



Peru 2018: The Amazon to Machu Picchu

Detailed Itinerary

10-Day Boutique Peru Small-Group Tour: the Amazon to Machu Picchu

Highlights:

- Watch the golden light of sunset illuminate the **legendary site of Machu Picchu**, the impressive Incan citadel built into a dramatic location on a mountain in the rugged Andes mountains 2,430 meters about sea level.
- **Discover the wonders and wildlife of the Amazon Rainforest.** Spot the world's smallest monkey (the Pygmy Marmoset), smallest bats, the unique pink river dolphins, sloths, piranhas, Spider Monkeys, archaic birds, and other exotic wildlife.
- Learn about the **Incan culture, history, architecture** and marvel at their mastery of agricultural invention and building at sites such as **Ollantaytambo and Saksaywaman.**
- Enjoy the stunning beauty of the Sacred Valley.
- Dine on top-notch Peruvian dishes at a unique restaurants located in one Lima's famous huaca's - ancient Incan temples.
- Dive into Lima's famous culinary scene and let your taste buds discover why it has consistently been voted the number one country for food.
- Explore Peru with a small-group tour of like-minded travelers. **Limited to 8 adventurous travelers.**

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Lima

Arrive in Lima, Peru's bustling capital city, and transfer to our hotel. We are staying close to the airport for our early morning flight.

Day 2: Iquitos and the Amazon Jungle

We catch our early morning flight **to Iquitos, the gateway to the Amazon Rainforest.** The 2nd largest city in Peru, Iquitos is actually considered an island only reachable by boat or plane. After lunch we visit an **animal sanctuary** to see local animals being cared for and rehabilitated, **including manatees.** Then in the evening, we'll take a culinary adventure through the unique dishes of the local Amazonian cultures.

(Included: Breakfast/Lunch)



Day 3: The Amazon and Pacaya Samiria Reserve

After breakfast, we board our boat to travel to our **Amazon Rainforest eco-lodge**. We travel up the Amazon River by motor boat 3-4 hours to reach our remote homebase for exploring the diverse and stunning **Pacaya Samiria Reserve**. We will spend the next 3 days exploring tributaries of the Amazon Rainforest searching for wildlife and learning about the rainforest ecosystems. After lunch and in the evening, we take **jungle walks and night canoe rides into the rainforest forest** to spot wildlife including the **Pygmy Marmoset (world's smallest monkey)**, **sloths**, **the tiny Peruvian fruit bats (one of the world's smallest bats)**, **the world's largest toad**, **caiman**, **brightly colored macaws**, **the massive anacondas**, and **much more**. There will also be opportunities to learn about the local Amazonian plants and try a variety of unique Amazon fruits.

(Included: B/L/D)

Day 4: The Amazon and Pacaya Samiria Reserve

After a delicious breakfast including local jungle fruits, we begin the second day of our **Amazon jungle program**. The day will include jungle walks and canoe rides (depending on the water height) through the remote **Pacaya Samiria Reserve tributaries** in search of wildlife. We will have the chance to again spot **Spider Monkeys**, **sloths**, **Pygmy Monkeys**, **caiman**, **anacondas**, **the Fishing Hawk**, **Macaws**, **Kingfishers**, **Toucans**, **Dusky Titi Monkey**, **Night Monkey**, **Wattled Curassow**, **Tamarin Monkey**, **Howler Monkey**, and **other wildlife that lives in this region of the Amazon**. There will be time after lunch for a short siesta before our next jungle walk or canoe ride. After dinner we will again take a night canoe excursion to spot more nocturnal wildlife.

Note: Our experienced guides will work hard to show us all wildlife that inhabit Pacaya Samiria Reserve, though spotting specific wildlife cannot be guaranteed. The Amazon Rainforest is a wild jungle and animals cannot be guaranteed to appear. This region of the Amazon has some of the highest levels of biodiversity and we will still see lots and lots of wildlife every day.

(Included: B/L/D)

Day 5: The Amazon, Pacaya Samiria Reserve and Iquitos

Our jungle program continues with a morning canoe ride to spot more wildlife. Then we head to where a tributary meets the main **river to swim with the famous pink river dolphins** (yes, they are pink!). We will see these stunning dolphins and those who wish to can swim in the Amazon. After lunch, we depart Pacaya Samira for Iquitos. There will be some free time before dinner. Then we will gather for another wonderful meal of **local Amazonian dishes** and reminisce about all the incredible wildlife and adventures we shared in this incredible stretch of the Amazon Rainforest.

