

Travel Peru North and South 20 Days

This tour is thrilling for anyone interested in archeology and the history of ancient cultures. More than 2,000 years of civilization are preserved in the arid coast of northern Peru: mud cities and pyramids, ancient tombs and dazzling ceramics make for a fascinating experience. In the second half of the tour, the south of Peru offers the contrast of beautiful historic cities and dramatic landscape: Lima, Arequipa, Cusco, the Colca Canyon, Lake Titicaca and the wonders of Machu Picchu.

Day 1: Arrival in Lima. After a welcome from our team, take you to the hotel to rest.

Day 2: Lima - Trujillo. In the morning take a flight to Trujillo. We check in to the hotel and then later head out to visit the city and surrounding archeological sites such as the Temple of the Sun, Temple of the Moon, religious centres of the Mochica culture, and an archeological museum.

Day 3: Trujillo - Chan Chan. Today visit the complex of Chan Chan, the world's largest mud city. This was the capital of the Chimu culture and empire (13th century). We also visit the beaches of Huanchaco, where can watch local fisherman surf the waves in their reed boats. We then continue our journey north to the city of Chiclayo where we spend the night.

Day 4: Chiclayo City Tour. Today take a tour of the city of Chiclayo to visit its many interesting sites.

Day 5: Chiclayo - Lambayeque - Sipan - Lima. In the morning head to the impressive necrópolis of Huaca Rajada (the burial centre of the Mochica culture), visiting the tomb of the "Señor of Sipan" with its fine golden ornaments. Later visit the museum of the royal tombs and finally the archeological complex of Tucume (known as the valley of the pyramids). We head back to the hotel, have a rest, and at night take a return flight to Lima.

Day 6: Lima City Tour. Today 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. The afternoon is free to relax, shop, or enjoy Lima's rich blend of Peruvian and international cuisine.

Day 7: Lima - Arequipa. Today take an afternoon flight to Arequipa.

Day 8: 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.

Day 9: Arequipa - Cabanaconde. From Arequipa head towards the Colca Valley, a picturesque Andean valley with 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. We continue towards Cabanaconde, where the Colca Valley becomes the Colca Canyon. With a depth of more than 3,300 metres, the Colca competes with the neighbouring Cotahuasi for the title of the world's deepest canyon, and is the natural habitat of the majestic Andean condor. We spend the night in Cabanaconde.

Day 10: Cabanaconde - Chivay. After an early breakfast head to the Cruz del Condor lookout point where get close-up views the condors rising on the morning thermals in search of food. The rest of the day visit the small villages of the Colca Valley and enjoy the countryside, before returning to Chivay.

Day 11: After breakfast, head towards Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca. On the way visit the stone forest of Imata where have lunch, enjoying the views of the landscape and native birds such as flamingos.

Day 12: Puno - Lake Titicaca. Today take a boat trip around Lake Titicaca and its islands. First visit the floating Uros Islands, made entirely from reeds and inhabited by descendants of the Aymara culture. Later continue to the island of Amantani where will be welcomed by a local family. In the afternoon take a walk to one of the island's pre-Incan temples, and then in the evening we enjoy a show of local folk music and spend the night with local families.

Day 13: Lake Titicaca - Puno. After breakfast board our launch to the island of Taquile , where can observe local people's customs including agricultural techniques which have been used since pre-Incan times. We have lunch and then return to Puno to spend the night.

Day 14: From Puno 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.

Day 15: After breakfast the morning is free. In the afternoon 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.

Day 16: Cusco - Sacred Valley - Ollantaytambo. Today visit the Sacred Valley of the Incas, including the markets of Pisac, the town of Urubamba, and the impressive ruins of Ollantaytambo.

Day 17: Cusco - Wiñaywayna - Aguas Calientes (2-day Inca Trail). From Cusco head to Kilometre 104 where we start the 2-day Inca Trail amidst subtropical vegetation. We visit the archeological site of Chachabamba at 2,150 metres, and after around 3 hours arrive at the impressive archeological complex of Wiñaywayna, composed of an agricultural centre with many terraces, a religious sector and an urban sector. Later we climb towards the Intipunku (Gate of the Sun) from where there is a spectacular panorama of the ruins of Machu Picchu. From there descend to Machu Picchu and take a bus town to the village of Aguas Calientes, where we spend the night.

Day 18: Aguas Calientes - Cusco.

Day 19: Cusco. A day off in Cusco to relax, shop, and enjoy the charms of the Imperial City of the Incas.

Day 20: Cusco - Lima. We take a morning flight to Lima to connect with international flights.

Included in the tour price

- Flights Lima - Trujillo, Chiclayo - Lima, Lima - Arequipa and Cusco - Lima.
- All land transport between destinations and hotel transfers.
- Private transport.
- All tour programmes named in the itinerary.
- Local guides in each location.
- An experienced, English-speaking tour guide who will accompany the group.
- All entrance fees to national parks, museums, and the Machu Picchu sanctuary.
- 3 buffet lunches (Lima, Chivay and Cusco).
- 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.