

## KALEIDOSCOPE OF PERU

(Prices valid through December 24th 2011)

(ST-171)

LIMA - AREQUIPA - COLCA - PUNO - CUSCO  
(11 days / 10 nights)



Experience Peru's most popular highlights in Lima, Arequipa, Colca, Puno and Cusco. Get relaxed after the beautiful drive to Colca at the hotel's own thermal baths while observing the stars of the bright starry Andean sky and ancient pre-Inca terraces. Visit an out-of-the-way village in Puno and enjoy some of the most beautiful views of Lake Titicaca. After your stay in Machu Picchu, you come back to Lima, to have a memorable farewell dinner at the capital's most magic restaurants.

### DAY 1 ... - LIMA

Welcome to Lima, the 'City of Kings'. Upon arrival you will be met at the airport and privately escorted to your hotel.

### DAY 2 LIMA - AREQUIPA (B)

Transfer to the airport to board your flight to Arequipa, the colonial city at the foot of snow-capped Misti Volcano topping 5,800 m (19,000 ft). Upon arrival you will be transferred to your hotel.

Arequipa is well known for its fine baby alpaca wool products, therefore the first stop of your walking tour will be at 'Mundo Alpaca'. This center was conceived to diffuse the history of the Alpaca industry. You will have the chance to see South American camelids as alpacas and llamas in the museum's gardens. Your guide will lead you through the history of alpaca and its production process that combine traditional skills with modern technology. The center is managed by the Michell Group, pioneers of Alpaca industry worldwide. Some of the old textile machinery, imported from the UK, for Alpaca production is on display in the small museum. The next stop is at the 'San Lazaro', Arequipa's most traditional quarter, with picturesque and narrow cobblestone streets ending at the Plaza Redondo Square, where the city was founded. San Francisco Church and 'Fundo El Fierro' are beautiful examples of the buildings built in volcanic stone that we

will see on our way to the so called 'Tambos' in the historic center. Built in the 18th century with 'sillar' white stone these buildings originally served as basic shelter for traders and storehouse for their goods. The charming buildings have undergone a restoration, but have kept their essence and are living museum of the unique Arequipenan architecture and idiosyncrasy. Our tour ends at the main square featuring one of Peru's most unique colonial cathedrals built in neoclassic style.

**DAY 3 AREQUIPA – COLCA (B,L)**

In the early morning we leave Arequipa and head towards the valley. On our way we pass Pampa de Arrieros, Pampa Cañahuas (where we find the Vicuna National Reserve of Aguada Blanca), Vizcachani and Tojra a good place for spotting Andean birds. Awesome volcanoes Mismi (5,597 m/18,360 ft), Misti (5,825 m/19,110 ft), Chachani (6,075 m/19,930 ft) and the glaciers Ampato (6,288 m/20,630 ft), Sabancaya (5,976m/19,606 ft) and Hualca Hualca (6,288 m/20,630 ft) offer us awesome panoramic views as we enter the Colca Valley. After a 4 hour drive we arrive to Chivay, Colca's most important town where we have lunch.

Finish the day with a relaxing dip in the hotel's own thermal springs. Perched at the bottom of the valley next to the Colca River, the baths provide the perfect opportunity to relax against the stunning backdrop of the terraced valley or for memorable night observing the stars of the bright starry Andean sky.

**DAY 4 COLCA – PUNO (B) (220 km – approx. 6 hours)**

Early morning drive to an observation point, located between Maca and Cabanaconde, one of the deepest part of the canyon. Here, you find the perfect spot to look down 1,200m (3,937 ft) into the canyon at 'Mirador Cruz del Condor'. It's here that the legendary condor, the bird with the largest wingspan in the world, can be seen rising and circling on the morning thermals, silhouetted against the magnificent backdrop of the mountain scenery. You then say goodbye to the Colca Canyon and continue your trip towards the Altiplano: landscapes featuring volcanoes, lakes and vicuna and alpaca herds as well as different kinds of cacti. The average altitude en route reaches the 4,500 m (14,700 ft). After a 6-hour ride you reach Puno. On arrival, transfer to your hotel.

