



Land of the Incas

Peru

SCHEDULED DEPARTURE

May 23 - June 2, 2023



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Cuzco: Panoramic view of the Main square and the cathedral church

Day 1: Tues., May 23, 2023 • Departure - Lima

Our journey begins as we board our plane to Lima, Peru. Upon arrival at Lima's international airport, we meet a local guide who will escort us to our hotel where we have time to relax from the flight and rest.

Day 2: Wed., May 24, 2023 • Lima - Cusco

After breakfast at the hotel, we transfer to the airport to board our flight to Cusco. Upon arrival in Cusco, we transfer to our hotel. The rest of the morning is at leisure to acclimatize ourselves to the altitude. In the afternoon, a local expert joins us for a City Tour of Cusco. We visit The Cathedral, Koricancha (Temple of the Sun) and the nearby ruins: Qenqo (Ceremonial and Ritual center, place where sacrifices were made), Puca Pucara (this complex was probably used by Emperor Pachacutec as a tambo), Tambomachay (also called "The Bath of the Inca") and Sacsayhuaman Fortress. We return to hotel for dinner. **(B,D)**

Day 3: Thur., May 25, 2023 • Cusco – Sacred Valley - Cusco

After breakfast we depart for the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We stop in the town of Pisac, where we visit a picturesque craft market and see how the locals maintain the tradition of exchanging their things or food, just like it was done in the past. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Later we visit the town of Ollantaytambo where we see the fortress that bears the same name. Here we visit the most important sites and attractions as our guide provides an explanation of its history. Next, we visit the town of Chinchero and its small chapel before returning to Cusco. **(B,L)**

Day 4: Fri., May 26, 2023 • Cusco – Machu Picchu – Cusco

Breakfast is at our hotel. Today is the highlight of our trip, as we visit the citadel of **Machu Picchu**. We depart early from Ollanta train station towards the majestic city of Aguas Calientes. Upon arrival at Aguas Calientes town, we board the buses to ascend to the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, one of the 7 wonders of the world. Our visit includes the Intihuatana (the Solar Clock), the Palace of the Incas, and the Three Windows. At the end of our tour, we descend to the town of Aguas Calientes for shopping and lunch at a local restaurant. Later we transfer to the station to board the train back to Ollantaytambo and then by coach to our hotel in Cusco. **(B,L)**

Day 5: Sat., May 27, 2023 • Cusco – Puno

Today we transfer in private transport to the Puno city. Our ride, which takes approximately **ten hours**, allows us to contemplate the wild meadows of the Andean plateau and also



Totora boat on Titicaca lake

typical Andean towns. We stop in Pucara, La Raya, for lunch along the way, at Raqchi to see Wiracocha's Temple and at the chapel of Andahuaylillas. **(B,L)**

Day 6: Sun., May 28, 2023 • Puno – Titicaca Lake – Puno

Today we visit the Floating Island of Los Uros, a set of 20 islands formed on the basis of totora (aquatic plant). Then, we visit the Taquile Island and walk along a path of aligned stones and zigzags that will lead us to the village. We have some time to visit the craft shops and make some purchases. We continue to the restaurant of the island for lunch prepared from products of the region. We return to Puno for overnight. **(B,L)**

Day 7: Mon., May 29, 2023 • Juliaca – Lima

We board a flight to Lima and check into our hotel. In the afternoon, we explore Lima with a local guide. We visit the colonial area of Lima as well as the historical part to gain a better understanding of the city's past. These main areas include the Plaza San Martin, Plaza Mayor and Government Palace. We continue our visit to the Saint Domingo Church—a sacred place and home to the remains of Saint Rose of Lima, Saint Martin de Porres, who was the first black saint in America. Afterwards, we have dinner at a local restaurant. **(B,D)**

