



Inti Raymi 2026: The Sun Festival and Machu Picchu Tour

Description:

Witness history brought to life as you secure your place for the most important cultural event in the Andes. Experience the colorful spectacle of music, dance, and ceremony as the Inca invokes the Sun, following the ancient ritual from **Qoricancha** to the grand finale at **Sacsayhuamán**. Following the festival, the journey continues to the **Sacred Valley**, visiting the vast terraces of **Pisac** and the perfectly preserved living Inca town of **Ollantaytambo**. The itinerary concludes with a two-day excursion that includes the ancient **Maras salt mines** and the circular agricultural laboratory of **Moray**, culminating in a magical, early morning guided tour of the majestic **Machu Picchu**.

This is a rare and highly sought-after itinerary, perfectly timed to immerse you in the spiritual and cultural heart of the Andes during the most sacred time of the Inca calendar. From the ancient ritual of Inti Raymi to the quiet majesty of Machu Picchu, this tour offers an unforgettable blend of culture, history, and natural beauty. **The tour is fully supported, including all private transportation, train tickets to Machu Picchu, guaranteed entrance fees for the main sites, and professional English-speaking guides.** Space for Inti Raymi is extremely limited and requires advance planning.

Book your 6-Day Cusco and Inti Raymi Tour today and secure your spot at the Festival of the Sun 2026!

Itinerary

June 22, 2026 – Cusco: The Navel of the World

Today's program is dedicated to exploring the city of Cusco, beginning with the four major Inca sites: **Tambomachay, Pucapucara, Qenqo, and Sacsayhuamán**, renowned for their precisely fitted stone blocks. Continue to the **Temple of the Sun** and the **Cusco Cathedral**, which houses numerous works of art from the Cusqueñan School. The afternoon is free to explore the city at your leisure.

Includes:

- English -speaking guide
- Entrance fees



- Private vehicle
- Hotel in Cusco
- Breakfast

June 23, 2026 – Cusco: Southern Valley

In the morning, transfer to the southern part of Cusco. With your guide, gain insight into the history of the region. Visit the famous **Andahuaylillas Chapel**, often called the “Andean Sistine Chapel,” noted for its colonial frescoes. Continue to the **Temple of Water**, a marvel of Inca hydraulic engineering, and finally, explore the pre-Inca **Pikillaqta** site, with its plazas and ancient royal constructions. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. Return to Cusco for free time in the evening.

Includes:

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

June 24, 2026 – Inti Raymi: Festival of the Sun

During the Inca era, **Inti Raymi** was, according to Garcilaso de la Vega, the most important of four annual festivals in Cusco, marking the New Year and the mythical origins of the Inca. The ceremony lasted nine days, featuring dances and sacrifices. The last traditional Inti Raymi with the Inca emperor took place in 1535. It was banned in 1572 by Viceroy Francisco de Toledo for being a pagan ritual, yet it continued to be celebrated clandestinely.

In 1944, a historical reenactment of Inti Raymi was organized based on Garcilaso de la Vega’s chronicles, focusing on the religious aspects of the ceremony. Since then, it has become a public event and a major tourist attraction in Cusco.

Today, Inti Raymi has a different character, designed for both tourists and locals, symbolizing Cusco’s cultural identity. Thousands participate in this colorful spectacle of music, dance, and ceremony. The performance begins at **Qoricancha**, where the Inca invokes the Sun, then proceeds to the **Sacsayhuamán** fortress, culminating with a symbolic sacrifice of an alpaca. The



scenario is written in Quechua by Faustino Espinoza Navarrais, who portrayed the Inca for many years.

Includes:

- English -speaking guide
- Entrance fees
- Hotel in Cusco
- Breakfast and lunch

June 25, 2026 – Cusco: Sacred Valley – Aguas Calientes

Travel to the **Sacred Valley**, starting with the archaeological complex of **Pisac**, featuring terraces, fountains, observatories, and one of the largest necropolises in the region. Visit the local artisan market before continuing to **Ollantaytambo**, a 15th-century village preserved almost entirely in its original form. In the afternoon, take the train to **Aguas Calientes**, at the base of Machu Picchu. Free evening at leisure.

