



Adventure tours that delve deeper

Amazon, Short Inca Trail, Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca!

TRIP LENGTH: 11 days
STARTS: Lima
ENDS: Lima

Incredible wildlife-spotting in the Amazon jungle, plus the short Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, Cusco, the Sacred Valley and the fantastic reed islands of Lake Titicaca.

Day 1 Welcome to Peru!

Whatever time you land, we'll get you to your accommodation in Lima. Rest up - the adventure begins tomorrow!

Accommodation: Lima airport hotel
Meals: None

Day 2 Into the heart of the Amazon!

Today we'll make the incredible journey – by van, plane, and dugout canoe – to pristine 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 caimans (freshwater crocodiles) from a boat on a jungle waterway!

Accommodation: Remote lodge in the Amazon jungle
Meals: Lunch and dinner included

Day 3 Macaws, monkeys and more

We'll spend the morning at Collpa Chunchu, the biggest macaw clay lick in the world! Up to 100 big, clever, guacamayos (macaws) congregate here each morning, eating clay which provides nutrients they can't get anywhere else. Along the way there and back, there's a good chance we'll spot sloths and monkeys going about their morning business.

After lunch at the lodge, we'll hike (about 1.5 hours) to an oxbow lake, where we'll paddle around spotting dozens of different bird species in the shallows, troops of monkeys on the lakeshore, and flocks of red-bellied macaws in the flooded palm forest.

Both tonight and tomorrow, optional guided night hikes give you the opportunity to spot tapirs, night monkeys and tarantulas, and to sink into the incredible soundtrack of the jungle after dark.

Accommodation: Remote lodge in the Amazon jungle

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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)

Meals: All meals included

Day 4 La From selva to sierra!

Today we'll retrace our journey back to Puerto Maldonado airport and take the half hour flight to Cusco – the birthplace of the Incas and one of the world's most beautiful and fascinating cities!

Your guide will meet you when you land and take you to your accommodation to settle in, then for a relaxed walking tour of Cusco's historic center. It's important to drink plenty of water and take it relatively easy today as you adjust to Cusco's 3300m (10,000ft) altitude.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel Cusco

Meals: All meals included

Day 5 Stunning scenery in the Sacred Valley

The sunny, incredibly scenic floodplain between Pisac and Ollantaytambo in the valley of the Urubamba River is known as the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Pisac is a tiny, cobbled Inca village which is home to the largest handicraft market in the region and a huge Inca fortress. We'll explore both, then set off into the Sacred Valley. We'll need frequent photo stops as we pass still-working Inca terracing, irrigation canals, and awesome mountain vistas. Our destination is Ollantaytambo, perhaps the most perfectly preserved of all Inca towns, a maze of cobbled alleyways and sun-drenched plazas presided over by a spectacular, llama-shaped ruin.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in the Sacred Valley

Meals: All meals included

Day 6 Hike the Short Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

An early start and a spectacular train ride take us the start of our trail. We start by visiting the Chachabamba archaeological complex, then hike three hours straight uphill to Wiñay Wayna, a beautiful archaeological complex which is also the last campsite on the four-day Inca Trail. We'll have lunch here before walking a further one to two hours to the Sun Gate and our first spectacular view of Machu Picchu. From here it is just 30 minutes more of hiking gently downhill until we are among the ruins of Machu Picchu, from where we'll ride the bus ride down to the town of Aguas Calientes where we'll stay the night.

Altitude range: 2100-2700

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Aguas Calientes

Meals: All meals included

Day 7 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.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Cusco

Meals: All meals included

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Day 8 Peru's history in one day!

The ride from Cusco to Puno is a trip through Peru's incredibly long and varied human history, from pioneering prehistoric art, to Inca heartland, to colonial silver capital. The archaeological complex of Pukara gives us a sense of just how long-ago human civilisation got started here, and the enormous adobe *Templo de Wiracocha* speaks to the scale and grandiosity of the Inca empire. The incredibly ornate colonial church at Andahuaylillas is living evidence of the wealth the conquistadores extracted from Peru. Today we'll see all these sights on our way to Puno, the bustling port town on the shores of Lake Titicaca that's our destination for the night.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Puno

Meals: Breakfast included

Day 9 Textiles and trout on Lake Titicaca

This morning we take to the waters of Lake Titicaca. Our first stop is the Uros – the famous floating reed islands of Lake Titicaca, where we'll try the local cuisine (reeds!) walk on the bouncy terrain made of - you guessed it! - reeds, and check out charming local handcrafts.

Next we'll head for Taquile, one of the most fascinating islands in the world. It was isolated until the 1950s and still follows a very different way of life. Decisions are communal, economic activity is co-operative, and society is based on the fundamental Inca principles: "Ama sua, ama llulla, ama quella" (don't steal, don't lie, don't be lazy). There are no cars, few dogs, and little electricity, because the Taquileños want it that way.

Taquile is also the most famous textile centre in the Andes. Colorful, storytelling textiles, designed and woven by Taquile's women from thread spun by its men, draw aficionados and investigators from all over the world to this amazing island. On top of all this, the scenery is stunning and the peace and tranquility is like nowhere else on Earth. Taquile is just magic.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Puno

Meals: All meals included

Day 10 Lima - que rico!

We'll get you to Juliaca airport in plenty of time to check in for your flight that departs at 9:15am.

At your arrival to Lima our staff will be wait for you. This day you you will enjoy our fantastic "Lima - que rico" tour.

Later we'll head to Lima's historic centre to explore beautiful colonial buildings, stately plazas and creepy catacombs. This afternoon we'll wander the quaint byways of Barranco, where we'll sample Peru's answer to the doughnut – sweet potato dough-based picarones.

Then you will return to your hotel to have a nice rest until is time to take your international flight.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel in Lima

Meals: All meals included

Day 11 Departure Day

We'll get you to Lima airport in time to check in for your departure flight.

Thank you for travelling with us!

Meals: Breakfast included

What's included:

- All accommodation (based on twin or triple share)
- Flights Lima - Puerto Maldonado - Cusco , Juliaca - Lima
- All ground transport
- All activities specified in itinerary
- Dedicated Aspiring Adventures
- Entrance to all attractions specified in itinerary
- All meals as specified in itinerary
- Drinking water with meals

What's not included:

- Tip for your guide(s)
- Drinks beyond water at meals

Accommodations:

Accommodations on our Peru itineraries are our favourites in each town. In Lima, Cusco, Sacred Valley, Puno, towns we stay in clean, comfortable hotels of four-star standard. In the jungle we stay in comfortable remote lodge.