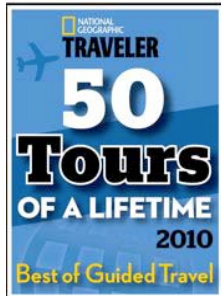




Discover Peru

Machu Picchu and so much more... bike in the Sacred Valley, hike to incredible Incan ruins, and kayak Lake Titicaca at 12,500 feet to Isla Taquile



Aventouras received the prestigious honor of having its Discover Peru 10-day adventure recognized as one of National Geographic Traveler's "50 Tours of a Lifetime" for 2010. The selection process for the Tour of a Lifetime is highly competitive and the National Geographic Traveler team awards the most authentic, most innovative, most immersive, best-guided, and most sustainable tours.

Peru boasts one of the most spectacular ruins in the world — Machu Picchu — reason enough to journey to this incredible country. But Peru offers so much more to the adventurous traveler. After meeting in Lima, we travel to the continent's oldest continually inhabited city, Cusco, with its narrow, lively streets and foundations of original Inca stonework. From there we mountain bike, hike, and journey by train through the Sacred Valley towards Machu Picchu, sampling largely unknown ruins, markets, and Andean life along the way.

Hiking the Royal Inca Trail brings us to Machu Picchu and affords us incredible views of the ruins and nearby mountains and rivers before we spend a day touring the site. Our next stop, Lake Titicaca, is at just over 12,500 feet and the highest navigable lake in the world. We'll stay at local guest houses and kayak to Isla Taquile — an island with no roads or cars, and electricity in only a few solar-powered buildings — to experience another side of this diverse country.

Day 1: Arrive in Lima and transfer to La Hacienda in Miraflores

We meet in Peru's capital, the colonial city of Lima, and transfer to the lively Miraflores section of the city. Known as the city of kings, Lima was founded in 1535 by Francisco Pizarro and is one of the very few South American cities that has preserved the colonial past. La Hacienda, our home for the night, is a modern hotel situated just a few blocks from the lively center of Miraflores, with its shops, nightspots, and sidewalk cafes. Those arriving early may add a private or group tour of the Pachacamac Ruins and/or colonial Lima including the cathedral, dating from 1654; the main square, which still houses the original bronze fountain built in 1650; and the San Francisco Monastery and its catacombs.

- Transfer from Jorge Chavez Airport to La Hacienda Hotel, Miraflores (half hour)
- Optional additional tour of Pachacamac Ruins and/or colonial and modern Lima (not included in trip price)
- Overnight La Hacienda in Miraflores (www.hoteleslahacienda.com) or at the Costa del Sol (www.costadelsolperu.com) for later arrivals

Day 2: Flight to Cusco, explore Inca ruins and ancient city

This morning we have breakfast at our hotel before the flight to Cusco. On the hour-long flight we climb away from Lima and over the rugged Andes mountains, before quickly beginning our descent to Cusco, the continent's oldest continually inhabited city and an archeological wonder. Dating back to the 12th century, Cusco's narrow streets are lined with buildings with Inca stone walls forming their foundations. The streets hum with activity, and as it is an international travel destination, you'll see travelers from around the world mixing with bustling local life. Cusco sits at an elevation of almost 11,000 feet, requiring us to take it easy for the first day while we acclimate. But this won't stop us from an exciting day!

We transfer from the airport to our hotel, the perfectly located Casa San Blas, situated two blocks from the main square. After a welcome drink of the local coca tea to help us acclimate, we'll enjoy lunch at the Aldea Yanapay (a fun and delicious restaurant where the proceeds from lunch help fund social projects for at-risk children of Cusco) followed by a walk to a few of the city's most fascinating sights. We'll then venture outside the city to two or three of the Inca ruins near town, including Sacsayhuaman, a pre Inca architectural masterpiece overlooking the city of Cusco; Kenko, a rock sanctuary whose main attraction is the monolithic altar representing a puma; the red fortress of Puca-Pucara; and Tambomachay. After the tour, we return to Cusco with time to explore the city or relax for an hour before dinner at a local restaurant that is a favorite of Cusquenos.

