

# EXPLORE!



**Peru and the Inca Trail**  
19 days

Peru - Trip code PE

## Peru and the Inca Trail

On this tour of Southern Peru journey along the Pacific Coast to the mysterious Nazca Lines, up to the 'White City' of Arequipa and on to the impressive Colca Canyon. At Lake Titicaca visit Taquile Island and stay in a local village guesthouse, exploring the vibrant former Inca capital of Cusco. Learn more about the ancient 'Inca Empire of the Sun' on a four-day trek following the famous Inca Trail through the spectacular Andes Mountains to the archaeological jewel, Machu Picchu.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **The Inca Trail** - Fully supported four-day trek following the classic Inca Trail
- ★ **Machu Picchu** - Discover one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, surrounded by cloudforest
- ★ **Cusco** - Explore ancient capital city of the Incas
- ★ **Arequipa** - Discover the fascinating Santa Catalina Convent
- ★ **Lake Titicaca** - Cruise on the highest navigable lake in the world. Spend the night on Taquile Island
- ★ **Nazca** - View the intriguing Nazca lines from platforms
- ★ **Colca Canyon** - See condors fly above one of the world's deepest canyons

### 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.

#### WALKING GRADE:

##### Moderate To Challenging

Combining moderate grade walks with some more strenuous hikes. This grade is ideal if you are fit and want to challenge yourself with a few longer, more demanding trekking days, possibly on difficult terrain or at higher altitudes.

#### GROUP SIZE:

10 - 16

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 trip Lima

Arrive to Lima and check-in at hotel. Afternoon tour of Lima. Lima, Peru's capital, was founded in 1535 AD by the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro. It was built on the Pacific coast, by the Rimac River and close to the natural harbour of Callao, on land that had already been inhabited for thousands of years. Today Lima is a modern city, but there are obvious reminders of its ancient and colonial past. It is also gaining a reputation as a culinary centre.



**Accommodation: Britania Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - Visit Pachacamac. Drive to Paracas National Park

Heading south on the Panamerican Highway we stop at the ancient religious centre of Pachacamac, whose many pre-Inca and Incan adobe walls and temples have miraculously stood for hundreds of years, preserved by the desert climate. We continue on to Paracas and its national park where we can observe some extraordinary lunar landscapes and have the chance to see varied birdlife.



**Accommodation: El Mirador Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available

## DAY 3 - Optional boat trip to Islas Ballestas. Continue to Nazca

There is the possibility this morning to take an optional excursion to the Ballestas Islands to see a large colony of sea lions, seabirds and even penguins. We then continue south pausing at Ica to visit the small but excellent museum (optional) or the huge sand dunes outside the town at Huacachina Oasis. Then we drive to the mysterious Nazca Lines. Some specialists have speculated that they represent the world's largest astrological calendar. Huge birds, spiders, whales, other creatures and geometrical figures are represented in outline. Here we'll climb the nearby viewing platform for views out over the lines etched into the desert. There should also be time for optional visits to the nearby Antonini Archaeological Museum, the Chauchilla pre-Inca cemetery or the Nazca aqueduct.



**Accommodation: Oro Viejo Hotel** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 4 - Follow coastal road to Puerto Chala

Following the coastal route through the desert we reach the settlement of Puerto Chala. In Inca times relays of chasquis (runners) transported fresh fish 250km to Cusco in the mountains in just one day from nearby. Depending on timing we will visit Quebrada de la Vaca Inca ruins either en route or tomorrow morning. These remains are thought to be part of an original Inca Trail to Cusco, and include ancient llama corrals and grain stores.



**Accommodation: Hotel de Turistas de Chala** (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

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## DAY 5 - Journey through the Andean mountains to Arequipa

A full day's drive takes us through strange desert scenery. As we leave the coastal plain behind, our road climbs steadily through the Andean mountains to reach the beautiful city of Arequipa.



