

EXPLORING PERU # 38

18 Days / 17 Nights

Lima, Amazon Adventure near Iquitos, Arequipa, The Colca Canyon, Puno, Cusco, Maras Salt Pools and Authentic Quechua Village, Pisac Indian Market and Ollantaytambo Fortress, Machu Picchu

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 – Wednesday - Lima - Arrival

Arrival in Lima, the "City of Kings" famous for its Spanish Colonial architecture, extraordinary museums and cuisine. Lima is internationally recognized as the "Gastronomic Capital of the Americas", and its cuisine is considered among the most diverse and exquisite in the world on par with French cuisine. Upon arrival a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and in registering.



Day 2 – Thursday - Lima City Tour and Larco Museum - Iquitos (B)

Tour of Modern and Colonial Lima including the world famous Larco Museum - This half-day tour visits both the colonial and modern sections of Lima. Colonial sites include the lovely Plaza Mayor, the Government Palace, San Francisco Church and the exquisite Torre Tagle Palace modern day seat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In modern Lima, drive along the exclusive residential areas of Miraflores and San Isidro.



Continue to the Larco Museum, founded in 1926, it displays remarkable chronological galleries providing an excellent overview on 3000 years of development of Peruvian pre-Columbian history. Located in a unique vice-royal mansion of the 18th century built over a 7th century pre-Columbian pyramid is surrounded by beautiful gardens. The Larco Museum also features the finest gold and silver collection from Ancient Peru and the famous erotic archaeological collection, one of the most visited Peruvian tourist attractions. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Iquitos. Upon arrival at the airport a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and help you in registering.



Day 3 – Friday - Iquitos / Explorama Lodge (B,L,D)

Transfer to the Explorama dock. Fifty mile journey down the Amazon River to Yanamono Stream where Explorama Lodge is located. Afternoon hike along the "Lake Trail" through lowland rainforest which is seasonally flooded. During the high water season, this excursion is done by open boat! Night walk or open boat ride to enjoy the sounds of the rainforest and stars of the Southern sky. Overnight Explorama Lodge.



Day 4 – Saturday - Explorama Lodge (B,L,D)

Morning walk along the "Bushmaster Trail", where scientific studies by the Missouri Botanical Gardens have found the world's highest biodiversity of trees per square hectare. Your guide will point out many plants used in medicine today and many that we may use in the future. Afternoon open boat trip along the Amazon in search of either of the two species of freshwater dolphin found in the river and a chance for an afternoon swim. Overnight Explorama Lodge



Day 5 – Sunday – Explorama Lodge / Iquitos / Lima (B)

.Morning walk along a local river trail with stops along the way to visit the "ribereños" or river people, visit a river school, see the local sugar cane rum "factory" or visit our resident American medical doctor in her clinic sponsored by the Rotary Club. Transfer back to Iquitos for your departure flight to Lima. Upon arrival at the airport a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and help you in registering.



Day 6 – Monday - Lima – Pachacamac Temples (B)

A drive along the Pan-American Highway with its views across the beautiful Pacific beaches will take you years back. Visit to the pre-Inca ruins of Pachacamac considered by many to be the most important archaeological site near Lima. Four hundred years before the Incas, the Ishmay culture developed a major ceremonial center, featuring streets, dozens of temples fitted with ramps and the Painted Temple.



Day 7 – Tuesday - Lima / Arequipa (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Arequipa at an elevation of 7,300 feet. Upon arrival a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and in registering.

Also known as the "White City" for its many constructions built of white volcanic stone, Arequipa is at the foothills of the Misti Volcano (the guardian of the city) and it has a splendid Cathedral that is considered one of the first seventeenth century religious monuments of the city.



Arequipa City Tour and Santa Catalina Convent - Your half day sightseeing of this beautiful city, placed on the World Cultural Heritage list by UNESCO, features Mixed Baroque churches and mansions from the colonial period like the Monastery of Santa Catalina, The Main Square is bordered by various arched walkways and the Cathedral, it showcase a beautiful bronze fountain of three plates crowned by the figure of a sixteenth century soldier. Around the square, you see three granite portals with brick and lime bases.

