



Machu Picchu and Sacred Valley

8 Nights



Summary

Celebrate your arrival in Peru at a welcome dinner adjacent to the Huaca Pucllana archaeological site in Lima. Enjoy a private talk on Machu Picchu with a renowned Incan-history scholar, before exploring the ancient ruins with an expert guide.

Stay overnight in Machu Picchu's only hotel, affording extra time to explore the 'Lost City'.

Meet the farmers and children of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, gaining an insight into the local customs during a private visit to their village.

Savour a Chef's Table experience preparing Peruvian cuisine while in the Sacred Valley.

Absorb Peru's rich musical traditions during a private recital by an Andean musician.

Gain a deeper understanding of Peru's fascinating and rich pre-Columbian cultures at the Larco Herrera Museum.

Overview

Interest: group, couple

Level of Comfort: 4/5

Minimum # of passengers: none

Maximum # of passengers: none

Wild Discovery Advantages

- A proven expertise in organizing successful holidays
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- High quality service & strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Permanent assistance from Wild Discovery Head Office at any moment
- Attention to details that make the difference

Information about the destination

- **Currency:** Nuevo Sol
- **Language:** Spanish, Quechua and English
- **Dialing Code:** 51
- **Recommended vaccines:** none
- **Banks & currency exchange:** US dollars can be exchanged everywhere in banks, hotels and shops. It is not recommended to exchange money from street vendors

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Day 1: Arrival -Lima

Upon arrival in Lima, meet greet and transfer to your hotel

Founded in 1535 by Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro, Lima -known as the City of Kings -is a melange of colonial structures, pre-Columbian sites and modern buildings

Day 2: Lima

Spend the day exploring Peru's capital, visiting the Plaza Mayor, which is the birthplace of the city of Lima, and the beautiful 16th-century cathedral. Continue with a journey into the past when you explore Casa Aliaga, Lima's oldest colonial mansion. Built in 1535 by the illustrious Spanish conquistador Jeronimo de Aliaga, this relic of colonial splendour has been home to 17 generations of his descendants ever since. View its beautiful rooms, the family chapel, the Golden Salon, with incredible golden mirrors and a beautiful upper gallery, which is home to some important paintings from the Cusco School. There's time to explore the Larco Herrera Museum, home to an extensive private collection of pre-Inca ceramics housed in an 18th-century mansion. As evening falls, visit the impressive Huaca Pucllana archaeological monument before a welcome dinner of contemporary Peruvian cuisine

Day 3: Sacred Valley

Fly to Cusco, located at more than 11,000 feet above sea level. Enjoy lunch at a restaurant on the city's bustling colonial central square, before heading out to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the vast green valley that sprawls out far below Machu Picchu where an ancient way of life continues. Stop at Awana Kancha en route, a breeding centre for South American camelids such as llamas and alpacas, before visiting the Inkari Museum that showcases Peru's pre-Columbian society. Spend the rest of the day relaxing and acclimatising to the high altitude at your beautiful boutique hotel set in flower-filled gardens.

Day 4: Sacred Valley

Start the day with a visit to a remote village, which seems to have been frozen in time. You'll experience the ancient agricultural methods that farmers have used for centuries to support themselves in the challenging Andean mountain environment. Delve deeper into local culture with lunch at a nearby hacienda. In the afternoon, in preparation for your visit to Machu Picchu, there is a private lecture from a renowned scholar who is a certified expert on the Inca ruins

Day 5: Machu Picchu

In the morning, while school is in session, visit the Kuyuchi Centre to meet and play with the children at Ninos del Arco Iris (Children of the Rainbow), a project to help underprivileged children which is supported by A&K Philanthropy. From here, head to the imposing fortress of Ollantaytambo, a formidable stone structure of massive terraces hugging the mountainside; it is the site of the Incas' greatest victory over the Spanish conquistadors. Board the glass-topped Vistadome train which passes through the scenic Peruvian countryside, arriving at Machu Picchu, where you'll be staying overnight in the only hotel on the site, enabling you to explore the ancient Incan citadel for the rest of the day and as the sun both sets and rises. Discovered in a hidden tangle of trees atop a mountain by American historian Hiram Bingham in 1911, Machu Picchu remains a mystery as its Incan inhabitants left no written records of its purpose. Built in the 15th century at the height of the Inca Empire, it may have been a religious centre or the estate of an emperor. Tour the ruins with your expert guide and then enjoy some time exploring on your own

Day 6: Machu Picchu / Cusco

Rise before dawn to return to Machu Picchu, this time to experience the mist-shrouded ruins as the sun comes up and before the crowds arrive. You may like to walk to Inti Punku (Sun Gate), the entry point to the ruins from the Inca Trail, or hike up to Huayna Picchu, the high mountain that forms the backbone of the ruins, for spectacular views. Having explored to your heart's content, board the Vistadome train to return to Cusco

Day 7: Cusco

Discover evocative Cusco during a city tour that takes in the Cathedral on the Plaza de Armas and the Santo Domingo Temple, a Dominican church built on the foundations of the Incas' principal religious building. Explore the astonishingly

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well-preserved ruins of Sacsayhuaman, a fortress compiled of massive blocks of stone, cut and placed together with incredible precision and without a single drop of mortar to hold them in place. This ancient fortress, which witnessed the greatest battle between the Spanish and the Incas, overlooks the redtiled roofs of Cusco. Stop to browse San Pedro market and spend the remainder of the afternoon as you wish.

Day 8: Lima

Fly to Lima, arriving in the late morning to explore the bohemian Barranco neighbourhood, which bustles with art galleries, eclectic museums and the famous Puente de los Suspiros (Bridge of Sighs). After lunch, return to Miraflores to spend the afternoon as you wish, relaxing back at the hotel or perhaps fitting in some last-minute shopping at a handicraft market

Day 9: Depart Lima

After breakfast, you'll be driven to the airport for your flight home

This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of package suggestions our destination specialists can propose. Make an appointment to order to customize it as per your needs and get a detailed quotation

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