**Accommodation: El Conquistador - Arequipa** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - Explore Peru's 'White City'. Visit Santa Catalina Convent

This morning we explore this beautiful city, situated at 2380m and surrounded by snowcapped mountains including the perfect conical peak of El Misti (5822m). Arequipa is famed for its 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. Our morning walking tour includes Santa Catalina Convent, a miniature walled town which once housed 450 nuns and serving ladies in total seclusion. The afternoon is free to further explore this fascinating city, starting in the Plaza de Armas you could visit the La Catherda or the archaeology museum and wander through the colonial districts.



**Accommodation: El Conquistador - Arequipa** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - Ascend to the Altiplano and town of Chivay

Heading north from Arequipa we enter the world of the Altiplano. We pass behind the volcanoes that ring Arequipa and on to Chivay. Passing herds of Llama and Alpaca - if lucky we may spot the elusive Vicuña. Today we briefly reach the highest point of our trip at 4,800m before descending towards Colca.



**Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Colca - Chivay** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Walk by Colca Canyon. Drive to Lake Titicaca

From Chivay we make an early start to the mirador Cruz del Condor, overlooking the magnificent Colca Canyon, in the hope of spotting the rare Andean Condor. Seeing these magnificent birds in flight is a highlight of any trip. From here we make a short walk to Cruz del Cura before continuing to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca: the highest navigable lake in the world at an elevation of 3,856m, and the legendary birthplace of the Inca civilisation. The local Aymara and Quechua-speaking indigenous 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.

Today's four kilometer walk is expected to take around one hour with an ascent of 100m



**Accommodation: Qelqatani Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 9 - Boat to Taquile. Stay in island village house

The Uros people dwell on the lake itself, on floating islands of totora, a reedlike papyrus that grows in the shallows and is used in the construction of houses and boats. We continue by motorboat to Taquile Island which has preserved much of its Inca and pre-Inca heritage and the islanders still speak the language of the Inca-Quechua. Accommodation is limited to rustic, dormstyle facilities in a local house. In the late afternoon we walk to the top of this terraced island to watch the sun set.

Today's one kilometer walk is expected to take around one hour with 200m of ascent.



**Accommodation: Taquile Village House** (or similar)



Simple Village House



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 10 - Island walk. Return to Puno by boat

This morning we walk across the island for the views. On Taquile Island the local people still preserve a rich tradition of music and dance. This is the ideal opportunity to buy locally produced knitted goods - produced by the men of the island. In the afternoon we walk back to the harbour to return to Puno by boat.

Today's five kilometer walk is expected to take around two and half hours.



**Accommodation: Qelqatani Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 11 - Drive through mountains to Ollanta via Sillustani funeral towers

Today we follow the legendary route taken by the first Inca ruler - Manco Capac - on his way to Cusco. En route we stop at the beautifully scenic site of Sillustani - where the chullpas (funeral towers) are thought to date from the 14th century. Driving up to the

northern limit of the Altiplano we cross La Raya pass (4335m) and descend towards Cusco, and then continue on to Ollanta in the Sacred Valley. The mountain scenery is desolate but magnificent and we may spot flocks of llamas and alpacas grazing on the windswept pastures. Depending on time, those who wish may visit the colonial church at Andahuaylillas (45kilometres south of Cusco).



**Accommodation: Hotel Tikawasi Valley** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 12 - Free day in Sacred Valley. Optional whitewater rafting

Today is left free to explore the Sacred Valley and there are plenty of things to do. There is the opportunity to go whitewater rafting on the Urubamba River (grade 2-3, seasonal) - no previous experience is necessary and all safety equipment is provided. You can also choose to visit the market at Pisac and its incredible Inca ruins spread out amphitheatre fashion far above the town.