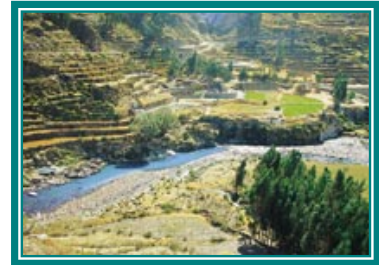


The Santa Catalina Convent is called "a city within a city", a Spanish city in miniature with stone streets, beautiful patios, and plaza, it is a masterpiece of colonial architecture, and houses some of the finest examples of Spanish American religious art. Since 1970 visitors have been able to stroll through the streets and cloisters that during colonial times were the refuge of female nobility who had decided to isolate from the world and dedicate entirely to prayer.



Day 8 – Wednesday - Arequipa / Colca Canyon (B,L,D)

Departure towards the highlands passing through Yura-Pampa Cañahuas and La Pulpera with good possibility of observing groups of wild vicuñas and fighting cattle. The road to the Colca Canyon reaches a high point of 13,000 feet before dropping down to the valley, an area of breath taking landscapes surrounded by terracing and snow-capped peaks. Far below, at a depth of 10,000 feet, the Colca River winds along the bottom of the canyon, the world's deepest. Overnight in Colca Canyon area.



Day 9 – Thursday - Colca Canyon / Puno (B,L)

To maximize your probability of seeing condors we depart very early towards a superb natural lookout point "Cross of the Condor" from where one can watch condors wheeling across the Colca Canyon, at about an altitude of 15,000 feet. The valley also features pre-Inca ruins, pre-Inca burial grounds and archaeological remains left behind by the Collagua, the ancient inhabitants of the area. Drive further in to the canyon to observe the way of life in this remote land and to admire the impressive irrigation system and the fertile mountains terraced for farming of the Colca valley.



Ask your guide to take you to one of the many workshops in which close to a thousand artisans, scattered throughout the towns in the canyon, turn their ancient sewing and weaving machines into paint brushes to give life to impressively intricate and colorful embroidery and shawls.

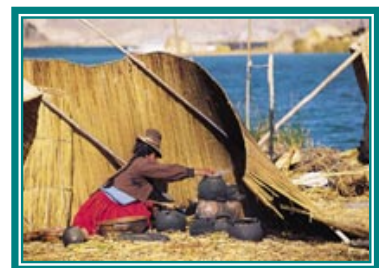


The overland trip to Puno features unique natural scenery of the Peruvian Highlands.

Evening arrival in Puno.

Day 10 – Friday - Puno – Uros and Taquile Islands on Lake Titikaka (B,L)

Boat excursion to Uros and Taquile Islands on Lake Titikaka. This full day excursion will take you to the highest navigable lake in the world to the floating islands of the Uros Indians, man-made islands by tying totora reeds. The Uros considered themselves Lords of the Lake; they hunt wild birds and maintain traditional fishing methods. The men have developed an extraordinary skill in weaving reeds; producing houses, boats and handicrafts, and the women are expert knitters.



Continuing to Taquile where a native community of about 400 families still lives with the traditions and high principals of the Incas. Taquile is a very important site on Lake Titikaka for its archeological remains, the sacred and ceremonial sites, the festive activities and their rituals. Taquile is characterized by its friendly inhabitants, who maintain their customs and traditional clothing. They distinguish themselves by their detailed, fine, and colorful textiles with symmetrical decorations and symbols that reflect their way of life and Andean beliefs. Lunch is included.



Day 11 – Saturday - Puno to Cusco (B,L)

Bus journey through the Peruvian Andes from Puno to Cusco - Today one of South America's most extraordinary overland trips takes you by coach to Cusco passing through striking highland scenery and picturesque Andean villages. Brief stops at Raqchi to see the remains of the remarkable temple of Viracocha, considered by the historians an important Inca construction, and at the town of Andahuaylillas, a showcase of the colonial art in Peru, sometimes called "the Sistine Chapel of America". Lunch is included.



