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Peru Immersion 13-Day Homestays, Art and The Lost City

Trip Description

This comprehensive 13-Day Peru Grand Circuit meticulously combines historical sightseeing, high-altitude trekking, and deep cultural immersion. The initial days focus on Lima and the UNESCO-listed city of Cusco, including a magnificent hike through the hills to visit the major surrounding Inca ruins: Tambomachay, Qenqo, and the imposing fortress of Sacsayhuamán. The core of the itinerary is the challenging 4-Day Lares Trek, traversing remote high-altitude pastures and conquering the demanding Pisac Pass (4,550 m). This trek culminates with visits to the strategic sites of Pumamarca and Ollantaytambo before the ultimate goal: a guided tour of the legendary Machu Picchu.

Experience the living culture of the Andes through multiple authentic homestays throughout the journey. During the Lares Trek, you will share meals and traditions with local shepherd families in isolated villages like Cochayoc and Patacancha, gaining a rare glimpse into a life largely untouched by the outside world. The third phase focuses on the Altiplano, featuring a beautiful drive across the La Raya Pass to Lake Titicaca. Here, you will stay in the Llachón community and sail to the unique floating islands of Uros Titino and the weaving communities of Taquile, providing an intimate connection to the Aymara and Quechua worlds.

This thoughtfully crafted journey is the ideal choice for travelers seeking a maximum coverage of Peru's historical and natural wonders, integrated with genuine cultural exchange. From the cyclopean architecture of Sacsayhuamán to the breathtaking, glaciated views from the Pisac Pass, and the sacred waters of Lake Titicaca, every day is packed with unforgettable experiences. This all-inclusive tour covers flights (Lima-Cusco, Puno-Lima), professional guiding, train tickets, quality accommodation (hotels/homestays), and all trekking logistics (mules/horses). Book your 13-Day Peru Mega-Circuit today and embark on the most complete cultural and trekking adventure the Andes has to offer!



Duration: 13 days

Porterage: Only your daypack

Accommodation: Hotels, camping, and local homestays

Guide: Private English-speaking guide

Level: Moderate

Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrival in Lima

Arrival in Lima and assistance at the airport. Private transfer to your hotel in Miraflores along the Pacific coast.

Included:

- Airport assistance (English-speaking)
- Private vehicle
- Hotel in Lima

Day 2 - Lima - Cusco

Early transfer to the airport for your flight to Cusco. Upon arrival, reception and transfer to your hotel.

Afternoon at leisure to acclimatize and wander the streets of the former Inca capital—often considered the most beautiful city in South America.

Included:

- Airport assistance (English-speaking)
- Private vehicle
- Flight Lima-Cusco
- Hotel in Cusco
- Breakfast



Day 3 - Cusco - Tambomachay - Pucapucara - Qenqo - Sacsayhuaman

A magnificent hike through the hills above Cusco. Transfer to Tambomachay (3700 m), the Temple of Water, where you begin your walk. Continue to Puca Pucara, an ancient fortress guarding the entrance to the capital, then to Qenqo, an important ritual center carved into limestone. Finish with a visit to the imposing fortress of Sacsayhuaman, famous for its massive stone walls, before walking back to Cusco (3350 m), the "navel of the Inca world."

Included:

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

Day 4 - Cusco (3350 m) - Pisac (3400 m) - Lares (3500 m)

Departure for Pisac and visit of its impressive archaeological complex—terraces, fountains, neighborhoods, observatories, and the largest cemetery in the region. Continue to the local artisans' market before heading to Lares for your overnight stay.

Optional visit to the thermal hot springs (entrance not included).

Included:

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



Day 5 - Lares - Rosas Pata - Cochayoc (3745 m)

After breakfast, pack lamas and horses and begin the trek. Walk along the Lares Valley with stunning balcony views over the river below. Continue uphill to Rosas Pata, then follow a scenic trail toward the village of Cochayoc — “village with a lake” in Quechua — home to local shepherd families.

Included:

- English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Homestay overnight
- **Approx. 8 hours of hiking**

Day 6 - Cochayoc - Pampa Wasi (4200 m) - Pisac Pass (4550 m) - Challwacocha (4280 m)

If the weather allows, enjoy panoramic views of the Terijuay mountain range and Yanacocha Lagoon. Continue on high-altitude pastures toward Cuypan Pass (4550 m).

Climb to the Pisac Pass for spectacular views before reaching a lakeside campsite near the remote community of Challwacocha—long isolated from the valleys below.

Included:

- English-speaking guide
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Homestay overnight
- **Approx. 8 hours of hiking**

Day 7 - Challwacocha - Patacancha



Walk through shepherd settlements and meet local children greeting you along the way. Reach Yauricunca Pass (4152 m) and descend gradually to Patacancha, a traditional Andean community where you will spend the evening.

Included:

- English-speaking guide
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Homestay overnight
- **Approx. 6 hours of hiking**
- Elevation gain: +750 m / loss: -1250 m

Day 8 - Patacancha - Pumamarca - Ollantaytambo - Aguas Calientes

Farewell to the community and drive to the archaeological site of Pumamarca. After your visit, hike down to Ollantaytambo and board the train to Aguas Calientes.

