

EXPLORE!

Tailormade Classic Peru - Incas and Andes
16 days

Peru - Trip code TMPE2

Tailormade Classic Peru - Incas and Andes

Inca history and beautiful sunsets

Travel Peru, exploring the most fascinating spots and hidden highlights this intriguing country has to offer. This journey shows you the best this Andean country has to offer - from dawn to dusk. Feel the goose bumps at the site of sunrise at Machu Picchu, enjoy 'coca' tea and smiles with a local family as the sun goes down over Lake Titicaca and make the most of your days exploring the history and culture of Peru, sometimes in the company of the majestic condors!

Enriching tailormade journeys - for you

This bespoke journey features some of our favourite spots in Peru. You can choose to take our destination experts' recommendations and travel just as you see the itinerary here, or contact us to add your own special touches; take a cookery class or add an Amazon extension on the end. We're here to design your perfect holiday. Call us on **01252 883 184**.

Trip highlights

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.

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Fly to Lima

Depart from the UK on the flight of your choice, arriving in Lima late the same day.



Accommodation: El Tambo (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



None

DAY 2 - Fly to Arequipa

Fly to Arequipa and settle into your hotel. This afternoon is left free for you to explore and acclimatise.



Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Arequipa (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Breakfast

DAY 3 - In Arequipa; visit South Catalina Convent

This morning you have a guided tour of the White City. The historic city is predominantly built from sillar, a white volcanic stone that give the city its name. You'll visit the main square, with its colonial architecture and the Church of the Society of Jesus with its colourful frescos. You will also visit the Santa Catalina Convent, a miniature walled town which once housed 450 nuns and serving ladies in total seclusion. This afternoon has been left free for you to explore at your leisure.



Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Arequipa (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Breakfast

DAY 4 - To Colca Valley

Your scenic drive to the Colca Valley is almost as stunning as the destination. The route takes you to a higher altitude, past giant volcanoes and herds of vicuña. On arrival you can bathe in one of the local hot springs.



Accommodation: El Refugio Hotel, Colca Valley (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Wi-Fi available



Swimming pool available



Breakfast

DAY 5 - Condors and Lake Titicaca

From Chivay you make an early start to the mirador Cruz del Condor, you'll pass through Aguada Blanca National Reserve where you may see alpacas and llamas roaming the plains. In Colca we aim to see the rare Andean Condor in flight, a highlight of any itinerary. Continuing 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: La Hacienda Hotel, Puno (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 6 - Taquile Island

From Puno you depart early and head towards Taquile Island, around 35 km away and 3950 m above sea level. Taquile island has preserved much of its Inca and pre-Inca heritage and the islanders still speak the language of the Inca - Runa Simi or Quechua. While on the island, you visit the community of Huayllano, who will show you their artistic handicrafts. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional lunch, followed by a walk down to the island's main square, upon which sits its most important church and handicraft centre. The afternoon ends at a lookout point where you can enjoy an incredible views of the sunset on the lake. Later you return to your lodgings where you will eat with your hosts and learn about their traditions, and spend the night in their home.



Accommodation: Homestay, Taquile Island (or similar)



Simple Homestay



Breakfast

DAY 7 - Visit the Uros Island and return to Puno

This morning you'll have breakfast with your hosts, then help with their farming duties and maybe visit the local beach. You then 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 totora, 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. Also visit Amantani Island, located at an elevation of 4150 m, it is famous for its terraced hillsides that used to be farmed by the locals. Pre-Incan people claimed this island was a sacred place, and that you can feel its mystical energies flow around you. Later, you transfer back to Puno.



Accommodation: La Hacienda Hotel, Puno (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Wi-Fi available



Breakfast Lunch

DAY 8 - Bus to Cusco

Today we follow the legendary route taken by the first Inca ruler - Manco Capac - on his way to find Cusco. Driving up to the northern limit of the Altiplano you'll cross La Raya pass (4335m) and descend to Cusco. The scenery is desolate but magnificent and you may spot flocks of llamas and alpacas grazing on the windswept pastures. En route you'll visit the 15th Century Raqchi, Temple, also known as The Temple of God Wiracocha and the colonial church at Andahuaylillas, home to a beautiful organ decorated with angels and cherubs. Your journey ends in Cusco.

Please note: There is also the opportunity to take the classic train journey aboard the Andean Explorer from Puno to Cusco - one of the great railway journeys of the world, the full day journey covers some spectacular scenery over the high altiplano. The train must be pre-booked at time of booking, please discuss with your Tailormade consultant. Please note that rail strikes are common in Peru and so there is the possibility that the train may not always be running.



