



# Unique Peru Tours

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## Sample Itinerary - Jungle, Cusco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu

### May 26/27

You arrive in Lima at 12:20am on the 27th and will walk over to the Wyndham Airport Hotel where you will spend the night. You have a Junior Suite Matrimonial and a Standard Twin Reserved.

Hotel Costa del Sol Wyndham Lima Aeropuerto  
(511) 711 2000

Included: Hotel

Not included: Meals, beverages

### May 27

You have a flight today from Lima to Puerto Maldonado on LAN 2075 at 9:40 am. You'll want to head over by 7:40am so that you can have a calm check in. You arrive in Puerto Maldonado at 12:50pm and will be met by a representative of Rainforest Expeditions. You'll be taken to their office ten minutes away where they will ask you to pack only what's necessary for the next few days and to leave the rest at their safe deposit so that the boats can stay light.

You will then be transferred to the port for your forty-five minute boat ride to Posada Amazonas. Upon arrival, you'll be given an orientation and then have a walk to the 30 meter Canopy Tower where you will have spectacular views of the vast expanses of standing forest cut by the Tambopata River winding through the middle. Now and then toucans, parrots or macaws are seen flying against the horizon, or mixed species canopy flocks land in the treetop next to you.

Following dinner, you will have an ecotourism lecture (optional).

Overnight at Posada Amazonas

Included: Jungle tour including transfer from Puerto Maldonado, meals, guides, lodging.

Not included: Flight, alcoholic beverages, bottled water, snacks.

## **May 28**

After breakfast, you will visit the 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. Otters are most active from dawn to eight or nine AM.

Next, you get to visit the Parrot Clay Lick, located only a twenty minute walk from Posada Amazonas. From a blind located about twenty meters away you will see dozens of parrots and parakeets descend on most clear mornings to ingest the clay on a river bank. Species such as Mealy and Yellow-headed Amazon, Blue-headed Parrot and Dusky headed Parakeet descend at this clay lick. The clay lick is active at dawn, during the late mornings and mid-afternoons.

Following lunch, 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.

Following the ethnobotanical lecture, you'll have dinner and then 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.

Overnight at Posada Amazonas

Included: Jungle tour including transfer from Puerto Maldonado, meals, guides, lodging.

Not included: Flight, alcoholic beverages, bottled water, snacks.

## **May 29**

Following breakfast, you will make your way back by boat to Puerto Maldonado where you will be brought to the Rainforest Expedition headquarters to pick up the rest of your belongings. You'll then be taken to the airport for your flight to Cusco on LAN 2074 at 1:35pm. Upon arrival at the Cusco airport at 14:30pm, you'll be picked up and taken to your hotel, Andenes al Cielo. (The driver will have a sign with your name on it.)

You'll need some time to get accustomed to the altitude so we won't plan any tours for today. Take it easy, drink plenty of water and coca tea, and go at your own pace. Depending on what time you arrive, we can add in a short walking tour of the city in the afternoon, just to get your bearings.

Andenes al Cielo  
Choquechaca 176  
+51 084 222 237

Included: Breakfast, transport between airports, hotel

Not included: Flight, lunch, dinner, beverages

### **May 30**

Today we visit the most important sites in and around Cusco city. We'll start by visiting the sites located just above the city: Sacsayhuaman, Qenqo, Puka Pukara and Tambomachay. After this, you will walk back down into the city, using an ancient Inca trail, and passing by the Temple of the Moon. We'll include a box lunch so you can stop and eat whenever you're hungry. You'll then go to Qoricancha (the Temple of the Sun) in town and the Cathedral. You'll spend the night again at Los Andenes. We can coordinate the pick-up time the night before once we see how everyone is feeling.

Hotel: Andenes al Cielo

Included: Breakfast at hotel; private tour with car, driver and licensed guide; entrance fees; box lunch; hotel.

Not included: Dinner, beverages

### **May 31**

We'll head out in the morning around 8:00am to go to the Sacred Valley where you'll spend the next couple of nights. On the way, you'll stop off at Awanacancha, a kind of petting zoo of camelids where you can learn the difference between llamas, alpacas, vicuña and guanacos. There is also a demonstration on weaving. Onsite is a store offering high quality textiles and other native crafts if you're interested in shopping. From here, you'll head to Pisac, an impressive Inca archaeological site on top of a mountain. After your tour, you'll stop off for lunch before heading to Urubamba and your hotel. You'll stay at Las Casitas del Arcoiris, a beautiful bungalow-style hotel set in the midst of gorgeous gardens in the Valley countryside. An added bonus is that all the proceeds go to fund the associated charitable organization that has a school for severely underprivileged children, afternoon training in hotel management and computers, and medical care.

In the afternoon, you'll have a traditional Andean ceremony called a despacho. This is a ceremony that honors Pachamama (Mother Earth) and the Apus (mountain spirits), and is performed by an Andean priest called a paqo. In the Andean cosmology, it is customary to make these ceremonies as offerings, asking for their blessings for all kinds of things - health, good crops, healthy livestock, abundance, etc. Your paqo comes from generations of Andean priests, and has been doing ceremonies his entire life. He will bring some of his and his family's hand woven textiles in case you're interested but there is no pressure whatsoever.

