



Adventure tours that delve deeper

Epic adventure to Machu Picchu

TRIP LENGTH: Six days
STARTS AND ENDS: Cusco

Off Peru's beaten track, beyond Machu Picchu, where the Andes slope off into the Amazon, lies the forgotten region of Concepción. Little penetrated by foreign tourists, it is a multisport playground we love to share with adventurous travellers. If you're prepared to rough it a little, you'll be richly rewarded with biking, hiking, ziplining, swimming in rivers, waterfalls and jungle water parks, and the best rafting in Peru!

Day 1 Bike down into the Amazon basin

We'll pick you up from your accommodation in Cusco at 7am and drive up to Abra Málaga (Malaga Pass), the high point of the trip at a chilly 4,350 (14,270ft) metres. Here we cross from the eastern to the western side of the Andes – we're now on the upper slopes of the mighty Amazon Basin and will lose nearly 3,000 metres (10,000ft) of altitude over an incredibly scenic 71km (44 mile) on-road bike descent.

It's not hard to see why this ride is one of South America's classics, and often favourably compared to Bolivia's infamous 'Death Road'. It's pure fun – a long, gentle descent through some of the most spectacular scenery you'll ever see – and suitable for anyone who can ride a bike. By the time we get to Santa Teresa, at 1,900 meters (6,230ft), we're in high jungle – a whole different world from the icy Andean pass where we started.

There's time this evening to visit the Cocalmayo natural hot springs, one of our favourite places in Peru and the perfect place to relax and celebrate our achievements today, and the adventures to come in the next few days!

Accommodation: Rustic eco-lodge outside Santa Teresa

Meals: Lunch and dinner included

Day 2 White-water rafting in the high jungle

Virtually untouched by tourism and rarely commercially-run, the Santa Teresa river offers the most exhilarating and beautiful rafting in the Cusco region, and today it's our pleasure to initiate you into its mysteries!

In the afternoon we'll drive to Huancacalle. The scenic drive up a remote mountain road through a vertiginous green valley is a treat in itself. We'll spend the night in a family-run hotel in this tiny town, overlooking sheep-dotted paddocks and a rocky mountain stream.

Accommodation: Basic lodgings in Huancacalle

Meals: All meals included

info@aspiringadventures.com | www.aspiringadventures.com

South America HQ: Apartado 611, Cusco, Peru | Pacific HQ: 13 Wickliffe St, Mosgiel 9024, New Zealand

Free Call: 1800 ASPIRING (Australia) | 0508 ASPIRING (New Zealand) | 1 877 438 1354 (US & Canada) | +64 3 489 7474 (Worldwide)

Day 3 Vitcos and an unforgettable bike ride

In the morning we'll take a short hike to Vitcos and the White Rock, two recently unearthed Inca sites set in scenic bushland. The two sites and the short hike between them are worth the trip to Huancacalle in themselves, but we came here with an even greater purpose – the bike ride out!

We'll spend the afternoon riding out down the same dirt road we came in up yesterday, freewheeling through farmland and villages for hours as we gradually lose altitude and the passing scenery changes from llama pastures, to banana and coffee plantations. This is a spectacular, fun cruise off the beaten track through village life in Peru.

Accommodation: Basic hotel in Quillabamba

Meals: All meals included

Day 4 Watery fun around Quillabamba

Quillabamba is a sleepy jungle town that sees few tourists. Its main attractions are outside town and consist of a series of different swimming holes, each more awesome than the last.

Siete Tinajas is a series of seven pools under a jungle cascade, where we can paddle, climb, and pluck jungle fruit straight off trees! Sanbaray and Echarati boast elaborate complexes of swimming pools, slides, landscaped lawns and trout restaurants where hours can go by just lounging, swimming, eating ice-cream and people-watching. This is a day of the jungle at its best, as enjoyed by the locals.

Accommodation: Basic hotel in Quillabamba

Meals: All meals included

Day 5 Zipline and scenic train ride

We'll drive back to Santa Teresa today and experience Cola de Mono, South America's highest zipline (flying fox). After being harnessed up, kitted out and fully briefed, we'll each whizz across six separate sections of line strung across the precipitous Sacsara Valley, a narrow fold in the Andes between Santa Teresa and Machu Picchu. The scenery is spectacular and the ride surprisingly serene; you won't forget this experience in a hurry!

Later, we'll either take a short train ride or hike the pleasant eight kilometres (five miles) to Machu Picchu Pueblo (town), also known as Aguas Calientes.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Aguas Calientes

Meals: All meals included

Day 6 Machu Picchu!

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.

We'll be up at sunrise so there's time for your guide to show you around Machu Picchu's main citadel, as well as our favourite hidden nooks and crannies, before the crowds arrive. Then there's time for your own exploration of the massive, still-mysterious site, before we catch the train back to Cusco.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch included

What's included:

- All accommodation (*based on twin-share. Single supplement available for US\$150*)
- All ground transport (*including full vehicle support/SAG wagon while biking*)
- All activities specified in itinerary
- Entrance to all attractions specified in itinerary
- Extra permit to climb Huayna Picchu at Machu Picchu (*if available at time of booking*)
- Dedicated Aspiring Adventures guide
- Specialist rafting and biking guides and equipment on relevant days
- All meals as specified (*five breakfasts, six lunches, five dinners*)
- Drinking water during meals

What's not included:

- Tip for your guide(s)
- Drinks and snacks

Conditions on the trip

This is off-the-beaten-track Peru. Some roads are rough. Food and service in restaurants will not be of the standard you are used to. Most accommodations are basic. If you're cool with shared bathrooms with unreliable hot water, a lack of amenities like heating and air conditioning, and life without the internet for a few days, then you'll love this epic adventure!