



# Unique Peru Tours

Sector Ccatan S/N

Urubamba, Cusco, Peru

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## Sample Tour Itinerary - Cusco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Puno, Colca Canyon, Arequipa

### September 4

You arrive at the airport in Cusco at 3:55pm on LAN 2043 where you will be picked up and taken to your hotel, Andenes al Cielo in the historic center of Cusco. You'll want to make an early night of it and, due to the altitude, it's best not to drink alcohol or eat too heavily.

Hotel: Andenes al Cielo

<http://www.andenesalcielo.com/>

Calle Choquechaca 176, Esquina 7 Angelitos (San Blas), +51 (084) 222237

Included: Private transport, hotel.

Not included: Lunch, Dinner

### September 5

I'll come and get you at 10:00am and we'll have a despacho by a native Andean priest, a pampamesayoq. A despacho is a ceremony honoring Pachamama (Mother Earth) and the Apus (mountain spirits).

Victor will also bring some of his weavings which you can purchase if you like. There is ABSOLUTELY no pressure with this. But it is really special to have a misa cloth or other item from someone you have just sat in ceremony with. Also, if you're interested, I can have him do coca leaf readings for you. After lunch, you can begin exploring Cusco a bit on your own, and I can give you some places to check out. You'll have what's called a "tourist ticket" which will get you into some museums. Or, I can take you on an orientation around the City.

Hotel: Andenes al Cielo

Included: Breakfast in hotel, despacho, hotel

Not Included: Lunch, dinner, coca leaf readings

### September 6

Today, you'll have a guided tour of the most important historical sites in and around Cusco. This will include the Cathedral (colonial architecture and artwork), Qoricancha (colonial monastery built on top of the most important Inca temple), and the Inca ruins of Sacsayhuaman, Qenqo, PukaPukara and Tambomachay

above the city. Ideally, I recommend leaving early in the morning, around 7am, so you have plenty of time. However, you'll have your guide available for the entire day so we can decide this the night before. You'll have a boxed lunch, so the plan is to walk back down to the city from the sites above, stopping for a picnic lunch along the way, and then visiting the sites within the city itself.

Hotel: Andenes al Cielo

Included: Breakfast in hotel, entrance fees, personal licensed tour guide, private transport, box lunch, hotel

Not Included: Dinner

### **September 7**

You'll head to the Sacred Valley today, with a pickup time around 8:00am. We'll start off in Ollantaytambo where you will tour one of the most important Inca sites in the valley, as well as the town itself. The town is really interesting as it is still organized as it was 500 years ago and you'll be able to enter a house that dates back from those times.

Following this, you'll go for a delicious buffet lunch, before visiting Moray, a type of agricultural research center for the Incas and Salineras, salt flats that have been used since Inca times. After, you will go to your lodging at Las Casitas del Arco Iris. This place is really lovely and is also a non-profit providing education for seriously underprivileged children.

Hotel: Las Casitas del Arco Iris

<http://www.lascasitasdelarcoiris.com/>

Querocancha s/n, Urubamba

Telephone +51 84 201475; +51 84 201484

Included: Breakfast in hotel, private transport, personal licensed tour guide, entrance fees, buffet lunch, hotel

Not Included: Beverages at lunhc, dinner

### **September 8**

Today, we'll have an early start at 7:30am to hike up near the Apu Veronica, near the Sacred Valley, and one of the easiest to reach in one day. Instead of taking a trekking guide, we'll go with Victor and do some ceremony up there as well. We'll have a box lunch today as we'll be off the beaten path.

Hotel: Las Casitas del Arco Iris

Included: Breakfast in hotel, private transport, Andean priest and ceremony, box lunch, hotel.

Not Included: Dinner

### **September 9**

You can have a leisurely morning before being taken to the train station in Ollantaytambo for your trip to Aguas Calientes, the town by Machu Picchu. You'll be on

the Vistadome train at 1:27pm, which offers panoramic views of the passing scenery. If you want, we can arrange your transport for earlier so you can wander around the town a bit more, and we'll do a box lunch to eat on the train. The train journey will take about 1.5 hours. You'll stay at the Hostal Mistico, which has a gorgeous crystal shop right downstairs as well. It feels more like a lodge than a hotel, and you'll be lulled to sleep by the sounds of the river rushing below. For dinner, you'll go to Indio Feliz, a delicious Franco-Peruvian restaurant. You'll want to get to sleep early as you'll want to be at Machu Picchu when it opens at 6 am.

