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1. Geographical location

Finding itself on the eastern end of the knot of the region, Cusco stands at an elevation of 11,200ft above sea level boasting of vast Andean Plateau and the Amazon jungle, opening its door to the landscaped mountains. Extending its arm throughout the Watanay river valley, the city of Cusco is the capital of the Cusco region and the Cusco Province.



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Town Of Cusco Lies 297kms Away From Juliaca, Followed By Arequipa At A Distance Of 324Kms, Huancayo At 387kms, Písac At 35Kms, Coya At 43Kms And Lamay At 45Kms.



3. Significance

When you step your foot on the grounds of one of the world's most visited and touristy destination, prepare yourself to walk through the streets dominated by Spanish and Inca cultures making this old-school-modern city rather a fascinating one. Not letting go of its Andean roots, the city of Cusco has mixed up with the Spanish colonies only to repackage themselves as Peru's ultimate destination. Lost in the magnificent colonial architecture, countryside villages and historic Inca ruins the city throws you into the history books of the region to learn a lesson or two with its many museums, archaeological sites and monuments. A classified cultural heritage, Cusco loses itself into Amazon lowlands and orchid rich cloud forests, where the Sacred Valley awaits you. With growing number of visitors every year, the city doesn't fail to surprise anybody with its gorgeous views and appealing environment that goes with the historic pre-colombian ruins. The city enjoys a subtropical highland climate, it was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

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4. History

The history of this town goes back to 3000 years ago with the people of Killke culture occupying the region from 900 to 1200. However soon the region was occupied by the Incas in the 13th century making the city of Cusco a prominent center for Inca Empire. Under the Incan empire the city flourished, however according to a legend the city was rebuilt from a sleepy state into a massive empire of Tawantinsuyu. By 1532 the city was captured by the general of Atahualpa in the Battle of Quipaipan, however the glory didn't last long due to the Spanish invasion. It was in the year 1533 that the first three Spaniards stepped into the city and gained control over Cusco. The then capital of Inca flourished during the time with construction of many streets and many architectural buildings with both Spanish and Inca indigenous architecture. However in this process many of Inca temples, buildings and palaces were destroyed. The city further on went on to become a center of the Spanish colonization and Christianity was spread in the Andean world along with mining, agricultural, cattle raising boosting the economy of the state. The city flourished throughout the 19th and 20th century, however with a destructive earthquake in the 1950, it faced a setback with one third of the city's architecture going haywire. It was in 1983 that the city was declared as a World Heritage Site. The city was established and by 1990s tourism increased making Cusco one of the most important destinations of the country.

5. Cultural identity

The culture of the country is defined by its many customs, beliefs and way of life that has been influenced by the Spanish conquistadors and the native Incas. However it doesn't limit itself to these cultures since many Immigrant groups like Chinese, Europeans, Africans and Japanese also contribute to the society. Peruvian culture can be seen through literature, dance, art forms, music, dance, celebrations, clothing, religion and clothing. Cusco is recognized as a cultural capital, the culture of lies in its historic traditions, customs and people who hail from the Inca culture till date. The folklore of the city is as diverse and rich as it can get with various types of dances ranging from Qollas, Danza de Los Negritos, el Panadero, Saqra K'achampa among others. What also defines the culture is the endless joys, colours, kindness found in the streets of the city. The popular art of the region is incomparable along with exquisite textiles that hails from the region. Boasting of the most varied crafts in the world, Peru shows an extensive amount of traditional exhibit. The diversity lies in its creativity, multi functionality and colourfulness. The country's folklore is rich and diverse at the same time with its own type of dances and songs with Zamacueca, Festejo and El Huayno being some of the popular dances. The music in the country is an amalgamation of sounds and tunes influences by Spanish, Quechua and Aymara music. The traditional cuisines in the country gets its combination from the Spanish and Inca culture and is seen in all the meals, also influencing are African and Chinese cultures that have shaped up the food scene of the country. All in all, Peru is full of customs that maintain the legacy of its ancient cultures.

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6. Natural resources

Although the city isn't home to any National Parks, but the region of Cusco houses Manú National Park, which is a reserved biosphere and a world heritage site. This is the largest National park in the country and includes several ecological zones. One will find more than 20,000 species and a large variety of wildlife species. The city is bustling with natural resources like petroleum, silver, gold, copper, iron ore, potash, hydro power and natural gas.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)**7.1. Paid****7.1.1. Qurikancha**

Initially known as Inti Wasi or Inti Kancha, this was one of the most significant places of worship of the Incan Empire, dedicated to the Sun God. One of the richest temples covered with gold walls in the past, today boasts of magnificent stonework. You will encounter the ruins of the church that were built by the Spaniards and further ruined by an earthquake, which had no effect on the Inca stone walls. Pay a visit to Qurikancha's monuments and museums to get into the deep history of the region.

Address : Plazoleta Santo Domingo, Cuzco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5202365, -71.97523389

Contact : +51 995 067 884

Website

<https://www.facebook.com/TemploQorikanchaCusco/?rf=939397679410039>

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station, Estacion de colectivos para urubamba y ollantaytambo Bus Station

Entry Fee : PEN \$10

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 08:30hrs-17:30hrs, Sunday 14:00-17:00

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5-10 Minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.2. Catedral del Cuzco

The cathedral that was built using blocks snatched from the nearby Inca sites of Sacsaywamán, started in the year 1559 and took a century for its completion. This was the first Christian church to be built in the city and holds numerous archaeological relics and artefacts. Boasting of the Gothic-Renaissance style architecture, Cusco Cathedral features colonial artwork and European devotional painting styles complemented by the historic painting in the city, depicting Cusco during the earthquake of 1650. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the church is your one-stop destination for experiencing the enigma of this

region.

Address : Plaza de Armas, Cuzco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5161895, -71.9778728

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station & Estacion Wanchaq Train Station

Entry Fee : PEN \$25

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-17:45hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.3. Sacsayhuamán

Located 2 kilometers away from Cusco, the historical ruins of Sacsayhuamán exemplify both military and religious significance. This huge structure is left with only 20% of the original ruins and was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1983. Notice the segments of the walls that are built by the Killke culture around 1100 CE, further expanded by the Incan culture in the 13th century. One will find ruins of many buildings, a large plaza, storage rooms and numerous sites for religious or ceremonial purposes. Sacsayhuaman stands at an elevation of 12,142 feet and offers spectacular views of the surrounding mountains.

Address : Cuzco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5098438, -71.9816806

Website : <http://www.drc-cusco.gob.pe/index.php/localizacion-saqsaywaman>

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Adult/Student PEN \$130/\$70

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-17:30hrs

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 10-15minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.4. Pre-Colombian Art Museum

Surround yourself into a smorgasbord of art and artefacts in the Pre-Columbian

Art museum. Established in a historical Incan ceremonial court, the main building of the museum was designed as a colonial mansion in the year 1580. The building houses a collection of traditional objects and artworks from the pre-Columbian times featuring ornate pots, sculpted jewelry and ceremonial masks made by the indigenous cultures between 1250 BCE and 1532 CE.

