



PATHWAYS OF PERU

12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS

Lima – Amazon Rainforest – Cusco – Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu – Rainbow Mountain – Lake Titicaca (Uros, Amantaní & Taquile Islands)

Discover the vast natural beauty and cultural soul of Peru on this immersive 12-day journey through the country's most iconic and sacred landscapes. From the Pacific shores of Lima to the lush depths of the Amazon Rainforest, onward to the historic heart of the Andes with Cusco and Machu Picchu, and culminating at the serene heights of Lake Titicaca - this adventure invites you to walk the ancient paths of Peru, where every destination reveals a new layer of wonder. Thoughtfully designed to balance exploration, cultural connection, and natural discovery, this itinerary offers a harmonious blend of vibrant city life, pristine wilderness, ancestral heritage, and warm local hospitality.

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: LIMA – PUERTO MALDONADO – AMAZON RAINFOREST

Today begins a whole new chapter of your Peruvian journey as you trade the coast for the heart of the jungle. An early morning transfer will take you to the airport for your flight to Puerto Maldonado, the gateway to the southern Amazon rainforest. Upon arrival, a representative from your jungle lodge will be waiting to greet you and escort you to the nearby port, where your river adventure begins.



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As you cruise along the Tambopata River, the landscape begins to shift dramatically. Towering trees, lush vegetation, and the rhythmic sounds of the forest surround you, welcoming you into a world that feels both ancient and untouched. Upon arrival at the lodge, you'll have time to settle into your rainforest retreat, enjoy a warm welcome, and take in the serenity of your surroundings. In the late afternoon, meet your expert naturalist guide, who will introduce you to the flora, fauna, and upcoming excursions that will immerse you in the wonders of the jungle.

Dinner is served in the lodge's dining area - a delicious and thoughtfully prepared meal that harmonizes with the natural environment. The rest of the evening is yours to relax, listen to the nocturnal symphony of the forest, or simply unwind under a blanket of stars.

Overnight: in Tambopata Research Center

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3: AMAZON RAINFOREST

Awaken to the rhythm of the rainforest, where the first light of dawn stirs the jungle to life. Today begins with an early morning expedition, setting out just as the Amazon shakes off its slumber. This is one of the most active and magical times of day, when wildlife stirs along the riverbanks and among the trees. Keep your eyes open for caimans gliding through the water, turtles sunning themselves on logs, colorful hoatzins and toucans flitting through the canopy, and, if you're truly lucky, the elusive giant river otters, which can grow up to six feet long.

After your morning adventure, return to the lodge for a hearty and delicious lunch, a welcome pause before your next foray into the forest. In the afternoon, rejoin your naturalist guide to explore the jungle on foot, learning about the extraordinary variety of native flora used for generations by local communities. As you walk beneath the towering trees and along tangled trails, discover the hidden world of insects, medicinal plants, and the delicate balance that sustains this ecosystem.

As dusk falls, prepare for a completely different side of the Amazon: the nocturnal world. Equipped with a flashlight, follow your guide into the darkness where the sounds of frogs, insects, and rustling leaves replace the visual spectacle of the day. Night walks are often the most unforgettable part of a jungle stay, revealing the forest's otherworldly atmosphere in all its raw beauty. Alternatively, spend your evening unwinding in a hammock on your cabana porch, listening to the symphony of the jungle as it hums and calls around you.

Overnight: in Tambopata Research Center

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4: AMAZON RAINFOREST

After breakfast, embark on a journey deeper into the heart of the jungle - a chance to further explore the profound relationship between the rainforest and the people who call it home. With every step along the trail, you'll uncover the practical wisdom passed down through generations: how local communities harness the forest's abundant resources for food, medicine, shelter, and spiritual practices. Along the way, keep your eyes peeled for flashes of color and movement overhead. A toucan's brilliant plumage, the rhythmic calls of native birds, monkeys leaping



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through the trees, or even a slow-moving sloth camouflaged in the canopy. Each moment brings a renewed sense of awe for the wildlife that thrives here.

