



ECHOES OF THE INCA

9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

Cusco – Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu – Lake Titicaca (Uros, Amantán & Taquile Islands)

Immerse yourself in the heart of the Andes with a journey that seamlessly weaves together ancient Inca heritage, vibrant living culture, and breathtaking natural beauty. This thoughtfully curated itinerary takes you through the highlights of the Cusco and Puno regions, offering a deep connection to the ancestral wisdom, traditions, and landscapes of southern Peru. Each day is designed to enrich your understanding of the Andean world - where history, spirituality, and nature come together in unforgettable harmony.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN CUSCO

Upon arrival at Cusco's international airport, our team will warmly welcome you and provide a private transfer to your hotel. We recommend taking the rest of the day to relax and acclimate to the high altitude (3,400 meters / 11,200 feet above sea level). You may rest at the hotel or enjoy a gentle stroll through the nearby historic center.

Tips for acclimatization: Drink coca leaf tea, avoid heavy meals, and take it slow as you adjust to the altitude.

Overnight: Hotel in Cusco

Meals: None

DAY 2: CUSCO CITY TOUR

After breakfast, enjoy a half-day guided tour of Cusco's most important historical sites:

- **Qoricancha (Temple of the Sun):** The ancient Inca ceremonial center dedicated to Inti, the Sun God.
- **Sacsayhuamán:** An impressive ceremonial fortress built with massive stone blocks expertly fitted together.
- **Qenqo, Puka Pukara, and Tambomachay:** Explore these archaeological sites known for their ritualistic, administrative, and water-related significance.

In the afternoon, you'll have free time to explore Cusco's historic city center at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel in Cusco

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3: SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS – ANDEAN POTTERY WORKSHOP

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before setting off on a full-day exploration of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Your first stop is Manos de la Comunidad, a cultural center where you'll meet native Andean camelids including llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, and guanacos, and witness an engaging demonstration of traditional textile techniques such as ancestral weaving and natural dyeing.



Av. Nueva Baja N° 468



+51-944052446 / +51-927902904



info@peruincreible.com



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Next, visit the Pisac Archaeological Complex, one of the valley's most remarkable Inca sites, known for its intricate agricultural terraces and sweeping views. Afterward, browse the colorful Pisac artisan market, where local craftspeople showcase handmade textiles, jewelry, and ceramics.

In the afternoon, immerse yourself in a hands-on ceramic workshop at Kintu Studio. Learn about ancient Andean pottery techniques passed down through generations, and create your own piece using traditional tools and locally sourced materials. Enjoy a buffet lunch at Tunupa Restaurant, set along the scenic banks of the Urubamba River. Following lunch, you will be transferred to your hotel in the Sacred Valley for check-in and a restful evening.

Overnight: Hotel in the Sacred Valley

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4: MARAS – MORAY – OLLANTAYTAMBO – AGUAS CALIENTES

After breakfast at the hotel, begin the day with a visit to the Salineras de Maras, an impressive network of terraced salt pools that have been in continuous use since pre-Inca times. Then explore the fascinating site of Moray, an ancient agricultural laboratory where the Incas engineered circular terraces to experiment with crop cultivation in varying microclimates. Enjoy a delicious Andean lunch in the Sacred Valley before continuing to Ollantaytambo, one of the last living Inca towns. Walk through its original stone streets and take a guided tour of its remarkable archaeological site, featuring terraces, ceremonial fountains, and panoramic views of the Sacred Valley.

In the afternoon, board the panoramic Vistadome train to Aguas Calientes, a journey offering stunning views of the Urubamba River and surrounding cloud forest. Upon arrival, you will be met by one of our representatives and transferred to your hotel for the evening.

Overnight: Hotel in Aguas Calientes

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5: MACHU PICCHU – CUSCO

After breakfast, transfer to the bus station for the scenic ascent to the majestic citadel of Machu Picchu, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Enjoy a guided tour of approximately three hours, exploring the site's most iconic landmarks, including the Sun Temple, the Sacred Plaza, the Intihuatana stone, and other remarkable structures that reflect the ingenuity of Inca architecture and spirituality. For those seeking additional adventure, optional hikes to Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain are available with advance booking.