Address : Plaza de las Nazarenas, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5149429, -71.97744369

Contact : +51 84 233210

Website : http://map.museolarco.org/home_en.html

Nearest Public Transport : Estacion de Colectivos Cusco –Urubamba Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults PEN \$20 Students PEN \$10

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. Museo Inka

Museo Inka will take you through the permanent collection of artefacts and traditional objects to learn about the culture and the civilization that dominated the region from the 13th century until the 16th century. Showcasing an array of textiles, jewelry, pottery and mummies, you can spot many models from the early centuries here. You can also purchase handicrafts made by the Andean people.

Address : Cuesta del Almirante 103, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5156546, -71.97820619

Contact : +51 84 237380

Website : <http://museoinka.unsaac.edu.pe/>

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station

Entry Fee : PEN \$10

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-18:00hrs, Saturday 08:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.6. Planetarium Cusco

This family-run planetarium will show you the astronomical world from a different viewpoint. Learn about the Incan culture that claims to have a special connection with the stars, through the special excursions of the planetarium to magnificent locations. Get to know the Incan history and how the stars affected their architecture and agriculture along with some cultural influences.

Address : Reserva eco turistica privada Llaullipata | Km 2 carretera Sacsayhuamán, Cusco 0084, Peru

Zipcode : 0084

Location : -13.5069549, -71.98471789

Contact : +51 974 782 692

Website : <http://www.planetariumcusco.com/es/>

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station (Not recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults/ Students PEN \$50/\$30

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-13:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.7. Pisaq Archaeological Park

Climb on the top to surround yourself with jagged cliffs and magnificent landscapes at Pisac Inca Ruins and dive into its nailbiting history chapters. Built in the 15th century, these ruins were once used for a triple purpose that included military, religious and agricultural activities. Locals still use this land for agricultural activities.

Address : Pisaq, 08000 Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.4144174, -71.8437916

Nearest Public Transport : Estacion de Buses Urubamba y Calca Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Adult: PEN \$130, Student: PEN \$70

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 4

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.8. Tipon

This ancient temple which was once used by the ancient civilization to worship water, today, features fountains, terraces, and aqueducts that run throughout the complex. You will find yourself surrounded by the serene atmosphere and a less number of people, making it a great place to relax at your own pace.

Address : Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5824773, -71.7829471

Contact : +51 984556653

Nearest Public Transport : Servicio Rapido Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : PEN \$10

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15-20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.9. Sacred Valley of the Incas

In the bygone world, Sacred Valley was the head of the Incas and today stands as one of the most popular archaeological sites in the world. Trek through the mountainous region and cloudy forests to explore a number of quiet villages and markets that will transport you back in time to the world of Incas. This is one of the highlights of Peru and must not be skipped.

Address : Peru, 08000

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.330221, -72.0510755

Website : <https://www.cuscoperu.com/en/travel/sacred-valley-of-the-incas>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Terrestre Cusco Bus Station

Entry Fee : Tour starts from PEN \$450

Time Required : 5

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.10. Museo Palacio Arzobispal

Museo Palacio Arzobispal stands out for its marvelous architecture. This grand residential palace of the archbishop built in a Baroque style architecture features a statue of the Archdiocese's patron saint along with a stone facade and takes you through the history of the attraction.

Address : Calle Hatunrumiyoc, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5162117, -71.9764829

Contact : +51 84 225211

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Museo-De-Arte-Arzobispado-Del-Cusco/376910339032703?rf=395923357115330>

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult: PEN \$50, Student: PEN \$25

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.11. Museo Historico Regional

This museum is a tiny packet located in the house of the colonial-era poet, Garcilaso de la Vega and showcases relics from pre-Incan, Incan and Colonia eras. Displaying various tools, ceramics, textiles, ancient artifacts and musical instruments, Museo Historico is truly a historical gem that takes you to the past. Find yourself strolling around the peaceful courtyard and gazing at the excellent architecture.

Address : Calle Garcilaso 202, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5176008, -71.9803759

Contact : +51 84 223-245

Website : <https://business.facebook.com/Museo-Hist%C3%B3rico-Regional-Casa-del-Inca-Garcilaso-de-la-Vega-297558540449082/>

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult: PEN \$130, Student: PEN \$70

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5-10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.12. Monumento Pachacutec

This large monument built in the honor of the Incan warrior King Pachacutec is your one stop to know more about the Incan history. The emperor who built the city and expanded the Kingdom of Inca, this statue stands at a height of 72 feet and talks about the glorious Incan past.

Address : Avenida del Sol | intersection of Av. 28 de Julio and San Martin, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.531766, -71.96840399

Contact : +51 84243210

Nearest Public Transport : Turismo Mer Bus Station and Cuzco Bus station

Entry Fee : PEN \$15

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 5-10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.13. Museo de la Coca

This small museum will give a brief history of the role of coca in the Peruvian culture. Spread over two floors, Museo de la Coca displays the use of coca leaves and the significance of the plant. There is a small shop located in the museum where one can buy products that have been induced with coca.

Address : PLAZA SAN BLAS 618 BLAS 618, LOS FRUTALES, San SEBASTIAN CUSCO, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.515265, -71.97421159

Contact : +51 84 501020

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/MuseoDeLaCocaCusco/>

Nearest Public Transport : Estacion Wanchaq Train Station

Entry Fee : Adults: PEN \$10, Students: PEN \$5

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.14. Pikillacta

Call it a pre-Inca city or a huge Wari culture archaeological site, this place is not to be missed. Specially tailored for the history buffs, Piquillacta takes you on a roller coaster ride filled with beautiful landscapes, orthogonal streets and Incan ruins.

Address : 20 km al Oriente de, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.6131308, -71.7162781

Contact : +51 84 508501

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/Piquillacta/?rf=166509676869598>

Nearest Public Transport : Paradero San Miguel San Sebastián Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : PEN \$200

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes



7.1.15. Huchuy Qosqo

Meaning "Little Cusco" in the native language, the structure of Huchuy Qosqo resembles the city of Cusco architecturally and refers to the place where the lightning can be seen crashing into the soil in the Quechua language. Lying at an altitude of 3,600 meters, in the town of Lamay and the Sacred Valley, Huchuy Qosqo is another archaeological site that cannot be missed. Trek to the mountains to see breathtaking views that nature has in store for you. Originally a military and administrative center, today this site stands as the shortest and easiest archaeological site to cover up in the city.

