

SOUTH AMERICA - COLOURS OF PERU



INTRODUCTION

Join us on this comprehensive small group tour, with up to 20 travellers, to Peru. Encompassing the very best of Lima, The Andes as well as the Amazon jungle. This popular Peru highlights tour will explore the wonders of Peru like no other. Sample spectacular local cuisine, incredible historical sites, and be wowed by Peru's incredible natural environment. Due to our unique operations in Peru, our staff are always on hand to make this journey extra special. Book early to avoid missing out on this fantastic departure.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Lima

Arrival Day. Upon arrival into Lima, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. 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.



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DEPARTURE

24/08/2019, 05/10/2019,
18/01/2020, 28/03/2020,
25/04/2020, 23/05/2020,
13/06/2020, 25/07/2020,
12/09/2020, 10/10/2020

DURATION

14 Days

LOCATIONS

Peru: Lima, Lake Titicaca,
Cusco, Machu Picchu and the
Amazon.



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DAY 2: Lima City Tour

Today is spent touring Lima, the Colonial 'City of Kings'. On the city tour we will visit a number of well-known sites including the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, the Plaza de Armas as well as the Catacombs located beneath the San Francisco Convent. This is a chance to appreciate Lima's magnificent Colonial architecture as well as vignettes of its pre-Colombian past. Note: The Cathedral is closed on Easter Sunday 21 April 2019.



DAY 3: Lima to Puno via Sillustani

You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the airport for your flight from Lima. On arrival at Juliaca airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Puno, stopping on the way to take in the pre-Inca burial ground of Sillustani. Here you can wander through the remarkable tombs built from volcanic stone, known as Chullpas which reach heights of up to 12 metres. Overlooking the beautiful Lake Umayo, Sillustani is considered to be one of the most important necropolises in the world.



DAY 3: Arrival in Puno

Puno lies on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. It is the largest city in the Southern Altiplano and an important agricultural and livestock (llamas and alpaca) region. It sits at an altitude of over 3,800 metres and is a picturesque hillside city and a melting pot of the Aymara and Quechua culture.



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DAY 4: Full Day Titicaca Uncovered

At 7:00 am you will be met and transferred to the port where you will board a fully equipped speedboat with on board service to head to Taquile Island. Disembarking at a secluded part of the island, we explore a scenic and less touristy area of Taquile Island (exclusive). Enjoy a pristine sandy beach where you will have plenty of time to relax and feel the serenity of Lake Titicaca. We then hike along a pre-Inca trail with spectacular landscapes of the island, visiting families of weavers to learn about their textile art and symbolism. In 2005, "Taquile and its Textile Art" were proclaimed "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO. After 3 hours on Taquile, we leave the island for the short 25 minute journey to the community of Santa Maria-Llachon, on the tip of the Capachica Peninsula. This is a picturesque off the beaten track destination. We are welcomed by the small Quechua speaking community and introduced to an intensive cultural experience, observing the traditions of the community and participating in an ancient ceremony to learn about their magical world. Then experience the preparation of "Pachamanca", a traditional way of cooking meat, fish and potatoes using underground ovens, and one of the main dishes of Peruvian cuisine. Enjoy these delicacies in a small, but scenic restaurant. For the more adventurous there is an optional kayak along the coast of Llachon. After lunch we leave Santa Maria and 35 minutes later we arrive at a remote area of the National Reserve of Lake Titicaca to explore Uros Ccapi. These are considered to be the last authentic floating islands, less commercial and little visited. The Uros are descendants of one of the oldest cultures in South America. There are optional tours in reed boats before we depart back to Puno at 15:25 pm. On arrival back into Puno at 16:30pm, you are transferred to your hotel. *Please note that between the months of January and March the ceremony of "Pachamama" will be subject to weather conditions.



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DAY 5: Puno to Cusco by Bus

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the bus station for the journey from Puno to Cusco. The spectacular journey from Puno to Cusco takes you across the Altiplano. The drive takes you through sleepy Andean villages, past spectacular snow-capped mountains, sheer cliffs and rampaging rivers. Stops along the way include the atmospheric towns of Pucara and Andahuaylillas, and the pre-Inca ruin of Raqchi. Lunch is included and you will arrive in the famous city of Cusco in the early evening. On arrival into Cusco, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.