Day 8: Tues., May 30, 2023 • Lima – Puerto Maldonado – Sandoval Lake Lodge

After breakfast at our hotel, we transfer to the airport for a flight to Puerto Maldonado. Upon arrival we are welcomed by our local representatives and drive through the city to the boat dock on the Tambopata River. Here we board a motorized canoe and head towards the nearby confluence of the mighty Madre de Dios River, the source of the Amazon tributary. About 30 minutes down river is landing at the port that leads us to Sandoval Lake. We walk a trail of about 2 miles stopping to watch birds and butterflies, up to a narrow canal boats. From there, we navigate the flooded forest of palm trees that leads to the open waters of this peaceful lake. Our crew rows the boats across to the lodge (motors are prohibited on the lake). Under the surface of the lake, we may see the huge Paiche, an Amazonian fish that can weigh up to 220lbs. We may hear strange and unsettling screams and see heads peering from the lake surface, which marks our first encounter with Pteronura brasiliensis, the Giant Otter of the Amazon. After a brief rest, we start again by boat to explore the entire eastern end of the lake, following the sound of hundreds of Blue-and-Yellow and Red-Breasted Macaws as they return to the palm forest for the night. Our view from the boat often allows close and extensive

Black-capped squirrel monkey, Lake Sandoval



encounters with birds and mammals. In Sandoval Lake the Capuchin Monkey, in particular, has nearly lost its fear of humans. We return to the lodge at dusk for dinner. Afterwards we take the boat again, in search of caimans, which are now extremely rare in the Amazon, but are still common in this protected lake. They grow up to four meters long, and compete for their share of the fishing with the otters. On clear nights, we can go by boat farther into the lake for a view of the vast southern sky, unobstructed, with its magnificent views of constellations and the Milky Way. **(B, Box L,D)**

Day 9: Wed., May 31, 2023 • Sandoval Lake Lodge

Just before dawn we are on the lake for what is often a spectacular sunrise; and hopefully for an encounter with the Giant Otters that roam the lake in a close-knit family. They are very active at this time of day. Most of the birds that inhabit the lake may also be very active. There is time and tranquility as we observe the birds fishing; and watch as they stalk and capture prey. We have close-up views of the primitive Shansho (*Ophistocumus hoazin*) eating leaves. Then after enjoying a late breakfast, we walk the trail through the cool understory of the impressive primary rainforest that surrounds the lake. We see the great Chestnut trees that abound here. After lunch, we rest for an hour or so and then explore the west side of the lake where we have chances to observe different species of monkey, including the most common Capuchin Monkey. Before dinner, we have a video presentation on the Peruvian Jungle. After dinner, we have the opportunity to spot caimans in the lake. **(B, Box L,D)**

Day 10: Thur., June 1, 2023 • Sandoval Lake Lodge – Puerto Maldonado - Lima - Return

After breakfast, we paddle through palm swamps on the west end of the lake. On the clearer mornings, a glorious sunrise and its reflection can be seen in the lake. We return to the Madre de Dios River and head towards Puerto Maldonado and from there on to the airport to board the flight to Lima where we board our flight home with unbelievable memories. **(B, Box L,D)**

Day 11: Fri., June 2, 2023 • Arrive Home

We arrive back in Chicago at the end of our overnight flight.

Abbreviations for Meals
B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

TOUR COST: \$4,989

per person, double occupancy

Single supplement = \$500

with a minimum of 15 participants

Your Tour Includes:

- **Estimated Roundtrip Airfare** (Chicago to Lima) and related taxes, fees and fuel charges (*estimated at \$1,100*) Seat assignment fees may be in addition.
- In country flights from Lima to Cusco; Puno to Lima and RT from Lima to Puerto Maldonado
- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Vistadome train from Ollata to Mapi and return
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy)
 - ◇ 1 night in Lima @ Casa Andina Select Miraflores or similar
 - ◇ 3 nights in Cusco @ Sonesta Cusco or similar
 - ◇ 2 nights in Puno @ Jose Antonio Puno or similar
 - ◇ 1 night in Lima @ Casa Andina Select Miraflores or similar
 - ◇ 2 nights at Sandoval Lake Lodge
- **Meals** per the itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- Services of **professional tour manager**
- Local **step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services on land tour, except as noted below

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Meals other than indicated above
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- End of tour gratuity for coach driver and tour manager
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees. (*Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.*)
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. (*This insurance is available and recommended.*)

Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$500 per person is due with reservation. Final payment is due 100 days prior to departure date. Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 99 days before departure a \$100 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From Final payment due date until 31 days before departure, a \$500 cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are nonrefundable. Anyone canceling less than 30 days prior to departure will receive **no refund**.

Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.

Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

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Due to COVID-19, we have a right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices prior to ticketing.

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