

Sacred Land of the Incas + Amazon Extension 17 days

Peru - Trip code PSA



Sacred Land of the Incas + Amazon Extension

Enter the land of the Incas as we discover the vast Colca Canyon, explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Arequipa, sail along Lake Titicaca and unwind in the Sacred Valley. We also travel to Machu Picchu, known as the 'Lost City' of the Incas and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

Trip highlights

- ★ Machu Picchu Travel by train to the 'Lost City', one of the New Seven Wonders of the World
- **Cusco** Explore the ancient capital city of the Incas
- 🔶 Arequipa Discover the fascinating Santa Catalina Convent
- ★ Lake Titicaca Traverse the highest navigable lake in the world, visiting the Uros and Taquile islands
- Sacred Valley Unwind in this tranquil setting

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:

12 - 18

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join tour in Lima

Arrive Lima and check-in at hotel.



Accommodation: Britania Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available

!O# Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Fly to Arequipa, free afternoon to explore

This morning we transfer back to the airport and fly to the beautiful city of Arequipa. This afternoon is left free for you to explore and acclimatise.





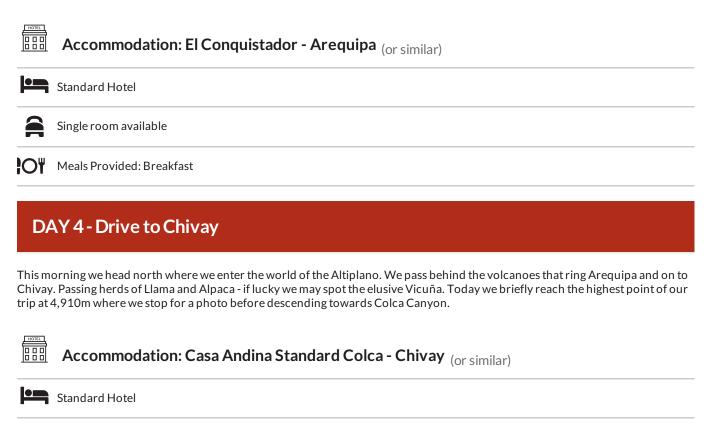
Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - In Arequipa; visit South Catalina Convent

This morning we visit Santa Catalina Convent, a miniature walled town which once housed 450 nuns and serving ladies in total seclusion. The rest of the day is free to explore this beautiful city, situated at 2380m and surrounded by snow-capped mountains including the perfect conical peak of El Misti (5822m). Arequipa is famed for it's colonial architecture and the arcaded city square, dominated on one side by the twin towered cathedral (1612), is among the finest to be found in South America.



Single room available

Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Visit Colca Canyon; continue to Puno

From Chivay we make an early start to the mirador Cruz del Condor in the hope of spotting the rare Andean Condor. Seeing these magnificent birds in flight is a highlight of any tour. We continue to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca: the highest navigable lake in the world at an elevation of 3,820m, and the legendary birthplace of the Inca civilisation. The local Aymara and Quechua-speaking Indian people have adapted over generations to life at altitude and have larger lungs, hearts and spleens, and blood that is particularly rich in red corpuscles.

Accommodation: Eco Inn Hotel Puno (or similar)

Standard Hotel

Single room available

Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Boat trip on Lake Titicaca; visit Uros Islands and overnight on Taquile Island

From Puno we take a boat trip on Lake Titicaca to explore the floating reed islands, home to the Uros people who live on the lake itself. Their islands are made from totura, a reed-like papyrus that grows in the shallows and is used in most aspects of their life,

including the construction of their boats and homes. We then continue to the less visited island of Taquile which has preserved much of its Inca and pre-Inca heritage and the islanders still speak the language of the Inca - Runa Simi or Quechua. We take our time walking across the island and we will have the chance to buy locally produced embroidery - the men's handiwork for once. This evening there will be the option to visit a local folklore show before returning to our local village house for our overnight stay on the island.