Included: Breakfast; private tour with car, driver and licensed guide; entrance fees; lunch, despacho, hotel

Not included: Dinner, beverages

Las Casitas del Arco Iris, Urubamba

No Reservation Code

+51 084 201 475

Note: Tonight or tomorrow night would be good times to book a table at El Huacatay, the best restaurant in Urubamba and probably the Valley, if not Cusco. If you want a nice dinner on the other night, Kampu is low key but has yummy curries and pizzas. For something more gourmet, you might try the restaurant at the Sol y Luna hotel. For El Huacatay or Sol y Luna you will need reservations which I or Las Casitas can make for you. They can also call you a taxi. Alternatively, you can have dinner at your hotel which offers simple but fresh and delicious food (trout or chicken, generally).

## **June 1**

Today, you will be picked up at 7:30am to go on a “llama trek” with Llama Pack. This is an organization that is helping local communities to re-introduce the original species of llama which is a bigger animal with better fibers, higher quality meat, and stronger so that it can be used as a pack animal. With your llamas and guides, you can trek to visit another archaeological site, or to visit one of the high Andean communities where the llamas live. You’ll enjoy a breath-taking walk through the picturesque valley of Huarán in company of the llamas owned by the community families involved in the Llama Pack Project. Before you start your trek you will be introduced to the Llama Pack Project, then the llamas will be gathered and your trek will start. You will hike along the river, through native forests and amazing rock formations while you learn all about the noble and native eco-friendly llamas and their importance to preserve high-Andean ecosystems. After a 3 to 4 hour walk uphill at slow pace, you will reach the community of Cancha-Cancha, home of 54 native Quechua speaking families dedicated to self-sustaining agriculture and animal pasturing, surrounded by the spectacular views of the Chicon, Sirihuani and Colque Cruz glaciers. The typical and picturesque high Andean architecture can be appreciated in the homes of the local people and their animal corrals. We will visit one of the local homes and after sharing a nice recovering brunch we will return walking downhill to the starting point.

Hotel: Las Casitas del Arco Iris

Included: Breakfast at hotel; private tour with car, driver and licensed guide or llama trek; entrance fees if applicable, lunch, hotel

Not included: dinner, beverages

## **June 2**

Your driver and guide will meet you at Las Casitas at 9:30am and take you to Ollantaytambo (about 20 minutes away) to have a tour of the archaeological site. Ollantaytambo is especially noted for being a living Inca town where you can see houses, passage ways and waterways that are just as they have been since Incan times. This town is also where you will board the train to Aguas Calientes.

You’ll be on the Vistadome train which leaves the Ollantaytambo station at 1:37pm, and offers especially great views of the incredibly gorgeous vistas that you’ll be traveling through. The train will arrive about 15:04pm at Aguas Calientes, the town just below Machu Picchu. You’ll have a box lunch to enjoy on the train. Tonight, dinner will be at Indio Feliz, a delicious French-Peruvian restaurant. (The meal has been included but beverages are extra.)

*Note: We can arrange excess luggage to be left at Las Casitas for the driver to pick up on his way to get you tomorrow.*

Hotel: Hatun Inti  
Av Imperio de los Incas (no number), Aguas Calientes  
+51 084 211 365

Included: Breakfast; private tour with car, driver and licensed guide; entrance fees; box lunch, train ticket, dinner, hotel  
Not included: Beverages

### **June 3**

Your guide will meet you early in the morning (I recommend 5:30 or 6:00am) and your box lunches will be delivered to your hotel around 5:30am as well. You'll take the shuttle bus up to Machu Picchu (a journey of about 20 minutes) first thing so you can get some great photos before it gets packed. You'll hike up Huayna Picchu and then have a guided tour of this awe-inspiring Inca citadel. You'll spend another night in Aguas Calientes so you can spend as much time as you like at Machu Picchu, hiking around, and then be able to have a hot shower and a nice meal after. Recommended restaurant for your second night here is El Incontri de Pueblo Viejo which is at the bottom of the walk up to the hot springs and just off the main plaza.

Hotel: Hatun Inti

Included: Breakfast, shuttle bus to Machu Picchu, entrance tickets, private tour with licensed guide, box lunch, hotel  
Not included: Dinner, beverages, tip for guide (this will be your last day with him)

### **June 4**

Your train back to Ollantaytambo this morning leaves at 10:55am, and you'll want to get to the station about 20 minutes ahead of time. You'll arrive in Ollantaytambo at 12:32pm where you'll be picked up and taken back to Cusco. You'll get back about 2:30pm and you'll have a free afternoon to visit any favorite spots in Cusco and have a last dinner in what was once the capital city of the Inca Empire, before spending one last night at Andenes al Cielo.

Hotel: Andenes al Cielo

Included: Breakfast, return train, transport from train station to Cusco, hotel.  
Not included: Lunch, dinner, beverages; tip for driver (this will be your last day with him)

### **June 5**

You'll be picked up at 5:00am and taken to the airport for your flight LAN 2024 to Lima, departing at 6:55am.

Included: Breakfast, transport to airport