Address : Calca, 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.3662306, -71.94485989

Contact : +51 989 308 100

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Huchuy-Qosqo/513253745443298>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Terrestre Cusco Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : PEN \$200

Open & Close Timing : Open 24Hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.16. Tambomachay

Located just 8 kilometers away from the city, Tambomachay is an archaeological site lying 3,700 meters above sea level and is a spectacular place where the people of Inca conducted ceremonies to pay respect to the different elements of nature like water and sun. The site that was formed by 4 walls in a trapezoidal shape is an excellent place to dive into the Incan history.

Address : Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.4799888, -71.96639299

Contact : +51 84 261465

Website : <http://www.cosituc.gob.pe/tambomachay.php>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Terrestre Cusco Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : PEN \$200

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.17. Ausangate

Revered by many native Peruvians as the mountain spirit, Ausangate or commonly known as Rainbow Mountain is situated at a distance of around 100 kilometers from Cusco. A rare mountain range, it is considered as a cordillera on which life depends. Trek through the sierra and get a glimpse of the shepherd communities and local craftsmen that are secluded in these kaleidoscopic valleys. Once you arrive at the top of the alps, you are sure to be fascinated by the lakes

and lush green meadows that are hidden here, along with a peaceful sight of grazing alpacas. The Ausangate glacier at the bottom of the range is surely a sight to behold. The Qoyllur Rit'i Religious Festival celebrated at the foothills in the month of May and attracts more than 10,000 visitors every year. Note: Ausangate can only be covered by trekking or horse riding, hence taking tours from different agencies is highly recommended.

Address : Cusco 08002, Peru

Zipcode : 08002

Location : -13.7908333, -71.2325

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Terrestre Cusco Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Tours start from PEN \$250

Open & Close Timing : Open 24Hours

Time Required : 12

Expected Wait Time : 15 Minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.18. Machu Picchu

Leaving a massive trail of history behind, the lost Incan civilization of Machu Picchu magnetizes archaeologists, anthropologists and tourists from all corners of the world. Overlooking the Sacred Valley, the ruins of Machu Picchu lying at an altitude of 7,970 feet was founded by Hiram Bingham, an American explorer in 1911. Erected in the 15th century, this restored site boasts of a typical Incan style architecture featuring man-made terraces and dry stone walls. Being a ritual center during the Incan period, you will encounter the ruins of various temples including the Sun Temple and the Moon Temple, agricultural centers, tombs, thermal baths and other layouts at this classic and well-preserved wonder of the world. If you are an avid hiker, then grab the opportunity to go for one of the most famous hikes of the greatest ruins in the world, where you will find your way through mountains and jungles stretching up to 43 kilometers with an intense altitude of more than 13,800 feet. Traverse the stone paths, rugged alpine valleys, ancient Inca sites and cloud forests on your way to the towering peaks of Machu Picchu in the lost city of Vilcabamba. The best and the fastest option to reach the mountain peak is through a train journey. However, if you are going for

a hike, make sure you do so through a registered agency, as the government only allows a certain number of hikers per day. Hiking generally takes about 7-10 days. Make your trip to Machu Picchu even more memorable by clicking a picture with the alpacas.

Address : Cusco 08002, Peru

Zipcode : 08002

Location : -13.1631412, -72.54496289

Contact : +51 84 582030

Website : <http://www.machupicchu.gob.pe/>

Nearest Public Transport : Machu Picchu Bus Station & Machu Picchu Train Station

Entry Fee : Entry too Machu Picchu: Adults: PEN \$152, Students PEN\$ 77. Hiking tours start from PEN\$ 1000.

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 12

Expected Wait Time : 30 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.19. Hiram Bingham Orient Express

Traversing from Cusco to Machu Picchu, through the most beguiling panoramic views of South America is undisputedly the journey of a lifetime. The vintage luxury train climbs up the Inca Trail leaving passengers baffled with the benevolence of nature. Before you know it, you will find yourself lost in thoughts, as you indulge in a sumptuous gourmet meal, while staring at the Peruvian Andes and Urubamba River. Inspired by the 1920s Pullman carriages, the wooden-furnished train hosts 84 passengers.

Address : Av. Pachacutec, Cuzco, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5257279, -71.971068399999

Contact : +51 84 581 414

Website : http://www.belmond.com/hiram-bingham-train/hiram_bingham_train

Nearest Public Transport : Cuzco Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: One-way trip: around PEN \$1,117, Roundtrip: around PEN \$1900; Children from 3-11years: One-way trip: around PEN \$600, Roundtrip:

around PEN \$950; Free for children from 0-2years.

Open & Close Timing : Wanchaq station (Cusco)- Monday-Friday 07:00hrs-17:00hrs, Saturday-Sunday 07:00hrs-12:00hrs; Machu Picchu station (Machu Picchu Town)- Daily 05:00hrs-21:30hrs,

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 30minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Plaza De Armas

Located in the heart of the city, Plaza de Armas surrounds itself many restaurants, bars, and shops that not only act as a social destination but also a meeting point for local and tourists. The Plaza is also home to an exquisite church that holds historical significance. Gaze at the striking architecture in and around Plaza and find yourself a seat to see the Life of Cusco, a movie that is showcased here.

Address : Plateros, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5167459, -71.9788237

Contact : +51 84 226701

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Centro Historico De Cusco

Wander through the heart of this old city, which was once the capital of the Incan Empire. Boasting of the remains of the old town, you will bump into magnificent churches, colonial-era houses, convents, and the grand cathedral. Spanish architecture has also found a home with many restaurants, bars, traditional handicrafts and souvenirs shops. Don't forget to pay a visit to the museum to get a glimpse of the rich history of the town.

Address : Calle Nueva Alta 500-, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5173441, -71.97861449

Contact : +51 984 343 273

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. San Blas

This historical center of the city will swoon you with its antique homes, cobbled streets and a host of attractions keeping you busy. Boasting of a mixed Incan-Spanish architecture San Blas gives beautiful views of the city and the plaza once you step onto the grounds of its steep hills. Do not forget to buy a little memorabilia from the many souvenirs shops or grab a drink at the many bars and restaurants that surround this attractive destination.

Address : Cusco, 08000 Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5150046, -71.9744733

Contact : +51 993492979

Nearest Public Transport : Estacion de Colectivos Cusco -Urubamba Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Iglesia De Santo Domingo

This temple dedicated to the Inca Sun God Inti, once boasted of gold-coated walls and solid gold statues. Today, it stands like a shell with Spanish and Inca architecture. According to the legends, the temple was stripped off with the gold when the Spanish asked the Incan leader, Atahualpa for a ransom in exchange for his freedom.

