



## PERU: MYSTERIES OF MACHU PICCHU

**Duration:** 9 Days/8 Nights

Romance, magic and mystery all make the heart beat a little faster, and Peru is the perfect location to experience all three.

### **Programme Overview**

Lima, Cusco, Urubamba, Chincheros and Machu Picchu

### **Highlights**

Sightseeing & aerial tour of Ballestas Islands and Nazca Lines

Lunch at Huayoccari Hacienda

Trip to Ollantaytambo

Sightseeing at Machu Picchu

Vow renewal ceremony at Machu Picchu

### **A&K Advantage**

Private welcome cocktails & dinner at Casa Aliaga

Andean Weaving and Traditional Textiles with Nilda Callañaupa

Private arrival and departure airport transfers

The services of an A&K Representative

*\* On arrival in each country, you are welcomed by your A&K Representative who conducts a briefing on your time in the country. An A&K Representative is always at hand to provide unparalleled 24/7 support, be it local travel tips or reconfirming arrangement details, to providing recommendations for restaurants and shopping. Should you ever need help or advice, dial your A&K Representative's mobile phone for prompt and courteous service at any time.*

## Detailed itinerary

### Day 1

#### **ARRIVE LIMA—Sightseeing & welcome cocktails & dinner at Casa Aliaga**

Upon arrival you will be met by your A&K Representative and transferred to the hotel in a private vehicle. Lima is a city with remnants of colonial splendor and overflowing vigor.

Based on the time of your arrival, visit the Plaza Mayor, which is the heart of the city and the original site on which Lima was founded. Continue to the historic Cathedral, passing by the Presidential Palace and the Church of San Francisco with its library of fine paintings and frescoes.

Enjoy a private welcome cocktails & dinner at Casa Aliaga. This breathtaking house is Lima's oldest colonial mansion. Built in 1535 by the illustrious Spanish conquistador Jerónimo de Aliaga, co-founder of Lima and of the oldest university in the Americas, this incredible relic of colonial splendor has been home to 17 generations of his descendants ever since. Located in Lima's central Jirón de la Unión, just half a block from the beautiful Plaza de Armas, centuries of restoration undertaken by the countless generations of Aliagas have given the house its own particular physiognomy that you will be able to appreciate today as you visit with your private guide.

**Overnight:** Miraflores Park Hotel

**Meal Plan:** D

### Day 2

#### **LIMA—Sightseeing & aerial tour of Ballestas Islands and Nazca Lines**

Morning, depart on a private charter for a full day (8 hours) tour to the Ballestas Islands and Nazca Lines. At the renowned Ballestas Islands you will have the opportunity to spot the sea lions and birds in their natural habitat before proceeding south to Ica. Board a small private Cessna aircraft for a picturesque aerial experience of the enigmatic Nazca Lines.

Dinner will be a unique culinary experience, six-course omakase at Mesa 18.

Your private bath butler would have organised a steamy bath for you and your partner –a perfect setup to relax, unwind and share memoirs of your day.

**Overnight:** Miraflores Park Hotel

**Meal Plan:** B, D

### Day 3

#### **LIMA—CUSCO—URUBAMBA—At leisure**

Morning you will be onboard your flight to Cusco, an Andean community which was the former capital of the Inca Empire.

On arrival, you are met by your A&K Representative and transferred by a private vehicle to Urubamba, the Sacred Valley of the Incas, and your hotel.

The rest of the day is at leisure to adjust to the altitude.

Evening, enjoy a candlelit romantic dinner at the hotel's sophisticated restaurant and relish a delicious blend of Urubamba's best-kept gastronomic secrets and the freshest herbs and spices that are combined with local and international mouthwatering delicacies.

**Overnight:** Hotel Rio Sagrado

**Meal Plan:** B, D

### Day 4

#### **URUBAMBA—CHINCHEROS—URUBAMBA—Explore the local market & Andean Weaving and Traditional Textiles with Nilda Callañaupa, and trip to Ollantaytambo**

Chincheros is a town of Inca origin, and its colorful weekly fair attracts country folk across the valley to exchange goods. Wander the market today and see what treasures you can bargain for as souvenirs.

