

# The great Colca Canyon and the giant Condor – 4 Days / 3 Nights (PBTRE5)

Destinations at a glance : Arequipa / Colca Canyon

## TRIP DESCRIPTION

Arequipa is a city in southern Peru and the nation's second largest city. The city stands at the foot of the Misti volcano in the Andes. Arequipa has many fine colonial/Spanish buildings built of sillar, a pearly white volcanic rock used extensively in the construction of the city, from which it gets its nickname La Ciudad Blanca ("The white city").

Included in this package is a city tour where you will have the chance to see some of the finest and best preserved colonial architecture Peru has to offer, and a visit to Colca Canyon the deepest canyon in the world. Here you will see many types of flora and fauna, including llamas, alpacas, vicunas, etc. Not forgetting of course the visit to Cruz del Condor, where the Colca river is 1200 meters below, and the huge Condors are flying majestically above. The Condor is a giant bird with a wing span up to 3.2 meters.

## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Lima – Arequipa & City Tour (B)

Once in Arequipa you will receive a warm reception from our staff who will transfer you to your selected comfortable hotel.

In the afternoon you will be collected from your hotel by our guide for your city tour of Arequipa, on which you will visit all of the main attractions the city has to offer.

Many of these buildings are located around the Plaza de Armas regarded by many as the most beautiful plaza in the country. Also located on the plaza is the magnificent cathedral.

Close to the main square is the Monastery of Santa Catalina built in 1580 as a city within the city and opened to the public after 400 years of being totally cut off the outside world.

Our expert guide will share his knowledge with you on all the places included on the tour answering any questions you may have.

### Day 2: Arequipa – Chivay – La Calera (B)

For the Colca Canyon tour our guide will collect you from your hotel around breakfast time heading quickly out of the city toward the canyon. Soon afterwards we will be able to appreciate spectacular views of the volcanoes, Misti (5825 m), Chachani (6075 m) and Pichu Pichu (5664 m). Following this route we will pass through the town of Yura, where we can observe geological formations caused by years of ecological changes. Continuing on our way we will visit the National Reserve of Salinas and Aguada Blanca where we can observe Vicunas in their natural habitat, we then stop in the village of Patahuasi, where you can buy mate de coca and mate muña that help control fatigue or discomfort that can be caused by altitude. The trail will pass by the Tojrapampa wetlands, here you will be able to see birds and South American camelids such as Llamas and Alpacas. Finally heading onward to the highest point on the tour, Patapampa (4910 masl) or viewpoint of the Andes where we can observe the volcanoes Ampato, Sabancaya and Hualca Hualca. We will then descend to the town of Chivay (3651 m), to have lunch and go to the hotel. In the afternoon we visit the thermal medicinal baths of La Calera and the ethnological museum. Finally we will end our evening with dinner accompanied by traditional Andean music.

### Day 3: Chivay – Cruz del Condor – Arequipa (B)

We start early on the second day of the canyon tour, around 5:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast. Departing after this to Cruz del Condor, visiting villages Yanque, Maca and the Choquet lookout on the way. Choquet is where we will appreciate the natural rock formations and the magnitude of the canyon, before continuing our journey to the famous Cruz del Condor. Here we will see again the depth of the Colca Canyon and also the spectacular flight of the Condor as the birds fly past majestically. One of the stops on the way back will include the viewpoint of Antahuilque in order to observe the pre-Inca agricultural terraces, and our final stop of the day will be in Chivay for lunch before returning to the city of Arequipa, arriving at approximately 5:00pm.

#### Day 4: Arequipa

Your final day is yours to spend at your leisure. If you have onward transport by bus or plane this package includes a transfer to your selected departure point.

\*Or perhaps you would like to continue your adventure with us? Feel free to take a look at our regional trips to Puno, Lake Titicaca and the famous floating Uros Islands.

#### INCLUDED

- 3 Hotel nights
- All breakfasts
- All the tours stated in the itinerary
- All transfers and entrance fees.
- Accredited tour guides.
- Personalized assistance by Peru Best Tours during your whole stay.