Accommodation: Inkarrí Hostel, Cusco (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Wi-Fi available



Breakfast

DAY 9 - Cusco

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 take a walking tour of this lovely city to see important Inca and Colonial monuments, such as Plaza de Armas, the main square and the Koricancha, once an Incan Palace dedicated to the sun god, Inti. You then 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. The journey continues to the archaeological sites at Qenko, Puca-Pucara, and Tambomachay and ends with a visit to an Andean art workshop.



Accommodation: Inkarri Hostel, Cusco (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Breakfast

DAY 10 - Free day to explore Cusco

Today has been left free for you to explore Cusco at your leisure. You may choose to wander the colourful markets or enjoy a leisurely lunch while watching the world go by in the Plaza de Armas. Alternatively you could arrange a cookery lesson, visit the Choco Museum or head to the Sacred Valley and visit the Andean Village of Misminay - Speak to your Tailormade Regional Specialist to add one of these excursions to your itinerary.



Accommodation: Inkarri Hostel, Cusco (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Breakfast Lunch

DAY 11 - Full day tour in the Sacred Valley

Take a trip out into the Sacred Valley to visit the areas of Ollantaytambo, Maras and Moray. Located at the lower reaches of the Sacred Valley, Ollantaytambo was the royal state of Emperor Pachacuti during the Inca Empire, who conquered the region and built the town as a ceremonial centre. You'll visit Salineras near Maras, a series of intricate terraces that have produced salt for centuries, before heading to Moray. Known locally as the 'laboratory of the Incas' Moray contains unusual Inca ruins, mostly consisting of several enormous terraced circular depressions, the largest of which is about 30m (98ft) deep. The purpose of these depressions is uncertain, but their depth and orientation with respect to wind and sun creates a temperature difference of as much as 15 °C (27 °F) between the top and bottom. This large temperature difference was possibly used by the Inca to study the effects of different climatic conditions on crops. In other words, Moray was perhaps an Inca agricultural experiment station.



Accommodation: Hacienda del Valley, Sacred Valley (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Breakfast

DAY 12 - Full day visit to Machu Picchu

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. Explore this mountain-top stronghold - the most spectacular feat of engineering in ancient America. Returning to Aguas Calientes for the night.



Accommodation: El Santuario Hotel, Aguas Calientes (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Breakfast

DAY 13 - Free morning, transfer back to Cusco

This morning has been left free, perhaps you may like to visit Machu Picchu again or climb Huayna Picchu to experience an alternative viewpoint. Taking the train back to Ollantaytambo, you then transfer by bus to Cusco, where the rest of the afternoon has been left free.



Accommodation: Inkarri Hostal, Cusco (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Breakfast

DAY 14 - Fly to Lima

Leaving Cusco behind, you fly back to Lima. Founded in 1535 and called the City of Kings, Lima today is both ancient and modern. Stroll through the downtown Lima stopping in the main square to admire the colonial architecture. You'll visit Santo Domingo Convent, the modern district of San Isidro and then Miraflores, with a stop at the "Parque del Amor" for its incredible views of the Pacific Ocean.



Accommodation: El Tambo (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Breakfast

DAY 15 - Depart Peru

Unfortunately, time to leave Peru and fly home.

DAY 16 - Arrive UK

Tailormade Expert



Meet Sarah Slocomb,
Regional Specialist for Peru

Call on 01252 883 184.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 14
Lunch: 3
Dinner: 1



Transport

Private car
Flight
Shared minibus
Train
Boat
Bus



Trip staff

Local guide



Accommodation

1 nights simple homestay
11 nights standard hotel
2 nights standard hotel

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

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.

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.

Standard

Light on your pocket but long on authentic experiences, these tours are based in simple, sometimes local-style accommodation. If your idea of adventure travel is to experience real, everyday life then you will enjoy our authentic style of tour. You will have the chance to stay at simple, family-run hotels and guesthouses where the lack of luxury is more than compensated for by the warm welcome and genuine insight into local life.

El Tambo, Lima

This small family run El Tambo hotel is well located in the tourist area of Miraflores within walking distance to local restaurants and shops. Rooms are simply furnished yet very comfortable with en suite facilities and fans. The hotel also has a restaurant and bar.

Casa Andina Standard, Arequipa

The Casa Andina Standard Arequipa enjoys stunning views towards El Misti volcano from its terrace. It is situated just a short, six-block walk away from central Arequipa, so enjoys a more tranquil location. Wi-Fi is available in the common areas.

El Refugio Colca, Chivay- Colca Valley

Located just outside the village of Chivay, El Refugio is set just above a riverbend on the Colca River. The rooms are comfortable and rustic in style with wooden laminate flooring and a small terrace from which to enjoy views of the large canyon and surrounding valley. Materials used in building the hotel include straw, stones and eucalyptus in order to fit in with the local landscape and to respect the natural environment and there is a small bar and a restaurant.