After the visit, return by shuttle bus to Aguas Calientes and enjoy free time for lunch. In the afternoon, board the train back to Ollantaytambo, where a private transfer will be waiting to take you back to Cusco for the evening.

Overnight: Hotel in Cusco

Meals: Breakfast



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DAY 6: CUSCO – PUNO (ROUTE OF THE SUN)

After breakfast at the hotel, begin your journey to Puno along the scenic and culturally rich Route of the Sun aboard private tourist transportation. This full-day experience includes guided visits to several fascinating sites along the way.

Explore the baroque church of Andahuayllas, often referred to as the “Sistine Chapel of the Americas” for its stunning murals and ornate interior. Continue to Raqchi, home to the impressive Temple of Wiracocha, once one of the most important pilgrimage centers of the Inca Empire. Enjoy a buffet lunch in the town of Sicuani before heading to La Raya Pass, the highest point on the route at 4,335 meters (14,222 feet), offering spectacular Andean landscapes. Your final stop is the Pukara Lithic Museum, which houses an intriguing collection of pre-Inca artifacts from one of the region’s earliest civilizations.

Arrive in Puno in the late afternoon, where you’ll be met and transferred to your selected hotel.

Optional: Upgrade to the *Titicaca Train*, a luxury rail journey offering panoramic views and first-class onboard service (subject to availability).

Overnight: Hotel in Puno

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 7: UROS FLOATING ISLANDS – HOMESTAY ON AMANTANÍ

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the port of Puno and begin your journey across the sparkling waters of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world.

Your first stop is the Uros Floating Islands, extraordinary man-made islands built entirely from totora reeds. Here, you’ll meet the Uros people, who continue to preserve their unique lifestyle and ancestral traditions in harmony with the lake.

Continue by boat to Amantaní Island, a peaceful and culturally rich destination where you’ll be warmly welcomed by local families. Share a traditional home-cooked lunch and participate in daily activities, offering an intimate glimpse into the lives of your Andean hosts. In the late afternoon, take an optional hike to the island’s sacred temples - Pachamama (Mother Earth) and Pachatata (Father Earth) - both perched atop opposite hills. From these ancient ceremonial sites, enjoy a spectacular sunset with sweeping views over Lake Titicaca. Return to your host family’s home for a traditional dinner and overnight stay, concluding a deeply authentic and memorable day of cultural connection.

Overnight: Family homestay on Amantaní

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8: TAQUILE ISLAND – PUNO

Start the day with breakfast shared with your host family before departing by boat to Taquile Island, a place renowned for its strong sense of community and rich textile tradition. The



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island's intricate handwoven garments and accessories have earned recognition from UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Upon arrival, enjoy a light hike along scenic paths that lead to stunning viewpoints and the island's central plaza, where daily life unfolds much as it has for generations. Learn about Taquile's unique social structure and artisan cooperatives directly from the local people.

Enjoy free time on your own to savor a typical lunch prepared by community members using fresh local ingredients. In the afternoon, return by boat to Puno and transfer to your hotel for the evening.

Overnight: Hotel in Puno

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9: PUNO – JULIACA – LIMA – INTERNATIONAL CONNECTION

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. At the scheduled time, our staff will provide a private transfer to Juliaca International Airport for your flight to Lima, where you will connect with your international departure.

Meals: Breakfast

END OF SERVICES

Thank you for trusting us to guide you through this unforgettable journey into the heart of the Inca Empire.

INCLUDED:

- All private guided tours and personalized experiences
- Professional bilingual guides (English & Spanish)
- Domestic flights (Lima – Cusco, Juliaca – Lima)
- All ground transportation, including private airport transfers
- Hotel accommodations (based on double occupancy)
- Meals as noted in the detailed itinerary
- Vistadome train service to and from Machu Picchu
- Boat transfers on Lake Titicaca (shared)
- All entrance fees to archaeological sites and attractions listed in the itinerary
- All bus tickets, train tickets, and logistical support for excursions
- Personalized trip coordination and travel documentation
- 24/7 in-country support and emergency assistance

NOT INCLUDED:

- International airfare
- Travel insurance (highly recommended)
- Tips and gratuities
- Meals not specified in the detailed itinerary



