

SOUTH AMERICA - COLOURS OF PERU | SMALL GROUP TOUR | LIMA TO CUSCO



INTRODUCTION

Our small group journey explores the best of Peru, its history, its archaeology sites, fertile valleys and cobblestone streets with all its flavours and colours.

We will take you back to a time when the region was ruled by ancient civilizations. From exploring coastal Lima, where you experience life in the bohemian Barranco district, staying in an elegant republican era home, to life in the Andean mountains exploring the lands of the Incas. In the Sacred Valley, the pools of salt mines form a patchwork on the hillside, markets are full of fruits, vegetables and wonderful textiles, and there are historic towns and fortresses to be explored. A train journey winding along by the river sees us follow in the footsteps of earlier explorers, to discover Machu Picchu for ourselves, with an expert local guide to bring stories of the past alive. Cusco, where colonial architecture sits atop the remnants of Incan stonework, enjoy the mix of the Incan and Spanish influences as we explore the sights, and enjoy contemporary Peruvian food made with the best regional ingredients.

Colours of Peru is an unforgettable Peruvian adventure!

Please note: This tour is guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 4 travellers. When there are 4- 9 travellers in the group, the tour will be hosted by an experienced local guide in each city. When there are 9 – 20 travellers in the group, the tour will be hosted by an experienced guide for the duration of your tour in South America.

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TRIP CODE

LAVICOF

DEPARTURE

13/05/2023, 15/07/2023,
16/09/2023, 14/10/2023,
19/11/2023, 09/03/2024,
13/04/2024, 11/05/2024,
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DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Peru



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DAY 1: Arrive to Lima, Peru

Colours of Peru is a small group tour operated by Viva Expeditions. This tour is guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 4 travellers. When there are 4- 9 travellers in the group, the tour will be hosted by an experienced local guide in each city. When there are 9 - 20 travellers in the group, the tour will be hosted by an experienced guide for the duration of your tour in South America. **ARRIVAL IN LIMA** Lima, the capital of Peru, sits on the country's arid Pacific coast. Founded in 1535, Lima is now 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. Our base will be the comfortable and elegant Casa Republica boutique hotel. Located in the vibrant and bohemian Barranco district, one Lima's premier neighbourhoods. Barranco came to light in the early part of the 20th century as a seaside resort for the wealthy aristocracy in Lima. During this "Republican era" our house was constructed. We continue with the Republican theme throughout the home and welcome you to come and celebrate Lima and Barranco's unique history and charm, the perfect way to begin your stay in Lima. With Peruvian food in the international spotlight for the best part of the last decade, Barranco is also home to the famed Chala and Cala restaurants, and many of Lima's finest restaurants including Astrid and Gaston and Central are close by. Today is arrival day. Arrival transfer is included. Arrive at any time Meals included: None



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DAY 2: Lima Walking Food Tour

LIMA WALKING FOOD TOUR Embark on a walking food tour in Lima's Historic Centre. During this food tour, you will have the chance to taste popular on-the-go delicacies that locals devour while learning more about Peru's history and interesting facts about the local economy and daily life in Peru. Meals included: Breakfast, snacks on tour



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DAY 3: Journey to the Sacred Valley of the Incas

LIMA - CUSCO - SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS Today we leave the Pacific shores behind and head to the mountains of Peru. We fly from Lima, high over the Andes landing in Cusco, the ancient capital of the Incan Empire. Cusco sits at a height of 3,399 metres above sea level, so the best way to avoid altitude sickness is to drive about 1 hour and a half to the Sacred Valley, which is situated at a lower altitude, enjoying vistas of this fertile valley region along the way. Along with Cusco and the ancient city of Machu Picchu, lies the Sacred Valley, (also known as the Urubamba River Valley) that formed the heart of the Inca Empire. This region was an important for food production, in particular maize. Today its home to major archaeological sites and picturesque villages that have maintained their ancestral culture. This evening enjoy a 3 course dinner at your hotel. Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 4: Exploring Maras & Moray

SACRED VALLEY, EXPLORING MARAS & MORAY We make an early start for our explorations of this fascinating valley, rich in culture and stories. We explore the town of Maras, with an interesting mix of Inca and Colonial influence, as well as Moray, an impressive Inca ruin of giant terraces forming nearly perfect circles, believed to have been used for agricultural experimentation. We head to the Salineras de Maras salt mines, where, salt ponds are filled with natural underground salt springs that comes from the adjacent mountain. Observe how Andean villagers work and harvest the salt, a method going back to the time of the Incas. During the day we will take a break for lunch at a local restaurant. Relax and enjoy another evening in the Sacred Valley. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