Upon returning to the lodge, a nourishing lunch will be served. Take time to relax, reflect, or simply soak in the stillness of your surroundings before setting off for your afternoon excursion. This visit offers a closer look at the human side of the rainforest, where sustainable gardens flourish and local traditions endure. Walk among crops grown with care and intention, gaining a deeper appreciation for the delicate harmony between cultivation and nature.

As the sky shifts into twilight and golden light filters through the trees, make your way back to the lodge for one final night in the Amazon. Let the sounds of the forest accompany your evening reflections on the beauty, resilience, and spirit of this remarkable world.

Overnight: in Tambopata Research Center

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5: AMAZON RAINFOREST – PUERTO MALDONADO – CUSCO

Begin your day with an early breakfast at the lodge as the sounds of the rainforest stir one final time around you. After checking out, you'll board a boat for the return journey along the Tambopata River, slowly drifting away from the heart of the jungle and back toward the city of Puerto Maldonado. This peaceful voyage offers a final opportunity to soak in the serenity and magic of the Amazon.

Upon arrival in Puerto Maldonado, you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight to Cusco, gateway to the ancient Inca Empire and the next chapter of your Peruvian adventure. As you transition from rainforest to highlands, take a moment to reflect on the vibrant memories forged in the Amazon: the wildlife encounters, the warmth of the local communities, and the quiet wonder of being surrounded by nature in its purest form.

Once in Cusco, our team will greet you and provide a private transfer to your hotel. The rest of the afternoon is yours to relax and begin acclimating to the altitude.

Overnight: Hotel in Cusco

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6: SACRED VALLEY – TRANSFER TO MACHU PICCHU

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



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In the afternoon, board the train to Aguas Calientes, the gateway to Machu Picchu. Upon arrival, you will be assisted and transferred to your hotel for overnight stay. You'll have time to relax and enjoy the atmosphere of Aguas Calientes after hotel check-in.

Overnight: Hotel in Aguas Calientes

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 7: MACHU PICCHU – CUSCO

Early in the morning, board the shuttle bus to the entrance of the majestic Machu Picchu citadel to the iconic Inca citadel of Machu Picchu for a guided tour lasting approximately three hours. Visit the sanctuary's main highlights, including the Temple of the Sun, the Sacred Plaza, the Ceremonial Rock, and the royal enclosures. After the guided tour, enjoy some free time to soak in the breathtaking views and explore independently. **Optional:** For those seeking an adventurous challenge, we offer an optional climb up Huayna Picchu mountain (advance reservation required and recommended for those in good physical condition). This hike rewards you with stunning panoramic views and a unique vantage point of the citadel.

After your visit, take the shuttle bus back to Aguas Calientes and enjoy some free time for lunch. Later, board the train to Ollantaytambo, where your private transfer will be waiting to take you back to Cusco.

Overnight: Hotel in Cusco

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8: 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

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



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DAY 9: 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 10: UROS FLOATING ISLANDS – HOMESTAY ON AMANTANÍ ISLAND

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 11: TAQUILE ISLAND – RETURN TO 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 island’s intricate handwoven garments and accessories have earned recognition from UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



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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 12: 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 – Puerto Maldonado – Cusco, Juliaca – Lima)
- Hotel accommodations (based on double occupancy)
- Meals as noted in the detailed itinerary
- All ground transportation, including private airport transfers
- Roundtrip boat transfer between Puerto Maldonado and the lodge
- Jungle excursions and guided activities led by naturalist guides
- 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
- Boat transfers on Lake Titicaca (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



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- Optional hikes to Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain
- Personal expenses
- Alcoholic beverages and bottled drinks at the jungle lodge

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)
- Light long-sleeved shirts and pants (for sun and mosquito protection)
- Insect repellent with DEET
- Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
- Reusable water bottle
- Daypack for daily excursions
- Small bills for local markets and tips
- Personal medications
- Travel insurance documents



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