



### **LARES TREK & MACHU PICCHU** **5 days / 4 Nights**

*The Lares Trail is noted for its cultural attractions, including traditional weavers attired in colorful dress, roving herds of alpacas and llamas, and a panorama of waterfalls, snow peaks, and glacial lakes. After a day of hiking and exploring, the travelers return to the lodges where they can enjoy the comforts of a spacious guest room with hot shower, gourmet dining, lounging by a fireplace while recounting the adventures of the day.*

Level : Moderate

Duration : 5 days / 4 nights

Location : Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu

Season : March to December

Departures : Fixed Departures

#### **DAY 1 –Sacred Valley: Explore the Pisac Valley & Ruins**

After an early breakfast, we depart Cusco for the Urubamba Valley, the "Sacred Valley of the Incas." We drive past Pisac and turn off the main road at Qoya (9,514'/2,900m), with its charming colonial church. After about a 1 hour drive (the last section on a dirt road), we reach the AyarCancha community where we start hiking at an elevation of 12,830 feet (3,850m). The trail winds uphill for two hours to Challwaccasa Pass (13,943'/4,250m), which grants us great views of the peaks of the Vilcanota and Vilcabamba mountain ranges and, in the distance, the giant snow-capped peaks of Ausangate and Salcantay. We then head downhill to the community of Viacha (12,950'/3,950m), where we enjoy a gourmet lunch. After a well-earned rest, we join

a restored Inca trail that leads to the stunning archaeological site of Pisac (10,826'/3200m), which dominates the valley below. The lower slopes of the surrounding mountains feature impressive agricultural terraces and irrigation systems dating from Inca times. After exploring the ruins we continue downhill for an hour to the picturesque village of Pisac (9,750'/2,972m), well known for its colorful handicraft market held on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Our vehicle will be waiting to take us to the town of Lamay (9,649'/2,941m), where we overnight at a comfortable lodge. Dinner and overnight at Lamay Lodge  
Total hiking time including lunch: 6 hours

### **DAY 2 –Lares: Trek from Quiswarani to Huacawasi, High Mountain Lakes & Villages**

A great day awaits us as we hike one of the most beautiful trails in the Cusco region! We depart Lamay early in the morning and take a scenic two-hour drive toward Lares, the region north of the Sacred Valley. Leaving the main road, we soon arrive at the quaint village of Quiswarani (12,562'/3,829m), where we begin our hike. Our trail heads westward up a small valley dotted with lakes and herds of grazing alpacas, then narrows into a series of switchbacks to Abra Huchuyccasa pass (14,481'/4,414m), which we reach after three hours. From the pass we have the most amazing views of distant mountain ranges and stunning turquoise lakes, whose brilliant hues are the result of bronze metal elements in their icy waters. Descending slightly, we continue hiking another hour toward our second pass of the day at Phoñocasa (14,393'/4,387m). From here we descend to Qeywaqocha Lake for a leisurely lunch, then end our hike at the village of Qelqena (11,965'/3,647m). Along the way enjoy spotting native bird species, including Andean geese, ducks, and plovers. Our vehicle meets us at the trailhead for the drive to the famous weavers'village of Huacawasi (12,579'/3,835m). Dinner and overnight at Huacawasi Lodge.  
Total hiking time including lunch: 8 hours

### **DAY 3 –Lares: Trek from Huacahuasi to Patacancha, the Weavers' Trail**

Huacawasi is a famous weavers'village, where the men still wear traditional colorful ponchos and women's attire includes wide handmade skirts and decorated hats. Our hike starts right from Huacawasi Lodge, and as we walk through the village we are immersed in scenes of community life, including women working on looms and children heading to school. The wide and easy trail takes us uphill for 2.5 hours to the top of Ipsaycocha Pass (14,757'/4,499m) where we enjoy stunning views of the surrounding mountains. As we hike, we often meet locals traveling from village to village with their goods and herds of animals. We descend gently for about 40 minutes to Lake Ipsaycocha (14,081'/4,292m) where we may have the chance to see condors circling effortlessly in the sky while enjoying our lunch. We continue our descent for 2.5 hours to the village of Patacancha (12,624'/3,848m) where high quality weavings are also produced. Our vehicle will meet us here to take us to the Inca town of Ollantaytambo (9,160'/2,792m) in the Sacred Valley. Dinner and overnight at a hotel.  
Total hiking time including lunch: 6.5 hours

**DAY 4 –Explore Ollantaytambo Inca Sites and Transfer to Machu Picchu Town**

After a leisurely breakfast, we walk through the village of Ollantaytambo which boasts an impressive archaeological site and a well-preserved Inca town structure. This was the estate of Emperor Pachacutec who conquered the region, building the town and the ceremonial center. Ollantaytambo dates from the late 15th century and has some of the oldest continuously occupied dwellings in South America. Late morning we board our train for the 1.5-hour ride to Aguas Calientes, also known as Machu Picchu Town, Mountain Lodges of Peru will provide box lunch on board. Free afternoon to explore the colorful town and the magnificent orchid gardens of the hotel. Optional visit to Machu Picchu Sanctuary (on request at additional cost) in the afternoon hours when we can enjoy the site with less visitors. Dinner and overnight at Inkaterra Pueblo Hotel.