**Accommodation: Hotel Tikawasi Valley** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 13 - Commence Inca Trail. Walk to Llaqtapata ruins

This morning we drive to Ollantaytambo, an original Inca town. Here we have a short walking tour to stretch our legs, visiting a traditional house and our first view of Inca terracing. We continue by bus for another hour to reach KM82, the starting point for the classic Inca Trail. The trail was first explored by Hiram Bingham in 1911 and opened for walkers in 1970. The famous ruins of Machu Picchu are not the only historical remains within the area: many other interesting sites are hidden in places which can only be reached on foot, and have scarcely been explored.

We meet our porters and support staff, beginning our trek after lunch. The route crosses the Urubamba river, following a wide dirt trail alongside the riverbank. The undulating path takes us into the Sacred Valley of the Incas to Llaqtapata (2,700m). Here we camp opposite the ruins of Llaqtapata, a spectacular spot with amazing night skies.

Today's six kilometre walk is expected to take around two-and-a-half hours with an ascent of 100 metres.



**Accommodation: Llaqtapata Camp** (or similar)



Simple Camping



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## DAY 14 - Follow river to Wayllabamba village. Continue to Llulluchapampa

After a hearty breakfast we cross the river to visit the Llaqta-pata Inca ruins before continuing with the trek. Today we follow the course of the Kusichaca river past small communities, crossing it to reach Wayllabamba, a quiet village of Inca origins and the last settlement on the route. After lunch we gradually ascend through the start of the cloud forest to Llulluchapampa (3,800m) which affords stunning views of the snowy peaks of Veronica (5,750m). Here we set up camp for the night; there is a well maintained toilet block at this site.

Today's nine kilometre walk is expected to take around six hours with 1,080 metres ascent.



**Accommodation: Llulluchapampa Camp** (or similar)



Simple Camping



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## DAY 15 - Cross 'Dead Woman's Pass' (4200m). Through cloudforest to Phuyupatamarca

Today is an earlier start as we trek over the Warmiwanusca (Dead Woman's) Pass to 4,200 metres. The two hour ascent is one of the more challenging sections of the trek, we take it slow and steady with many stops to admire the view and sunrise. After a rest and photo opportunity we descend along a stepped path to the valley of the Pacamayo river with its tropical vegetation. Here we break for brunch before beginning the ascent (mainly on steps) to the second pass of the day. We visit the ruins of Runkuraqay and then it's the final ascent to cross the Runkuraqay Pass (3,950m).

After the pass it was a long gradual descent passing into the start of the main cloud forest to reach the bottom of the valley. The Sayacmarca ruins are visible on a rocky outcrop, they command an imposing view and have only one means of access, a narrow granite stairway. We cross the valley to reach the Sayacmarca campsite for a late lunch. From here the trail goes through cloud forest with vines, exotic flowers (among them orchids) and luxuriant trees, with views (if we are lucky) of the snowcapped peaks of Salkantay. We walk through an Inca tunnel and along a ridge above the Urubamba River to our campsite above the Phuyupatamarca ruins (3,579m). The campsite has amazing panoramic views of the surrounding peaks and down the valley towards Machu Picchu mountain.

Today's 10 kilometre walk is expected to take around eight hours with 1,000 metres ascent and 630 metres descent.



**Accommodation: Phuyupatamarca Camp** (or similar)



Simple Camping



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## DAY 16 - Arrive to Machu Picchu through the Sun Gate

This morning is our final day walking along the Inca Trail. We say thanks and goodbye to our porters and begin our trek into Machu Picchu. We pass the Phuyupatamarca ruins and Today is our final day walking along the Inca Trail. We say thanks and goodbye to our

porters and begin our trek to the Sun Gate. We pass the Puyupatamarca ruins and spend the majority of the morning going down following stone paths and stairways, 80% of which are original Inca architecture. Coming out of the cloud forest we are greeted by the spectacular views down the valley, walking through the impressive Inca terraces at Intipata we reach our lunch stop at Winay-Wayna (2,591m). Those who wish can visit the ruins here, this Inca site is built into the steep hillside and like Machu Picchu, was abandoned for unknown reasons.

