

Inti Raymi Festival of the Sun



Inti Raymi Program

8 days / 7 nights

One of the biggest and most impressive celebration in Peru. It is a homage to the Sun, an important God in Inca Culture. The Inti Raymi is celebrated every June 24th , one of the shortest day on the southern hemisphere marking the beginning of a new year in the Andean ´s cosmovision world.



Flight



Accommodation



Transfer



Excursions



Art



Food



Lima Airport

Day 01

Jun 19 (Mon) – Lima (-/-/-)



Upon arrival into Lima International Airport, you will be met by our representative and private driver and will be transferred to the selected 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



Awanacancha

Day 02

Jun 20 (Tue) – Cusco / Sacred Valley (B/-/-)



Transfer Hotel / Airport (private)



Arrival in Cusco, meeting at the airport.



Transfer Airport / Sacred Valley Hotel including Awanacancha Textile Center & Pisac Market (private)

Upon your arrival in Cusco, you will be met by our representative who will assist you with your luggage and drive you to your hotel in the Sacred Valley.



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.



Pisac Market



Continuing through the Sacred Valley, head to the town of Pisac to visit the Pisac Market, which was the place of reunion for all artisans of the region to get together and exchange or buy and sell their products. Originally held only on Sundays, but due to the increase of tourism in the area during the XXth century it became increasingly popular to the point that now it is held daily.

It is a favorite destination for visitors from all over the world who don't want to miss the opportunity of enjoying the colorful ambience in this marketplace. This is an excellent chance to share the peasants' customs closely with plenty of time to explore and even barter all the goods and crafts typical of the areas around Cusco. Leisurely roam through the textiles and souvenir sections of the market.

After the tour you will continue to the Sacred Valley.



Overnight in the Sacred Valley



Chincheros Town

Day 03

Jun 21 (Wed) – Sacred Valley (B/L/-)



Full day Chinchero Village, Maras Salt pans & Ollantaytambo fortress (private)

Today you will set off in the direction of the Sacred Valley to the town of Chinchero, an authentic Andean village with lots of character, where we will find the colonial church that houses a large collection of painting from the Cusqueñan School of Art.

Next, continue your journey through the Sacred Valley of the Incas, 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. The use of Maras Salt dates back thousands of years and is inherited from generation to generation and managed communally. It is produced naturally in about 5,000 pools of approximately 5 square meters each forming different levels of terraces, nourished by salty water from a creek that permeates the pools and then evaporated by the intense sun, forming thick crystals.



Maras Saltpans



They are extracted once a month, as soon as they have reached a height of 10 cm. It is impressive to see the variety of colors created by the reflection of the sun's rays in this field of salt deposits, and to learn about the Incas striking ability to generate resources. Then, you will head 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. Later it served as a temporary capital for Manco Inca, leader of the Inca resistance in 1537 during the Spanish conquest of Perú, who fortified the town to stop the advance, as Cusco had fallen under Spanish domination.



After the tour you will be transferred to your hotel.



Machu Picchu Citadel

Day 04

Jun 22 (Thu)
Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu (B/L/D)



Full day excursion 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 we will 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.



Ciudadela de Machu Picchu



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.



Buffet lunch at the Ayasqa restaurant is included. In the afternoon return to Aguas Calientes town.



Overnight in Aguas Calientes



Train to Cusco

Day 05

Jun 23 (Fri) – Machu Picchu / Cusco (B/-/-)



Day at leisure

Excellent opportunity to wake up early and enjoy a beautiful sunrise. 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 to Cusco by train and upon arrival at the train station you will be met by our representative and private driver for your transfer to the hotel.



Overnight in Cusco.



Inti Raymi

Day 06

Jun 24 (Sat) – Cusco

(B/BL/-)



HD Inti Raymi Fest

Transfer fro the hotel to Sacsayhuaman fortress where the Inti Raymi takes place.



Every year on the 24th of June Cusco celebrates the festival of Inti Raymi, the winter solstice, in the southern hemisphere. Inti Raymi was the most majestic and greatest festival of the Inca Empire to honor the sun god. Today, the Inti Raymi evokes the splendid Inca ritual of yore, being carefully scripted by Cusco professors, archaeologists and historians.

For more than half a century the festival takes place at the fortress of Sacsayhuaman (2 km outside Cusco). There, step by step, thousands of actors proudly bring the past alive, giving thanks to sun god. The Inti Raymi starts in the square in front of the Qorikancha, also known as the Santo Domingo. The Sapa Inca honors, with an eloquent strong voice, the blessings of the Sun and this most sacred day. After this initiation the procession moves with imperial dignity to the Sacsayhuaman.



Inti Raymi



At the top the Inca is carried on a royal litter. At the fortress the high priest performed the llama sacrifice offering a black and white llama. With a sharp ceremonial golden knife called "

Tumi" he had to open the animal's chest. With his hands pulled out its throbbing heart, lungs and viscera, so that observing those elements he could predict the future. Later, the animal and its parts were completely incinerated. After the sacrifice, the High Priest had to produce the "Sacred Fire". Staying in front of the Sun he had to get its rays in a concave gold medallion that contained some soft or oily material in order to produce the fire that had to be kept during next year in the Qorikancha and Aqllawasi.



San Blas District

Day 07

Jun 25 – Cusco

(B/-/-)



HD Walking city tour visiting San Blas, MAP Museum the Cathedral and Korikancha Temple. (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 neighbourhood 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 for example Edilberto Merida, renowned sculptor.

He looked to religion for his primary inspiration, but he moved away from traditional religious images, by making grotesque images with exaggerated features.



MAP Museum



It is a form of sculpture that has come to be known as "mud of protest." His style is one of expressionism and has thus been referred to as Expresionismo Indio.

Then visit the Pre-Columbian Art Museum, the only museum in Peru dedicated to rebound the arts of ancient Peruvian cultures. The collection of 450 master pieces date from 1250 B.C to.1532 A.D.

Continue with a visit to the Cathedral, the Main Square, the Korikancha temple.



PM: Afternoon at leisure.



Overnight in Cusco.



Lima Airport

Day 08

Jun 26 – Cusco / Lima / ...

(B/-/-)



Transfer to the airport. Arrival to Lima and assistance with all departure formalities for your international homebound flight



End of services

B: breakfast / **L:** Lunch / **D:** Dinner / **BL:** Box Lunch

Be Adventurous Visit Peru

For more information