



AUTHENTIC PERU

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS

Lima – Paracas – Ica (Huacachina) – Cusco – Sacred Valley – Short Inca Trail – Machu Picchu – Rainbow Mountain

Experience the richness of Peru in a journey that seamlessly blends cultural immersion, ancient history, breathtaking nature, and exhilarating adventure. The *Authentic Peru* itinerary is thoughtfully designed for travelers seeking a deep and meaningful connection to the country's diverse landscapes and traditions. From the vibrant culinary scene of Lima to the coastal beauty of Paracas and the desert oasis of Huacachina, and onward to the sacred heart of the Andes, each day reveals a new facet of Peru's magic. Carefully structured for comfort, altitude acclimatization, and smooth logistics, this itinerary ensures you make the most of your time in every destination. Highlights include a boat tour to the Ballestas Islands, sandboarding in Huacachina, a cultural immersion in the Sacred Valley, a once-in-a-lifetime trek along the legendary Inca Trail, and a guided visit to the awe-inspiring citadel of Machu Picchu.

Itinerary:

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN LIMA

Upon arrival at Jorge Chávez International Airport, a friendly representative from Perú Increíble will be waiting to welcome you and provide a private transfer to your hotel in Lima. Depending on your arrival time, enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to rest or begin discovering the capital at your own pace. If you're up for some light exploration, we recommend a walk through the bohemian district of Barranco. Known for its vibrant street art, charming colonial architecture, and sweeping coastal views, this neighborhood offers a perfect first taste of Lima's creative soul.

Optional (based on arrival time): In the afternoon, around 1:00 p.m., meet your guide for a captivating city tour of Lima, designed to showcase the city's rich layers of history and culture. Begin in the heart of Miraflores with a visit to Huaca Pucllana, a pre-Inca adobe pyramid that stands as a fascinating contrast to the modern city around it. Continue to Lima's historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you'll explore the Plaza Mayor and its iconic landmarks: the Government Palace, the Cathedral of Lima - final resting place of conquistador Francisco Pizarro - and the eerie catacombs beneath the San Francisco Monastery. End the tour with a scenic drive along the coast, stopping at Larcomar, a cliffside complex with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. Return to your hotel to relax and prepare for the adventure ahead.

Overnight: Hotel in Lima

Meals: None

DAY 2: PARACAS – BALLESTAS ISLANDS – HUACACHINA OASIS – RETURN TO LIMA

Begin the day with an early morning departure from Lima as you journey south along the Pacific coast to Paracas, a scenic drive of approximately three and a half hours. Upon arrival, embark on an exciting boat tour to the Ballestas Islands, often referred to as "the little Galápagos" of Peru. Along the way, pause to admire the enigmatic Candelabra geoglyph etched into the desert



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hillside. As you cruise around the islands, observe colonies of sea lions, playful penguins, and a variety of seabirds in their natural habitat. Continue to the desert town of Ica to visit the stunning Huacachina Oasis, a surreal landscape where a palm-fringed lagoon is surrounded by massive sand dunes. Experience an adrenaline-filled ride in dune buggies and try your hand at sandboarding down the golden slopes. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then relax on the return drive to Lima, arriving back at your hotel in the evening around 9:00 p.m.

Overnight: Hotel in Lima

Meal: Breakfast

DAY 3: LIMA – CUSCO

This morning, you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight to Cusco, the historic capital of the Inca Empire and one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the Americas. Upon arrival, a member of our team will greet you and provide a private transfer to your hotel in the heart of the city. The remainder of the day is left free to help you gently adjust to the altitude (3,399 meters / 11,152 feet). We recommend resting, eating light meals, staying well hydrated, and sipping on traditional coca tea to support the acclimatization process.

Overnight: Hotel in Cusco

Meal: Breakfast

DAY 4: 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, enjoy free time to explore Cusco's lively historic center, visit museums, or relax at a local café.

Overnight: Hotel in Cusco

Meal: Breakfast

DAY 5: SACRED VALLEY TOUR

After breakfast, embark on a full-day excursion to the breathtaking Sacred Valley, a region known for its fertility and spiritual significance in Inca culture. Highlights include:

- **Pisac:** Explore the impressive archaeological complex perched on the hillside, followed by a visit to the vibrant traditional handicraft market.
- **Urubamba:** Enjoy a traditional Andean buffet lunch featuring authentic Andean flavors at a local restaurant.



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- **Ollantaytambo:** Discover this remarkable fortress-town, showcasing military and religious architecture from the Inca era.

After the tour, you'll be transferred to your hotel in the Sacred Valley for a restful evening.

Overnight: Hotel in the Sacred Valley

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6: SHORT INCA TRAIL (KM 104) – MACHU PICCHU – AGUAS CALIENTES

Start the day with an early morning transfer to the train station for a scenic ride through the Sacred Valley. After approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes, disembark at Km 104, the starting point of the Short Inca Trail. Your trek begins with a visit to the archaeological site of Chachabamba, a ceremonial center once used by Inca pilgrims en route to Machu Picchu. From there, ascend through lush cloud forest and along original Inca stone paths, surrounded by breathtaking views of the Andes.