Address : Ahuacpinta 659-A, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5199641, -71.9751125

Contact : +51 984951059

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Mercado Central de San Pedro

Wander around the Mercado Central to get a taste of the local culture with food kiosks and vendors finding their way to sell fresh juices, seafood, dried Llama fetuses, pig heads, and many other delicacies. If you are an early riser, do grab a

typical Cusquena breakfast followed by some shopping at the many textile houses.

Address : Tupac Amaru, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5211627, -71.98252379

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24Hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Choco Museo

When you enter Choco Museo, you might mistake it for a mere chocolate store. However, this museum will surprise you with its detailed explanation of chocolate-making through various workshops and exhibits. You can even make your own creations.

Address : Calle Garcilaso 210 (2nd floor) | 2nd floor, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5174862, -71.98053979

Contact : +51 84 244765

Website : <http://www.chocomuseo.com/espa%C3%BIol/nuestras-tiendas/cusco-per/>

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Museo Maximo Laura

This museum is dedicated to the life and works of a prominent textile artist and tapestry, Maximo Laura. It displays various modern art along with a blend of Peruvian elements and gives a historic tour of this National Human Treasure.

Address : Calle Carmen Alto 133, San Blas, Cusco San Blas, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.51493, -71.9749252

Contact : +51 84 227383

Website : <http://museomaximolaura.com/ingles/home>

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 09:30hrs-20:00hrs, Sunday 13:30hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Twelve Angled Stone

Considered to be one of the best-known examples of Incan architecture, this popular Twelve Angled Stone is situated in Cusco's historical center. It is believed that nothing can fit in the crevices of the stones, not even a sheet of paper. It was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and is almost always bustling with people. Note: Do not forget to carry a camera for you would definitely want a photograph.

Address : Hatunrumiyoc, Cusco 08000, Peru

Zipcode : 08000

Location : -13.5160102, -71.9762746

Nearest Public Transport : Pavitos Colectivo Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24Hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Center for Traditional Textiles of Cuzco

Zipcode : 0

Location : -13.5213867, -71.9754906

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. El Molino

Location : -13.5357175, -71.96156209

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Centro Comercial de Cuzco

Zipcode : 0

Location : -13.5273122, -71.970012

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Centro Artesanal

Zipcode : 0

Location : -13.5246879, -71.9722724

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Jerusalén

Location : -13.5285634, -71.9319831

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



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8. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

The country is dominated by Football so it goes without saying that the people of this town play this sport. Other sports played in the country includes – Taekwondo, Basketball, Rugby, Tennis and Volleyball.



9. Spas and relaxation

The town is bustling with options to relax and give yourself a break through different Spas and Saunas that will make you forget your worries in a go -

- **Inca Spa:**

Address : Av El Sol 1010, Cusco 08000, Peru

Location : -13.5249259,-71.97283570000002

Contact No : +51 1 2161011

Website : <http://www.incaspa.com/>

- **Casa Cartagena Boutique Hotel & Spa:**

Address : Pumacurco 336, Cusco 08000, Peru

Location : -13.511978,-71.978884

Contact No : +51 84 224356

Website : <http://www.casacartagena.com/>

- **Samana Inn & Spa:**

Address : Tecsecocha 536, Cusco 08000, Peru

Location : -13.5142692,-71.9810402

Contact No : +51 84 233721

Website : <http://www.samana-spa.com/>

- **Encantada Casa Boutique Spa Hotel:**

Address : Calle Tandapata 354, Cusco 08000 Peru

Location : -13.512395,-71.97661099999999

Contact No : +51 84 242206

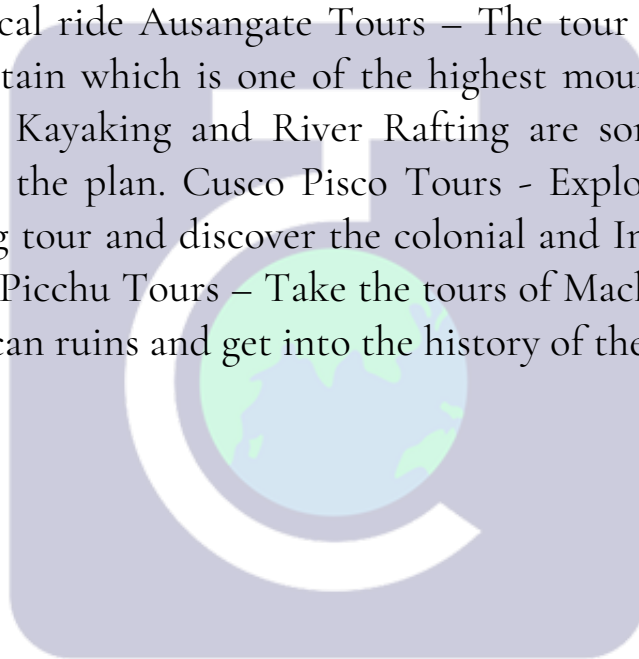
Website : <http://www.cuscohotel-encantada.com/>



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10. Key local guides and tours

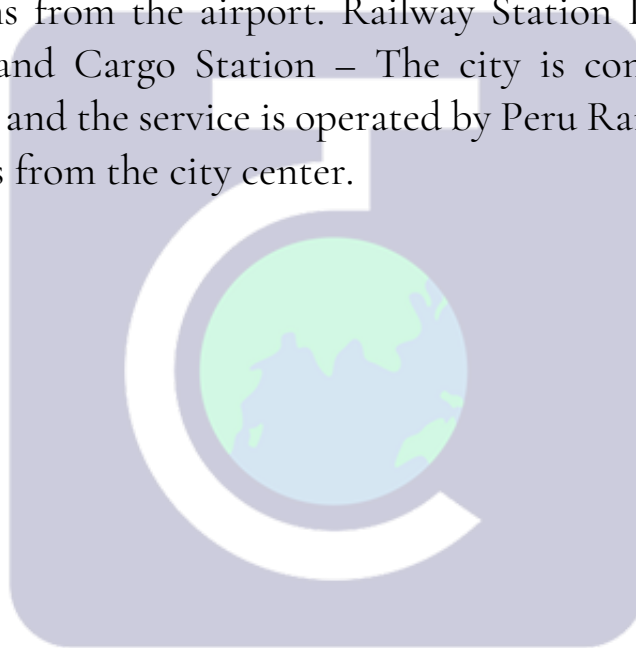
One will find many local guides at certain attractions to give you brief history about the regions. There are many private and public sightseeing city tours, accompanied by trekking and hiking tours. Do not forget to take different tours like - Ausangate Tours, Cusco Pisco Tours, Machu Picchu Tours held by private and public agencies who will give you an experience of the lifetime with an unforgettable historical ride Ausangate Tours – The tour consists of exploring the Ausangate mountain which is one of the highest mountain in the country. Trekking, Ziplining, Kayaking and River Rafting are some of the adventure activities includes in the plan. Cusco Pisco Tours - Explore the city with this perfect night walking tour and discover the colonial and Incan architecture like never before. Machu Picchu Tours – Take the tours of Machu Picchu to discover the world-famous Incan ruins and get into the history of the Incan civilization.



