

The Andes & the Amazon

Cuzco & the Peruvian Rainforest

with visits to Sacsayhuaman, Machu Picchu, Ollantaytambo & Pisac

Day 1: Fly out from USA

Depart from home as you travel to the airport for your overnight flight to Peru.

Day 2: Welcome to Peru!

After our morning arrival in historic Cuzco, a city that is over one thousand years old & was once the capital of the Inca Empire, we'll enjoy an included lunch & check-in to our centrally located hotel for a one-night stay.

Later, a relaxed walking tour will introduce you to this fascinating city itself. A visit will be paid to the Spanish-era cathedral & the Inca Sun Temple, Qorikancha.

Dinner this evening will be taken close to the central & historic Plaza de Armas.

Day 3: Discover Cuzco & the Incas

This morning we'll learn more about the history of the Incas on our guided sightseeing tour of some of the historic sites surrounding the city - the formidable Inca fortress of Sacsayhuaman, Tambomachay, Puca Pucara & Qenqo. For those keen to stretch their legs there will be an opportunity to walk between some of the sites.

Later enjoy free time, perhaps for shopping, to explore, or just to relax

In the late afternoon we will transfer to the small town of Ollantaytambo in the Sacred Valley, where we will check-in for a two-night stay before dinner.

Day 4: The Lost City of Machu Picchu

Our excursion today to Machu Picchu is one of the highlights of any visit to Peru.

The journey, by train, takes us deep into the Peruvian mountains to this most dramatically-located & famous of all Inca sites, which remained unknown to the outside world until its re-discovery in 1911 by American explorer Hiram Bingham. To this day it remains both a mystery & a breath-taking sight, one of the true wonders of the world.

At the ruins we will rendezvous with our intrepid hikers, who arrived at Machu Picchu this morning after a four-day hike.

Retracing our journey by train back to Ollantaytambo this evening a long but truly memorable day ends with our included 'large group' dinner.

Day 5: The Sacred Valley of the Incas

Today we explore the 'Sacred Valley' of the Incas, visiting Ollantaytambo & Pisac.

Pisac is the site of a colorful market & our visit will be timed to allow you to browse the & perhaps even bargain for locally-produced potteries, textiles, & other crafts. The week of our visit coincides with an important local festival, adding even more to the usually colorful scene!

After lunch we'll travel to nearby Ollantaytambo to visit the ruined Inca citadel, stunningly laid-out along a hillside high above the valley floor.

This evening, back in Cusco, a traditional dance performance is included, before dinner, to end our stay in the Andes.

Day 6: Deep into the heart of the Peruvian Rainforest

Today we bid farewell to Cuzco as we depart for an early flight to Puerto Maldonado in the Peruvian jungle, part of the vast Amazonian region.

Upon arrival we will visit a Butterfly Farm to encounter some of the 3,800 species found in Peru, many of which are bred right here at the farm.

From Puerto Maldonado a private launch will transport us along the Madre de Dios River to our jungle eco-lodge for a three-night stay in the heart of the rainforest.

Days 7-9: Amazonian Adventures

During our stay at our jungle lodge, a full program of wildlife & rainforest viewing activities is included so that you'll become familiar with the flora & fauna of the jungle as well as the ways in which the ecosystem thrives. The exact program of activities may vary depending on weather & other considerations, but will usually include:

- Lake Sandoval, home of the rare giant otter. Enjoy cruising lazily in canoes whilst on the lookout for the area's rich bird & animal life.
- The Reserve surrounding our lodge: Day & night jungle walks will reveal many of the denizens of the forest, from edible ants to brightly-colored macaws or maybe even tarantulas the size of your hand!
- Local Farm: Not all of the Amazonian region is wilderness - a visit to a small local farm will introduce you to the area's produce, some of it surprisingly familiar.

Breakfast, lunch, & dinner are included on all days in the jungle.

Day 10: Farewell Peru

This morning, after our return boat ride to Puerto Maldonado, our morning flight to Lima will allow a few hours in Lima - time for a quick city tour on our way to our farewell dinner.

Tonight we will return to the airport for our overnight flight to the USA.

Day 11: Welcome home

After your overnight flight from Lima to the USA you'll arrive home later this afternoon or evening.