Hotel: El Hostal Mistico

<http://www.elmisticomachupicchu.com/en/>

Av. Pachacutec #814, Aguas Calientes

Telephone: +5184 211 051 / 984 011 107

Included: Breakfast in hotel, private transport to train station, panoramic train, box lunch, dinner, hotel.

Not Included: Beverages at dinner

### **September 10**

You will take a bus (20 minutes) up to Machu Picchu around 5:30 am either enjoying a spectacular sunrise or "mystical Machu Picchu" as the mists come and go, revealing the surrounding structures. You can get some great pictures before the crowds come and have a guided tour around the most important spots of the site. After, you can hike up to the Sun Gate, where the Inca Trail enters the site, as well as over to the Inca Bridge. We'll include a boxed lunch today as the food at the site are Disneyland prices. It's a good idea to have a small backpack for carrying your lunch, water, sunscreen, etc.

Hotel: El Hostal Mistico

Included: Breakfast in hotel, shuttle bus to Machu Picchu, entrance tickets, personal licensed tour guide, box lunch, hotel.

Not Included: Dinner

### **September 11**

We'll take the shuttle back up early in the morning to hike Huayna Picchu. I'm going to head up with you today and take you around the back way where almost no one goes. This is an awesome opportunity to feel like you have stepped back into the time of the Incas. (Almost no one does it or even knows about this hike anymore!) We'll bring a lunch again so we can find a place to eat when we're hungry. When you're ready, we can take the bus back down. Third night in Aguas so you can take a hot shower and relax a bit.

Hotel: El Hostal Mistico

Included: Breakfast in hotel, shuttle bus to Machu Picchu, entrance tickets, lunch, hotel.

Not Included: Dinner

### **September 12**

We'll take the morning train back to Ollantaytambo at 8:53 am and from there a car to Cusco. You'll get in around midday and you'll have the rest of the afternoon and evening free to enjoy the city.

Hotel: Andenes al Cielo

Included: Breakfast in hotel, train to Ollantaytambo, private transport to Cusco, hotel.

Not Included: Lunch, dinner

### **September 13**

Free day in Cusco!

Hotel: Andenes al Cielo

Included: Breakfast in hotel, hotel.

Not Included: Lunch, dinner

### **September 14**

You take the tourist bus to Puno which will take you to sites, Inca and pre-Inca, along the way such as Raqchi and Pukara, and also a stop at Andahuaylillas to see the church touted as the Sistine Chapel of the Americas for its murals. Lunch and entrance tickets are all included. Upon arrival in Puno, you'll be taken to your hotel where you'll overnight before starting off on your lake adventure.

Hotel: Tierra Viva

<http://tierravivahoteles.com/tierra-viva-puno-plaza/>

Grau Street 270. Puno, Perú

(+51) 51-368005

Included: Breakfast in hotel, bus, entrance tickets, lunch, transport to hotel, hotel.

Not Included: Dinner

### **September 15**

You'll be picked up about 6:45am and taken to the pier for your boat to the eco lodge on Suasi: [www.islasuasi.pe](http://www.islasuasi.pe). (Note: you can leave the bulk of your luggage at Tierra Viva while you go to the lake.) Along the way, you'll <http://www.islasuasi.pe/> Today, you'll also have a guided visit to the floating reed islands of Uros and to Taquile, known for the quality of its weaving. The package at the hotel includes all meals. It's an absolutely gorgeous place and perfect for soaking up the energy of the lake. You'll arrive at the hotel around noon and, after a brief introduction to the hotel and the activities you'll enjoy there, you'll have a lunch, weather permitting it will be a barbecue.

In the afternoon, they suggest that you take a walk to Itapilluni where you will encounter various species of native flora and fauna, including camelids and vizcachas (similar to chinchilla). From the highest point of the walk, you can enjoy a beautiful sunset, an almost mystical experience. In the evening, you'll be amazed at how many stars you can see over the lake, and you'll have an explanation about Andean cosmology (which you guys will be experts on now!), and enjoy a glass of wine by the fire before having dinner.