- Morning flight over the Andes to Cusco
- Lunch at Aldea Yanapay (www.aldeayanapay.org) and city tour
- Walking tour of Inca ruins outside the city
- Dinner at a local favorite restaurant
- Overnight Casa San Blas in Cusco (www.casasanblas.com)

Day 3: Hike to rarely-visited Incan ruins of Pumamarca and visit the ruins of Ollantaytambo

After breakfast we leave Cusco and enter the Sacred Valley en route to the town of Ollantaytambo (approximately 1 ¾ hour drive). It's a stunning drive through the countryside with small villages, grazing livestock and a backdrop of the high snow-capped peaks of the Andes. We'll pass through the central plaza of Ollantaytambo and head northeast out of town (a

direction not many tourists venture) for about another 15-20 minutes through some small rural villages to reach the base of the hill below the Incan Ruins of Pumamarca. From there we will hike up (1 - 1 ½ hours) to the rarely-visited Incan ruins and enjoy the views of the valley below, the snow-capped peaks beyond, and learn about the history of the Inca. After a picnic lunch we'll hike back down to the awaiting vehicle for a short drive back to the town of Ollantaytambo.

In the afternoon we'll visit the ruins on the edge of Ollantaytambo. The ruins are well worth the guided tour that we'll take for the next hour or so as our guide explains the last undefeated bastion of the Incas. After the tour we'll return to the hotel before eating dinner at one of our favorite local restaurants.

- Breakfast at the Casa San Blas in Cusco
- Hike to the rarely visited Inca ruins of Pumamarca
- Tour of the ruins of Ollantaytambo and the town
- Dinner at Puka Rumi in Ollantaytambo
- Overnight at the Pakaritampu Hotel in Ollantaytambo (www.pakaritampu.com)

Day 4: Bike through the Peruvian countryside to visit the unique ruins of Moray, the town and salt pans of Maras

Having acclimated for two days to the high elevation, today we set out by mountain bike across the Peruvian countryside to several unique, rarely visited destinations. After a full breakfast at our hotel, we depart by van from Ollantaytambo to get out into the Peruvian countryside of the Sacred Valley.

After getting fitted for our bicycles and a short briefing, we start our supported ride, which over the next several hours, and with several stops, will take us a total of 22 miles on back roads and trails. We first ride back roads for about two hours, climbing several hills, and witnessing serendipitous scenes of rural Andean life, before arriving at the Inca site of Moray. This is a fascinating, unique ruin; a fabulous amphitheatre of terraces that was used as an agricultural experimental site by the Incas by taking advantage of the microclimates produced by the varying altitude to breed new varieties of their crops. We'll spend about an hour here, including a picnic lunch.

After lunch we leave the back roads and transition to a two track road that later becomes a walking trail. The route is mostly flat and downhill, with one steep and fairly technical downhill followed by a short but steep uphill. Those not yet acclimated may walk these short sections, or choose to ride in the support vehicle. After riding for about 45 minutes we reach the village of Maras, a town that sees few tourists.

After the town, we have a mostly downhill ride to the salt pans of Maras. The salt pans are an unforgettable site—people from Maras have diverted a salt-laden spring coming out of the hillside, evaporating the water to collect salt, as their ancestors have done for centuries. We'll walk among the salt pans, witnessing a scene largely unchanged from Incan times.

After Maras, and then again after the salt pans, the riding gets a bit more technical. Many riders choose to walk at least part of the trail; others choose to enjoy the countryside while riding in the support van. Whether riding a bike, riding in the van, or walking, we will all rejoin in the Sacred Valley town of Urubamba. From there we will drive one half hour to return to Ollantaytambo for a well-deserved dinner and overnight accommodations at the Pakaritampu.

