

Best of the Andes and exotic jungle II 9 Days / 8 Nights (PBTRO3)

Destinations at a glance: Lima / Cuzco / Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu / Puno / Puerto Maldonado

TRIP DESCRIPTION

This package includes excellent destinations in the Andes. You will be able to visit fantastic tourist attractions like the spectacular lost and sacred city of the Incas, Machu Picchu in Cuzco and the life at Lake Titicaca in Puno visiting amazing native communities that maintain their age old customs and traditions. Lastly, you will be witness of the great biodiversity of the Peruvian rainforest.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Lima

Whatever the time of your arrival you can be assured of a warm welcome by the Peru Best Tours staff at the airport. Once you and your group have passed immigration and customs you will be transferred by private vehicle to your selected comfortable hotel.

Depending on your arrival time you will have the rest of the day to relax and enjoy the city.

Day 2: Lima – Puerto Maldonado (B, L, D)

As with your whole journey all transfers are taken care of. Our guide will collect you in the morning for your transfer to the airport.

You will be collected at the airport and taken to the lodge headquarters in the town. Here you will be able to drop off any un-needed luggage (Weight restrictions apply to the boats). Once sorted we will head off to the port (20kms) where we will board the boat for the transfer to the lodge.

On the 45 min boat transfer to the lodge we will pass through the communities primary forest private reserve. Once at the lodge you will be given some brief instructions on navigation and security tips.

A 20 minute walk from the lodge is the canopy tower (30m High), from here you can take in the breath taking views above the tree tops of actual rainforest canopy. Giving you an small idea of how immense Amazon rainforest really is. With a chance also to see some of the parrots and birds that rest in the tops of the trees.

Your day will be finished with an evening Ecotourism Lecture, an introduction to ecotourism and the Infierno project on the Amazon.

Day 3: Puerto Maldonado. (B,L,D)

Your second day at the lodge includes many activities with our naturalist guides lasting from morning till after dark.

Tres Chimbadas Oxbow Lake: Tres Chimbadas is thirty minutes by boat and forty five minutes hiking from Posada Amazonas. Once there you will paddle around the lake in a catamaran, searching for the resident family of nine giant river otters (seen by 60% of our lake visitors) and other lakeside wildlife such as caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers.

Parrot clay lick: This clay lick is only a twenty minute walk from Posada Amazonas. From a hide located about twenty meters away you will see dozens of parrots and parakeets descend on

most clear mornings to ingest the clay on the river bank. Species such as Mealy and Yellow-headed Amazons, Blue-headed Parrots and Dusky headed Parakeets descend at this clay lick. The clay lick is most active at dawn and during the late mornings and mid-afternoons.

Ethnobotanical Tour: A twenty minute boat drive downriver leads you to a trail designed by the staff of the Centro Ñape. The Centro Ñape is a communal organization that produces medicines out of forest plants and administers them to patients who choose their little clinic. They have produced a trail which explains the different medicinal (and other) uses of selected plants.

You can finish your day with the optional night walk. You will have the option of hiking out at night, when most of the mammals are active but rarely seen. Much easier to find are frogs with shapes and sounds as bizarre as their natural histories.

Day 4: Puerto Maldonado – Cuzco (B)

Your final day will start with breakfast in the lodge, followed by a relaxing boat trip re-tracing your journey back to the town. Here you will have chance to collect any personal belongings left at the headquarters at the start of the trip. Once you have everything our staff will drop you back at the airport for your flight to Cuzco.

Once in Cuzco our staff will be waiting to welcome you, and to take you to your comfortable hotel.

Our guide will collect you from your hotel in the afternoon for your tour of the city. Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, is considered the archaeological capital of South America. In the city of Cuzco, as in no other place, the mixture of Spanish and Inca cultures can be appreciated as well as its architecture of enormous cut-stone blocks fitted so perfectly that no mortar was needed.

Your tour will take you to the Cathedral, Temple of the Sun, Korikancha, Sacsayhuaman, Puca Pucara, Qenqo, and Tambomachay. Most of these sites are of the smaller Inca ruins in and around the city. This tantalizing look these amazing Inca ruins will only further whet your appetite for the following days of tours to the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu.

Day 5: Cuzco - Sacred Valley – Cuzco (B)

Your day will start with an early breakfast before we head off to the sacred Valley of the Incas.

Here our expert guide will take you to the Ollantaytambo ruins and Písaq market. Here you will have chance to interact with the locals most of whom will be in their traditional dress. You will also have the chance to buy locally produced handicrafts from the region.