**DAY 5 PUNO (B,L)**

Our excursion by speed boat starts with a visit to the floating reed Islands of the Uros Indians followed by the Taquile Island. Unlike in the classic tour, this option offers a reduced time en route (e.g. 75 min from Taquile to Puno versus 2 hrs 30 min of the classic trip) making your experience in the lake more pleasant. In contrast to the classic Uros-Taquile trip, as passenger of the speed boat you will disembark in Taquile's Southern part. Locals, in this less known area, are not visited by mass tourism yet and will introduce you to daily activities and customs of their Quechua community. The visit is capped off by a meal prepared with local fish and fresh produce from the Andes. This option is especially recommended for travellers prone to altitude sickness as there is no need to climb 500 steps up to the top of the island in the Northern part.

**DAY 6 PUNO – CUSCO (B,L) (389 km – approx. 10 hours)**

A pleasant eight-hour bus trip takes us through picturesque Andean landscapes dotted by small villages and herds of llamas and vicunas. Our destination is Cusco, however we make three important stops along our way: The first one is La Raya Pass (4,335 m/ 14,172 ft) to enjoy a panoramic view of the snow-capped Andes. Lunch will be offered in a local

restaurant in Sicuani. Our tour continues to visit the Viracocha Temple. This was the only Inca temple featuring cylindrical stone columns covered by fine clay layers. The last stop is in Andahuayllillas known by its baroque church dated from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Upon arrival in Cusco you will be transferred to your hotel.

**DAY 7 CUSCO (B)**

This morning we walk through the major sites of interest in Cusco. We visit the famed Cathedral with its magnificently carved woodwork, ornate altar and many hundreds of canvases from the 17th-century 'Cusco Painting School'. We continue exploring the cultural wealth of Cusco at the Temple of the Sun where we witness the incredible masonry of the Incas, an engineering feat that remains an enigma. Afterward we walk along Hatunrumiyoc Street which is named for the 12-angled stone clearly visible in the remaining walls of what was Inca Roca's palace. We make a last stop in San Blas artisan quarter. Its steeped cobblestone alleys not only offer spectacular views of the city but are lined with workshops and galleries, a great way to soak in Cusco's artistic atmosphere.

**DAY 8 CUSCO – MACHU PICCHU – CUSCO (B)**

Morning transfer to the train station in Ollanta (1 ½ drive from Cusco). A 1 ½ hour train ride takes you through the Sacred Valley of the Incas up to Machu Picchu. Upon arrival a small coach takes you up the steep roads to the entrance of the citadel. Machu Picchu remained undiscovered for centuries and hidden from the Spaniards, only to be found in 1911 by Hiram Bingham. The uniqueness of its location and the genius that went into its construction make this Inca archaeological site truly one of the great wonders of the world.

After the guided tour you will board the train back to Ollanta, where you will be gathered and transferred to your hotel.

**DAY 9 CUSCO (B)**

Day at leisure. Take the chance to explore the city from a different perspective. A coach emulating the mule-pulled streetcars that once traversed Cusco takes you around the city. Several departures from the main square are offered daily. The 'Tranvia de Cusco' travels 75 minutes and passes by 40 attractions and sites around the city. Among others the beautiful Plaza Regocijo, the church La Merced (1651), the Fortress of Sasayhuaman and the statue Cristo Blanco. The tour costs S/. 15 per person and is accompanied by a Spanish/English speaking guide.

**DAY 10 CUSCO – LIMA (B,D)**

In the morning you will be picked up from your hotel and be driven to the airport to fly to Lima. On arrival, transfer to your hotel.