- Breakfast at Pakaritampu Hotel
- Bike through the Peruvian countryside, through small towns and back roads, and optional technical sections, 22 miles total
- Tour of the unique experimental agricultural terracing site of Moray
- Visit to the salt pans, witnessing a scene largely unchanged for centuries
- Dinner in town of Ollantaytambo at Mayupata
- Overnight at Pakaritampu Hotel in Ollantaytambo (www.pakaritampu.com)

Day 5: Train to Aguas Calientes and hikes around Machu Picchu

This morning we have an early wake up and breakfast (approximately 6:45) in order to catch the train headed to Machu Picchu. Our hotel is well situated, so we're only a five-minute walk from the train station, where we'll catch the train around 8:15. We'll board the train, taking in stunning views of the mountains all around, with snowcapped peaks in the distance as we slowly lose elevation and head into high altitude cloud forest. Our destination, the Machu Picchu gateway town of Aguas Calientes, is reachable only by train or air and is nestled among stunning steep mountains shrouded in cloud forest.

We have three exceptional hiking options today. The first is the Royal Inca trail, for which we depart the train (at KM 104) before reaching Aguas Calientes. This is a six-mile, fairly strenuous hike with a 1500 foot climb to the ruins of Wiñay Wayna. The remainder of the trail is fairly flat or downhill to Machu Picchu; arriving at the Sun Gate gives us the sense of entering the fabled lost city the same way the Incas did centuries ago. Although we'll pass through Machu Picchu, we'll wait until tomorrow for our tour of the ruins; today we'll take the bus down to Aguas Calientes and our hotel for the night.

The Inca Trail is tightly regulated, and hiking it requires advance notice of at least 3 months, and often more in the high season. For those people not signed up in time to hike the Inca Trail, or those who want a slightly shorter option, we have two alternative hike options.

For both of these options, we'll stay on the train until it arrives in Aguas Calientes at ten o'clock, check into our hotel, and meet for our hike at 10:30. The first option is a hike from Machu Picchu to the Sun Gate (Inti Punko). For this option we will take a bus from Aguas Calientes to the entrance of Machu Picchu. From the entrance to Machu Picchu it is about an hour hike up to the Sun Gate where we can relax and take in the stunning views of Machu Picchu, the valley, and the high peaks before heading back down to Machu Picchu. We will return by bus from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes where we will meet up with the rest of the group for dinner.

The second option takes in the scenery from ground level. From Aguas Calientes, we'll walk out of town along the road, and then pick up the railroad tracks which follow the river when the road ends. From here we view the steep mountain cliffs all around, jutting straight into the sky far above. After about an hour along the river we'll turn away from the river and head up a side stream toward the Mandor Waterfall. Although we are hiking in the Machu Picchu sanctuary, there are some homesteads scattered throughout, and as we get away from the river we pass through an orchard with fruit trees before transitioning into cloud forest. About 20 minutes later we reach the waterfall, with a small pool nearby that allows a quick swim before or after our picnic lunch. We'll retrace our steps back to town, with a total hiking time of about five hours.

Both of the hikes from Aguas Calientes will allow us to return to our hotel in time to explore the town. All three groups will meet for dinner in town or in our hotel.

- Morning Vista Dome train ride to Aguas Calientes
- Three hiking options: the Royal Inca trail, hike from Machu Picchu to the Sun Gate, or Mandor Waterfall
- Dinner in town or at hotel
- Overnight El Mapi (or similar) (www.elmapihotel.com)

Day 6: Tour of Machu Picchu and return to Cusco

Yesterday we enjoyed fantastic views of Machu Picchu, today we see the ruins up close in our half-day guided tour. Machu Picchu was built by the Inca Pachacutec, and is comprised of stone blocks fitted with masterful precision to create structures that harmoniously blend into the mountain landscape. This fabulous city has houses, temples, warehouses, and a large central square, all connected by narrow roads and steps, and is surrounded by terraces cut into the mountainside which were used for agriculture. The setting is simply stunning—no photos that you have seen do it justice. We'll rise early to arrive at the ruins before the day trippers, experiencing the ruins in quiet and relative solitude. After a three-hour tour we'll break for lunch, and then we are free to further explore the ruins on our own, or hike a trail behind the ruins that gives an up-close panoramic view of the ruins. In the late afternoon we'll meet for our bus ride back down to Aguas Calientes, and catch the train back to Cusco at 3:30. We will stop for dinner at the El Albergue Restaurant in Ollantaytambo en route back to Cusco.

