



From Titicaca to Machu Picchu Lake Homestay and Patabamba Trek

Trip Description

This comprehensive 14-Day Peru Grand Circuit begins with an immediate immersion into the high-altitude culture of Lake Titicaca. Starting with a flight to Juliaca, the first phase includes a memorable homestay in the village of Llachón, exploring the pristine Capachica Peninsula and visiting the lesser-known Titinos Floating Islands before reaching Puno. Phase two transitions to the historical capital of Cusco, visiting the city's monumental Inca ruins (Sacsayhuamán, Qenqo) and traveling the scenic Ruta del Sol to see sites like Raqchi and the "Sistine Chapel of South America" in Andahuaylillas.

The core of this journey is the profound six-day Patabamba Trek through the high Andes. This demanding but beautiful route connects pre-Inca sites like Pikillaqta and the Inca hydraulic masterpiece Tipón, culminating in the remote ruins of Huchuy Qosqo via a restored section of the ancient Qhapaq Ñan trail. Experience true local life with multiple homestays in traditional weaving communities like Patabamba and Chinchero, far from tourist crowds. This path also includes visits to the circular terraces of Moray and the geometric artistry of the Maras Salt Ponds before the essential journey to the iconic Machu Picchu Kingdom at dawn.

This expertly crafted itinerary is designed for the traveler who demands authenticity, physical engagement, and comprehensive historical context. From sleeping in an adobe home by Lake Titicaca to standing atop the Huallata Pass (4,418 m), every day offers a new challenge and a deeper connection to the Andean world. This all-inclusive journey covers domestic flights, most meals, professional English-speaking guides, all entry fees, and specialized accommodations (hotels, homestays, and camping). Experience the best of Peru—its ancient cities, sacred mountains, and welcoming people—in one grand circuit. Book your 14-Day Peru Grand Circuit now and embrace the full cultural and physical adventure of the Andes!



Trip Highlights

- A trekking route accessible to all levels
- Overnights with local families for an authentic cultural experience
- The major archaeological sites of Southern Peru
- A variety of natural landscapes (Altiplano, tropical forest, Lake Titicaca)

Itinerary

Day 1 Arrival in Lima

Arrival at Lima Airport, welcome assistance, and transfer to your hotel.
Free evening.

Overnight in Lima.

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Private vehicle
- Hotel in Lima

Day 2 • Lima - Juliaca (3824 m) - Llachon (Lake Titicaca)

Early transfer to the airport for your flight to Juliaca on the Peruvian Altiplano.

Upon arrival, your French-speaking local guide welcomes you and transfers you by private vehicle to the mythical Lake Titicaca.

Driving along a scenic track through the high plateaus, you reach the Capachica peninsula and the small fishing village of Llachon, set at 3,820 meters of altitude. A community member greets you and hosts you in his adobe home for a memorable homestay.

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide



- Private vehicle
- Flight Lima-Juliaca
- Homestay
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 3 • Capachica Peninsula (3,880 m)

You follow a stone-paved path through landscapes that shift from dry golden plateaus to lush green fields, contrasting beautifully with the intense blue of the sky and the lake. Along the way, you may see herds of sheep and donkeys watched over by the village "mamitas."

You continue hiking to a small ceremonial site perched on a promontory with breathtaking views of the surrounding islands—and, in clear weather, the snowcapped peaks of Bolivia's Royal Cordillera.

Return in the afternoon to relax or spend more time with the community.

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees
- Homestay
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 4 • Taquile Island (3,950 m) - Puno (3,800 m)

After breakfast, departure by boat toward Taquile Island. On the way, visit the lesser-known floating islands of Titinos, located near the Capachica peninsula and much less visited than the ones near Puno Bay.

Discover Taquile Island, renowned for its high-quality textile traditions and community-managed way of life. Lunch included on the island. Afterwards, boat transfer back to Puno.

Included:



- Professional English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees
- Private boat
- Hotel in Puno
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 5 • Puno (3,800 m) – Cusco (3,350 m)

Transfer to the bus terminal and departure to Cusco on a tourist bus with several scenic and cultural stops:

- **Pucara Lithic Museum** - tracing the evolution of Andean cultures
- **La Raya Pass (4,335 m)** - highest point of the route
- **Raqchi** - impressive administrative and religious Inca complex
- **Andahuaylillas** - stunning 17th-century church known as the "Sistine Chapel of South America"

Arrival in Cusco and transfer to your hotel. Free evening.

Included:

- English/Spanish-speaking guide (bus)
- Entrance fees
- Tourist bus
- Hotel in Cusco
- Breakfast, lunch

Day 6 • Cusco – The Navel of the World

Guided tour of the historic capital of the Inca Empire. Cusco, built on ancient Inca foundations, remains a remarkable example of Andean architecture and urban planning.



Short transfer to **Tambomachay**, then hike back toward Cusco, visiting:

- Tambomachay (water temple)
- Puca Pucara
- Qenqo
- The monumental fortress of **Sacsayhuamán**

Return to the main square around midday. Afternoon city visit: Plaza de Armas, Cathedral, Compañía de Jesús church, Inca wall streets (Loreto, Hatum Rumiyc), and the San Blas neighborhood.