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11. Transportation hubs

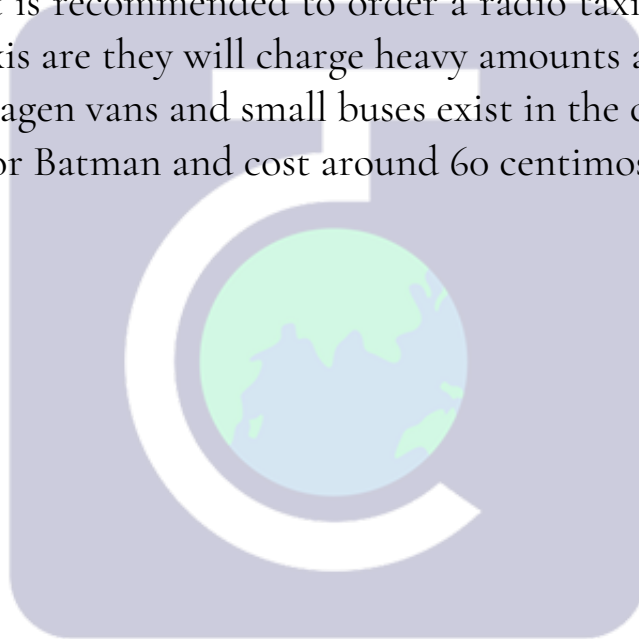
Airport Alejandro Velasco Astete International Airport – Located about 3.5Kms away from the city center, this airport receives flights from various cities like La Paz, Lima, Bogota, Puerto Maldonado and Juliaca Bus Station Terminal Terrestre Cusco – Located just 400 meters from the city center, this bus terminal receives various buses from various Peruvian and Bolivian cities. The bus terminal is also located about 3-4Kms from the airport. Railway Station PeruRail - San Pedro Resident Passenger and Cargo Station – The city is connected to Puno and Machu Picchu by rail and the service is operated by Peru Rail. The railway station is located about 2kms from the city center.



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12. Transportation cost

Public transportation makes it easy for one to commute within and around the city, hence the city of Cuzco offer various services like Taxis, Combis and Buses to the travellers. Buses - The most convenient way that takes you everywhere around the city and costs around PEN \$2-3 for a ride. Taxis - The most common way to commute in the city, the cost of one trip cost around PEN \$2-4 depending on the destination. It is recommended to order a radio taxi in the night and not travel by the local taxis as they will charge heavy amounts and is unsafe. Combis - These small Volkswagen vans and small buses exist in the city with many names like Zorro, Imperial or Batman and cost around 60 centimos for one ride.



Index**13. Baggage allowance**

It is not recommended to carry heavy amount of luggage anywhere, however in the taxis one can carry their massive suitcases and bags but the same does not apply for Combis and Buses as it may cause inconvenience to self and people around.



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14. Must try food and local savouries

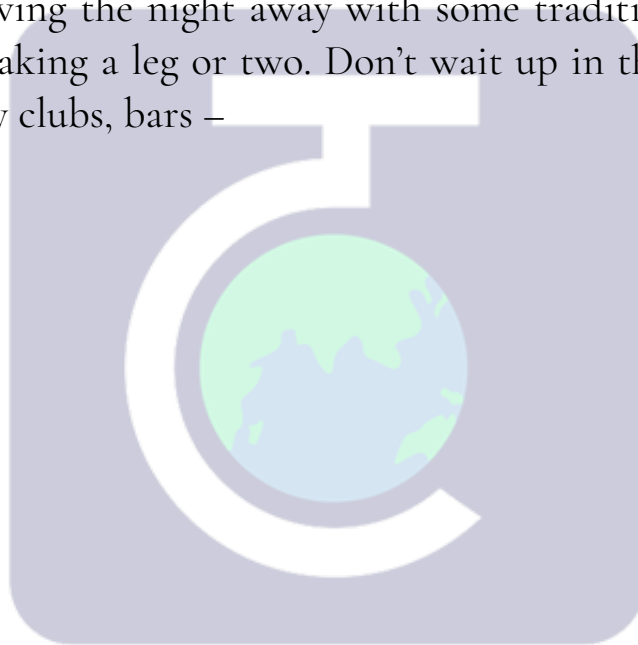
Cusco is a city that doesn't fail to surprise you with its traditional Incan flavours that has blended perfectly with the Spanish cuisines making your meals a world-class. Some of the dishes that cannot be missed while visiting the country includes –

- Ceviche** - This national dish is the most iconic one in the city. Coming from seaside, this marinated fish dish are in Lima and it's the healthiest, freshest and zestiest dish you will ever have. Ceviche comes from the indigenous quechua language meaning fresh fish and is definitely not to be missed.
- Cuy** - Staple meat that is usually baked or barbecued is another traditional dish of the country that boasts of a gamy taste. Although be warned the dish is quite bony.
- Causa** - This historical dish of the soliders of the country is yet another traditional dish composing of varieties of potatoes and piles of avocados. Arranged into a casserole type of setting these two ingredients are layered, sliced and served cold. Other variations in the same dish includes meat, hard boiled egg and tuna.
- Lomo Saltad** - This Asian Fusion with the traditional peruvian flavours is probably makes for one of the best dishes of the country in which beef, peppers, tomatoes and onions are blended with fried potatoes and soy sauce in a pan served over white rice.
- Aji de Gallina** - A mild Peruvian dish featuring rich, velvety stew made with condensed milk and chicken further thickened with de-crusted white bread. One can also try the vegetarian alternative that features boiled potato with creamy yellow sauce.
- Anticuchos** - Served everywhere in the country from High end restaurants to streets, these skewers of grilled and marinated meat has a rich history. However the most traditional anticuchos are made with beef heart.
- Rocoto Relleno** - This dish is for the spicy ones. A plain old red bell pepper stuffed with sauteed ground beef and hard boiled egg. Featuring lots of spices, Rocoto is topped with melted white cheese, baked and served whole.
- Lucuma** - Even though the regional dishes are ought to be spicy, this is rather a sweet dish. A tree fruit looking like a mango, Lucuma is a custardy taste complemented by maple syrup.

