HIGHLIGHTS OF PERU

October 6 - 12, 2017
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**October 6 - 12, 2017**

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## Inclusions
- Round trip transfers from/to airports.
- Private sightseeing with local English speaking guide.
- Vistadome train to/from Machu Picchu in shared (with other people).
- A curator in Lima at Larco Museum.
- Air tickets Lima/Cusco/Lima, Economy class.
- Baggage Handling: two pieces of luggage per person.
- Meal as indicated in the itinerary: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner.
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated.
- Hotel taxes and service charges on quoted services.
- Accommodations based on double occupancy.
- Pairing Dinner at Sol & Luna.
- Second Visit to Machu Picchu.
- Vistadome train and Hiram Bingham Train.
- All tips for the trip are included.

## Exclusions
- Cost of obtaining a passport or visa.
- International flights tickets.
- Airport taxes - Domestic & International (included in the flight tickets).
- Soft and alcoholic drinks.
- Communications costs, such as phone calls and faxes.
- Any items of a personal nature.
- Any items not mentioned in inclusions.
Trip Cost Per Person:
based on 10 passengers - $5250.00
Single supplement:  $1515.00

* Flights and services are subject to change without prior notice

* Contact Betty Jo Currie or Sarah Attaway at Currie & Co Travels Unlimited
  8 Albemarle Dr. NW
  Atlanta, GA 30327
  404.254.5677

* A non-refundable deposit of $1,200 is due by 5/15/17, payable by check to Currie & Co Travels Unlimited at address above. Final payment due 60 days before departure, payable by check. AMX accepted with a 4% convenience fee

* A separate $350pp donation to the Michael C. Carlos Museum, payable by check, should be mailed to the museum at the address below:

  Michael C. Carlos Museum
  Attn: Gail Habif
  571 S Kilgo Circle
  Atlanta, GA 30322
Friday, Oct. 6th
Lima

Arrival at Lima International Airport where you will be assisted with check-in at your airport hotel.

Lima, the capital of Peru, was founded on the 18th of January, 1535, by Spanish Conquistador Francisco Pizarro, and it quickly became known as the “City of the Kings.” Within 70 years, it was the most important city in the Spanish-American Empire and was the focal point for European trade and cultural activity in the region.

Saturday, Oct. 7th
B-L
The Sacred Valley

Breakfast will be served at the hotel. You will be met and assisted with your domestic flight to Cusco. Upon arrival in Cusco, you will be transferred to Limo, a restaurant by Coque Ossio overlooking the main plaza that opened just a few years ago. The cocktails here are superb, and there is a wide array of sushi and Nikkei choices. Here you will learn about renowned clothes made with their wool and ancient weaving techniques that are still used. Then continue to the Inkary Museum, an initiative of artists and archaeologists committed to sharing the legacy of the most important pre-Columbian cultures of Peru through modern language and easy-reading texts. The museum emphasizes the contributions of pre-Columbian societies and demonstrates that Peru is a multicultural country, and that the legacy of the splendid Inka Empire is just one aspect of it.

After spoiling your senses, we will drive to The Sacred Valley. En route, you will visit Awanankancha, a breeding center for llamas, alpacas, guanacos, and vicuñas. Here you will learn about renowned clothes made with their wool and ancient weaving techniques that are still used. Then continue to the Inkary Museum, an initiative of artists and archaeologists committed to sharing the legacy of the most important pre-Columbian cultures of Peru through modern language and easy-reading texts. The museum emphasizes the contributions of pre-Columbian societies and demonstrates that Peru is a multicultural country, and that the legacy of the splendid Inka Empire is just one aspect of it.

*Departure from Lima will be at 10:20 am on LATAM’s 2021 flight, and arrival in Cusco is scheduled at 11:55. Domestic flight booked by A&K Peru.*
After breakfast at the hotel, you will depart at 9:00 am to visit Chincheros, a town of Inka origins known for its colorful, well-attended fair that takes place once a week, gathering peoples from all corners and heights of the valley to exchange their products. Next stop will be Rancho Wayra for lunch.

Then on to the fortress of Ollantaytambo. The fortress, a formidable stone structure that climbs massive terraces to the top of a high peak, was the valley’s main defense against the Antis, and was the site of the Inkas’ greatest victory against the Spaniards. Built of rose-colored granite, this huge installation was once a thriving complex of baths, temples, and military barracks. Underneath the fortress lies an Inkan town, also called Ollantaytambo, still inhabited with its original architecture and layout preserved.