**DAY 5 –Visit Machu Picchu Sanctuary and Return to Cusco**

After a very early breakfast at the hotel, we walk to the bus station for the 30-minute ride up to Machu Picchu Sanctuary. Our trip leader will give an introductory two-hour guided tour of the evocative ruins, after which we have the option of climbing the sheer Inca staircase of Huayna Picchu, a steep and vertically quite challenging hike that affords encompassing views of Machu Picchu and the surrounding mountain ranges (about a two-hour hike). Afterwards, we meet up with our guide again and return by bus to Aguas Calientes for a late lunch. The afternoon train ride from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo takes about 1.5 hours, and then a private vehicle drives us back to Cusco (an additional 1.5 hours). Upon arrival in Cusco (approximately 7 or 8 p.m.), we are dropped off at El Mercado Tunqui Hotel (or other hotel of your choice) for overnight.

End of our services



## 2015 FIXED DEPARTURES

### March

Starting on March 7th  
Starting on March 11th  
Starting on March 15th  
Starting on March 21st  
Starting on March 26th

### April

Starting on April 5th  
Starting on April 9th  
Starting on April 16th  
Starting on April 21st  
Starting on April 25th  
Starting on April 29th

### May

Starting on May 2nd  
Starting on May 7th  
Starting on May 13th  
Starting on May 17th  
Starting on May 23rd  
Starting on May 28th

### June

Starting on June 3rd  
Starting on June 7th  
Starting on June 12th  
Starting on June 17th  
Starting on June 26th  
Starting on June 29th

### July

Starting on July 2  
Starting on July 6  
Starting on July 10  
Starting on July 19  
Starting on July 24

Starting on July 30

### August

Starting on August 13th  
Starting on August 21st  
Starting on August 29th

### September

Starting on September 5th  
Starting on September 10th  
Starting on September 18<sup>th</sup>  
Starting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>

### October

Starting on October 2nd  
Starting on October 8th  
Starting on October 16th  
Starting on October 25th  
Starting on October 29th

### November

Starting on November 2nd  
Starting on November 6th  
Starting on November 12th  
Starting on November 16th  
Starting on November 20th  
Starting on November 24th  
Starting on November 28th

### December

Starting on December 1st  
Starting on December 9th  
Starting on December 16th  
Starting on December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Starting on December 30

**WHAT IS INCLUDED?**

- Transfer Cusco to Cusco
- Entrance fee to sites (Excluding the optional afternoon visit to Machu Picchu on Day 4 (5D/4N) or 6 (7D/6N) depending on the program)
- Permits for Huayna Picchu Mountain
- Accommodations
- All Meals (Except breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 5 or 7 depending on the itinerary)
- Guides (Except for the optional afternoon visit to Machu Picchu)
- Tips for MLP lodge staff, mule drivers and route chefs, excluding guides.

**SINGLE OCCUPANCY**

Requested single room: 25% supplement of the per person rates.

Single willing to share: Free of charge (subject to availability)

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS 2015 FIXED DEPARTURE PROGRAMS**

A deposit of US\$300.00 per person is required at time of booking for both departures (US\$245.00\* is refundable up to 35 days prior departure).

A reservation will not be confirmed until the deposit is paid. Space may be allocated to the next request on the waiting list, if applicable.

Full payment is required 30 days before departure date.

Optional entrance tickets to Machu Picchu on the afternoon of Day 4 or 6 (depending on your itinerary) should be requested at time of booking, due to limited availability. The cost which includes tickets to the Sanctuary as well as public bus transportation to/from the town of Machu Picchu will be charged together with the deposit.

Full guest information has to be sent 60 days prior to departure.

\*Note: Due to high demand for Machu Picchu entrance tickets and Huayna Picchu mountain permits, we purchase these 60 days prior to the trek departure date in order to secure space for all of our guests. Therefore, in case a trip is cancelled within 60 days of departure, the cost of entrance tickets to Machu Picchu will be charged (Both group and optional tickets as applicable).

**CANCELLATION PENALTIES**

In the event of a guest's cancellation MLP requires notification of cancellations in writing, by email or fax and the following cancellation fees apply:

- Up to 35 days prior to trip start date: US\$ 245.00 is refundable
- 34 - 29 days prior to trip start date: Deposit is not refundable
- 28 - 0 days prior to trip start date: 100% of the total trip cost

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

The Cultural Route is an Adventure Travel Activity which takes place in remote locations and at certain times at high altitudes. As such, it contains a certain level of risk. In order to ensure a safe experience for every guest, we kindly request that every guest presents valid proof of insurance coverage as a minimum for Medical Emergency

Treatment and Evacuation. Please note that some insurance policies exclude Adventure Travel Activities or similar from the coverage, so please be careful when assessing and/ or purchasing your insurance policy and please make sure that the insurance policy includes Adventure Travel Activities or similar.