

Ancient Civilizations of Peru

Day 1: Arrival in Lima, Peru

Transfer from airport to hotel. *Mercure Ariosto*

Day 2: Lima City Tour

Take it easy in the morning with breakfast and explore if you would like. In the afternoon, we will have a tour through Lima's streets and plazas. Starting at the Love Park in Miraflores, with a spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean, and then heading to the Huaca Pucllana, ceremonial center of Lima culture. Then we will go to the Art Museum of Lima-MALI and visit the permanent exhibition room of the museum. After this, we go on to the Main Square where the Government Palace and the Town Hall are located. We will explore the Santo Domingo Convent, along which corridors San Martín de Porras and San Rosa de Lima used to walk around in the 17th century, and where their remains rest today. *Breakfast included. *Mercure Ariosto*

Day 3: Cusco

Transfer to the airport and flight to Cusco. On arrival, meet and greet, and transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon our exclusive city tour that starts at San Cristobal Plaza to enjoy a panoramic view of the city. We will then visit Saint Peter Market, where we will be able to appreciate the local flavors and learn about the local produce in this market, which is the supply center of the city. We will then continue to the Koricancha Temple that will welcome us with its splendor. The Golden Precinct is the meaning of its name in Quechua and we can still feel the sumptuousness of its walls that were once lined in gold sheets. From Saint Blas, the craftsmen's quarters, we will walk down along the Hatun Rumiyoc street, finding midway the Inca Roca Palace (today the Archbishop's Palace; and we will have a time to appreciate the worldwide famous Stone of the Twelve Angles. We will go on to the main square to visit the cathedral that houses invaluable colonial works of art. *Breakfast included. *Anden Inca*

Day 4: Cusco

In the morning, we will get away from the crowds to visit Sacayhuaman, an impressive citadel full of colossal fortresses surrounded by beautiful landscapes in complete communion with nature. We will then continue to the Inca shrine of Qenqo, with its awesome altar for sacrifices embedded in the side of the rock. We will finally reach Puca Pucara watchtower and Tambomachay, a monument of noticeable architectural excellence. It is considered one of the pillars of the Andean view of the world. *Breakfast included. *Anden Inca*

Day 5: Sacred Valley

The Sacred Valley of the Incas will welcome us today. We will visit Awanacancha, a tourist complex where we will see and feed the Andean camelids such as the llamas and alpacas, where the locals will show us the weaving and dyeing techniques of their traditional textiles. We will then continue to Inca and Colonial Pisac. Discover one of the most beautiful archeological sites in the Sacred Valley at the top of the mountain where you can have a view of the colonial town of Pisac. We will take a walking tour of the colonial town, and then have time to do some shopping in the handicraft market. Then, we will head to the impressive Inkariy Museum. Here we will enjoy a delicious lunch. We will take a guided tour of the museum to learn more about the numerous rooms where cultural representations of pre-Hispanic civilizations of ancient Peru are exhibited. We will stay overnight in the Sacred Valley. *Breakfast and lunch included. *La Hacienda Valle Sagrado*

Day 6: Sacred Valley/Machu Picchu

Our adventure takes us now to the less explored treasures of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. First stop: Moray, a place with breathtaking views thanks to its colossal concentric terraces resembling a coliseum. What did they use it for? The terraces recreated 20 different types of microclimates, and they were studied to ensure the agricultural production of the empire. We will continue our journey to Maras, the millenary colonial salt mines. The contrast of the white pools against the green valley is so impressive that it resembles a postcard. Buffet lunch. In the afternoon, we will head towards the archaeological complex of Ollantaytambo, where you can see the technique with which the Incas work the

stone. It is now time to catch the train at the Ollantaytambo station. We will arrive in Aguas Calientes (now named Machu Picchu town). The rest of the day is free to explore the town. *Breakfast and Lunch included. *Ferre Machu Picchu*

Day 7: Machu Picchu/Cusco

We will board the bus in the morning to go up the winding road to Machu Picchu, amid a spectacular view of the Urubamba River and its canyon. The Lost City of the Incas, Machu Picchu, will astonish us with its terraces, ceremonial shrines, steps, and urban areas. Energy is all around us. After a guided visit, we will have lunch at one of the restaurants in the area. At the arranged time, we will return to Cusco and will be transferred to the hotel. Spend the night in Cusco. *Breakfast and lunch included. *Anden Inca*

Day 8: Cusco

Departure to airport in the morning and return to Lima. *Breakfast included.