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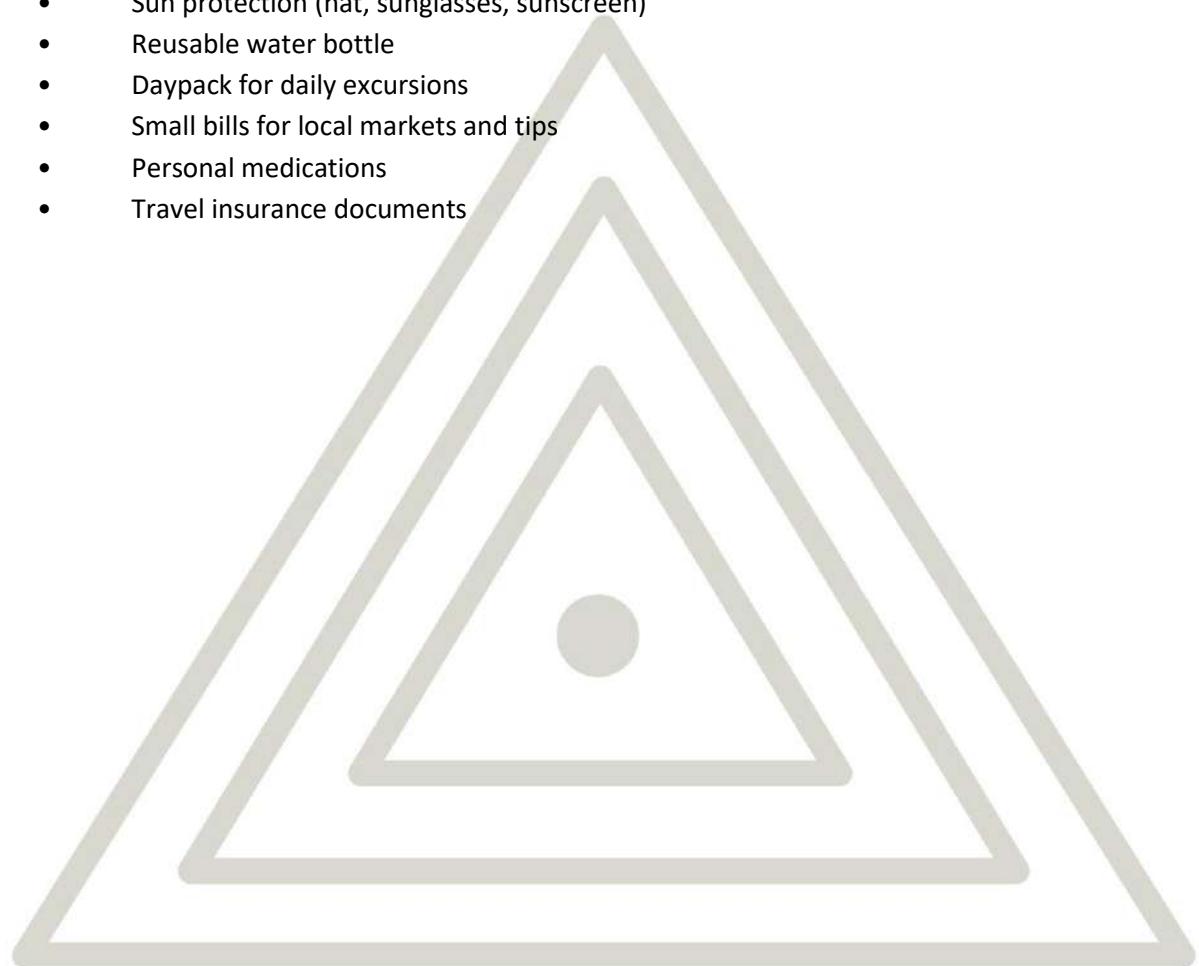
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- Optional hikes to Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain
- Personal expenses

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:

- Valid passport (with minimum 6 months before expiration)
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots and trekking clothes
- Warm layers for cool Andean nights
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)
- Reusable water bottle
- Daypack for daily excursions
- Small bills for local markets and tips
- Personal medications
- Travel insurance documents



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