



09D/08N

THE INCAS, CULTURAL SPLENDOR, AND ANCIENT ALLIANCES

Destinations: Cusco.

ARRIVAL TO CUSCO

Upon your arrival in **Cusco**, take a moment to savor a delightful lunch and begin your exploration of the city's historic downtown area. Wander through the captivating streets adorned with a mix of colonial architecture and ancient Incan remnants. Immerse yourself in the lively markets, cozy cafes, and magnificent cathedrals that grace the cobblestone paths. Let the city's rich history and cultural tapestry unfold before you, where echoes of the Inca civilization intertwine with the present-day charm of Cusco.



Includes lunch.



Overnight at selected hotel.

DAY 2

CUSCO

Explore the wonders of Cusco with a morning visit to **Inkiltambo** and a walk along the Inca Trail to the **Moon Temple**. Discover the impressive ruins and soak in the spiritual atmosphere of these ancient sites. In the afternoon, embark on a guided tour of Sacsayhuaman, an extraordinary Inca fortress renowned for its massive stone walls and intricate construction. Admire the precision and skill of the Inca stonemasons as you explore the impressive archaeological site. Learn about the strategic importance of **Sacsayhuaman** and its role in Inca history, including its significance in religious ceremonies and as a symbol of Inca power and resilience. Conclude your day with a visit to **Qorikancha**, the once grand temple of the Inca Empire. Immerse yourself in Cusco's rich history and architectural beauty.



Includes breakfast and lunch.



Private English speaking guide.



Overnight at hotel in Cusco.

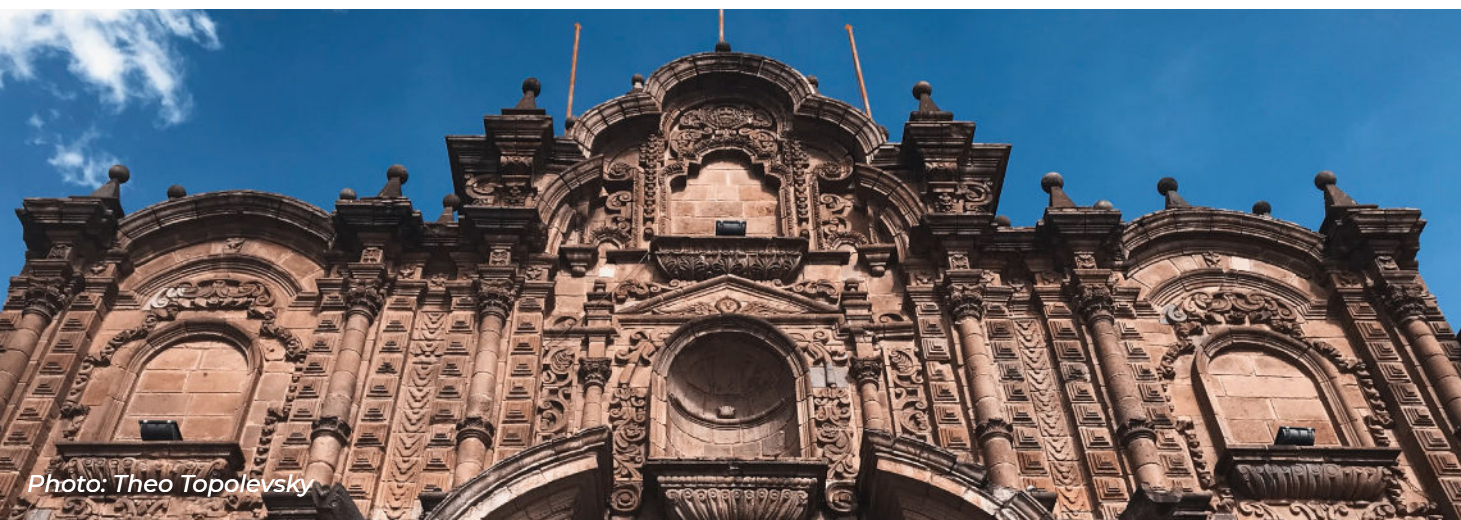


Photo: Theo Topolevsky

TIPON, RAQCHI & HOMESTAY

Embark on a scenic drive to **Raqchi**, where you can delve into the rich Inca heritage. Begin your journey with a visit to the **Tipón** ruins, renowned for their impressive terraces and intricate water channels. Take a leisurely walk along an original Inca Trail that leads you to the Raqchi archaeological site. Enveloped by stunning natural beauty, explore the captivating ruins of this ancient Inca settlement. Later on experience the authentic warmth of **Peruvian hospitality with a homestay**. By staying with a local family, you'll have the opportunity to connect with the community on a deeper level, gaining insights into their way of life and cultural traditions. Engage in meaningful interactions, share meals together, and learn about their customs firsthand. This immersive experience fosters cross-cultural understanding and offers a genuine glimpse into the local lifestyle. It's a chance to create lasting memories and forge connections that go beyond typical tourist experiences.



Overnight at
homestay.



Includes breakfast
and dinner.



