

South America's Best Kept Secrets



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15 days / 14 nights

Colombia y Peru, two of South America's most exciting and diverse countries share more than just a frontier; they are a full of vivid cultures, history, World heritage sites and most important; friendly people, who are willing to share with visitors their passion for life. Metropolitan Touring brings these amazing destinations together on a 13-day program, where passengers will explore South America's best kept secrets.



Flight



Accommodation



Transfer



Excursions



Art



Food





Day 01

... / Lima

(-/-/-)



Transfer Lima Airport / Hotel (private)

Upon arrival into Lima International Airport, you will be met by our representative and private driver and will be transferred to your hotel. Our representative will assist you with check-in procedures and provide you with a detailed itinerary, vouchers covering all the services included in your tour and additional information on the organization of your Peru trip. You will also receive a contact information sheet with all the hotel details as well as our offices contact information for each city and a 24-hour emergency number.



Overnight in Lima.



Plaza San Martín

Day 02

Lima

(B/-/-)



AM: Half day Colonial & Modern Lima + Larco Herrera Museum (private)

Enjoy a half day guided sightseeing tour to the most attractive and important sites in Lima, the "City of Kings". The tour includes Lima's Historical Center, passing by Plaza San Martín, Plaza Mayor, the Government Palace, the City Hall, the Cathedral and its Religious Art Museum. Finally visit the residential Districts of San Isidro and Miraflores, passing by the Huaca Pucllana, a Ceremonial and Administrative Centre of the Lima Culture built in the II Century A.C. that the Incas considered as "Ñaupallaqta" or Sacred Town. Also visit El Olivar Park with olive trees brought from Spain in the XVth Century, the Central Park of Miraflores and Larcomar, a symbol of modern Lima and a tourist and entertainment centre as well as a privileged site to enjoy an amazing view of the Pacific Ocean.



The visit continues with a stop at Larco Herrera Museum, for an excellent overview of Peru's ancient past as it holds the best private collection of pre-Columbian art in the country. You will have the chance to tour through this old Hacienda House in the Pueblo Libre district, which was built upon a pre-Incan sacred site (huaca), housing the private collection of a great Peruvian scholar: Don Rafael Larco Hoyle. The museum chronologically exhibits hundreds of ceramic, textile, metal and precious stone pieces and inside you will find the vault which safeguards precious pieces of gold and silver with semiprecious stones. Another attraction of the museum and of great interest to visitors is the exhibition of erotic pre-Columbian art.

PM: Afternoon at leisure.



Overnight in Lima

Larco Herrera Museum



Cusco Airport

Day 03

Lima / Cusco / Sacred Valley (B/-/-)



Transfer Hotel / Lima Airport (private)

At the appropriate time, our representative will meet you at the hotel lobby and transfer you to the Lima Airport to board your next flight. Our representative will assist you with check-in procedures and all departure formalities.

Transfer Cusco Airport / Sacred Valley incl. Awanacancha Textile Center and Inkariy Museum en route (private)

Upon arrival into Cusco International Airport, you will be met by our representative and private driver and will be transferred to your hotel in the Sacred Valley. Our representative will assist you with the corresponding check-in procedures.



En-route towards the Valley, you will have the chance to visit Awanacancha, an Andean textile center whose key objective is to maintain the wealth of the Inca's textile art and keep their traditions alive.

Awanacancha means "the palace of weaving" and as its name announces, it is all about textile production. Here you will learn about the dyeing techniques and instruments used for hundreds of years in the weaving of these famous textiles.



Inkariy Museum



You will walk along a thatched roof path and will watch and learn about the four different kinds of South American camelids: Huanaco, Llama, Alpaca and Vicuña. At the end of the path you will find weavers from over 12 communities from southern Peru who alternate exhibitions of threading, dying and weaving traditional Andean textiles, thus avoiding their identity loss.



Continue to the Inkariy Museum where you will learn about the most important cultures of pre-Hispanic Peru, throughout 10,000 years of civilization. The display offers a trip to the past through the exhibition of scenes with hyper realistic characters that will transport you to the magical spaces of ancient times.