Winding our way along the edge of the mountain we follow a wide path adorned with wild flowers and orchids to we take the final steps up to reach Inti Punku - the Gate of the Sun. passing through there is a sudden and fantastic view of the Lost City itself, Machu Picchu, set in a grandiose landscape that amazes all spectators. We walk down through the site and then take the public bus down the mountainside to our hotel in the town of Aguas Calientes situated on the valley floor below Machu Picchu.

Today's eight kilometre walk is expected to take around six hours with 1,000 metres descent.



### Accommodation: El Santuario Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 17 - Revisit Machu Picchu. Return to Ollantaytambo by train.

Our final morning is spent at Machu Picchu, probably the most astounding feat of engineering in all of ancient America. Temples, stairways, palaces and gabled stone dwellings are scattered everywhere, testifying to the energy and ingenuity of the builders. We have a guided tour with our Explore Leader then have some free time to explore the site further for as long as you wish before taking the bus back down to Aguas Calientes.

It is also possible to climb the steep peaks of either Machu Picchu Mountain or Huayna Picchu Mountain to look down on the citadel. Machu Picchu Mountain is a 700m climb from the top of the citadel. There are cobbled stairs all the way up with a few eye-opening drops in some parts, and the round-trip takes about two and half to three hours. Huayna Picchu Mountain is only 350m, half the size of Machu Picchu Mountain, but much steeper. There are many more sheer drops, and it is definitely not suitable for someone with a fear of heights. For those who fancy doing the one hour climb, you'll be rewarded with world-beating views of Machu Picchu, and the feeling that you're standing on a precipice at the top of the world.

These climbs 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. Those doing one of the optional climbs will take the first bus back up the Machu Picchu to begin the climb at 7am after which you will meet up with the rest of the group to take the guided tour.

In the afternoon we get the train to Ollantaytambo, located in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, and then return to the historic town of Cusco by bus. Depending on the time of the train, you may have a free afternoon in Aguas Calientes, where there are many restaurants and cafes and a large covered market.



### Accommodation: Emperador Plaza Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



## DAY 18 - Walking tour of Cusco. Visit to Sacsayhuaman

The old capital of the Inca Empire survives only in its ruins, imbued with an atmosphere of mystery and grandeur. The Spanish style city of today's Cusco, with its attractive pink tiled roofs, arcaded plazas and steep winding alleyways, stands upon tremendous Inca foundation stones. The interlocking stones, assembled so carefully that a knife blade cannot be forced between the multi-sided joints, were highly functional as well as beautiful - they are earthquake-proof! During our stay, we plan a walking tour of this lovely city to see important Inca and colonial monuments, such as 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 Cusco's temple-citadel, Sacsayhuaman which broods high above the town, its huge, zigzagging stone walls broken into 66 sharply projecting angles to catch attackers in a withering crossfire - and walk back down to the city centre.



**Accommodation: Emperador Plaza Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available

## DAY 19 - Trip ends

Your trip ends in Cusco this morning after breakfast.

# Walking and Trekking information

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## DAILY DISTANCE



Optional Walks

## Walking grade

Moderate to challenging

## Trek details

Walks on 7 days for between 1 to 8 hours. The Inca Trail section is 4 days trekking for between 2.5 to 8 hours, reaching a maximum altitude of 4,200m. Well-defined paths with original Inca steps.

## Max walking altitude (m)

4200



*Inca Trail top*



## Inca Trail Trekking Top - [Click here to order](#)

### What is it like to trek the Inca Trail?

Read the blog by Customer Support Manager Becky Powney to find out.

### Inca Trail permit availability

In order to regulate the number of people walking on the Inca Trail it is necessary to buy an Inca Trail trekking permit, these are included in our trips but can sell out quickly for certain months.