Day 12 – Sunday - Cusco City Tour and Nearby Ruins (B)

Tour of Cusco and Nearby Ruins – Visitors are caught up in the excitement of touring the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, a delightful combination of Inca and colonial architecture. The tour visits important landmarks such as Cusco's Cathedral, Plaza de Armas and Koricancha "The Temple of the Sun". This tour of the oldest continuously inhabited city in the western hemisphere also includes the nearby ruins of Kenko, Puca-Pucara, Tambomachay as well as the Sacsayhuaman fortress, an imposing example of Inca military architecture.



Day 13 – Monday - Cusco – Moray, Maras and Quechuas (B,L)

Moray, Maras Salt Pools and Authentic Quechua Village – Pass through unspoiled and picturesque Andean communities on your way to the Incan agricultural experimental center of Moray, famous for its sunken amphitheater, made up of four circular terraces, which appear to fade away into the earth like an artificial crater. The site was apparently an Inca agricultural research station filled with fertile earth and watered by complex irrigation systems, designed for experimenting with crops at various altitudes (some of which run down to depths of 100 meters).



Continue to the impressive Maras salt pools formed by water emerging from a lake inside a mountain in the Urubamba Valley. An amazing view of evaporating ponds for the extraction of salt. Learn about ancestral techniques, which are still used, in agricultural, irrigation and salt-recollection tasks, as well as in Andean festivals and rites.

After lunch, visit an authentic Quechua Village to feel the way of life of the Inca's ancestors. The Inca himself was a noble Quechua. They live off the land and are always wearing their colorful ponchos, see Quechua children scamper about while women are weaving their family's clothes. A meaningful experience! Lunch is included.



Day 14 – Tuesday - Pisac Market and Ollantaytambo

Archaeological Complex (B,L) Full Day Excursion to the Pisac Indian Market and the Ollantaytambo Fortress - Morning departure for a drive through the fertile countryside of the Urubamba Valley to the colonial village of Pisac where an Indian Market takes place Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Other days you will tour the religious nucleus and archaeological site of Pisac. During your visit to the bustling marketplace you will have the opportunity to bargain with the natives for many different types of Peruvian handicrafts and jewelry.



Continue to the Ollantaytambo archaeological complex, the Incas built it as a fort that included a temple, agricultural terraces, and an urban area. There are two distinct sectors: The religious and worship zone, and the residential area. Ollantaytambo was an important administrative center with probable military functions if one considers the walls and towers. There are also traces of ancient roads and aqueducts. The town of Ollantaytambo is called a "Living Inca Town" since the inhabitants maintain very old practices and customs. Lunch is at a beautiful country estate on the shores of the Urubamba River.



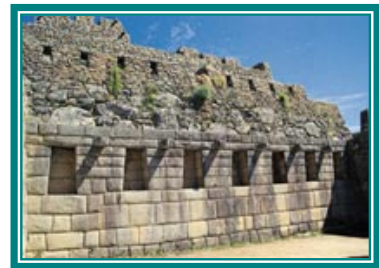
Day 15 – Wednesday - Machu Picchu with overnight stay (B,L)

Morning train ride through the sacred valley of Urubamba to the "Lost City of the Incas," Machu Picchu. Perched 8,200 feet above the valley, it was hidden by mountains and semi-tropical jungles for 400 years until discovered by Hiram Bingham of Yale University in 1911. Archaeologists believe that the Inca "Virgins of the Sun" took refuge from the Spanish Conquistadors here. Guided tour of the ruins upon arrival. Lunch is at the Orient Express' Sanctuary Lodge located just a few steps from the Inca citadel.



Day 16 – Thursday - Machu Picchu Free Day. Return train ride (B)

Free morning to enjoy one of the most incredible sights on earth, the sanctuary of Machu Picchu. Take as much time as you need to study these magnificent ruins, hike the steep stone-paved trail of Huayna Picchu, the pyramid-shape mountain above Machu Picchu for a breathtaking view of the site, or stroll to the Inca Bridge a secret entrance used by the Inca's army or walk toward the Inca Trail to find the historic Intipunku or Sun Gate. Afternoon return train ride.