- Early morning departure for Machu Picchu
- Three-hour guided tour of the ruins
- Lunch at the ruins
- Afternoon hike above Machu Picchu, additional time wandering the ruins, or time to explore the town of Aguas Calientes
- Dinner at El Albergue Restaurant (or similar) in Ollantaytambo
- Overnight Casa San Blas in Cusco (www.casasanblas.com)

Day 7: Cusco to Llachon (on the shores of Lake Titicaca)

After breakfast we depart from Cusco en route to the village of Llachon on the shore of Lake Titicaca. After several days of intense activity, today we'll rest up a little and soak in the sights, culture, history, rural life, incredible views of snowcapped peaks and visit pre-Incan ruins along the way.

After a short drive (about ½ hour) we'll arrive in Andahuaylilla, a pretty Andean village, where we visit the main square and the colonial church, known as the Sistine Chapel of Peru. The church dates back to the 17th century and has many carvings and paintings as well as the canvas of the Immaculate Conception. Allegedly, there are several gold and silver treasures locked in the church. While we can't confirm if these rumors are true or not, we do know that the villagers take turns guarding the church 24 hours a day and take their jobs very seriously.

We continue our drive along the Vilcanota River to Sicuani and visit the Incan ruins of Raqchi, with its important temple and surrounding pre - Inca structures. The village of Raqchi is wrapped around Incan ruins that are the remains of the Temple of Viracocha, one of the holiest shrines in the Inca Empire. Although the Spanish destroyed much of it, the 22 stone block columns that once supported the largest-known Incan roof still remain. Raqchi is also well known for its potters--many of the ceramics you find in the Pisac and Chinchero markets come from the potters in Raqchi. At Raqchi, which will be our longest stop of the day, we'll walk into the site, visit the temple and the ruins, and shop for some of the ceramics produced in the region.

Next, we pass through Sicuani, a bustling market town of approximately 12,000 people and make our way over the Abra La Raya pass (the high pass that marks the boundary between the departments of Cusco and Puno) and enter the high plateau region, also known as puna. Abra La Raya Pass is the watershed between the valley that drains into Lake Titicaca and the valley that leads down to Cusco and the Sacred Valley. The altitude is approximately 14,232 feet and the views of the snowcapped peaks are simply breathtaking (both literally and figuratively).

We continue past the villages of Santa Rosa and Ayaviri and stop in Pucara, where we will visit the pre-Inca site and small museum. Pucara was one of the first pre-Inca settlements and was later occupied by the Incas. Today Pucara is a small village of approximately 675 inhabitants. It is known for the La Virgen del Carmen festival held in mid-July, the earth-colored pottery produced here, and the pre-Incan site of Kalasaya.

After our stop in Pucara, we detour around Juliaca to arrive at the small village of Llachon, our home for the night, on a peninsula of Lake Titicaca in time for sunset. Lake Titicaca, known as the world's highest navigable lake, sits at an elevation of 12,565 feet. Here we experience the real Peru, as we are received by several families in Llachon who have built small casitas (guesthouses) for visitors, where we will have dinner and spend the night.