Some of the places that cannot be missed includes –

Index**15. Restaurant & Nightlife**

The town's many traditional and International fine dine restaurants will take you on a ride through a never imagined gastronomical tour that will leave your stomach just wanting for more & more and your wallet, well cringing! Plaza de Armas is your one stop destination that surrounds itself with many restaurants and bars. The nightlife is happening in the city with youth out on the streets late nights and just throwing the night away with some traditional live music, rock bands, drinks and shaking a leg or two. Don't wait up in the hotel beds and get out there to the many clubs, bars –



Index**16. Average meal cost**

Economical Meal: PEN \$30-50 Mid – Segment Restaurant: PEN \$60-80 Luxury Dining: PEN \$100 and above Average cost of beer: PEN \$15.58



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17. Shopping

Cusco is a gateway to shopping paradise for shopaholics and even if you aren't someone who loves shopping, you will definitely get tempted to grab your hand on a thing or two. Some of the places that cannot be missed at all includes –

Center for Traditional Textiles of Cuzco - If you are a fan of traditionally woven clothes this is the place to be to grab your hands on some exquisite collection and learn a thing or two about weaving techniques by visiting the onsite museum.

El Molino - This street market opens its doors to a departmental store where you will find locals bargaining on bulk food, alcohol, housewares, electronic goods, pirated CDs and DVDs, clothes and the list goes on. So if you are someone who can convince vendors to sell stuff at cheaper prices, then it's time to show your skills.

Centro Comercial de Cuzco - Attention all the Fashionistas, this center is your answer to fancy clothing stores that sell not only traditional but International brands.

Centro Artesenal Cuzco - Another street market specializing in everything but teapots and textiles are definitely not to be missed.

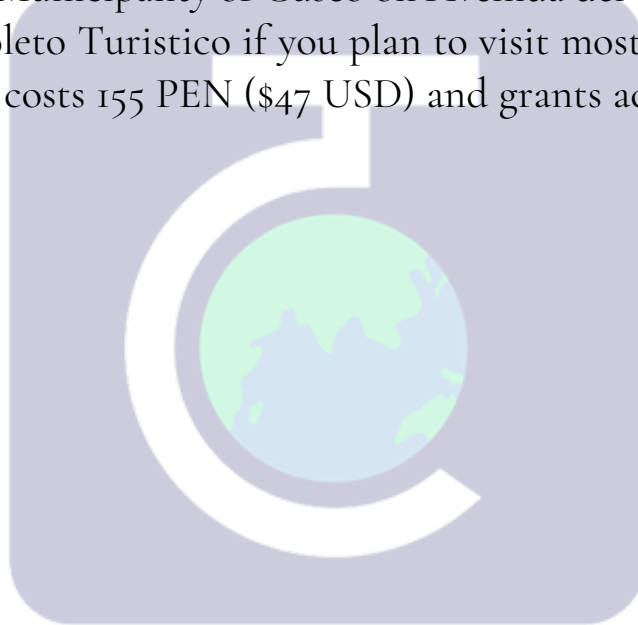
Jerusalén - This is the city's place to exchange books with some notes, and get lost into the world of words. Guidebooks, Music CDs and new titles play as added benefits.

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18. Tourist benefits

The VAT charged in the country is 18% which is comparatively high compared to the other countries. One will also find few duty free shops around the city of Cusco. Following are some items that can be imported –

- 20 packs of cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco.
- 3L of alcoholic beverages.
- Gifts or new articles for personal use up to a value of US\$500.
- Cusco Tourist Ticket is available and can be bought at the Municipality of Cusco on Avenida del Sol or through travels agents.
- Do buy a Boleto Turistico if you plan to visit most of the sites in Cusco and Sacred Valley. It costs 155 PEN (\$47 USD) and grants access to 16 attractions over a 10-day period.



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19. Essential local apps

Various local applications available to come in handy are: MESA 24/7- This app helps you to book reservations at the Top restaurants of Peru. Peru Buses- An Application that helps you compare the bus fares of the major bus operators in Peru. Radio de Peru- An application that keeps you entertained with the traditional Peru music.



20. Driving

One can drive down and in-around the city without any stress. You just need a proper driving license to drive around the city, make sure that you have your passport, credit card and other documents all the time on you, since you can be pulled over anytime by the cops. However driving in the country is hazardous due to badly maintained roads and inadequate road lighting.



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21. Travel essentials

Following are the necessary things to keep in mind while travelling in the country

- Adapter/Plug – The standard voltage in the country is 220V with a frequency of 60 Hz. Power sockets: type A / B / C in Peru. It is always advised to carry sufficient prescribed medicines as OTCs are not allowed. Altitude sickness medicines are a mandatory as most travellers complain about the same. One needs to carry a money belt in order to avoid theft or pick pocketing.



22. Essential clothes

Following are the necessary things to keep in mind while travelling in the country

- Adapter/Plug – The standard voltage in the country is 220V with a frequency of 60 Hz. Power sockets: type A / B / C in Peru. It is always advised to carry sufficient prescribed medicines as OTCs are not allowed. Altitude sickness medicines are a mandatory as most travellers complain about the same. One needs to carry a money belt in order to avoid theft or pick pocketing.



23. Local currency

The local currency in Peru is the Peruvian Nuevo Sol. 1 USD = 3.35 PEN

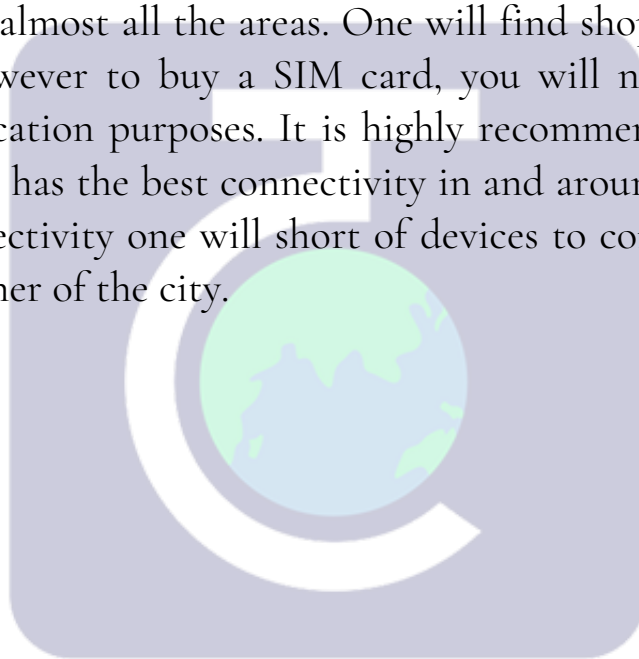


24. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

The city is bustling with ATMs around. Most of the cards are accepted in the ATMs. Banks are likely to charge you with a foreign transaction fee in an ATM, hence make sure to confirm with your bank about the fee charges prior to your transaction. One can only take out a limited amount, so it is recommended to take out the maximum amount in one go. There are many shops, restaurants and hotels around the city that accept US dollars hence exchanging is not mandatory, however there are local shops that do not accept US Dollars so keeping some amount of local cash in handy is always recommended. One can exchange the currency at the airport or at many shops that are located in the city at a decent rate, however there are people who will deliberately bump into you to exchange currency on the streets, hence be aware of these people as they sell false notes. Most Credit cards are accepted in the city, however a fee is charged hence one should confirm the extra transaction fee from their bank prior to their travel. Commission rate charged by vendors in Cusco may range from 5-10%. The exchange commission rate on traveler's cheque is between 2-5%.

