

EXPLORING PERU # 42

17 Days / 16 Nights

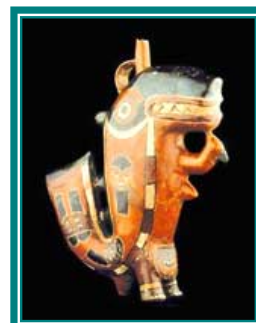
Lima, Chiclayo, Trujillo, Arequipa, The Colca Canyon, Puno, Cusco, Pisac Indian Market and Ollantaytambo Fortress, Maras Salt Pools and Authentic Quechua Village, Machu Picchu

Day 1 Thursday – Arrival in Lima

Upon arrival at the airport a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and help you in registering.

Day 2 Friday – Lima

Breakfast at your hotel. In the afternoon City Tour of Lima and Larco Museum - This half day tour visits both the colonial and modern sections of this "City of Kings." Colonial sites include the lovely Plaza de Armas with its cathedral and palace, 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 showcases 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. Features the finest gold and silver collection from Ancient Peru and the famous erotic archaeological collection, one of the most visited Peruvian tourist attractions. (B)



Day 3 Saturday – Lima / Chiclayo

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Chiclayo. Upon arrival at the airport a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and help you in registering. Visit the complex of Huaja Rajada which comprises two huge pyramids made of adobe mud in front of which there is a platform which is to have contained the royal mausoleum. The intact remains of an important Mochica ruler known as the Lord of Sipan were discovered here in 1987. Then continue to the Royal Tombs of Sipan Museum, a museum inaugurated in November 2002. Rated as one of the most outstanding archaeological museums in South America, the building is modeled after an ancient pyramid of the region. Here you can find a reconstruction of the tomb of Sipan, dubbed the "Tutankhamen of the Americas" because of the golden splendor of his tomb: hundreds of pieces of pottery and exquisite gold jewelry. (B)



Day 4 Sunday – Chiclayo / Trujillo

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer in bus to Trujillo. Upon arrival a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and help you in registering. In the afternoon visit the city of Trujillo, known as "the City of the Eternal Spring", where you will visit the Main Square, the Cathedral and the beautiful residential and commercial areas which contain grandiose colonial houses and well preserved porches, balconies and churches such as the Colonial Mansions of "Casa Iturregui" and "Casa Bracamonte". Transfer to the National University of Trujillo Museum, that contains cultural expressions of Peru's diverse Pre-hispanic epochs such as: ceramics, weavings, metal, etc. (B)



Day 5 Monday – Trujillo / Lima

Breakfast at your hotel. Visit to Chan Chan, the former capital of Chimú Empire. This Empire reached its apogee in the 15th century, not long before falling to the Incas. The planning of this huge city, the largest in pre-Columbian America, reflects a strict political and social strategy, marked by the city's division into nine 'citadels' or 'palaces' forming autonomous units. This pre-Columbian adobe city is famous for its archaeological site in South America!. From Chan Chan you will visit the seashore village of Huanchaco, known for its totora seahorses - a typical small reed boat used for fishing. Then visit one of the most important centers of the ancient Moche. This pre-Inca civilization, a warrior culture, once dominated the valleys of the northern coast of Peru.



Experience the amazing adobe engineering of the Temple of the Sun (sol), the tallest pyramid in the Americas at a height of 48 meters, which is estimated to have involved over 200,000 workers in its construction and over 140 million adobe bricks. Steps away is the temple of the Moon (Luna), the Moche political center where recently uncovered friezes of mystical images are believed to belong to a divinity of sacrifices. Transfer to the airport for your 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. (B)



Day 6 Tuesday – Lima / Arequipa

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Arequipa. Upon arrival at the airport a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and help you in registering. 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, 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 shut themselves away from the world and dedicate entirely to prayer. (B)



Day 7 Wednesday – Arequipa / Colca Canyon

Breakfast at your hotel. Early departure towards the highlands passing through Yura-Pampa Cañahuas and La Pulpera with good possibility of observing groups of wild vicuñas and fighting cattle. Stop en route to see petroglyphs in the Caves of Mollepunco and in the town of Callali to see natural hill formations with the appearance of enchanted castles. Continue to La Calera to enjoy the thermal baths under the stars. (B,L,D)



Day 8 Thursday – Colca Canyon / Puno

Breakfast at your hotel. To maximize your probability of seeing condors we depart very early towards the "Cross of the Condor" at about an altitude of 15,000 feet, which grants visitors spectacular views of condors wheeling across the Colca Canyon, the world's deepest. Drive a little further in to the canyon to see some pre-Inca ruins, pre-Inca burial grounds, to watch 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. The afternoon ride to Puno features unique natural scenery of the Peruvian Highlands. (B,L)



Day 9 Friday – Puno

Breakfast at your hotel. Visit to the Uros Indian and Taquile Island at Lake Titikaka - This full day excursion will take you to the highest navigable lake in the world, to visit the floating islands of the Uros Indians, considered themselves Lords of the Lake, and they were convinced they had black blood because they did not feel the cold of the lake and the winter. Continuing to Taquile where a native community of about 400 families still lives with the traditions of the XIV century that respect the principals of an Incan way life. Taquile is a very important site on Lake Titikaka for its archaeological remains, the sacred and ceremonial sites, the festive activities, their rituals and for the daily life of the inhabitants which is dedicated to farming, textile production and fishing. (B,L)