- Breakfast in Cusco
- Visit the towns, pre-Inca ruins, ceramics in Andahuaylilla, Raqchi, and Pucara
- Breathtaking views of snowcapped mountains atop Abra La Raya Pass at 14,232 feet
- Arrive in Llachon, on the shores of Lake Titicaca, for dinner and overnight at guesthouse built by the community

Day 8: Kayaking across Lake Titicaca to Isla Taquile

This morning, we don kayaking jackets, spray skirts, and life vests and receive a quick kayaking lesson for our paddle along the peninsula and across the channel to Isla Taquile. Kayaking the clear blue water of a huge lake sitting at 12,500 feet is an unforgettable experience. We'll pass village life on the shores of the peninsula, then as we head across the channel to Isla Taquile we gain our first views across the full distance of the lake. Our total paddle distance is about five and a half miles, and in our stable sea kayaks, we'll take our time and perhaps take a break on the water or a beach for a snack. Upon reaching Isla Taquile, we'll walk about 20 minutes, less than a mile, to the community perched on a hillside facing across the lake into Bolivia, where we'll have lunch. After lunch we'll settle into our rooms, and perhaps take an early afternoon break to help acclimate to being nearly 13,000 feet above sea level. Later on we'll have the opportunity to walk a half-hour to the main town in the middle of the island and up the hill to the top of the island for a 360-degree view of the lake.

Isla Taquile is a popular tourist destination, as people visit to see the customs and traditions of life on an island with no cars, no roads, no bicycles, and little electricity – only a few buildings have solar panels. The Aymara community prides itself on its fine decorative weavings; the men wear knitted hats whose colors signify whether they are married or single. They often knit while carrying on conversations, business, or other aspects of daily life. But almost all the tourists visit on a short day trip by motor boat from the mainland; our overnight stay and schedule means that we'll see few tourists, and indeed see a side of the island that few people see.

After our walk across the island, we'll head back to a candlelit dinner. As night settles in, the temperature drops, and on a clear night the stars at this elevation are stunning. We'll adopt a

schedule similar to the islanders, going to bed early under the thick blankets used to ward off the high elevation chill.

- Optional morning walk around Llachon
- Kayak instruction and five-mile paddle across Lake Titicaca to Isla Taquile, accompanied by a support boat
- Lunch at a local family restaurant
- Walk across Taquile, witnessing customs and culture of island life
- Dinner and overnight with a local island family

Day 9: Taquile Island-Uros-Puno

After breakfast, we board our boats again for our half-day kayaking adventure around Taquile, affording fabulous views of the hills and mountains surrounding the highest navigable lake in the world. We'll stop for a snack on a beach about halfway into our 9.5 mile paddle. After a picnic lunch on the beach we'll rejoin the support boat for a ride back to the lakeside city of Puno, stopping along the way for a visit to the floating islands of Uros. The floating islands, constructed from the reeds that grow around the lake, date from centuries ago when people started living on them as a way to avoid conflict with other civilizations living around the lake.

After our visit we re-board our motor boat for our final trip across Lake Titicaca, arriving at the lakeside city of Puno for transfer to our hotel. Tonight is our last night together, and we'll end with dinner in a traditional Peruvian restaurant near the town plaza.

- Optional morning walk around Isla Taquile
- Kayak around the island, up to 9.5 miles with option to ride the support boat some or all the way
- Picnic lunch on a beach
- Motor boat to lakeside city of Puno, with a stop on the floating islands of Uros
- Dinner at a traditional Peruvian restaurant
- Overnight Hotel Hacienda (or similar) in Puno (www.lahaciendapuno.com)

Day 10: Puno - Lima - Home

After breakfast and the option to enjoy an informal walk around Puno and a visit to the local market for a last chance to buy alpaca sweaters and scarves, we'll visit the ruins of Silustani and drive through yet a different countryside with its unique courtyard-designed homes. Afterward we drive on to Juliaca for our flight back to Lima. This flight crosses the Andes and stops en route in Arequipa, providing us a glimpse from the air of a very different part of Peru. We'll land in Lima around five o'clock. Because most flights from Lima to the United States are overnight flights departing around midnight, this gives us time for a final dinner in Lima for anyone who would like to leave the airport for a few hours. Guests also have the option to stay over in Miraflores for the night and enjoy a city tour as an extension. The dinner, overnight, and city tours are not included in the price of the trip, but we would be glad to arrange them.

