

INKATERRA SUGGESTED PERU PROGRAM

Detailed Day by Day Suggested Itinerary

Peru is a lively fusion of landscapes and influences and Inkaterra offers you a dynamic travel concept of an itinerary shaped from a menu of possibilities to help you prepare your ideal Peruvian vacation.



08 Days / 08 Nights: Lima (2 nights); **Sacred Valley of the Incas** (2 nights); **Machu Picchu** (2 nights) & **Cusco** (2 nights)

APRIL 2011

SUNDAY 17 – LIMA

B / L / --

Upon arrival at the airport in Lima, you will be greeted by one of our representatives, who will give you your arrival kit, your travel details, reconfirmations, coordinate any last minute changes and transfer you to the Country Club Lima Hotel, to assist you with check-in and with your baggage.

Lima, the Spanish Vice-Royal capital of South America, is home to some of the most remarkable colonial mansions, churches, and squares on the continent. The cosmopolitan districts of San Isidro, Barranco, and Miraflores offer a great variety of museums, restaurants, and shopping opportunities.



The Country Club Lima Hotel, a five star luxury property, is located in San Isidro, the most exclusive residential and commercial district in Lima.



Late breakfast at the hotel so you can relax and have some rest after your long flight to Peru

At noon, you will be contacted by your private guide and transferred to CAFÉ DEL MUSEO restaurant located in the terrace and garden under the Pre-Columbian pyramid and vice royal mansion that hosts the Larco Collection. It is one of Lima's top restaurants featuring fabulous contemporary and traditional dishes. The menu and food was designed by the most prestigious Peruvian chef, Gaston Acurio.



After lunch, visit the Museo Larco, founded in 1926. This Museum displays 45,000 archaeological objects considered to be pre-Columbian art icons around the world; chronologically exhibited in impressive galleries showing the continuous development of 3,000 years of Peru's pre-Columbian history. Surrounded by beautiful gardens, this museum is located inside a unique vicerealty mansion dating back to the XVIII century. Inside the Museo Larco, the finest old Peruvian gold and silver collection may be found, as well as one of the most famous erotic art collections.

Continue with a city tour in Lima. This journey includes a visit to Paseo de la República, Plaza San Martín and Plaza Mayor, Government Palace, Archbishop Palace, the Cathedral and City Hall, as well as the San Francisco Church which constitutes the best example of colonial religious art in America. Then, visit the most traditional and historic residential areas in the capital city.



Overnight at Country Club Hotel.

MONDAY 18 – LIMA / CUSCO / SACRED VALLEY

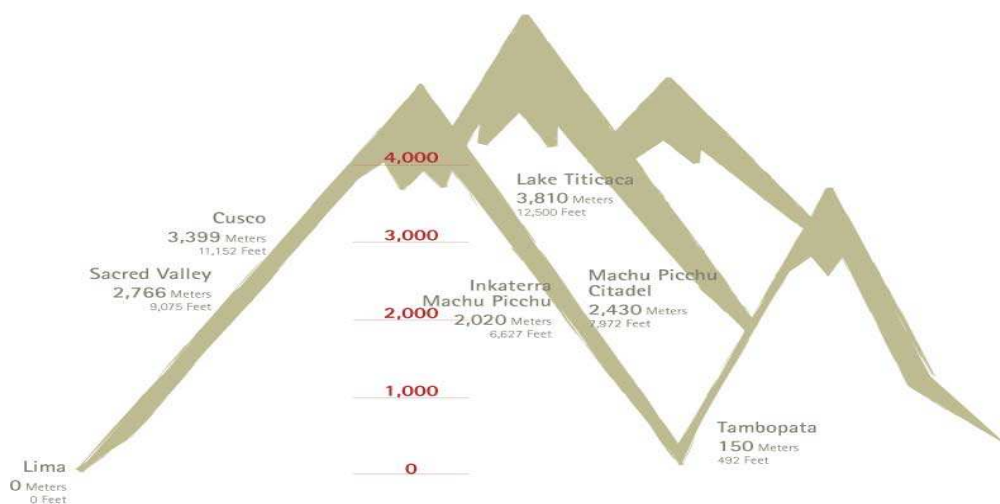
B / L /--

Breakfast at the hotel

At appropriate time transfer to the airport and assistance with your luggage prior to boarding your flight to Cusco

