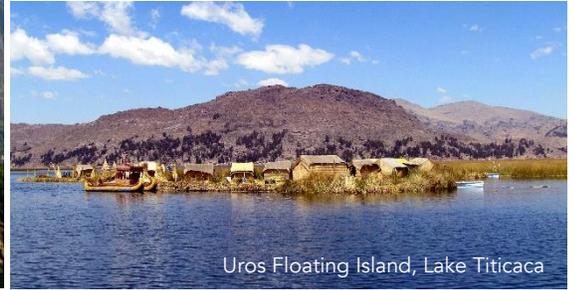
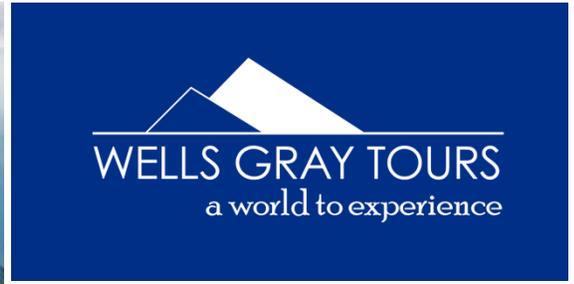




Machu Picchu



Uros Floating Island, Lake Titicaca

## MACHU PICCHU, CUSCO & LAKE TITICACA

April 10, 2023 – 20 Days

*Visit amazing wonders of South America*

This epic tour begins in Peru where we explore Lima, the modern capital, and Cusco, 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 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 3,000-metre high ridge and was hidden from the world until its rediscovery 112 years ago. A day's drive from Cusco 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 Tiwanaku which date from 1580 BC. The tour finishes in La Paz, the historic capital of Bolivia.

Activity Level: 3



TOUR  
25

50 Meals Included:

18 breakfasts, 16 lunches, 16 dinners

Fares per person:

\$10,685 double/twin; \$12,315 single

Tour is exempt from GST.

Early Bookers:

\$300 discount on first 8 seats; \$150 on next 4

Experience Points:

Earn 181 points on this tour.

Redeem 181 points if you book by January 9, 2023.

Departure from: Victoria



Cusco Plaza

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Monday, April 10

We cross the border and follow I-5 south to Seattle for an overnight stay at the Embassy Suites near the airport. Meet your fellow travellers during a reception with cocktails, beer, and wine.

**Accommodation:** Embassy Suites Sea-Tac

### Day 2: Tuesday, April 11

We fly from Seattle to Lima, Peru.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

### Day 3: Wednesday, April 12

We arrive in **Lima** early this morning after an overnight flight with a connection. Our coach and local guide meet us at the airport and we drive downtown for an overnight stay at Hotel Jose Antonio. It is located in **Miraflores**, Lima's most vibrant district for tourists with many shops and restaurants. It is five blocks away from Kennedy Park and the Larco Mar Shopping Center.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Jose Antonio

### Day 4: Thursday, April 13

We journey south on the **Pan-American Highway** along the coast of Peru to Nazca.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Casa Andina Hotel

### Day 5: Friday, April 14

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 (180 metres long) and the monkey (90 metres). 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. Later, we visit the **Chauchilla Cemetery** which contains mummified human remains and artifacts, dating to 900 AD. We stay overnight in **Paracas**, a busy beach resort town, at an oceanfront hotel.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** San Agustin Resort



### Day 6: Saturday, April 15

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. Afterwards, we return to Lima.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Jose Antonio

### Day 7: Sunday, April 16

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; and the historic centre with Paseo de la Republica, San Martin Square, and old streets with colonial mansions.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Jose Antonio

### Day 8: Monday, April 17

We fly from Lima to **Cusco** which lies at an elevation of 3,300 metres. 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 Cusco. Three thousand kms of stone roads radiated from here into the far reaches of the mountains. Cusco is still one of the most fascinating of the world's ancient cities. The scenic drive from Cusco 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 Sonesta Posada del Inca in Yucay with the majestic peaks of the Andes surrounding the hotel.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Sonesta Posada del Inca



### Day 9: Tuesday, April 18

We drive up into the mountains to the south of Valle Sagrado to visit the charming village of **Chincho** with its colonial church, Inca ruins, and impressive views. Nearby **Maras** is 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.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Sonesta Posada del Inca

### Day 10: Wednesday, April 19

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 700 metres above the rushing Urubamba River. It was built by the Incas around the 15<sup>th</sup> century and its strategic terraces provided a defence from the

invading Spaniards. 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. We stay overnight at the end of the rail line in **Aguas Calientes**.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Casa Andina Machu Picchu



