

TOUR CODE

PE+

premier collection

PERU: NORTH & SOUTH

A 'Premier Collection' Tour

14 days

Updated 1/4/2008

Day 1 *Arrival in Lima*

Arrival in Lima, reception, and transfer to the five star Miraflores Park Plaza Hotel.

This city has had wonderful restorations in recent years to the plazas, ornate facades, and wooden balconies for which the city is famous. Lima, named the 'City of Kings' by the Spanish Conquistadors, is the capital of Peru. Founded in 1535 by Francisco Pizarro, where the River Rimac meets the Pacific Ocean, this was the most important Spanish city during the colonial era with a population of about 100,000 inhabitants. Today the city is home to more than 6.5 million people.

Overnight in Lima. Miraflores Park Plaza Hotel (or similar). Dinner if required.

Day 2 *Lima: City Tour*

This morning we start our tour with a visit to San Francisco's Church to visit the extensive catacombs that lie underneath. We then continue to the Plaza de Armas, the most important plaza in Lima. The oldest surviving part of the plaza is the impressive bronze fountain, erected in 1650. Surrounding the plaza is the exquisite Archbishop's Palace, the cathedral, and the Government Palace where handsomely uniformed presidential guards are on duty all day. We visit the cathedral where the great conquistador Francisco Pizarro's tomb lies. Our next stop is the National Anthropology and Archaeology Museum. It contains a comprehensive presentation of the many Peruvian civilizations, from pre-historic times through to the Incas.

Lunch at the International Rosa Nautica.

We conclude the day with a visit to wealthy residential area of Lima where we explore the Gold Museum. This houses a dazzling private collection of pre-Inca gold, jewellery and ceremonial objects, said that the largest collection of gold in the world. On the main floor of the same building is the Arms Museum which displays thousands of ancient and bizarre firearms. Though rumours suggest that many of the exhibits are actually reproductions, the displays still provide a valuable insight into the region's past spiritual and aesthetic values. There is also an extensive pre-Inca textile collection located on the upper floor.

Return to the hotel.

Overnight in Lima. Miraflores Park Plaza Hotel (or similar). All meals.

Day 3 *Lima - Arequipa*

This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to Arequipa, set at the foot of snow-capped El Misti Volcano and located at an elevation height of 2325m / 7,700 ft. This beautiful city is built largely of sillar, a kind of white volcanic

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stone, hence its nickname the "White City."

Later today we visit the Museo Santuarios Andinos Universidad Catolica Santa Maria-Cervesur to see "Juanita," the frozen mummy of a young Inca girl, discovered in 1995 on Mt. Ampato. Juanita died more than 500 years ago, a sacrificial offering to the Inca gods. Her body was preserved by the freezing temperatures on the mountain and is kept in a refrigerated case in the museum.

Overnight in Arequipa. Libertador Arequipa. All meals.

Day 4 *Arequipa: City Tour*

This morning we have a half-day city tour, including the Santa Catalina Convent, the Plaza de Armas, the Jesuit church of La Compania and its beautifully-painted chapel, the Church of San Francisco; San Lazaro's district, Selva Alegre and the typical districts of Cayma and Yanahuara for a magnificent view of the Misti Volcano.

A typical lunch at the classic open-air Tradicion Arequipena and an afternoon at leisure to enjoy Arequipa's colonial charm and friendly inhabitants.

Overnight in Arequipa. Libertador Arequipa. All meals.

Day 5 *Arequipa - Colca Canyon - Chivay*

We have an early start to drive to the Colca Canyon, the deepest canyon in the world. This awesome route treats you to views of the famous El Misti conical mountain, numerous snowcapped volcanoes, and moon-like high passes. Wildlife is also very unique here with herds of llamas, alpacas, and sometimes the elusive vicuna; high lagoons full of Andean flamingos, and occasional vizcachas--the long tailed Andean rabbit.

Colca's pre-Inca terraces rise straight up the canyon and ancient tombs can be found perched on vertical canyon walls. Our drive takes us back in time, through 400-year old colonial towns where residents raise potatoes and tend sheep according to the rising and setting of the sun.

We overnight in the charming mountain town of Chivay (3700m / 12,200 ft). In the afternoon we have free time to visit thermal and medical baths and acclimatize to the altitude before our busy sightseeing day tomorrow.

Overnight in Chivay. Orient-Express Parador del Colca (Deluxe room). Breakfast, box lunch and dinner.