### Extend your trip

Why not extend your holiday with some time in the Amazon. Hike through the jungle, go wildlife spotting and stay at Nape Lodge in the indigenous community of Infierno. [Click here](#) for details.

## Why book this trip

Walking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu is one of the best ways to discover the culture and history of Peru. Avoid the crowds our three night Inca Trail trek, designed so that we stay on quieter campsites. Spacious tents are provided and the trek is fully supported by our excellent cook and team of porters who set up and take down the tents, provide water and carry all bags except day-sacks. Our porters are from the local villages, so that the surrounding communities benefit from your visit, and we abide by the strict guidelines regulating both their working conditions and care of the Inca Trail. The Inca Trail is doable for anybody that leads a reasonably active life, you can take as long as you need and stop to take in all the marvellous views and Inca ruins along the route.

## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 18  
Lunch: 3  
Dinner: 4



### Transport

Bus  
Boat  
Train



### Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader / Trek Guide  
Boat Crew  
Cook  
Local Guide(s)  
Porter(s)



### Accommodation

3 nights simple camping  
1 nights standard guesthouse  
12 nights standard hotel  
1 nights simple hotel  
1 nights simple village house

## Trip information

## Country information

### Peru

#### 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

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Paracas - Trip to Ballestas Islands by launch US\$ 38

Nazca - Antonini archaeological museum entrance fee US\$ 8 (US\$ 33 for guided tour [includes entrance fee]); Chauchilla pre-Inca cemetery US\$ 39 (includes guide, transport and entrance fee); Nazca aqueduct US\$ 22 (includes guide, transport and entrance fee); Nazca Planetarium US\$9

Cusco - Pisac market and ruins US\$ 48 (min 4 persons); Maras and Moray tour US\$ 54 (based on 4 persons); Outlying sites US\$ 30; Machu Picchu - Huayna Picchu £65; Machu Picchu Mountain £65 Subject to availability - these must be pre-paid at time of booking and is non-refundable. 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

Yucay - (Non-trekkers) Rafting on the Urubamba River US\$ 65 (1-4 pers); US\$55 (5-8 pers) US\$45 (9+ pers); Visit Misminay Village US\$ 75 (based on 4 people).

Aguas Calientes - Hot springs US\$ 4

Lima - City tour US\$ 35; Larco Herrera museum guided US\$ 35, unguided US\$ 11.00; 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)

### Clothing

For your trek: In the highlands conditions can be dry and sunny during the day but bring warm clothing such as a warm fleece, thermal underwear, warm hat and gloves. These will be needed when the temperatures drop, especially at night when temperatures can drop dramatically. Lightweight waterproofs are also essential. You may also wish to bring your swimsuit.

Thermals: Useful for walking when cold, around camp and much more practical (and warmer) to sleep in than pyjamas.

Trainers or Trekking sandals: Useful around camp, in towns and when travelling. Waterproof sandals are ideal for rafting.

Socks: Use good quality socks that you are used to walking in, plus liner socks if you are used to these.

Waterproofs: Breathable waterproofs not only protect against rain and wind, but also stop you from overheating.

Thick jumper/fleece jacket: A thick jumper or fleece jacket is necessary as nights can be very cold at altitude, especially in their winter months (June to September). Make sure that your waterproof jacket is loose enough to wear over your sweater or fleece.

T-shirts: We recommend t-shirts made from wicking materials as these keep you drier and warmer.

Shorts: Shorts can be comfortable to walk in but carry long trousers with you in case of strong sun or you feel cold. Remember we

shall be passing through the occasional remote village and short shorts (especially on women) can give offence to the local inhabitants.

Gloves and Hat: Essential around camp in the morning, and in the evening, at higher altitudes.

## Footwear

We recommend you bring well broken in and comfortable walking boots with ankle support. We do not recommend borrowing or renting boots. It is a good idea to carry your boots in your hand luggage on international flights or wear them - should your luggage be delayed, your boots are the one thing which will be irreplaceable. If you are rafting bring shoes that you don't mind getting wet.