After the tour, you will be transferred to your hotel.



Overnight in the Sacred Valley



Nilda's Traditional Textile and Weaving Center

Day 04

Sacred Valley

(B/L/-)



Full day Nilda Callañaupa Weaving Demonstration in Chincheros, Maras Salt pans & Ollantaytambo Fortress incl. lunch (private)

Enjoy a journey through the Sacred Valley of the Incas, with a first stop in Chincheros to visit the home of artist and master weaver Nilda Callañaupa. Nilda's Traditional Textile and Weaving Center, works with six mountain villages to resurrect symbolic patterns recently believed to be a generation away from extinction, teaching them to avoid the use of garish chemical dyes and synthetic yarns, and dedicated to revive the country's 2,000-year-old weaving techniques. Delight in a highly educational weaving demonstration that will include wool spinning, natural dyes, traditional patterns and weaving techniques.



Continue to the salt fields of Maras and its seemingly never-ending terraces, where salt extracted from springs is stored. Although these waters have been used for centuries, even before the time of the Incas, Maras was founded by the Spanish in 1556. It supplied salt to the southern highlands during the viceroyalty, so it was an important town.



Ollantaytambo Fortress



The use of Maras Salt dates back thousands of years and is inherited from generation to generation and managed communally.

After lunch, end the day with a visit to the Inca fortress and citadel of Ollantaytambo. This site was built just as the Spaniards arrived and evidence of how it was constructed is still visible. This fortress was believed to be constructed in order to guard the entrance to this part of the valley and protect it from possible invasions of tribes from the jungle lowlands.

The town of Ollantaytambo is referred to as a "Live Inca Town" because inhabitants still live according to customs and traditions inherited from their ancestors. Take a journey in time through its straight streets with perfectly laid stones that feature a canal for water to run through the town.

After the tour, you will be transferred to your hotel.



Overnight in the Sacred Valley



Vistadome Train

Day 05

Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu (B/L/D)



Full day tour to Machu Picchu via roundtrip Vistadome train (private)

Morning transfer to the train station for an amazing train journey to the famous Inca Citadel of Machu Picchu, the great mountain-top city abandoned by the Inca Empire, reclaimed by the jungle and lost to humanity until its rediscovery in 1911. Along the way you will enjoy the changing landscape as you travel from Andean highlands to the beginnings of the jungle ("eyebrow of the jungle"), before finally arriving at the town of Aguas Calientes.



From here, board the bus that will take you on a 20 minute ride up to the citadel of Machu Picchu, or Lost City of the Incas, which sits upon the summit bearing the same name, and is one of the most representative and recognized examples of Incan architecture.



Machu Picchu Citadel



A guided tour of the Citadel includes the Main Plaza, the Circular Tower, the Sacred Sun Dial, the Royal Quarters, the Temple of the Three Windows and various burial grounds.

Machu Picchu is also one of the Inca's best kept secrets, since they did not leave written records and Spanish chronicles make no mention of the citadel, it remains a mystery.



Buffet lunch at Tinkuy Restaurant at Belmond Sanctuary Lodge. In the afternoon return to Aguas Calientes town.



Overnight in Aguas Calientes



Machu Picchu

Day 06

Machu Picchu / Cusco

(B/-/-)



AM: At leisure

Excellent opportunity to wake up early and enjoy a beautiful sunrise as well as stroll around the Town of Aguas Calientes and visit its Hot Springs Thermal waters. Then, you will have time to perform some of the following activities (not included in the overall price): visit the Citadel of Machu Picchu for a second time, or for more active and adventurous people, we suggest to climb up the Huayna Picchu from where you can appreciate the immensity of Machu Picchu, even more amazing being so high and distant (no guide services included this day).

In the afternoon, return by bus & train combination, and upon arrival at the train station you will be met by our representative and private driver for your transfer back to Cusco.



Overnight in Cusco



San Blas District

Day 07

Cusco

(B/-/-)



AM: Half day Cusco walking City tour (private)

Walking city tour, including a visit to the district of San Blas, with its winding streets, the whitewashed houses, the blue balconies hung with geranium-filled flowerpots, the uneven line of the tiled rooftops and the endless stairways.