Day 6 *Colca Canyon Area*

After breakfast, very early in the morning, we drive to the Cruz del Condor (Condor's Cross), a natural observation point from where the magnitude of the Colca Canyon and the spectacular flight of the majestic condor can be appreciated. Because the valley is so deep, the rising winds are very strong and big condors take advantage of them to soar gracefully into the sky. Between Maca and Cabanaconde, where winds are even stronger, the observation point is perfect for condor watching. Typical lunch in Cabanaconde.

On the way back to Chivay, we visit the Mirador of Chinina, where we will find the famous Hanging Tombs and the Hanging Bridge of Sifon that joins the town of Yanque with Coporaque. At the town of Yanque we visit its beautiful church and its characteristic stone streets.

Overnight in Chivay. Orient-Express Parador del Colca (Deluxe room). All meals.

Day 7 ***Chivay - Puno***

After breakfast overland departure to Puno, a easy drive on good roads that take us over a high pass with a summit at 4700m / 15,500 ft.

Our route take us through the Andes mountains and typical villages, beautiful landscapes and lagoons. After midday we will arrive to Sillustani, located near Umayo lake. Here we have some of the best ruins in the region consisting of the Chullpas, huge funerary monuments built by the Collas to keep their mortal remains. These circular towers exceeds 12 meters high and challenge the laws of equilibrium since they have a smaller diameter in the base than they do at the top.

We arrive in Puno late afternoon and transfer to our hotel. Puno, at 3830 m (12,562 feet), is the main settlement on the Peruvian shore of Lake Titicaca and the highest place on our tour in which we will spend some time.

Overnight in Puno. Lake Titicaca Libertador Puno. Breakfast, box lunch and dinner.

Day 8 ***Lake Titicaca: Floating Islands***

Today is spent exploring Isla del Sol and Isla de la Luna in Lake Titicaca by private boat. These are among the most important of the thirty-six islands in the lake. Lake Titicaca, South America's largest lake, straddles the Bolivia-Peru border and is said to be the highest navigable body of water in the world at an altitude of 3810 m (12,497 ft). Lake Titicaca was once much larger than the 8560 sq kilometres (3,290 square mi) it occupies today. The great city of Tiahuanaco was built at the edge of the lake. Today the site is more than 25 km (15.5 mi) from the lake. This reduction in the lake size has had a tremendous effect on the climate of the Altiplano region over the past 1,000 years and has made this cradle of cultures able to support far fewer people today.

The cleverly terraced slopes of Isla del Sol contain numerous ruins and small traditional villages. We see the Inca steps where water from a natural spring runs through three stone channels. The sacred water is supposed to cure ailments and bring long life. The three stone channels represent the three commandments of Inca life: Don't Lie, Don't Steal, and Don't be Lazy. The Inca society was highly organised and industrious; laziness was punishable by death.

Isla de la Luna is a very peaceful island surrounded by clear aquamarine water. The view of the snow-capped Cordillera Real and the Illampu mountains from the highest point on the island is spectacular. We will also visit the site of an Inca Era temple, Acllahusi. We enjoy lunch on the island and an opportunity for some spectacular views over the haunting beauty of Lake Titicaca.

Return to Puno and your hotel. Dinner with a beautiful view over the lake.

Overnight in Puno. Lake Titicaca Libertador Puno. All meals.

Day 9 ***Puno - "Train of the Andes" - Cuzco***

Today we take the The Venice Simplon Orient-Express "Train of the Andes" from Puno to Cuzco.

At 4321m (14,260 ft) above sea level, we reach the highest point on our journey, a cold, remote place whose surrounding snow-draped peaks are often shrouded by mist or fine rain, and whose eerie silence is at least partly attributable to eardrums blocked by the dizzying altitude. This is a wild, high, windswept and sunburnt prairie of isolated communities of shepherds and cattle farmers, wedged between the two distant branches of the Andes visible occasionally on either horizon when not melting completely with the giant cumulus clouds that dominate the skyline.

The train then begins to descend, past La Raya to the thermal baths at Aguas Calientes. The last half of the journey is

dominated by magnificent Andes Mountains, towering over the deep valleys of the meandering Huatanay River. Approaching Cuzco, our train follows the river through green fields dotted with willow trees and eucalyptus groves, past outlying communities gathered around colonial churches that conceal their artistic treasures behind crumbling adobe facades.

Cuzco is nestled towards the western end of this well-watered valley at 3310m (10,923 ft) above sea level. This Inca city was laid out around a great central square in the shape of a puma, the god of lightning. Today, stone walls built by the Incas line most of Cuzco's central streets and form the foundations of colonial and modern buildings. The Inca buildings were so well built that the Spaniards simply knocked down the upper parts of the Inca temples and palaces and built their churches and mansions on top of the Inca walls. Shortly after the Spanish conquest, the capital was moved to Lima on the coast. Thus, Cuzco has retained a wonderful, untouched colonial atmosphere. The culture is also very much alive here, and is evident in the music, clothing and handicrafts of the people.