### Day 11: Thursday, April 20

We ride a mini-bus for the exciting journey up the mountain via 17 narrow switchbacks to reach **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 3,000 metres 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 on your own. We take the afternoon train to Ollantaytambo, then a motorcoach to Cusco where we stay three nights.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Casa Andina Plaza

## Day 12: Friday, April 21

Our sightseeing tour of **Cusco** 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. Cusco 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.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Casa Andina Plaza

## Day 13: Saturday, April 22

**Tipón** is a sprawling early 15<sup>th</sup> century Inca site, consisting of ruins enclosed by a defensive wall about 6 km long. The most renowned part of the park is the group of precise right-angled monumental terraces, irrigated by a network of canals fed by a monumental fountain. Next is **Pikillaqta**, a village of the Wari people, occupied from 550 to 1100 AD. Its main use was for ceremonies and the site was not complete when abandoned.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Casa Andina Plaza

## Day 14: Sunday, April 23

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 Peru. In **Raqchi**, a ceremonial centre built by the Incas, we see a wall of adobe 15 metres high and 90 metres long which was once a huge hall with adobe columns. We continue to the north shore of Lake Titicaca and the resort city of **Puno**. Our hotel for two nights has a stunning setting overlooking the lake.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Jose Antonio Puno



## Day 15: Monday, April 24

**Lake Titicaca** lies at an elevation of 3,812 metres (12,507 feet) and is considered the highest navigable lake in the world. It measures 190 km long by 80 km 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. Later we visit **Taquile Island** which is known for its high quality handicrafts and even honoured as masterpieces by UNESCO. Knitting is exclusively performed by males, starting at age eight while the women make yarn and weave.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Jose Antonio Puno

## Day 16: Tuesday, April 25

Leaving Puno, we travel along the south shore of Lake Titicaca to Copacabana. **Welcome to Bolivia!** We visit the church where the famous image of the Virgin de Copacabana is venerated. Then we board motorboats to the Moon Island and legendary **Isla del Sol**. Here we visit the exquisite

**Pilkokaina Inca Palace** and 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.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Rosario del Lago



### Day 17: Wednesday, April 26

Today's highlight is the ruins of **Tiwanaku**, once the principal ceremonial centre and birthplace of Andean culture. Recent archeological dating tests show that these pre-Inca ruins date to 3000 BC. The tour includes Kalasasaya Courtyard, the Gates of the Sun and Moon, the Semi-Subterranean Temple, Akapana Pyramid, and the museum. We continue into La Paz for a two-night stay. Tonight's farewell dinner is a chance to reminisce about our adventures travelling through Peru and Bolivia.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Ritz La Paz

### Day 18: Thursday, April 27

Our tour of **La Paz** starts on the unique cable car transit system and we admire panoramic views of this mountainous city. Next is Valle de la Luna, a

spectacular earth formation created by wind and erosion. Another terrific view is from Killi Killi, then we continue to the Indian and Witches Markets for some souvenir hunting. **Murillo Square** is the site of the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Palacio de Gobierno, and Parliament Buildings.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Ritz La Paz



### Day 19: Friday, April 28

We have an early morning flight from La Paz to Lima, then continue to Seattle with a connection.

**Accommodation:** Embassy Suites Sea-Tac

### Day 20: Saturday, April 29

There are stops at Bellis Fair Mall and the Duty-free store, then we cross the border and take an afternoon ferry to the Island.

**Meals included:** Breakfast



**Activity Level 3:** 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 we travel at altitudes of up to 3,800 metres at Lake Titicaca and this can be

demanding on the body, so you may wish to 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. This tour is not appropriate for people who depend on a walker. 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, drivers and guides 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. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some tour days. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfers to Seattle Airport and return
- Flight from Seattle to Lima
- Air transportation taxes and security fees
- Airline luggage fee for 1 suitcase per person
- 18 nights of accommodation, hotel taxes and hotel service charges
- 15 days coach transportation in Peru & Bolivia
- All transfers between airports and hotels
- Flight over the Nazca Lines
- Chauchilla Cemetery
- Nature and birdlife cruise to Ballestas Islands
- Locally-guided tour of Lima
- San Francisco Monastery
- Larco Museum
- Flight from Lima to Cusco
- Sacred Valley of the Incas
- Tour of Chinchero, Maras, and Moray
- 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 Cusco
- Temple of the Sun
- Temple fortress of Sacsayhuaman
- Tambomachay bathing site
- Tipón archaeological site
- Pikillaqta village
- Andahuaylillas adobe church
- Raqchi ceremonial centre
- Boat excursion on Lake Titicaca to the Uros Floating Islands
- Copacabana Church
- Boat excursion to Isla del Sol and Moon Island
- Pilkokaina Inca Palace and Gardens
- Ruins of Tiwanaku
- Tour of La Paz with Valle de la Luna
- Flight from La Paz to Seattle
- Gratuities for Peru and Bolivia guides and drivers, local city guides, boat crew
- Nazca airport tax and Bolivia departure tax
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **50 meals:** 18 breakfasts, 16 lunches, 16 dinners

