

Authentic Andean

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The Sacred Valley, Cusco & Machu Picchu: 9 days / 8 nights

The essential Andean experience – combining classic destinations while offering the sophisticated traveler the opportunity to experience and authentically engage in a cultured Indigenous point-of-view.

Savor the ambiance of the Sacred Valley, find yourself surrounded by breathtaking scenery, and begin your exploration of the Inca legacy through their Quechua descendants. Immerse yourself in the spirit of this Inca land. Discover the profoundly elegant simplicity of Andean people and celebrate their customs, cuisine, music and dance. Admire their arts. Delve into their philosophy; understand their history and way of life.

Our Signature Journey ~ Sample Itinerary

Day One / Thursday: *Cusco / Sacred Valley*

Morning flight to Cusco – the navel of the world – and land in the heart of the Andes. You will be greeted at the Cusco airport to begin your exclusive journey. Enjoy a spectacular 45 minute scenic drive to the Sacred Valley. Arrive to Pisac with lower altitude and small town charm. Settle into your room at Pisac Inn, meet the staff and enjoy a cup of coca tea to help you acclimate. After your first in a series of delicious meals spun into a select set menu so you may explore the diversity and richness of Peruvian Cuisine, take the afternoon to rest, acclimate and explore the cobblestone streets of Pisac on your own. Gather for an early evening orientation with a welcoming Pisco Sour followed by a fireside dinner.

Hotel: Pisac Inn **Meals:** L, D

Day two / Friday: *Cusco*

After breakfast enjoy a leisurely 30-minute scenic drive to explore pre-Columbian sites outside of Cusco including the sacred spring of Tambomachay, the lunar and solar observatories of Kenko, and megalithic Sacsayhuaman. You will be captivated by the introduction to Andean astronomy and sacred geometry, the foundation of Andean culture that will be expanded on each day of your journey. Enjoy lunch at one of Cusco's fine restaurant recommended by your guide. Upon return to Pisac Inn enjoy a few free hours to rest and contemplate, or indulge in an herbal bath and massage at *Unucha Spa before dinner.

Hotel: Pisac Inn **Meals:** B, D (lunch not included)

Day three / Saturday: *Moray & Salt Mines*

Visit Kusi Kawsay School, an exceptional educational project. After learning about the unique vision of Kusi Kawsay that combines elements of Waldorf Pedagogy with Andean tradition, delight in the beautiful school grounds, dedicated teachers and smiling students. Your day continues to unfold as you embark on a scenic drive through the Sacred Valley and up to highlands of Moray; delight in the patchwork fields and awe inspiring vistas. The advanced Inca astronomical knowledge tied into agrarian feats are seen in Moray's astounding circular terraces. Following a picnic lunch surrounded by an expansive natural beauty, continue to the Inca salt mines still in use today. Hundreds of scintillating pools provoke a sense of peaceful timelessness.

After a full day of exploring, your return to Pisac Inn feels like coming home. Wander through Pisac as the market is broken down, enjoy a sunset stroll along the corn fields or simply relax with a Pisco Sour as you people watch either at the sidewalk café or on the balcony before another memorable meal in Peru. Dinner followed by a festive traditional music and dance with Wiñay Taki Ayllu, a local group of musicians, artists and visionaries who have dedicated their lives to preserving their Andean culture.

Hotel: Pisac Inn **Meals:** B, Picnic, D

Day four / Sunday: *Pisac Site & Market*

Drive to the Pisac archeological site where the staggering agricultural terrace work is among the most extensive in the area following the shape of the mountainsides in entrancing concave and convex forms. The central astronomic and ceremonial area is widely acclaimed as some of the finest stonework, comparable to that of Machu Picchu. This expansive site provides an ideal setting for a picnic lunch with magnificent vistas up and down the valley. Embark upon a breathtaking walk down to Pisac and enjoy the afternoon at leisure at Pisac's colorful Traditional Indian Market. Explore the traditional food section where locals buy and trade their produce and admire the beautiful faces and calm excitement that transforms Pisac on Sunday.

