

PERU - INCA TOUR



TRIP CODE
PETSINC
DURATION
16 Days
LOCATIONS
Peru, Machu Picchu


INTRODUCTION

The Inca Tour was Chimu Adventures' original trip itinerary! And after all these years it's still one of our most popular tours.

This comprehensive 16 day tour is an adventure through Southern Peru's highlights taking in cities, desert, lakes and mountains! With the tour finishing with the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, the last week is the highlight for many people!

Please note that the Nazca Lines overflight is an optional extra and can be added in on day 4 of the itinerary.

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.



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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.



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DAY 2: Transfer to bus station for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel to transfer to the bus station for your onward journey from Lima.



DAY 2: Bus Transfer Lima - Paracas

Travel by bus from Lima to Paracas in a comfortable bus offering a great designer interior with ample leg-room for you to relax or read a book in comfort, large panoramic windows through which to view the landscape and with an on-board toilet and full air-conditioning. The bus drive takes approximately 4 hours.



DAY 2: Arrival transfer in Paracas

On arrival at Paracas bus station, you will be met by a representative who will be holding a sign with your name on it, to transfer you to your hotel. Should you have trouble locating him/her, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details.



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DAY 2: Paracas

Paracas meaning "sand rain" in Quechua, is a small port town and beach resort on the southern coast of Peru, a few hours south of Lima. The cliffs that fringe the beaches teem with birds, ranging from guano birds to Humboldt penguins. Paracas is the access point for tours to Islas Ballestas and to Paracas National Reserve, where there are huge colonies of seabirds as well as sea lions.



DAY 3: Private Transfer Paracas - Nazca

Private transfer from Paracas to hotel in Nazca.



DAY 3: Ballestas Island Cruise

In due time you will be collected from your hotel transferred to the small port of Paracas to board the boat that will cruise around the Ballestas Islands. See the remarkable marine mammals and birdlife the islands are famous for. From the boat, you can see the incredible ancient etchings in the coastal cliffs including the mysterious three pronged Candelabra of the Andes. This 180 metre tall geoglyph is carved into the side of the hill alongside Paracas Bay. On completion of the cruise, you will be transferred back to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



DAY 3: Nazca

Nazca is located in the Ica region of Peru, on the southern coast, one of the most arid regions in the world. The name is derived from the Nazca culture that flourished in the area between 100 and 800 AD and was responsible for the Nazca Lines, the ceremonial city of Cahuachi and for constructing an impressive system of underground aqueducts (Puquios) that still function to this day. If you have some free time in Nazca, you may like to consider an optional flight over the Nazca Lines or a trip to the Chauchilla Cemetery.



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DAY 4: Transfer to bus station for onward destination

Transfer to bus station for outward journey from Nazca.



DAY 4: Bus: Nazca - Arequipa

Travel by comfortable bus with 160 degree seats. The hostess will serve you a snack on board to arrive into Arequipa at midnight. The bus journey takes approximately 10 hours.



DAY 4: Arrival transfer in Arequipa

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.



DAY 4: Arequipa

Arequipa lies on the edge of the Altiplano, 2380m above sea level and framed by the volcanoes Misti, Pikchu Pikchu and Chachani. It is known as “La Ciudad Blanca” (White City), as many of its buildings are made of sillar, a white volcanic stone. The historic centre of Arequipa is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and its historic heritage, natural scenery and cultural sites, make the city a popular destination.



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DAY 5: Arequipa Free Day

Today is free for you to explore and discover the city of Arequipa at your leisure. Wander around the Plaza de Armas, the main square of Arequipa and see the cathedral with El Misti (5825m) rising behind it. Explore the Santa Catalina Monastery, built in 1579 in the Mudéjar style, enlarged in the 17th century and characterised by vividly painted walls. The monastery covers an area of 20,000 sq. metres. It served as a cloister for Dominican nuns from the 16th to the 18th century and still houses around 20 nuns in the northern corner of the complex. Visit the "Mummy Juanita" in the Museo Santuarios Andinos. Also known as the Inca Ice Maiden, Juanita is the well-preserved frozen body of an Inca girl who was killed and sacrificed to the Inca gods in the 15th century. She was discovered in 1995 on Mount Ampato in the Andes Cordillera in southern Peru.