## Luggage

20kg

### Luggage: On tour

For your trek bring one main piece of baggage and a daypack.

Main luggage:

Your main bag should be lockable as this will be left in storage in Cusco whilst on the trek.

Trek Kit Bag (provided):

Before leaving Cusco there is time to re-organise your luggage. Your trek luggage, including sleeping bag, should be packed into the kit bag to be carried by the porters. The weight limit for this is 7kg but you will probably find that you do not need this much. Advice on how to pack will be given at the trek briefing.

Small Rucksack/Daypack:

During the course of a trekking day, you do not have access to the luggage, which is being carried for you by the porters. In any mountain region the weather can change rapidly and you must be equipped for this eventuality. Your daypack should be large enough to carry your day things including: waterproofs, sweater, long trousers (if walking in shorts), warm hat and gloves, sun hat, suncream, water bottle, tissues and your packed lunch. Camera equipment can be heavy so think carefully when deciding what to take. A rucksack with 20 or 25 litres capacity is usually sufficient.

## Equipment

For your trek: Remember to bring: torch, water bottle, insect repellent, suncream (at least factor 30), lip salve, good quality sunglasses and sunhat. You may also wish to bring binoculars and your own sleeping bag.

Sleeping Bag: This may be down or synthetic, but should be 4-season. A cotton liner helps to keep your bag clean. You do not need a foam mat as thermarests are provided. It is possible to hire an appropriate down sleeping bag for the trek locally (US\$ 20).

Personal Equipment On Trek

Trekking poles: Trekking poles are recommended. Please note metal tipped trekking poles are NOT permitted so please ensure they have rubber/plastic tips

Water Bottle: Water along the trail must never be considered as drinkable. The camp staff provide purified water each day with which to fill your bottle. Your bottle should hold at least one litre. Disposable plastic bottles are not allowed on the trail. Metal bottles can also double up as hot water bottles when hot water is available.

Torch/Batteries/Bulb: A small torch is essential for finding things in your tent, visiting the 'toilet' in the night etc. Often a head torch is the most practical option as it allows you to have both hands free. Remember to bring spare batteries.

Toiletries: Only bring essential toiletries such as toothbrush/paste, soap and a small towel. Wet wipes are great for a quick clean up in your tent.

Personal First Aid Kit: On each trek a first aid kit is carried but you should have your own blister kit, supply of plasters, pain relief etc. for your own use.

The following equipment list is provided by Explore for the trek:

2-person tents

Dining tent

Thermarest sleeping mat

Stools and table

Toilet tent

Equipment Hire and Trek Training Days - Trek Hire UK hire out a wide range of kit including quality sleeping bags, down jackets and walking poles <http://www.trekhireuk.com>. They also run regular trek training and preparation days from their base in the Surrey Hills, ideal for getting an indication of your overall fitness level and also covering advice on kit and altitude.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

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

### Local crew

In this region, tipping is a recognised part of life across the service industry. Local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

To assist with this your Explore Leader may organise a group tips kitty for included activities and meals, they will then account for kitty use throughout the tour.

For this we suggest US\$65 per person

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

It is customary to tip our porters, cooks and trail guide at the end of the trek, although this is entirely at your discretion.

## Country Information

### Peru

#### 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

£1

#### 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, 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.

We avoid the crowds on our three night trek, and camp away from the main campsites. Two-man tents are provided with plenty of room for two people and bags. There is also a dining tent and a toilet tent. The trek is fully supported by our team of porters who set up and take down the tents, and prepare our meals. They also carry water and all bags except daysacks, under strict guidelines.

Day three you stay in a simple hotel with en-suite rooms and a small swimming pool. Day nine you stay in a simple village house, with dormitory accommodation and basic toilet facilities.

## 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

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.

### Price Guarantee

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 and Passport Information

Peru: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

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 to 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](http://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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## 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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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.

