure transfers, departure and airport taxes, visas, all other meals, all optional tours or activities during free time, transfers outside of the tour program, travel insurance, tips and items of a personal nature.

Meals

Allow US\$165 for additional meals.

Accommodation

3 nights camping, 8 nights hotel, 1 night homestay

Transport

boat, bus, plane, taxi, train, trek

Optional Excursions

* prices below are a guide only.

Cusco

- Horse riding (guide included) - US\$30
- Inca Museum - US\$4
- Mountain Bike Riding - US\$35

Lima

- City tour - US\$25
- Inquisition Museum - US\$4
- National Museum - US\$3
- San Francisco Church and Catacombs - US\$3

Puno

- Sillustani - US\$15

Other information

Very Important

In order to obtain your permit to trek the 'Classic' Inca Trail it is vital that you provide Peregrine with accurate details of the passport you will be travelling on in Peru. If you are travelling on a different passport from what is shown on your permit, you will be refused entry at the entrance to the trail.

Book Early

The Peruvian Government has introduced strict quotas on the number of permits issued for hiking the 'Classic' Inca Trail route. These can often be sold out months in advance. To apply for your group's permits, we will need your deposit and your passport details, so we ask that you book your holiday early. In the event that we are unable to obtain permits for the 'Classic' route we will use the alternative 'Lares' route, an equally challenging trek culminating in a visit to Machu Picchu.

Public Holiday Inconveniences

Please be prepared for the inconvenience of sights such as museums and churches being closed to tourists on public holidays (ie. Christmas Day and New Years Day). Throughout Latin America, most museums also tend to be closed on Mondays.

Travelling responsibly

At Gecko's, we take our global responsibilities seriously. After all, we are passionate about the places we visit and want to help preserve them.

Peregrine Community Trust

The Peregrine Community Trust, a division of Peregrine Adventures, provides funds for local community projects and initiatives that promote responsible and sustainable tourism development in the destinations in which we operate. First and foremost, but not exclusively, the Trust supports projects and initiatives that advance education and employment within the tourism and hospitality industry. The Trust operates on a not-for-profit basis, with funds donated by Peregrine, our staff and our travellers, with every cent going to the nominated projects.

By donating to one of the projects supported by The Peregrine Community Trust you will help promote responsible and sustainable tourism and make a positive difference for communities and travellers right now, and for the future. For online donations go to: www.peregrineadventures.com/trust

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Detailed country and trip information

For information about the countries that this trip travels to, refer to the relevant Country Notes online at www.peregrineadventures.com.

With your booking confirmation, you will be sent a detailed pre-departure pack which will contain information on visas, medical issues, what to pack, money matters, vaccinations and other important trip specific information.

About these trip notes

The information provided here is given in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, things change and some of the information may become out of date. Please keep this in mind when you read it and check with us if you want to be sure about something. You can check the most up-to-date version of the trip notes online at www.peregrineadventures.com. If you have any queries, please contact your travel agent or your nearest Peregrine office. We are here to help you!