Accommodation: Taquile Village House (or similar)



Simple Village House

Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Morning on Taquile Island, afternoon return to Puno

This morning we have the option to visit the local Inca ruins before descending to the docks and taking our lunchtime boat back to Puno. This afternoon there is the option to visit the Yavari Steamer Ship or the local market.



DAY 8 - Bus to Cusco via Sillustani

Today we follow the legendary route taken by the first Incaruler - Manco Capac - on his way to find Cusco. En route to Cusco we stop at the beautifully scenic site of Sillustani - a fitting home for the chullpas (funeral towers), which probably date from the 14th century. Driving up to the northern limit of the Altiplano we cross La Raya pass (4335m) and descend to Cusco. Depending on time, those who wish may visit the colonial church at Andahuaylillas or the Inca temple ruins at Raqchi (optional) The scenery is desolate but magnificent and we may spot flocks of llamas and alpacas grazing on the windswept pastures. We arrive at this fascinating mountain city and check into our hotel.



Accommodation: Inkarri Hostal (or similar)



Standard Hotel

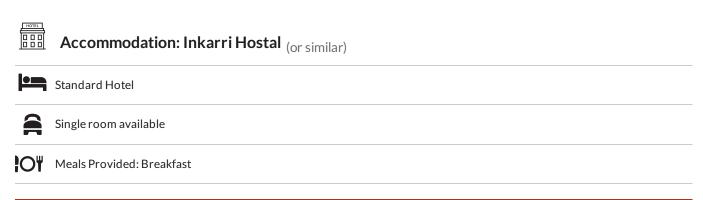


Single room available

!O# Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 9 - Walking tour in Cusco, visit Sacsayhuaman Fortress

The old capital of the Inca Empire survives only in its ruins, imbued with an atmosphere of mystery and grandeur. The Spanish colonial city, with its attractive pink tiled roofs, arcaded plazas and steep winding alleyways, stands upon tremendous Inca foundation stones. This morning we take a walking tour of this lovely city to see important Inca and Colonial monuments, such as Plaza de Armas, the Koricanha and the Inca wall of Hatunrumiyoc with its famous twelve-sided stone. The stone, measuring some 5 feet across, has the typical bevelled joints which create the patterns of light and shadow on Inca walls. We also visit one of the outlying Inca sites - Cusco's temple-citadel, Saqsaywaman which broods high above the town, its huge, zigzagging stone walls broken into 66 sharply projecting angles to catch attackers in a withering crossfire. 20,000 conscripted workers toiled for 90 years



DAY 10 - Witness the Inti Raymi Festival celebrations

Today we visit the Inti Raymi festivities in Cusco. During the Inca Empire, this festival was the most important of four ceremonies celebrated in Cusco. This old Inca festival is held only once a year, during the Southern hemisphere winter solstice. Since 1944, a historical reconstuction has taken place at the Sacsayhuaman Fortress, where a ritual acknowledgement and appreciation to the Sun God is staged, and people from different Peruvian regions take part. The festival is still celebrated in indigenous cultures throughout the Andes. Celebrations involve music, colourful costumes and the sharing of food.





DAY 11 - Train to Aguas Calientes; visit Machu Picchu

We take an early morning train along the side of the Rio Urubamba, flanked by high cliffs and peaks, then climb by bus to Machu Picchu - the famous Lost City at 2,400m. The existence of this exquisite masterpiece of ancient civilisation remained unknown to the outside world until it was 'discovered' by an American archaeologist, Hiram Bingham in 1911. We explore this mountain-top stronghold - the most spectacular feat of engineering in ancient America. Returning to the valley floor, we stay in a simple hostal in Aguas Calientes, with the chance to soak in the nearby natural hot baths.



