

MACHU PICCHU TRAIN TOUR AND LAKE TITICACA TOUR

Magnificent Scenery & Thrilling Railway Journeys Through Peru for Train Enthusiasts

15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS

This multifaceted Peru train tour combines the highlights of Peru. Starting in the capital city of Lima, venture to Huancayo and Huancavelica by railway. Next, fly to Lake Titicaca and visit the floating Uros Islands before boarding the Belmond Andean Explorer overnight train to Cuzco. From Cuzco, visit the Sacred Valley and board the train to Machu Picchu.

Many routes of this tour, which is specially designed for rail travel enthusiasts, will follow the Andean railway for an unforgettable and adventurous experience. You will get a comprehensive look at the culture and history of Peru and the railways.

This tour is subject to train availability; confirm departure dates and details with one of our Travel Consultants.

<p>FROM \$3620 per person</p>	<p>THIS TOUR INCLUDES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All train rides and transfers • All tours and entrance fees • 14 nights in hotels • All breakfasts • Other meals as mentioned in itinerary • English-speaking guides 	<p>HIGHLIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lima & Cuzco City Tour • Train tour to Huancayo and Huancavelica • Train through the Sacred Valley of the Incas • Machu Picchu Tour • Train Puno to Cuzco • Lake Titicaca Tour & La Paz
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ITINERARY



Day 1 **ARRIVE IN LIMA**

On this Peru tour, once you arrive in the Lima airport, your travel guide will greet you and take you to your 4* Casa Andina Select Miraflores Hotel, located in the coastal neighborhood of Miraflores. Relax in the hotel's jacuzzi, salon & spa, or gym. Or you may want to explore the district of Miraflores, which has lots of shops and a beautiful *malecón*, or boardwalk that overlooks the Pacific Ocean.



Day 2

LIMA CITY TOUR

Enjoy a breakfast in the hotel, and then head out on a guided Lima city tour. Lima is called the "City of Kings," because the Spanish conquistadors made Lima the capital of their Spanish empire. Today, the historic district of Lima is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Plaza de Armas seems like a step back in time.

This 3 hour Lima city tour begins with an excursion to the pre-Columbian highlights of the city, such as the *Huaca Pucllana* ruins, a magnificent ceremonial and archaeological center built in the 4th century AD and considered a sacred site by the Incas. Then visit the historic district, where you can appreciate the monuments and colonial-era buildings, including the *Paseo de la República*, the San Martín Square, the Plaza de Armas, the Government Palace, the Archbishop's Palace, the Cathedral Basilica, and the City Council Palace amongst others. Next, visit the Museum of the Central Bank Reserve to admire a fine selection of objects made of gold, ceramics, and textiles from pre-Columbian cultures.

Lastly, visit the traditional residential areas of Lima, such as *El Olivar* of San Isidro, Miraflores and the mall Larcomar, with its spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean. Afterward, return to your Lima hotel and spend the rest of the day at your leisure.



Day 3

FLY TO HUANCAYO & MANTARO VALLEY ARTISANS TOUR

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before transferring to the Lima International Airport for your flight to Huancayo.

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel in downtown Huancayo and get ready for your Mantaro Valley Artisans Tour. This valley is one of Peru's most important agricultural regions and boasts stunning Andean landscapes. Andean villages are scattered throughout the valley, visit a few of the festive markets. Visit a pottery workshop in Aco, where potters create masterful vases and handicrafts. Continue to Matacruz, a perfect viewing point to see the snow-capped Huaytapallana Mountains. Next, stop is the Ñahuimpuquio Lagoon, along the way stop at the pre-Inca archaeological site of Arwaturu. Also visit an artisan's workshop in Cochabamba, where they specialize in decorative carved gourds. Lastly, visit two more workshops, including a textiles shop in Hualhuas and a silver shop in San Jeronimo. After seeing all these places where Peruvian handicrafts are produced, transfer back to the hotel in the beautiful Mantaro Valley.



Day 4

TRAIN RIDE TO HUANCAMELICA ON THE TREN MACHO

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and then transfer to the train station of Huancayo to board the famous "Tren Macho". This adventure train ride takes you from Huancayo to Huancavelica following the Mantaro river through tunnels and past stunning mountainous landscapes complete with several stops along the way.

Upon arrival in Huancavelica, your guide will greet you and take you on a tour through the colonial town. This town was made famous for its silver and mercury mines. Today, Huancavelica conserves much of its colonial heritage. Visit the Santa Barbara mines, drive past green pastures and snap some photos at different magnificent viewpoints along the tour. Return to Huancavelica in the evening and spend the rest of the night at your leisure.