Day 10 Saturday – Puno / Cusco

Breakfast at your hotel. Bus journey through the Peruvian Andes from Puno - Today one of South America's most extraordinary overland trips takes you by bus to Cusco passing through striking highland scenery and picturesque Andean villages. Upon your arrival in Cusco, the former capital of the Inca Empire, a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and help you to register. (B,L)



Day 11 Sunday – Cusco

Breakfast at your hotel. Free morning. Tour of Cusco and its Ruins - This afternoon's tour of the oldest continuously inhabited city in the western hemisphere includes important landmarks of enchanting Cusco and also the nearby ruins of Kenko, Puca-pucara, Tambomachay as well as the Sacsayhuaman fortress. Once the center of the Inca civilization, modern Cusco is a delightful combination of Inca and colonial architecture. During the tour, you will visit Cusco's Cathedral, Santo Domingo Church and the Plaza de Armas. (B)



Day 12 Monday – Cusco / Sacred Valley

Breakfast at your hotel. Full Day Excursion to the Pisac Indian Market and the Ollantaytambo Fortress (Daily) -Morning departure for a drive through the fertile countryside to the colonial village 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. After lunch the tour continues to the village of Ollantaytambo for a visit to its impressive Inca fortress.(B,L)



Day 13 Tuesday – Sacred Valley

Breakfast at your hotel. Salt Pools and Quechua Village. Morning excursion to the impressive salt pools formed by water emerging from a lake inside a mountain in the Urubamba Valley. Continue your excursion and 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 woman are weaving their family's clothes. A meaningful experience! (B,L).



Day 14 Wednesday – Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu

Breakfast at your hotel. Excursion to Machu Picchu with overnight stay - Early wake up for a 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 and lunch are included. (B,L).



Day 15 Thursday – Machu Picchu / Cusco

Breakfast at your hotel. Free morning to enjoy one of the most incredible sights on earth, the ruins of Machu Picchu. Take as much time as you need to study the mysterious ruins, hike Huayna Picchu, stroll to the Inca Bridge or walk toward the Inca Trail to find the legendary Sun Gate. Afternoon shuttle bus to the train station for your return trip to Cusco. Upon arrival transfer from rail station to hotel. (B)



Day 16 Friday – Cusco

Breakfast at your hotel. Free day in Cusco for independent activities - Wandering through this lovely city, exploring the astonishing narrow streets of this tile roof colonial town will be your unforgettable experience. Great buys are the traditional Peruvian handicrafts, alpaca-wool sweaters and rugs, ponchos, pottery, gold and silver jewelry, leather goods, etc. Because there is 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. (B)



Day 17 Saturday – Cusco / Lima / Home

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer from hotel to the airport for your flight to Lima and then take your connecting flight to home. (B)

*** END OF OUR SERVICES ***



Hotels used in Tour Packages For Exploring Peru Series – 2012

City	Tourist	Tourist Superior	First Class	Deluxe	Luxury
Lima	Casa Andina Classic Miraflores San Antonio	Hotel Nobility or Jose Antonio	Sonesta El Olivar	Casa Andina Private Collection Miraflores	Miraflores Park
Cusco	Samay or Amerindia	Terra Andina Hotel (Superior Room)	Novotel or Casa Andina Private Collection Cusco	Libertador Palacio del Inka Cusco	Monasterio
Valle Sagrado	La Casona de Yucay	Sonesta Posada del Inca Yucay	Sonesta Posada del Inca Yucay	Casa Andina Private Collection Valle Sagrado or Sol y Luna	Tambo del Inka Luxury Collection Resort & Spa
Aguas Calientes	Presidente (VP room)	El Mapi Hotel	Hatuchay Tower	Inkaterra Machu Picchu or Sumaq	Sanctuary Lodge
Arequipa	Casa Andina Classic Arequipa	Sonesta Posada del Inca Arequipa	Sonesta Posada del Inca Arequipa	Casa Andina Private Collection Arequipa	Libertador Arequipa
Colca	Casa Andina Classic Colca	Colca Lodge	Colca Lodge	Colca Lodge	Colca Lodge
Puno	Casa Andina Classic Puno Plaza	La Hacienda Puno	Sonesta Posada del Inca Puno	Casa Andina Private Collection Puno	Libertador Lago Titicaca
Trujillo	Los Conquistadores	El Gran Marques	Libertador Trujillo	Libertador Trujillo	Libertador Trujillo
Chiclayo	Garza Hotel	Garza Hotel	Casa Andina Select Chiclayo	Casa Andina Select Chiclayo	Casa Andina Select Chiclayo
Ica	Las Dunas	Las Dunas	Las Dunas	Las Dunas	Las Dunas
Nazca	Casa Andina Classic Nazca	Nazca Lines	Hotel Cantayo	Hotel Cantayo	Hotel Cantayo
Iquitos	Ceiba Tops	Ceiba Tops	Ceiba Tops	Ceiba Tops	Ceiba Tops
Puerto Maldonado	Posada Amazonas	Posada Amazonas	Posada Amazonas	Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica	Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica



Exploring Peru Series – 2012

Prices per person in US\$ - Airfare not included

Exploring Peru Tour Number	Hotel Category	DbI	Tpl	Sgl	Single Alone Surcharge
# 42	Luxury	\$5718	\$6132	\$8835	\$1255
# 42	Deluxe	\$4247	\$4114	\$5959	\$1255
# 42	First Class	\$3730	\$3635	\$4986	\$1255
# 42	Tourist Superior	\$3394	\$3290	\$4315	\$1255
# 42	Tourist	\$3064	\$3010	\$3606	\$1255