Alternate shortened itinerary

For those guests who wish to experience Peru but can't spare the full ten days, we offer the alternative of ending the trip on Day 7 with a flight from Cusco to Lima, and then onward home over that night. Guests choosing this option leave the tour, which continues onward to Llachon and Lake Titicaca. If staying over in Lima for an extra day, guests will be met by a tour company representative at the airport for transfer to the hotel, and a Lima city tour can be arranged. The price given below for this option does not include staying overnight or the city tour.

About Discover Peru activities

Aventouras trips are active, designed for people who want a lively vacation with a variety of activities. We do not expect guests to have experience in the included activities, nor do these activities require a significant amount of learning or technical understanding. We recognize that not all guests may want to take part in all activities, or may have varying comfort levels with certain activities, and alternatives are available in almost all cases. Discover Peru is an action-oriented trip intended for the average active adult who feels comfortable being active 3-6 hours a day; activities include:

- Walking tour of ruins near Cusco: Normally a walking tour wouldn't qualify as a level of activity needing mention, but when the walking is at over 11,000 feet elevation, it becomes a workout! We'll drink coca tea to help with acclimation. (See note about elevation below.)
- Hiking to the ruins of Pumamarca: The hike up to the ruins takes 1- 1 ½ hours and the elevation gain is approximately 1500 feet and the descent will take slightly less time. We'll take our time and enjoy the ruins, the views and glimpses into rural life in the Sacred Valley along the way.
- Biking to Moray and Maras: We'll bike a total of about 22 miles on a combination of paved roads, dirt roads, and single track. A support vehicle will be close by so that we can opt to ride in the van instead of bikes at many points along the way. Most of the single track is relatively easy; there are a few technical sections that are short and can be walked. The final descent from Maras to the salt pans and the Urubamba River valley is quite steep and can be ridden, walked, or avoided by taking the van.
- Hiking near Machu Picchu: There are three hiking options near Machu Picchu, ranging from a fairly strenuous six-mile hike, to a short but steep two-hour hike, to a flat but scenic option. These are described in more detail in the Day Five description above.
- Kayaking Lake Titicaca: We'll have two days of kayaking on Lake Titicaca. The first day we'll kayak five and a half miles across a bay to Isla Taquile; the second day we'll go 9.5 miles around the Island. Kayaking at 12,500 is an aerobic activity, and we'll have a support boat along the way so that we can paddle as little or as much as we want.

A note about elevation

Discover Peru is a high altitude trip, with many activities taking place between 8,000 and 13,000 feet elevation. Altitude affects people differently, and being fit does not appear to make much difference. We take this high elevation into account for all activities and allow plenty of opportunities for shortening or opting out of activities. We strongly suggest that for the first few days participants avoid alcohol, eat lightly, and drink plenty of fluids. You'll find that coca tea is available nearly everywhere we stop and it will help you acclimate.

A note about Inca Trail permits and Machu Picchu entrance tickets

We strongly encourage you to book your Discover Peru trip well in advance in order to ensure that you'll be able to get one of the limited permits to hike the Inca Trail (the scheduled activity on Day 5). Inca Trail permits are tightly regulated by the Peruvian government and must be purchased well in advance of your travel to Peru—we suggest you book your travel 4-6 months in advance in order to get one of the limited Inca Trail permits. Aventouras will get your Inca Trail permit (based on availability) for you and it is included in the price of your tour, but we will need your passport information and a trip deposit from you in order to obtain it.

In the summer of 2010 the Peruvian government significantly changed the entrance requirements for Machu Picchu. In an attempt to preserve the wonders of Machu Picchu, there is now a limit on the number of entrance passes to Machu Picchu and all passes must be purchased in advance. Aventouras will obtain your Machu Picchu entrance ticket (included in the tour price) in advance (based on availability) which underscores the importance of booking your travel to Peru well in advance of your planned departure.