25. Staying connected

Major networks that dominate Peru are Claro and Movistar. However make sure to unlock your phone prior to your travel in order to use any SIM card in the country. If your stay is for a longer period of time, it is recommended that you buy a local sim to stay connected. One can purchase a SIM card at the airport upon arrival. Buying a SIM card in the country is affordable and one is surly to get good network at almost all the areas. One will find shops all over the city to get a SIM card. However to buy a SIM card, you will need a Xerox of your Passport for identification purposes. It is highly recommended that one buys a SIM of Claro since it has the best connectivity in and around the town. When it comes to WiFi connectivity one will short of devices to connect with since it is bustling in every corner of the city.



26. Time Zone

Peru Standard Time (PET) (UTC -5) is 5 hours behind the Coordinated Universal time.



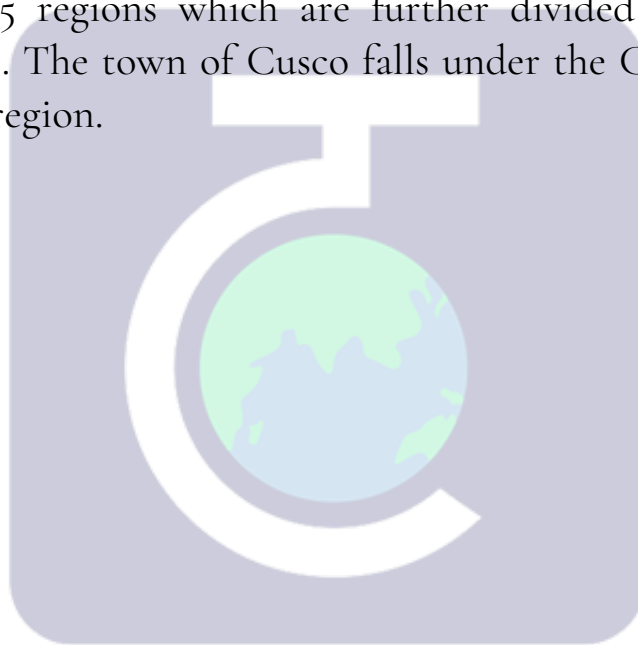
Index**27. Languages**

A multi-lingual nation, Peru's most spoken language is Spanish, however it is different from the Spanish spoken in Spain since Peruvian slang differs from region to region. Quechua follows Spanish as the second most language spoken by the people of the country, further followed by Aymara and some other indigenous languages of the country like Ashaninka, Aguaruna and Shipibo.



28. Political Scenario

Peru is a presidential representative democratic republic, where the President of Peru is both head of government and head of state. This presidential-republic is divided into three major branches – Executive Power – This is exercised by the President. Legislative power - Vested in both the government and congress. Judiciary - Independent of the executive and the legislature. Peru's territory has been divided into 25 regions which are further divided into provinces that compose districts. The town of Cusco falls under the Cusco province and is the capital of Cusco region.



29. Economic Scenario

The economy of the town is a result of domination of agricultural goods that includes a variety of corn, potato, protein rich cereals and grains like quinoa, tarwi and kiwicha. Also contributing is the abundant mineral resources and metals to the economy. However, Tourism remains a major dominating factor to the economy of Cusco.



Index**30. Religious belief**

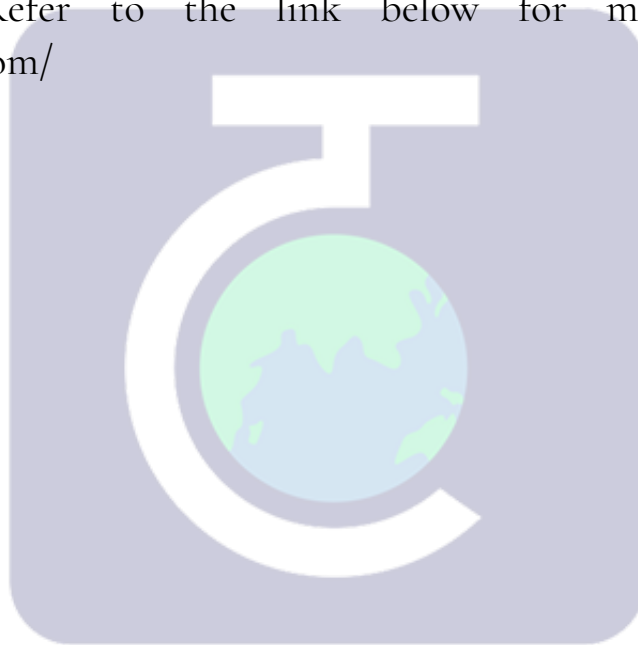
Roman Catholicism dominates the country with 77% of Catholics being devoted to the religion, followed by 10% of the population that identifies themselves as Protestants. The country is ethnically diverse, other religions include Buddhism, Bahá'í Faith, Aikido and Islam.



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31. Visa requirements

Peru's open doors allows an extensive stay for 183 days in the country. Citizens of North America, Central America, South America, Europe, Africa, Oceania and some of the countries of Asia do not require any visa to enter the country, but only a passport with at least 6 months validity and 2 free pages in the visa section. However inhabitants of some countries do require a visa to enter the country, including India. Refer to the link below for more information – <https://peru.visahq.com/>



32. Essential vaccination

One needs to be any disease free before travelling in the country and during the visit in the country. Hence it is recommended that one should visit their General Doctor for a routine check-up. Also, when travelling to Venezuela, some basic vaccines are suggested – • Yellow Fever • Typhoid Fever • Malaria • Hepatitis A • Hepatitis B



Index**33. Theft and Safety**

The city is relatively safe compared to other cities of the country. However petty crimes still prevail in the area hence it is recommended not stroll around alone after 8pm in the city. Since the city is situated on a high altitude it is possible to sometimes loose breath or get headaches, hence always keep a medicine in handy. Do not stroll around Plaza de Armas late at night. Also be careful of the feral dogs and do not get involved in Drugs at all in the country.



Index**34. Embassy/Consulate**

Below is the listed link of embassies and consulates located in the country –
<http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/peru>



35. Accessibility

Cusco is not the best place for people with reduced mobility, since only some hotels and hospitals offers wheelchairs or assistance to the disables. Some places do offer a special discount on the entry fee for the disables, but when it comes to public accessibility of the wheelchairs, and other such stuff the town is a disappointment



36. Emergencies

One stop destination for travellers for an excellent medical services is – Hospital Regional One can reach the following numbers in case of any emergency. Police: 105 Ambulance: 117 Fire: 116 Note: Travelers are advised to obtain comprehensive travel insurance with specific overseas coverage.