In the neighborhood live the folk artists of Cusco, who for centuries have used their hands to tell the tale of their longings and frustrations working in stone and woodcarving, sculpture, doll-making, silverware, weaving and textile arts, gold-leaf, mask-making, and an array of ceramics in utilitarian, architectural, sculptural, monumental, grotesque and many other styles.

Continue with a visit to the Cathedral and the Korikancha temple.

PM: at leisure in Cusco



Overnight in Cusco



El Dorado International Airport

Day 08

Cusco / Lima / Bogotá

(B/-/-)



AM: At leisure

Morning at leisure for activities on your own.

PM: Transfer Hotel / Cusco Airport (private)

At the appropriate time, our representative will meet you at the hotel lobby and transfer you to the Cusco Airport to board your next flight. Our representative will assist you with check-in procedures and all departure formalities.



Flight to Bogotá (not included).



Transfer from El Dorado International airport on private service to selected hotel with English-speaking guide.

Upon arrival at the International Airport El Dorado, you will be met by our representative and will be taken to your hotel. Our guide will assist you at the hotel with the registration procedures (check-in) and give you a detailed itinerary of all the services included in your trip. You will also receive information about our office contact details including our 24 hour emergency phone number.

NOTE: Our transfer fee includes transportation of one bag per person of up to 23kg (50 lbs) plus one carry on. If you plan to travel with additional luggage please let us know in advance in order to assign a different vehicle capacity for the transfer. Please keep in mind that additional costs may be charged.



Bogotá City

Day 09

Bogota – City Tour with Monserrate Hill and Paloquemao (B/L/-)



City tour + Monserrate Hill in private service with The tour starts with an early morning visit to the Paloquemao's Market. This is one of the largest and most important markets in the country. Paloquemao presents the perfect mix of the old and new Bogotá and offers a great insight into the life and customs of the people from Bogotá. You will find a large variety of flowers, exotic fruits, vegetables, meat, seafood, cheese, medicinal herbs as well as typical food. You will have the opportunity to live a unique cultural experience, tasting some exotic fruits and enjoying a small snack during the visit.



Afterwards visit the famous and well preserved historical colonial quarter of La Candelaria. Steeped in history, this area is a must for photographers with its splendid colonial architecture; you will want to take the opportunity to capture the sights and sounds of this fascinating part of Bogotá You will want to discover the history of this old part of the city by visiting the Cathedral, the Congress Palace, the Cardinal's Palace, the colonial churches of El Sagrario and San Agustin, the Independence House, the Palace of Justice and the City Hall which are all located in this impressive square.



Continuing to the east, on top of the forested mountains, you will find “Cerro de Monserrate”. This mountain has a white catholic church located at the top and has been a site of worship since 1657. On a clear day you will have the opportunity to enjoy a spectacular view of the city. You also might see snowcap of “Nevado del Tolima” on the far west side.

The tour then follows with a visit to the “Museo del Oro”, the most important gold museum in the world and a ‘must see’ when traveling to Bogotá. This museum displays one of the largest collections of pre-Columbian gold. Galleries on three levels display exquisitely crafted pieces dating back nearly 2.500 years. Visit the vault-like room on the top floor where the most treasured pieces are displayed, as well as the Offering Room, where passengers enter a black circular area that is gradually illuminated with indigenous music playing in the background; the light begins to dawn, and finally a remarkable display of gold offering collection is discovered.

Museo de Oro



The tour ends with a visit to the “Museo de Botero”, housed in a renovated colonial mansion. The works on display are all donated by Fernando Botero, Colombia’s most famous contemporary artist. Around 120 pieces of his own work are displayed at the museum including his famous sculptures, paintings and drawings. His work is well-known for the ‘proportionally exaggerated’ fat figures. In addition to his work, his personal collection by Picasso, Renoir, Dalí, Degas, Chagall, Matisse, Monet and Giacometti are also exhibited.



Lunch is included during the tour at a local restaurant with a set menu.