Day 17 – Friday - Cusco – Free Day (B)

Wandering through this lovely city, exploring the astonishing narrow streets of this tile roof colonial town will be your unforgettable experience. You will find something astounding at every turn. Great buys are the traditional Peruvian handicrafts, alpaca-wool sweaters and rugs, ponchos, pottery, gold and silver jewelry, leather goods, etc. Because there are such a variety of products, we strongly suggest that when you like any particular item, you should buy it - you may not find the same item in other store. Many visitors to Cusco return home wishing they had a free day to discover this imperial city on their own, a free day in Cusco is a MUST!



Day 18 – Saturday – Cusco – Lima – Home (B)

Transfer to the airport for your departure to Lima and your connecting international flight. Arrive home full of great memories of the rich tradition of Colonial Lima and the mystical Land of the Incas.



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Tour includes:

- All airport transfers listed in the itinerary
- Baggage handling at airports and at hotels
- All tours and excursions indicated in the itinerary
- All entrance fees and transfers needed to operate tours and excursions
- All train tickets, bus tickets and boat services needed to operate tours and excursions
- Excursion to Machu Picchu is aboard the Vistadome Train.
- Lunch in the excursion to Machu Picchu: Lunch at Sanctuary Lodge
- Service of a bilingual licensed tour guide for all tours and excursions
- All meals indicated in the itinerary. B for breakfast, L for lunch. D for dinner
- Hotel accommodation and hotel service charge
- Hotel taxes are exempt for foreigners visiting Peru
- When domestic airfare within Peru is specified as included: Airfare includes all queues, security fee, fuel surcharges and 18% Peruvian sales tax.

Not included:

- Extra expenses in case of modifying the itinerary due to flight cancellation, strikes or blocking of roads and train tracks by demonstrators or political activists. Travel insurance is strongly recommended.
- When staying overnight in Machu Picchu, the entrance fee for the 2nd day in Machu Picchu is not included. This can be added to the itinerary upon request
- Expenses such as beverages on meals, tips, laundry, phone calls and other personal expenses are not included
- When a cruise to the Galapagos Islands is part of the itinerary, the Galapagos National Park Tax is not included. It is payable upon arrival at the Galapagos Islands
- Airport departure taxes are not included: Approximate cost is US \$31.00 for international flight, and US \$7.40 for each domestic flight

Cancellation Penalties for FIT's

- The cancellation penalty is 100% when services are cancelled within 30 days of arrival.
- When the deadline to cancel without penalties is longer than 30 days, Fiesta Tours Peru will notify you upon confirmation of services.
- Amazon river cruises and Galapagos island cruises are not refundable when services are cancelled within 90 days of arrival. When deadline changes, clients will be notified.

General Conditions for Groups

- Rooming list is due 50 days prior to arrival ⁽¹⁾.
- Payment is due 50 days prior to arrival.
- An updated number of rooms to be needed is recommended 90 days prior to arrival.
- Hotels' cancellation penalty will be provided upon confirmation.
- Transfers and tours have a 100% cancellation penalty for services cancelled within 30 days of arrival.
- Airfares have a 100% cancellation penalty for flights cancelled within 35 days of departure.
- Inka Terra Hotels requires a 20% non-refundable deposit 95 days prior to arrival. They reserve the right to request a 20% non-refundable deposit at any given moment. Final rooming list is due 65 days prior to arrival.

