

**Departure: Mar 4, 2023**

**Arrival to Lima: TBD**

**Activities are subject to change**

**DAY 1 LIMA Mar 5, 2024**

Morning Lima city tour, plaza Bolívar, change of guard, catacombs.

After lunch we go to the Larco museum and the museum of gold, barranco.

### BOHEMIAN BARRANCO

The Barranco District is considered to be one of the most romantic corners of Lima. During this full-day tour, you will learn about love stories, history, architecture and art in this bohemian area of Lima. This is also where a lot of the European immigrants moved to, so we'll peel back the layers of some of their extravagant, lavish and luxurious lives, with mixed stories of fortune and failure.

### PRE-INCAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

In this off-the-beaten-path full day tour, you'll visit two ancient archaeological sites of Lima that are not just impressive, they are surprisingly in the list of the least visited attractions of Lima and the least known by locals: Huaca Pucllana and Huaca Huallamarca. Both were built about 2,000 years ago, both important to show you the origin of the city. You'll also visit one of the biggest parks of Lima, the "Olivar" or olive's groove of San Isidro, a very exclusive residential zone and home to some endemic bird species.

### MIRAFLORES DISTRICT

Miraflores is a must-visit-place while in Lima! It is known as the touristic district, with a combination of hotels, restaurants, colorful 1920s and 1930s houses, parks and modern buildings. Over 140 years of history can be discovered here. On this full-day tour, we will visit the famous Inca market, the Kennedy Park (known around the world as Cat Park!) and the Love Park (parque del Amor) with a majestic view of the Pacific Ocean. You'll also learn about the war of the Pacific (between Peru-Chile) at the memorial site and the old Leuro neighborhood. We'll end our day at one of the most famous malls of Lima, Larcomar.

Hotel - Lima

**DAY 2 Mar 6, 2024 LIMA -CUSCO**

Morning Flight to Cusco

Since the check in is not until 11 a.m., we will take the first day in Cusco very slow just to make sure everyone is OK. So after we settle at the hotel, we will go for a walking orientation around Cusco, San Pedro market, plaza SanFrancisco, plaza de armas (main square).

We'll have lunch and then we will continue to San Blas lookout point and location for museums, if you want to visit them eventually on your free time.

We'll meet you at your hotel in Cusco. If it is close enough to the center, we will walk but if needed we can provide private transport instead. In the center, we first visit the Plaza de Armas to explore the beautiful cathedral and watch the locals and tourists in the vibrant heart of the city. We'll take some time to soak up this unique atmosphere, learn about the city's local history and admire its beautiful architecture.

We will finish the tour back in Cusco's main square. Why not sample some delicious street food? Our local guide will take pride in sharing with you how to continue on your own to experience the city, including the best museums to visit, where to get a relaxing massage or do some shopping, where to eat or enjoy some live music in the evening.

Hotel - Cusco

### **DAY 3 Mar 7, 2024**

Morning city tour, Cathedral, Qoricancha, Tambomachay, Qenqo, Sacsayhuaman.

We continue walking the ancient cobbled streets of the Inca Empire historic capital to Coricancha, where we will visit the Temple of the Sun. Here your expert guide will explain a bit more about the rich history and culture including the different building methods used by the Incas and the clashes with Catholicism.

Lunch

Next, our private transport will take us on a short scenic ride to the site of Tambomachay. After, Q'enqo. Sacsayhuaman, a citadel on the northern outskirts of the city. Entry to this UNESCO World Heritage-listed archaeological site is included. As you walk around with your private guide exploring each ruin, you'll gain a better understanding of the citadel's history and purpose. Admire the perfect constructions, designs and shapes built by the Incas and the symbolism behind them.

Hotel - Cusco

### **DAY 4 Mar 8, 2024**

Sacred valley tour

The Sacred valley tour will start at 7:30 a.m. We have several activities like the animal sanctuary, llama farms and the silver artisan workshop. We will visit the archaeological sites of Pisac and Ollantaytambo.

You will be picked up from your hotel in Cusco a bit earlier than most other tours to avoid the crowds. With a private transport, we travel over the mountains to our first stop - the archaeological site of Pisac at the beginning of the Sacred Valley. During the guided tour of the ruins, our guide will introduce you to the history and culture of the Incas while exploring the temples, altars, carvings, tunnels and more together.

We will wander through the traditional and colorful market of Pisac, and you will have the opportunity to browse or buy beautiful handicrafts, souvenirs, local fruits, vegetables and other natural products. After about 30 minutes here, we continue our journey through the Sacred Valley and will stop in one of the towns along the Urubamba river for lunch (included).

After lunch, we will make our way to the archaeological site of Ollantaytambo, with impressive Inca constructions and perfectly carved terraces in the mountain setting where you will learn more about the Incas with your tour leader.

Hotel - Ollantaytambo

## **DAY 5 Mar 9, 2024**

Short Inca trail

\*Early train in the morning. Exit the train and hike up to sun gate then down to Machu Picchu.

You will go to the train station in Ollantaytambo and leave on the 6:10 a.m. train. Along the train journey, you will see spectacular views of the farmlands, snow-capped mountains and the mighty Urubamba river, one of the sources of the Amazon river. At 104 km (altitude of 2,100m), we will begin our trek. Once you have everything you need, we will provide you with a packed lunch and take a group photo, before visiting our first Inca site. After a tour and first introduction to the Incas, we will begin hiking upward, as we head for the Inca Trail. If the weather is clear, we'll have tremendous views of Machu Picchu, the Urubamba River and other surrounding Inca sites.

