

Abercrombie & Kent



PERU & COLOMBIA: ANDEAN MARVELS & COASTAL CHARMS

Immerse yourself in the Andean community shared by two South American countries on one seamlessly orchestrated journey.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Latin America, Peru, Colombia



15 days from AU\$27,490 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Immerse yourself in the Andean community shared by two South American countries on one seamlessly orchestrated journey. Begin in Peru, meeting residents of the remote Sacred Valley, walking the mysterious ruins of Machu Picchu and taking in the colonial charms of colourful Cusco. Then, experience today's Colombia, learning about the nation's successful journey to peace as you range from lively Bogotá to magical Cartagena, sampling the fruit of the renowned coffee region along the way.

Journey Highlights

- Travel by train and stay at the only hotel on site at Machu Picchu, enjoying extra time to explore this spectacular site
- Feed llamas, alpacas and vicuñas, and learn about shearing and weaving techniques at a breeding centre for camelids
- In the Sacred Valley of the Incas, visit a remote village seemingly frozen in time and witness the ancient agricultural methods still used in this challenging, mountainous environment
- Visit the Kuychi Centre, a school for underprivileged children in the Sacred Valley supported by A&K Philanthropy
- Explore Bogotá's Paloquemao Market, sampling its bounty; and view the city's impressive monuments and museums
- Travel to Colombia's best-known coffee-producing region, recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Enjoy two nights in the UNESCO-listed Cartagena, where you admire the impressive colonial architecture and indulge in a culinary walk inside its 500-year-old walled city



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Lima, Peru

Your journey begins in Lima, founded by the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro on January 5, 1535, a blend of colonial splendour with an air of teeming vitality. Settle into the Barranco neighbourhood, which teems with cute cafes and art galleries. The city has undergone a gastronomic revolution in recent years, giving you the freedom to choose between Peruvian classics or innovative fusion dishes — and don't forget to sample the local cocktail, a pisco sour.

Hotel B

Day 2: Lima

Enjoy a leisurely morning. This afternoon, set out to discover Peru's capital alongside your private guide, visiting the Plaza Mayor and Cathedral of Lima. Pass the Presidential Palace en route to Santo Domingo Convent, and then explore the Larco Museum and its treasure trove of pre-Columbian artifacts. Set in a majestic, 18th-century mansion surrounded by gardens, the museum houses over 45,000 pieces of ceramics as well as mummies, a gold room and textiles made of feathers. It is also one of the few museums in the world where visitors can explore the storage areas to view its entire collection.

Hotel B | Meals: B

Day 3: Lima - Cusco - Sacred Valley

Fly to Cusco, perched over 3,352m above sea level. Once the capital of the Incas, Cusco acts as a welcoming gateway to the treasures of the Sacred Valley, along with a distinctive blend of pre-Columbian and modern influences. Upon arrival, enjoy a lunch of local dishes at a restaurant before proceeding to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, where an ancient way of life lives on. En route, stop at the Sulca textile museum, where South American camelids (members of the camel family) including llamas, alpacas, guanacos and vicuñas are all bred. Weaving these fibres has been a mainstay of local communities since the days of the Incas, and learning about this craft provides a unique insight into how these traditions have survived through the generations. Continue to your accommodations, located at a tranquil spot along the Urubamba River, where you relax and acclimatise to the altitude.

Rio Sagrado, A Belmond Hotel, Sacred Valley | Meals: BL

Day 4: Sacred Valley

Begin your exploration of the Sacred Valley of the Incas with a visit to a remote village seemingly frozen in time. Discover the ancient agricultural methods used for centuries in this challenging, mountainous environment. Proceed to Moray, a unique Incan site consisting of three terraced, circular excavations resembling earth-hewn amphitheatres. Then, enjoy a freshly prepared lunch at the Kuychi Centre, a school where underprivileged children of the Sacred Valley receive education, nutrition, medical care and hope as part of a project supported by Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy called Niños del Arco Iris (Children of the Rainbow). Afterward, return to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

Rio Sagrado, A Belmond Hotel, Sacred Valley | Meals: BL

Day 5: Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu

Continue exploring the Sacred Valley with a visit to the imposing fortress of Ollantaytambo, a formidable stone structure of massive terraces that hug the mountain slopes. Then, journey deep into the Andes toward Machu Picchu by a train equipped with panoramic windows in every car, providing postcard-worthy views in every direction along the way. On arriving at Machu Picchu, pause for lunch within sight of the citadel before your first opportunity to explore this breathtaking Incan city.