On arrival, your driver and bilingual guide will meet you at the Cusco airport and transfer you to the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

The Sacred Valley is a good starting point for your journey, with its moderate altitude, pleasant climate, beautiful scenery, picturesque villages, and friendly local people. It offers a great opportunity to explore Inca sites, local artisan markets, and if you choose, to do some adventure hiking or rafting.



En route, visit Cusco's main ruins in the outskirts of the city. Sacsayhuamán, which in Quechua means "satisfied falcon", is thought to be of religious and military significance. It is the most impressive ruin next to Cusco. Thought to be a hunting lodge, Puca Pucará, which means "red fort" in Quechua, is a rock structure which looks pink in some lights. It is composed of several lower residential chambers, storerooms and an upper esplanade with great views.

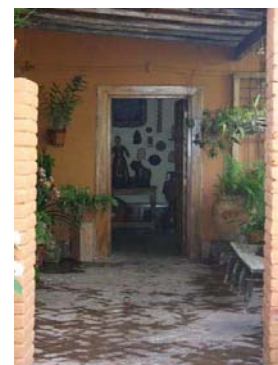
Then visit Quenko, which means "zigzag" in Quechua and consists of a large limestone riddled with niches, steps and carving, including zigzagging channels which gave the site its name. Finally, visit Tambomachay (Cavern Lodge), commonly referred to as the "Baños del Inca" or Inca baths. Tambomachay was a site used for ritual bathing. The excellent quality of the stonework suggests that its use was restricted to the higher nobility, who probably only used the baths on ceremonial occasions.



Continue your journey and stop at Awanakancha where you can watch Andean artisans demonstrate weaving and dyeing techniques. Different South American camelid species can also be seen here, including llamas, guanacos, vicuñas and alpacas.



Lunch at "Hacienda Huayocari"; this beautiful ranch located in the Urubamba Valley has an exclusive atmosphere, surrounded by a display of paintings from Cusco art school and a collection of popular art.



Arrive to selected hotel in the Urubamba Valley. Rest of the afternoon at leisure in order to rest and acclimatize to the altitude. We suggest you to avoid heavy foods, specially in the evening, and to lie down for a couple of hours, drink plenty of liquid, coca tea and water.

Overnight at Hotel Tambo del Inca – Luxury Collection Libertador or similar.

TUESDAY 19 – SACRED VALLEY OF URUBAMBA

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Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Visit Chinchero, a small Andean Indian village, located high-up on the windswept plains of Anta (3,762 m.a.s.l.), about 30 km. from Cusco. Surrounded by gorgeous views overlooking the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the Cordillera Vilcabamba and the snow-capped peak of Salkantay dominating the western horizon, the village of Chinchero can be found. Chinchero means the birthplace of the rainbow in Quechua. This excursion combines Inca ruins with a typical Andean village, a colonial church, some wonderful mountain views, and a colorful traditional market



A box lunch will be provided this day. Continue your private guided excursion through the sites of Maras and Moray. On the route, witness some of the best sites of the valley. First, stop at the ancient salt mines, nearby the town of Maras, which may be glanced from an old chapel just above it. And second, visit the huge circular agricultural terraces at Moray, built by the Incas in natural sinkholes on a limestone plateau overlooking the Urubamba Valley. It has been suggested that they have a cosmological meaning; however, the Incas are thought to have used them as a kind of crop-laboratory to determinate the optimal conditions of each species. Return to your hotel.



Overnight at Hotel Tambo del Inca – Luxury Collection Libertador or similar.