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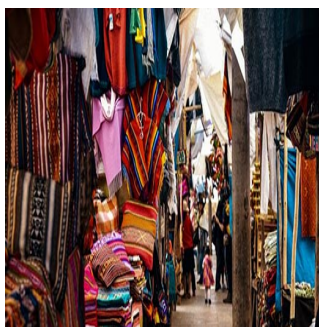
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DAY 5: Sacred Valley, Exploring Pisac & Ollantaytambo

SACRED VALLEY, PISAC & OLLANTAYTAMBO - MACHU PICCHU The fertile river valley of the Sacred Valley was home to many important sites for the Incas, both strategic and religious. We continue our journey in the footsteps of the past. 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 colour as locals from nearby hillside villages in traditional dress come to sell local fruit, vegetables, textiles, and other handicrafts. We wander around the colourful market stalls before having buffet lunch at a local restaurant. Continue along the River Urubamba, to Ollantaytambo, a town dominated by a giant Inca fortress. Ollantaytambo is perhaps the best surviving example of Inca town planning and was the scene of a rare Inca victory over the invading Spanish. All aboard to Machu Picchu! This afternoon travel from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu on board the comfortable Voyager Train, and let your feet 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. *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). Your main luggage will be safely stored for you at your Sacred Valley hotel. This evening is spent in Aguas Calientes (Machu Picchu Pueblo), the small township in the valley below Machu Picchu. Dinner at the hotel is included. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



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DAY 6: Mystical Machu Picchu

MYSTICAL MACHU PICCHU - CUSCO An early morning start to catch the bus from Aguas Calientes, to Machu Picchu. You will be astonished by your first view of Machu Picchu, a stunning display of ancient architecture with incredible surroundings. 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. Enjoy a 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. The tour includes guided tour with local English-speaking guide and return bus from Aguas Calientes village. If you wish to climb the iconic hill of Huayna Picchu, please advise at the time of booking. Additional costs apply. This afternoon travel by 360 Machu Picchu train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo, and by road to Cusco making a stop en-route to collect your main luggage. *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) Meals included: Breakfast



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DAY 7: Walking Tour of Cusco and Sacsayhuaman

DISCOVERING CUSCO Today, explore the city’s fascinating history, from the Inca times to colonial rule to the present day. Wind through narrow cobble-stoned streets and visit the market of Cusco. Along the way, we get the chance to see the colonial buildings. Visit the fascinating Koricancha Temple of the Sun and the Cathedral, built on the ruins of an Inca Palace. From here, head to Sacsayhuaman, a former Inca fortress perched atop the hill above Cusco, it presents a work of impeccable engineering (gigantic carved rocks that fit with absolute precision). Your afternoon is yours at leisure, enjoy wandering around the cobblestone streets, calling in at a local café for a coffee or perhaps check out the local chocolate museum. Tonight, we come together for a fond farewell dinner, we walk to the nearby Calle del Medio restaurant to enjoy a 3-course dinner where you can experience the best of contemporary Peruvian food made with the best regional ingredients. Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 8: Farewell to the Land of the Incas

FAREWELL TO THE LAND OF THE INCAS After a final breakfast it is time to bid farewell as this is where our journey together ends. Transfer to the airport is included. You may continue to travel to discover more of Peru, please ask us for our Amazon jungle, or Lake Titicaca and Bolivia add on programmes. Or perhaps join one of our connecting tours to discover more! Lake Titicaca & Puno Amazon Jungle Peru Nazca & Paracas from Lima Please Note: All hotels are subject to change and will be confirmed in your final documents 3-4 weeks prior to travel.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel
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Inclusions	Inclusions Small Group Tour - Guaranteed to depart with minimum 4 people, maximum 20 One way flight from Lima to Cusco Airport transfers All entrance fees, national park fees on all day tours Meals as indicated
	Exclusions: Single room supplement International flights Visa & reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages Personal expenses including Laundry & Drinks Gratuities for tour guides & drivers Any items not mentioned as included
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.
Price Dependent upon	Availability, seasonality and currency exchange rate at the time of booking.

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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 equipped with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally

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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 whilst remaining 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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