Overlooking the Urubamba River and discovered in a hidden tangle of trees atop the mountain, Machu Picchu forever holds the secret of its passing — its Incan inhabitants left no written records of its purpose. After roaming the magnificent ruins with your private expert guide, there is time to explore on your own. Tonight, stay at the only accommodations available on site to enjoy more time roaming the citadel in the late afternoon. In addition to its unrivalled location, Sanctuary Lodge offers a peaceful, Incan-influenced ambience along with cuisine made from fresh local ingredients.

Sanctuary Lodge, A Belmond Hotel, Machu Picchu | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Machu Picchu - Cusco

Rise with the sun to walk through Machu Picchu in the early morning mist before the crowds arrive, an experience some consider the spiritual highlight of the journey. After your explorations, gather for lunch at a local restaurant. Journey back to Ollantaytambo aboard the Vistadome train and continue by road to Cusco, savouring incomparable views of the mountain scenery. Settle into your hotel, a former monastery with a tranquil central courtyard and amazing scenic views.

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco | Meals: BL

Day 7: Cusco

Today, explore the city of Cusco, visiting the cathedral on the Plaza de Armas and the Santo Domingo Temple, built on the foundations of the Koricancha, the Incas' principal religious structure. Known as one of the most beautiful churches in the Americas, its construction was influenced by the great Spanish cathedrals of the era, reflecting Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles.

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco | Meals: B

Day 8: Cusco - Bogotá, Colombia

Fly to Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, set more than 2,590m above sea level. Founded by conquistadors in the 16th century, Bogotá today is a modern metropolis with moderate year-round climate. On arrival at El Dorado International Airport meet your A&K representative who will transfer you to your colonial style accommodation in walking distance of the gourmet zone recognised for its wide selection of restaurants. Stroll out on your own, soak up the cool European atmosphere filled with museums, street art, markets and cafés, and perhaps even taste your first unforgettable Colombian coffee.

Four Seasons Hotel Casa Medina Bogotá | Meals: B

Day 9: Bogotá

Explore Bogotá, starting at Paloquemao Market, a colourful canvas of fruits and culinary ingredients, food stalls serving local delicacies and displays of native flowers. Proceed to La Candelaria, the oldest part of the city, distinguished by its many colonial-era buildings. Visit the nearby main square of Bogotá and the Plaza de Bolívar, surrounded by some of the country's most important and iconic buildings, including the National Capitol, the Palace of Justice and the neoclassical Cathedral Basilica of Bogotá and Primada de Colombia. Continue to the Botero Museum, housed in a restored colonial mansion. Peruse its impressive collection, featuring numerous works by Colombian artist Fernando Botero as well as pieces by Picasso, Renoir, Monet and others.

Next, discover the celebrated Gold Museum, the world's largest collection (over 34,000 dazzling pieces) of pre-Hispanic gold artifacts, which you observe up close alongside your guide. After a break for lunch at a local restaurant, journey to Monserrate, located in the hills to the east of the city. Ascend this 3,048m peak by funicular railway or cable car to take in inspiring vistas of the city.

Four Seasons Hotel Casa Medina Bogotá | Meals: BL

Day 10: Bogotá

Spend the day delving into Colombia's journey toward peace and prosperity on a tour reflecting the contributions of a cross-section of the nation, from local academics and artists to changemakers and chefs. Walk with your guide along Avenida Jimenez toward Plaza de Bolivar, learning the history of the 2016 Peace Agreement that ended more than 50 years of conflict. Sample street foods from various vendors en route to view Fragmentos, a space created by the renowned Colombian artist Doris Salcedo that speaks to the transition toward peace; among its features is a floor made from melted weapons. Stop to taste exotic-flavoured ice cream and a selection of exquisite chocolates before continuing to Casa de la Paz, where you sample craft beer made by former FARC combatants and learn how entrepreneurships have arisen from the peace process. Finish with lunch at a farm-to-table restaurant that makes contributions to peacebuilding communities through its unique and delicious food.

Four Seasons Hotel Casa Medina Bogotá | Meals: BL

Day 11: Coffee Region

Fly to Armenia in Colombia's renowned coffee region. Discover the heritage of Colombia's coffee culture as you enjoy a guided walk through the fields and facilities of a coffee plantation, learning about the entire coffee production process and taking part in a tasting that challenges you to differentiate between coffee qualities. Finish with a wonderful cup of coffee as you look out over a breathtaking landscape.

Hacienda Bambusa | Meals: B

Day 12: Coffee Region

Visit one of the most emblematic sites of the coffee region, the majestic Cocora Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin with a walk guided by an expert who explains the site's importance as a haven for the wax palm, Colombia's national tree. Following a stop for lunch, explore the municipality of Salento, walking its colourful streets, visiting the Cerro de la Cruz viewpoint and perusing local handicrafts. Continue to Filandia, a fine example of the architectural conservation underway across the region. Cap off your visit with a stroll through the town and a drink in its picturesque square.