Included:

- English-speaking guide
- Breakfast, lunch
- Train to Aguas Calientes
- Hotel overnight
- **Approx. 5 hours of hiking**

Day 9 - Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu - Ollantaytambo

At dawn, take the bus to Machu Picchu for a full guided tour of the Lost City of the Incas: agricultural terraces, urban sectors, temples, and breathtaking viewpoints.

Return to Aguas Calientes in the afternoon and take the train to Ollantaytambo.



Optional add-ons (must be booked in advance):

- Huayna Picchu ascent
- Machu Picchu Mountain ascent

Included:

- English-speaking guide
- Train to Ollantaytambo
- Entrance fees
- Breakfast, lunch
- Hotel in Ollantaytambo

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

Visit the impressive terraces and fortress of Ollantaytambo, then continue to the salt ponds of Maras, exploited since Inca times.

Proceed to the agricultural laboratory of Moray before returning to Cusco with a final stop at the ruins of Chinchero.

Included:

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

Day 11 - Cusco - La Raya Pass (4338 m) - Llachón (3825 m)

Scenic drive across the fertile valley of Cusco toward Lake Titicaca. En route, visit:

- **Andahuaylillas:** the "Sistine Chapel of the Andes"



- **Racchi:** Temple of Wiracocha, with terraces, storage houses, and Inca walls

Cross La Raya Pass (4338 m), marking the beginning of the Altiplano, then continue to Llachón on the Capachica Peninsula.

Included:

- English-speaking guide
- Private vehicle
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Homestay overnight

Day 12 - Llachón - Uros Titino - Taquile Island - Puno

Boat excursion to the floating islands of Uros Titino. Continue to Taquile Island, entering through the quiet southern side.

Hike up to the main square, meet local weavers, and enjoy a traditional lunch before sailing back to Puno.

Included:

- English-speaking guide
- Private vehicle
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Hotel in Puno

Day 13 - Puno - Lima - International Departure

Early transfer to the airport. Your guide will accompany you until boarding your flight to Lima, then onward connection with your international flight.

Included:

- Airport assistance
- Private transportation



- Breakfast

Included

- Airport assistance upon arrival and departure
- All private ground transportation mentioned in the itinerary
- Domestic flights: Lima - Cusco and Puno/Juliaca - Lima (if applicable according to final program)
- Train tickets: Ollantaytambo - Aguas Calientes - Ollantaytambo
- Professional English-speaking local guides throughout the program
- All entrance fees to archaeological sites, cultural sites, and natural reserves mentioned in the itinerary
- Entrance and guided visit of Machu Picchu
- Boat excursion on Lake Titicaca and visits to the islands mentioned
- Accommodation in carefully selected hotels
- Homestay accommodation with local communities as mentioned in the program
- All meals indicated in the itinerary (breakfast, lunch, and dinner as specified per day)
- Trekking logistics, including pack animals (llamas/horses) for equipment transport during the Lares trek
- Permanent on-site assistance from our local operations team

Not Included

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

- International flights to and from Peru
- Meals not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Beverages (soft drinks, alcoholic drinks, bottled water, etc.)
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenses (laundry, souvenirs, phone calls, etc.)
- Tips for guides, drivers, and local staff (optional but customary)



- Optional excursions such as the ascent of Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain at Machu Picchu
- Entrance to Lares hot springs
- Sleeping bag for the trek (available for rent upon request)
- Any additional costs caused by delays, strikes, weather conditions, or unforeseen circumstances

Recommendations

Health and Acclimatization

Allow time to acclimatize, especially in Cusco and during the trek. Walk at your own pace, stay hydrated, and avoid heavy meals or alcohol during the first days.

Personal Equipment

Comfortable worn-in hiking boots, trekking poles, a 30-40 L daypack, and a headlamp are essential.

Clothing

Pack in layers: breathable shirts, warm fleece, and a waterproof/windproof jacket. Bring a hat, gloves, and lighter clothing for daytime.

Weather

Andean weather is unpredictable. Expect warm daytime sun and cold nights.

Sun Protection

High-altitude UV radiation is strong. Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, and a sunhat.

Hygiene and Comfort

Wet wipes, sanitizer, toilet paper, and a refillable water bottle or hydration bladder (with purification) are recommended.

Health and First Aid

Bring personal medications and a basic first-aid kit. Consult your doctor about altitude medication if needed.



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Staying with Local Families

Accommodations are simple but welcoming. Respect local customs and enjoy this authentic cultural experience.

Money

Carry small denominations of Peruvian soles for purchases, tips, and local services. ATMs are available in Cusco and Puno.

Respect for Sites & Communities

Do not leave waste, respect archaeological structures, and follow your guide's instructions.

Safety

Keep valuables secure and stay attentive during transfers.

Group Spirit

Trekking is a shared adventure. Patience, encouragement, and good humor help create an unforgettable experience.