



PERU

CLASSIC PERU: FROM CUZCO TO LAKE TITICACA BY E-BIKE, KAYAK AND FOOT 9-DAYS

This trip is designed for the traveler who wants light activity by day and comfort by night, which means no camping. It's for the traveler that is foodie inspired, craves meaningful interactions with the local people and dreams of visiting the iconic archeological sites and towns of Peru. On this 9-day active trip we explore the Sacred Valley on E-bikes. We spend one day hiking along the Inca Trail to the legendary ruins of Machu Picchu. We kayak on the highest navigable body of water in the world, Lake Titicaca. We visit a community school in Ollantaytambo to meet the teacher and village children and learn about their lives and education. Lastly, we engage in a cooking class in the beautiful colonial city of Cuzco, learning how to prepare the delicious cuisine that has made Peru world-famous and the winner of the world's leading culinary destination by the World Travel Awards for many years.

Day 1

CUZCO - SACRED VALLEY

RUINS AND MARKET

Upon arrival into Cuzco, you'll be met at the airport by your guide. Please make sure you arrive by 11:00am at the latest. From here, we'll transfer by private vehicle to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. On the way we will stop at the Awanacancha Weaving Center to see the weavers making their colourful handicrafts, and also to see llamas and alpacas. We'll then head to the town of Pisac, famous for its hilltop ruins, agricultural terraces and artisan market. We'll explore the archaeological ruins and then have lunch in a restaurant located along the Urubamba River. After lunch, we can spend some time exploring the artisan market full of local handicrafts before heading to our hotel for the night. Today is designed as an easy day in order to give you time to acclimate to the high altitude.

Accommodation: Hotel (Superior Room) in Urubamba

Meals: Lunch



Day 2

SACRED VALLEY

E-BIKING

After breakfast we'll drive to the town of Chinchero, known for its handicraft market. Here we will start biking with the backdrop of the Andes Mountains. We'll bike through quaint villages and past colonial haciendas where farmers are frequently seen herding their livestock and tending to their potato and quinoa crops. We'll stop in Moray, famous for the circular terraces, then pedal down to the Maras salt works located at 3,379 meters / 11,086 feet. These salt mines have captured salt water from a natural spring before pre-Inca times. We'll then enjoy a special Pachamanca lunch. Pachamanca is a cooking technique that has been used in the Andes for thousands of years – it involves a pit being dug in the ground and different types of meat and vegetables are cooked underground.

Afterwards we'll make our way back to the hotel in Urubamba with a stop along the way at a local family's house to learn about their traditional way of life and farming techniques.

Accommodation: Same Hotel in Urubamba

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Biking Distance: 16 km / 10 miles

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Day 3

OLLANTAYTAMBO COMMUNITY SCHOOL VISIT

Today is a favourite for those in search of a rich cultural experience. In the morning, we'll visit a local community school and meet the students and teachers, learn about their local customs and have some time to interact with them by playing sports. Next, we'll drive to the town of Ollantaytambo, once a royal estate to the Inca Pachacutec. We'll tour the impressive ruins of the Ollantaytambo fortress, located on a hillside overlooking the town. We'll then have lunch, before ending the day with a visit to a Chicha factory where we can sample this Incan brew of fermented corn. Overnight at the same hotel in Urubamba where you have the evening free.

Accommodation: Same Hotel in Urubamba

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 4

ONE DAY HIKE ON THE INCA TRAIL HIKING

This morning we'll walk to the Ollantaytambo train station and board the train to km 104 in Chachabamba.

Here is where we begin our 6-hour hike on the short version of the Inca Trail. The hike starts along the Urubamba River and passes the sacred site of Chachabamba, discovered in 1940 – almost thirty years after the discovery of Machu Picchu. Afterwards it's a gradual climb walking up Inca steps for about 3 to 4 hours until we reach the cloud forest. We'll walk through lush vegetation until reaching the meadows and the ancient Incan ruins of Wiñay Wayna (located at 2,650 meters / 8,692 feet), once an important administrative and agricultural centre for the Incas. We'll rest for lunch here and then hike a couple more hours until we reach the Sungate and catch the famous vistas of Machu Picchu below. From the Sungate we have one more hour of hiking to meet our driver who will drive us to the quaint town of Aguas Calientes that sits below Machu Picchu. The remainder of the evening free.

