

A World Away Travels

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INCA TRAIL TO MACHU PICCHU

October 8-19, 2000
November 3-14, 2000
April 20-31, 2001
May 13-24, 2001
June 15-27, 2001
July 6-18, 2001
August 18-29, 2001

Our journey begins discovering the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Wandering through fortress cities high above the Urubamba Valley we visit the ruins of Pisac and Ollantaytambo. Next we begin our trek along the old Inca Highway to Machu Picchu. The Inca Trail travels through Peru's incredible past. Each day we cross high mountain passes with stunning views, hike through jungles, and explore preserved ancient ruins. Lining our stone paths our camps set beside ruins offer us the opportunity to explore each evening. Reaching Intipunku, "Gate of the Sun" we get our first magnificent glimpse of Machu Picchu. One of the world best preserved archaeological sites; the beautiful Machu Picchu hidden for centuries was only re-discovered in 1911, by Hiram Bingham. Our route follows his historical journey of discovery. Making the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu an adventure filled with local culture, colorful history, and dramatic scenery. ***Moderate Trekking***

Day 1-2 Travel to Cusco Peru

Departing from the United States late in the evening you will arrive in Lima early the next morning and catch a connecting flight to Cusco. Our flight will take us over amazing views of snow capped mountains, glaciers and blue mountain lakes, and after just 50 minutes we will arrive in Cusco, a small colonial city nestled high in the Andes. Arriving in the morning we will transfer to the Libertador, Cusco's finest hotel. Acclimatizing to the higher altitudes we will relax with a *Mate de Coca*, a traditional local herbal drink that is known to combat the effects of altitude sickness. The remainder of the morning is free to relax before we meet for lunch on the Plaza de Armas and spend a pleasant afternoon touring the sights of the city. At lunch we will go over the details of our trip with our guide. Cusco is considered the archaeological capitol of the Americas. Our insightful walking tour through the Cusco's narrow winding roads explores the city's Inca and colonial past. We will visit the Coricancha, Limacpampa (the site of the harvest festival), the central cathedral with its colonial art, and the Inca Temple of the Sun. In the evening we will have a welcome dinner at Tunapa listening to the sounds of local musicians playing traditional Sierra music. The perfect first night in the Andes. Accommodations: Libertador. *Day 1 no meals included while traveling, Day 2 Dinner.*

Day 3 Urubamba-Sacred Valley of the Incas

Today we will explore the Sacred Valley of the Incas and visit the historical Incan ruins of Pisac, with their fascinating layout on the high side of a mountain. We will have a chance to see how the locals weave their beautiful *Mantas* (shawls) and also to sample the local brew *Chicha* that is made from maize. The Sacred Valley is one of the

After exploring the ruins and market we will transfer to our beautiful hotel, the Posada del Inca, an old converted monastery with gorgeous flower gardens all around. Accommodations: Posada Del Inca *B,L*

Day 4-7 Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

Day 4 Chilca-Llactapata

En route to the Inca Trail we will stop at spectacular ruins at Ollantaytambo. Touring Ollantaytambo in the we will discover the romantic tales of the Inca's history as well as the region's legends. Ollantaytambo was a major Inca fortress and one of the few places where the Spanish Conquistadors recorded a lost battle with the Incas. This is the optimal time to visit these ruins before the daily crowds of tourists arrive. Reaching Chilca and the trailhead our trek begins passing through small villages, where we may see the local *campesinos*, country people, going about their everyday lives, ploughing the land, herding their stock, or just passing time chewing coca leaves on the Plazas. Our trek begins walking along the valley with views down to the turbulent Vilcanota River and up to 19,000 foot Mount Veronica (Walka Wilqa). Shortly into our trek we will begin to walk on the famed Inca Trail retracing the steps of Hiram Bingham's 1915 journey when he cleared the jungle to discover the ruins of Machu Picchu. At the ancient the Inca City of Llactapata we will set our first camp. *B, L,D*

Day 4 Llactapata - Llulluchapampa

After breakfast we will begin our day following the currents of the Cusichaca River to the Quechua village of Huayllabamba. After lunch we begin our ascent through thick cloud forests to our camp set beneath the tomorrow's pass. Looking out from camp there are stunning views of the snow capped Andes. As well our choice to do the Inca Trail in five days insures we do not share our camp with many other trekkers.

