



Grand Tour of Peru: Machu Picchu to Lake Titicaca

14 days | 18 days with Bolivia extension

Travel from the Amazon rainforest to plateaus high in the Andes on this small group Adventure Tour. See Spain's colonial influences in Lima and Cuzco, then walk in the footsteps of the ancient Incas in the Sacred Valley and at Machu Picchu. On this sweeping tour of Peru, you'll discover the traces of pre-Columbian civilizations with local experts and discover a country filled with boundless wonder.



Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels
- 12 breakfasts
- 7 lunches
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 cooking class
- 2 tastings
- 17 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 3 on-tour flights
- 2 train rides

Included highlights

- Huaca Pucllana
- Peruvian cooking class
- Amazon rainforest
- Sacsayhuaman
- Sacred Valley of the Incas
- Chincho textile lesson
- Misminay village visit
- PeruRail train ride
- Machu Picchu
- Lake Titicaca

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 3 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including rocky ground and unpaved or slippery trails, at high altitudes.

Group size

12-22

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Lima → 2 nights

Day 1: Arrival in Lima

Board your flight to Peru and arrive in Lima later this evening.

Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Lima & cooking class

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, welcome dinner

Set out on a guided tour highlighting the Peruvian capital's modern and UNESCO-recognized quarters.

- Walk through Plaza de Armas, viewing the Cathedral of Lima and Church of San Francisco
- Enter the archaeological site of Huaca Pucllana to learn about the towering abode and clay pyramid
- Visit the Parque del Amor in the Miraflores district and see views of the Pacific Ocean during a walk along the boardwalk
- Stroll through the artsy Barranco district, stopping to sample coffee and alfajores cookies

This evening, enjoy a market visit and an interactive Peruvian cooking class.

- Visit a market to learn more about traditional Peruvian ingredients
- Visit a local restaurant to take part in a cooking class
- Make pisco sours and sip on the refreshing cocktail while a professional chef teaches you how to make ceviche, lomo saltado, and a dessert
- Sit down to enjoy the dinner you prepared

Iquitos → 2 nights

Day 3: Flight to Iquitos & rainforest walks

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Fly to Iquitos this morning. Then, hop aboard a boat and cruise down the Amazon River to the rainforest lodge where you'll enjoy an included lunch.

Join a naturalist guide this afternoon to learn about the local conservation efforts, indigenous people, and wildlife. Then, head out on a guided nature walk.

- Explore the Amazon rainforest as your naturalist guide talks about the local flora and fauna
- See the many types of epiphytes that grow on the towering trees

Sit down for an included dinner. Then, opt to take a short walk to a small lake with your naturalist guide where you can view and learn about nocturnal species such as caimans, insects, and frogs.

Please note: Activities may differ depending on lodge facilities.

Day 4: Sunrise bird-watching, Yagua village visit & rainforest boat ride

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Opt to bird-watch at sunrise and see the giant Victoria amazonica water lilies. Then, set out to discover more of the local wildlife and rich cultural communities.

- Take a short river cruise to a Yagua indigenous village, keeping your eye out for the elusive pink dolphin
- Learn about the local village culture and watch a blowgun demonstration
- Enjoy an included lunch
- Fish for piranhas on the Amazon River with your guide
- Set off on an evening boat ride to learn about nocturnal rainforest animals

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Please note: Activities may differ depending on lodge facilities.

Cuzco → 2 nights

Day 5: Flight to Cuzco

Included meals: breakfast

This morning, hop aboard a boat and cruise down the Amazon River to the Iquitos airport. Fly to Cuzco and spend free time acclimating to the city's altitude.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Cuzco

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

Join a local guide on today's tour of Cuzco, the UNESCO-recognized ancient capital of the Inca Empire.

- Stroll through the Sacsayhuaman ruins, which were once completely covered in gold

- View the towering Cristo Blanco statue, a thank-you gift from the Palestinian refugees who took shelter in the city during World War II
- Walk through the city center and step inside the Convent of Santa Domingo, built by the Spaniards where the Inca temple of Koricancha stood
- Stop in Plaza de Armas to enter Cuzco Cathedral
- Visit San Pedro Market to see crafts made by local artisans and try fresh fruits

Sacred Valley → 2 nights

Day 7: Chinchero textile lesson & Ollantaytambo

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Begin your day in the village of Chinchero, nicknamed the birthplace of the rainbow by the Incas, and visit a local cooperative of families known as the Balcon del Inka.

