

ADVENTURE IN THE ANDES & PERUVIAN RAINFOREST

(Prices valid through December 24th 2011)

(ST- 189)

LIMA – CUSCO – PUERTO MALDONADO - LIMA

(9 days /8 nights)



Trips to the rainforest in Puerto Maldonado are mostly offered as an optional extension. This itinerary though has it embedded to show Peru's diversity as it best including Cusco the ancient culture of the Inca Empire.

DAY 1 ... - LIMA

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

DAY 2 LIMA (B)

Your sightseeing tour explores the modern districts of Lima and its historic center, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1988. As you wander the main plaza, the cathedral and Plaza San Martin it is hard not to wonder about its diverse architecture. Your guide will introduce you to the city's architectural heritage. We then proceed to Santo Domingo Monastery boasting fine carved choir stalls, the oldest of Lima. It was here that San Marcos University, the first in South America, was founded in 1551. Your tour ends in the residential districts of San Isidro and Miraflores.

DAY 3 LIMA - CUSCO (B)

Flight to Cusco. This afternoon 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.

Afterwards 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 4 CUSCO – SACRED VALLEY (B,L) (only on TUE, THU and SUN)

This morning we drive to the valley of the Urubamba River the so called Sacred Valley of the Inca. We proceed then to Písaq where hundreds of visitors and people from remote communities dressed in their traditional and colourful attires meet to market and barter their products. Today, the market also has a tourist element, so there is an opportunity to buy souvenirs. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant. Afterwards, we drive along the valley to 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. Ollantaytambo was the site of the only successful Inca battle against the Spanish conquerors and the only town in the area to still retain its original Inca layout.

DAY 5 SACRED VALLEY – MACHU PICCHU – CUSCO (B,L)

Morning transfer to Ollanta train station. (si es que están alojados en Pakaritampu 'transfer to the train station on your own. The train station is located at walking distance from your hotel'). The 1 ½ -hour train ride takes you through the Sacred Valley of the Incas up to Machu Picchu. On arrival a small coach take 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 you will return through the mountainous switchback passes to Cusco, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

DAY 6 CUSCO – PUERTO MALDONADO – POSADA AMAZONAS (B,D)

Upon arrival from Lima or Cusco, you will be welcomed at the airport and driven ten minutes to the lodge's office in Puerto Maldonado. While enjoying your first taste of the forest in the gardens you will be asked to pack only the necessary gear for the next days, and leave the rest at the safe deposit. Skirting Puerto Maldonado, you drive 20 kilometers to the Tambopata River Port, entering the Native Community of Infierno. The port is a communal business. The 45-minute boat ride from Tambopata Port to Posada Amazonas will take you into the Community's Primary Forest Private Reserve. A twenty minute walk from Posada Amazonas leads to the 30 meter scaffolding canopy tower. A banistered staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. From atop you will 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. A daily presentation on the Infierno ecotourism project is available every night from a staff member.

DAY 7 POSADA AMAZONAS (B,L,D)

Tres Chimbadas 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 the lake visitors) and other lakeside wildlife such as caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers. Otters are most active from dawn to eight or nine in the morning. This clay lick is only a twenty minute walk from Posada Amazonas. 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 river bank. Species such as Mealy and Yellow-headed Amazon, Blue-headed Parrot and Dusky-headed Parakeet descend at this clay lick. The clay lick is most active at dawn and during the late mornings and mid-afternoons. A 20-minute boat drive downriver leads 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. 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.

DAY 8 POSADA AMAZONAS – PUERTO MALDONADO – LIMA (B)

Retracing the river and road you head back to Puerto Maldonado airport.

DAY 9 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	1573	1246	1181	1109	1086	1323	191
First	1691	1365	1299	1228	1204	1441	338
Deluxe	1911	1584	1519	1448	1424	1661	558

* min. 2 persons

Domestic flights (net price per person in USD)	
Lima – Cusco, Cusco-Puerto Maldonado and Puerto Maldonado-Lima	530*

* Air fares subject to change according availability

City	Tourist	First	Deluxe
Lima	Casa Andina Classic Centro	Sol de Oro	Casa Andina Private Collection
Cusco	Maytaq	Novotel	Aranwa Cusco
Sacred Valley	Inkallpa	Sonesta Posada Yucay	Aranwa Sacred Valley
Puerto Maldonado	Posada Amazonas		

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
- Services in SIC basis (seat in coach – non private services) with English/Spanish speaking guide
- Excursions in Puerto Maldonado as noted in the itinerary with local English/Spanish speaking guide (for PRIVATE and SIC services)
- Train ticket Ollanta - Machu Picchu – Ollanta in Vistadome class (First Class)
- Meals as noted (B: breakfast, BoxL: Box lunch, L: lunch, D: dinner)
- Entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

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

WHAT TO BRING

- Good binoculars and camera (we recommend a camera with an 18x wide zoom lens)
- T-shirts and long and short pants
- Pairs of absorbent cotton socks
- Rain suit or long poncho (100% waterproof)
- Long-sleeved cotton shirts
- Sunscreen lotion (high factor)
- A bottle or canteen to carry water on outings
- A hat
- One pair of shorts
- Sunglasses
- A pair of sneakers or hiking boots (with good gripping soles) and sandals
- Insect repellent
- A large, bright flashlight
- Personal toiletries and medications
- Cash for drinks at the bar, airport taxes and personal expenses