



THE FAMILY TRIP

TRIP LENGTH: 12 Days

STARTS: Cusco

ENDS: Puerto Maldonado

*Our **Family trip** to Peru brings together the fun and adventure kids crave, the culture and history parents want, and the flexibility families need, in one of the most family-friendly countries on the planet!*

This trip is lovingly designed for families, from the first day's descent to the Sacred Valley for easy acclimatisation, to the last day's catching piranha for dinner in the Amazon jungle – you'll be talking about the adventures you share for years! Every day is flexible, every activity is optional, and every arrangement is taken care of, so you're free to just hang out and be together as a family.

All of us at Aspiring have children, and sharing Peru's awesomeness with other families is our passion. Your expert guide will take care of all the logistics – all you have to do is relax and enjoy the most engaging, fun and exciting trip your family has ever taken!

DAY 1: SUNDAY

WELCOME TO PERU!

We'll pick you up from your Cusco accommodation at 1pm, eat a delicious lunch at a local favourite restaurant, then head for the tiny Inca town of Pisac in the stunning Sacred Valley.

Along the way we'll visit Cochahuasi, a private animal-rescue sanctuary where you can get close to flamingos, lynxes, pumas, tapirs, and condors. There's time before dinner to wander through the charming cobbled streets and squares of Pisac, or to simply rest: it's important to take it easy as you acclimatise to the altitude of the high Andes (3,300m or 10,800ft in Cusco, 2,900m or 9,500ft in Pisac).

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Pisac

Meals: Lunch and dinner included

DAY 2: MONDAY

EXPLORE PISAC

Pisac is home to two major tourist attractions. The first is the huge Inca fortress that bristles spectacularly on the mountain above the town. In the morning we'll explore the sprawling ruin, and enjoy the views of the high peaks around us and the verdant Sacred Valley of the Incas below. In the afternoon there's time for shopping at Pisac's handicraft market – the biggest and most famous in the region.

Pisac is also home to a great family attraction: a country club with kid and adult pools, a playground, miniature lake with fish, and lots of space to run around. This is another great option today as we ease into our Peru experience.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Pisac

Meals: All meals included

DAY 3: TUESDAY**EXPERIENCE PERUVIAN VILLAGE LIFE**

We'll spend this very special day with families who lead a life that has barely changed in hundreds of years: subsistence farming in the village of Amaru. In the morning we'll help the farmers in the fields, assisting them with whatever tasks they're doing on the day, which depends on the time of the year and could be anything from herding pigs to helping with the harvest.

In the afternoon, the women of Amaru will show us how they make the traditional textiles they wear. We'll have the opportunity to participate in every stage of the process, from picking plants to make dyes to weaving on a loom!

Accommodation: Basic guesthouse in Amaru

Meals: All meals included

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY**THE SUNNY, SCENIC SACRED VALLEY**

After breakfast we'll wave goodbye to our new friends in Amaru and head down off the mountain into the Sacred Valley. For proficient bikers, there's the option to ride bikes from Amaru down to Pisac: it's a fun, curvy descent on an unpaved country road through beautiful mountain scenery.

Then we'll drive through the sunny, fertile Sacred Valley – we'll need lots of photo stops! – to Ollantaytambo, our pick for the most charming of all Inca towns. From here we'll take a scenic train ride, that enchants children and adults alike, to Aguas Calientes, the town that nestles at the base of Machu Picchu mountain.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Aguas Calientes

Meals: All meals included

DAY 5: THURSDAY**MACHU PICCHU!**

An early start rewards us with sunrise at Machu Picchu – a peak moment for anyone. A spectacular stone city surrounded by incredibly steep, incredibly green mountains, Machu Picchu needs no introduction and is deservedly one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. A guided tour is a necessary start to orient you in this massive site, then you'll have time to explore the ruin and some of the surrounding peaks, or relax and play on the beautiful lawned terraces, before we take the train back to Ollantaytambo.

Accommodation: Cosy, family-run hotel in Ollantaytambo

Meals: All meals included

DAY 6: FRIDAY**MORAY AND SALINERAS**

Today we'll visit two unusual and fascinating Inca sites. First is Moray – three massive Inca amphitheatres of incredible engineering precision and stern, magnificent beauty. They are said to have been a crop laboratory but have a mysterious, other-worldly vibe that suggest a more mystical purpose to many. Next is Salineras, the still-operational Inca salt factory – a surreal and beautiful patchwork of pools and paths that's one of our favourite sights in the Sacred Valley.