Hotel: Isla Suasi

<http://www.islasuasi.pe/>

+51 51 351102

Included: Breakfast in hotel, transport to pier, boat to Isla Suasi, guided tour of Uros and Taquile, lunch, dinner, hotel

Not Included: Beverages, massages, other activities

### **September 16**

After a delicious breakfast buffet, you can choose what you'd like to do for the rest of the day. One of the recommended activities is a walk to Martha's Cultural Cabin. Martha is the island's owner and she has founded a cultural cabin where you can learn about the unique ecosystems of the Altiplano and the Lake highlighting the intervention throughout human history in livestock, agriculture, ceramics and textiles. The cabin has one of the most comprehensive libraries on the Altiplano.

You might also choose to canoe or kayak in the lake, or have a guided boat tour of the island (additional charge).

Hotel: Isla Suasi

Included: Breakfast in hotel, lunch, dinner, hotel

Not Included: Beverages, massages, other activities

### **September 17**

After your buffet breakfast, you can choose to canoe or kayak around the lake, where you will see lake birds such as grebes, geese, skimmers, and several species of boobies gulls, plus camelids and vizcachas. Your transport back to Puno will depart at noon and you'll arrive at the pier around 3pm where you will be picked up and taken to your hotel to check-in again. Free afternoon to enjoy the city.

Hotel: Tierra Viva

Included: Breakfast in hotel, return boat to Puno, box lunch, transfer to hotel, hotel.

Not Included: Dinner

### **September 18**

You'll be picked up at 6:00am to begin your trip to Colca Canyon. Enjoy the scenery along the way and arrive at Colca around 12:00. You'll be picked up upon arrival and taken to the Aranwa Colca Canyon, a beautiful and relaxing getaway. (Again, I'm jealous.) Enjoy the afternoon here, and take advantage of their luxurious spa.

Hotel: Aranwa Colca Canyon

<http://www.aranwahotels.com/en/hotel-colca/>

Telephone:: +51 (54) 38-3850

Included: Breakfast in hotel, car to Colca Canyon, transfer to hotel, hotel.

Not Included: Lunch, dinner

### **September 19**

You'll be picked up around 6:00am to begin your trip to Arequipa. It's an early morning,

because you want to get to the condor viewing site early when they are most likely to be visible. After this, you continue your trip, passing through plains with a variety of camelids grazing, before arriving at Arequipa, a beautiful European feeling city. You'll arrive in late afternoon/evening, and will be picked up at the drop-off point and taken to your hotel.

Hotel: QP Hotel

<https://www.qphotels.com/hotel/arequipa>

Calle Villalba 305, Cercado Arequipa

Telephone: (051) (54) 612 000

Included: Breakfast in hotel, car to Arequipa, transfer to hotel, hotel.

Not Included: Lunch, dinner

### **September 20**

You have a free day to tour around the city as you like. You should definitely check out the Santa Catalina Monastery (<http://www.santacatalina.org.pe/>), and perhaps head up to a picanteria outside of town for lunch (<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/peru/arequipa-and-canyon-country/arequipa/restaurants/peruvian/la-nueva-palomino>). If you decide you'd rather have a guided tour, just let me know and I can set that up and you can just pay the operator there directly. Or, I can just have them set you up with a car and driver for the afternoon.

Hotel: QP Hotel

Included: Breakfast in hotel, hotel.

Not Included: Lunch, dinner

### **September 21**

Today you'll be picked up at your hotel about 6:45am and taken to the airport for your 8:50am LAN 2094 flight back to Cusco. You'll arrive at 9:50am and will be picked up and taken back to Andenes al Cielo for your last night here. The afternoon and evening are free for visiting your favorite spots before you leave tomorrow.

Hotel: Andenes al Cielo

Included: Breakfast in hotel, transfer to Arequipa airport, flight to Cusco, pick up at Cusco airport, hotel.

Not Included: Lunch, dinner

### **September 22**

You'll be picked up at 11:30am and taken to the airport for your LAN 2040 flight to Lima at 1:40pm.

Included: Breakfast in hotel, transfer to airport

Not included: Lunch