

# MACHU PICCHU, CUZCO & LAKE TITICACA

November 1, 2015 - 20 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$8425** double/twin

**\$9715** single

Tour exempt from GST.



**tour**  
25  
a more intimate travel experience

>**Early Bookers:** \$250 discount on first 8 seats; \$125 on next 4

>**TIC Travel Insurance:** Plan 3-Comprehensive  
\$758 double/twin, \$874 single

**Redeem Experience Points:** Book by **August 13** and redeem up to **155 e-points**

## Explore the ancient history of South America!

This exciting tour begins in Peru where we explore Lima, the modern capital, and Cuzco, the capital of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Inca Empire. We enjoy a flight over the mysterious Nazca Lines, visible only from the air. Next we take a cruise to the Ballestas Islands, noted for its great variety of birdlife. We take an awesome train excursion from the Sacred Valley through the rugged Andes to the ruins of Machu Picchu. This archeological wonder majestically crowns a 9000-foot high ridge and was hidden from the world until its rediscovery 104 years ago. A day's drive from Cuzco takes us to Puno, a resort on the north shore of magnificent Lake Titicaca. Two boat excursions on the world's highest navigable lake are arranged, one to the Uros Floating Islands and one to Isla del Sol. Nearby are the ruins of Tiahuanaco which date from 1580 BC. The tour finishes in La Paz, the historic capital of Bolivia.

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## Includes

- Transfer to Vancouver Airport and return
- 18 nights of accommodation, hotel taxes and hotel service charges
- Flight from Vancouver to Lima
- Air transportation taxes and security fees
- 16 days of coach transportation in Peru and Bolivia
- All transfers between airports and hotels
- Convent San Francisco or Santo Domingo
- Pachacamac archeological site
- Nature and birdlife cruise to Ballestas Islands
- Flight over the Nazca Lines
- Sightseeing tour of Lima
- Larco Museum
- Flight from Lima to Cuzco
- Sacred Valley of the Incas
- Pisac Market
- Ollantaytambo Fortress
- Train from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes and return
- Shuttle bus between Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu
- Machu Picchu with guided tour
- Walking and driving tour of Cuzco
- Temple fortress of Sacsayhuaman
- Temple of the Sun
- Folklore show in Cuzco
- Boat excursion on Lake Titicaca to the Uros Floating Islands
- Sillustani Ruins
- Boat excursion to Isla del Sol
- Pilkokaina Inca Palace
- Ruins of Tiahuanaco
- Tour of La Paz with Valley of the Moon
- Flight from La Paz to Vancouver
- Gratuities for Peru and Bolivia guides and drivers, local city guides, included meals
- Nazca airport tax and Bolivia departure tax
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **48 meals:** 17 breakfasts, 15 lunches and 16 dinners

**Experience Points:** Earn **155 e-points**

## Important Information

**Changes to tour:** As this tour has been planned 8 months in advance, changes to air fuel surcharges, air taxes, departure fees, currency exchange rates, and other costs (either up or down) could occur, in which case the tour fare will be adjusted. Please note that with the current volatile fuel costs, airlines can add fuel surcharges any time, even after your final payment, and we must collect those extra costs from you. Hotels named in the itinerary could change, but substitute accommodation will be of similar quality. The rail line to Aguas Calientes sometimes washes out and closes access to Machu Picchu, so the only refund is the costs we can recover for those days and regular cancellation penalties apply.



**Activity Level:** This tour has some strenuous activity including walking several kilometres over uneven surfaces, steep terrain or steps, especially at Machu Picchu. Good physical condition is required as altitudes of up to 13,000 feet can be demanding on the body, so we recommend you consult your doctor. Medication to avoid altitude sickness is a solution for some people. Seeing and experiencing everything mentioned in this itinerary requires active participation. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a cart in advance if this could be an issue for you. This tour is not appropriate for people with walkers. Prior to accepting your booking, you will be required to sign a declaration that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance if this tour is too active for you.

**Tour 25:** This tour is one of Wells Gray's small group departures and is limited to 25 travellers. Early booking is recommended.

**7 Continents Certificate:** Wells Gray Tours offers a keepsake certificate and a travel voucher for \$500 when you have travelled to all seven continents with Wells Gray Tours. This tour qualifies. Only one of our nearly 10,000 customers has achieved this recognition so far, but others are close.

## Itinerary

### Sunday, November 1:

A transfer is provided to Vancouver Airport and we stay overnight at the luxurious **Fairmont Hotel**. From your soundproof window, watch all the bustle of YVR with planes landing and taking off every few minutes.

### Monday, November 2:

*Meals: B*

### Tuesday, November 3:

*Meals: D*

We fly to Lima, Peru. Exact flight schedule will be advised. Our coach and local guide meet us at the airport and we drive downtown for an overnight stay at Hotel La Hacienda. It is located in **Miraflores**, Lima's most vibrant district for tourists with many shops and restaurants.

### Wednesday, November 4:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We head south on the **Pan-American Highway** along the coast of Peru. There is a stop at the ruins of the **Temple of Pachacamac** which date back 1,800 years. Pachacamac is the mythological god of fire and earthquakes, and the temple was an important Inca shrine. Our destination is **Paracas**, one of Peru's busiest beach resort towns. We stay overnight at San Agustin Resort on the ocean.

