

# ECUADOR - MACHU PICCHU AND GALAPAGOS DISCOVERY



## INTRODUCTION

Blend the best of two South American highlights on this 9 day passage uniting a former Incan Empire with nature's gift of the Galapagos. Commencing in Cusco, cultured and quaint, delve into the depths of the Sacred Valley before rising to the pinnacle of Peru – Machu Picchu. Weave your way back through a map of majestic mountains and, with barely a hop, step and jump, you will find yourself boarding the Galapagos Voyager for an exploration of all things unique and unusual.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Lima

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide, who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office.



### TRIP CODE

LATSCSGP

### DEPARTURE

Enquire for exact departure dates

### DURATION

10 Days

### LOCATIONS

Peru, Ecuador, Machu Picchu, Galapagos Islands



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### DAY 1: Lima

Lima, the capital of Peru, sits on the country's arid Pacific coast. Founded in 1535, its colonial centre is well preserved, but today Lima is a bustling metropolis and one of South America's largest cities. The city is home to the various museums including the Museo Larco that houses a collection of pre-Columbian art and the Museo de la Nación, tracing the history of Peru's ancient civilizations. Lima is known as the "gastronomical capital of the Americas", encompassing specialties from ceviche and traditional coastal cooking to refined global fare. It even boasts several of the top restaurants in the world.



### DAY 2: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



### DAY 2: Arrival transfer in Cusco

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Please note this service is with a driver only.



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## DAY 2: Cusco - City Tour


You will be collected from your hotel for a sightseeing tour through Cusco, the heart of the Inca Empire. Visit the fascinating Qorikancha Temple of the Sun, the 12-Angled Rock and the Cathedral, built on the ruins of an Inca Palace. From here head to the archaeological remains located around the city, including the fortress of Sacsayhuaman, Qenqo (giant rock), the ancient site of Puca Pucara and finally the Water Temple of Tambomachay. On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Included in your tour price is the BTG (Tourist Ticket of Cusco). Please note this is a small group tour.



## DAY 2: Cusco

Cusco, set at an altitude of 3,400 metres in the Peruvian Andes, was once the capital of the Inca Empire. It is known for its Spanish colonial architecture and Incan remains. Narrow, cobble-stoned streets lined by Inca walls stretch out from the main plaza in every direction. Many of the colonial buildings were built on top of Incan foundations and the stonework is unparalleled in its precision and beauty.



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### DAY 3: Sacred Valley Full Day Tour

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for your full day exploration of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. This fertile river valley was home to many important sites for the Incas, both strategic and religious. The first stop is the village of Pisac, with its famous market. The colonial village of Pisac sits at the base of the spectacular Pisac Ruins – a hilltop Inca citadel and fortress with impressive agricultural terracing. On market days Pisac comes alive with locals from nearby hillside villages in traditional dress selling local fruit and vegetables as well as handicrafts. There is free time to wander the colourful market stalls before a typical Andean lunch at a local restaurant. Continue your journey along the River Urubamba, to Ollantaytambo. The town, which is dominated by a giant Inca fortress, is perhaps the best surviving example of Inca town planning and was the scene of a rare Inca victory over the invading Spanish. At the end of the tour you will be transferred to the train station in Ollantaytambo to take the train to Aguas Calientes. Lunch is included. Included in your tour price is the BTG (Tourist Ticket of Cusco) which allows you entrance into 16 attractions around Cusco in ten days. Please note this is a small group tour.



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### DAY 3: Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes

Travel from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu in this comfortable train, and let your feet have rest. Enjoy an authentic Andean experience, while relaxing in modern and comfortable interior design illuminated by Latin American music. Comfortable seats with tables in front to share the journey with friends and partake of a refreshing beverage. On-board services includes a fun and refreshing selection of drinks prepared using Andean herbs and fruits, all of which boast revitalising properties to fill you with energy and keep you ready for the next adventure waiting ahead of you. \*Due to limited space for luggage storage on trains, luggage restrictions apply: one bag or backpack (carry-on luggage) with a maximum weight of 5.0 kg/11 lb, measuring no more than 62 linear inches/157 linear cm (height + length + width)



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## DAY 3: Aguas Calientes


Arrival to Aguas Calientes and free time to explore the Village.