About Discover Peru Lodging

Aventouras trips use a variety of lodging options, ranging from traditional hotels to small, community-run lodges. All accommodations are clean and comfortable, and all have been inspected by us or by our partners in each country. All have private hot water bath unless otherwise noted. Within these parameters, lodging options are selected more for location and access to activities and local communities than for other amenities. Discover Peru lodging includes the following hotels or similar locations:

- In Lima we stay at La Hacienda (www.hoteleslahacienda.com), a modern hotel affiliated with Best Western that is perfectly situated a few blocks from the center of the vibrant Miraflores neighborhood. For guests who arrive early on the first day, or stay an extra night, the hotel provides easy walking access to restaurants and sidewalk cafes, shops, and parks full of Peruvian life. For guests arriving late on the first day, the Costa del Sol Hotel (www.costadelsolperu.com) is conveniently located close to the airport for our early departure for Cusco.
- Our Cusco hotel is the elegant Casa San Blas, located in Cusco's artisan district. The San Blas provides easy access to the main square and is in the heart of this ancient city, but is situated on a quiet street. (www.casasanblas.com)
- In Ollantaytambo we stay at the Pakaritampu Hotel, set in a stunning location on the edge of town. It is a five minute walk from the train station and a ten minute walk from both the ruins and the town plaza. The hotel consists of several different buildings set amid landscaped grounds; the main lodge building has a restaurant, common room, bar, and fireplace which makes an excellent area to congregate or relax alone. (www.pakaritampu.com)
- The El Mapi is our home in Aguas Calientes, and is located a short walk from shops, restaurants, the bus to Machu Picchu, and the train to and from Cusco. (www.elmapihotel.com)
- In Llachon and Taquile we overnight at guesthouses affiliated with local families. In both these places local families have added rooms either to existing houses or in buildings adjacent to their houses. The rooms are clean, comfortable, and basic. They are not heated, but the beds have plenty of thick wool blankets. Bathrooms are shared and adjacent to the rooms, with running water but no showers. In Llachon the rooms have electricity, while in Taquile most buildings do not have electricity and rooms are lit by candles. In both cases rooms are separate enough from the home to provide privacy, but close enough to see and experience the details of daily life.
- In Puno we stay at the Hotel Hacienda, a hotel located very close to the plaza in the center of town. It is located amid many restaurants and other amenities. (www.lahaciendapuno.com)

What's included?

Almost everything, so it's easier to list what's NOT included:

- Please note that international airfare, alcoholic beverages, bottled water, telephone bills, laundry, personal expenses and tips/gratuities are not included
- Airport departure tax of approximately \$31 USD for your return flight, domestic departure tax of \$5 for each of your 2 domestic flights
- Insurance against illness, accident, and/or theft, unless purchased separately
- Standard clothes for the activities listed (e.g., hiking boots; we provide the specialty items necessary for activities such as biking and kayaking)
- Any additional costs incurred due to circumstances beyond our control

And here is a list of what IS included:

- Nine nights accommodations as listed above, double occupancy with a single supplement optional
- All meals starting with breakfast on Day 2 in Lima (most international flights arrive late at night and serve dinner in-flight) and ending with dinner on the last night (because most flights departing Peru for the U.S. are overnight).
- Permanent English-speaking tour leader throughout the trip
- All in-country transportation (flights, train, boat, and van) and airport transfers
- All entrance tickets wherever applicable, for example to Machu Picchu
- All excursions and activities included above, including local expert guides and gear. Both biking and kayaking include vehicle support (van and boat).
- A detailed pre-trip departure packet with packing suggestions, background reading, and other trip-specific information

Tour Details

Trip length

10 days/10 nights

Option to shorten trip to 7 days/7 nights

Cost

10 days/10 nights all-inclusive price: \$3,298 cash or check price

7 days/7 nights all-inclusive price: \$2,998 cash or check price

Single supplement of \$525

- There is a 3% surcharge for payments by credit card

Group size

Limited to a maximum of 12 participants; register early in order to ensure space is available

Activities

High-altitude walking tour (½ day), bike (½ day), hike (1 ½ days), Machu Picchu Archeological Site (½ day), kayaking (1 ½ days)

Gateway city meeting time and place

Lima, Jorge Chavez airport. You will be greeted as you leave customs and immigration. Check-in for international flights to and from Peru is usually three hours before departure. Valuable items such as camera equipment and essentials such as prescription medications should always be hand carried on all flights to avoid loss or damage. Checked luggage should be properly labeled.