City tour in the afternoon. This excursion includes unknown but interesting facets of Peru's capital. Lima doesn't only have an historic center boasting colonial balconies and charming buildings belonging to the Republican time. After a stop in two of the most emblematic squares we stroll along the second largest Chinatown in South America after the one in Sao Paulo city. Capon Street is the heart of Lima's vibrant Chinatown, which spans a number blocks east of the city's historic downtown. A special feature of Chinatown in Lima is the 'chifa', a Peruvian-Chinese type of restaurant which mixes Cantonese cuisine with local ingredients. This type of restaurant is popular not only in Chinatown but in Peru's main cities. Most of the travelers stay in the modern district of

Miraflores and miss a visit to the most bohemian district Lima's - Barranco. What started to become a place to spend the weekend for wealthy 'Limenos' at the beginning of the 20th century is today a pleasant suburb that has kept its character much better than Miraflores and is home of the most renowned art galleries. We then head to the upper class suburb of San Isidro to pass by 'El Olivar' a park with ancient olive trees, whose seeds were brought from Seville in the beginning of the colonial era in the 16th century. The last stop is at 'Parque del Amor'. This park's landscaping is unique thanks to its location along the Pacific shoreline and is graced by 'the Kiss' a monument to love sculpted by Victor Delfin.

Dinner will be served at La Huaca. This restaurant is set in the archaeological complex Huaca Pucllana, whose highlight is an adobe pyramid built with small handmade, sun-dried brick 1500 years ago. 'La Huaca' is definitely a unique place to taste the most popular specialties of Peruvian cuisine. The main dining room, featuring a mix of rustic colonial and minimalist décor, is a cozy place to dine. Still, the best spot for superb views of the illuminated pyramid is surely the covered terrace.

**DAY 11 LIMA - .... (B)**

At proper time you will be transferred to the airport for your international flight.

Price per person in USD sharing TWIN	Private Services					SIC *	Single Suppl.
	2	4	6	8	10		
Tourist	1,918	1,438	1,353	1,283	1,263	1,529	291
First	2,159	1,681	1,595	1,525	1,504	1,771	589
Deluxe	2,829	2,351	2,265	2,195	2,174	2,507	1,259

\* min. 2 persons

Domestic flights (net price per person in USD)	
Lima - Arequipa	190 *
Cusco - Lima	190 *

\* Air fares subject to change according availability

City	Tourist	First	Deluxe
Lima	Casa Andina Centro	Sol de Oro	Sonesta El Olivar
Arequipa	Casa Andina Arequipa	Sonesta Arequipa	Casa Andina Private Collection
Colca	Colca Lodge		Casitas del Colca
Puno	La Hacienda	Sonesta Puno (with lake view)	Casa Andina Private Collection (suite with lake view)
Cusco	Maytaq	Novotel	Aranwa Cusco

**SERVICES INCLUDED**

- Transfers from/to hotel
- Accommodation based on TWIN in the selected hotel category
- Excursions as noted in the itinerary
- Private services with local English, German, French or Italian speaking guide



*Established 1977*

- Services in SIC basis (seat in coach – non private services) with English/Spanish speaking guide
- The excursion in speed boat on DAY 5 is offered in SIC basis (seat in coach - shared with other travellers, with local English/Spanish speaking guide) but for private basis travellers will be escorted by an exclusive guide in German, Italian, French or English
- Tourist bus Colca-Puno (escorted for private services, unescorted for SIC services)
- Shared tourist bus Puno-Cusco with English speaking escort for SIC services and private services for less than 10 passengers (for groups with 10 or more passengers escorted trip in private coach)
- Train ticket Ollanta - Machu Picchu – Ollanta in Vistadome Class (First Class)
- Entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals as noted (B: breakfast, L: lunch, D: dinner)

**NOT INCLUDED**

- International air fares
- Domestic flights (see separate cost above)
- Airport taxes for domestic flights and international flights (see separate cost above including airport taxes)
- Tips