

PERU OVERVIEW (15 Days / 14 Nights) (PBTR05)

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

TRIP DESCRIPTION

This spectacular super package includes the most popular destinations in Peru. All located in different natural regions, you will be able to learn about history, culture, amazing archaeological discoveries as well as incomparable biodiversity fauna and flora species. You will return to your home with priceless memories and loving Peru.

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 – Arequipa & City Tour (B)

As with your whole journey all transfers are taken care of. You will be collected in the morning for your transfer to the airport. Once in Arequipa you will receive a warm welcome 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 on 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 3: 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 4: Chivay – Cruz del Condor – Arequipa – Puno (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.

Once back in Arequipa we will return to your selected hotel to collect any luggage you may have stored there before taking you to the airport for your transfer to Puno.

Once you have arrived in Puno you will be collected by our staff and taken to your comfortable hotel where you can relax for the rest of the evening.

Day 5: 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.

Our 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 we 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 6: Puno – Cuzco (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 7: Cuzco (B)

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 8: 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 PISAQ 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 9: 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 10: Cuzco – Puerto Maldonado (B, L, D)

On you last day in Cuzco our driver will collect you from your hotel and bid you farewell, as you make your onward journey by plane to Puerto Maldonado.

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) were 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. Where you will have 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 11: 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 12: Puerto Maldonado – Lima (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 Lima.

Once in Lima our staff will be waiting for you, to take you to your comfortable hotel.

Day 13: Lima – Paracas – Nazca (B)

Another early start is needed for this tour to catch the bus to Paracas, don't worry about a thing as you will be collected from your hotel for your transfer.

Once you arrive in Paracas you will be met by our guide who will take you to the port area where you will board the boat for your trip around the Ballestas Islands.

The islands are a thirty minute boat ride from the Bay of Paracas. Erosion has formed spectacular rock formations that provide nesting places for thousands of seabirds, including pelicans, penguins, flamingos that cohabit in this paradise. One of the highlights of the boat ride are the hundreds of playful sea lions that come right up to the boats.

Here you will also see many types of sea birds as well as the opportunity to see the mysterious Candelabro rock carving, the origins of which are unknown.

Once you have finished the tour you will be transferred to the bus station for your journey towards Nazca, where you will spend the night.

Day 14: Nazca – Lima (B)

After breakfast we will head to the aerodrome. Here you will board your flight that will take you over the mysterious Nazca Lines.

The first of the lines was believed to have been made around 400 BC, and the "construction" of the lines was thought to have continued for around another 1000 years. The lines have been studied since their discovery and are still not fully understood. The most common theory is that the people of the Nazca culture made them as a gift to the gods. Pictures the gods could look down on from heaven.

The Nazca people made many shapes and figure in the desert the most famous of which are the monkey, hummingbird, fish, "space" man, dog, fish and the Condor.

After the flight is completed you will be taken back to the bus station for your bus to Lima, where you will be collected and transferred back to your hotel.

Day 15: Lima (B)

Your final day in Lima 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 changed, 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

- 14 Hotel/Lodge nights
- All breakfasts
- All meals whilst at the jungle lodge
- 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)
- Lake Titicaca Tour (Regular group tour)
- Cuzco City Tour (Regular group tour)
- Sacred Valley Tour (Regular group tour)
- Machu Picchu Tour (Regular group tour)
- Canopy Tower Trip (Regular group tour)
- Amazon Tours – Full Day (Regular group tour)
- Ballestas Islands Boat Tour (Regular group tour)
- Nazca Lines Overflight (Regular group tour)
- Lima City Tour (Private tour)

STYLE

- History/Culture
- Family
- Nature

PHYSICAL DIFFICULTY

Easy : Lima, Puno, Puerto Maldonado, Nazca, Paracas - No strenuous activities involved
Medium: Cuzco - Some travelers may be effected by the high altitude

Medium: Sacred Valley, Macchu Picchu - Some travelers may be effected by the high altitude
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, ultimately 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 star 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 a little cumbersome for example. 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.