Gateway city transfer

Airport transfers on the first and last days of the tour are included in trip costs.

Trip conclusion

Most flights to the U.S. are overnight, and we will end the trip with our domestic flight coming into the same airport that you will fly out of. Any overnight flight can be accommodated. If you wish to stay overnight and fly the next day we can arrange transfer and hotel for an extra charge.

Updated 03.21.12

The Next Step...

How do I join this trip?

Call Aventouras at 800-930-2846 and a trip consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at www.aventouras.com. Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Special requests

If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your trip consultant or travel agent upon booking.

Leave the rest to us...

Before you go, we will send you a pre-departure package, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, detailed information about the area, a packing list, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a guest questionnaire, information on pre/post trip arrangements, and a liability release agreement.

Unsurpassed value

We offer the highest quality trips at the best value. Our itineraries include most meals, transportation (in-country flights and ground transportation) and entrance fees. If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking with us, we'll refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you the best trip at the best fare!

Travel protection

To make your trip with Aventouras even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of a travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, a travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of trip cancellation for medical reasons, travel delays, medical expenses, accidental death, lost baggage and medical evacuation. We're happy to supply information about travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at 800-930-2846 with any questions.

How do I book airfare for this trip?

Book online, call your travel agent or call us at 800-930-2846 for assistance and suggestions. We are familiar with most flight options from the U.S. and can give you suggestions as well as an idea of usual fares. We can also help you with pre- and post-trip lodging ideas if you wish to arrive early or stay longer.

General Information, Questions & Answers

What weather conditions can I expect?

We can expect generally cool temperatures with day time highs in the mid 50s to low 70s; nighttime lows can get into the 30s. Showers are unlikely, but possible, as most of our trips run during the dry season. Please contact us for additional specific weather information for any departure dates you are considering.

Tour operator

Aventouras operates this adventure in partnership with a Peruvian company dedicated to sustainable and responsible travel.

Regarding accommodations

While we plan to use the accommodations specified in this itinerary, changes are occasionally required due to availability of facilities. We recognize that most guests need detailed accommodations information to leave behind with relatives, etc. We're more than happy to provide this when it is finalized - typically at least 30 days prior to departure.

Passport and visa information

A passport valid at least 90 days beyond your anticipated arrival date in Peru is required, along with a tourist card (available on arrival). Currently no visas or immunization certificates are required for citizens of Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada or the USA.

We're always improving!

This itinerary details this trip's planned activities, routes, accommodations, departure and conclusion times. However, we're constantly seeking new opportunities to enhance this program and your experience. Our actual activities and sites may vary due to season, special events, or weather. Therefore, we reserve the right to alter the itinerary because unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Naturally, we will keep you up-to-date on any changes that may affect your arrival or departure times.

Cancellation policy

If you must cancel your trip, you're required to notify us in writing. We will calculate your refund on the day we receive your written cancellation. For all cancellations, we will refund you the cost of your trip less the following per person charges:

- 121 or more days before trip departure: The deposit less \$350 is refundable.
- 91-120 days before trip departure: None of the deposit is refunded.
- 61-90 days before trip departure: 50% of the trip payment is refunded.
- 0-60 days before trip departure: No refund is given.

Exceptions to these policies cannot be made for any reason, including weather or personal emergencies. We recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. We provide information about travel insurance upon registration.

To book this trip:

Call us at 800-930-2846, book online at www.aventouras.com, or email us at info@aventouras.com