

PERU - THE AUTHENTIC SOUTH

(Prices valid through December 24th 2011)

(ST-188)

LIMA - AREQUIPA - COLCA - PUNO - CUSCO

(11 days /10 nights)



The most popular itineraries in Peru cover the southern region. Although this journey includes the same cities as the conventional itineraries some 'off the beaten path' excursions enhance this Peru trip and allows to know the country from a different perspective. Get inside 'Casona San Marcos' in Lima, seat of Latin America's first university. During the third day in the Colca Canyon you will meet the second ethnic group the Cabanas- not known by tourists taking the 2-day classic tour. Visit an authentic Quechua community in Luquina while discovering Puno's country and rural side. And you will travel by 'Andean Explorer' train to Cusco, the highlight of any trip to Peru.

DAY 1 ... - LIMA

Welcome to Lima, the 'City of Kings'. You will be met at the airport and escorted to your hotel.

DAY 2 LIMA - AREQUIPA (B)

In the morning you will be picked up from your hotel and be driven to the airport to fly to Arequipa. Upon arrival you will be driven to the selected hotel.

In the afternoon you will explore the 'white city'. Our tour includes the museum of Santa Teresa Convent housing treasures of colonial art kept throughout its three centuries of existence. Colonial-era paintings, sculptures, jewelry works in gold and silver, objects of daily use are displayed in twelve gallery rooms built in Arequipa's emblematic building material - the white volcanic stone. Black-and-white photographs document the life in the convent, where only the daughters of the city's most wealthy families were admitted. Don't miss the chance to sample the delicate sweets made by the nuns, quite popular among locals. The last stop is Yanahuara lookout point for a magnificent view of the Misti Volcano and the city.

DAY 3 AREQUIPA - COLCA (B,L)

In the early morning you leave Arequipa and head towards the valley. The road climbs the slopes of Chachani Volcano until it reaches a highland plain Pampa Canahuas (at 4,000 m/13,200 ft). In this National Reserve you can see groups of vicunas, the rarest and most timid of the South American camelids. In Vizcachani, you make a brief stop to drink a coca

tea in the small restaurant owned by the community. This Andean drink will help you to adjust to the altitude. Continuing the trip you pass through Tojra a good place for spotting Andean birds.

Along the way, you visit Chucchura and Patapampa, the high Andean plain that lies at an altitude of around 4,800 m (15, 750 ft) and features the strategically-located 'El Mirador de los Andes' (the lookout point of the Andes). Here you can have an awesome view of Chila snow-capped mountain range featuring the 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).

After four hours on the road, you arrive in Chivay, most important town in Colca Valley, where we'll make a short stop to explore the local market. A delicious BBQ lunch awaits us at the Colca Lodge in the town of Yanque. Take the chance to take a dip in the hotel's own thermal springs (towels and a bathrobe will be provided by the hotel staff). 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.

DAY 4 COLCA (B)

Early morning drive to an observation point, located between Maca and Cabanaconde, one of the deepest parts 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. Afterwards you head to the town of Maca, dominated by the glaciers Sabancaya (5,976 m/19,607 ft) and Hualca Hualca (6,075 m/ 19,600 ft). You will visit its Baroque church considered one of the most original in the region. You continue to Yanque, once the headquarters of the Franciscan missionaries in the Colca. The church is also one of the most notable in the valley due to its Renaissance base with a Baroque upper level.

Your last stop is at the Mirador (lookout point) of Antahuilque, where terraces have the shape of an amphitheater.

DAY 5 COLCA - PUNO (B)

This is your last day in the Colca Valley you head first to the town of Coporaque boasting the oldest church in the valley with an impressive façade of 16th century Italian Renaissance design. Afterwards you say goodbye to Arequipa to continue your trip across Altiplano landscapes to Puno. After a 6-hour ride you reach the city on the shores of Lake Titicaca Puno and finally you will be escorted to your hotel.

DAY 6 PUNO (B,L)

The excursion to Taquile and Uros is offered on a speed boat, allowing for a stop in the unspoiled community of Luquina for lunch. This option offers a reduced time en route giving you more time to enjoy the islands. After visiting one of the forty Uros floating islands and Taquile, an Andean picnic lunch is served at Luquina, located in the Chucuito Peninsula that rewards you with some of the lake's most breathtaking views.

DAY 7 PUNO - CUSCO (B,L) (389 km - approx. 10 hours) (only on MON, WED and SAT)

Transfer to Puno train station. This spectacular rail journey begins in Puno and travels north to the historic city of Cusco. This classic and luxury Orient Express train journey, recently voted 'one of the top ten railway journeys of the world' cuts across the formidable Peruvian Altiplano. The journey is dominated by the magnificent Andean mountains rolling Andean Plains, where vicuña and alpaca can be seen. The glass-walled observation car will provide

the perfect opportunity to view the beautiful scenery. The journey is broken by a scenic stop at La Raya, which is also the highest point on the route. A three-course lunch will be served on board. Upon arrival in Cusco you will be transferred to your hotel.