(Included: B/L)

Day 6: The Andes and Ollantaytambo

Saying goodbye to the Amazon region, we fly to a very different part of Peru – **the high Andes mountains**. Our flight takes us to Cuzco, the historic capital of the Incan empire. **We will explore the Sacred Valley, visiting local weavers and enjoying a picnic lunch**. Late afternoon we arrive at **Ollantaytambo**, a **quaint village located on the Urubamba River and amongst**



snowcapped peaks. In the evening we will enjoy a **traditional Pachamanca dinner**, a local Andes tradition of cooking in the food in the earth.

(Included: B/L/D)

Day 7: Ollantaytambo

In the morning, we will visit the **ruins of Ollantaytambo**, one of the best-preserved Incan cities and fortifications with dramatic views over the valley and jagged peaks of the Andes. The afternoon will be free time to explore this quaint town of cobbled laneways and beautifully carved stone buildings. Or enjoy a short hike above the town to the peaks and Incan ruins that overlook the valley. The afternoon and evening are free time.

(Included: B)

Day 8: Machu Picchu

In the morning we check out of our hotel and take a train through the valleys and mountains of the Incan trails, lined with ruins and agricultural fields to the town at the base of **Machu Picchu**. From there it's a short bus ride to the entrance of this famed Incan citadel. We time our visit to enjoy the site when most of the travelers have left – providing our group the unique opportunity to explore this site when it's more quiet. Built into a dramatic location on mountain ridge high in the rugged Andes mountains, **Machu Picchu is the 15th century Incan citadel and palace**. Our local female guide will bring the history of this wonder of the world to life. There will then be free time to explore the site and photograph this stunning architectural masterpiece as the setting sun casts a golden glow over the mountains and buildings. Late in the afternoon we will board our **train to Cuzco**.

(Included: B/L/D)

Day 9: Cuzco – the once mighty Incan capital

Once the seat of the **vast Incan empire**, today **Cuzco** is the principal city in Peru's Andes region. We begin our day exploring the **Incan sites of Saksaywaman and Qorikancha**. Our local female guide will bring these sites to life, teaching us about the Incan traditions, culture, history and impressive buildings techniques. After this guided exploration of these famous Incan sites the rest of the day is free time to **explore Cuzco**.

(Included: B)

Day 10: Lima

Departing the heart of the Incan empire, we fly back to the **center of modern-day Peru, Lima**. After lunch, we **visit a local hill-top community**. A **local female leader** will introduce us to their community on one of the hills around Lima. We will meet with the female community leaders and learn about how they are building a strong future and changing the lives of the people who live in their village. In the community we visit there are 18 leaders, 15 of which are women! We wrap up our time in Peru with a **farewell dinner at the Huaca Pucllana, and ancient Incan temple**. Huaca Pucllana is an excellently



preserved ancient temple, with an top-notch Peruvian restaurant built into the ruins. We will dine on tasty Peruvian cuisine, surrounded by these amazing ruins, and reminisce on our adventures crisscrossing Peru.

(Included: B/D)

INCLUDED: Hotel stay the night of Day 10. Most travelers depart Peru on Day 11, while many decide to stay on and see more of Peru. The tour officially ends the morning of Day 11.

NOTE: *We do our best to follow this itinerary, but sites can close unexpectedly and without prior notice according to the discretion of the Peruvian government. Peru is completing much needed restoration work, and at times this may affect access to sites or parts of towns. In case of unexpected need to alter hotels, restaurants, treks or other in-country operators, we will substitute a company or experience of equal to greater value.*

Trip Details

What's Included:

- **Small group of 4-8 like-minded, adventurous travelers.** (Minimum of 4 travelers required for this tour to run.)
- Knowledgeable, engaging **local female expert guides** who will bring to life Peru's rich, complex and important history, as well as, help you understand Peru and its culture. *[Note: As with many countries, there can be regions where very few to no women guide. If we cannot hire a female guide, then a male guide will be substituted. We continue to work with local tourism companies and organizations to expand the number of women guiding in Peru.]*
- Experienced, knowledgeable, Peru-expert **ArchaeoAdventures' Tour Director** who will help facilitate a wonderful time in Peru. This tour will include 2 Tour Director's, including one who was born and raised in Peru.
- Expert **naturalist guide in the Amazon rainforest.** Guided walks and canoe trips. **3 day special Amazon wildlife program at the Pacaya Samiria Reserve**, including staying in an eco-lodge.
- **In-country flights including** flights Lima to Iquitos, Iquitos to Cuzco (which has a stopover in Lima), and Cuzco to Lima.
- **Scenic train ride from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes.**
- **Site entrance fees.** This includes admission fees to the **Machu Picchu, Ollantaytambo ruins, Saksaywaman, Qorikancha, Huaca Pucllana, and the Manatee reserve in Iquitos.** *(Sites may be subject to change. We do our best to follow this itinerary, but sites can close unexpectedly and without prior notice according to the discretion of the Peruvian government.)*
- **Amazon Rainforest 3 day nature program.**
- A visit with **local women leaders to one of the hill communities around Lima.**
- **All guide tips are included in the tour rate.** We like to treat our guides as staff. We provide our guides with good, fair wages rather than making them rely on tips.
- **Breakfasts, and many lunches and dinners.** See itinerary for which lunches and dinners are not included in the cost. A few lunches and dinners are not included to give our travelers more freedom to try a wider range of Peru's wonderful cuisine and have free time to explore.
- Farewell dinner at a **well-preserved huaca (Incan temple).** Special guided walk through the temple lit at night after dinner.