- Meet with the Quechua women and learn about their daily life, traditions, and agricultural techniques
- Watch as artisans demonstrate their traditional weaving, spinning, and dying techniques on both alpaca and sheep yarn
- Try your hand at spinning on the loom
- Peruse the colorful stalls of the open-air Chinchero Market, where you can shop for local textiles
- Enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant in Chinchero

Travel to the ancient Ollantaytambo ruins, site of the former royal estate of Inca Emperor Pachacuti, this afternoon. You'll explore homes, terraces, and temples within the fortress walls. This evening, sit down for an included dinner.

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Misminay village, Moray & Maras

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Spend the day learning about the roots of the Sacred Valley.

- Start in Misminay, an ancient community located over 12,000 feet above sea level in the Sacred Valley

- Enjoy spectacular views of the Sacred Valley and snow-capped mountains as you meet the local villagers
- Learn about the traditional agricultural, weaving techniques, and daily activities of the 500 families who live in the community
- Taste the local Chicha corn beer they produce
- Sit down to enjoy an included lunch featuring naturally cultivated ingredients cooked by the ladies of Misminay, paired with live Andean music from the community musicians
- Take a 45-minute downhill hike to Moray, the site of famous Incan ruins that feature large circular terraces used for agricultural experiments
- Continue by bus to Maras, known for its patchwork of terraced salt-evaporation ponds that have been used since pre-Incan times

Machu Picchu Region → 1 night

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Machu Picchu

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel by train to Aguas Calientes, the gateway to Machu Picchu. You'll uncover the Lost City of the Incas, one of the most spectacular archaeological sites in South America and a UNESCO World Heritage site, alongside a local guide.

- Admire incredible views of the misty cloud forest and soaring Huayna Picchu mountain
- Tour the ruins of the ceremonial center, cultivation terraces, and guard house
- Visit Funeral Rock, the Main Temple, the Chamber of Ornaments, and the Sacred Plaza
- Soak in the vistas from the Temple of the Three Windows

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Cuzco → 1 night

Day 10: Train to Cuzco

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Spend a free morning in Aguas Calientes or add an excursion.

Later, sit down for an included lunch before taking a scenic train ride through the Sacred Valley back to Cuzco.

+ Machu Picchu: Return Visit

Lake Titicaca → 2 nights

Day 11: Lake Titicaca via Raqch'i ruins

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Journey to Puno, a town along the shores of Lake Titicaca, stopping to explore the ruins at Raqch'i en route.

- Follow a local guide through the Incan ruins at Raqch'i and marvel at still-standing walls of the Temple of Wiracocha
- Join a member of the Raqch'i community for a hike to learn about their traditions, language, and cuisine
- Enjoy an included lunch featuring dishes cooked with products grown by the community members such as corn, potatoes, ollucos, beans, peas, tarwi, quinoa, and wheat
- Take in stunning views at La Raya Pass, high up in the Andes mountains

Day 12: Uros & Taquile islands

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Cruise on Lake Titicaca, and marvel at the unique "floating islands" created by indigenous communities.

- Stop at the Uros islands, built from dried totora reeds floating on the water, to see how the Uros people have lived on the lake for centuries
- Learn about the local craftspeople who build the reed rafts by hand
- Interact with the Uros community members and learn about a local potato product called chuño, which offers many nutritional benefits
- Arrive at the port of Taquile Island where you'll be greeted by local community members
- Walk up the eastern side of the island to learn about the traditions and customs the indigenous people practice
- Visit a home on the island to engage in weaving or farming activities with the family members
- Sit down at the home for an included lunch overlooking the Andes before walking back to the port

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 13: Departure

Included meals: breakfast

This morning, discover the tower-like tombs at Sillustani, a pre-Incan burial ground along Lake Umayo.

