



## PERU TOURS: MARVELS OF PERU

12 Days / 11 Nights

### Program Highlights:

**Lima**, Peru's cultural and business center, a fascinating mix of modern and Spanish colonial architecture. Today, Lima is the gastronomic capital of South America for its authentic and innovative cuisine

**Arequipa**, filled with beautiful convents and grand Spanish colonial mansions.

**Colca Canyon**, one of the deepest canyons in the world, providing astonishing panoramic vistas and the Peruvian Condor.

**The Sacred Valley of the Incas**, a setting of picturesque Quechua villages, impressive Inca terraces and important archeological sites.

**Cusco**, the capital of the Inca Empire, the archeological capital of the Americas. This city is waiting for you to discover its narrow cobble stoned streets, impressive Cathedral and wonderful mix of Inca and Spanish colonial architecture.

**Machu Picchu**, marvelous, mysterious Inca citadel, recently declared one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, will take your breath away.

**Puno and Lake Titicaca**, the highest navigable lake in the world and the cradle of Inca mythology.

Prices begin from \$1655.00 Per Person in Double Occupancy. Includes Land Arrangements only. Please ask for our Airline Specials, too.

### Day 1: Lima

Meet and Greet upon arrival to Lima's International Airport, and Transfer to your hotel **Casa Andina Classic** or similar. Balance of the day free to stroll, shop and explore this capital city, a fascinating mix of modern and colonial architecture on your own. Overnight in Lima.

### Day 2: Lima

Enjoy a half day guided sightseeing tour to the most attractive and important sites in Lima, the "City of Kings". The tour includes Lima's Historical Center, passing by Plaza San Martin, Plaza Mayor, the Government Palace, the City Hall, the Cathedral and its Religious Art Museum. Finally visit the residential Districts of San Isidro and Miraflores, passing by the Huaca Pucllana, a Ceremonial and Administrative Centre of the Lima Culture built in the II Century A.C. that the Incas considered as "Ñaupallaqta" or Sacred Town. Also visit El Olivar Park with olive trees brought from Spain in the XVth Century, the Central Park of Miraflores and Larcomar, a symbol of modern Lima and a tourist and entertainment centre as well as a privileged site to enjoy an amazing view of the Pacific Ocean. Overnight in Lima. B

### Day 3: Arequipa

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Early this morning, transfer to the Lima airport to board your flight to the city of Arequipa. Upon arrival to Arequipa's airport you will be met by a driver



who will assist you with your luggage and drive you to the hotel **Casa Andina Classic** or similar. Morning at leisure in order to adapt to the sudden change in altitude. Afternoon sightseeing tour of the City, including the Main Square, one of the most beautiful squares in Peru, and the Cathedral, a prime example of XIXth Century Peruvian Architecture, housing beautiful treasures in gold and silver. You will also visit La Compañía Church, an ancient Jesuit temple, maybe the most important one in Arequipa due to its history and tradition. Continue the visit to the Santa Catalina Convent; the most fascinating colonial religious complex in the country, with the architecture, religious art and furnishings of a world that seems to have stood still since 1579. Overnight in Arequipa. B

#### **Day 4: Arequipa / Colca Canyon**

Buffet Breakfast at the hotel. Early in the morning, depart on a wonderful four hour journey to the Colca Canyon, one of the deepest canyons in the world (3400 mts.). On the trip, drive across Pampa Cañahuas in the Aguada Blanca National Reserve, inhabited by herds of Vicuñas and Alpacas (South American cameloids). You will also see beautiful pre-Columbian terraces, still being cultivated by the native Collaguas. Box lunch included en route. On your arrival at Colca Valley, transfer to the selected lodge **Casa Andina Classic** or similar. If you are in good shape, you will have free time to stroll around the lodge surroundings or you could take a repairing bath in the hot springs nearby the lodge. Overnight in the Colca Valley. B BL

#### **Day 5 Colca Canyon / Puno**

Breakfast at the hotel. Very early in the morning, drive to the observation point "Cruz del Condor". While this is not the deepest point of the Colca Canyon, from Cruz del Condor you can appreciate the grandeur of the canyon and with a bit of luck you might spot Andean condors, the largest flying bird in the world, soaring across the high plain. On the way back, visit the towns of Maca at the base of the volcano Sabancaya and then Yanque. The church of Yanque with its baroque façade is testimony to the cultural symbiosis in the colonial era. Continue the journey from the Colca Valley heading southeast towards Lake Titicaca, approximately travelling a total of 8 hours (332 kms / 221.33 miles); most of the route is paved. Beautiful landscapes along the way, corresponding to high altitude ecosystems, approximately one hour before reaching Puno. Puno sits on the banks of Lake Titicaca – the highest navigable lake in the world. This region is the birthplace of Inca Mythology; according to the legend, Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo emerged from the sacred Lake Titicaca to found the Inca Empire and give birth to Inca civilization. Arrival in Puno and transfer to the selected hotel **Casa Andina Classic** or similar. Overnight in Puno. B BL