Overnight in Bogota



Zipaquirá's Salt Cathedral

Day 10

Bogota – Zipaquirá's Salt Cathedral / Villa de Leyva (B/-/-)



Driven through the northern residential area of the city, and through the fertile plateau to the small town of Zipaquirá. Experience this extraordinary architecture where the Way of the Cross and three naves are eerily illuminated along with other sculptures and cavernous pools; all hewn from the salt mine tunnels under the Halite Mountains. Though a popular tourist destination it is still a place of pilgrimage for the local community.

The next stop is at the town of Sutatausa. In the center of the town lays the colonial church of Sutatausa. Here admire the excellently preserved and unique wall paintings made by an anonymous artist during the XVII century. The paintings show, among others, a native woman dressed with Indian textiles, which probably were worn during Sunday service.



After the tour a short drive to a traditional Andean restaurant where lunch can be purchased.



Monasterio La Candelaria



Following lunch (not included) a one hour drive to the town of Raquira, famous for its pottery, colorful buildings and colony of artisans. Before entering the town, there will be an opportunity to a visit to one of the factories where clay pots and decoration are made by the community. Visitors will observe the different processes of production of this traditional handicraft. Have cameras at the ready as there will be free time to stroll around this quaint and colorful 'pueblo' (town) to take pictures of the uniquely decoratively hand-painted buildings.

Close to Raquira rests Monasterio La Candelaria the first convent built in Latin America in the year 1604. There will be a short tour of the convent to stroll around the cloisters to see exhibits of artworks and antiques before setting off for Villa de Leyva in the late afternoon.



Transfer to your hotel for overnight stay.



Overnight in Villa Leyva



Villa de Leyva

Day 11

Villa de Leyva – Walking tour / Coffee Cultural Landscape (B/-/-)



The morning is dedicated to a walking tour of Villa de Leyva, a colonial town founded in 1572 and designated a national monument. The town has kept its grand colonial charm boasting the finest examples and best preserved colonial architecture with its wooden balconies, arches and heavy wooden and brass laden doors in contrast to the wish-washed buildings; all this colonial beauty despite the march of time and attrition.

Enjoy the quiet surroundings and solitude of its streets and the easygoing life of its friendly inhabitants. All together, a relaxing setting that takes the visitor back to another era.



After lunch (not included), continue to Bogotá's airport to take your flight to the Coffee Cultural Landscape.

Arrival and transfer to the hotel for checking in.



Overnight in Pereira



Bolivar Plaza

Day 12

Pereira

(B/L/-)



Filandia, Salento & The Cocora Valley

Join us for a visit to the traditional village of Filandia, where you will enjoy a tour around the small town. You will visit main attractions like the Plaza de Bolívar, the colonial streets and houses as well as the typical “fondas” (restaurant-bars) for a taste of the local liquor of the region. Next visit Quindío’s Viewpoint for an amazing view of the Coffee Triangle.

Continue with a visit to the beautiful Cocora Valley located in the department of Quindío. This majestic valley is home to the wax palm, Colombia’s national tree and the tallest variety of palm tree in the world. These palms can measure up to 190 feet tall and live more than 120 years.



Be amazed by the natural beauty and diversity of fauna and flora that you will encounter throughout the valley. Once you arrive, you will be welcomed with a typical cocktail called “canelazo”. Afterwards you will visit the misty forest where our guide will explain to you the importance of protecting and conserving this beautiful ecosystem. It is a great opportunity to take some pictures.



Canelazo, a colombian driink



The tour continues with the “Ritual de la Palma”, a way to help preserve the wax palms. Visitors from all around the world have helped plant future wax palms at the park; you will also be able to grow your own palm tree for eternity. Next, you will visit the town of Salento. Founded in 1842, Salento was one of the first settlements in the Quindío state and still today, it preserves its colonial bahareque architecture.

Salento’s centuries buildings are awash in harmonious color, especially along Calle Real, the main street lined end to end with restaurants, bars, handicrafts shops and souvenir stores.