After hiking for three hours, we will reach the most beautiful Incan site on the Inca Trail, Wiñay Wayna (Forever Young) at 2,700m. Most people do not get the opportunity to see an elaborate water fountain, temples and some agricultural terraces, which provide a perfect opportunity to learn about the history of the Incas. The backdrop of this site drops off a cliff, with views of the beautiful mountains surrounding the area. From Wiñay Wayna, we will walk to the Sun Gate, where we will see the picturesque landscape of Machu Picchu. After taking in these once-in-a-lifetime views, we will begin our descent to Machu Picchu.

A big advantage of this hike, is that by the time we reach Machu Picchu, most of the day travelers will have returned home, so you will have the area to yourself. After taking photos, we take the bus down to Aguas Calientes and head to your hotel.

Shopping and dinner.

Hotel - Aguas calientes

## **DAY 6 Mar 10, 2024**

Huayna Picchu hike

Today, we go to Machu Picchu again to have a guided tour and another hike to the Huaynapicchu mountain.

We start our hike up to the peak of Huayna Picchu, which will take about one hour. At the top, take as many pictures as you want of this magnificent view of Machu Picchu below, and the entire valley around. Take your time and enjoy! On the way down, we will explore the rest of the mountain and its hidden Inca treasures.

You are free to explore Aguas Calientes town and have some lunch.

We will take a short bus ride to Machu Picchu to start the private guided tour. Your expert, English-speaking guide will bring the Lost City of the Incas to life! The entire tour takes about two hours, you'll then also have some time to explore by yourself and take pictures.

There will be some free time for you in Aguas Calientes to have dinner, before we board our train back to Ollantaytambo to your accommodation.

Afternoon shopping and train back to Ollantaytambo .

Hotel - Ollantaytambo, depending on the time possible hike to the pinkuylluna mountain in front of Ollantaytambo.

## **DAY 7 Mar 11, 2024**

On our way back to Cusco, we visit Chinchero, a beautiful colonial-era village where you will be fully immersed into the Andean community and culture. You'll learn about Peruvian weaving and textile coloring from local artisans, all still done using traditional Inca techniques - knowledge passed down from generation to generation.

Activity at the community in the sacred valley and help them to make a traditional lunch while they can help with some of the agricultural chores and maybe play some football or volleyball with them.

For the community, we will cover lunch but it might be nice if they want to buy something at the community (some alpaca products ).

Hotel - Cusco

**DAY 8 Mar 12, 2024**

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Cusco/ATV-Tour-to-Moray-Maras-and-Salt-Flat-in-the-Sacred-Valley-from-Cusco/d937-29542P1>

You will be picked up from your hotel to visit the salt ponds of Maras.

The first pans were created here by pre-Inca civilizations who discovered the underground flow of salt water, were taken over by the Incas as they needed salt for their own use and trade, then passed down to local families through generations which continues today using the same salt harvesting process. You'll learn all about this and more from your expert guide and will have the opportunity to taste some different flavored salt.

Next we visit the fascinating archaeological Inca site in Moray with its large and striking circular terraces that look like amphitheaters – one large and two smaller – beautifully carved and engineered by the Incas. We believe that this site was used by them for experimental agriculture, with each terrace having its own microclimate to test different crops.

Hotel - Cusco

**DAY 9 Mar 13, 2024**

Rafting and Zip line tour.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Cusco/Cusco-Rafting-and-Zipline-Adventure/d937-11413P13>

Hotel - Cusco

**DAY 10 Mar 14, 2024**

Rainbow mountain or humantay lagoon

**4 a.m.:** We have a very early morning start, you will be picked up from your hotel in Cusco. It's about a three-hour drive to the start of the trek - enjoy the sunrise and scenery from your private transport or sleep a little bit longer.

**7 a.m.:** When we arrive, you will be provided with breakfast to energize you while the crew prepares for the trek. You can also rent a horse if you prefer not to hike. The hike then takes about two to three hours to the viewpoint. We recommend you bring both rain and sun protection. Take your time to enjoy the journey and various landscapes, and we're sure to encounter some llamas and alpacas!

**10:00 - 10:30 a.m.:** We take in the wonderful view of the seven colored mountains for a while and take pictures. Your guide will also explain some of the history and geography of this area. After about half an hour, we trek back to our starting point. Enjoy your lunch there at around 12:30 - 1 p.m. Our private transport will be waiting to take us back to Cusco.

**5 p.m.:** Expected return to Cusco.

\*The hiking path will not be too steep but we do reach high altitude (maximum 5,200m) so the difficulty will not only depend on your level of fitness but also on how well you've acclimatized and react to the altitude.

Hotel - Cusco

## **DAY 11** Mar 15, 2024

Early flight Lima - Cusco and before your departure you will visit the palomino islands. Since you didn't have time to visit the coast, this will be very interesting .

The islands make up a tourist area where it can see a significant amount of sea lions living in its natural habitat. The islands are home to large colonies of seabird. In its coasts can be found gulls, guanayes, zarcillos, boobies, Peruvian pelicans, patillos and red-legged cormorant.<sup>[1]</sup>

[https://www.tripadvisor.com.pe/Attraction\\_Review-g2042347-d3239570-Reviews-Islas\\_Palomin\\_o-Callao\\_Lima\\_Region.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com.pe/Attraction_Review-g2042347-d3239570-Reviews-Islas_Palomin_o-Callao_Lima_Region.html).

## **DAY 12** Mar 16, 2024

- Departure from Cusco.
- Departure from Lima.
- Return to USA.

### **MEALS INCLUDED**

- All meals included

### **ACCOMMODATION**

- 3 Stars hotels

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- Private minibus and internal flights included