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DAY 6: Arequipa to Colca Canyon

Early this morning you will be picked up from your hotel to commence your road journey to the Colca Canyon. Enroute there will be several stops to appreciate flora, fauna and high Andean Landscapes, one of them is Pampa Canahuas, located at 3,800 metres above sea level, inside the National Reserve Salinas y Aguada Blanca, a place where we can see vicunas in their natural habitat and the Misti and Chachani Volcanoes. During the next part of the journey, you will visit the community of Patahuasi (4,000 metres above sea level), the Toccra Zone (4,300 metres above sea level) homes to llamas, alpacas, migratory birds and offering incredible views of the landscape and Patapampa (4,900 metres above sea level), the highest point and offering majestic views of the cordillera and most of the volcanoes in the Arequipa region. Begin to descend to Chivay town located in the Colca Valley. Free time for lunch (not included) before transferring to your hotel for your overnight stay. There is an optional visit to the 40°C thermal-medicinal baths in La Calera. (Entrance fee to the pools is not included and is US\$ 7.00 per person approximately - subject to change.) Note: The optional visit to La Calera Hot Springs is for clients staying in Chivay town only.



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DAY 7: Bus Transfer Colca Canyon - Puno

Following breakfast, we travel to the ‘Cruz del Condor’, a spot considered to be the best viewpoint to watch the majestic Andean condors ascending from the valley. The Colca Canyon is a canyon of the Colca River and one of the deepest canyons in the world. It is home to the Andean condors that can be seen at close range as they fly past the canyon walls, rising on the thermals. At the 'Cruz del Condor' viewpoint, the canyon floor is 3,960 feet (1,200 m) below the rim of the canyon. After this amazing spectacle, we continue our journey back to the town of Chivay, taking in the beautiful Andean scenery and fascinating pre-Inca, Inca and Colonial history of the area. The road passes through several small villages founded in Spanish colonial times and still inhabited by people of the Collagua and the Cabana cultures. The local people maintain their traditional way of life and continue to cultivate the pre-Inca stepped terraces. Many of the women wear traditional dress with colourful embroidered blouses and flower-patterned hats. In the afternoon, travel by bus to Puno, situated on the shores of the famous Lake Titicaca. You will board a touristic bus that includes a hostess who speaks limited english, snacks and beverages. The duration of this bus journey is approximately six hours.



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DAY 7: Arrival transfer in Puno

On arrival at Puno bus or train station, you will be met by a representative who will be holding a sign with your name on it, to transfer you to your hotel. Should you have trouble locating him/her, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details.



DAY 7: 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 8: Titicaca Uncover by Speed Boat

Early this morning you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the port to board a fully equipped speedboat with on board service to visit various islands on Lake Titicaca. First stop is Taquile Island where you will explore a scenic and less touristy area. Enjoy time on a pristine sandy beach 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 three hours on Taquile, board the speedboat for a short 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. 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 (included in tour price). For the more adventurous there is an optional kayak along the coast of Llachon. After lunch we leave Santa Maria and 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. On arrival at the port, you will be transferred to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour. Please note there is a minimum number of passengers requested to operate this tour from December to March, if the required number of passengers is not reached we will offer you a similar alternative. Please also note that between the months of January and March the ceremony of "Pachamama" will be subject to weather conditions.



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DAY 9: Transfer from Puno hotel to bus or train station

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to either the bus or train station for your journey from Puno to Cusco.



DAY 9: Puno to Cusco

The spectacular journey from Puno to Cusco takes you across the Altiplano and you will travel accompanied by an English-speaking guide. The drive takes you through sleepy Andean villages and past spectacular snowcapped 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. The journey will take approximately 10 hours.



DAY 9: Arrival transfer in Cusco

On arrival at Cusco bus or train station, you will be met by a representative who will be holding a sign with your name on it, to transfer you to your hotel.



DAY 9: 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 10: 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 11: Sacred Valley Full Day Tour

You will be collected from your hotel for a day of exploring 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 and Inca Ruins. There is free time to wander the colourful market stalls before heading uphill to the Pisac, Intihuatana, Q'allaqasa and Kinchiracay ruins. Enjoy a fine buffet lunch in gardens overlooking the Valley. 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. Transfer to your hotel for the night or should you be returning to Cusco, visit Chinchero en route, an important Inca town with a colonial church and plaza.



