

08D/07N

MACHU PICCHU AND THE AMAZON

Destinations: Lima, Cusco & Puerto Maldonado



Photo: Eduardo Flores

INTRODUCTION

Embark on an extraordinary 8-day adventure through Peru, where history, culture, and nature intertwine to create an unforgettable experience. Discover the captivating beauty of this diverse land, from its stunning coastline to its charming colonial cities and awe-inspiring Inca ruins.

Our journey begins in Cusco, a city steeped in history and nestled amidst breathtaking mountain landscapes. Explore its ancient streets, marvel at the architectural wonders of the Inca civilization, and immerse yourself in the vibrant local culture.

Next, venture into the pristine wilderness of Puerto Maldonado, where you'll be immersed in the untouched beauty of the Peruvian Amazon. Stay in a remarkable lodge surrounded by lush rainforest, providing you with a unique opportunity to witness the wonders of nature up close.



Destination: Lima, Cusco
& Puerto Maldonado



Travel dates:
2023

LIMA ARRIVAL

On arrival into Lima you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Guided assistance is included.

Lima, the capital of Peru, sits on the country's arid Pacific coast. Founded in 1535, its colonial centre is well preserved, but today Lima is a bustling metropolis and one of South America's largest cities. The city is home to the various museums including the Museo Larco that houses a collection of pre-Columbian art and the Museo de la Nación, tracing the history of Peru's ancient civilizations. Lima is known as the "gastronomical capital of the Americas", encompassing specialties from ceviche and traditional coastal cooking to refined global fare. It even boasts several of the top restaurants in the world.

 Overnight at
selected hotel.



Photo: Shutterstock

LIMA CUSCO

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for onward flight to Cusco.

On arrival at **Cusco**, you will be met by a representative who will be holding a sign with your name on it, to transfer you to your hotel.

Cusco, set at an altitude of 3,400 metres in the Peruvian Andes, was once the capital of the Inca Empire. It is known for its Spanish colonial architecture and Incan remains. Narrow, cobble-stoned streets lined by Inca walls stretch out from the main plaza in every direction. Many of the colonial buildings were built on top of Incan foundations and the stonework is unparalleled in its precision and beauty.

Overnight at Casa Andina Premium Cusco Hotel.



Overnight at
selected hotel.



Includes
breakfast.



CUSCO

TOUR OF MARAS, MORAY & OLLANTAYTAMBO TRAIN TO AGUAS CALIENTES

This **Sacred Valley** exploration begins early in the morning. The first stop is the town of Maras with an interesting mix of Inca and Colonial influence. Then, you'll visit **Moray**, an impressive Inca ruin of **giant terraces** in the shape of nearly perfect circles that is believed to have been used for agricultural experimentation.

Then, you'll head to the **Salt Ponds of Maras**, which are filled with natural underground salt springs that come from the adjacent mountain. The Andean villagers have worked and harvested the salt the same way since the time of the Incas. After lunch at a local restaurant, you'll continue along the River Urubamba to **Ollantaytambo**; the town, which is dominated by a giant **Inca fortress**, is perhaps the best surviving example of Inca town planning.

Travel from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu in a comfortable train, and let your feet have rest. Enjoy an authentic Andean experience, while relaxing in modern and comfortable interior design illuminated by Latin American music.

**Due to limited space for luggage storage on trains, luggage restrictions apply: one bag or backpack (carry-on luggage) with a maximum weight of 5.0 kg/11 lb, measuring no more than 62 linear inches/157 linear cm (height + length + width)*



Private english speaking guide.



Duration of train ride: approx. 1 hour 30 min.



Duration of tour: approx. 6 hours.



Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Overnight at selected hotel.

DAY 4

AGUAS CALIENTES MACHU PICCHU TOUR TRAIN TO CUSCO

The tour starts with a **bus ride** from Aguas Calientes to **Machu Picchu**. You will be astonished at your first view of Machu Picchu, a stunning display of ancient architecture with incredible surroundings. Enjoy a guided tour of the ruins and monuments such as the Main Square, the Circular Tower, the Sacred Solar Clock, the Temple of the Three Windows and the Cemeteries.

Machu Picchu is a 15th century Inca site, located 2,430 meters above sea level on a mountain ridge above the Sacred Valley. It is the most famous of all Inca sites, but it was not until 1911 that it was brought to the world's attention by the American historian Hiram Bingham. The Incas abandoned the city just prior to Spanish colonization, the city was never pillaged and as a result the ruins are still in fantastic condition. With its location on a dramatic ridgeline surrounded by sheer cliffs and the Urubamba River on three sides, the city of Machu Picchu is a remarkable place to visit. Machu Picchu was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1983 and in 2007 it was voted **one of the new Seven Wonders of the World**.