Includes:

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

June 26, 2026 – Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu – Ollantaytambo

Early morning transfer via shuttle or collective bus to **Machu Picchu** to enjoy the site before the crowds. Explore the citadel's agricultural and urban sectors, marvel at the mountain-side constructions, and experience the extraordinary landscapes. In the afternoon, return to Aguas Calientes for the train back to Ollantaytambo.

Optional activities (not included, must be reserved in advance):

- Ascend **Huayna Picchu** or **Machu Picchu Mountain** (limited availability; separate entry).



Includes:

- English -speaking guide
- Shuttle bus
- Train to Ollantaytambo
- Entrance fees
- Breakfast and lunch
- Hotel in Ollantaytambo

June 27, 2026 – Ollantaytambo – Moray – Maras – Chinchero – Cusco

Visit the **Ollantaytambo Fortress**, renowned for its terraces, then continue to the **Maras salt mines**, still exploited using traditional Inca techniques. Explore the **Moray agricultural laboratory**, used for acclimating crops, and visit the **Chinchero ruins** before returning to Cusco.

Includes:

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

End of Services

Includes

- Professional **English-speaking guide** during all scheduled visits and excursions



- **All entrance fees** to the archaeological sites and monuments mentioned in the program
- **Private tourist transportation** for all land transfers and excursions described in the itinerary
- **Train tickets** between Ollantaytambo and Aguas Calientes (round trip)
- **Shuttle bus transportation** between Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu
- **Accommodation in selected hotels:**
 - Cusco (3 nights)
 - Aguas Calientes (1 night)
 - Ollantaytambo (1 night)
- **Daily breakfast** at the hotels
- **Meals mentioned in the itinerary**, including:
 - Lunch during the Southern Valley excursion
 - Lunch on the Inti Raymi day
 - Lunch during the Machu Picchu excursion
 - Lunch during the Sacred Valley return tour
- **Guided visit to Machu Picchu** with a professional guide
- Assistance and coordination throughout the tour

Nont Includes

- International and domestic flights
- Personal travel insurance
- Optional excursions and activities, including:
 - Huayna Picchu Mountain hike
 - Machu Picchu Mountain hike

(must be reserved in advance and subject to availability)
- Meals not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Beverages during meals
- Personal expenses (laundry, phone calls, souvenirs, etc.)



- Tips or gratuities for guides, drivers, and hotel staff
- Early check-in or late check-out at hotels unless specified
- Any service not explicitly mentioned in the “Tour Inclusions” section

Recommendations

Travel Recommendations – Inti Raymi Festival

- **Acclimatization and Health:** Cusco is at 3,350 m; several sites exceed 3,600 m. Walk slowly, drink water regularly, and eat light meals during the first days. Local coca or muña teas may aid acclimatization. Bring a small personal first-aid kit.
- **Clothing and Climate:** June is the dry season. Days are sunny and pleasant; nights and mornings are chilly. Layered clothing, a warm jacket, hat, and gloves are recommended.
- **Footwear:** Sturdy, non-slip walking shoes are essential for steep or uneven Inca sites.
- **Sun Protection:** High-altitude sun is intense. Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat.
- **Inti Raymi Participation:** Follow your guide’s instructions to find the best viewing points and avoid crowds. Bring water, a hat, and patience.
- **Respect Local Traditions:** Inti Raymi is a vital cultural symbol. Ask before photographing participants and observe the ceremony with respect.
- **Cash and Payments:** Carry some Peruvian soles for small purchases, meals, and tips. Many local markets do not accept cards.
- **Hydration and Nutrition:** Enjoy Peruvian cuisine but avoid heavy meals initially. Drink bottled water only.
- **Energy and Rest:** The itinerary is full. Take advantage of free time to rest.
- **Photography:** Capture the landscapes and Inti Raymi moments, but keep your devices charged.