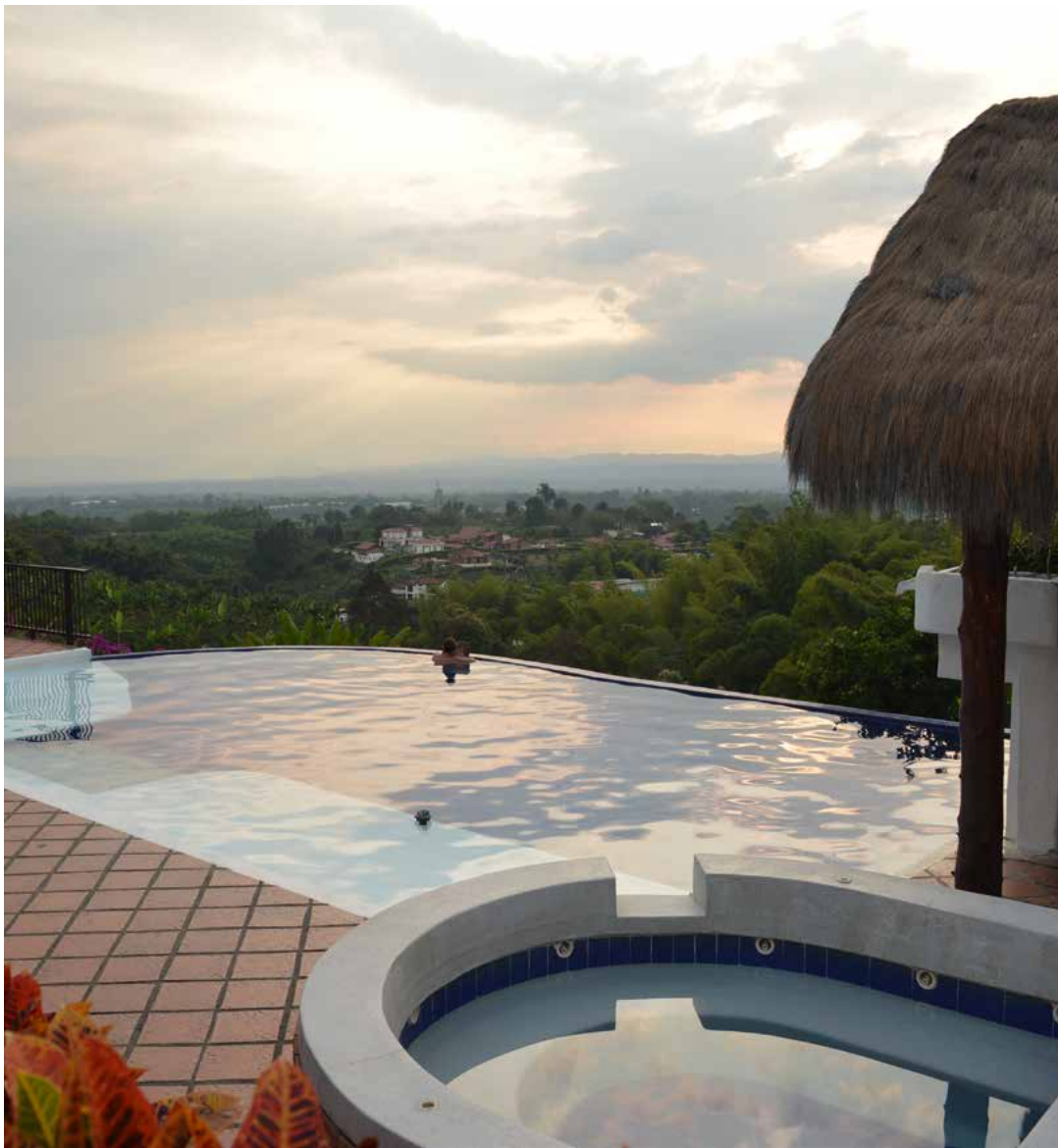


A typical lunch with smoked trout is included at the Cocora Valley.

Transfer back to selected hotel.



Overnight in Pereira.



Hacienda Combia

Day 13

Pereira / Cartagena

(B/L/-)



Combia Inspiration tour & Butterfly Garden / Cartagena Breakfast and after that, transfer to Armenia to do a shared (escorted by our private tour guide service) Inspiration Coffee Tour at Hacienda Combia.

