

Private Inca Heritage Tour



Highlights

A fantastic private 7 day guided tour taking you to some of the most well-known Incan sites in Peru, such as Pisac, Ollantaytambo and, of course, the Unesco World Heritage site of Machu Picchu. You will also be taken off the beaten track in the Sacred Valley to visit some of the less visited sites, as well as having time to explore the vibrant ancient Incan capital, Cusco.

Deep in the Andes, hidden for centuries by clouds and mountain rainforest, lies one of Perus' greatest mysteries. Discovered in 1911 by accident, Machu Picchu has been a draw for historians and travellers ever since. The well-preserved ruins perched within the most majestic of settings can never disappoint. And even though you have to share the Unesco World Heritage site with many other tourists, it still somehow manages to retain its mystical charm and allure. Added to the charm is the fact that the lack of a written Incan language means that to this day historians and archaeologists are still undecided as to its purpose. They are, all, however united in believing the site has and had a vast cultural significance.

In order to get to grips with the Inca culture and to form your own interpretation of Machu Picchu, you need to spend some time in the ancient capital of Cusco, as well as visit the archaeological sites in the Sacred Valley. Piecing together the fragments of this hard-working and resilient culture, will help not just to put the Incan history together, but will also give an intriguing insight into modern day Peruvian life and how the Incan and Spanish heritage have evolved together.

This private guided tour takes you to the best-know sites of Cusco and its surrounds, as well as some of the hidden gems. Starting and ending in Lima, the country's vibrant capital, you will have the opportunity to see the highlights of modern and colonial Peru, before heading to Cusco, the ancient capital of the Incan empire. Your private guide will take you off to explore the main sites of the **Sacred Valley** including Pisac, Ollantaytambo and a fascinating visit to a weaving village. You then travel by train to the gateway town of Aguas Calientes to visit the highlight of the tour, Machu Picchu. After a guided tour of the citadel and time to explore at your leisure, you travel back to the pretty Andean town of Ollantaytambo for the night. From here, you have another day in the Sacred Valley, this time taking in some of the lesser known sights, including Moray and Salineras. You end your tour back in Cusco where you will have a guided tour of the city's highlights and then a chance to explore at your leisure.

Is it for me?

The beauty of this trip is that you have a private guide at your disposal, meaning that you can dictate the pace of the trip and ask as many questions as you want. Private tours also have the advantage that if you want to spend longer visiting somewhere, you can do so, without having to be jostled along with other tourists.

This itinerary has been put together for those who are interested in South American history and culture. You will be visiting a range of Incan sites, so by the end of your tour, you should have a real insight into Incan culture and way of living.

The sites visited are accessible to able-bodied visitors and whilst some walking and climbing stairs is necessary, it is not too physically challenging.

If you would like to extend this tour into a tailor-made holiday to Peru, please contact our Peru expert by emailing help@tourdust.com

Prices from
1,007 GBP (7 days) per person

Why book with Tourdust?

- ✓ The Best Local Operators
We handpick the best local operators
- ✓ Local Price Guarantee
Pay what you would locally with our Best Price Guarantee
- ✓ Secure Online Payments
Safe and easy online booking
- ✓ ABTA Bonding for your protection
We even throw in complimentary Supplier Failure Cover



Accommodation

Accommodation used in this tour is in comfortable, 3* level hotels and guesthouses. You can expect central locations and comfortable rooms with ensuite facilities. We try to work with smaller hotels with character, rather than the large, more corporate feeling hotels, so cannot always guarantee a specific guesthouse, rather we choose from a 'pool' of favourites. An example of the type and class of hotel is the [Los Andenes Al Cileo](#) in Cusco.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Lima

You will be met and picked up from the airport in Lima and taken back to your hotel where you will have a chance to freshen up and rest.

In the afternoon, you will be picked up from your hotel for a private city tour. This 3-hour sightseeing tour offers the best of colonial and modern Lima. You will have the opportunity to visit one of the most important architectural constructions of the 17th century, Convent of Saint Francis. This complex has a small square, the convent and a church to visit. Its cloisters have beautiful tiles and you can visit the catacombs which are more than 300 years old. You then visit the three most important sites from the colonial era: Plaza Mayor, Plaza San Martin, Palacio de Gobierno (known as the house of Pizarro), and the Municipality, preserving their original architecture. The tour ends with a visit to the modern suburbs of San Isidro and Miraflores, which overlooks the Pacific Ocean.