## Maximum altitude (m)

4200



## Altitude information

This trip goes to an altitude where there is a risk of being affected by Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), a common and usually harmless condition caused by reduced air pressure and a lower concentration of oxygen. Whilst the itinerary has been specifically designed to allow your body to acclimatise gradually, the speed of onset and severity - as well as the height at which AMS develops can vary greatly between individuals; being physically fit affords no special protection. If symptoms occur while on your trip you must let your Explore Leader know immediately. For further advice when travelling at altitude we recommend visiting the medical advice website of "Medex" and downloading their information booklet: [http://medex.org.uk/medex\\_book/english\\_version.php](http://medex.org.uk/medex_book/english_version.php)

Travellers with heart or lung conditions, anaemia, asthma, high blood pressure, or taking the contraceptive pill must seek the advice of their GP and specifically mention the maximum altitude the trip reaches (please refer to Tour Essentials box on front page of your Trip Notes). Please take the trip notes to your medical appointment so that your doctor has the full details of your trip.

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.

## Included activities

Additional notes for trips that include the Inca Trail

1. In order to regulate the number of people walking on the Inca Trail it is necessary to buy an Inca Trail Pass specific to the days that you wish to travel. There are 200 passes per day for tourists, the remainder are for guides and porters.
2. If you are travelling on an Explore trip, Explore buy the necessary permit on your behalf. This is non-refundable and can't be refunded or transferred after you have confirmed your booking.
3. Passes sell out quickly, so we would urge that you book your tour well ahead of your intended travel date. New Inca Passes are released in early October of each year, so ideally we would recommend that you book your trip at least 6 months ahead and by December for the following year where possible.
4. Please note that due to the way the passes are distributed in October although a tour departure may be 'Guaranteed' we are unable to guarantee individual Inca Trail passes until we have confirmation that the passes have been purchased. On booking we will be able to tell you the date that your pass should be confirmed, and will contact you immediately in the (unusual) event that it is not. Because of this we would recommend that you either book your flights through Explore or ensure that your tickets are flexible / refundable.
5. In order to buy your pass we will need to take an additional £125 per person non refundable deposit and require your: name as per passport, passport number, date of birth and nationality. If you change passport before travelling it will be necessary to provide a copy of both passports in advance of travelling and to carry a copy of your previous passport with you.
6. The Peruvian authorities may change the regulations for the Inca Trail Pass at any time. In the event of this we will inform you as soon as possible.

## Non refundable permits

Additional notes for trips that include the Inca Trail 1. In order to regulate the number of people walking on the Inca Trail it is necessary to buy an Inca Trail Pass specific to the days that you wish to travel. There are 200 passes per day for tourists, the remainder are for guides and porters. 2. If you are travelling on an Explore trip, Explore buy the necessary permit on your behalf. This is non-refundable and can't be refunded or transferred after you have confirmed your booking. 3. Passes sell out quickly, so we would urge that you book your tour well ahead of your intended travel date. New Inca Passes are released in early October of each year, so ideally we would recommend that you book your trip at least 6 months ahead and by December for the following year where possible. 4. Please note that due to the way the passes are distributed in October although a tour departure may be 'Guaranteed' we are unable to guarantee individual Inca Trail passes until we have confirmation that the passes have been purchased. On booking we will be able to tell you the date that your pass should be confirmed, and will contact you immediately in the (unusual) event that it is not. Because of this we would recommend that you either book your flights through Explore or ensure that your tickets are flexible / refundable. 5. In order to buy your pass we will need to take an additional £125 per person non refundable deposit and require your: name as per passport, passport number, date of birth and nationality. If you change passport before travelling it will be necessary to provide a copy of both passports in advance of travelling and to carry a copy of your previous passport with you. 6. The Peruvian authorities may change the regulations for the Inca Trail Pass at any time. In the event of this we will inform you as soon as possible.

## Peru

### 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. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