Afternoon, meet Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez, a native of Chinchero. In her childhood while she used to be nurturing the flocks in the village fields she took to weaving. As a teenager, she started working with researchers on preserving the

traditional themes and techniques of weaving in the Andean community. She now organises weaving exhibits and workshops in several universities and the Textile Museum of Washington D.C. in the U.S. on a regular basis. You will have the opportunity to view some of her work and also to shop before lunch.

Lunch is planned at a plantation manor that houses interesting collection of colonial and folk art, Huayoccari Hacienda. It houses pieces dating back to the seventeenth century ranging from paintings to pottery, porcelain, and stone relics. The lunch is hosted by the Lambarri-Orihuela family who are the current inhabitants of the mansion.

After lunch, proceed to Ollantaytambo, an archaeological site located in the sacred valley of Incas. A formidable stone structure that climbs massive terraces to the top of a high peak and a complete Incan town lies below the fortress. There are a few mysteries revolving around the construction of the site. Explore the site and the mysteries behind it.

**Overnight:** Hotel Rio Sagrado

**Meal Plan:** B, L

#### **Day 5**

##### **URUBAMBA–MACHU PICCHU–Sightseeing of Machu Picchu**

Morning, you will board the deluxe Hiram Bingham train. It is the most exclusive and luxurious way to travel the breathtaking landscape to Machu Picchu. As you step on board you will enter a world of elegance and sophistication of yester years that evokes a romantic ambience.

After a light lunch on board, arrive at the spectacular Incan citadel and explore the ruins of the enigmatic lost city of the Incas along with your private guide. Feel the magic spell the dry stone walls cast as you visualize the lives of the priests, craftsmen, and servants who inhabited this seemingly uninhabitable citadel and then vacated it, leaving behind no written chronicles about its destruction.

Return to your beautiful mountainside retreat in the evening, located high in the lush Andean clouds forest. It features the look and feel of a rural Andean village set in spectacular grounds with paths that wind past waterfalls and gardens, and trails that wander through wild forest.

**Overnight:** Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

**Meal Plan:** B, L

#### **Day 6**

##### **MACHU PICCHU–CUSCO–Vow renewal ceremony**

Return to Machu Picchu with your private guide this morning for a last look at the ruins. You will also be joined by a shaman who will perform a vow renewal ceremony especially for you. In this mystic location reaffirm your commitments to eternal love before the spirits of the Incas.

Lunch will be at the hotel before you return to Cusco board the deluxe Hiram Bingham train.

You will be received by your A&K Representative and transferred to the hotel in a private vehicle and assisted with check-in.

**Overnight:** Hotel Monasterio

**Meal Plan:** B, L

#### **Day 7**

##### **CUSCO–Sightseeing**

Morning, depart for a city tour with your private guide. View the Cathedral on the Plaza de Armas and the Santo Domingo Temple, a Dominican church and convent built on the foundations of the Koricancha (place of gold), where the Incas worshipped the sun. Next would be the ruins of Sacsayhuaman, a testimonial to the Incan architectural skills. The ruins are located just outside Cusco.

Afternoon is at leisure. We suggest a relaxing private couple's massage at the hotel spa.

The operatic sounds of Cuzco's best tenor and soprano reverberate around the exotic arches of El Tupay. We strongly recommend you relax and enjoy dinner at El Tupay restaurant at the hotel. It serves classic international cuisine highlighting fresh, locally-sourced ingredients served in a sophisticated, pleasant and intimate setup.

**Overnight:** Hotel Monasterio

**Meal Plan:** B, L

**Day 8**

**CUSCO–LIMA–At leisure**

Fly to Lima and transfer to your hotel on style.

Day at leisure to do some last-minute shopping, or you may stroll along the ocean and appreciate the stunning view.

**Overnight:** Miraflores Park Hotel

**Meal Plan:** B

**Day 9**

**DEPART LIMA**

You will be privately transferred to the airport in style to board your flight.

**Meal Plan:** B