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## Peru Expedition 17-Day The Inca Trail, Culture and Machu Picchu

### Trip Description

Experience Peru the way it was meant to be discovered—deep, authentic, and unforgettable. This 17-day expertly designed journey takes you from the colonial elegance of Lima and Arequipa to the living cultures of Lake Titicaca, the legendary Inca Trail, and the breathtaking majesty of Machu Picchu. Every moment is carefully planned, combining iconic highlights with exclusive experiences that most travelers never see. With private transportation, expert English-speaking guides, and hand-selected accommodations, you can relax knowing every detail is handled with precision and care.

This is more than a tour—it's a true cultural immersion. Stay with welcoming local families in the Colca Valley and Lake Titicaca, trek the world-famous Inca Trail with professional support, and witness condors soaring above ancient canyons. You'll explore hidden Inca sites, vibrant traditional villages, and spectacular Andean landscapes while enjoying comfort, safety, and seamless logistics throughout your journey. Our trusted local team ensures authentic connections, insider access, and a level of service that exceeds expectations.

Your adventure culminates in the heart of the Amazon rainforest, where you'll encounter extraordinary wildlife and experience one of Earth's most biodiverse ecosystems. From the Andes to the jungle, every destination is selected to inspire wonder and create lifelong memories. This journey is perfect for travelers seeking authenticity, comfort, and expert guidance. Secure your place today and discover Peru with confidence, knowing you're traveling with professionals committed to delivering an exceptional, worry-free experience.

**Duration:** 17 days

**Luggage:** Carry only your day pack

**Accommodation:** Hotels, homestays, and lodges



**Guiding:** English-speaking guide

**Difficulty level:** Moderate

## Itinerary

### **Day 1 - Arrival in Lima**

Upon arrival at Lima airport, you will be welcomed and transferred to your hotel. Evening at leisure.

**Included:**

- English-speaking assistance at the airport
- Private vehicle
- Hotel in Lima

### **Day 2 - Lima to Arequipa (2,400 m / 7,874 ft)**

Flight to Arequipa. Explore the White City, including the Plaza de Armas, the Jesuit church, Santa Catalina Convent, and the viewpoints of Yanahuara and Carmen Alto, offering panoramic views of the surrounding volcanoes. Meals not included.

**Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Site entrance fees
- Private vehicle
- Flight Lima - Arequipa
- Hotel in Arequipa
- Breakfast

### **Day 3 - Arequipa, the White City**



Today is dedicated to acclimatization at 2,350 meters (7,710 ft). Explore La Campiña and the Sabandia Mill, showcasing Arequipa's volcanic architecture. Visit the Sachaca viewpoint, the Mansion of the founder García Manuel de Carvajal, the 1785 Sabandia stone mill, and the pre-Inca terraces of Paucarpata.

**Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Site entrance fees
- Private vehicle
- Hotel in Arequipa
- Breakfast and lunch

**Day 4 - Arequipa to Chivay - Coporaque**

Depart Arequipa in the morning toward Chivay in the Colca Valley. Pass by the Chachani volcano and the Salinas y Aguada Blanca reserve to spot vicuñas. Observe lunar-like landscapes at Pata Pampa Pass (4,910 m / 16,108 ft). Continue to Coporaque (3,600 m / 11,811 ft), a small village in the heart of the valley. Lunch with a local family, followed by a presentation of traditional dances. Overnight with local families.

**Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Private vehicle
- Entrance fees
- Homestay
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

**Day 5 - Coporaque**



Spend a full day immersed in village life, participating in daily activities alongside local residents.

**Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Homestay
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

**Day 6 - Coporaque - Colca Cross - Puno**

Early breakfast, then visit the Colca Cross for an excellent vantage point to watch Andean condors. Explore the Colca Canyon and nearby villages such as Maca. Return to Chivay for lunch, then take a public bus to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca.

**Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees
- Private vehicle (for Colca Cross)
- Public bus (to Puno)
- Hotel in Puno
- Breakfast and lunch

**Day 7 - Puno - Uros - Taquile - Llachon**

Full-day excursion on Lake Titicaca. Visit the floating islands of the Uros and the island of Taquile, where the local community maintains traditions dating back to the Inca era. Afternoon boat ride to Llachon. Overnight with local families.

**Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees



- Private boat
- Homestay
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

### **Day 8 - Llachon - Cusco**

Cross the Altiplano, a vast, cold, and arid plain used for alpaca grazing and cultivation of potatoes and quinoa. Scenic view of the Vilcanota mountain range before reaching La Raya Pass (4,335 m / 14,222 ft), the continental divide. Descend to Cusco, transitioning from plains to mountains.

#### **Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Public bus (unaccompanied)
- Hotel in Cusco
- Breakfast and picnic lunch

### **Day 9 - Cusco City Tour**

Guided tour of Cusco, the fascinating Inca capital. Explore the main archaeological sites surrounding the city: Q'enqo, Tambomachay, Pukapukara, and Sacsayhuamán. Continue with the Qorikancha (Temple of the Sun) and Santo Domingo Convent. Admire the famous 12-angled stone, a testament to Inca stonework.

#### **Included:**

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



### **Day 10 - Cusco - Chinchero - Maras - Moray - Ollantaytambo**

Drive through the Sacred Valley to Chinchero, the "Rainbow City," visiting its ruins and church built over an Inca temple. Continue to the pre-Inca salt terraces of Maras and the agricultural laboratory of Moray. End the day in Ollantaytambo, exploring its 15th-century Inca village and citadel.

