

HIGHLIGHTS OF PERU

18 Days / 17 Nights JUNE 2018



SAT 25:	SANTIAGO / LIMA
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Arrival in Lima, the "City of Kings" famous for its Spanish Colonial architecture, extraordinary museums and cuisine. Lima is internationally recognized as the "Gastronomic Capital of the Americas", and its cuisine is considered among the most diverse and exquisite in the world on par with French cuisine. Upon arrival a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and in registering
Transfer to your hotel in Miraflores
Overnight at Los Girasoles Hotel.

SUN 26:	LIMA (B)
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Breakfast

09:00 Guided tour of the more important and characteristic parts of Lima: the Monumental Center, where we will admire the colonial architecture of the Main Square (Plaza Mayor), the Government Palace, the Cathedral, the Archbishop Palace, and some old streets with vice royal mansions and balconies of Moorish style. We will also visit the Convent of San Francisco and its catacombs. Continuing with the tour we will visit the more traditional and residential parts of Lima to end with a spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean and Miraflores beaches.

14.00 visit The Gold Museum. Ancient Peruvians were master metalworkers. The -cire perduell or lost wax process, known across the Orient and lost in the West until the Renaissance, was the most frequent technique used by master ancient Peruvian gold and silversmiths.

On our tour of Peru's Gold Museum, visitors will appreciate a dazzling collection of gold artefacts from various pre-Colombian civilizations, some more than 3,000 years old. Metal pieces and jewellery of incalculable value in gold, silver and precious stones used by the Incas—the children of the Sun God and monarchs of the vast Inca Empire—are shown in this collection. Five hundred years ago, the gold of Peru attracted many European adventurers who conquered the Inca and founded the Vice-Royalty of Peru under the Spanish Crown.

Peru's Gold Museum also houses a valuable collection of old and modern weapons that ranks among the best in the world. The halls in this section show the Arms of the World Collection of armour, uniforms and various ancient war artifacts and weapons from various time periods around the world, some dating back to as long ago as 1300 B.C.

Overnight at Los Girasoles Hotel.



MON 27: LIMA / AREQUIPA (B)

Breakfast

07:30 Transfer to the airport for your flight to Arequipa at an elevation of 7,300 feet.

11.45 Upon arrival a host will meet and assist you in transferring to the hotel and in registering. Free afternoon to explore this wonderful city

Overnight at Ensueño Hotel

TUE 28: AREQUIPA (B)

Breakfast

09:00 Your half day sightseeing of this beautiful city, placed on the World Cultural Heritage list by **UNESCO**, features Mixed Baroque churches and mansions from the colonial period like the Monastery of Santa Catalina, The Main Square is bordered by various arched walkways and the Cathedral, it showcase a beautiful bronze fountain of three plates crowned by the figure of a sixteenth century soldier. Around the square, you see three granite portals with brick and lime bases. Also known as the "White City" for its many constructions built of white volcanic stone, Arequipa is at the foothills of the Misti Volcano (the guardian of the city) and it has a splendid Cathedral that is considered one of the first seventeenth century religious monuments of the city

Overnight at Ensueño Hotel

WED 29: AREQUIPA / COLCA (B/L)

Breakfast

08:00 Departure towards the highlands passing through Yura-Pampa Cañahuas and La Pulpera with good possibility of observing groups of wild vicuñas and fighting cattle. The road to the Colca Canyon reaches a high point of 13,000 feet before dropping down to the valley, an area of breath taking landscapes surrounded by terracing and snow-capped peaks. Far below, at a depth of 10,000 feet, the Colca River winds along the bottom of the canyon, the world's deepest.

Stop en route to see petroglyphs in the Caves of Mollepunco and in the town of Callali to see natural hill formations with the appearance of enchanted castles. Continue to La Calera to enjoy the thermal baths under the stars.

Overnight at Casa Andina Classic Colca.



THU 30: COLCA (B)

Breakfast

06:00 To maximize your probability of seeing condors we depart very early towards a superb natural lookout point -Cross of the Condorll from where one can watch condors wheeling across the Colca Canyon, at about an altitude of 15,000 feet. The valley also features pre-Inca ruins, pre-Inca burial grounds and archaeological remains left behind by the Collagua, the ancient inhabitants of the area. Drive further in to the canyon to observe the way of life in this remote land and to admire the impressive irrigation system and the fertile mountains terraced for farming of the Colca valley. Ask your guide to take you to one of the many workshops in which close to a thousand artisans, scattered throughout the towns in the canyon, turn their ancient sewing and weaving machines into paint brushes to give life to impressively intricate and colorful embroidery and shawls. Overnight at Casa Andina Classic Colca.