In the evening we return to Cuzco where you will have the evening free relax before the next exciting day of activities

Day 6: Cuzco – Macchu Picchu – Cuzco (B)

This day is sure to be the highlight of every travellers trip to Peru, Machu Picchu. The day will start with an early pick up from the hotel and transfer the train station for your train to the citadel.

Our expert guide will meet you at the station and take you to the citadel. Here you will be able to look in amazement at the beauty of the ruins before you. The guided tour will last around two hours, giving you the chance to learn all about the ruins and ask any questions you may have. Once the guided tour is over you will have the rest of the afternoon to explore the site at your leisure, taking photographs and enjoying moment with your group.

As an option you make add an extra night here to your trip and overnight in the small town of Aguas Calientes below Machu Picchu. You can then return the next day to the site to explore the ruins in more detail. Or even stay just to see the sunrise over the mountains, a truly amazing sight.

Day 7: Cuzco – Puno (B)

There are three options for this transfer, plane, train or bus. We really recommend you take either the bus or the train, as the Andean mountain scenery between these two cities is not to be missed.

The Andean Explorer train that serves the route is wonderfully decorated in 1920's Pullman style, with all the class and finesse you could expect of a train from that era.

During the 10 hour relaxed journey you will be served a wonderful three course meal in the dining car, followed by tea or coffee in the open air observation car.

The photographic opportunities will be almost endless throughout the journey as rolling plains turn to mountains.

The bus journey is just as filled with opportunities for photographs, stopping at many places of interest along the route. From the comfort of this first class bus service you will relax and enjoy the ride as the mountains and valleys pass you by. The journey time by bus is around 8 hours.

The plane journey is by far the quickest route with less than one hour flying time. We only really advise this option to travellers who are short on time, as the journey between the cities really is beautiful.

Day 8: Puno – Lake Titicaca (B)

Our guide will collect you from your hotel after breakfast for your full day tour of Lake Titicaca.

The lake is actually the highest navigable lake in the world at an incredible 3890 meters above sea level! The lake is home to many species of fresh water fish and bird including different types of ducks and even flamingos.

The first stop will be at a group of the nearby Uros Islands, famous as they are actually man made floating islands. Around 30 of these islands dot the surface of the lake. Their inhabitants use the totora, which grows in the lake, to create the conditions that enable the islands stay afloat. The dense roots that the totora develop support the islands.

Later you will visit the natural island of Taquile where you will be given a warm welcome by the locals, and you will be able to witness first hand the traditional way of life of the islanders. You will also have the opportunity to buy locally produced handicrafts made by the residents of the various islands

Day 9: Puno – Lima (B)

After breakfast we will collect you for your transfer back to capital for your last hours with us in Peru. Your final day will be finished with a private tour of the city at a time of your choice.

The tour will take you to both colonial and modern Lima, giving you an insight as to how Lima has grown and developed since its independence from Spain in 1821.

The tour will start from your hotel where our guide will collect you and your group. The tour will visit places such as the Plaza de Armas (Presidential Square). The catacombs of the San Francisco church where you will see the bones of 100's of Lima's ancient dead. Followed by visits to both Barranco and Miraflores where your tour will end. You will then have the remainder of your day free until we come to collect you for your transfer to the airport for your flight home.

We all have a great passion for Peru here at Peru Best Tours, and once you have completed this amazing package we are sure you will too. We look forward to receiving you as our guest soon, and as always we are at your service.

INCLUDED

- 8 Hotel/Lodge nights
- All breakfasts
- All meals while in the jungle
- 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

Cuzco City Tour (Regular group tour)
Sacred Valley Tour (Regular group tour)
Machu Picchu Tour (Regular group tour)
Lake Titicaca Tour (Regular group tour)
Amazon tours (Regular group tour)
Lima City tour (Private group tour)

STYLE

History / Culture
Family
Nature

PHYSICAL DIFFICULTY

Easy : Lima - No strenuous activities involved.
: Puerto Maldonado – No strenuous activities involved.
Medium: Cuzco – Some travelers may be effected by the high altitude.
: Sacred Valley – Some travelers may be effected by the high altitude.
: Machu Picchu – Some travelers may be effected by the high altitude.
: Puno – 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 , www.travelocity.com or 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 Cuzco where cobble stone roads make suitcases with wheels for example a little cumbersome. Also weight restrictions apply to the jungle boat transfers. Any excess luggage can always be securely stored at the lodge head quarters in the town.

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. The rainforests are exactly as you would expect and you can expect rain at any given moment irrespective of the season. 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.