#### **Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees
- Private vehicle
- Breakfast and lunch
- Hotel in Ollantaytambo

### **Day 11 - Ollantaytambo (2,750 m) - Km 82 - Huayllabamba (2,850 m)**

Trek starts from Km 82 on the Inca Trail to Huayllabamba, passing Llaqtapata ("city above") and the narrow Kusichaca Valley. Overnight in a campsite.

#### **Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees
- Private vehicle
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Overnight in tent
- 6 hours of walking

### **Day 12 - Huayllabamba (2,850 m) - Warmi Wañusca Pass (4,200 m) - Pacaymayo (3,350 m)**



Trek through forest and high-altitude terrain to Pacaymayo. Cross Warmi Wañusca Pass, the highest point of the trail. Overnight in a campsite.

**Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Overnight in tent
- 7 hours of walking

**Day 13 - Pacaymayo (3,350 m) - Runkuracay Pass (3,900 m) - Wiñaywayna (2,700 m)**

Continue along the Inca Trail, visiting Runkuracay and Sayacmarca sites. Descend 2,500 stone steps to Wiñaywayna. Overnight in a campsite.

**Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Overnight in tent
- 7 hours of walking

**Day 14 - Wiñaywayna (2,700 m) - Inti Punku (2,750 m) - Machu Picchu (2,450 m) - Aguas Calientes (2,050 m) - Cusco (3,350 m)**

Arrive at Inti Punku (Sun Gate) with stunning views of Machu Picchu. Guided tour of Machu Picchu's agricultural and urban sectors. Afternoon descent to Aguas Calientes, then train to Cusco. Optional: Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain climb (advance reservation required).

**Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Train to Ollantaytambo
- Private vehicle



- Entrance fees
- Breakfast and lunch
- 3 hours of walking
- Hotel in Cusco

### **Day 15 - Cusco - Puerto Maldonado**

Fly to Puerto Maldonado, gateway to the Amazon. Transfer to your lodge via Tambopata River boat. Arrival lunch and welcome cocktail, followed by a brief lodge tour. Late afternoon excursion to observe nocturnal wildlife.

#### **Included:**

- Airport assistance
- Private transport
- Entrance fees
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Overnight in lodge

### **Day 16 - Puerto Maldonado**

Morning jungle trek to Lake Sachavacayoc (2.5 hours) to observe monkeys, birds, and possibly an anaconda. Picnic in the forest. Afternoon return, with optional wildlife observation of caimans and capybaras. Evening at leisure.

#### **Included:**

- English-speaking guide
- Private transport
- Entrance fees
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Overnight in lodge



## Day 17 - Puerto Maldonado - Lima - International Flight

Return to Puerto Maldonado airport after early morning wildlife observation. Transfer to Lima for your international flight.

### Included:

- Airport assistance
- Private transport
- Breakfast

### Included

Your tour package includes the following services and features to ensure a comfortable, safe, and enriching travel experience throughout Peru:

- All accommodations as specified in the itinerary (hotels, homestays, lodges, and camping during the Inca Trail)
- All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary (private vehicles, public buses where specified, train tickets, and boat transfers)
- Domestic flights (Lima - Arequipa and Cusco - Puerto Maldonado)
- Professional English-speaking guides throughout all guided visits, excursions, and treks
- All entrance fees to archaeological sites, natural reserves, and attractions mentioned in the itinerary, including Machu Picchu and the Inca Trail
- Airport transfers and assistance upon arrival and departure
- Meals as specified in the itinerary (breakfast, lunch, and dinner when indicated)



- Camping equipment during the Inca Trail trek (tents, sleeping arrangements, and cooking equipment)
- Amazon lodge excursions and guided jungle activities
- Cultural experiences with local communities, including homestays and traditional activities

### **Not Included**

The following services and personal expenses are not included in the tour package:

- International flights to and from Peru
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Meals not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls, souvenirs, snacks, and beverages
- Tips and gratuities for guides, drivers, porters, and lodge staff (optional but recommended)
- Sleeping bag rental for the Inca Trail (available upon request)
- Optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary (such as Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain permits)
- Early check-in or late check-out at hotels (subject to availability and additional cost)
- Alcoholic beverages

### **Recommendations**

#### **Health and Acclimatization**

- Allow 1-2 days for altitude adaptation (Arequipa, Cusco, Puno)
- Stay hydrated; avoid alcohol and heavy meals at the start



- Bring altitude sickness medication if recommended by your doctor

### **Personal Equipment**

- Comfortable, broken-in hiking shoes
- Layered clothing for varied climate: breathable t-shirt, warm fleece, windproof/waterproof jacket
- Waterproof jacket or rain poncho (especially Oct-Apr)
- Warm sleeping bag (comfort -5°C recommended for Inca Trail; can be rented)
- Trekking poles advised
- Headlamp with spare batteries
- Sun protection: hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm
- Insect repellent for Amazon

### **Hygiene and Comfort**

- Small first aid kit (bandages, disinfectant, personal medications)
- Quick-dry travel towel and hand sanitizer
- Reusable water bottle or hydration pack

### **Documents and Money**

- Valid passport (carry paper and digital copies)
- Travel insurance (health, evacuation, cancellation)
- International bank card and cash in Peruvian soles

### **Community and Cultural Respect**

- Respect local customs; ask permission before photographing people
- Participate positively in daily activities (agriculture, crafts, cooking)
- Useful small gifts welcome (not candy or plastic toys)

### **Safety and Environment**

- Follow guide instructions at all times



- Respect nature; do not leave waste behind
- Stay on designated trails during treks and in the Amazon

### **Climate**

- Highlands (Cusco, Puno, Colca): sunny days, cold nights
- Amazon: hot, humid, frequent rain; wear light but covering clothing
- Dry season (May-Oct): clear skies, cold nights
- Wet season (Nov-Apr): possible afternoon rain