DAY 8 CUSCO – SACRED VALLEY – MACHU PICCHU (B,L,D)

This morning we drive to the charming community of Chincheros to join a local weaving family in their courtyard for an overview of the Andean weaving process. We watch as wool is carded, spun, and dyed and learn about the different techniques used to create belts, ponchos and shawls.

Lunch at Wayra restaurant. The countryside restaurant provides high-quality Cusqueno-style barbecue for lunch. Try the local 'choclo' or 'Andean corn', Cusqueno bread, different sorts of potatoes grown in the Sacred Valley and the popular maize beer or 'chicha'. Guests can dine either in the tastefully appointed dining room or in the terrace with typical Cusqueno brick ovens and the surrounding snow-capped Andes. Lunch is also accompanied by Peruvian Paso horse from the hotel's own stables.

After lunch we drive past ancient farming terraces that are still in use today to grow barley, wheat, and corn to reach the town of Ollantaytambo where the Temple of the Sun (formed of six gigantic monoliths, whose total weight exceeds 50 tons) and the Terrace of the Ten Niches stand out. Afterwards, transfer to Ollanta train station. The 1 1/2 -hour train ride takes you through the Sacred Valley of the Incas up to Machu Picchu. Arrival to Aguas Calientes and transfer to your hotel.

DAY 9 MACHU PICCHU – CUSCO (B,L)

Visit the citadel of Machu Picchu. From the village of Aguas Calientes, a small coach takes you up the steep roads to the entrance of the citadel. Machu Picchu remained for centuries undiscovered by 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. In the afternoon, after the guided excursion, you will board the train back to Cusco. On arrival to Poroy station (approx. 25 min drive from Cusco), you will be gathered and transferred to your hotel.

DAY 10 CUSCO (B)

Your comprehensive afternoon tour includes the beautiful Koricancha or Sun Temple, the Cathedral as well as the Fortress of Sacsayhuaman, a most remarkable Inca building, the amphitheater of Kenko. This is followed by a visit to Puca Pucara, a strategically located 'red fortress' that dominates the entire area before visiting Tambomachay, with its two distinctive aqueducts that to this day continue to provide clean water to the area.

DAY 11 CUSCO – LIMA - ... (B)

In the morning flight back to Lima and then colonial tour of the city. Lima has always been one of the most important cities in South America since it was founded by the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535. Our sightseeing tour exclusively explores Lima's historic quarter and unlike the conventional tours it includes the visit to the 'Casona San Marcos'. You will be able to retrace Lima's colonial past as you explore the different rooms and courtyards of this house founded in 1605 by Jesuit missionaries. After the suppression of the Jesuits the house became the Royal School of San Carlos. The first generation of intellectuals, playing a key role in Peru's independence process, was educated here.

Years later in 1867 the Casona was given to the University of San Marcos - America's oldest and Peru's most renowned university.

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	2429	1799	1689	1599	1528	2148	366
First	2646	2017	1906	1817	1745	2365	604
Deluxe	3688	3059	2949	2859	2787	3407	1522

* min. 2 persons

Domestic flights (net price per person)	
Lima – Arequipa and Cusco-Lima	380*

* Air fares subject to change according availability

Cities	Tourist	First	Deluxe
Lima	Casa Andina Classic Centro	Sol de Oro	Casa Andina Private Collection Miraflores
Arequipa	Casa Andina Classic Arequipa (Jerusalén)	Sonesta Posada Arequipa	Casa Andina Private Collection Arequipa
Colca	Colca Lodge		Las Casitas del Colca
Cusco	Maytaq	Novotel	Aranwa Cusco
Aguas Calientes	El Mapi	Hatuchay Tower	Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo
Puno	La Hacienda	Sonesta Posada Puno	Casa Andina Private Collection Puno – Suite room

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 German, French, Italian or English speaking guide
- Services in SIC basis (seat in coach – non private services, with local English/Spanish speaking guide)
- Train ticket Ollanta - Machu Picchu - Cusco in Vistadome Class (First Class)
- Train ticket Puno-Cusco in the luxury 'Andean Explorer' (three-course gourmet lunch included)
- The speedboat trip to Uros and Taquile Islands is offered in SIC basis (seat in coach - shared with other travelers, with local English/Spanish speaking guide)
- Entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals as noted (**B**: breakfast, **BoxL**: Box lunch, **L**: lunch, **D**: dinner)



Established 1977

NOT INCLUDED

- International air fares
- Domestic flights (see separate cost above including airport taxes)
- Tips