

COLOMBIA - MACHU PICCHU & CARTAGENA ESCAPE



TRIP CODE

LATSMPCCE

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

13 Days

LOCATIONS

Peru, Colombia, Machu Picchu



INTRODUCTION

Join us on this 13-day itinerary including the must-see destinations of Peru and Colombia. Start with a classic adventure in the Inca heartland: you will have time to enjoy the beauty and vibrancy of Cusco, as well as visit the surrounding ruins, Sacred Valley towns and countryside; then visit one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Machu Picchu.

Continue to Cartagena, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most popular cities in Colombia. This hot, sultry city is filled with color, music and charm and is the perfect way to experience Colombia's culture. Wander through the streets and alleys of the old walled city, with its tiled roofs, balconies and flower-filled courtyards. Cartagena is one of the most fascinating cities in the Caribbean and was once the â€œJewel of the Spanish Crown.â€œ

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. 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. Please note this service is with a driver only. This service includes a Spanish speaking driver only.



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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: Lima - City Tour

Today you will be collected from your hotel for your tour of Lima, the Colonial 'City of Kings'. On the city tour you will visit a number of well-known sites including the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, Santo Domingo Convent and the Plaza de Armas. This is a chance to appreciate Lima's magnificent Colonial architecture as well as vignettes of its pre-Colombian past. On completion of this tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



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


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.



DAY 3: 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.




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

This evening travel by train from Ollantaytambo in the Sacred Valley to Aguas Calientes. *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 5: 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 5: 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)



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DAY 5: Private Transfer Ollantaytambo - Cusco

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



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 6: Transfer Airport / Hotel in Bogota


On arrival, please make your way 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. Should you not able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office. Please note this service is with local guide.



DAY 6: Bogota

Colombia’s capital Bogotá is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city located in central Colombia on a vast plain 2,600m above sea level, cradled by the Andean mountains. The “Old City” of La Candelaria is the historic cultural centre of the city. Its cobbled streets are lined with colonial buildings housing museums, libraries, restaurants, hotels and bars set amongst convents, churches and homes that date back 300 years. Bogotá's most famous museum is the Gold Museum with over 55,000 pieces of gold, bone, ceramic and textiles from the Pre-Hispanic cultures such as the Tayrona, San Agustín, Chocó, Quimbaya, Muisca and Tierradentro.



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DAY 7: Half Day Tour Bogota

After breakfast enjoy a half day visit to the historic centre known as La Candelaria. This antiquated barrio is of great architectural and cultural heritage and has beautiful architecture. Visit the Plaza de Bolivar, where a statue of the great liberator Simon Bolivar is located. This Plaza, originally called the Plaza Mayor, was used for civil and military purposes, as a marketplace, a bullring and a gallows. Then visit the Museo Botero, a colonial house filled with works of art (that includes pieces by Picasso, Renoir, Dalí Matisse, Monet and Giacometti). Next is the Museo del Oro that has a permanent exhibition of some 32,000 pieces of gold, 20,000 stones, ceramics and textiles. The Museo del Oro is considered as one of the most important museums of its type internationally and it has been functioning since 1939. Free afternoon for individual activities (we recommend visiting the city's various museums).



DAY 8: Transfer Hotel / Airport in Bogota

Depart from your hotel in Bogotá and transfer to the Airport. (English-speaking Guide)



DAY 8: Transfer Airport / Hotel in Cartagena - with Guide

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DAY 8: Cartagena

The beautiful city of Cartagena lies within massive fortifications on Colombia’s northern coast. The walled city and fortress were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. The old town is a maze of cobbled streets, plazas, churches and bougainvillea-covered balconies. Its rich architecture includes Spanish colonial buildings, the Palace of the Inquisition, the Clock Tower and the Castle of San Felipe de Barajas.



DAY 9: Cartagena Colonial Walking Tour


Breakfast at the hotel. Half day visit to the city’s colonial district, starting in Parque Bolívar, which is surrounded by large trees and four fountains with a statue of El Libertador in the center. Around the square, the Museo del Oro, which exhibits pre Hispanic objects, and the Palace of the Inquisition, recognizable from its baroque entrance door. The meetings of the tribunal took place in the palace, and it housed the prison and torture chambers for the alleged opponents of the Catholic church. The visit continues to the Santo Domingo church and the cathedral to end in the Ramparts and the Museo de Las Fortificaciones. Free afternoon for individual activities. Overnight stay.



DAY 10: Full Day Rosario Island & Baru

All day tour by boat to the Archipelago 'Islas del Rosario' located 45km southeast, approximately one hour from Cartagena bay. The boat will leave from Cartagena pier at around 8:00am, The national park is surrounded by coral reefs and lapped by clear blue waters and is the natural habitat for a large variety of marine fauna. Three ecosystems thrive here: coastal lagoons, mangroves surrounding them and tropical forest. Free time for snorkeling and relaxation. Enjoy lunch during the tour. At around 4:00pm, the boat will leave to Cartagena pier.



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DAY 11: Cartagena Free Day

Free day in Cartagena to relax or explore.



DAY 12: Transfer Hotel / Airport in Cartagena

Departure from your hotel in Cartagena and transfer to the Airport (Private car, Bilingual guide)



DAY 12: Transfer Airport / Hotel in Bogota

On arrival, please make your way 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. Should you not able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office. Please note this service is with local guide.



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DAY 12: Optional tour: Half day tour to the Salt Cathedral

Upon arrival to Bogota’s airport we will pick you up and head north to one of Colombia's most famous attractions with over 13 million visitors since its inauguration in 1995, the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá. Travelling through the Sabana de Bogotá the scenery is made up of greenhouses used for the cultivation of carnations and roses - flower production is an important industry for the region. After a journey of roughly 1.15 hours approximately, we will reach the impressive Salt Cathedral, a true feat of engineering. We will visit the cathedral’s three main sections: the Stations of the Cross, the dome and the three naves. To construct the cathedral, some 250 thousand tonnes of salt were excavated. The Zipa hill is the world's largest single deposit of rock salt and salt has always been central to the economy of Zipaquirá and to a lesser extent the Bogotá savannah. After exploring the salt cathedral, you'll get a chance to walk around the town of Zipaquirá before heading back to your Bogotá hotel.



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DAY 13: Optional activities in Bogota

Free day in Bogota. It’s your last day in Bogota and we want you to enjoy the city at its best. Take advantage of our wide range of optional activities specially designed for you. Why not a shopping tour to see some of the best Colombian designers. Maybe a gourmet tour to get in-depth into the magical world of coffee and Colombian flavours. You can visit the world famous Colombian artist exhibition, Botero’s Museum. If you like to be more active try our bike tour and discover Colombia’s capital city on wheels. Finish the trip with a nice spa day including a chocolate treatment and hot stones massage. Activities not included. Contact us for more information about any of this options.



DAY 13: Transfer Hotel / Airport in Bogota

Depart from your hotel in Bogotá and transfer to the Airport. (English-speaking Guide)



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Budget
Inclusions	Accommodation with breakfast everyday Tours as stated on the itinerary - optional tours not included. Airport transfers Domestic air ticket.
Difficulty Rating	1 (Easy)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	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 bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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