DAY 5: Arrival in 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, cobblestoned 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 6: Cusco City Tour

Take 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. Afternoon at Leisure



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DAY 7: Sacred Valley Full Day Tour

Today, explore 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. Dinner tonight is at leisure. Your guide will recommend local places to eat. *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 8: Machu Picchu – Return to Cusco

An early morning start for your first sights of Machu Picchu. 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. You will be astonished by your first view of Machu Picchu, a stunning display of ancient architecture with incredible surroundings. Enjoy a guided 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. Tour includes guided group tour, and return bus from 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. Please contact your sales consultant if you would like to do this. **Due to new regulations at Mach Picchu, our entry permits allow us to explore Machu Picchu between 6am-12noon. If you require longer, additional fees apply. Please ask for more details. Subject to change at any time. Later in the afternoon we travel by train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo. Upon arrival at Ollantaytambo Train Station, we will transfer by road back to your hotel in Cusco. *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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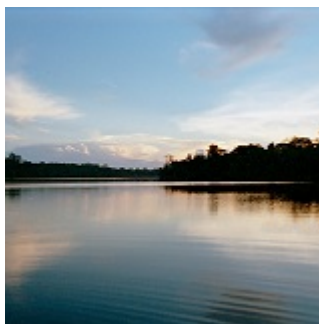
DAY 9: Cusco: Free Day

Today is at leisure allowing you to spend wandering the cobble-stoned streets of the ancient Inca capital. With treasures around every corner, Cusco is a wonderful city to explore on foot. Vibrant markets and stores give the traveller a plethora of shopping opportunities set amongst fine Inca and Spanish colonial architecture. The UNESCO World Heritage city is lined with history and ancient monuments, a truly enthralling city to spend time in. Tonight enjoy dinner & show in a nearby restaurant in Cusco



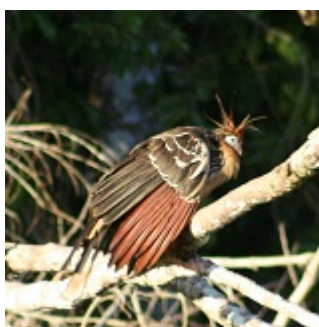
DAY 10: Cusco to Peru Amazon

You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the airport for your flight from Cusco to Puerto Maldonado. Upon arrival at Puerto Maldonado, you will be met to transfer by land and a 45-minute boat journey to Posada Amazonas. Check-in to your unique three-walled bedroom to truly experience the Amazon. Climb the staircase to the 30 metre scaffolding canopy tower, allowing exceptional treetop views of the Tambopata River winding through dense jungle. Look out for toucans, parrots and macaw flying overhead. Lectures are provided in the evening focusing on ecotourism projects.



DAY 11: Peru Amazon

After breakfast we head to Tres Chimbadas Oxbow Lake, 30 minutes by boat and then a 45 minute hike from the lodge. At the lake we set out in a catamaran, keeping a look out for giant river otters, caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers. There is a resident family of 9 giant river otters here. After lunch at the lodge, an informative Ethnobotanical Tour will be conducted by a local group who run a small medicinal clinic using forest plants. The Centro Ñape is a communal organization that produces medicines out of forest plants and administers them to patients who choose to attend their small clinic. They have produced a trail which explains the different medicinal (and other) uses of selected plants. In the evening after dinner, there is an optional night walk to find nocturnal animals by the reflection from their eyes in the flashlights, whilst listening to the hive of activity at this time.



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DAY 12: Peru Amazon

Enjoy the spectacle of a clay lick just a short walk from the lodge to see dozens of beautifully coloured parakeets and parrots. Later, trek from the lodge on the Ceiba Trail for two hours, studying the natural history of the rainforest with your knowledgeable guide. Following lunch, take a boat downriver to the community of Infierno to visit their farm of Amazon crops.



DAY 13: Peru Amazon to Lima

Transfer Boat - Posada Amazonas to Tambopata River Port. Transfer Tambopata River Port to Puerto Maldonado. Depart Posada Amazonas by boat along the Tambopata River to Puerto Maldonado for your departure flight. Depending on airline schedules, this may require dawn departures. On arrival into Lima, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.



DAY 14: Depart Lima - Tour Ends

Depart Lima with wonderful memories of your time in South America. Transfer to Lima Airport is included.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

Inclusions

Airport transfers
Internal flights as indicated on itinerary
Accommodation with breakfast daily
Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide
Other meals where stated

Exclusions

International flights
Travel insurance
Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)
Beverages
Gratuities for tour guide/driver
Any items not mentioned as included

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| Difficulty Rating | Not Available |
| Single Surcharge | Available upon request, contact us for more details. |
| Notes | All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. This is a Tailor-Made itinerary which can be customised to create your own unique journey. Contact us to discuss your travel plans. |
| Price Dependent upon | Season and availability |

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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