La Hacienda Hotel, Puno

This comfortable and cosy hotel combines good facilities and accommodation with a convenient city location, just one block from Plaza de Armas. There is a bar and a restaurant serving international and local dishes.

Home Stay, Taquile Island

Tonight is spent in a local style adobe brick house, rooms often have shared facilities. Bedding and a towel is provided however hot water may not always be available. Although the accommodation is basic by western standards, this is a great way to immerse yourself in the community and local culture.

Inkarri Hostal, Cusco

The Inkarri Hostal is located about 10 minutes walking distance from the main square and occupies a restored 18th century colonial house, built in a traditional local style around a central courtyard. The mid-sized property offers basic rooms spread over two floors. The staff are friendly and helpful, and happy to bring more blankets or heaters if the temperature is a little chilly.

Hotel Hacienda del Valle, Sacred Valley

Hotel Hacienda del Valle is located just 15 minutes from Ollantaytambo train station in the middle of the Sacred Valley. Overlooking the Andes mountain range, the hotel offers a perfect retreat in a quiet spot.

El Santuario Hotel, Aguas Calientes

Conveniently located a few minutes away from the railway station and within easy access to Machu Picchu, El Santuario is a small hotel and a great base to explore the ruins and town. There is a restaurant and a bar and all rooms, although without frills, are spacious and comfortable, some with free wireless internet access.

Premium

On Premium level tailor-made holidays you will stay at comfortable mid-range hotels, chosen for their location, ambiance or local character. Your rooms will be clean and well-appointed, with en suite bathrooms and air-conditioning or heating as necessary. Premium level hotels normally have restaurants, bars and often other amenities such as a swimming pool and gardens, offering a good level of comfort at a reasonable price.

Hotel la Hacienda, Lima

Hotel La Hacienda is conveniently located in the popular area of Miraflores, close to restaurants and shops. The main areas of the hotel have a colonial feel with wooden beams, bare walls, a stone floor and decorated with traditional art and pottery. There is a lovely large fireplace by the bar and plenty of seating where guests can relax. The spacious and comfortable rooms, by contrast are more modern in design. The hotel also has a rustic restaurant serving delicious local cuisine.

Casa Andina Select, Arequipa

The Casa Andina Classic Arequipa enjoys stunning views towards El Misti volcano from its terrace. It is situated just a short, six-block walk away from central Arequipa, so enjoys a more tranquil location. Wi-Fi is available in the common areas.

Aranwa Colca, Colca Valley

Aranwa Colca is located just 10 minutes' drive from Chivay. The property is set up like a small village, with rooms located within two-story chalets around a peaceful trout pond. The restaurant offers lovely home cooked dishes using vegetables grown in the hotel's garden. Guests can relax in the bar serving light snacks and cocktails, by the swimming pool or in the spa.

Sonesta Posadas del Inca, Puno

Located on the outskirts of town in a peaceful setting, this three-storey hotel sits on the shores of Lake Titicaca. The rooms are comfortable and the hotel's private port offers guests convenient access to the lake. Some of the rooms have a lakeside view. There is a comfortable lobby area where guests can relax on the sofas or in the small bar by the restaurant, overlooking the lake.

Home Stay, Taquile Island

Tonight is spent in a local style adobe brick house, rooms often have shared facilities. Bedding and a towel is provided however hot water may not always be available. Although the accommodation is basic by western standards, this is a great way to immerse yourself in the community and local culture.

Abittare, Cusco

The Abittare Cusco hotel is perfectly situated near to the Koricanha and just five minutes' walk from the Plaza de Armas. The hotel is a converted colonial house, with rooms located around a central courtyard. Rooms are simple yet perfectly comfortable for a few nights stay. The hotel offers a simple buffet breakfast and is within walking distance to bars and restaurants.

Sonesta Posada del Inca, Sacred Valley

Located in the heart of the Sacred Valley in the small village of Yucay, a short distance from Urubamba, the Sonesta Posada del Inca has a stunning mountainous backdrop with beautiful gardens. The former 18th century monastery house is now a relatively large hotel with rooms that are comfortable, warm and cosy with modern amenities. The hotel has a relaxed coffee shop, a bar with live music in the evenings and a restaurant serving local cuisine.

Casa Andina Standard Machu Picchu, Aguas Calientes

This stylish hotel blends contemporary design with comfort. Rooms are simple but elegant; public areas include a cafeteria serving light meals and snacks. Situated in a good location in town, the hotel is within walking distance to local shops and restaurants. Wi-Fi is available in communal areas.

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](#)

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.

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.