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## TOUR NOTES

**Currency & expenses:** As this tour has been planned and priced 10 months before departure, it is possible that exchange fluctuations between the Canadian and US dollars could affect the fare, in which case you will be notified of the increase or decrease. The currency in Peru is Nuevo Sol and the exchange rate is C\$1 equals about 2.80 sol. The currency in Bolivia is Boliviano and C\$1 equals about 5.30 Boliviano. The US dollar is widely accepted, but bills must be clean and not torn. Credit cards are accepted in major stores, hotels, and restaurants, but the markets and small shops generally want cash. Wait till you arrive in Peru to exchange US dollars for the sol, same with the Boliviano. It is unlikely that you can exchange Canadian dollars in these countries. You can also use ATMs, but check with your bank for the correct length of the PIN. Three meals per day are included in Peru and Bolivia, but beverages including water are usually charged extra. In the markets, haggling over the price is expected, but remember that the merchant also needs to make a living.

**Gratuities** are included for the guides and coach drivers in Peru and Bolivia, the crew on boat excursions, and for all meals. Bring small bills for other gratuities. Gratuities to the Wells Gray tour director and Canadian drivers are not included and left to your discretion.

**Documentation:** A passport is required, valid 6 months after return date. A visa is not required in either country.

**Triples:** Triples are not available on this tour.

## TOUR NOTES CONTINUED

**Changes** to flight 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 and coaches 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 hotels will be of similar quality. Countries can change Covid rules with little notice, so be sure your travel insurance covers such situations. Airlines can change their flight schedules before or after ticketing.

**Health Clinic:** Visit a travel vaccination clinic two months before departure to discuss possible inoculations for this tour. Bring this itinerary. There are currently no required inoculations, but you may want to discuss Hepatitis A/B and Yellow Fever.

**TOUR 25** This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning tour is limited to 25 participants, a more intimate travel experience.

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## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due January 9, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 8 seats and \$150 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after January 9, 2023.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to December 9, 2022, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From December 10, 2022 to January 9, 2023, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From January 10 to February 9, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From February 10 to March 9, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After March 9, there is no refund.

**Food Allergies:** You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to remote places where restaurants probably cannot satisfy all food allergies. An allergy that causes medical distress should get proper attention in restaurants, but a food preference will be ignored. For some food allergies, you should bring your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

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

**Photo Credits:** All photos from Wikimedia Commons, except Hotel Jose Antonio (Puno hotel photo)

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 181 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 January 9, 2023.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

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1-800-667-9552



## MACHU PICCHU, CUSCO & LAKE TITICACA — April 10, 2023

This tour is rated “Activity Level 3” by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours. This rating is the highest activity level assigned to a tour, meaning that there is a lot of activity which could include one or more of (but is not limited to) the following:

- You can walk 3 kilometres in 1 hour.
- You can handle activity at high altitudes after acclimatization (up to 3,800 metres on this tour).
- You can climb into and out of a small boat or small airplane.
- You can walk on cobblestones, uneven sidewalks, beaches with sand or rock, and on boat docks that may have steep ramps.
- You can climb one or two flights of stairs to a hotel room if there is no elevator.
- You can carry your own luggage in airports.

Since a few people who are not capable of doing the above activities can hold up the entire group, Wells Gray Tours expects everybody booking a tour with “Activity Level 3” to be reasonably fit. You must be able to participate in activities without the assistance of the tour director, driver or other travellers. Please read the following and sign acknowledging that these statements are true. The tour deposit will be due after you have signed this statement.

I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of “Activity Level 3”.

I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.

I understand that this is the highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.

I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.

I do not require the use of a wheelchair or a walker.

If my physical condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and travel insurance may cover this.

If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or I require ongoing assistance, I understand that the Wells Gray tour director has the right to not allow me to participate in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, I acknowledge that I may be required to leave the tour and travel home at my own expense, and that travel insurance will probably not cover me.

This statement has been implemented by Wells Gray Tours to maintain high quality itineraries, accurate timing, and the enjoyment of all tour participants. Each person booking this tour must sign this statement. Thank you for your understanding.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_