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Private vehicle
- Entrance fees
- Breakfast
- Hotel in Cusco

Day 7 • Cusco - Pikillaqta - Tipon - Patambamba (3,800 m)

Departure toward the **pre-Inca site of Pikillaqta**, then continue to **Tipon**, a masterpiece of Inca hydraulic engineering. The trek begins here on a stone trail through sparse vegetation leading to terraced fields where you camp for the night.

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees
- Private vehicle
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Camping
- **Hiking:** 5 hours



Day 8 • Patabamba - Huaqoto - Picol (3,700 m)

Hike through a small hamlet toward the high plateaus for lunch. Continue walking along the slopes of Mt. Pachatusan, with impressive views of the Huatanay Valley. Ascend to the **Picol Pass (4500 m)** with a spectacular view of Mt. Chicon (5,500 m) and, behind you, the majestic **Ausangate (6,372 m)**. Overnight in Picol.

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Camping
- **Hiking:** 7 hours

Day 9 • Picol - Patabamba (3,780 m)

Enjoy panoramic views of the three great mountain ranges—Vilcanota, Vilcabamba, and Urubamba. Admire the Sacred Valley and the Pisac archaeological site, as well as the Huatanay Valley with Cusco in the distance.

Descend toward the communities of Picol, Matinga, and Cochahuasi. After reaching the Kallarayan canyon, climb to the Patabamba pass (3900 m) and continue along the ridge to the weaving community of Patabamba.

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Homestay
- **Hiking:** 7 hours

Day 10 • Patabamba - Huchuy Qosqo (3,600 m)



Hike toward the village of Sihuas and then to Pukamarca Pass (3900 m) with a stunning view of the Urubamba range. Continue to the **Puma Punku canyon** and follow a restored **Qhapaq Ñan** (Inca Trail) to reach the remote archaeological site of **Huchuy Qosqo**, "Little Cusco."

Overnight with a local host family near the site.

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Homestay
- **Hiking:** 7 hours

Day 11 • Huchuy Qosqo - Chinchero (3,780 m)

Hike toward the **Huallata Pass (4418 m)** for wide open views of the Sacred Valley and surrounding peaks. Descend to the pastoral village of Cuperalto before arriving in Chinchero, where your host family welcomes you for the night.

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Homestay
- **Hiking:** 7 hours

Day 12 • Chinchero - Moray - Maras - Ollantaytambo - Aguas Calientes (2,000 m)

Visit **Moray**, the Inca agricultural laboratory, then continue to the **Maras salt ponds**, still worked today using ancient methods.

Descend toward the Sacred Valley and continue to **Ollantaytambo**, a remarkable Inca town preserved since the 15th century. After a stroll



through its narrow stone streets, take the train to Aguas Calientes. Free evening.

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees
- Private vehicle & train
- Hotel in Aguas Calientes
- Breakfast

Day 13 • Machu Picchu - Cusco

At dawn, take the bus to Machu Picchu for a complete guided visit of the Inca citadel. Explore the agricultural and urban sectors and admire the incredible stonework.

In the afternoon, return to Aguas Calientes for your train to Ollantaytambo, followed by a private transfer to Cusco.

Optional (not included, must be booked in advance):

- Huayna Picchu hike
- Machu Picchu Mountain hike

Included:

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Private vehicle
- Train to Cusco
- Entrance fees
- Breakfast, lunch
- Hotel in Cusco



Day 14 • Cusco - Lima - International Flight

Transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to Lima and connection with your international flight.

Included:

- Airport assistance
- Private transport
- Breakfast

Included

- Private ground transportation
- French-speaking guides, muleteers, and cooks
- French-speaking guides at each stage
- Domestic flights: Lima-Juliaca & Cusco-Lima
- Airport assistance
- Trekking and camping logistics
- Private guided excursions
- Entrance fees to all visited sites
- Meals listed as included
- Homestays
- Private vehicle throughout

Not Included

- International flights



- Drinks
- Tips (approx. USD 3.5/day/person for guides & USD 2.5/day/person for muleteers/cooks)
- Travel insurance
- Personal trekking gear (trekking poles, sleeping bag—available for rent)
- Personal expenses

Recommendations

Health and Acclimatization

- Allow time to adapt to altitude.
- Stay hydrated and avoid alcohol at the beginning.
- Eat light meals during the first days.

Personal Equipment

- Comfortable, broken-in hiking shoes
- Layered clothing (base layer, fleece, waterproof/windproof jacket)
- Warm sleeping bag (comfort -5°C recommended)
- Trekking poles
- Sun protection: hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm
- Headlamp + extra batteries

Hygiene and Comfort

- Personal toiletries, wet wipes
- Personal medication + basic first-aid kit
- Quick-dry towel

Documents and Money



- Valid passport (keep paper and digital copies)
- Travel insurance (medical, evacuation, cancellation)
- International credit card + cash for communities (cards not always accepted)

Community Stay Etiquette

- Ask permission before taking photos
- Participate with openness in daily activities
- Small useful gifts (not sweets or plastic items)

Safety and Responsibility

- Follow your guide's instructions
- Leave no waste; carry out all trash
- Use a reusable water bottle

Climate

- Expect temperature swings from -5°C at night to 20°C+ during the day
- Dry season (May-Oct): sunny days, cold nights
- Wet season (Nov-Apr): possible afternoon showers—rain gear recommended