Hotel: Pisac Inn **Meals:** B, Picnic, D

Day five / Monday: *Amaru*

Delight in a 45-minute drive into the majestic high Andes and walk through the patchwork fields replete with potatoes, fava beans and corn to the traditional highland community of Amaru, where a genuinely authentic way of life is still practiced to this day. You will be welcomed with an endearing sweetness rarely felt in this day and age by this community that is consciously preserving and practicing their ancestral heritage. Through participation in a communal workday a beautiful cultural exchange unravels as you experience this incredible opportunity to step back in time and appreciate a quality of life with an admirable simplicity that is strikingly moving and profound. Enjoy a traditional lunch prepared with their prized agrarian products as the women begin to spin their naturally dyed wool. Others meditatively set up their back strap looms to share their ancestral weaving skills with us. This wonderful opportunity to purchase textiles directly from the weavers is not to be missed. Return to Pisac for some down time before a dinner out in Pisac.

Hotel: Pisac Inn **Meals:** B, L, D

Day six / Tuesday: *Ollantaytambo*

Begin your day with a breathtaking drive through the heart of the Sacred Valley to the Inca town Ollantaytambo. Visit Ollantaytambo's magnificent archeological site, learn about the Llama constellation and explore the town that was built in the shape of a corncob. After lunch enjoy a spectacular train ride to Aguas Calientes, where you will spend the night in preparation for an early start to Machu Picchu the following morning.

Hotel: La Cabana Boutique Hotel **Meals:** B, Picnic (dinner not included)

Day seven / Wednesday: *Machu Picchu*

Get an early start to take the 20 min bus ride up steep slopes to magnificent Machu Picchu, renowned as a wonder of the world. Isolated among mountain peaks, this awe-inspiring site carries sacred mathematical and scientific wisdom yet to be fully discovered. Explore the important sectors full of astronomic explanations, and revel in the beautiful natural setting and ancient ruins. Take bus down to Aguas Calientes to catch the afternoon train to Ollantaytambo and drive back to Pisac. Dinner awaits upon your return to Pisac Inn.

Hotel: Pisac Inn **Meals:** B, D (lunch not included)

Day eight / Thursday: *Cusco City*

Enjoy a city day in Cusco. Stroll through the streets of Cusco, admire the Inca walls, visit the Plaza de Armas and the main pre-Colombian Inca Temple, Coricancha. Have a relaxing lunch out on the town in a fine restaurant recommended by your guide. Shop at boutiques that feature high quality alpaca in contemporary designs. Upon return to Pisac rest before your farewell dinner in Pisac.

Hotel: Pisac Inn **Meals:** B, D (lunch not included)

Day nine / Friday:

Early breakfast before leaving for the Cusco airport.

Meals: B

PRICES:

- Starting from \$2,100 per person
- Customized pricing upon request

Included:

- All ground transportation upon arrival to Cusco airport in a private tourist level vehicle
- Private, specialized, professional English speaking native guides who accompany you throughout your journey
- Entrance fees to all historical sites on daily excursions
- Machu Picchu: Tourist class train (Ollantaytambo – Aguas Calientes – Ollantaytambo), bus (Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu – Aguas Calientes), entrance fee to Machu Picchu, overnight in Aguas Calientes
- Fresh, organic meals celebrating Peruvian cuisine in daily set menus as on program (vegetarian available)
- Charming accommodations
- Special events with local Andean specialists

Not Included: Airfare, travel insurance, personal expenses, any tips or donations, meals eaten out as indicated in program and any snacks or beverages not included at mealtime.

- The order of your itinerary will change depending on the day you arrive.
- You can customize your trip with hotel upgrades and [extensions](#)
- Book a treatment at [Unucha Spa](#); we recommend the herbal bath and massage combo. Reservations are required and treatments are not included. [Contact Us](#) to make an appointment!
- The cost of our tour is in U.S. dollars per person
- Group sizes are minimum 3 maximum 12 passengers
- Journeys for one or two are possible, priced accordingly
- Prices per person based on double occupancy – single supplement available
- Taxes may apply
- Programs and prices are subject to change and availability
- Not applicable on some dates/holiday season

We specialize in weaving our journeys for travelers; therefore we do not have set dates. Please [contact us](#) directly to check availability.

Accommodations: This trip is based out of [Pisac Inn](#). Small and comfortable, this boutique hotel is charming, full of artistic details and old world flair that celebrate the depth and richness of local Andean heritage.

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