After exploring Machu Picchu, take the bus down to Aguas Calientes and head to the **train station to board the train back to Ollantaytambo**. Finally, private transfer to Cusco hotel.



Private english speaking guide.



Duration of train ride: approx. 1 hour 30 min.



Includes breakfast.



Duration of tour: approx. 2 h. 30 min.



Overnight at selected hotel.



Photo: Shutterstock

CUSCO PUERTO MALDONADO

POSADA AMAZONAS DAY 1

Be collected from the hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for the upcoming flight to **Puerto Maldonado**.

Upon arrival, we will welcome you at the airport and drive you ten minutes to our Puerto Maldonado headquarters. While enjoying your first taste of the forest in our gardens we will ask you to pack only the necessary gear for your next few days and leave the rest at our safe deposit. This helps us keep the boats and cargo light.

Skirting Puerto Maldonado, drive 20 kilometers to the Tambopata River Port, entering the **Native Community of Infierno**. The port is a communal business. The forty-five-minute boat ride from the Tambopata Port to Posada Amazonas will take us into the Community's Primary Forest Private Reserve.

Upon arrival, the lodge manager will welcome you and brief you with important navigation and security tips.

A twenty-minute walk from Posada Amazonas leads to the 30-meter scaffolding **canopy tower**. A staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. From atop you obtain spectacular views of the vast expanses of standing forest cut by the **Tambopata River** winding through the middle. Now and then toucans, parrots or macaws are seen flying against the horizon, or mixed species canopy flocks land in the treetop next to you.

After dinner there is a presentation on the **Inferno ecotourism project**.



International group with english speaking guidance. Max. 10 persons per group.



Transportation: Shared Bus Airport-Port (45 mins.).



Overnight at selected hotel.



Includes breakfast, box lunch and dinner.



Transportation: Shared boat Port-Lodge (1 hour).



POSADA AMAZONAS

DAY 2

Tres Chimbadas Lake is thirty minutes by boat and forty-five minutes hiking from Posada Amazonas. Once there you will paddle around the lake in a catamaran, searching for the resident family of nine giant river otters (seen by 60% of our lake visitors) and other lakeside wildlife such as caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers. Otters are most active from dawn to eight or nine AM.

After lunch, a twenty-minute boat drive downriver leads you to a trail designed by the staff of **the Centro Ñape**. The Centro Ñape is a communal organization that produces medicines out of forest plants and administers them to patients who choose their little clinic. They have produced a trail which explains the different medicinal (and other) uses of selected plants.

After dinner, you will have the option of hiking out at night, when most of the mammals are active but rarely seen. Much easier to find are frogs with shapes and sounds as bizarre as their natural histories.



International group with english speaking guidance. Max. 10 persons per group.



Overnight at selected hotel.



Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Photo: Rainforest Expeditions

POSADA AMAZONAS

DAY 3

After breakfast, prepare for a twenty-minute walk from Posada Amazonas to the **Parrot clay lick**. From a blind located about twenty meters away you will see dozens of parrots and parakeets descend on most clear mornings to ingest the clay on a riverbank. Species such as Mealy and Yellow-headed Amazon, Blue-headed Parrot and Dusky-headed Parakeet descend at this clay lick. The clay lick is active at dawn, during the late mornings and mid-afternoons.

We leave from the lobby at Posada Amazonas and embark on a **two-hour hike** crowned by the largest tree in the vicinity: a **giant ceiba tree**. During the hike we will focus on the natural history of the rain forest and its principal taxonomic groups.

After lunch, a thirty-minute boat drive downriver takes us to the most complete farm in the community of Infierno. The owner grows a diverse variety of popular and unknown Amazon crops. In his garden, just about every plant and tree serves a purpose.



International group with English speaking guidance. Max. 10 persons per group.



Overnight at selected hotel.



Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Photo: Rainforest Expeditions

PUERTO MALDONADO

DAY 4 - FAREWELL

After breakfast, transfer boat to Tambopata River port and then land transport to Puerto Maldonado headquarters before heading to the airport for the onward flight to Lima and later flight back home.

	(Puerto Maldonado): International group with english speaking guidance. Max 10 persons per group		Includes breakfast.
	Transportation: Shared Bus Airport-Port (45 mins.).		Transportation: Shared boat Port-Lodge (1 hour).

End of services.

INFO

RECOMMENDED HOTELS

Lima

Casa República Barranco | Room: Garden Superior

Cusco

Casa Andina Premium | Room: Superior

Aguas Calientes

El Mapi | Room: Superior Deluxe

Puerto Maldonado

Posada Amazonas | Room: Confort
