

A World Away Travels

adventure travel's complete experience...

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Peruvian Highlands **Monthly and Custom Departures**

December 29, 2000-January 7, 2001

January 14-23, 2001

February 18-27, 2001

March 25-April 3, 2001

April 27-May 6, 2001

June 15-24, 2001

July 13-22, 2001

August 24-September 2, 2001

Our Peruvian Highland's tour was designed for the traveler who wants to experience all of the splendors of Peru's Highland, but can only get away for a single week. Arriving in Lima we will fly over the Andes and land in the colonial city of Cusco. Once the heart of the ancient Inca civilization today Cusco is overflowing with history and vibrant local culture. From Cusco we visit the Urubamba Valley, "The Sacred Valley of the Incas", to explore its incredible collection of Inca Ruins. Our guide will lead us through the past of this civilization featuring the ruins of Pisac and Ollantaytambo. Our final destination the ruins of Machu Picchu., the "Lost City of the Incas" where we will visit 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. The focus of Peruvian Highland's is not exclusively Peru's mysterious past, but our tour discovers Peru's lively present by visiting local Quechan villages with their bustling markets, tasting local Andean dishes and listening to the sounds of indigenous music. The perfect chance to discover all that Peru's Highlands have to offer.

Day 1 *Depart the US*

Today you will take a late evening flight from the United States arriving in Lima early the following morning.

Day 2 *Arrive in Lima, Peru*

Arriving in Lima you will transfer from the airport to the Posada del Inca Hotel located in Miraflores. After resting in the hotel you will visit the Museo de la Nacion with its enormous collection of Pre Incan, and Inca artifacts, gold treasures and other Peruvian wonders before heading into the bustling streets of Lima for a dinner. This evening you will have a chance to sample the traditional Peruvian dish *Ceviche*, a tasty dish of fresh seafood marinated in tangy lemon juice that is slightly spicy. From the busy streets we will soon find a quiet area to relax and enjoy the very best that this city has to offer. Our hotel is in Miraflores situated next to the Pacific Coast. Filled with excellent restaurants, city parks and interesting architecture, Miraflores is the perfect location to spend your first night in Peru. Accommodations: Posada del Inca

Day 3 *Lima-Cusco*

Awaking early in the morning you will transfer to the airport. Your 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 you will transfer to the Monesterio, Cusco's finest hotel. Acclimatizing to the higher altitudes you 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 your trip with your guide and A World Away Travel's Regional Director, Carolyn Bointon. Cusco is considered the archaeological capitol of the Americas. Your insightful walking tour through the Cusco's narrow winding roads explores the city's Inca and colonial past. You will visit the Coricancha, Limaacpampa (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 dinner at Tunapa listening to the sounds of local musicians playing traditional Sierra music. A great first night in the Andes. Accommodations: Monesterio *B,D*

Day 4 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*

Day 5 Floating the Urubamba

Urubamba River Valley, high in the Peruvian Andes offer some wonderful moderate river rafting. Floating over the river's waters you will have a unique and beautiful perspective of one of the most culturally rich areas in Peru. Our journey down stream is marked with ancient Incan terraces, rarely visited ruins and the sounds of Quechan families herding cattle and actively working in their fields. Arriving at your take out you will enjoy a fantastic picnic lunch beside the river before heading back to the town of Pisac to enjoy its lively weekend market. Most of our departures will coincide with the market either today or upon arriving back from Machu Picchu. The rest of the evening is free to enjoy on your own. Accommodations: Posada Del Inca. *B,L*

Day 6 Sacred Valley- Machu Picchu

We have an early start to catch the express train to the magnificent ruins of Machu Picchu, where we will have 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*

Day 7 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 the Sacred Valley by train enjoying a fabulous view of the valley. Accommodations: Posada Del Inca *B*

Day 8 Sacred Valley-Maras-Cusco

Leaving the Sacred Valley we will visit the amazing salt pans at Maras, a huge area carved out of the hill side, where the locals have built hundreds of small pools to collect the salt left by the evaporation. In the sun these pools glisten a searing white brightness, sunglasses most definitely required! Bring your cameras, this is an superb photo opportunity. Later we visit the old Incan experimental terraces at Moray, a kind of sunken round garden, where the campesinos still grow their crops. After a picnic lunch we will visit the ruins at Chincheros, before arriving late afternoon in Cusco and settling back into our hotel. A last chance to enjoy the sights and sounds of Cusco, and maybe buy some last minute presents from the late night craft markets. 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: Monesterio *B,L,D*

Day 9 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 artifacts. 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 10 Arrive Home

Trip Cost: \$2300 (6-8 participants) \$2500 (2-5 participants) **Single Supplement:** \$500

Internal Peru Flights: \$200

All of our tours 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. All of our tours can be arranged for individuals as well as small groups for no additional charge.

The cost of the trip will include everything while you are in Peru (unless note in the itinerary). This guides, tours, lectures, accommodations in first-class hotels (1 night Posada del Inca- Miraflores, 2 nights 5-Star Monesterio, 3 nights Posada del Inca-Sacred Valley, 1 night Machu Picchu Pueblo) meals noted in itinerary, permits, entrance fees, and private ground transportation. The price does not include international air fares, visa fees, airport tax and personal expenses.