

CUSCO UNFORGETTABLE

5 Days / 4 Nights

Cusco, Maras Salt Pools and Seminario Ceramic Workshop, Machu Picchu, Pisac Indian Market and Ollantaytambo Fortress Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrival in Cusco

A short but spectacular flight over the snowcapped Andes to the oldest inhabited city in the hemisphere, Cusco, at an elevation of 11,440 feet.

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



Cusco Nearby Ruins

Tour of Cusco and Nearby Ruins - Visit Sacsayhuaman fortress, an imposing example of Inca military architecture. It was built using colossal limestone blocks using a variety of interlocking shapes. The estimated weight of some stones is over 120 tons. Visitors are still wondering how it was constructed. Other archaeological sites included in the tour are the Incan military lookout point of Puca-Pucara and the Sanctuaries of Kenko and Tambomachay.



Day 2 Moray, Maras and Seminario Ceramic Workshop (B,L)

Moray, Maras Salt Pools and Seminario Ceramic Workshop - 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.



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.



Lunch at Wayra with Peruvian Paso Horse Show

"Caballo de Paso" known worldwide for their smooth gaited movements and unusual spirit. No other horse combines strength, intelligence and beauty so perfectly as the Peruvian Paso Horse. The particular characteristic of the Paso Horse is precisely the reason for its name: the sublime charm of its typical step. As it walks, its front legs step very high and forward while the hooves sway to the sides in a graceful and synchronized movement. Enjoy a delightful demonstration of the skills of this unique member of the horse kingdom. Lunch at the celebrated Wayra at "Sol y Luna" in the Sacred Valley.



Ceramic Workshop with Pablo Seminario

Pablo Seminario Ceramic Studio has been dedicated to the discovery of techniques and designs from ancient Peruvian cultures. Pablo presents a new art expression, providing continuity to these cultural inheritances. He concentrates on making large-format works of art, "great plates", as he calls them, at his personal workshop. The images that emerge here are the result of the patient work of following the tradition of pre-Colombian pottery, an ambitious task which got underway 20 years ago and which he continues to develop.



Day 3 - Machu Picchu (B)

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.



Day 4 - 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 5 - 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.



End of Services

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.
- 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

Not included:

- 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
- Airport departure taxes are not included: Approximate cost is US \$31.00 for international flight, and US \$7.40 for each domestic flight. ^{V10-11-12}