

TREASURES OF SOUTHERN PERU

11 days / 10 nights
Daily departures
Valid from 2 persons



Day 1: OUT / LIMA

Meeting and assistance upon arrival and transfer to your hotel.
Balance of the day at your leisure.

Day 2: LIMA / AREQUIPA

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport. Fly to Arequipa. Meeting and assistance upon arrival and transfer to your hotel. Arequipa is the second largest city in Peru and proudly asserts its independence from the capital. Clean, with a sober population, but with Peru's most murderous drivers, it has an attractive main square overlooked by snow-capped volcanoes. Arequipa's most famous attraction is the Santa Catalina Convent, and we include a visit to this "village within a city". In the 18th century, the Convent's nuns were the daughters of the wealthy and powerful, and they even had slaves as servants. Now it is open to visitors and is a photogenic and colorful maze of streets and rooms. Overnight in Arequipa

Day 3: AREQUIPA / COLCA

Breakfast. We head into desolate desert landscape beyond the volcanoes for a two-day excursion to the Colca Canyon, one of the deepest in the world. Climbing onto a high and treeless plain, we pass through a vicuña reserve. The shy vicuña is a smaller, more elegant relative of the llama, with fine and valuable wool. Eventually, we descend into the canyon itself until we arrive at the small provincial capital of Chivay. Overnight.

Day 4: COLCA / AREQUIPA

Breakfast. We continue our drive along the canyon past ancient terraced fields. The local women still wear the bright, intricately embroidered traditional costumes unique to this isolated region. At the Cruz Del Condor, the deepest part of the canyon, there is a good chance of spotting condors soaring skyward from an inaccessible rocky ledge. Continue your trip to Arequipa. Arrival at your hotel. Overnight.

Day 5: AREQUIPA / CUSCO

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport. Fly to Cusco. Meeting and assistance upon arrival and transfer to your hotel. Welcome Coca tea. Free time to adjust to the altitude. In the afternoon, enjoy a tour of Cusco, the former capital city of the four regions that formed the Inca Empire. The tour includes highlights of the Colonial city such as the Cathedral, the Q'oricancha - an amazing example of the fusion of Incan and Western cultures that was one of the most important temples in the Inca Empire - the Plaza de Armas and visit to the Inca ruins of Tambomachay, Kenko, Puca-Pucara and Sacsayhuaman's gigantic zigzag-walled fortress. Overnight.

Day 6: CUSCO / MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

Breakfast. We set off by train for Machu Picchu. The train passes through the Sacred Valley. The single line track hugs the right side of the canyon next to the boulder-strewn, roaring Urubamba River. Arrival at the small town of Aguas Calientes, and finally a 30-minute bus ride up to Machu Picchu. Machu Picchu, an Inca city with a maze of fine stone temples, houses and fountains, spectacularly situated on a ridge between two peaks. Hidden by dense vegetation when Hiram Bingham discovered it in 1911. We include a guided tour. In the afternoon lunch and return to Cusco by train. Transfer to your hotel. Overnight.

Day 7: CUSCO / PUNO

Breakfast. Transfer to the bus station. We take an all-day bus from Cusco to Puno. The route is scenically stunning, and there are stops at cultural sites such as Pikillaqta, the baroque church at Andahuayllillas,

the Temple to Viracocha at Racqchi. Lunch at Sicuani. The bus climbs to the high pass of La Raya, at 4,200 meters, from here the scenery changes dramatically. Arrival in Puno, reception and transfer to the hotel. Welcome Coca tea. Acclimatization. Overnight.

Day 8: PUNO / LAKE TITICACA / LIMA

Breakfast. In the morning, we take a short boat ride to visit the Uros Islands, the famed floating reed islands of Lake Titicaca. A unique feature of this part of the lake is the traditional settlement of Uros people on floating islands made entirely of reeds-the same material they use to build their canoes. The islanders also use totora reeds to make boats, and even as food. Although fishing is still an important activity, nowadays the inhabitants earn their living mainly through selling handicrafts to tourists. In the afternoon, there is an excursion to the haunting ruins at Sillustani - giant funeral towers used during pre-and Inca times to bury the wealthy, which overlook alpaca pastures and the tranquil lagoon of Umayo. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight to Lima. Arrival in Lima, reception and transfer to the hotel.

Day 9: LIMA / ICA / PARACAS

Breakfast. This morning you will have a guided tour that includes visits to the main Colonial attractions such as the Main Square with the Cathedral, San Francisco Convent and many elegant buildings with their traditional wooden balconies, which now, are been restored. Afterwards you will visit Lima's residential areas: San Isidro with its Olive Grove, Country Club and Golf course and Miraflores with its Central Park, City Hall and Main shopping streets such as Larco Avenue. Transfer to the bus station to board the Royal Class bus to Ica. We will travel south along the Pan-American Highway for four-and-a-half hours. Arrival to Paracas, transfer to your hotel. Overnight.

Day 10: PARACAS / LIMA

At 8:00 after breakfast at the hotel, depart for the 2-hour boat excursion to the Ballestas Islands. The islands are located 20 km. from the coast and are part of the Paracas National Reserve. On the way to the islands, we will observe the "Candelabra", an enormous drawing in one of the biggest dunes of the reserve, that were probably made by the ancient Incas. Once at the Ballestas Islands we will see fauna in their natural habitat, including sea lions, Humboldt penguins and various bird species. At the proper time transfer to the local airport for Flight over the famous and mysterious Nazca Lines and geoglyphs. It is only possible to admire these enigmatic pre-Inca figures from the air. The purpose for which these animal, humanoid and geometric drawings made is still unknown. Lunch. Return to Lima by bus. Overnight.

Day 11: LIMA / OUT

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport to board your next international flight.
End of our services.

Included in the program:

- All land and domestic air transport
- Accommodation as specified
- Transfers, excursions as specified
- Daily breakfast and specified meals
- Train ticket in "Vistadome Class" for the route: Cusco / Aguas Calientes / Cusco
- Entrance fees to listed sightseeing in the itinerary

Not included:

- Airport taxes which are payable locally
- Optional excursions
- Personal expenses
- Tips

IMPORTANT: Package rates are not valid during National holidays: January 1st - New Year; March/April - Catholic Easter; May 1st. - Labour Day; June 22nd - 25th. - Inti Raymi (in Cusco); July 28th. & 29th. - Independence day; November 1st. - All Saints Day; December 24th. & 25th. - Christmas.