Day 5 Llulluchapampa - Runkuracy

From camp we climb another two hours to the top of Warmiwanusqa Pass (13,500 ft). From pass there are breath taking views of Mount Huayanany. Passing through three distinct vegetation zones we descend to the Pacamayo River before climbing to our camp the Runkuracy, a circular Inca ruin that was probably a frontier outpost of the province. *B,L,D*

Day 7 Runkuracy -Phuyopatarca

Awaking in the morning we ascend over a second pass Abra de Runkuraqay (13,100 ft). From the pass we can take a spectacular optional side hike along the ridge toward the mountain of Salcantay. Walking along a well preserved Incan road we reach the ridge top outpost of Sayacmarca, with its restored Inca ritual baths and superb views of Palcay (18,480 feet) and Salcantay (20,568 feet). Continuing we pass through an elfin forest to reach Phuyopatarca, another splendid ridge top ruin. At 11,500 feet Puyupatarca was the "town above the clouds". From the ridge there are fantastic views of the Urubamba Valley. *B,L,D*

Day 8 Phuyopatarca-Machu Picchu

Descending into a thick cloud forest clinging to the mountainside we arrive at Winay Wayna (Forever Young). These are the last ruins on the Inca Trail before we arrive at Machu Picchu. Walking through the forest we reach a final long stone staircase and emerge at Intipunka, the Gate of the Sun for our first unforgettable view of the historical city of Machu Picchu, laid out in all its splendor below us. Arriving at noon we will take a guided tour of the ruins; including: the restored Palace of the Princess, Temple of the Sun, Temple of the Condor and the lost city's many altars, terraces, fountains and mysterious chambers. After our tour we will travel down to the small village of Aguas Calientes to our special hotel, the Machu Picchu Pueblo, with its wonderful orchid gardens, humming birds and spring water swimming pool. We will be able to spend some time wandering around the traditional market where we may buy handmade Alpaca sweaters, pottery and other lovely keepsakes. There will also be enough time to relax in the natural thermal baths close to the hotel. This evening we will have dinner at the Machu Picchu Pueblo on the terrace overlooking the beautiful gardens. Accommodations: Machu Picchu Pueblo *B,L,D*

Day 9 Machu Picchu-Cusco

We will return to Machu Picchu before the train arrives carrying the daily crowds of tourist and have the opportunity to climb Huayna Picchu (Young Peak- the rise behind Machu Picchu), hike to an old Incan bridge, or maybe just breathe in the calm and tranquility that makes this place so magical. In the late afternoon we will return to Cusco by train enjoying a fabulous view of the valley. Arriving in Cusco we check into the Libertador. The evening is free to explore Cusco on your own. **B**

Day 10 Cusco

Today is a free day in Cusco to explore, see the imposing Incan ruins and buy some last minute presents. Carolyn will be on hand to help anyone or share some of her favorite sites with you. In the evening we will meet for our final dinner at a traditional Peruvian restaurant with folk dancing and singing. A last chance to enjoy Cusco's legendary nightlife. Accommodations: Libertador Hotel *B,D*

Day 11 Cusco-Lima

Morning flight to Lima. After lunch we will take a tour of Lima's Gold Museum with its enormous collection of Pre Incan and Incan artifact, gold treasures and other Peruvian wonders. There will be day rooms available for people who would prefer an afternoon resting before the flight back home. In the evening we will transfer to the airport for our flight. *B*

Day 12 Arrive Home

Trip Cost: \$2200 (6-8 participants) \$2400 (3-5 participants) **Single Supplement:** \$500

Internal Peru Flights: \$200

All of our treks are limited to eight participants and fully supported with teams of guides, cooks, porters and a Trip Leader making them safe, comfortable and unforgettable adventures. We also limit the size of our treks to insure you will have the best experience possible. Unlike other company's that advertise small treks (16 people) ours really are small. It's a small group that will allow us to meet and interact with local people- not possible in larger groups. Guided by superb trip leaders with extensive backgrounds living and working with Peruvian people and traveling through out the country this trip is an incredible opportunity you could not receive with another company.

The cost of the trip will include everything while you are in Peru (unless note in the itinerary). This includes all trekking equipment, guides, pack animals, tours, lectures, accommodations in first-class hotels and top quality tents (3 nights Libertador, 1 night Posada del Inca, 1 night Machu Picchu Pueblo, 3 nights camping) food, permits, entrance fees, and ground transportation. The price does not include international air fares, visa fees, airport tax and personal expenses.