Day 5

TRANSFER FROM HUANCATELICA TO HUANCAYO

After breakfast at your hotel take a private transfer back to Huancayo. This transfer includes a few special stops along the way. Visit the old Hacienda Santa Rosa and the Sachapite to see its spectacular rock formations. Take in the beautiful Andean landscapes before arriving at the town of Izcuchaca, famous for its charming old Colonial bridge. Arrival in Huancayo in the late afternoon and transfer to the hotel in the Mantaro Valley.



Day 6

HUANCAYO TRAIN TO LIMA

Today the train journey continues; transfer to the Huancayo Train Station for your train ride back to Lima. This railway crossing the Andes between Huancayo and Lima is a great engineering achievement of the 19th century. The 13-hour journey begins in the plentiful and green Mantaro Valley and climbs to the highlands over the snow-covered Cordillera to slowly descend to the desert before following the coast to Lima. The train crosses 68 bridges (such as Carrion and Infiernillo), passes through 71 rock tunnels - including, La Galera on the highest point of the journey at 4,781 meters - and climbs 21 switchbacks. Arrive in Lima in the evening and check into your hotel for the night.



Day 7

FLY TO PUNO & VISIT THE SILLUSTANI RUINS

In the morning your guide will take you from your hotel in Lima to the airport to catch your flight to Puno. Upon arrival, your guide will meet you at the airport to take you to Puno. En route visit the Chullpas de Sillustani ruins. These "chullpas" are funerary towers that date back to the 13th century. The tallest tower is roughly 12 meters high. From these towers you can enjoy an impressive view of Lago Umayo.

In the afternoon, arrive to your hotel in Puno and spend the rest of the day at your leisure.



Day 8

LAKE TITICACA TOUR & CRUISE

After breakfast overlooking Lake Titicaca, take a full day Uros & Taquille Islands tour including lunch. First stop at the floating islands of Uros, where expert reedcraftsmen have constructed islands, boats, huts, and other objects out of the totora reed that grows around the lake. The Uros people are descendants of the oldest people in the region, although many have mixed with the Aymara and now speak their language.

Continue navigating through the lake, stopping at the island of Taquille. This beautiful island is home to Quechua-speaking indigenous people, who are known for their mastery of textiles and weaving abilities. Eat lunch at a restaurant on the island, and then spend some free time walking around the island or visiting with the locals. Return to Puno in the late afternoon.



Day 9

TRAIN RIDE TO CUZCO ON THE BELMOND ANDEAN EXPLORER

Embark on the ultimate luxurious train adventure aboard the Belmond Andean Explorer. Explore the Peruvian Andes aboard the world's highest train routes in South America's first luxury sleeper train. Step aboard in the afternoon and unwind in your plush cabin. Enjoy a delicious lunch and enjoy the fine dining experience of refined Andean cuisine. Disembark for an excursion through the scenic La Raya mountain range, an area of rugged and untamed natural beauty. Return to the train for tea and relax as the journey continues. Soak up the scenery from the Observation Car, or perhaps get to know your fellow travelers over cocktails in the Lounge Car. As evening descends return to the restaurant car for a sensational dinner as the train continues on its journey into the Cuzco region.



Day 10

TRAIN RIDE TO CUZCO AND PISAC MARKET & OLLANTAYTAMBO TOUR

Awake early to a delicious breakfast, the ideal way to prepare for the day ahead. Savor the panoramic views as the train journeys into Cuzco, a colorful city that was once the capital of the Inca empire. All too soon the journey comes to an end. Bid farewell to your crew and disembark for your onward travel arrangements. Upon arrival in Cuzco, meet your guide that will take you on a full day tour of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Follow the Urubamba river in the valley to the towns of Pisac and Ollantaytambo. First stop is the Pisac Market, famous for its handmade crafts, including, alpaca wool sweaters, textiles and even watercolor paintings. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before continuing to Ollantaytambo, known for its imposing cliffside ruins built by the Incas. The town is the only one that has been in continuous operation since the time of the Incas. Enjoy a tour of the ruins and breathtaking views of the valley, before checking into your hotel for the evening. Stay at a hotel in the tranquil Sacred Valley.