⁽¹⁾ The following hotels will require the final rooming list 65 days prior to arrival: Belmond Hotels, J.W. Marriott and Gran Hotel Faraona. V-Apr-15-2014

Please review our General Conditions

<http://www.fiestatoursperu.com/gcenglish/>





Hotels used in Tour Packages: For Exploring Peru Series – 2015

City	Tourist	Tourist Superior	First Class	First Class Superior	Deluxe	Luxury
Lima	Tambo # 1 or Los Girasoles	Casa Andina Classic Miraflores Centro or Tambo # 2	Casa Andina Select Miraflores or Jose Antonio	Melia Lima o Dazzler or Four Points by Sheraton	Casa Andina Private Collection Miraflores or El Pardo	Westin Lima Hotel & Convention Center or Country Club Lima
Cusco	Samay or San Agustin Internacional	Eco Inn or San Agustin El Dorado or Terra Andina Hotel (STD) or Casa Andina Classic Cusco	Terra Andina Hotel (Sup) or Sonesta Hotel Cusco or Jose Antonio	Casa Andina Private Collection Cusco or Novotel	Palacio del Inka A Luxury Collection Hotel	Belmond Monasterio
Valle Sagrado	Inkallpa Valle Sagrado or Agustos Urubamba	Villa Urubamba or San Agustin Monasterio de la Recoleta	Sonesta Posadas del Inca Yucay	Casa Andina Private Collection Valle Sagrado	Sol y Luna (casita sup) or Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel & Wellness	Tambo del Inka A Luxury Collection or Belmond Rio Sagrado
Aguas Calientes	Hatun Samay Machu Picchu	El Mapi or Casa Andina Classic Machu Picchu	El Mapi or Casa Andina Classic Machu Picchu	Casa del Sol Machu Picchu Boutique Hotel	Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo or Sumaq	Belmond Sanctuary Lodge
Arequipa	Casa Andina Classic Arequipa	Tierra Viva Arequipa Plaza	El Cabildo	Sonesta Posadas del Inca Arequipa	Libertador Arequipa	Libertador Arequipa
Colca	Eco Inn Valle del Colca	Casa Andina Classic Colca	Colca Lodge or Aranwa Pueblito Encantado	Colca Lodge or Aranwa Pueblito Encantado	Colca Lodge or Aranwa Pueblito Encantado	Casitas del Colca
Puno	La Hacienda Plaza de Armas	Eco Inn Puno	Sonesta Posadas del Inca Puno	Sonesta Posadas del Inca Puno	Casa Andina Private Collection Puno	Libertador Lago Titicaca
Trujillo	Posada del Rey	Costa del Sol Trujillo	Costa del Sol Trujillo	Libertador Trujillo	Libertador Trujillo	Casa Andina Private Collection Trujillo
Chiclayo	Los Portales de Chiclayo	Los Portales de Chiclayo	Costa del Sol Chiclayo	Casa Andina Select Chiclayo	Casa Andina Select Chiclayo	Casa Andina Select Chiclayo
Ica	Las Dunas	Las Dunas	Las Dunas	Las Dunas	Las Dunas	Las Dunas
Paracas	San Agustin Paracas	San Agustin Paracas	La Hacienda Bahia Paracas	La Hacienda Bahia Paracas	DoubleTree by Hilton Resort Paracas or Aranwa Paracas Resort & Spa	Hotel Paracas A Luxury Collection Resort
Nazca	Casa Andina Classic Nazca	Majoro	Majoro	Hotel Nuevo Cantayoc	Hotel Nuevo Cantayoc	Hotel Nuevo Cantayoc
Iquitos	Ceiba Tops	Ceiba Tops	Ceiba Tops	Ceiba Tops	Ceiba Tops	Ceiba Tops
Puerto Maldonado	Posada Amazonas	Posada Amazonas	La Hacienda Concepcion	La Hacienda Concepcion	Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica	Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica



Exploring Peru Series – 2015
Prices per person in US\$ - Airfare not included

Exploring Peru Tour Number	Hotel Category	Dbl	Tpl	Sgl	Single Alone Surcharge
# 38	Luxury	\$6791	\$7363	\$10351	\$1506
# 38	Deluxe	\$5380	\$5194	\$7539	\$1506
# 38	First Class Superior	\$4536	\$4374	\$5920	\$1506
# 38	First Class	\$4255	\$4158	\$5463	\$1506
# 38	Tourist Superior	\$3884	\$3832	\$4764	\$1506
# 38	Tourist	\$3719	\$3630	\$4322	\$1506