WEDNESDAY 20 – SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS / MACHU PICCHU

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Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Morning visit of Ollantaytambo, the oldest continuously occupied settlement in the Americas shows the best surviving example of Inca city planning. Its fortress, with its extremely well built walls was much a temple as a fortress to the Incas. The spectacular steep terraces that guard the Inca complex mark one of the few places where the Conquerors lost a major battle. The temple area is at the top of steep terracing which helped to provide excellent defenses. Stones used for these buildings were brought from a quarry high up on the opposite side of the Urubamba River - an incredible feat involving the efforts of thousands of workers. The archaeological complex was still under construction at the time of the Conquest and was never completed. The Museum and Cultural Center of Ollantaytambo stands near the gates to the fortress. It promotes traditional culture and technology within the district of Ollantaytambo, and its Museum Shop stocks textile and ceramic products from the surrounding communities.



After this brief visit, you will be assisted to the train station to board your train to Machu Picchu.

The train leaves from Ollantaytambo taking a spectacular journey through changing landscapes. This journey is highlighted by wonderful vistas of the mountains and the beautiful Urubamba River which runs through the Sacred Valley. Upon arrival in the town of Aguas Calientes at the foot of Machu Picchu, you will be assisted to INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL, a rustic boutique hotel in the heart of the Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary.

Cozy one or two-story whitewashed cottages constructed from local materials line the stone pathways, giving this intimate 85-room hotel the look of a lovely Andean village.



You will be fascinated by the intimate beauty of this hotel located in the middle of exuberant cloud forest gardens.

Enjoy lunch at Café Inkaterra that blends traditional Andean food with contemporary cuisine, creating an innovative fusion-style fare, impeccably served. Native architecture is reflected in the restaurant's traditional Amazonian palm-thatched roof, while regional crafts in a rainbow of colors brighten the walls.



Spend the rest of the afternoon at your leisure. You may participate in some of our selection of programmed excursions and activities within the hotel grounds and learn about the unique cloud forest environment.

Our programmed excursions and activities:

- Orchid Walk – Walk through the orchid garden (372 species), the world's largest collection of native orchid species in their natural setting within a private facility (Americian Orchid Society); to observe some of the orchids in bloom (best orchid season between mid-october and april). Discover this extraordinary plant family, which has captured the human imagination for centuries. From the largest orchid flower in the world to species new to science that have been discovered on the hotel grounds, some of them only visible through a magnifying glass.



- Nature Walk – Walk along the hotel's trails, visiting the Rocotal Observatory, sacred pre-Inca pictographs and an enchanting waterfall. Discover the fascinating yet fragile ecosystem of the Machu Picchu cloud forest and learn about its many endemic plants and animals.

- Tea Plantation - Visit our organic tea (*Camellia sinensis*) plantation and tea house to discover the wonders of the traditional tea making process. Take part as the freshly picked leaves are pressed over wooden blocks and finally seal your own tea bag. A glass of fresh iced-tea from the Tea House at the hotel lobby completes the experience.

Enjoy the Tea time with a selection of organically grown teas from the hotel's natural garden.



You may also enjoy a Twilight Walk: a guided walk in the cloud forest for meditation and mystical connection, visiting pre-Inca rock paintings (pictographs) at Rocotal and Alccamay, from where the ruins of Wiñay Wayna can be seen on a clear day.

Nature presentation offered at 6 pm. Talk and video by our interpreters on the flora and fauna of the Machu Picchu Sanctuary.



In the evening experiment our Andean Sauna, an energy cleansing ritual in a domed wet lodge built of eucalyptus branches and stones heated in an open fire (Sauna is optional / prices available at the Hotel Front Desk).

Cocktail and dinner in the main dining room.

Enjoy the comfort of your casita at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel.



THURSDAY 21 – MACHU PICCHU

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Buffet breakfast with eggs, cereals, fruit, and fresh bread in the main dining room.