### Thursday, November 5:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We cruise to the spectacular **Ballestas Islands** to view sea lions and more than 150 species of sea birds such as Humboldt penguins, cormorants, boobies, pelicans, and condors. The boat trip also provides a distant view of **El Candelabro**, a giant lamp etched into the sand like the Nazca Lines. Its huge design is best appreciated from the ocean. During the afternoon, we drive inland through **Ica**, an agricultural region known for grapes, olives, cotton, and asparagus. Tonight, we stay in Nazca at Hotel Majoro which was built as a convent in the 17th century and converted to a hotel in 2005.

### Friday, November 6:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We board small planes for a thrilling flight over the mysterious **Nazca Lines** whose shapes are only recognizable from the air. These gigantic drawings were made in the sand over 2,000 years ago, and time and weather have not eroded them. Visible are dozens of geometrical lines and 70 animal, insect, and human figures, the largest of which are the reptile (590 feet long) and the monkey (295 feet). The lines may have been created by the Nazca Indians, but the purpose is unknown. One sensational theory was proposed by Erich von Daniken that the lines were built by aliens as landing places for spacecraft. During the afternoon, we drive back to Lima and stay at La Haci-

enda for two nights.

### Saturday, November 7:

*Meals: B,L,D*

A city tour takes us around **Lima**, the capital of Peru, which has a wonderful blend of Spanish colonial heritage and modern opulence. Two highlights are the **Larco Museum** with its large private collection of pre-Columbian gold treasures and pre-Inca textiles, and **San Francisco Monastery** including the Basilica, Gran Patio, underground catacombs, and Museo de Profundis with 111 Rubens canvases. Other sights during the tour are the imposing Cathedral housing the remains of Francisco Pizarro, founder of the city; the pre-Inca worship centre of Huallamarca; Miraflores Parque Central and Parque del Amor; and the historic centre with Paseo de la Republica, San Martin Square, and old streets with colonial mansions.

### Sunday, November 8:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We fly from Lima to **Cuzco** which lies at an elevation of 11,000 feet. Since many Canadians are unaccustomed to this altitude, a reception with a special tea may help you acclimatize. The surrounding peaks and valleys were the home of the mighty Inca empire and their capital was Cuzco. Ten thousand miles of stone roads radiated from here into the far reaches of the mountains. Cuzco is still one of the most fascinating of the world's ancient cities. The scenic drive from Cuzco crosses a high mountain ridge with the rugged Andes soaring above, then descends to Valle Sagrado, **the Sacred Valley of the Incas**. We stay two nights at Casa Andina Private Collection. The majestic peaks of the Andes surround the hotel.

### Monday, November 9:

*Meals: B,L,D*

Nearby Pisac consists of modern and colonial buildings alongside the Urubamba River. The **Pisac Market** is a fascinating experience, famous for the selling and bartering of all kinds of produce, weavings and crafts. After lunch, we continue through the Sacred Valley and explore the ruins of **Ollantaytambo Fortress**, perched over 2,000 feet above the rushing Urubamba River. It was built by the Incas around the 15th century and its strategic terraces provided a defence from the invading Spaniards.

### Tuesday, November 10:

*Meals: B,L,D*

A thrilling experience awaits as we board a narrow-gauge railroad for the 1½-hour journey to **Machu Picchu**, the "Lost City of the Incas". The train descends along the sacred Urubamba River, past snowy peaks, lush terraced fields and colourful native villages. At the end of the rail line in

**Aguas Calientes**, we ride a mini-bus for the exciting journey up the mountain via 17 narrow switchbacks to Machu Picchu. There are many theories about who built Machu Picchu and some historians believe it was the last refuge of the Inca empire after the Spanish conquest. The city was never found by the Spanish and the secret of its existence died with the last of its inhabitants. The sacred site lay buried beneath jungle growth for 400 years until an American archeologist, Hiram Bingham, rediscovered the ruins in 1911. The 220 stone temples and buildings of Machu Picchu are perched on a narrow ridge of the Andes at 9,000 feet altitude and are noted for engineering skill and fine craftsmanship. The city pays homage to three great Inca achievements: agriculture, astronomy and masonry. A guided tour explains the mysteries of the ruins, then there is free time to explore the city's hidden wonders on your own. Stay late – Machu Picchu is a magical place after 2 pm when the crowds leave to catch the afternoon train back to Cuzco! We stay overnight at Hotel El Mapi in Aguas Calientes.

**Wednesday, November 11:** *Meals: B,L,D*

The morning is at leisure. Some options are a nature walk, a soak in the hot springs, or browsing the market. You may wish to return to Machu Picchu and the prepaid fee is C\$110. In the afternoon, we board the train and return to Ollantaytambo for another night at Casa Andina.