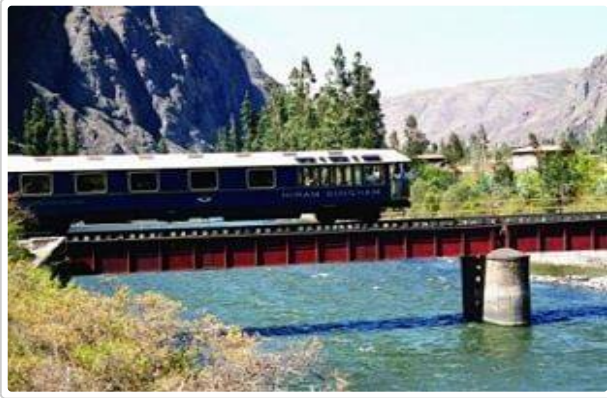


Day 11

CHINCHERO, MARAS & MORAY TOUR

Visit 3 highlights of the Sacred Valley on this full-day tour: Chinchero, Maras, and Moray. First visit Maras, a village set on a plateau, famous for its salt pans. The brilliant white salt is drained into “pans” or shallow pools built into the hills, where it then dries in the sun before it is harvested. Salt has been extracted for hundreds of years, even during the reign of the Inca Empire. After learning about salt production and exploring the Maras salt pans, continue on to Moray. This nearby site was also in use during the Inca Empire. The circular terraces of Moray were used to produce different types of crops, in a sort of agricultural laboratory. The terraces cover a range of microclimates.

Finish the tour in the village of Chinchero, which boasts a 400-year old adobe church, adobe brick houses, locals wearing traditional dress, and Inca ruins. The Chinchero Inca ruins include a massive stone wall with a geometric pattern similar to that of Sacsayhuaman. All along the way, you’ll be treated to views of the snow-capped Andes Mountains surrounding the altiplano.



Day 12

TRAIN TO MACHU PICCHU & MACHU PICCHU TOUR

Enjoy an early breakfast in the hotel, and then transfer to the train station for the 2 hour train ride through the Urubamba River valley to Aguas Calientes, the town at the foot of Machu Picchu. Take the shuttle bus up from the town to the entrance of Machu Picchu, the most remarkable remnant of Inca stonework and architecture.

This "city in the sky" was built high up on a mountain side, above the Urubamba River, and there are verdant mountains looming up above the river on all sides. Built in the 15th century, Machu Picchu was so well tucked into the cloud forests of Peru, on the edge of the Amazon Rainforest, that the Spanish conquistadores never found it during their raze. For centuries, it fell into neglect, until the American Hiram Bingham sought it out with the help of local farmers and guides. He published a story about his findings of this Inca masterpiece in the National Geographic, and it has been a world wonder ever since.

Your Machu Picchu guide will take you on a 3 hour guided tour of the ruins, and you'll also have free time to explore this stone city on your own. In the afternoon, return to town of Aguas Calientes, and spend the night in Aguas Calientes. Alternatively, you can take the 4 hour train back to Cuzco and spend the night there.



Day 13

FREE DAY AT MACHU PICCHU & RETURN TO CUZCO

Have breakfast in the Hatuchay Tower, and then return to the magnificent Machu Picchu citadel for a second day. This time, you will be able to see Machu Picchu right as it opens, before the crowds rush in. If the skies are clear, you may also be able to see the sun rises, and slowly burn off the fog that surrounds the beautiful Inca stones. If you feel adventurous, you may want to hike the trail to Huaynu Picchu, which allows you to get a view of Machu Picchu from the cliff that rises up behind Machu Picchu. When you are ready, return to Aguas Calientes and catch the train back to Cuzco.

Arrive at the Cuzco train station in the afternoon, and your driver will transfer you to your hotel. Relax in the hotel or walk along the streets and go people-watching in the Plaza de Armas.



Day 14

CUZCO CITY TOUR AND DINNER & FOLKLORE SHOW

Have breakfast in the hotel and meet your guide for a 4 hour Cuzco City Tour. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Cuzco was the capital of the Inca Empire until the Spanish conquest. Discover the fascinating historical and cultural legacy of the Incas in the capital of the Inca Empire on this Cuzco city tour. Visit Korikancha, known as the Temple of the Sun during the Inca Empire, and now the site of the Santo Domingo Convent. Visit the beautiful Cathedral, which faces the Plaza de Armas in the heart of downtown Cuzco. Continuing to the ruins of Sacsayhuaman, located above the city, and enjoy a spectacular view of Cuzco below. Follow the road up to several other Inca stone ruins, including Q'enqo, Puca Pucara and Tambomachay. At the end of the tour, return to your hotel in Cuzco.



Day 15

DEPARTURE FROM CUZCO

Eat breakfast at the hotel, and then meet your driver for the transfer to the Cuzco Airport. Catch your flight home or to your next destination in South America.