## DAY 4: Machu Picchu Guided Tour

Machu Picchu is a 15th century Inca site, located 2,430 metres above sea level on a mountain ridge above the Sacred Valley. It is the most famous of all Inca sites, but it was not until 1911 that it was brought to the world’s attention by the American historian Hiram Bingham. The Incas abandoned the city just prior to Spanish colonisation, the city was never pillaged and as a result the ruins are still in fantastic condition. With its location on a dramatic ridgeline surrounded by sheer cliffs and the Urubamba River on three sides, the city of Machu Picchu is a remarkable place to visit. Machu Picchu was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 and in 2007 it was voted one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. The tour starts with a bus ride from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu. You will be astonished at your first view of Machu Picchu, a stunning display of ancient architecture with incredible surroundings. Enjoy a guided shared tour of the ruins and monuments such as the Main Square, the Circular Tower, the Sacred Solar Clock, the Royal Quarters, the Temple of the Three Windows and the Cemeteries. Return by bus to Aguas Calientes village. Please be aware that your tour of Machu Picchu does not include an entry permit to Huayna Picchu (the iconic hill behind the Machu Picchu ruins). If you want to climb Huayna Picchu then you need to pre-book your permit with at least 3 months in advance. Please contact your travel specialist if you would like to do this.



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DAY 4: 360 Machu Picchu Train: Mapi - Ollanta PM

This afternoon travel by train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo. \*Due to limited space for luggage storage on trains, luggage restrictions apply: one bag or backpack (carry-on luggage) with a maximum weight of 5.0 kg/11 lb, measuring no more than 62 linear inches/157 linear cm (height + length + width)



DAY 4: Private Transfer Ollantaytambo - Cusco

Transfer from Ollantaytambo train station in the Sacred Valley to Cusco.



DAY 5: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



DAY 5: Arrival transfer in Quito

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## DAY 5: Quito

Sitting at 2,850 metres above sea level high in the Andean foothills lies Quito, the capital of Ecuador. The city, a short distance from the Equator and with an amazing backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is known for its stunning colonial architecture and art-work. Founded in the 16th century on the ruins of an Inca city, Quito has one of the largest, least-altered and best-preserved historic centres in the Americas. It was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1978.



## DAY 6: Sunday, Embark & Cerro Dragón

Upon arrival at Isla Baltra in the Galapagos Islands, you will meet your guide to transfer to, and embark upon, the M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Journey. In the afternoon, visit Cerro Dragón, Dragon Hill, upon which you are afforded beautiful views of the bay. Take a trail to a hypersaline lagoon situated behind a beach, where you can find flamingos and pintail ducks amongst other shorebirds. There is also a population of re-introduced land iguanas.



## DAY 6: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.




## DAY 7: Monday, Black Turtle Cove & Chinese Hat

With an absence of bays, take a kayak or panga to the northern side of Santa Cruz for Black Turtle Cove. The calm waters are frequented by sea turtles that can often be seen mating. The area is also ideal for young sharks and rays that can easily be seen in the clear waters. Continue to the small islet of Chinese Hat, so-called for its distinctive shape. The recent volcanic cone shows lava formations on one side with lava tubes and flows all covered by sea lions, marine iguanas and Galapagos penguins.



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## DAY 8: Tuesday, Isla Genovesa

A great island for birdwatchers, Isla Genovesa, is in the north of the Galapagos Islands. Make a wet landing on the white sand of Darwin Bay. Take a trail towards a cliff edge, observing red-foots in the trees below, as well as sighting sharp-beaked finches, ground finches and swallow-tailed gulls. At the end of the trail, take in spectacular views of the island. Make your way south to the southern part of Darwin Bay to El Barranco, Prince Philip’s Steps. Climb up to find large populations of red-footed and masked boobies as well as storm petrels and short-eared owls.



## DAY 9: Wednesday, Isla Bartolomé & Sullivan Bay

Visit the stunning beaches of Isla Bartolomé, home to marine turtles and a small colony of Galapagos penguins. Enjoy excellent views from this small volcanic island, also featuring the famous Pinnacle Rock. Continue to Sullivan Bay on Isla Santiago. The island is volcanically active with some recently formed cones and flows to be seen. You can walk across the lava that looks as if it has only just formed at Sullivan Bay.



## DAY 10: Thursday, Isla Santa Cruz & Disembark

Head towards the Highlands of Isla Santa Cruz. Up on the trail, on a clear day you will have great views of rolling hills and volcanic cones covered with lush greenery. Transfer to Baltra Airport for your return flight to the mainland.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

**Accommodation** Cabin on ship & hotel



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<b>Inclusions</b>	Accommodation with breakfast everyday Tours and airport transfers as stated on the itinerary Meals as stated on the itinerary and all meals during aboard Galapagos cruise Snorkeling equipment Local English-speaking guide throughout the trip
	<b>Not included:</b> Galapagos National Park entrance fee (currently USD 100 pp) Transit Control Card (currently USD 10 pp) Wet Suit Rental Soft- and alcoholic drinks Personal expenses Extras and Tips
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	2 (light adventure)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	Available upon request
<b>Notes</b>	Contact us for more details
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	Season and Availability.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via

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bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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