After a short walk to the bus station, take a 25 minute bus ride from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu citadel. Proceed on a three-hour private guided visit to the citadel in Machu Picchu, exploring the remains and surroundings, to experience the energy and atmosphere of one of the most significant and spectacular archeological sites on the planet.

Machu Picchu, one of the wonders of the world for its amazing archaeological heritage, is proved to be the favored country retreat for the royal family and Inca Nobility. The surrounding mountains, the natural beauty of its cloud forest and its significant lower altitude than Cusco inspired the Incas to build Machu Picchu Citadel. Today, travelers enjoy the spirituality and mystery of the region through many activities offered in the Park.



After exploring the ruins, descend by bus to Aguas Calientes and assistance to Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel.

In the afternoon, you may enjoy the eco activities offered by the hotel or explore the town of Aguas Calientes or just relax and enjoy some of the hotel's most charming attractions: the reading room, the wall in the main dining room displaying scores of pre-Columbian artifacts and the lounge's crackling fireplaces.



Tea time at the hotel with a selection of organically grown teas from the hotel's natural garden. Enjoy the evening Nature Presentation and cocktails.

You may also experiment our Unu Spa and relax with a traditional Massage session after an exhausting adventurous day. (Optional / Prices available at the Hotel Front Desk).



Dinner in the main dinning room.

Overnight at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

FRIDAY 22 – MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

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If you wish, get up early you may take at 6:30 a.m. a guided Bird Walk through the private cloud forest reserve, seeing some of the 180 species of native birds that live here. You may spot the rare *Andean Cock-of-the-Rock* or some of the record 18 hummingbird species on the extensive hotel grounds. Other options: a Nature Walk or an Orchid Excursion.

Or, if you prefer; rest, sleep late and enjoy your breakfast buffet, served until 10:00 a.m.



At proper time, after being assisted to the train station in Machu Picchu, board the train service back to Ollantaytambo station

You will be contacted at Ollantaytambo train station and proceed on a private guided transfer to Inkaterra La Casona in Cusco. En route, enjoy lunch at a nice local restaurant.

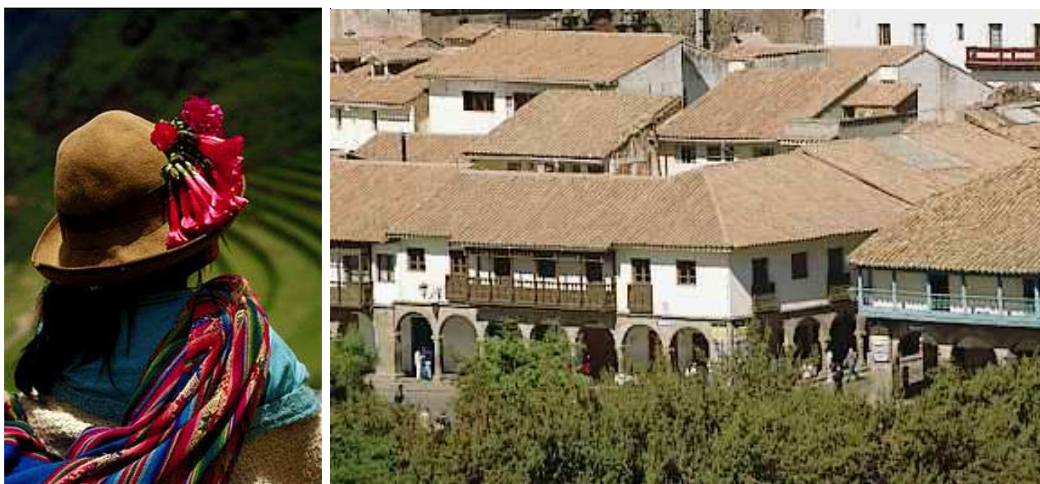
After lunch, visit to the village at Pisac and its traditional market; a blend of colour, tradition and people. Enjoy their crafts fair, with outstanding beautiful textile crafts, sweaters, ponchos, bags, etc. and the crafts made out of ceramic with reproductions of Inca archaeological pieces, the queros (ceremonial glasses) necklaces, etc.



