

BOOK BY MAY 31
SAVE \$200 PP



PERU

LAND OF THE INCAS

NOV 4 – 19, 2024 | 16 DAYS | 34 MEALS

JOURNEY LEADER: KAREN CULLEN

Peru is one of the most diverse lands in South America and has long fascinated travellers. Years of unrest have been followed by a new prosperity and a recent surge of interest from North America.

Peru straddles the Andes Mountains, falling on one side to the Pacific and on the other into the Amazon Basin. Historically, Peru was home to the Incas, one of the most advanced races in the Americas, a people who developed amazing construction techniques as well as sophisticated farming and social infrastructures. Regretfully, their rule ended with the arrival of the Spaniards.

Our journey will introduce us to the Inca civilization, including their residences and cities that spanned from the Pacific coast to the elevated reaches of Machu Picchu. We shall also discover the magical beauty and diversity of this land as we journey along the coast into the heights of the Andes.



Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to Lima (via Miami) plus domestic flights in Peru
- Rail travel from Machu Picchu to Cuzco
- Accommodations in first class and best available hotels as indicated or similar
- 34 meals as indicated (B - 14 breakfasts, L - 9 lunches, D - 11 dinners)
- Services of your Canadian journey leader plus professional guides in Peru
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Highlights

- Lima, the bustling capital of Peru
- Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu, home of the Incas
- Cuzco, the oldest city in South America
- Puno and Lake Titicaca
- The condors in spectacular Colca Canyon
- White City of Arequipa
- Cruise to the Ballestas Islands
- Small plane excursion over the Nasca Plains (weather permitting)

Journey Leader

Karen Cullen retired from 30+ years in the travel industry, where she worked as a Director with both an international travel agency chain and a travel insurance provider in Business Development. She now enjoys sharing her passion for travel and meeting new people. She is interested in learning about new cultures and the history of various countries, whilst maintaining a passion for volunteering. She has travelled to Europe with extensive travels in Italy, Ireland, Greece, Portugal and Great Britain. Glacier hiking in Iceland, kayaking in Newfoundland and in Tofino and skiing the Rockies. Australia, Hawaii, most Caribbean islands and Central America countries, a long list of experiences, people and places. Among her most proud passport stamps is Malawi where she volunteered with Women for Fair Development in developing a strategic plan.



NOV 4, Monday CANADA / LIMA, PERU

Our journey begins as we gather in Toronto for our flights to Lima, the capital of Peru. Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel in the upscale district of Miraflores and enjoy a late dinner together after freshening up. D

NOV 5, Tuesday LIMA, PERU

The morning is free for some relaxation and rest. This afternoon enjoy a city tour of Lima, which will introduce us to the city's principal attractions: the Government Palace, the Archbishop and the Cathedral, the San Francisco Convent and the marvellous Casa Solar de Aliaga, America's best-preserved colonial mansion. Founded by the conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535, the city has a population of over nine million. This evening, we will be treated to a special welcome dinner. BD

Sol De Oro Hotel (2 nights) BD

NOV 6, Wednesday LIMA

Peruvian cuisine is celebrated across the globe, and today, we'll explore the reasons behind its widespread appreciation. Indulge in the fruits, vegetables and other produce of this land, visiting a local market and sampling fresh juices. At a cooking class, we will prepare traditional Peruvian drinks and dishes: Pisco sour, Ceviche and Lomo Saltado before enjoying a delightful lunch at Señorío de Sulco Restaurant. Visit one of Lima's finest establishments, the Larco Museum, displaying a huge collection of pre-Colombian art and artifacts. This museum provides an excellent overview of Peru's ancient history. BL

NOV 7, Thursday CUZCO / SACRED VALLEY

We fly into the heart of Peru to Cuzco, set in a natural basin in the Andes Mountains. On arrival, we will be met by our local guide and proceed to the Sacred Valley. After a delightful lunch experience at the picturesque Wayra Ranch, highlighted by an exciting equestrian display, we will explore some of the most interesting places of the Sacred Valley.

Sonesta del Inca Yucay (2 nights) BL

NOV 8, Friday SACRED VALLEY

We continue our exploration of the Sacred Valley in Maras, learning how the people extracted salt. At the village of Chicheria, we discover the many uses of corn. Visit the circular terraces of Moray to see how and where crops were developed in ancient times. Following lunch at Muña

Restaurant, visit the fortress of Ollantaytambo, which was built when the Spaniards first arrived. This visit involves many stairs. Nearby, we find traditional Inca stone houses over 500 years old that are still in use. BLD

NOV 9, Saturday MACHU PICCHU / CUZCO

We journey by rail to Machu Picchu through the truly spectacular scenery of the Río Urubamba, with views of snow-capped Andean peaks in the distance. When we reach Aguas Calientes, small coaches will take us up the steep mountain to the ruins of Machu Picchu. The Incas hid Machu Picchu high in the clouds as a strategic vantage point. We will enjoy a guided visit of the ruins with lunch included at Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge. This afternoon we return by rail to Cuzco, once the Incan capital, and still one of the best preserved colonial cities in the Andes.