DAY 12 - More time to discover Machu Picchu (optional); train to Ollantaytambo

We have another chance this morning to explore the site and if you want to have a very early start it may be possible to catch sunrise. It is also possible to climb the steep and difficult peak of Huayna Picchu to look down on the Temple of the Sun. This must be pre-paid at time of booking. If you change your passport between your time of booking and prior to travel please take your original passport with you to avoid being fined. Alternatively, you can walk along part of the Inca Trail to the Gate of the Sun. Later we take the train to Ollantaytambo and transfer to our hotel.

Standard Hotel

Meals Provided: Breakfast

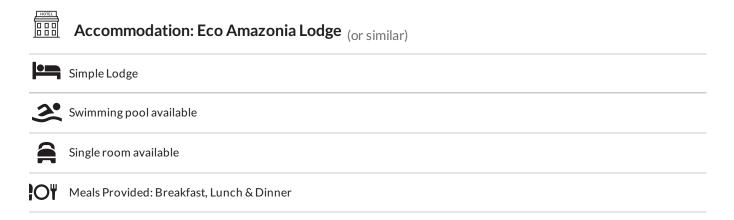
DAY 13 - In Sacred Valley; optional whitewater rafting

Today is a free day with a wide choice of things to do. For river-lovers there is a the opportunity of a raft-trip (optional) down the Urubamba in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. This is an exciting way to see the valley and no previous experience of rafting is necessary - full instruction and safety equipment are provided. There is also the opportunity to visit Misminay, home to many of the porters who work along the Inca Trail and within the valley itself. We can learn a little more about the lives of these descendants of the ancient Inca during our visit. Alternatively you could visit Maras and Moray where hot springs at the top of the valley have been diverted into terraced saltpans. Ollantaytambo itself is also worth spending time in; during the Inca Empire it was the royal state of Emperor Pachacuti who conquered the region and built the town as a ceremonial centre. After our excursions we return to Cusco for our final night in the Andes.



DAY 14 - Fly to Puerto Maldonado, transfer to Amazon lodge

Today we transfer to the airport for a short flight to Puerto Maldonado, located in the Southern Amazon area of Peru. You can leave your main luggage in Puerto Maldonado and just take with you what you need for the next few days. The Amazon comprises 60% of Peru and the Peruvian Amazon is the second largest section of the Amazon Rainforest after Brazil. The Amazon basin covers two fifths of South America over many countries including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela and it is the most bio-diverse environment in the world. Most of the basin is covered by the rainforest, which is the largest rainforest in the world. We travel along the Tambopata River by dugout canoe (approximately 40 minutes) and check into our Amazon lodge. The lodge is comfortable but as it is in a remote location, the electricity is provided by a generator and is only available for certain hours of the day. After lunch, we will have a guided walk through the jungle and the local guide will explain the tropical trees, medicinal plants, insects, butterflies and other animals we see en route. Then we will make a quick stop at a lookout point to hopefully spot toucans, macaws and other birds. In the evening we will enjoy a twilight boat journey searching for animals including caimans and capybaras.



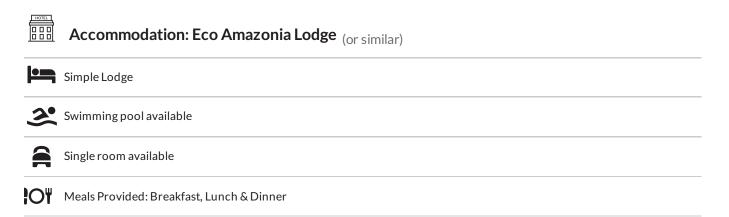
DAY 15 - In Amazon Jungle; walk to clay lick to watch birds, visit Monkey Island and Sandoval Lake