FRI 01: COLCA / PUNO (B)

Breakfast

The overland trip to Puno features unique natural scenery of the Peruvian Highlands

Overnight at Casa Andina Classic Puno Tikarani



SAT 02: PUNO (B/L)

Breakfast

07:30 Boat excursion to Uros and Taquile Islands on Lake Titikaka. This full day excursion will take you to the highest navigable lake in the world to the floating islands of the Uros Indians, man-made islands by tying totora reeds. The Uros considered themselves Lords of the Lake; they hunt wild birds and maintain traditional fishing methods. The men have developed an extraordinary skill in weaving reeds; producing houses, boats and handicrafts, and the women are expert knitters.

Continuing to Taquile where a native community of about 400 families still lives with the traditions and high principals of the Incas. Taquile is a very important site on Lake Titikaka for its archeological remains, the sacred and ceremonial sites, the festive activities and their rituals. Taquile is characterized by its friendly inhabitants, who maintain their customs and traditional clothing. They distinguish themselves by their detailed, fine, and colorful textiles with symmetrical decorations and symbols that reflect their way of life and Andean beliefs. Lunch is included.

Overnight at Casa Andina Classic Puno Tikarani

SUN 03: PUNO / CUSCO (B/L)

Breakfast/Lunch

07:00 Bus journey through the Peruvian Andes from Puno to Cusco - Today one of South America's most extraordinary overland trips takes you by coach to Cusco passing through striking highland scenery and picturesque Andean villages. Brief stops at Raqchi to see the remains of the remarkable temple of Viracocha, considered by the historians an important Inca construction, and at the town of Andahuaylillas, a showcase of the colonial art in Peru, sometimes called "the Sistine Chapel of America". Lunch is included.

Overnight at Koyllur Inn Hotel.

MON 04: CUSCO (B)

Breakfast

Free day at leisure

Overnight at Koyllur Inn Hotel.

TUE 05: CUSCO (B)

Breakfast

09:00 Tour of Cusco and Nearby Ruins – Visitors are caught up in the excitement of touring the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, a delightful combination of Inca and colonial architecture. The tour visits important landmarks such as Cusco's Cathedral, Santo Domingo Church, Plaza de Armas and Koricancha -The Temple of the Sun. This tour of the oldest continuously inhabited city in the western hemisphere also includes the nearby ruins of Kenko, Puca-Pucara, Tambomachay as well as the Sacsayhuaman fortress, an imposing example of Inca military architecture.

Overnight at Koyllur Inn Hotel.



WED 06:	CUSCO / URUBAMBA (B/L)
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Breakfast/Lunch

08:00 Full Day Excursion to the Pisac Indian Market and the Ollantaytambo Fortress - Morning departure for a drive through the fertile countryside of the Urubamba Valley to the colonial village of Pisac where an Indian Market takes place Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Other days you will tour the religious nucleus and archaeological site of Pisac. During your visit to the bustling marketplace you will have the opportunity to bargain with the natives for many different types of Peruvian handicrafts and jewelry.

Continue to the Ollantaytambo archaeological complex, the Incas built it as a fort that included a temple, agricultural terraces, and an urban area.

There are two distinct sectors: The religious and worship zone, and the residential area. Ollantaytambo was an important administrative center with probable military functions if one considers the walls and towers.

There are also traces of ancient roads and aqueducts. The town of Ollantaytambo is called a "Living Inca Town" since the inhabitants maintain very old practices and customs.

Overnight at San Agustin Urubamba Hotel.

THU 07:	URUBAMBA (BL)
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Chichubamba Agrotourism village. It is a project developed by the residents of Chichubamba and the NGO Pro Peru, designed to help improve the economic conditions of those living in this area. The agrotourism project brings together many different families in Chichubamba who continue to farm weave or make other products in the traditional manner. Through the use of small interactive and very informative demonstrations the very friendly residents immerced us in the Andean Culture. There are several activities to choose for example:

Bee keeping, ceramics, chichi (locally brewed corn beer) weaving, chocolate, horticulture and cuy (guinea pig) breeding, potter. In addition you can sample the all natural, locally grown and freshly made typical Andean dish of cuy served with corn and potatoes.

The activities we chose were pottery, chocolat and bees keeping. We were then treated to a delicious lunch at Eufracia's home (the pottery lady). If you are reading my blog and thinking of visiting Urumbumba I encourage you to visit Chichubamba and contribute to the local community.