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- **One non-alcoholic beverage is included at included meals.** Additional beverages are to be covered by travelers.
 - **All Tour in-country transportation** including all ground transportation while on tour, the train to and from Aguas Calientes, and Amazon transportation. **Please note that airport transfer to the hotel on arrival on Day 1 and airport transfer on departure Day 11 are NOT included in the tour price. We can arrange these transfers for an extra cost.**
 - **Historic, comfortable, boutique hotels** each with their own story and place in history.
 - **No in-country cash payment.** Many tour companies require in-country cash payments. This is a way to keep the initial tour price appearing low, while you actually pay a much higher price for the tour. We believe in the costs being upfront and no hidden fees. We include all tour costs in the listed price.
 - **Optional single supplement.** Looking to bunk by yourself in your own room? We've included a number of single rooms for an additional fee.
 - **Free time.** We know how important it can be to have a little time built in for you to explore on your own or simply take a moment to relax. We've carefully planned our tours to provide you a balance between structured travel and free time.

Travelers Are Responsible For:

- Flights to and from Peru. **(Note we begin and end the tour in Lima.)**
- **Airport transfer to the hotel on arrival on Day 1 and airport transfer on departure Day 11 are NOT included in the tour price. We can arrange these transfers for an extra cost.**
- Any additional days travelers wish to stay in Peru.
- Non-alcoholic beverages beyond the one non-alcoholic beverage included per covered meal.
- Any alcoholic beverage purchases.
- Bottled water and snacks. We recommended budgeting \$5 per day for bottled water and snacks.
- Activities and events during free time that are not included as part of the scheduled program.
- Selected lunches and dinners. See the Detailed Itinerary for which lunches and dinners are not included. We recommended budgeting \$15-\$20 for lunches and \$20-25 for dinners.
- Meals on arrival day and departure day.
- Visa (purchased at the airport when you arrive in Peru). Check your country's state department page to see if you need a visa.
- Traveler's Insurances. Plans usually start at \$80 and can cost as much as \$500 depending on the extent of the coverage you wish to have. Check with your health insurance company regarding if they cover illness overseas and how to file a claim if you are sick overseas. Not all insurance companies cover overseas illness. We require all travelers to be fully covered for medical coverage and trip cancellation.

Is This Trip Right for You?:

Can you enjoy traveling in a developing nation? Peru is a developing nation that has been steadily moving through a fast period of growth and change. It's an exciting and fascinating time to experience Peru. Peru is changing and growing fast - they are building a metro in Lima which is nearly complete, the tap water is drinkable in Lima, the in-country long distance service is excellent and food quality is top-notch. You will experience the fascinating ancient Incan culture and traditions,



learn about Peru's interesting Incan, Spanish and modern history, meet friendly locals, enjoy the warmth and hospitality of Peruvians, and enjoy the stunning natural beauty of the Amazon rainforest, the High Andes, and Machu Picchu. This trip requires moderate activity level – sustained walking up steps at high altitude, sustained walking for 2-3 hours over rough terrain, cobblestone, hills, at altitude and in the heat unassisted. Some days you may be on your feet for the majority of the day with only short breaks. A few days there will be a full day of travel combining plane travel and driving. This trip is not appropriate for travelers using walkers, wheelchairs, other mobility aids, or who cannot stand on their feet for 2-3 hours while visiting sites and cities. Our Amazon eco-lodge is deep in the Amazon rainforest, giving us unique, unparalleled access to the wildlife, jungle canopy, Amazon river and its tributaries and national reserves. Note: We will spend 3 days at this ecolodge without air conditioning or fans in hot, humid weather. There is electricity from solar panels for lights, hot water, and communal charging stations in the main dining room.

If you do not think you'll be able to meet this level of activity requirement, or you have any questions or concerns please email our helpful staff at tours@archaeoadventures.com.

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