**Thursday, November 12:** *Meals: B,L,D*

We leave Valle Sagrado and drive up into the mountains to the south. **Maras** is a village noted for its white salt pans which were mined by the Incas. Next is **Moray**, a complex of four circular terraces which is believed to have been an agricultural laboratory used by the Incas to experiment with adapting plants to this environment. Our third stop is the charming village of Chinchero with its colonial church, Inca ruins and impressive views. A short drive takes us back to **Cuzco** and we stay two nights at Eco Inn. It is located a few blocks from the main plaza and next to the city's largest craft market.

**Friday, November 13:** *Meals: B,L,D*

Our sightseeing tour of Cuzco is rich in archeological and sacred sites of the Incas, many never discovered by the conquering Spanish. At its height, the Incan Empire stretched from the Pacific across the Andes to the Atlantic and from Ecuador south to Chile, and was populated by 8

to 10 million people. Cuzco was the seat of a well-organized government headed by an emperor, but the empire quickly fell to the gold-hungry Spanish in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Spanish destroyed many buildings, but built their own on top of Inca foundations. In the morning, there is a walking tour featuring the **Temple of the Sun**, the plaza, and the magnificent cathedral. This is followed by a driving tour to **Sacsayhuaman**, an incredible Inca structure. Massive stones, some weighing over 100 tons, were hauled 8 km from a quarry and assembled so precisely that a sheet of paper cannot be inserted between them. Other stops are Q'Enko, an Inca Rock Worship site; Puca Pucara, a possible Inca resting place; **Tambomachay**, an Inca bathing site for nobility; and La Vicunita Factory where alpaca and llama sweaters can be purchased.

**Saturday, November 14:** *Meals: B,L,D*

Today's drive crosses the Altiplano to Lake Titicaca. In **Andahuaylillas**, we see a colonial village and the adobe church of San Pedro which has dazzling interior paintings, some of the finest in all of Peru. In Raqchi, a ceremonial centre built by the Incas, we see a wall of adobe 45 feet high and 270 feet long which was once a huge hall with adobe columns. Next we visit the pre-Inca ruins of **Pucara**, built between 300 BC and 300 AD which offer a glimpse into the shadowy origins of Lake Titicaca's civilized life and Chavin culture. From there, it is a short drive to the north shore of Lake Titicaca and the resort city of **Puno**. We stay two nights at Casa Andina Private Collection which has a beautiful setting overlooking the lake.

**Sunday, November 15:** *Meals: B,L,D*

**Lake Titicaca** lies at an elevation of 12,507 feet and is considered the highest navigable lake in the world. It measures 118 miles long by 50 miles wide. This morning, we take a boat excursion to the renowned **Uros Floating Islands**. They are made from piles of reeds, an ancient tradition of the Uros who have descended from the oldest people of the Altiplano. Presently there are 42 floating islands on Lake Titicaca and they house a population of about 2,000 Uros. In the afternoon, we visit the **Sillustani ruins** on the shores of Lago Umayo. These tombs are in towers, the highest being about 40 feet, and date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. They were used by the Colla people who were conquered by the Inca in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

**Monday, November 16:***Meals: B,L,D*

We leave Puno and travel along the south shore of Lake Titicaca to Copacabana, and board motorboats to the legendary **Isla del Sol**. Here we visit the **Pilkokaina Inca Palace**, the Gardens, the Sacred Staircase and Fountain of the Inca. From Yumani village, there is a panoramic vista of Lake Titicaca with a backdrop of Mount Illampu. We stay overnight at Hotel Rosario del Lago overlooking Copacabana Bay.

**Tuesday, November 17:***Meals: B,L,D*

**Welcome to Bolivia!** Today's highlight is the ruins of **Tiahuanaco**, once the principal ceremonial centre and birthplace of Andean culture. Recent archeological dating tests show that these pre-Inca ruins date to 1580 BC. The tour includes Kalasasaya Courtyard, the Gates of the Sun and Moon, the Semi-Subterranean Temple, Akapana Pyramid, and the museum. Continuing into La Paz, we stay two nights at Radisson Plaza Hotel.

**Wednesday, November 18:***Meals: B,L,D*

Our tour of **La Paz** includes the Witches Market, the colonial Church of San Francisco, the craft shops on Sagarnaga Street, and Murillo Square, site of the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Government Palace and Parliament Buildings. Then we visit the Jaen Street colonial neighbourhood where several museums are clustered. The tour ends at the Valley of the Moon where we visit a ceramic workshop. Tonight's farewell dinner is a chance to reminisce about our adventures travelling through Peru and Bolivia.

**Thursday, November 19:***Meals: B***Friday, November 20:**

We fly from La Paz to Vancouver and a transfer is provided back to Victoria and area.

**Tour Policies**

**Payments:** A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 13, 2015.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to July 15, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From July 16 to August 13, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From August 14 to September 9, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. From September 10 to September 25, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After September 25, there is no refund.

**TIC Insurance:** In addition to Plan 3-Comprehensive, plans are available for Trip Cancellation & Interruption only and Extended Medical Coverage only. Policies can be purchased no later than at final payment.

**Home pickups and dropoffs** may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and the size of the chartered vehicle. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

**Photo Credit:** Martin St. Amant via Wikipedia Commons

**e-points:** This tour earns 155 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until August 13.

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