Overnight in Cuzco. The Libertador Palacio del Inka Cusco Hotel. All meals.

Day 10 ***Cuzco Area***

Today we tour Cuzco.

We visit the nearby site of Sacsayhuaman, an impressive complex which, like so many others of that time, had both a religious and military purpose. The 'fortress' known as the 'storehouse of the sun' incorporates some of the largest stones ever used in a building. The zig-zag walls represent the teeth of the sacred puma and provide an excellent defensive structure. The stones fit so perfectly together without mortar that not even moss can grow in the cracks.

Later we visit Coricancha, the temple of the sun which was the most important location in the Inca empire. Entombed in the closed cloister of the Sto Domingo Church, these sacred walls were hidden from modern civilization until the colonial walls were brought down in 1950 by a powerful earthquake. We also visit the church of San Blas with its fabulously carved pulpit. Wandering the narrow streets of the San Blas artisan region we make our way to the cathedral which towers impressively over the Plaza Mayor. Inside we find precious paintings from the Cusco School of Art, one of the most prolific of its era.

Overnight in Cuzco. The Libertador Palacio del Inka Cusco Hotel. All meals.

Day 11 ***Cuzco - Train to Machu Picchu***

Today we travel to Machu Picchu on board the Hiram Bingham train, a luxury train service that runs from Poroy Station to Machu Picchu in three and a half hours. This service with its distinctive blue and gold livery and elegant interior upholstery in warm, inviting tones, consists of 4 cars: two dining cars, a bar car, and a kitchen car.

Departing Poroy Station (20 mins from Cuzco centre) at 09h00, brunch is served on board and guides are present to explain points of interest en route. The train journey to Machu Picchu is a highlight of any trip to the Andes; the scenery is simply spectacular and the train allow you to enjoy it in comfort. The trip takes us through a changing landscape with wonderful vistas of the mountains and, deep in its dramatic canyon, the beautiful Urubamba River.

Upon arrival at the Aguas Calientes train station, a bus will take us on the 6 km (4 mile) twisting journey up the mountainside to the site of Machu Picchu. We proceed immediately for a guided 3-hour walking tour of the ruins (please be prepared with all that you will need to have with you for our tour). We will enter the site through the House of the Terrace Caretakers, which flank the agricultural sector. Once on the site, we will see, among other features, the Temple of the Sun, the Fountain Caretaker's House, the Royal Sector, and the puzzling Temple of the Three Windows. We will also see the Common District, the Sacred Rock and the prison-like Temple of the Condor.

Overnight in Machu Picchu area. Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. All meals.

Day 12 Machu Picchu Area - Train to Cuzco

A large part of the beauty of Machu Picchu is created by its setting on a mountain top surrounded by deep valleys. By staying for a second day to visit Machu Picchu, rather than visiting as a day trip from Cuzco, we are able to savour the atmosphere of this very special place.

In the early morning of our second day at Machu Picchu, most group members choose to revisit the site with the weather-dependent hope of seeing the mist-clad mountains greet the morning sun. Weather notwithstanding, the best thing about going up the second day is being there early when there are fewer people, allowing time to "soak it in," as well as the opportunity to climb Huayna Picchu and/or to the Sun Gate.

If you choose not to revisit the site, we recommend a visit to the Manuel Chavez Ballon Site Museum which focuses on the "discovery", excavation, and history of Machu Picchu. On display are historical photos, including photos of Hiram Bingham at Machu Picchu shortly after he came across the ruins, informative write-ups on the construction of Machu Picchu and the life of the Incas, and artifacts found at the site. Outside the museum is a very lush botanical garden running along the river. Some plants are labeled and there are a few short trails. This is a nice shady area to rest on a hot day.

An afternoon tea is served in the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge located just steps from the entrance to the ruins, and once back on board for the 18h00 Hiram Bingham departure, pre-dinner cocktails are served accompanied by live entertainment, and a four course a la carte dinner is presented in the dining cars.

Overnight in Cuzco. The Libertador Palacio del Inka Cusco Hotel. Breakfast and dinner.