K'ANAMARKA & Q'ESWACHAKA INCAN BRIDGE

Begin your day with a fascinating visit to the lesser-known **K'anamarka** pre-Incan site, a hidden gem that holds a wealth of historical and archaeological wonders. Explore the ruins and uncover the mysteries of this ancient site, gaining insights into the civilizations that once thrived here. Continue your journey to the renowned **Q'eswachaka Incan bridge**, a testament to Incan engineering ingenuity. Cross the impressive suspension bridge, marveling at its construction and the breathtaking landscapes that surround it. Indulge in a delicious lunch at a local home. As the day transitions into evening, join in the night celebration with your hosts in Raqchi. Experience the vibrant festivities, filled with traditional music, dance, and joyful interactions. This **intimate gathering** allows you to forge connections with the local community, fostering a deeper appreciation for their culture and traditions. It's a memorable and immersive experience that will leave a lasting impression on your journey through Peru.



Overnight at
homestay.



Includes breakfast,
lunch and dinner.



SACRED VALLEY

PIKILLAQTA & PISAC

Embark on a scenic drive through the **Sacred Valley of the Inca**, with captivating stops along the way. Begin by exploring the impressive **Pikillaqta** ruins, an ancient archaeological site that offers a glimpse into the pre-Incan Wari civilization. Wander through the remains of this once-thriving urban center, marveling at its architectural features and imagining the vibrant life that once filled its streets. Continue your journey and make a stop in **Pisac**, known for its vibrant handicraft market. Take the opportunity to browse through a wide array of traditional crafts, textiles, and souvenirs, offering a glimpse into the rich artistic heritage of the region. Indulge in a delicious lunch, savoring the flavors of Peruvian cuisine amidst the picturesque surroundings.



Overnight at
selected hotel.



Includes breakfast
and lunch.



Photo: Isaac Clinton

OLLANTAYTAMBO & TRAIN RIDE TO AGUAS CALIENTES

Discover the hidden gem of **Pumamarca**, a lesser-known pre-Incan site. Marvel at the ancient ruins and delve into their rich historical and cultural significance. Embark on a scenic hike to **Ollantaytambo**, an awe-inspiring archaeological site. Walk in the footsteps of the Incas, surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty and remarkable ruins. Experience the mystique of the site, marveling at its precision stone structures and ingenious design. After a fulfilling day of exploration, treat yourself to a traditional **Pachamanka** meal: this unique dining experience involves cooking a variety of meats, vegetables, and potatoes in an underground oven, resulting in a flavorful and hearty feast. Savor the delectable flavors while surrounded by the rustic charm of the restaurant and the warmth of Peruvian hospitality.

Conclude your day by boarding a scenic **train to Aguas Calientes** that will take you towards the enchanting destination of Machu Picchu. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the picturesque views as you anticipate the wonders that await you tomorrow at this world-renowned archaeological site.



Private english speaking guide.



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



Duration of tour: approx. 3 hours.



Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Overnight at selected hotel.

DAY 7

MACHU PICCHU

Embark on a captivating guided visit of **Machu Picchu**, the awe-inspiring "Lost City of the Incas." As you explore this remarkable archaeological site, you'll be immersed in its rich history and archaeological wonders. Marvel at the precision of the Inca stonework, as every stone fits seamlessly together without the use of mortar. Your knowledgeable guide will unveil the mysteries of Machu Picchu, sharing fascinating historical and archaeological facts. Discover the intricate terraces, temples, and residential areas that showcase the ingenuity and advanced engineering skills of the Inca civilization. Admire the strategic placement of the city, nestled amidst majestic mountains and overlooking breathtaking valleys. Throughout your guided visit, you'll gain insights into the Inca culture, their profound connection to nature, and their complex astronomical knowledge.

Experience the wonder and magnificence of Machu Picchu firsthand, as you uncover its secrets and appreciate its enduring legacy as one of the world's most extraordinary archaeological sites. In the afternoon, board the train from Machu Picchu to Ollantaytambo.



Private english speaking guide.



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



Includes breakfast and lunch.



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



Overnight at selected hotel.

DAY 8

THE SACRED VALLEY & LUNCH AT MIL CENTRO

On your way to Cusco explore the charming village of **Chinchoero**, known for its traditional market offering colorful textiles and handcrafted goods by local artisans. Continue your adventure with a visit to the remarkable **Moray** ruins: these unique circular terraces served as an agricultural laboratory for the Incas, showcasing their innovative farming techniques. Afterward, indulge in a culinary delight at the restaurant **Milcentro**, where you'll savor a delicious 8 course lunch inspired by the flavors and ingredients of the region. Talented chefs will take you on a gastronomic journey, blending traditional and contemporary influences to create a memorable dining experience. As you savor each bite, enjoy the breathtaking views of the Andean landscapes that surround you. With a satisfied palate and a deeper appreciation for the cultural and culinary heritage of Peru, continue your journey back to the vibrant city of **Cusco**.



Overnight at selected hotel.



Includes breakfast and lunch.



Photo: Mil Centro

DEPARTURE DAY

On your departure day, it's time to say goodbye to the captivating destination you've been exploring.



Includes
breakfast.

End of services.

INFO

RECOMMENDED HOTELS

Cusco

Standard: Arqueologo hotel | Room: Standard

Ollantaytambo

Standard: El Albergue | Room: Standard

Machu Picchu

Standard: El Mapi | Room: Superior Deluxe