#### NOT INCLUDED

- Domestic Transportation
- Lunches and dinners, other than those mentioned above.
- Travel insurance
- Tips
- Airport taxes

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Arequipa City Tour (Private tour)
- Colca Canyon Tour (Regular group tour)

#### STYLE

- History/Culture
- Family
- Nature

#### PHYSICAL DIFFICULTY

Medium: Arequipa, Colca Canyon - Some travelers may be effected by the high altitude.

#### CUSTOM MADE TRIPS

At Peru Best Tours, we do our best to meet your travel needs rather than you adjusting your trip to fit a company's schedule, It means: A more personalized service, greater flexibility of travel options, and better over all value giving you more for your money.

We can make you and your group any itinerary you wish from 1 day to 1 year! From budget to luxury 5 star. We can make anything you wish from something as simple as an amendment or addition to one of our standard packages, or something custom made from scratch. Just let us know what you want, we are at your service!

## DOMESTIC TRANSPORT

We always strive to give our customers the lowest prices on all domestic transport. Due to the number of bookings for flight, trains and buses we make each year, we are often able to give the cheapest prices on the market to customers booking packages with us.

You may also if you wish make your own transportation arrangements for your trip, just that most clients find it easier and less hassle to let us do the work for them.

Luggage for LAN Peru flights. The maximum weight limit for flights within Peru is 23 kgs of hold luggage (Max. 2 Bags). Hand luggage is limited to 8 kgs and one personal item such as a purse or, laptop. We recommend checking the website of the airline before traveling to check for the latest baggage and security information.

## INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

Following our desire to pass on savings to the customer, we suggest booking your international flight via one of the large internet based providers such as [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com) , [www.travelocity.com](http://www.travelocity.com) or [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com) as these companies are some of the market leaders in international discount airfares. Please note we do not work with any of the above companies, nor to we receive a commission for recommending them.

## HOTELS

We only work with the best hotels in each rating category. We constantly review our choices and listen to feedback from clients when we make reviews of the hotels we use. Before booking we will give you a list of our recommended hotels for you to select from. If you wish to stay in a hotel that's not listed, say one you read a review about on TripAdvisor for example just let us know the name and we will be happy to book it for you.

## WHAT TO BRING?

### Luggage

All types of luggage are fine to bring with you to Peru, although we do recommend something like a backpack or a rucksack. As they are often easier to handle in places such as Arequipa where cobble stone roads make suitcases with wheels for example a little cumbersome.

Also recommended is a day bag, something light weight but big enough for your daily needs. Such as a bottle of water, your camera, tickets and other travel documents etc.

### Clothing

This will depend on the season you are travelling but generally winter on the coast is summer in the mountains and vice versa. Arequipa is in the mountains and as with most cities in the Andes the days can be very hot and the nights decidedly chilly. So it's best to pack for all eventualities, take a look below at the recommended packing list.

- Trousers / Jeans / Shorts / Jogging Pants
- T-Shirts / Shirts
- Waterproof Jacket
- Sturdy shoes or Hiking boots / Trainers / Sandals

#### Other things to pack

- Camera / Extra Memory or Films / Batteries / Charger
- Binoculars
- Sunglasses & Sun Cream (It can often feel cool at altitude but burns are still possible)
- Small First Aid Kit
- Medication – Remember if you are taking medication to bring enough with you to complete your journey.

#### Documents

- Passport + copies (We advise you leave your passport in the hotel and carry copies with you when outside)
- Andean Immigration Card – You will be given this card at the airport do not lose it as you have to hand it back in on your departure.
- All Peru Best Tours vouchers and coupons.
- Entry Visa (Should you require one.)
- Travel Insurance + copies.

#### TRAVEL MONEY

How much will I need for my trip? This will of course depend on your personal choices and preferences. Included at all hotels is breakfast, and some parts of your itinerary may include all your daily meals (See above). You will also need some money for souvenirs, and personal items.

Meals in a budget café or restaurant start at around \$4.00 per person, and dining at a top class restaurant can be upwards \$30-60 per person. So there really is something to fit every budget and taste.

Souvenirs start from as little as \$1.00 for a post card to \$100+ for such things as the fine alpaca woolen knitwear items that you will see for sale at many of the tourist shops and markets.

Airport Taxes are also a consideration as they have to be paid at the airport by the traveler. They have to be paid in cash in either US\$ or local currency. Domestic departure tax is \$6.25 per person and international departure tax is \$30.25 per person.