We have an early start this morning to walk to the clay lick. We watch from a hide as several different species of parrots and parakeets arrive to feed on special clay that is vital to their metabolism. The numbers of birds can reach as many as one hundred at a time and it is a very special and colourful spectacle to witness. Returning to the lodge, we have breakfast and then head off to 'Monkey Island' where four species of monkeys live, the largest being the spider monkey. These monkeys were originally captured by local people but were since rescued and now live on this island in freedom. Following another boat ride of approximately 30 minutes, we will enter the territory of the Tambopata- Candamo National Reserve. We will trek 5km through the dense vegetation of the tropical rainforest looking out for snakes, monkeys and birds. Our destination is Sandoval Lake. Numerous species of animals live near the lake, keep your eyes out for kingfishers, cormorants, squirrel monkeys, and capuchin monkeys. At the lake itself we may see giant river otters, black caimans and piranhas. This is also the habitat of the giant arapaima, a fish of more than 2.5m, weighing in at more than 200kg.

| | Accommodation: Eco Amazonia Lodge (or similar) |
|-------------|--|
| !•- | Simple Lodge |
| 3. | Swimming pool available |
| | Single room available |
| !O # | Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner |

DAY 16 - In Amazon Jungle; travel by boat to visit a native community

This morning, we will follow the course of the river for approximately 1.5 hours in order to visit a native community. Occasionally we can see monkeys, river turtles, caimans and various birds in the dense vegetation of the riverbanks. We will also see some medicinal plants. Afterwards we will visit a chakra (farm), where we will learn about a variety of tropical fruits and other local products. We will enjoy a typical Amazonian dish for lunch.



DAY 17 - Early morning boat to Puerto Maldonado and end trip at airport

Our Amazon adventure comes to an end today after breakfast and we will travel by boat back to Puerto Maldonado, before transferring to the airport. If you prefer you can end your trip at the office in Puerto Maldonado and arrange a taxi transfer to the airport yourself at a time that better suits your own itinerary. The office is a short taxi ride from the town, and about 20 minutes by taxi from the airport.

Meals Provided: Breakfast

Why book this trip

We have planned the dates of this tour to coincide with the Inti Raymi celebrations in Cusco. The 'Festival of the Sun' was a religious ceremony of the Inca Empire. It is now celebrated every year in Cusco and is one of South America's largest pageants.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 16

Lunch: 4

Dinner: 3

Transport

Bus

Boat

Flight

Train



Trip staff Explore Tour Leader Boat Crew Driver(s) Local Guide(s)



Accommodation 1 nights simple guesthouse 11 nights standard hotel 3 nights simple lodge 1 nights simple village house

Trip information

Country information

Peru Holidays & Tours

Climate

There is a rainy season from Dec - Mar however on the coast it rarely rains. Jun-Oct is damp and misty, but temperatures never drop below 10°C. At high altitudes although there are sunny days temperatures can drop dramatically, and conditions can change suddenly.

Time difference to GMT

-5

Plugs

2 Pin Flat

Religion

Catholicism

Language

Spanish

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Cusco and the Sacred Valley - Rafting on Urubamba River (grade 2-3) US\$45 (depending on numbers); Maras and Moray tour US\$58 (based on 4 passengers); Misminay tour US\$89 (based on 4 passengers); Raqchi entrance US\$4, Andahuaylillas entrance US\$4. Aguas Calientes - Hot Springs US\$4. Machu Picchu - Second entry US\$54 and subject to availability; bus US\$25 return; Huayna Picchu - £80; Machu Picchu Mountain £80 (both including transport) - Subject to availability - these must be pre-paid at time of booking. If you change your passport between your time of booking and prior to travel please take your original passport

with you to avoid being fined. Lima - City tour approximately US\$30; Larco Herrera Museum US\$41 guided, US\$11 unguided; Lima detour - alternative view of the city of Lima US\$35 (price may go up if less than 4 passengers); Pucusana Fishing Village US\$65 (based on 3); Pachacamac site US\$45 (based on 4) inc. pottery class US\$60 (time permitting) Puno - Andean Explorer train to Cusco GBP£115 - must be paid at time of booking. If you change your passport between your time of booking and prior to travel please take your original passport with you to avoid being fined. Taquile Island - Evening folklore show US\$41