DAY 11: Pre-Trek Briefing

This evening the trek operator will hold a pre-trek briefing at your hotel. Time will be reconfirmed with you directly on arrival. Please note your sleeping bag which is included will be provided to you at this briefing.



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DAY 12: Inca trail to Wayllabamba

Depart your hotel very early and travel along the Sacred Valley by bus to Piskacucho at 2,700m above sea level. Embark on the unforgettable trek beginning as you cross the bridge over the Rio Urubamba. From here the trek takes you along the left shore of the river and after roughly three hours, you reach the first Inca site – Patallaqta. After another half-hour walking along the Rio Kusichaca valley, arrive in Taravoc and stop for some well-earned lunch. The afternoon is spent walking through a wonderful variety of flora and fauna with splendid views en route including Rio Vilcanota, the Urubamba mountain range and the snow-capped peak of Mt Veronica. In the mid-afternoon you reach Wayllabamba at 3,000m (9,840 ft), where the camp will be set up and you will enjoy a hearty-but-healthy dinner before your first night under canvas.



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DAY 13: Inca Trail to Pacaymayu valley

A demanding day of ascents and descents awaits, around 9km over seven to eight hours. In the morning, you will slowly make your way up to Warmihuañusca (4,200m / 11,111ft) otherwise known as the ‘Dead Woman’s Pass’. You will see alpacas and llamas feeding on pastures of Ichu, a type of Andean grass. This is not only the highest point of the Inca Trail, but also the half way point on your trek to Machu Picchu! Continue downhill through an area of Cloud Forest, home to many birds including sparrows and hummingbirds. You may also be lucky enough to see the rare Spectacled Bear. Your camp for the night will be in Pacaymayu valley at 3,600m (11,810 ft). There will be time to relax before an early dinner and a much needed sleep.



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DAY 14: Inca Trail to Wiñayhuayna Inca site

The third day is the longest day of the trek, but not the most strenuous. Begin the day with an hour's walk up original Inca steps to the archaeological site of Runkurakay at 3,800m (12,470ft). Pass a number of small lagoons to Runkurakay Pass before the trail snakes down to Yanacocha (the Black Lagoon) and continues to the archaeological site of Sayacmarca. Stop at Chaquicocha camp for lunch. Continue along the paved Inca path, through a preserved Inca tunnel to reach the Phuyupatamarca Pass and its ruins. From here, there are often incredible views of the snow-capped Mount Salkantay, the most beautiful mountain in the region. There is then a steep decent to Wiñayhuayna, an Inca site built into the hills with fountain structures and curved terracing, overlooking the Urubamba River. Your final night of the trail will be spent here.



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DAY 15: Arrival to Machu Picchu

The most anticipated day of the trek begins early with a trek to Into Punku (The Sun Gate), where you will catch the first glimpse of the breathtaking Machu Picchu Ruins. On arrival at the ruins, there will be a two and a half hour guided tour giving you an insight into the history behind the principal remains and monuments before some time to explore the ruins at leisure. You may choose to scale the Huayna Picchu Mountain, which gives you spectacular views of Machu Picchu from a different perspective. (Please note that access to Huayna Picchu Mountain requires an extra, limited-availability permit - please enquire at time of booking if you require one.) Or you may choose to visit the hot springs (wonderful for aching legs!) down in the village of Aguas Calientes. The train back to Cusco will depart from Aguas Calientes in the late afternoon.



DAY 16: 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.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels and camping on the Inca Trail.
Inclusions	Accommodation All sightseeing Airport transfers Breakfast in hotels. All meals on trek (except lunch on last day) Entrances/ permits Transfers Camping equipment (including sleeping bags) Trail Guide, Cook, Communal Porters (for tents, food, cooking equipment etc)
Difficulty Rating	4 (average fitness required).
Single Surcharge	Subject to season and availability, contact us for more details.
Notes	Porters can be hired to carry personal items at an extra charge. An optional extra night at Machu Picchu can easily be added into this tour.
Price Dependent upon	Availability of Inca Trail entrance permits and seasonality.

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.

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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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