On the town's plaza, the church and a small interesting "Museo folclórico" can also be found.

Continue to Cusco, upon arrival you will be assisted to Inkaterra La Casona for accommodation.

Cusco was the ancient capital and spiritual heart of the Inca Empire, as well as an important colonial centre. Strolling its cobblestone streets, you will spot both marvellous Incan architecture and Andean Baroque structures from the Colonial Period. Cusco today is also known for its extraordinary handicrafts, and is home to some of Peru's most talented textile and ceramic artists, as well as to superb restaurants and lively nightlife.



Overnight at Inkaterra La Casona, a four-century fusion of colonial and Inca culture. A striking 16th century mansion, built over the palace of Inca Manco Capac, has been meticulously restored as a boutique hotel celebrating Cusco's hybrid history and tradition. Colonial furnishings blend with contemporary comforts in an 11-suite manor house with impeccable services.



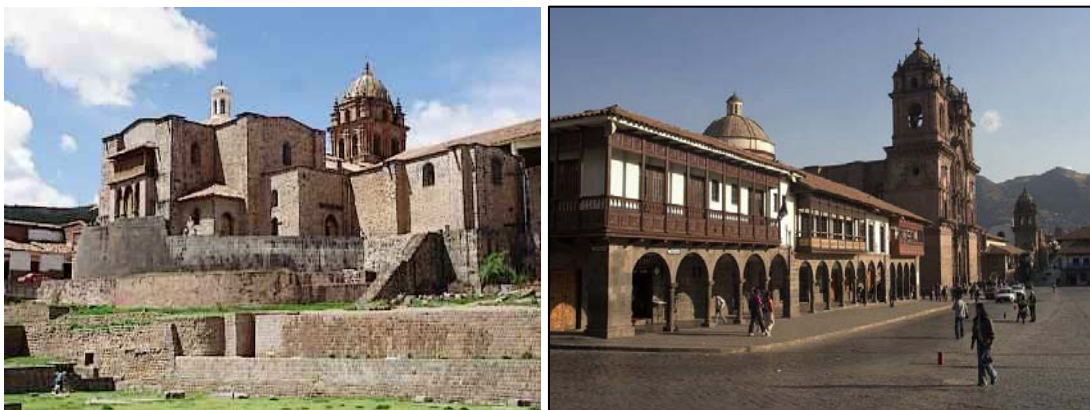
SATURDAY 23 – CUSCO

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Breakfast at the hotel

In the morning, private guided tour throughout the city of Cusco, where you will visit the Cathedral, located next to the main plaza. This cathedral offers the city's greatest repertoires of colonial art.

Then, stop by the famous Koricancha, formerly the Inca Empire richest temple, which became a catholic church. During the tour, visit San Blas neighborhood, one of the most picturesque communities in Cusco. It is characterized by its narrow and steep streets that zigzag among old colonial houses constructed with walls of Inca stone. Enter the Pre-Columbian Art Museum, showcase of 450 archaeological pieces.



Afternoon at leisure to relax, walk throughout the picturesque streets of Cusco city or make some last minute shopping.

At night, enjoy a special dinner at the dining area, where you will experience the tranquility and repose La Casona once offered to illustrious travelers who visited it in earlier times. The food is fresh, natural and nutritious, making creative use of local ingredients as the portal for exploring and discovering indigenous culinary secrets.

Overnight at Inkaterra La Casona.



SUNDAY 24 – CUSCO / LIMA

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Breakfast at the Hotel

At appropriate time private transfer to the airport, one of our representatives will assist you with check-in process to board your flight to Lima.

Upon arrival, you will be contacted and assisted with information for your connecting flight back home

END OF OUR SERVICES

MEALS PLAN:

B= Breakfast

L= Lunch

D= Dinner

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