Day 2: Arrival in Cusco

You will be met from the airport and transferred to your hotel to check in. The rest of the day is at leisure. If you have flown in from an airport at low altitude, you will need to take it easy to aid [acclimatisation](#).

Day 3: Sacred Valley Tour

This morning you will depart on a full day Private Sacred Valley Tour. If you have suffered from the altitude in Cusco, you will be pleased to know that from here on, you will drop well below the 3,300m mark! The first stop is Awacancha Cultural village where you will see a variety of camelids (llamas, alpacas, vicunas) and women demonstrating traditional weaving techniques. The next stop is the [market of Pisac](#) where you can sample delicious fresh bread that this area is known for. The market has many colourful stalls selling a wide variety of locally produced handicrafts. From the market, you are driven up to the stunning [Pisac Ruins](#), which offer an excellent insight into how the Incas cultivated and managed their crops. You will stay here for around 1 1/2 hours, whilst your guide takes you on a tour, explaining Incan farming techniques, as well as showing you the ceremonial centre at the top of the terracing, where mummification, the sacred rituals of preparing the higher classes for the after life, took place. Time for lunch and you head to Urubamba where you will stop at a tourist restaurant for lunch.

After lunch, you will head to the pretty Andean town of [Ollantaytambo](#) where you have a guided tour of the spectacular ruins. The terraces here were not for agriculture, but were part of a huge temple complex that was being built to honour the sun, an important Incan deity. The temple was never finished, as building was interrupted by the Spanish invasion.

In the evening, you will catch a train to Aguas Calientes, where you will stay the night.

Day 4: Machu Pichu

An early morning start, as you will rise early to take one of the first buses up to Machupicchu - around 5.30am. You have a Private Guided tour of around 2hrs visiting the most important sites and temples of this Unesco World Heritage Site, before having time to explore at your leisure. You may wish to hike up to the Sun Gate, or to the less well-visited Incan Bridge. Failing that, you may simply enjoy sitting back and taking in the amazing views.

After lunch back down in Aguas Calientes, you catch the afternoon train back to Ollantaytambo where you will overnight.

Day 5: Off the beaten track Sacred Valley

Having seen the traditional highlights of the Sacred Valley on the 2nd day of the trip, today takes you further off the beaten-track to some of the hidden gems of the Sacred Valley. Your guide will meet you at your hotel and you will start the day visiting the Andean village of Maras which is the gateway to the "Inca Greenhouse" of Moray. Here you will find circular Inca Terraces where it is believed that the Incas experimented with growing crops in micro-climates, essentially in a botanical laboratory. From here, you will also visit the ancient saltworks of Salineras where salt is still being farmed to this day using the same ancient techniques. Your final stop takes you once more to altitude, visiting the market town of [Chincheros](#) where you will visit the old colonial church and the traditional market.

Day 6: Cusco

This morning you have a private guided tour visiting the most important sites of Cusco (The Cathedral, Koricancha "Temple of the Sun", Tambomachay "Temple of the Water", Pukupukara "Red Fort", Qenqo "The Maze" and the very impressive site of Sacsayhuaman.

The afternoon is at leisure, you may decide to visit the famous Inca Museum, or relax in one of the many cafes overlooking the Plaza de Armas.

Day 7: Departure

You will be transferred to the airport and fly to Lima where you will catch your international flight to London.

Trip extensions are possible for this tour. Please contact us on help@tourdust.com to speak to one of our experts about a tailor-made itinerary.

Details

Getting there

You will need to fly to Lima. You can't fly direct to Peru from the UK, you will need to stop over in the USA, Madrid, Paris or Amsterdam. All flights within Peru are included in this holiday.

Price includes

Internal Flights (with LAN or STAR subject to availability), accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis. All transfers, Vistadome train tickets, entrance to sites, private tour guide.

Price details

Prices are based on 2 people sharing a room. Prices quoted below for 3 people are based on triple room accommodation, 4 people are in two twin rooms. If no triples are available, the 3 person price may increase.

When is best

The peak tourist season in Cusco and the surrounding region is June - August. At this time, the main sites will be at their busiest. The weather at this time of year is lovely, with little rain and clear, sunny days.

The rainy season in this region lasts from October - March, with the wettest months being January & February. It is much quieter in the sites at this time of year.

If you want to avoid the crowds, then you might want to aim for April / May when the rains have slowed but the sites are not as busy.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

1 week

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed

Travellers should bring

There are sand flies at Machu Picchu, so you will need to bring insect repellent.