Clothing

Select your clothing carefully. A complete set of clothes which can get grubby and muddy are useful. Bring warm clothing such as a warm fleece, thermal underwear, warm hat and gloves for cooler nights in the mountains when temps drop dramatically. Lightweight waterproofs are essential. Bring your swimsuit. For your jungle extension, you can expect warmer and more humid conditions. However, there may also be heavy rain showers (it tends to be cooler and drier between May and October). Bring light and loose clothing - long sleeved shirts and long trousers are best when walking through jungle, and a lightweight rainjacket. The warmer clothes from your time in the mountains may also come in useful during the evenings, in case of cool weather.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes and lightweight walking shoes and sandals. If participating in the rafting, old trainers (as they will get wet).

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece and a daypack and an extra bag for your night in Aguas Calientes - on this night, your main bags will be left in storage in your hotel in Cusco, and will be transported to meet you when you arrive in Ollantaytambo. In the Amazon your main luggage will be stored in the offices in Puerto Maldonado. Remember, you are expected to carry your own luggage (i.e. on and off transport etc.) so don't overload yourself. It is recommended you bring lockable bags.

Equipment

A good insect repellent is essential, particularly for use in the jungle. Also bring a small torch, sunhat, sunscreen and a small towel (for rafting and thermal baths). Equipment that you will need for your jungle experience is: A good torch and spare batteries for night walks and when the generator is not on. Card games or books for your evenings in the lodge, particularly if there is no electricity Long sleeved tshirts and full length trousers are recommended to avoid insect bites A small backpack for walks and boat trips A good camera with zoom, spare battery and memory cards

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly, you should allow US\$ 40 for tipping.

Country Information

Peru Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Breakfast price £4.00 - 7.00

Dinner price £6.00 - 8.00

Beer price £2.00 - 4.00

Water price

Foreign Exchange

Local currency Nuevo Sol

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling or Travellers Cheques which are more difficult to exchange. We recommend to take a minimum of US\$400-\$500 of your total spending money in cash for your tour, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

Where To Exchange

Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

Available in Major towns. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance

In major restaurants. In some establishments Master card is not accepted.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques are not always easy to exchange.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Flight, Train

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

The Ecoamazonia Lodge is a relatively large property located in the middle of the Tambopata ecological reserve; only 30km from Puerto Maldonado on the Madre de Dios River. The accommodation comprises of simply furnished individual wooden bungalows with a porch. The bungalows have mosquito nets on their windows and each have en suite bathroom The property has a main dining room where buffet breakfasts and lunches are served, a games bar and indoor pool where guests can relax. The property is accessed by a network of bridges and pathways where you'll likely spot some of the resident wildlife. Electricity is provided by a generator twice a day 5am to 6am and from 5pm to 10pm so room lights can be used, batteries charged, etc. but a strong torch is also required. Hot water can be intermittent, the lodge use solar panels to obtain hot water therefore if overcast this may be luke warm.

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click here.

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click here

Under 18 immigration guidance

£1

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. Booking Conditions

Visa Information

Peru: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure. USA: (including those in transit) Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done on line - https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding. You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover. If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel. Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information. (Not necessary if in transit) For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station. Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided. Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click here

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Altitude information

As this tour reaches altitudes of over 3800 meters, we strongly recommend that travellers with heart or lung conditions, anaemia, asthma, high blood pressure or on the pill should seek the advice of their GP. You must have adequate travel insurance for your trip. Please ensure that your insurance policy covers you to the maximum altitude indicated above. If you have Explore insurance you will be covered to this altitude.

Non refundable permits

Peru Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Please note many countries in Central America, South America and the Caribbean require a yellow fever vaccination certificates if travelling from infected areas. A detailed list of these countries can be found on the NaTHNaC website - http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries. Also on the NaTHNaC site there is a list of Countries (and specific areas within a country) which are at risk of infection and a vaccination is therefore recommended.. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider.