

# A World Away Travels

adventure travel's complete experience...

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## Peruvian Highlands and Galápagos Monthly and Custom Departures

January 14-February 1, 2001  
February 18-March 8, 2001  
March 25-April 12, 2001  
April 27-May 15, 2001  
June 15-July 3, 2001  
July 13-31, 2001  
August 24-September 11, 2001

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This trip combine's two of South America's most astonishing sights, the historical wonders of Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley with the natural wonders of the Galapagos Islands. After spending eight days exploring Peru's lively towns and dramatic ruins you travel from Peru's mountains to Ecuador's colonial capitol, Quito. From here we fly to the Galapagos for a five or six day cruise through these remarkable islands aboard the *Andando*. Sailing on a small vessel we will have an opportunity to take hikes along the coastal shores and into the island's interior hills, view wildlife from the water aboard small outboard boats, coast through the ocean in sea kayaks and snorkel with colonies of sea lions. Returning each evening to our luxurious boat and gourmet meals. Combined with the mysterious allure of Machu Picchu this trip is perfect combination of South America's fascinating culture and exotic wildlife. ***moderate touring***

### **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, 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 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 easy river travel. 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***

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-Quito**

Morning flight to Lima and connection to Quito, (9,300 feet), the colonial capitol of Ecuador, in the afternoon. Your guide will be at the airport and will help you transfer to the five star Hotel Colon. Centrally located the Colon is a meeting place for Ecuadorians. Accommodations: Hilton Hotel Colon *B*

### **Day 10 Quito**

After breakfast at the hotel today you will enjoy a walking tour of Quito's colonial center. Old Quito has been declared a national monument and today all of the buildings are painted in white with blue balconies and trim. Your tour features the old city visiting Independence Square, the San Francisco Monastery that was built of the remains of the Hauyna –Capacis Royal House in 1535, and El Panecillo, the most famous landmark in Colonial Quito from which it is possible to observe not only Quito, but also the snow-capped volcanoes that surround the city. After lunch the afternoon is free to further explore on your own. Quito has a number of art galleries and an impressive archeological museum. Accommodations: Hilton Colon Hotel *B*

## **Galápagos Cruise**

### **Day 11 Quito-Plaza**

In the morning you will transfer from the hotel to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos. The Galápagos are situated 600 miles off the shore of Ecuador. Your flight lands on the island of Baltra where you transfer to your motor or sailing yacht. After lunch on board we will begin our week-long trip through the Galápagos. Aboard small vessels you will be able to travel to places that the larger boats can not access; allowing you superb animal viewing experiences. Today we cruise to the island of Plaza. Plaza is a small island with steep cliffs and fascinating wildlife. Plaza is home to sea lion colonies as well as land and marine iguanas, swallow tailed gulls and red-billed tropic birds. *B,L,D*

### **Day 12 South Plaza-Santa Cruz-Santa Fe**

Today we visit the Islands and Santa Cruz and Santa Fe. Santa Cruz is one of the largest islands in the Galápagos. As well it is home to the Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora. In the lush highlands of Santa Cruz we will see giant tortoises and visit extinct volcano cones. The highlands are home to a wide variety of birds. We should see brightly colored vermilion flycatchers, yellow flycatchers, egrets, and several of Darwin's Galápagos finches. Returning to our boat we will visit Black Turtle Cove where we have a chance to see sharks, rays and, in season, green sea turtles. Our final stop for the day will be the island of Santa Fe with its frolicking sea lion populations and dramatic Opuntia Cactus. *B,L,D*

### **Day13 Santa Fe- Espanola**

The island of Espanola is a true highlight, nearly all of the species found on this island are visible from Puenta Suarez, including: Albatross colonies, mocking birds, unusual red and green trimmed marine iguanas, and both blue footed and masked boobies. In the evening we will set anchor along one of Gardner Bay's beautiful beaches. *B,L,D*

### **Day 14 Espanola-Florena**

From the Punta Commerant we walk to a flamingo lagoon, where the species nest showing off their bright pink colors. The lagoon also hosts species of Galápagos Ducks and many other varieties of shore birds. In the afternoon we will snorkel at nearby Devils' Crown, an almost completely submerged volcano known for its brightly colored coral and tropical fish. Our day ends dropping a letter off at Post Office Bay, where in the 18<sup>th</sup> century whalers opened an unofficial post office in a barrel, for other visitors to take home and deliver their mail. *B,L,D*

### **Day 15 Florena-Isabella**

The largest island in the Galápagos, Isabella also has the highest peak, Volcano Wolf which rises more than 5,000 feet above sea level. This island has some of the most remote visitor sites including Punta Morena with its flamingos in an oasis among barren lava fields and flightless cormorants on the rocky shores. In the afternoon we will travel by panga through lush mangroves and small islets to view turtles and penguins. *B,L,D*

### **Day 16 Isabella-Fernandina**

Before leaving the waters of Isabella we will visit Urbina Bay with its Land Iguanas and Giant tortoises. Fernandina may be the Galápagos' most virgin island. Here the impressive black volcanic rock formations are covered with marine iguanas sunning themselves. Sea lions dash in and out of the inlets and cormorants walk tipsily along the beaches, between pelicans and penguins. *B,L,D*

### **Day 17 Fernandina-Santiago**

Off the coast of Santiago we will visit two smaller islands, Rabida and Bartalome. Radida with its volcanic red sand beaches and bachelor sea lions is our first stop before visiting Bartalome off the eastern shore of Santiago. Jutting out of Sullivan Bay, Pinnacle Rock with its spectacular view of the Galápagos is the archipelagos most frequented island. In the afternoon we will have a chance to snorkel with penguins and climb the island's volcano. *B,L,D*

### **Day 18 Return to Quito**

Our week long exploration of the Galápagos ends at Baltra where we will catch a flight to Quito. The afternoon is free to relax before our final dinner in downtown Quito. Accommodations: Hotel Colon *B,L,D*

### **Day 19 Depart Ecuador**

In the morning you will catch a flight home. *B*

**Trip Cost:** \$3700 (6-8 participants) \$4200 (2-5 participants) **Single Supplement:** \$700 in towns only-not available on yachts.

**Internal Flights:** \$700-\$800 Subject to Change

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.

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, 3 nights Hilton Colon Hotel , 7 nights aboard a chartered sailing vessel or motor cruiser) food (37 noted in itinerary), entrance fees, and ground transportation, permits, entrance fees, and private ground transportation. The price does not include international air fares, visa fees, airport tax and personal expenses.

The price does not include international air fares, airport tax, Galapagos Park Fee, and personal expenses