Hike back to your hotel and either relax in the beautiful garden to read and write up our diary's, and pack for our overnight hike tomorrow to Misminay.

Overnight at San Agustin Urubamba Hotel.



FRI 08: URUBAMBA / MISMINAY (B/L/D)

Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Transfer Ollantaytambo along the route Cusco - Urubamba - Cusco to the small town of Chequerec, located in a branch of this main road heading west. From this small town will begin the flat walk through an extensive area, but without climbs and descents, and finally arriving at the rural community of Misminay 3700 mtrs. The view from here is outstanding taking in the snow capped mountains and superb landscape. The walk is approximately 4 to 5 hours and it will give you the opportunity to interact with these small indigenous villagers. Families live in tiny farms of sometimes one bedroom housing the whole family. They are subsistence farmers growing crops such as corn, potatoes, beans. During the walk we will pass through some amazing scenery on trails traditionally used by the Indians centuries ago

Option anyone has the option of going in the vehicle.

Lunch at the Community Misminay and a weaving demonstration.

Afternoon visit the community and participation in basic activities of harvesting crops and preparation of bricks for houses. We will spend the night with the local community and you will experience a wonderful adventure.

Overnight at Misminay Camp.



SAT 09: MISMINAY / AGUAS CALIENTES (B)

Breakfast

This morning you hike 1 hour to Moray an archaeological site your vehicle will meet you and transfer to the salt mines of Maras. Transfer to the railway station

for your afternoon train to Aguas Calientes and your accommodation for the next 2 nights

Overnight at Inti Wiñaywayna Hotel.

SUN 10: AGUAS CALIENTES (B)

Breakfast

Full guided tour of Machu Picchu. Afternoon free to stay at Machu Picchu and enjoy the time to wander around or you may prefer to return to Aguas Calientes to explore the markets and town.

Overnight at Inti Wiñaywayna Hotel.

MON 11: AGUAS CALIENTES / CUSCO (B)

Breakfast

Morning return train ride and vehicle to Cusco arrive mid afternoon. Free time in Cusco

Overnight at Koyllur Inn Hotel.

TUE 12: CUSCO (B)

Breakfast

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport to take the flight to Lima and connecting flight home.

END OF OUR SERVICES

Option: Rates expressed in US Dollars	Location	Hotel
	Lima	Los Girasoles Hotel or similar – Standard room http://www.losgirasoleshotel.com/index_in.html
	Arequipa	Ensueño Hotel or similar – Standard room http://ensuenohotelarequipa.com/
	Colca	Casa Andina Classic Colca Hotel or similar – Traditional room http://www.casa-andina.com/classic-colca/?lang=en
	Puno	Casa Andina Classic Puno Tikarani Hotel or similar – Traditional room http://www.casa-andina.com/classic-puno-tikarani/?lang=en
	Cusco	Koyllur Inn Hotel or similar – Standard room http://koyllurhotel.com/en.html
	Urubamba	San Agustin Urubamba Hotel or similar – Standard room http://www.hotelessanagustin.com.pe/hotels/cusco/sacred-valley/urubamba/
	Aguas Calientes	Inti Wiñaywayna Hotel or similar – Standard room http://grupointi.com/en/index.php/inti-winaywayna

Minimum 02 people – net per person: US\$5840 per person

*****Price quoted is subject to change due the flight increases and taxes.**

Our program includes:

- Private transfers in each city
- Fee entrances to all the attractions mentioned on the program
- Accommodation in mentioned hotels with buffet breakfast

- HD City Tour Lima Colonial & Modern – Private service
- HD Gold museum – Private service
- HD City Tour Arequipa + Saint Catherine convent – Private service
- Excursion Arequipa – Colca – Puno 03 days/02 nights + lunch (01) – Private service
- FD Uros + Taquile island (Speedboat) + lunch – Shared service
- Touristic bus Puno to Cusco + entrance fee + guide + buffet lunch – Shared service
- HD City Tour Cusco + nearby ruins – Private service
- FD Excursion to the Sacred Valley of the Inkas + lunch – Private service
- Visit Misminay community 02 days/01 night + fullboard
- Visit Machu Picchu in Expedition train – Private local guide
- Meals mentioned in the program
- Lima - Arequipa & Cusco - Lima
- English Speaking Escort through out the tour

Our program does not include:

- Services not mentioned on the program
- International flights
- Meals not mentioned
- Extra expenses
- Gratuities

***** Availability on the hotels are subject to changes at the moment of making the reservations since are not already blocked***