Cuzco Novotel (2 nights) BL

NOV 10, Sunday CUZCO

This morning's city tour will feature the Santo Domingo Monastery, the Plaza de Armas, the cathedral built on the ruins of the Inca Palace and the old town with its magnificent restored colonial buildings. We shall also visit Sacsayhuaman and other Inca ruins located just above Cuzco, offering fabulous views of the city and mountains. Tonight we enjoy dinner at Incanto Restaurant. BD

NOV 11, Monday CUZCO / PUNO

Today's spectacular coach journey takes us across the top of the world to Puno. Relax as towering mountains and rolling farmlands unfold before us. Highlight visits will include the district of Andahuaylillas, an ancient Inca site noted for its beautiful baroque church, La Raya Mountain ranges and the Lithic Museum in Pukara. Puno is the folkloric capital of Peru, set on the banks of Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake.

Sonesta Posadas del Inca (2 nights) BLD

NOV 12, Tuesday PUNO / LAKE TITICACA

Journey by boat to the floating islands of Lake Titicaca, Uros and Taquile. The Uros natives live on floating 'islands' made by hand from totora reeds that grow in abundance in the shallow waters of the lake. This unique practice has endured since the time of the Incas. Today there are some 45 floating islands in the Bay of Puno. The largest, Huacavacani, has homes and a church while others have schools, a post office, and souvenir shops. BLD

NOV 13, Wednesday PUNO / COLCA VALLEY

Visit Sillustani, by Lake Umayo, and see the huge cylinder-shaped ruins used by pre-Incan tribes to bury their nobility. Continue overland to Colca Valley in the Aguada Blanca National Reserve, an area that is noted for its population of Vicunas. En route, we will enjoy a boxed lunch while we admire the pre-Columbian terraces, still being cultivated by the native Collaguas tribe.

Hotel Aranwa Colca (1 night) BLD

NOV 14, Thursday COLCA / AREQUIPA

This morning's highlight will be the impressive views of the spectacular Colca Canyon, one of the deepest in the world at almost 10,000 feet. We pay a visit to Condor's Cross, a wonderful vantage point from which we can see these wonderful birds. We make our way to Arequipa, passing the villages of Yanque, Maca, Achoma and Pinchollo.

Casa Andina Premium (2 nights) BLD

NOV 15, Friday AREQUIPA



Warm welcoming smiles in Peru



Cuzco, Peru



Picturesque Wayra Ranch



Meet with the Uros People on Lake Titicaca

We shall explore the White City and walk through the historic centre of Arequipa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The local Jesuit Church is one of Peru's finest examples of mestizo baroque style. The Convent of Santa Catalina, dating from 1579, contains a small town with homes for the nuns, cloisters, plazas, kitchens, refectory and much more. **BD**

NOV 16, Saturday AREQUIPA / LIMA / PARACAS

After our short morning flight back to Lima, we travel south on the Pan-American Highway following the coast to the Paracas Peninsula, gateway to the south and a very pleasant seaside resort. En route, we will be fascinated by the recent agricultural developments along the coast.

Aranwa Paracas Hotel (2 nights) **BD**

NOV 17, Sunday PARACAS / NASCA PLAINS

This morning we will experience the marvels of the Nasca Plains from a small plane on our 90-minute charter flight. It is the best and only way to truly appreciate the scale and scope of the phenomenon. This afternoon we plan to visit a local winery and the Oasis of Huacachina, where the desert has been reclaimed and turned into a farming paradise. Balance of afternoon and evening at leisure. **BL**

NOV 18, Monday PARACAS / LIMA

This morning, we take an excursion by boat to the nature reserve of the Ballestas Islands, where we have opportunities to see great varieties of wildlife including boobies, sea lions and penguins. With clear weather, we can see, from a distance, the mysterious Candelabra markings. We return to Lima for a late dinner in the city.

Costa del Sol Wyndham Airport Hotel (1 night) **BD**

NOV 19, Tuesday ARRIVE CANADA

This morning we depart Lima to travel home via Miami. Arriving in Toronto, we make direct connections to our homes across Canada.



Arequipa Cathedral

REV08APR24

CT Rating 4/5 - Very Challenging: Members will travel at high altitudes (between 8,000 and 11,000 feet above sea level) and may be affected by altitude sickness. Expect pleasant to hot weather throughout. This tour involves some long travel days by air, rail and coach through areas with limited facilities and includes some difficult walks and climbs (with many steps). Members must be in excellent physical health with no mobility issues to fully enjoy this journey.

**Book by May 31, 2024
and save \$200 per person**



Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only* (Join / Leave Hotel).....	\$6,535
Toronto	\$7,685
Ottawa / Montreal	\$7,815
Halifax.....	\$7,875
St. John's / Winnipeg / Moncton	\$7,975
Regina / Saskatoon	\$8,075
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver.....	\$8,015
Victoria.....	\$8,075
Single Supplement	\$1,395

*Land-Only price includes internal flights but does not include arrival and departure transfers in destination. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for more details.

Prices are based on taxes, surcharges, airfares and exchange rates effective November 2023 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Tour prices are per person, based on sharing a double/twin room at hotels and a minimum of 20 participants travelling. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 20 group members.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

**Final payment is due on August 1, 2024
Deposit is \$800 per person**

To reserve your spot on this tour, complete the enclosed enrolment form indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:



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