Hacienda Combia is a coffee farm that has developed a unique tour, composed of nine stops that recreates the essential elements, environmental conditions and technical processes that are needed to grow Colombia's high quality coffee.

Weaving a basket for collecting coffee, getting into a bird's nest or feeling a relaxing water current under your feet, are some of the creative activities that this tour offers, with the aims of developing a sensory connection between the visitor and the coffee cup soul.



After lunch, the next stop will be at Quindío's Botanical & Butterfly garden. Ten hectares of Andean forest, harboring 850 native flora and approx. 180 butterfly species: a 2 kilometers soft walking tour surrounded of color, movement and life.



Botanical Garden of Quindio



The garden has a vast diversity of flora and fauna, including 500 species of plants, 1500 species of butterflies and 126 species of birds. Also, you will find one of the most beautiful butterfly gardens of the world with 2000 specimens of 60 different native butterfly species. Join us for an adventure full of magic and natural beauty, you won't regret visiting the amazing Botanical Garden of Quindio.

Once finished the tour, you will be transferred to the airport to take your flight to Cartagena. With its breathtaking colonial architecture, horse-drawn carriages and narrow cobbled streets, the city of Cartagena de Indias is one of the most exciting destinations in Colombia. This Caribbean colonial jewel was the first Spanish colony on the South American mainland and one of the main ports for the Spanish fleet which turned the city into an important center of trade in the 16th century. It is a city full of history which has been an inspiration for artists, writers, historians and musicians. This vibrant and colorful city throughout the years has enchanted tourists with its fairy-tale charms that invite people to linger and explore the city for days.



Overnight in Cartagena



Convento de la Popa

Day 14

Cartagena -

(B/-/-)



Cartagena's Colonial Tour & Real Food, Real People, Real Places Tour

The tour begins with a visit to the "Convento de la Popa", where the city's highest point is located and you can enjoy the best view of the beautiful city of Cartagena. The Augustinian Monks built this convent in the 17th century. Initially it was just a small wooden chapel, but later it was replaced by a strong construction, which still remains.



Continue with a visit to the "Castillo de San Felipe". The Spaniards built this castle in the 1600s and it is the greatest and strongest fortress ever built in a Spanish colony. Located at the top of San Lázaro hill, its purpose was to protect and guard the city's landward side from any attack or invasion. This fortress provides a complex system of tunnels connected with strategic points to distribute provisions and facilitate a possible evacuation. Additionally, the tunnel's architecture was built so that any noise would echo along them, in order to make internal communications easier and hear even the slightest sound of the enemies approaching.



Las Bóvedas



Afterwards, a walk through “Las Bóvedas” is included. These 23 vaults were built in the 18th century and they are considered the last major colonial construction made within the city walls for military purposes. The vaults were used as storerooms for munitions and provisions by the Spaniards, and later on, they became jail cells. Nowadays, they are used as crafts markets where you can find handicrafts, antiques, galleries, jewelry, clothing and souvenirs, among other things.

At the end of the tour you will take a walk through the inner walled section of the colonial city. Discover Cartagena’s rich history and beautiful colonial architecture where you will admire the old houses, stunning balconies and different little squares. You will know more about the culture of Cartagena and its interesting architecture as you walk through the different cobbled streets and plazas; each street has a different story to tell. You will also see this city alive, with its students, vendors, and all the people that live there.



Overnight in Cartagena



Day 15

Cartagena / Next Destination (B/-/-)



Our guide will meet you at the lobby of the hotel and will take you to the Rafael Núñez Airport. We will assist you at the airport during the check-in at the airline counter to help you connect to your next destination.

NOTE: Our transfer fee includes transportation of one bag per person of up to 23kg (50 lbs.) plus one carry on. If you plan to travel with additional luggage please let us know in advance in order to assign a different vehicle capacity for the transfer. Please keep in mind that additional costs may be charged.

End of our Services

D: Breakfast / **L:** Lunch / **D:** Dinner

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