If you like, you can ride quad bikes (also known as ATVs or four wheeled motorbikes) from one site to another today – it's a great way to enjoy the beautiful rolling countryside. Kids can drive their own, or be passengers with an adult – it's up to you.

Accommodation: Cosy, family-run hotel in Ollantaytambo

Meals: All meals included

DAY 7: SATURDAY PADDLE ON LAKE PIURAY

This morning the adventure continues with stand-up paddleboarding – a fun, safe adventure that we recommend for even our smallest guests. After a full briefing and warm-up, we'll spend the morning paddling on serene, stunning Lake Piuray. It's a lot of fun for kids, and a great way for parents to soak in the quiet majesty of the mountains all around us.

In the afternoon, there's time to explore the charming church and expansive mountain terraces of Chinchero before we head to Cusco for the night.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Cusco

Meals: All meals included

DAY 8: SUNDAY EXPLORE CUSCO

Cusco is bursting at the seams with things to see and do: churches and temples, colonial architecture, stunning streetscapes, great cafés, mountain views, museums, musicians, markets, and crazy hole-in-the-wall shops selling everything from frogs and herbs for casting spells to the world's most colourful candles! There's also hiking in the countryside only minutes away, and plenty of outdoor activities on offer, so whatever you feel like doing today, we'll make it happen! By this stage of the trip, your guide will be familiar with your family's interests and will be there with you to help you make the best of your time in this amazing town.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Cusco

Meals: All meals included

DAY 9: MONDAY TO THE AMAZON JUNGLE!

Today we'll make the incredible journey – by car, plane, dugout canoe and walking a jungle trail (1.5km/.75 of a mile) – to virgin Amazon rainforest outside Puerto Maldonado. The irrepressible life all around you, with buzzing insects, flocks of birds and monkeys, and plants growing so fast you can almost see it happening, lets you know immediately that you've come to a very different world. The feeling that you've stepped into another dimension is enhanced when you find yourself spending the evening spotting *caimanes* (freshwater crocodiles) from a boat on a jungle waterway!

Accommodation: Remote jungle lodge

Meals: All meals included

DAY 10: TUESDAY GIANT RIVER OTTERS, MONKEYS, AND KAYAKING

This is an unforgettable day of family adventure, so we'll get started early. (Like everything else in on all our family trips, this is optional – we find most teenagers prefer to sleep late!) Sunrise is a great time for spotting monkeys, birds and giant river otters, so we'll greet the dawn with them.

Then we'll paddle kayaks on a safe, calm section of the Madre de Dios River – a great, fun way to get some exercise and cool off from the jungle heat!

Later we'll paddle on an oxbow lake, looking for troops of up to 200 monkeys on the lakeshore.

Accommodation: Remote jungle lodge

Meals: All meals included

DAY 11: WEDNESDAY PARROT LICK AND PIRANHA FISHING!

Today we'll hike through the jungle to visit a woodlick where big, clever, colourful *guacamayo* parrots congregate to eat the clay that provides them with nutrients they can't get anywhere else. Along the way there's a good chance we'll spot sloths and monkeys going about their morning business.

No family trip to Peru would be complete without fishing for piranha! Pan-fried piranha is delicious, and frying up and eating your own carnivorous catch as the sun sets over the Amazon Jungle is a dinner to remember.

Tonight's optional night hike gives you a last opportunity to spot tapirs, *caimanes*, night monkeys and tarantulas.

Accommodation: Remote jungle lodge

Meals: All meals included

DAY 12: THURSDAY DEPARTURE DAY

Today we'll retrace our journey back to Puerto Maldonado airport. It's a good idea to book your flight out for the afternoon, so as not to have to get up too early. If you would like assistance with your domestic flights or other onward arrangements, we're here to help!

Meals: Breakfast included

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- All accommodation (based on twin share. Single Supplement available for US\$300)
- All ground transport
- Flight from Cusco to Puerto Maldonado
- All activities specified in itinerary
- Dedicated Aspiring Adventures Cusco family specialist guide for days 1-8
- Dedicated Aspiring Adventures jungle family specialist guide days 9-12
- Entrance to all attractions specified in itinerary
- Extra permit to climb Huayna Picchu at Machu Picchu (if available at time of booking)
- All meals as specified in itinerary
- Drinking water with meals

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

- Tips for your guides
- Flights to start and from end of trip
- Private trip for just your family, plus your guide (US\$300 per person)

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations on our Peru trips are our favourites in each place. In Cusco, Pisac, Ollantaytambo, and Aguas Calientes we stay in comfortable, family-friendly hotels. In Amaru we stay in a community guesthouse. In the Amazon, we stay in airy bungalows at a remote jungle lodge.