Transfer to Juliaca Airport for your flight to Lima, where you'll board your overnight flight home. Or, extend your tour and continue on to Bolivia.

Arrive Home

Day 14: Arrival at Home

Arrive home today.

+ Bolivia extension

From La Paz—the city that touches the clouds—to the surreal Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia is home to some of the world's most captivating places. Cross the border to, then hop aboard two flights to discover both amazing locales.

Copacabana → 1 night

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Copacabana

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Travel along Lake Titicaca, crossing the Bolivian border to Copacabana. When you arrive, enjoy an included lunch before getting to know the city on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Take in views of Lake Titicaca and Isla del Sol, one of the lake's many islands
- Pass the Basilica of Our Lady of Copacabana, a 16th-century shrine that's home to an image of the Virgen de Copacabana, Bolivia's patron saint
- Wander the stall-lined corridors of the central market, admiring the colorful wares sold by vendors

La Paz → 1 night

Day 14: Isla del Sol & transfer to La Paz

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Cruise on Lake Titicaca to Isla del Sol.

- Admire the island scenery as you enjoy an *aptapi*, a traditional buffet-style Andean lunch
- Continue by boat to Yumani village, located at the southern end of the island, and walk up the Inca Steps to visit the Fountain of Eternal Youth

- Discover why legend says that anyone who drinks the water from the fountain will be forever young
- Travel by boat to explore the pre-Incan ruins of Pilko Kaina before heading back to Copacabana by boat

Then, drive across the Altiplano, the second-largest plateau in the world, on your way to La Paz, the de facto capital of Bolivia. Take the evening to get acclimated to the high altitude and discover “the city that touches the clouds” at your own pace.

- Stroll through La Paz’s colonial center, passing Plaza Murillo and the Basilica of San Francisco, a Baroque Mestizo-style church dating back to the 1500s
- Enjoy a cable car ride as you learn about this unique form of public transportation
- Pay a visit to Killi Killi viewpoint to soak in 360-degree views of the city
- Admire the colorful goods and traditional crafts sold from street market stalls
- Visit Moon Valley, an otherworldly landscape of tall spires created by erosion

Uyuni → 2 nights

Day 15: Salar de Uyuni

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

After a short flight to Uyuni, set out for a guided tour of the Salar de Uyuni, or salt flats, a surreal landscape created by the evaporation of prehistoric lakes.

- Visit the Cementerio de Trenes, where a collection of discarded steam trains were left in the desert
- Stop in the town of Colchani to learn about salt processing and extraction
- Enjoy an included picnic lunch
- Stop at Isla Incahuasi and Isla del Pescado, two rocky outcroppings in the salt flats where cacti grow

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 16: Sightseeing tour of Pukara Ayque

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Spend the morning at the Pukara de Ayque ruins which sit at the end of the Thunapa Volcano.

- Drive through the salt block extractions sights of the region
- Enter the Pukara de Ayque pre-Columbian ruins for a guided tour
- View human fossils, food, and other archaeological remains from the various ancient civilizations that once dwelled there

This afternoon, head out on to the salt flats and enjoy an included picnic lunch.

Flight Home

Day 18: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

La Paz → 1 night

Day 17: Sightseeing tour of La Paz

Included meals: breakfast

After your morning flight to La Paz, take a guided tour of the city with your Tour Director leading the way.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/PEU | 1-800-597-0350

Day 10: Machu Picchu: Return Visit

\$115 (duration of visit varies, departure time varies)

After experiencing Machu Picchu for the first time with your tour group, take the opportunity to continue exploring the Lost City of the Incas on your own the next morning. You'll marvel at the mysterious Intihuatana stone and discover the cave of the Temple of the Condor, two sites you're only able to see during this morning visit. The Peruvian government only allows select visitors into Machu Picchu each day, but purchasing your return ticket in advance from Go Ahead Tours will guarantee you reentrance to the site on the day of your excursion. Please note: It's possible to purchase return tickets to Machu Picchu directly from the Peruvian government, but tickets are limited in availability and must be purchased well in advance. Additionally, new booking regulations require tickets to be purchased for a specific entry time. Go Ahead Tours reserves tickets for either a 7am or 8am entry time. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 45 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms