



Land of the Incas **Peru**

Sample Itinerary



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Huaca Pullana



Day 1 • Departure/Lima

Our journey begins as we board our international flight bound for Lima, Peru. Upon arrival at the Lima airport, we meet our tour director and motor coach and transfer to our hotel.

Day 2 • Lima

This morning we take an excursion into Lima's historic colonial center and the **Plaza Major** with the **Cathedral**, the **Government Palace** (once the location of Francisco Pizarro's residence), and the **Archbishop's Palace**. We also tour the **San Francisco Convent** with an eerie walk through the catacombs, a bone-packed crypt where an estimated 70,000 people were buried during the colonial period. We learn about America's first saint, Santa Rosa de Lima, with a visit to her home, now a pilgrimage site. Finally we visit **Huaca Puellana**, a huge, adobe brick pyramid still in the process of excavation. Here and at the adjoining museum, we learn about the pre-Columbian Wari people. **B/D**

Day 3 • Lima

A visit to one of South America's finest museums, the **Peruvian Museum of Archaeology, Anthropology and History** begins our day. Here we find a fascinating collection of ceramics dating back 2,500 years, some of the best-preserved mummies in the world, and intricately engraved obelisks. The museum is housed in a mansion which was used by Peru's liberators, José de San Martín and Simón Bolívar. This afternoon we have some time to explore the Miraflores district: people watching in the centrally located



Marketplace of Pisac

Ollantaytambo



Parque Kennedy, strolling along the clifftops which overlook the Pacific shoreline, or browsing through the unique Larcomar shopping center which is built into the cliffs. **B/D**

Day 4 • Urubamba Valley

We board a plane for the one-hour flight over the Andes Mountains to **Cusco**, the historical capital of the Inca Empire and a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. We meet our motor coach and drive into the Urubamba Valley, the sacred valley of the Incas. This valley is 1 ½ miles higher than Lima, so we take some time to adjust to the altitude. Later this afternoon we visit **Ollantaytambo**, a marvelously preserved Incan village built on the original stonework. It is also the site of an impressive fortress, where the Incas held off the Spanish conquerors for years. **B/D**

Day 5 • Urubamba Valley

This is a day for exploring the valley. First we visit **Pisac** and its authentic marketplace where we can try out our Spanish and get some experience in bargaining with the Quechua vendors, descendants of the Incas. We next visit the **Moray Stone Circles**, an amphitheater-like construction dug into the earth which is believed to be a former Incan crop laboratory. We also stop at the **Salinas de Maras**, where

Moray Stone Circles





Temple of the Sun

workers still recover salt by the ancient method of evaporation. Lunch today is at a working ranch or *hacienda*. **B/L/D**

Day 6 • Urubamba Valley

We are up early today to board a train to **Aguas Calientes**. From there a zig-zag bus trip up the mountainside brings us to **Machu Pichu**. This lost mountaintop city of the Incas is considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Our tour takes us to the most important sites amid these famous ruins, including the **Temple of the Sun**, the **Sacred Plaza**, and the **Intihuada**, the sacred rock which tracked the solstices. We also have plenty of time to stroll among the ruins, to walk a portion of the Inca Trail, or perhaps to climb the neighboring Huayna Pichu. We eat a sack lunch today. **B/L/D**

Day 7 • Cusco

In the morning we drive back to Cusco, where the Incan stonework, with its flawless, mortarless masonry, is still in existence. En route we visit a textile cooperative in the village of **Chincheru**, where women in traditional dress demonstrate the ancient arts of Incan spinning, dyeing, and weaving. In Cusco we have a guided visit to the **Plaza de Armas** and its dominant feature, the **Cathedral**. It was on this square, an Incan ceremonial site, that Pizarro claimed Cusco for Spain. This afternoon we also visit the **Museo Inka** with its magnificent collection of mummies, ceramics, and gold. **B/D**



Chincheru



Day 8 • Cusco

Our day begins with a drive to the Incan citadel of **Sacsayhuaman** above Cusco, where Incas battled the Spanish for 2 years before retreating. We marvel at the massive walls built of giant boulders; yet even thin objects cannot penetrate their mortarless joints. Upon our return to Cusco we visit a progressive school which includes the Quechua language in its curriculum. The afternoon is free to explore Cusco on our own, shop, and practice our Spanish. One possibility is a visit to Koricancha, the former Inca temple honoring the Sun God, which the Spaniards turned into Santo Domingo Monastery. Tonight we enjoy a farewell meal. **B/D**

Day 9 • Return

Today we return to Lima by air. There we board our homebound flight. We return with fond and enduring impressions of magnificent landscapes, ancient cities, and a proud and beautiful people. *Adiós Peru!* [In case of a long layover during the day in Lima, an optional excursion may be added] **B**

Abbreviations for Meals
B=Breakfast D=Dinner



Prices vary according to season, group size, and customization of each tour.
Contact our staff at students@ed-ventures.com for more information

Included

Transportation

- Private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Roundtrip airfare Lima-Cusco

Accommodations

- Youth hostels and multi-bedded tourist class hotels

Meals

- As indicated in itinerary

Sightseeing

- Admission to all activities as indicated in itinerary

Tour Guides

- Teacher serves as tour leader (Professional tour director can be added upon request)
- Local guides for city tours and major attractions

Taxes and Tips

- All taxes and tips for provided services except end of tour tip for driver

Complimentary Tours

- One per 8 paying participants

Not included

- Roundtrip air transportation (Included upon request)
- Professional tour director
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Beverages, except with breakfast
- End of tour tip for driver
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees (*Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date*)
- Travel Insurance

***This tour can be customized to your specifications.
Consider adding a 3-day extension to the Peruvian rainforest.***



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