Day 13 Cuzco: Uruabamba Valley

This morning we drive to Pisac, about 32 km / 20 miles from Cuzco. Pisac is an Andean village with a colourful, lively market where you will see traditionally dressed locals with whom you can barter for craft items. You will see many unique Andean musical instruments as well as dazzling textiles. Peruvian woollen items are justifiably famous for their imaginative designs, based on Inca art and the local flora and fauna. You can buy sweaters and caps made from the extremely warm wool of alpacas and llamas.

An hour and a half beyond the town of Pisac we visit the Inca ruins of Ollantaytambo, which are located on a spectacular ridge with deep valleys on either side. From here can be seen many Inca storage warehouses hanging onto the valley walls. We can also admire the carefully constructed and maintained farming terraces which climb the surrounding hillsides. The Uruabamba Valley was sacred to the Incas. They believed that the river flowed into the cosmos and became part of the Milky Way. Located 600m / 1,968 feet below Cuzco, the Uruabamba Valley was able to grow 70 species of crops and support the population of the great capital city of the Incas. Returning to Cuzco over the Chinchero Pass we will have plenty of photo opportunities. This afternoon's drive is amongst the most spectacular on our tour.

NOTE: Depending on variables such as weather and day of the week, the actual order of today's sightseeing activities may vary at your Tour Leader's discretion.

Overnight in Cuzco. The Libertador Palacio del Inka Cusco Hotel. Breakfast and dinner.

Day 14 Cuzco - Lima - Departure

Today we fly from Cuzco to Lima; departure from Lima.

LAND ONLY CLIENTS: In order to provide adequate connection time, please ensure that your return flight home from Lima does NOT depart earlier than 9:00 p.m.

Breakfast.

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LAND ONLY DATES

Our itineraries are based on **Land Only** dates and do not include flying time. Please contact our office for arrival / departure information.

EARLY BOOKINGS

We restrict our group size to 12-16 participants and many of our tours fill early. A deposit will confirm your space on tour.

DEPOSIT

Please contact us to check availability before you book. A non-refundable \$500 deposit is required to hold your place on a tour. Optional trip cancellation and interruption insurance must be purchased at the time of booking and is non-refundable.

FINAL PAYMENT

Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by check or credit card. Credit card payments will be automatically charged 60 days prior to departure unless you inform us you will be making alternate payment arrangements. **Discount:** If we receive your check payment 70 days prior to departure, you are entitled to a 1.75% deduction off the final balance.

What's included on *Premium* tours?

- *Shared accommodation in deluxe hotel properties*
- *Domestic / intra-tour air taxes & locally paid departure taxes*
- *Airport transfers*
- *Breakfast daily, most dinners, some lunches*
- *Transportation while on tour*
- *"Special Features" outlined on each itinerary*
- *Sightseeing and entrance fees as specified in each itinerary*
- *Gratuities for drivers, local guides, restaurant staff, porters*
- *Services of a Adventures Abroad Tour Leader*

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

We offer flights from all gateways. Please contact us for prices and details.

FLIGHT PRICES

We maintain contracts with several different air carriers. We do not hold blocked seats on our flights. Our published airfares are based upon availability and are subject to change without notice. Certain seasons are more likely to have limited space and may result in surcharges if you book late. We recommend that you book early for these departures.

What's not included on our tours?

- *Long-haul air taxes and fuel surcharges*
- *Visa and related fees & charges (if applicable)*
- *Trip cancellation / interruption / medical insurance*
- *Single supplement charges (if single room requested)*
- *Tour Leader gratuity*



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code destination
PE+ PERU: NORTH & SOUTH

duration
14 Days

Prices in US Dollars

Effective Jan 04, 2008

Land Portion		Land Only	Miami	Los Angeles
Start	End			
15 May 08	28 May 08	\$6,495	\$7,095	\$7,295
13 Oct 08	26 Oct 08	\$6,495	\$7,095	\$7,295
14 May 09	27 May 09	\$6,495	\$7,095	\$7,295
12 Oct 09	25 Oct 09	\$6,495	\$7,095	\$7,295

LAND ONLY PARTICIPANTS	
Tour Begins	Tour Ends
Lima	Lima

special features

- Small groups.
- Experienced Tour Leaders.
- All meals (mostly a la carte), including special local cuisines and events.
- 5-star accommodation throughout.
- Exclusive air-conditioned coaches.
- Full staff support and portorage at airports and hotels.
- 'Behind the scenes' visits and local cultural experiences.
- All internal air tickets included in land price (including taxes).

payment information

Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. Final payment can be made by cheque, Visa, MasterCard or American Express.

Discount: If we receive your cheque payment 70 days prior to departure, you are entitled to a 1.75% deduction off the final balance.

flight information

Flight prices are subject to availability and may change. For prices from other cities, please contact us.

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