



MYSTERIES OF THE INCA EMPIRE

VACATION OVERVIEW

On this Peru tour, delve into the past as you spend time in Lima, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Cusco, and Lake Titicaca. Along the way, visit ancient ruins, see beautiful scenery, and enjoy guided sightseeing with Local Guides and a Tour Director dedicated to bringing you these destinations and to helping you learn about the local cultures.

March 13 - March 23, 2025

\$3,146 per person double occupancy

Single Rate \$3,671

Triple Rate \$3,131

*Prices include intra-vacation air

DEPOSIT

A \$250 per person non-refundable deposit is due at time of booking.

INSURANCE

Insurance is highly recommended and can be purchased at an additional cost of \$359 pp

MEALS

Full buffet breakfast daily; 5 dinners

COSMOS[®]



Day 1 LIMA, PERU

Welcome to Lima, Peru. Rest of your day is at leisure.

Day 2 LIMA

Sightseeing today focuses on Lima's colonial heritage. Founded in 1535, Lima was once capital of Spain's South American Empire. Visit the baroque 11th-century San Francisco Monastery, with Spanish and Moorish architecture throughout. Continue to Plaza Mayor, where you will see the Government Palace that houses the presidential palace. Nearby, see the cathedral where Pizarro's remains are buried. The remainder of your day is free to explore. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

Day 3 LIMA-CUSCO-SACRED VALLEY

Fly to Cusco high in the Andes and upon arrival, descend into the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Stop at Awanakancha and learn about the importance of camelids (llama, vicuña, alpaca, and guanaco) for Inca cultures. Continue to Pisac, a charming village with a famous Indian market. Later, arrive at your hotel in the peaceful Sacred Valley.

Day 4 SACRED VALLEY

Start the day with a visit to the village of Ollantaytambo and the Inca ruins of the same name. Explore the archaeological site that was the scene of the Inca resistance during the Spanish conquest. Next, visit the Seminario ceramics workshop to learn about Peruvian ancient and modern art. End your day at a local chicheria for a taste of a chicha, a typical Inca drink in Peru.

Day 5 SACRED VALLEY-MACHU PICCHU

Board the Vistadome train that cuts a path through the picturesque Urubamba Valley bound for Aguas Calientes, the quaint town closest to the "Lost City of the Incas." Ascend the mountainside through tropical forest to the sacred refuge of Machu Picchu.

Day 6 MACHU PICCHU-CUSCO

Enjoy some free time this morning to explore the mountain town of Aguas Calientes. Later this afternoon, return to Cusco, former capital of the Inca Empire.

Day 7 CUSCO

Embark on a guided sightseeing tour of Cusco that focuses on the city that was once the political, military, and cultural epicenter of the Incas until the Spanish toppled it. Visit the Santo Domingo Monastery, the Cathedral in the Plaza de Armas, then continue to the hillside overlooking Cusco for a visit to the Temple of Sacsayhuaman. Then see the ruins of Kenko and Puca Pucara before returning to Cusco.

Day 8 CUSCO-JULIACA-PUNO

Fly to Juliaca, visit the pre-Incan burial grounds of Sillustani en route to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca.

Day 9 PUNO. EXCURSION TO LAKE TITICACA

Experience fascinating Lake Titicaca today as you embark on a motorboat tour of the highest navigable lake in the world and its man-made islands. On Taquile Island, see how the local people integrate their Inca and Spanish past. Continue to the Uros floating islands, a group of approximately 40 artificially made islands. Enjoy a farewell dinner hosted by your Tour Director this evening.

Day 10 PUNO-JULIACA-LIMA

Return to Juliaca, where you will be welcomed into a local home for an inside look at life here. Later, a short flight returns you to Lima, where you will transfer to your hotel.

Day 11 LIMA

Your vacation ends after breakfast this morning.