#### **Day 6: Puno**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Early in the morning, experience an unforgettable excursion on the waters of Lake Titicaca to the unique "Floating Islands" of the Uros. These ancient inhabitants of the Lake, known as the Water Tribe, have built their own "Islands" by periodically adding new layers of a type of reed unique to the area called "Totorá" (Scirpus totora), vegetable fiber of the Papyrus family. Continue the speedboat trip to Taquile Island, inhabited by Quechua-speaking natives who have developed efficient and unique social systems, as well as fine hand weaving techniques, passed down through the generations. Upon arrival at the Town of Taquile, enjoy lunch with the local inhabitants, then walk through



the various hills and archaeological sites of this 6 km long Island. Return to Puno. Overnight in Puno. B L

### **Day 7: Puno / Cusco**

Early departure by bus to the City of Cusco. Travel along the High Plateau of the Collao, stopping at the Town of Ayaviri, an important livestock and textile centre, to visit the impressive Temple of Kalasasaya, remnants of the ancient Pucara Culture. On the way, stop in Raqchi, where you will see a spectacular Inca Sanctuary built by the Inca Pachacutec and dedicated to the great Inca God of Wiracocha; it has a great central wall with a stone base of fine Inca architecture, other walls made of giant adobe bricks and the structure also have two circular lateral columns. Around the Temple are several buildings once used for housing and storage. About 70 kms further on, pass through the La Raya Ranch where you can see herds of vicuñas and llamas. During the trip, pass by the lovely Wacarpay Lake, offering spectacular views of the mountains reflected in its calm waters. Proceed to the beautiful Town of Andahuaylillas, and visit the Church of San Pedro de Andahuaylillas, better known as the Sistine Chapel of the Americas, due to its decorated polychrome ceiling. Lunch at a quiet countryside restaurant, where you can enjoy the delightful culinary art of the region. Afternoon arrival in Cusco and transfer to your hotel **Casa Andina Classic** or similar. Overnight in Cusco. B L

### **Day 8: Cusco**

Breakfast at the hotel. Half day private escorted sightseeing tour of the city of Cusco, archaeological capital of South America. Cusco also has the finest examples of Inca history and architecture. A visit of the city's most important historical monuments, The Plaza de Armas, the Cathedral, the Koricancha Temple, and a visit to the surrounding ruins of the Kenko Amphitheater, Tambomachay, Puca Pucara, and Sacsayhuaman Fortress. After the tour you will be driven back to your hotel. Overnight in Cusco. B

### **Day 9: Cusco**

A day at leisure to explore and enjoy the many excellent cafés, bars and innovative restaurants in Cusco or for any last minute shopping. Overnight in Cusco. B

### **Day 10: Cusco / Sacred Valley**

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure from Cusco for a drive through the valley to reach Pisac, one of the most important colonial towns in the Sacred Valley. Visit the colourful Indian market in Pisac to see a blend of colour, tradition and people. At a distance of 30 km. (19 miles) from Cusco, and an altitude of 2,970 meters (9,700 ft.), Pisac is located right at the entrance to the Sacred Valley. It is in the town's Main Plaza where every Sunday the famous "Indian Market" is held, attracting hundreds of peasants from the surrounding communities who descend from the mountains in order to perform their commercial transactions. Overnight in the Sacred Valley at the hotel **La Casona de Yucay** or similar. B

### **Day 11: Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning transfer to the train station for an amazing train journey to the famous Inca Citadel of Machu Picchu, the great mountain-top city abandoned by the Inca



Empire, reclaimed by the jungle and lost to humanity until its rediscovery in 1911. The legendary 'Lost City' is without a doubt one of the world's most impressive archaeological sites. Built by the Incas on the summit of "Machu Picchu" (old peak), overlooking the deep canyon of the Urubamba river in a semi-tropical area 120 Kms (75 miles) from the city of Cusco at 3,400 m.a.s.l (11,155 f.a.s.l). It sits on a mountain site of extraordinary beauty, in the middle of a tropical mountain forest; Machu Picchu was probably the most amazing urban creation of the Inca Empire at its height, with its giant walls, terraces and ramps, which appear as though they have been cut naturally in the continuous rock escarpments. Machu Picchu is also one of the Inca's best kept secrets, since they did not leave written records and Spanish chronicles make no mention of the citadel, it remains a mystery. Upon arrival to the ruins after a 20 minute bus ride from Aguas Calientes, a guided tour of the Citadel including the Main Plaza, the Circular Tower, the Sacred Sun Dial, the Royal Quarters, the Temple of the Three Windows and various burial grounds. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, back to Cusco by train, and transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Sacred Valley. B

### **Day 12: Sacred Valley / Lima / International departure**

Breakfast at the hotel and then you will be driven to the Cusco airport in order to board your late morning flight to Lima and connect with your international flight. Have a safe onward flight! B

B Breakfast      BL Box Lunch      L Lunch

#### **Included:**

- Shared services with local English speaking guides
- All entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals: As indicated in the itinerary
- Roundtrip train ticket to Machu Picchu via Vistadome coach
- Bus tickets to and from the Machu Picchu ruins
- 11 nights hotel accommodation
- All tips (except hotel staff)
- Professional local guide assistance throughout the program

#### **Not Included:**

- International and domestic airfares.
- Meals or any other item not described in the itinerary.
- Early check-in, late checkout, services and non-mentioned meals in the itinerary
- Personal expenses.
- Tips for hotel staff.
- Local taxes (19% V.A.T. is applicable only to Peruvian and foreign residents of Peru; in order to be exempted you will need to show your passport.

\*For more information, contact your travel agent or [Festival Tours](#).