

Land of the Incas

Lima / Cusco / Machu Picchu

11/01/17 - /11/07/17



Day 1 – Wednesday, November 1st

05:57 PM Depart Atlanta DL 151 (\$1,220 - Economy Comfort)
11:35 PM Arrive Lima, Peru
12:00 AM Meet tour guide to take us to airport hotel

Day 2 – Thursday, November 2nd

Peru for Less will schedule a private transfer to take you from your hotel to the airport for your flight to Cusco. Time TBA

Upon arrival at the Cusco airport, a Peru For Less representative will meet you for the drive to the historic center. On the way to your hotel, you will see examples of Spanish colonial architecture constructed upon the remains of ancient Inca palaces and temples.

Arriving mid-day at your hotel, [Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel](#), you now have the rest of the day to begin your exploration of the city. Since Cusco is located at 11,300 feet in elevation, during this first afternoon in the city you may want to take it easy so that you can begin acclimatizing to the altitude. Nevertheless, this is a good chance to wander about the main square, with its many cafes and stores, or even visit a museum. There are also many options for casual and/or fine dining.

Day 3 – Friday, November 3rd

Spend the morning at your leisure. This is a good time to explore some of Cusco's less-visited attractions including the famous San Pedro Market, the bohemian neighborhood of San Blas, or one of Cusco's many fine museums, such as the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, the Casa Concha ("Machu-Picchu Museum"), or the Choco Museum, where you can make your own chocolate from scratch (chocolate is indigenous to the New World).

In the afternoon, an expert guide will take you to some of the world's best archeological sites in and around the city, including the Cusco Cathedral in the Plaza de Armas and the fabulous Temple of the Sun or Qoricancha, which was the heart of the Inca Empire. You will also visit the spectacular ruins of the Sacsayhuaman fortress/temple overlooking the city, as well as the ruins of Q'enko, Puka Pukara, and Tambomachay nearby.

In the late afternoon, you'll return to your Cusco hotel. Spend the evening at your leisure enjoying the local cuisine, music, and the splendor of Cusco at night, the surrounding hills twinkling with lights and the sky overhead littered with stars.

Day 4 – Saturday, November 4th

Explore the beautiful Peruvian countryside with a full-day tour of the magical Sacred Valley, home to several royal estates of Incan emperors. First, you will visit the town of Pisac, famous for its bustling indigenous market and for the beautiful Incan ruins on the hillside overlooking the city. In the market, you will have the opportunity to browse the beautiful handicrafts and Andean garments displayed for sale as well as local fruits, vegetables, and other natural products. While exploring the Pisac ruins above, you will wander about walls and palaces of spectacularly cut stones, while enjoying a stunning view of Pisac and the Sacred Valley below.

Following your visit to Pisac, you will stop for lunch (not included) at a buffet restaurant offering a variety of Peruvian and international food near the town of Urubamba, named after the sacred river (whose upper stretch is called the Vilcanota) that flows through the valley, on its way to Machu Picchu and eventually the Amazon jungle.

Next, you will visit the spectacular fortress of Ollantaytambo. These magnificent Incan ruins that cling to the hillside were part of the royal estate of the Incan emperor Pachacuti. Later, during the Incas' heroic resistance against the Spaniards, a great battle was fought, during which the Spaniards were repelled by the guerrilla emperor Manco Inca. The small town of Ollantaytambo at its base still has Inca houses, making Ollantaytambo the only Inca city that is still inhabited today.

In the late afternoon, you will be taken to your comfortable hotel in the Sacred Valley,
[Arawana Hotels Sacred Valley](#)

Day 5 – Sunday, November 5th

After breakfast at your Sacred Valley hotel, you will take a train to Machu Picchu, the hidden Inca citadel. This hour-and-a-half to two-hour train journey is one of the finest in the world. Much of the path winds along the rushing Vilcanota river and snakes through gorges cut into the bases of massive mountainsides, offering passengers dramatic views of the Andean landscape as the train descends from high altitude plains down through the cloud forest. The foliage dramatically changes as the train approaches the meeting point of the Andes and the Upper Amazon rainforest, providing visitors an intimate view of one of the most spectacular transitions in the world.

Upon arrival in Aguas Calientes, the town at the base of Machu Picchu, you will be met at the train station and accompanied to the bus station for a 20-minute ride up to the secluded citadel, which is surrounded by a cloud forest inhabited by orchids and hummingbirds.

Next, you will meet your expert, English-speaking guide for a tour of the most important sites in Machu Picchu, including the Intihuatana (Sun Stone), the Sun Temple, and the Room of 3 Windows. Machu Picchu is justifiably ranked as one of the “must see” archaeological sites in the world. Here, royal palaces, temples and astronomical observatories cling to a granite spur some 2,000 feet above the valley floor, affording spectacular views of the cloud-wreathed Andes and the Urubamba River far below.

In the late afternoon, you will take a comfortable train back to Cusco and then be transferred to your Cusco hotel for the evening.

Day 6 – Monday, November 6th

After breakfast at your hotel, one of our representatives will meet you at your hotel and take you to the airport for your journey home or on to your next destination.

Flight back to Cusco TBA

Check in to Lima Hotel. 2.4 miles from airport

Day 7 – Tuesday, November 7th

12:00 AM	Take shuttle to airport
02:00 AM	Depart Lima DL 150
09:05 AM	Arrive Atlanta
09:15 AM	Collect luggage and go home