

MACHU PICCHU, CUSCO & LAKE TITICACA

Visit amazing wonders of South America

April 10, 2024 – 21 Days

50th
ANNIVERSARY

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Machu Picchu



Indigenous Quechua women, Lake Titicaca

This epic tour begins in Peru where we explore Lima, the modern capital, and Cusco, the capital of the 12th century Inca Empire. We enjoy a flight over the mysterious Nazca Lines, visible only from the air. Next, we cruise to the Ballestas Islands, which are noted for their 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 113 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.



INTERNATIONAL
TOUR



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► **52 Meals Included:**

18 breakfasts, 17 lunches, 17 dinners

► **Fares per person:**

\$10,925 double/twin; \$12,730 single - NO GST

► **Experience Points:** Earn 183 Experience Points

► **Departure from:** Lower Mainland



Cusco Plaza

Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday, April 10

Transportation is provided to Seattle for an over-night 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: Thursday, April 11

We fly from Seattle via Houston to Lima, Peru.

Accommodation: Hotel Jose Antonio, Lima

Day 3: Friday, April 12

Our hotel 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. The morning is leisure time. In the afternoon, we tour the Pachacamac archeological site. It was settled around 200 AD and flourished for about 1,300 years until the Spanish invaded.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Jose Antonio

Day 4: Saturday, 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: Sunday, 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**, one of Peru's busiest beach resort towns, at an ocean-front hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Accommodation: San Agustin Resort

Day 6: Monday, 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: Tuesday, 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: Wednesday, 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. About 3000 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: Thursday, 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: Friday, 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 15th 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: Saturday, 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 Cusco

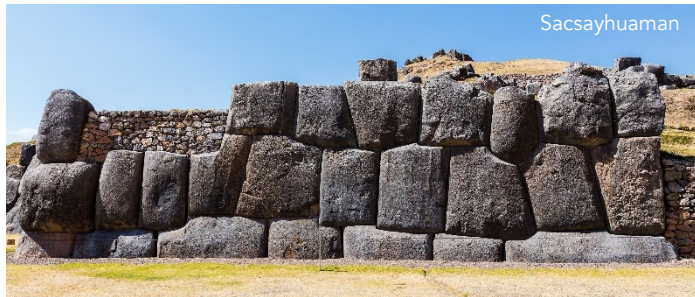
Day 12: Sunday, April 21

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 16th 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 Cusco



Day 13: Monday, April 22

Tipón is a sprawling early 15th 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 Cusco

Day 14: Tuesday, 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: Wednesday, 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

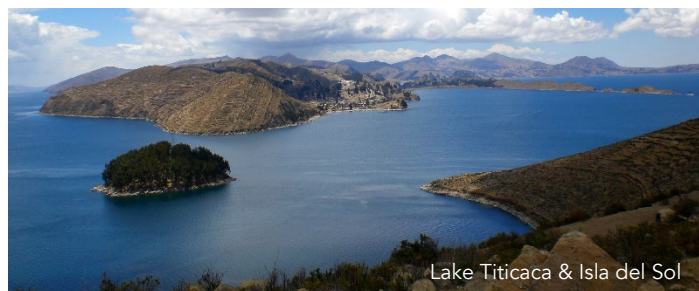
Day 16: Thursday, April 25

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 Estelar del Lago



Day 17: Friday, 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: Saturday, 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 Metropolitan Cathedral, Palacio de Gobierno, and Parliament Buildings.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Ritz La Paz



Day 19: Sunday, April 28

We take a morning flight to Lima. A tour of Lima highlights is arranged and a hotel room is provided so you can have a rest before the flight. Our homeward flight leaves late this evening.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 20: Monday, April 29

Overnight, we fly from Lima to Houston, then continue to Seattle, arriving early afternoon.

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Sea-Tac

Day 21: Tuesday, April 30

There are stops at Bellis Fair Mall and the Duty-free Store, then we cross the border and travel home to the Lower Mainland.

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

- Coach transportation to/from Seattle Airport
- Flight from Seattle to Lima
- Air transportation taxes and security fees
- 1 checked bag per person
- 19 nights of accommodation, hotel taxes and hotel service charges
- 15 days coach transportation in Peru & Bolivia
- All transfers between airports and hotels
- Pachacamac archeological site
- 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
- Tour of Lima highlights
- Flight from La Paz via Lima to Seattle
- 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
- **52 meals:** 18 breakfasts, 17 lunches, 17 dinners

TOUR NOTES

Currency & expenses: As this tour has been planned and priced 9 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 2.70 sol. The currency in Bolivia is Boliviano and C\$1 equals about 5.20 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 until 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 an additional fee which is at your expense. 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.**

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$1,800 and book your own flight which allows seat selection.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights from Seattle to Lima and return. Premium economy and business class may be available.

TOUR NOTES CONTINUED

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.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Due to continuing after effects of the pandemic, sometimes we are notified about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a component of an extensive tour due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes, currency exchange rates, or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure. 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.

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 may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. Please do not tell us about your food preferences, as restaurants ignore these requests. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

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.



This tour is limited to 25 participants for a more intimate travel experience.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due January 9, 2024. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards).

Cancellation Policy: Up to December 8, 2023, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From December 9, 2023 to January 9, 2024, 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 8, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After March 8, there is no refund.

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 Pickup: Home pickups are included within Greater Vancouver. Please request no later than at final payment.

Photo Credits: Adobe Stock (Quechua women and Cusco Plaza). All remaining photos from Wikimedia Commons, except Hotel Jose Antonio (Puno hotel photo).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 183 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until January 9, 2024.

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

VICTORIA

102-736 Broughton St.
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MACHU PICCHU, CUSCO & LAKE TITICACA — April 10, 2024

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 kilometers 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_____