

# Travel Magical Peru 17 Days

## Day 1: Arrival in Lima.

After a welcome from our team, we take you to the hotel to rest. Depending on the time of arrival, in the evening we can head out to enjoy the night life in Lima, including Parque Kennedy, the 'Calle de las Pizzas', and some of the many excellent bars and restaurants of Miraflores.

## Day 2: Lima City Tour - Pisco.

Today we take a tour of the city, experiencing both colonial and modern Lima. We visit the main plaza, the government palace, the municipal hall, Lima cathedral, the archbishop's residence, the catacombs of San Francisco, and the plaza of San Martin. In the afternoon we head along the Panamerican highway towards Pisco, stopping on the way to sample the cuisine and relax on the beaches of the south coast. After checking into the hotel in Pisco, those who have the energy can head out to sample the nightlife.

Meals included: breakfast and lunch.

## Day 3: Pisco - Ballestas Islands - Nazca.

After breakfast we take a boat to visit the Ballestas Islands. The trip takes us around the Bay of Paracas and the port of San Martin. On the slopes of an enormous sand dune we see the giant drawing of mysterious "candle holder". We also see sea lions and a multitude of sea birds in their natural habitat, whose idiosyncratic rock formations create one of the most attractive landscapes of the Peruvian coast. At midday we continue our journey towards Nazca, making a stop to visit a vineyard and the oasis of Huacachina. We arrive in Nazca and check in to the hotel.

Meals included: breakfast.

## Day 4: Nazca - Arequipa.

In the morning we take a flight over the impressive and mysterious Nazca lines. Later we continue on towards Arequipa. We make a stop in Puerto Inca, where we can see the "Qolcas", or storehouses, where the Incas kept their marine products. We arrive in Arequipa and check in to the hotel.

Meals included: breakfast

## Day 5: Arequipa.

At an altitude of 2,400 metres above sea level, Arequipa is Peru's second city, with a population of around 1 million. It is known as the "White City", for its baroque architecture made from the local chalky volcanic stone sillar, a colonial legacy recognised by UNESCO, which has declared the central city a World Heritage site. The perfect volcanic cone of El Misti (5,825 metres) and its neighbour Nevado Chachani (6,075 metres) hover over the city. Today we visit the labyrinthine monastery of Santa Catalina (considered by many the finest in South America), the cathedral, La Compañía church and the bustling San Camilo market. The night is free to enjoy the local restaurants and bars.

Meals included: breakfast

## Day 6: Arequipa - Cruz del Condor - Cabanaconde.

It's an early start today, leaving from Arequipa in shared tourist transport around 3:00 am. After about 3 hours we arrive to the town of Chivay, where we have breakfast. We continue another 1 1/2 hours to the Cruz del Condor,

where we will stop to see the flight of the majestic Andean condor, rising on the morning thermals in search of food. About 15 minutes down from the Cruz del Condor, we arrive to the village of Cabanaconde, where we are met by a local guide who will take us on a fascinating visit to the local countryside to see how local people live and work. We learn about Andean culture and traditions and other fascinating details such as the properties of the many medicinal plants that grow locally. Those who want can learn about and participate in the agricultural work in the fields. We return to the village about 3:00 pm, where we can visit a local artisan or a bakery where bread is made from the organic maize. We spend the night in Cabanaconde.

Meals included: breakfast and lunch.

#### **Day 7: Cabanaconde - Chivay.**

After breakfast we take the shared tourist transport on a journey of 4 hours through the Colca Valley in the direction of Chivay. We visit villages founded in the colonial era, where the original inhabitants, the Collagua and Cabana ethnic groups, maintain their culture and traditions. Spectacular tiers of agricultural terraces, established from around 900 AD to allow irrigation and prevent erosion, are still maintained and cultivated by local people. In Chivay we have lunch, relax in the hot springs of La Calera, and have a relaxing night's rest.

Meals included: breakfast and lunch.

#### **Day 8: Chivay - Puno.**

Early in the morning we head in our tourist transport towards the Cruz del Condor (1 1/2 hours), a spectacular lookout point where it is almost always possible to see the world's largest flying birds soaring upwards on the morning thermals as they rise from their canyon nests in search of food. We then head back towards Chivay, visiting the traditional villages of Maca, Achoma and Yanque, where it is possible to buy some of the colourful and well-designed local crafts. In the afternoon we head towards Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca. On the way we visit the stone forest of Imata where we have lunch, enjoying the views of the landscape and native birds such as flamingos.

Meals included: breakfast and lunch.