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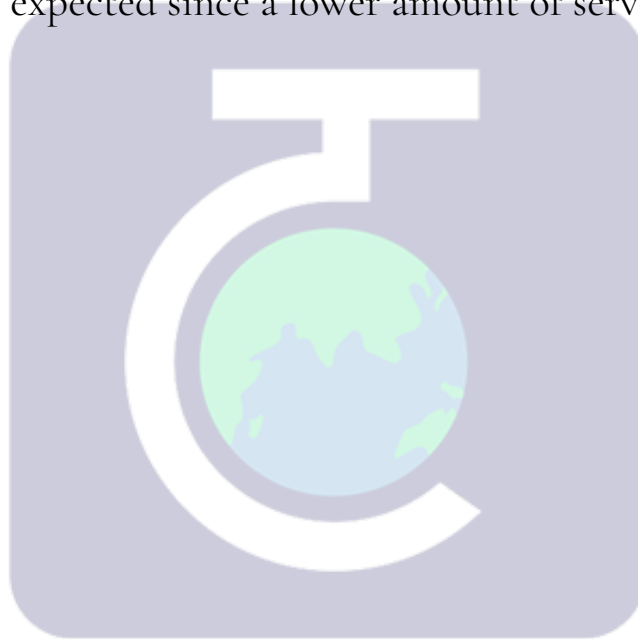
37. Do's and Don'ts

Do's • Do drink lots of water due to the high altitude of the location. • Do carry sunscreen and warm clothes for the changing weather of the town. • Do get immunizations for Malaria, Yellow Fever and Typhoid Fever. • Do stay at a local hospedaje. Usually run by locals they offer excellent accommodation at great prices. Don't • Don't drink tap water. • Don't drink caffeine or alcohol in the first few days. • Don't carry expensive items with you since the cities of the country are relative dangerous. • Don't buy your outdoor gear in town.



38.Tipping basics

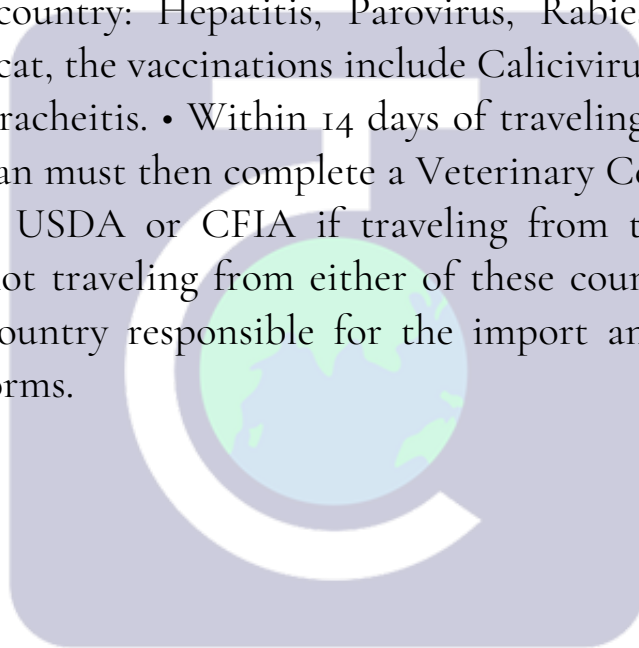
The tipping charge in Peru is around 10% which is pretty low compared to the rest of the world hence tipping is considered customary in the country. Taxis drivers need not be given any tip unless you have hired them on a full day basis, then a tip of 10% is expected to be given. In hotels it's upon you to give the tip to the maids or the bell boys which is around PEN \$5-8 whereas in restaurants a tip of 10-15% is definitely expected since a lower amount of service tax is charged.



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39. Pet info

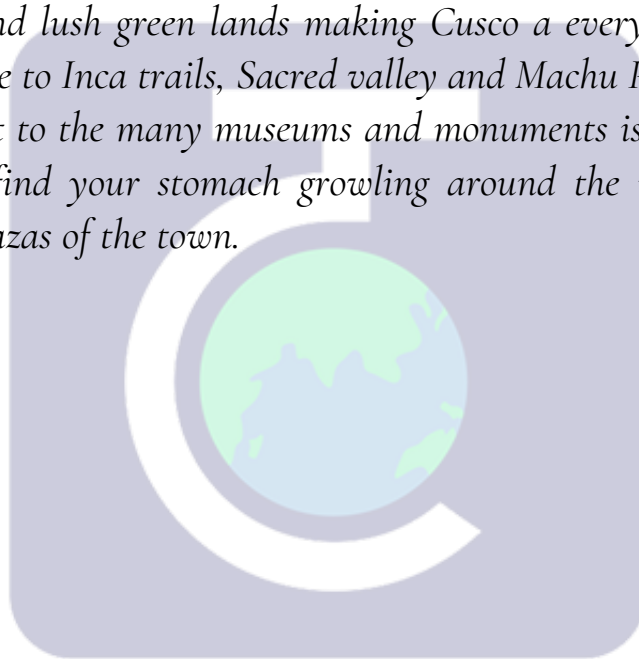
Following are the requirements one needs to keep in mind in order to bring in their pets in the country. • Unvaccinated pets will require an Import Permit to enter the country. • Since Peru does not recognize 2 or 3 years rabies vaccines, it is mandatory to get your pet vaccinated between 30 days and 12 months prior to your travel. • One requires the following vaccinations to be approved in order to get dogs into the country: Hepatitis, Parovirus, Rabies, Leptospirosis and Distemper. For your cat, the vaccinations include Calicivirus, Panleukopenia and Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis. • Within 14 days of traveling, a USDA (or CFIA) accredited veterinarian must then complete a Veterinary Certificate for Peru for endorsement by the USDA or CFIA if traveling from the United States or Canada. If you are not traveling from either of these countries, the Governing Authority of your country responsible for the import and export of animals should endorse the forms.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Boasting of being the archaeological capital of the Americas, the former city of the Inca Empire is known today for finding its way into the Spanish colonies displaying the old traditional manners perfectly blending with the 21st century. One of the oldest cities of the continents, Cusco displays the cultural influence in each and every streets, monuments, sites and museums. Get lost into the historical lessons of the city, complemented by mountainous ranges and lush green lands making Cusco a everyone's place. For all the adventure beings, a hike to Inca trails, Sacred valley and Machu Picchu is a must. For all the history buffs a visit to the many museums and monuments is a must and for all the foodies out there, do find your stomach growling around the many restaurants that surrounds the many plazas of the town.



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