

A World Away Travels

adventure travel's complete experience...

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Mt. Salcantay and Machu Picchu Trek

June 22-July 3, 2001

July 27-August 7, 2001

Days 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 Monesterio, 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 and A World Away Travel's Regional Director, Carolyn Bointon. 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: Hotel Monasterio. *Day - 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 world's largest maize producing regions. En route to the spectacular ruins at Ollantaytambo, we will eat lunch at an inn and try the local Peruvian specialty of fresh trout from neighboring mountain lakes. Touring Ollantaytambo in the afternoon 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. In the evening 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*

Days 4-10 *Mt. Salcantay Trek*

The first day of trekking begins early with a scenic drive to the remote town of Mollepata where we begin our trek walking toward the humbling massifs of Mt. Salcantay (20, 574') and Mt. Huamantay (19, 239'). The old Inca Trail, the principal trading and transportation route of the Inca Empire, defines our route and remains the only accessible passageway into this remote mountain range of the Cordillera Vicabamba. The diverse array of ecological zones you will experience on this trek begins with high alpine valleys sheltered by glacial-capped peaks. These meadows make ideal pastures for the Llamas herded by the local population. As we ascend toward the base of Mt. Salcantay the vegetation becomes progressively more sparse. Green alpine meadows give way to the intermittent growth of the *paramo* which then yield gradually to the alpine desert grasslands of the Andean *puna*. Reaching the base of Mt. Salcantay we navigate around the massive glaciers extending from the peak and descend into a high-altitude tropical rainforest characterized by thickly forested undergrowth, flocks of parrots, countless species of butterflies, and hummingbirds. On the last day of the trek we walk north through the Urubamba River Valley with inconceivably terraced agricultural plots climbing high up the valley walls. Reaching the end of an abrupt

canyon we board a train for short but spectacular ride to Machu Picchu, the mysterious secret city of the Incas. *B, L, D each day on trek*

Days 10-11 Machu Picchu-Cusco

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*

Day 12 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 Monasterio. The evening is free to explore Cusco on your own. **B**

Day 13 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: Hotel Monasterio *B,D*

Day 14 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 15 Arrive Home

Trip Cost: \$2600 (6-8 participants) \$2800 (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 Hotel Monasterio, 1 night Posada del Inca, 1 night Machu Picchu Pueblo, 6 nights camping) meals noted in itinerary, permits, entrance fees, and ground transportation. The price does not include international air fares, visa fees, airport tax and personal expenses.