#### **Day 9: Puno - Lake Titicaca.**

Today we take a boat trip around Lake Titicaca and its islands. First we visit the floating Uros Islands, made entirely from reeds and inhabited by descendants of the Aymara culture. Later we continue to the island of Amantani where we will be welcomed by a local family. In the afternoon we take a walk to one of the island's pre-Incan temples, and then in the evening enjoy a show of local folk music and spend the night with local families.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

#### **Day 10: Lake Titicaca - Puno.**

After breakfast we board our launch to the island of Taquile, where we can observe local people's customs including the local weaving for which Taquile is famous, and agricultural techniques which have been used since pre-Incan times. We have some time for lunch and in the afternoon explore the island's hills and archeological sites. We then return to Puno to spend the night.

Meals included: breakfast.

#### **Day 11: Puno - Cuzco.**

From Puno we head to Cusco in a tourist bus, stopping by a number of interesting archeological sites and picturesque Andean villages on the way. We spend the night in the hotel in Cusco.

Meals included: breakfast.

### **Day 12: Cuzco City Tour.**

After breakfast the morning is free. In the afternoon we take a guided tour through the city. We visit the K'oricancha or Temple of the Sun - the most important Incan religious centre - and archeological sites including Kenco, Sacsayhuaman, Puca-Pucara y Tambomachay, absorbing something of the mystic tradition of the Incas in each site. Another night spent in Cusco.

Meals included: breakfast

### **Day 13: Cuzco - Sacred Valley - Ollantaytambo.**

Today we visit the Sacred Valley of the Incas, including the colourful markets of Pisac, and the towns of Calca, Yucay and Urubamba. In the afternoon we visit the impressive ruins of Ollantaytambo, which was an administrative, agricultural and religious centre for the Incas. Here we can see rock walls, temples and palaces. We stay the night in the village.

Meals included: breakfast

### **Day 14: Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu.**

Today's the day we've been waiting for. We get up early to take the train to the village of Aguas Calientes and from there ascend to the magical site of Machu Picchu - one of the seven wonders of the modern world. After a guided tour and free time to explore the ruins, we return to Aguas Calientes to spend the night.

Meals included: breakfast

### **Day 15: Aguas Calientes - Cuzco.**

Today is a good chance to get up early, see the Sunrise and have a look around the town of Aguas Calientes. Later, there are opportunities for various activities. One of these is a trek to the waterfalls of Mandor. The falls are reached in 1 ½ hours by a trail that follows the railway lines alongside the rushing Vilcanota River. We can observe plantations of coffee, papaya, bananas, avocados and medicinal herbs. The waterfall is 20 metres high, and is formed by the crystal waters that descend from the peak of Mt Yanantin. We return to Cuzco by train and spend the night there.

Meals included: breakfast.

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### **Day 16: Cuzco.**

Today is a free day to relax, shop, and enjoy the beautiful Imperial City of Cusco. Places of cultural interest to visit include the house of Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (one of the first Incan chroniclers), the church of San Blas and the surrounding barrio, known for its artists and craftsmen.

Meals included: breakfast

### **Day 17: Cuzco - Lima - home.**

A morning flight leaves from Cusco to connect with international flights from Lima. We hope you've had a magical experience!

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**Included in the tour price**

- Flight Cuzco - Lima.
- Flight over the Nazca lines.
- All land transport between destinations and hotel transfers.
- Private transport on days 3-9 of the trip (Lima - Puno).
- All tour programmes named in the itinerary.
- Local guides in each location.
- An experienced, English-speaking tour guide who will accompany the group until Puno.
- All entrance fees to national parks, museums, and the Machu Picchu sanctuary.
- 3 buffet lunches (Lima, Chivay and Cuzco).
- 3-star hotels with breakfast

### **Not included in the tour price**

- International flights.
- Food and drink for lunch and dinner except where indicated.
- Snacks, mineral water, alcoholic drinks, entry to discotheques.

### **Information on food and drink**

In the major cities there is a wide range of Peruvian and international cuisine available. A meal with something to drink costs between \$2-7 USD. Mineral water or soda costs 0.30-0.50 USD for a half-liter bottle. A large bottle of beer costs \$1-2 USD.

### **What to bring**

Walking shoes with a strong sole (eg Vibram), flashlight or head lamp, hat or cap, plenty of sun cream, layers of light and warm clothing for a range of climatic conditions including a wind and water resistant jacket, camera with lithium batteries, ear plugs (optional), sleeping bag (optional).

For more information, see [Frequently Asked Questions](#).