Accommodation: Hotel (Superior Room) in Aguas Calientes

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hiking Distance: 13 km / 8 mi

Hiking Duration: 6-7 hours

Day 5

MACHU PICCHU - CUZCO

WALKING AND SIGHTSEEING

We have a full day dedicated to exploring Machu Picchu. There is also the option to climb Huayna Picchu, a young peak adjacent to Machu Picchu known as Baby Machu Picchu. If you are keen to climb this, only a certain number of people can climb Huayna Picchu a day as permits are required. These permits sell out well in advance and are subject to availability at time of booking. The hike is a challenging one, but the views are well worth the effort! A much less busy alternative is the Sun Gate, where the Inca Trail finishes. We highly recommend this option. Afterwards, our guide will give us a tour of Machu Picchu explaining the history and significance of the major sites. The tour takes about 2 hours after which you will have free time to explore the ruins on your own. In the afternoon, after lunch in Aguas Calientes, we'll take the train through the Urubamba valley destined for Cuzco. We'll be met at the train station and transferred back to our hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel (Superior Room) in Cuzco

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 6

CUZCO

WALKING TOUR AND COOKING CLASS

This morning we have a guided walking tour through the cobblestone streets of Cuzco exploring the cathedrals, museums and local markets. We'll also explore the ruins of Sacsayhuaman, a spectacular mountaintop fortress overlooking Cuzco. For lunch, we'll embark on a walking food tour before participating in a cooking class with a local professional chef and learning about traditional cuisine in Peru. Before the cooking begins, we will walk through the local market sampling fresh fruit juices, visiting with a person who specializes in making tamales and tasting dishes that are unique to Cuzco in a small restaurant. We'll then have our cooking class and feast on our homecooked meal for lunch. The remainder of the evening is at free.

Accommodation: Same Hotel in Cuzco

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



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Day 7

CUZCO - LLACHON

TRANSFER DAY AND SIGHTSEEING

We'll depart early this morning and make our way to the public bus station. We'll catch a bus towards the city of Puno, travelling through the Vilcanota River Valley. The route we follow is known as the Sun Route. We'll stop and visit the village of Andahuaylillas with its colonial chapel known as the Sistine Chapel of South America. We'll then continue to the Inca archaeological site called Raqchi and visit its famous Wirachocha Temple. After lunch in the town of Sicuani, we'll stop at the top of the La Raya mountain pass in the Andes (4321m / 14172 ft) and admire stunning vistas of the Cordillera Vilcanota. Lastly, we'll visit the Pucara museum known for its small collection of stone monoliths and sculptures before continuing our drive to the town of Llachon, overlooking Lake Titicaca. Here we will be hosted by a local family for dinner and overnight.

Accommodation: Homestay in Llachon

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8

PUNO - LAKE TITICACA

KAYAKING

We will wake up early this morning to watch the sunrise over Lake Titicaca. We'll then have breakfast with our host family before heading out on a short hike to the sacred mountain of Ccaros. The views of Lake Titicaca from the top are stunning. After our hike, we'll head to town to learn from the locals about medicinal plants in the area and how they are used for healing purposes. In the afternoon, we'll head to a beach to begin our kayaking on Lake Titicaca. After a safety briefing, we'll paddle to Uros-Titino, a floating island made of reeds. After visiting the locals on the island, we'll take a boat ride back to town. The remainder of the evening is free to explore Puno.

Accommodation: Hotel (Superior Room) in Puno

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Kayaking Duration: 2 Hours



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Day 9

PUNO - LIMA

SIGHTSEEING AND DEPARTURE

This morning we'll transfer to the airport in Juliaca to connect with our flight to Lima. En route, we'll stop and visit the Sillustani Ruins, a pre-Incan burial ground known for its giant cylindrical funerary towers. Upon arrival into Lima, you will connect with your international flight home. If you have extra time, we can help arrange extras in Lima such as hotels, city tours, etc.

Meals: Breakfast



TRIP INCLUSIONS

Trip Includes

Meals as indicated, all accommodation (twin shared), all internal transportation excluding internal flights, airport transfers, and English-speaking guides.

Not Included

International airfare, domestic flights (Lima-Cuzco and Juliaca-Lima), airport taxes, meals not included, gratuities and items of a personal nature.