Enjoy an unforgettable pairing dinner at 7:00 pm, showcasing the perfect harmony between fine Peruvian cuisine and some excellent wines. The chef will present a menu of local recipes that will be combined with the suggestions of the sommelier.
Monday, Oct. 9th  B-L-D  Machu Picchu

After breakfast at your hotel, you will board the Vistadome for an unforgettable train ride to Aguas Calientes. From here, we will walk to the bus station to take the bus to Machu Picchu (25 minutes). Upon arrival, you will enjoy a buffet lunch at the Belmond Sanctuary Lodge.

Then, in the company of your guide, explore the ruins as you visualize the lives of the priests, craftsmen, and servants who inhabited this seemingly uninhabitable citadel. We then return to Aguas Calientes for dinner at the hotel.

*Departure on the Vistadome will be at 08:25 am from Ollantaytambo Train station, for arrival at 10:10 am to Aguas Calientes Train station.*

Tuesday, Oct. 10th  B-D  Machu Picchu to Cusco

After breakfast at the hotel, we will visit with our guide the famous “Inti Punku,” the Sun Gate, which is the entry point to Machu Picchu on the Inka Trail. This site offers excellent views of the ruins, (approx. 2 hours). Entrance fee is included.

You will have most of the day to explore Machu Picchu or the town of Aguas Calientes. Your hotel will store your bags for your departure at 5:45 pm on the famed Hiram Bingham train.

A gourmet dinner is served aboard the train, and once you arrive in Cusco you are transferred to the Monasterio hotel for the night.
Wednesday, Oct. 11th

Cusco

After breakfast at the hotel, we will meet at 9:00 am to visit the city’s main cathedral, considered one of the most beautiful in the Americas. It was influenced by great Spanish cathedrals, reflecting Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque styles. Another beautiful church is Santo Domingo, a 16th-century church and convent built on the foundations of the Koricancha (“Place of Gold”). Koricancha was the principal Inkan religious structure dedicated to worshiping the sun, and used as an astronomical observatory.

Just outside Cusco sits the ruins of Sacsayhuamán, an impressive example of Inkan military architecture, with 125-ton stones! Here you will be challenged to slip a sheet of paper between the cracks of the perfectly cut-and-fit blocks. This ancient fortress, where the greatest battle between the Spanish and Inkas took place, overlooks the red-tiled roofs of Cusco and the lush countryside.

After a break for lunch, we will regoup to visit the district of San Blas, home to famous artists who were inspired to create rosy-cheeked virgins and “saints” with long, thin vicuña-like necks. Here, great artisan teachers share their knowledge with their grandchildren, passing down the secrets of the handicraft art from Cusco. You will have the opportunity to visit the Mendivil Workshop, with its elegant images, and the Olave Family Workshop, run by Antonio, a wonderful artist and restorer who has moulded images of Manuelito (as Jesus is known in Cusco) with incomparable skill.

A final treat is your visit to the Casa Concha Museum, where you will see 367 pieces of Inka art that were found in Machu Picchu and recently returned from Yale.

Dinner will be at 7:00 pm at Map Café restaurant. This historic building was an Inka ceremonial court in 1450 AD. In 1580, it became the mansion of conquistador Alonso Diaz. In 1850, the mansion belonged to Earl de Cabrera; most recently, it was restored as the Pre-Columbian Art Museum in June 2003. This historical monument is home to the only museum in Perú dedicated to the art of ancient Peruvian cultures.
Thursday, Oct. 12th  
B-D  
Lima and Late night Departure  

After a leisurely morning, you will be transferred at 10:45 am to the airport for your domestic flight to Lima. Upon arrival in Lima, we will head to the Plaza Mayor, where Lima was founded, to see the historic Cathedral, an architectural masterpiece. From the Cathedral, you will visit the Presidential Palace and Santo Domingo Convent. While your bags are safe with your drivers, you can lunch and explore the neighborhood of Miraflores with its shops and cafes.

At 7:00 pm, you will enjoy dinner at Café Del Museo Restaurant, followed by a visit to the exceptional Larco Museum, founded in 1926. It showcases a chronological overview of 3,000 years of Peruvian Pre-Columbian history. Larco is one of the few museums in the world where visitors can also choose to visit the storage area with its 45,000 classified archaeological objects. Its masterpieces are considered icons of Pre-Columbian art and have been exhibited in the world’s leading museums. You will tour the galleries with a curator.

You will be transported to the airport to board your international flight back home.

Arrival in Lima will be 2:00 pm  
Domestic flight booked by A&K.

*Departure from Cusco to Atlanta is scheduled at @12:30 am on 10/13, on LATAM’s 2048 flight.*