After a few hours of hiking, arrive at Wiñay Wayna, one of the most beautiful and well-preserved Inca complexes on the trail. With its elegant terraces, ritual fountains, and sweeping vistas, this sacred site offers the perfect place to rest, reflect, and absorb the energy of the ancient world. Continue along the final stretch of the trail, gradually making your way to Inti Punku, the legendary Sun Gate. As you pass through this ceremonial entrance, you'll be rewarded with your first panoramic view of the iconic citadel in the distance - a moment of awe and wonder that few travelers experience on foot.

After taking in the views and snapping your first photos of Machu Picchu from above, descend by bus to the town of Aguas Calientes at the base of the mountain. The evening is free to relax, dine at a local restaurant, or soak in the natural hot springs.

Overnight: Hotel in Aguas Calientes

Meal: Breakfast, Box Lunch

DAY 7: MACHU PICCHU – AGUAS CALIENTES

After an early breakfast, ascend by bus to the majestic citadel of Machu Picchu, the crown jewel of the Inca Empire and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Accompanied by your expert guide, spend approximately 2.5 to 3 hours exploring the sanctuary's most iconic sectors - from expansive agricultural terraces and celestial temples to ceremonial plazas and residential quarters that echo the daily life of the Inca civilization. Your guide will reveal the mysteries, legends, and astronomical significance that make Machu Picchu one of the most enigmatic sites on the planet. **Optional:** For those craving an extra dose of adventure, a hike to either Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain offers unparalleled panoramic views (advance booking required and subject to availability).

After your visit, descend by bus to Aguas Calientes, where you'll have free time to enjoy lunch at your leisure. The afternoon is yours to unwind - whether that means relaxing at a café by the river, visiting the local artisan market, or soaking in the nearby thermal baths surrounded by lush mountains.



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Overnight: Hotel in Aguas Calientes

Meal: Breakfast

DAY 8: AGUAS CALIENTES – MORAY & MARAS ATV ADVENTURE – CUSCO

After breakfast at the hotel, board the train back to Ollantaytambo, where our team will be waiting to continue the adventure. You'll be transferred to the community of Cruzpata, the starting point of an exhilarating ATV ride through the heart of the Andean countryside. Ride across scenic highland trails surrounded by snow-capped peaks and traditional farmlands as you make your way to Moray, a fascinating archaeological site with massive circular terraces believed to have been used by the Incas as an agricultural research center. Continue to the striking salt flats of Maras, a hillside of thousands of salt pools still harvested by hand using centuries-old techniques.

On the way back to Cusco, stop in Chinchero, a charming highland village known for its rich weaving traditions. Enjoy a delicious Andean lunch in this quaint town before visiting a local textile center to witness a demonstration of traditional dyeing and weaving practices passed down through generations.

Arrive in Cusco in the late afternoon and settle into your hotel for a well-earned evening of rest.

Overnight: Hotel in Cusco

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 9: RAINBOW MOUNTAIN (VINICUNCA)

This day begins early around 4:30 AM with pickup from your hotel for an unforgettable adventure to one of Peru's most spectacular natural wonders: Rainbow Mountain, also known as Vinicunca. On the way, we'll stop at a local community to enjoy a traditional Andean breakfast. We then continue along a scenic route with views of snow-capped peaks, rivers, and remote Quechua villages. The hike lasts approximately 1.5 to 2 hours (one-way) and reaches an altitude of 5,030 meters (16,500 ft). The climb is challenging but deeply rewarding, as the summit reveals a stunning palette of natural colors caused by mineral deposits in the mountain. You'll have time to rest, take photos, and appreciate the beauty of the Andes in all their splendor. After taking in the views, begin your descent and enjoy a hearty lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Cusco in the late afternoon.

Important: This is a moderate to high-difficulty activity due to the altitude. Good physical condition and acclimatization are highly recommended.

Overnight: Hotel in Cusco

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch



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DAY 10: CUSCO – LIMA – INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURE

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be met by our staff and transferred to the Cusco airport for your flight back to Lima. Upon arrival, connect to your international departure with memories of an unforgettable journey through the heart of Peru.

Meal: 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 – 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
- All entrance fees to archaeological sites and attractions listed in the itinerary
- All bus tickets, train tickets, and logistical support for excursions
- Ballestas Islands boat excursion (shared)
- 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
- Optional Lima City Tour
- 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 (including gloves, beanie, and scarf) and windproof jacket for high-altitude locations, especially Rainbow Mountain
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)
- Reusable water bottle
- Daypack for daily excursions



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- Small bills for local markets and tips
- Personal medications
- Travel insurance documents



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