Hacienda Bambusa | Meals: BL

Day 13: Coffee Region - Cartagena

Fly to Cartagena, perhaps the most exuberant, tropical and picturesque destination in all of Colombia. Immediately feel the magic of this vibrant port city, which overlooks the Caribbean from fortress walls built to fend off everything from marauding buccaneers to British warships, on a sunset sailing experience aboard a private vessel. Sail out into the harbour, taking in the breathtaking views of the city from a unique perspective and watch as the sun slips below the horizon after casting a warm glow over the historic skyline. Your hotel is a former 17th-century private mansion still featuring its original high ceilings and Moorish-influenced design.

Casa Pestagua | Meals: BD

Day 14: Cartagena

Discover the best of Cartagena, starting at the imposing Castle San Felipe Barajas. Walk around the fortress to learn about its construction and explore the underground galleries, tunnels and passageways. Continue to Cartagena's colonial walled city and walk its picturesque streets and plazas. Visit the church of San Pedro Claver, with its fine collection of stained-glass windows, as well as Bolivar Park, an urban oasis surrounded by elegant balconied buildings, majestic shade trees and four fountains offering peaceful background ambience. In the centre of the square is an equestrian statue of Simon Bolívar, the Venezuelan-born soldier and statesman who spearheaded Latin America's liberation from Spanish rule.

Later this afternoon, sample dishes served from small stalls in every corner of the old city, the heritage of the Spanish, African, Arab and Chinese immigrants who shaped Cartagena's culinary culture. Savour the melting pot of influences found in each bite and taste the original versions of the recipes that have inspired today's Colombian cuisine. This evening, get ready to move your hips and learn the art of salsa, merengue, reggaeton and bachata in a renowned local dance academy located within the walls of Cartagena's old city. Toast your night and the conclusion of your South American adventure with a tasting of some of the region's best aged rums.

Casa Pestagua | Meals: B

Day 15: Depart Cartagena

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Hotel B, Lima



Located in the heart of Barranco, Lima's bohemian art district, and surrounded by galleries and fashion boutiques, is one of Lima's newest and most elegant hotels, Hotel B. Branching away from the usual high-rise 'business' hotel on offer in Lima, Hotel B is a very welcome new style of hotel in the city aiming to cater for clientele wanting luxury and excellent service whilst also gaining an insight into both Lima's past opulence and up-and-coming future. Originally designed by the French architect Claude Sahut (designer of Lima's Government Palace), this pristine example of a Belle Epoque mansion has been lovingly brought back to life 'with a cheeky twist' of designer furniture, to proudly offer 17 suites, El Comedor Restaurant, living room and a library housing a fine collection of Peruvian maps, prints and books. A highlight is the roof-top lounge serving excellent evening cocktails and views over the roof-tops to the Pacific Ocean.

Why we like it

- Lima's first arts-boutique hotel, renovated from a colonial mansion and reflecting the glamour of the 1920s.
- Ideally located in the heart of a bohemian revival neighbourhood, housing a unique collection of its own.
- Aims to offer a feeling of restored 'Grand Dame' integrating vintage and designer furniture with soft colours, grand windows and tall ceilings.

- The Living Room, Library and Terrace offer the calm space that is so often essential, yet missing, in city centre hotels.
- Enjoy a traditional 'lonche' in the evening in El Comedor Restaurant. El 'lonche' developed in the early republican days. Society would gather at the end of the day to play, drink and converse while exchanging their secret recipes. The gathering became important within the political, social and culinary circles; the excuse was to enjoy exquisite nibbles. A variety of fresh herbs and infusions, coffee or hot chocolate served with open sandwiches, fresh fruit cuts and typical Lima biscuits.

Rio Sagrado, A Belmond Hotel, Sacred Valley



The Rio Sagrado enjoys a privileged location overlooking the Urubamba River in the heart of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. With ten deluxe terrace rooms and eleven junior suites with riverfront terraces. Two large villas with three bedrooms are the perfect retreat for a family or group of friends travelling together. The accommodation is spread out over the grounds and are decorated with warm hues and natural materials of rock and wood. Dining is sophisticated at the El Huerto Restaurant serving Peruvian cuisine, El Bar del Huerto over looks the Urubamba River and is the perfect place to savour a cocktail on the outside terrace shaded by capuli trees, El Jardin uses the best locally sourced ingredients and is the ideal spot to have a light lunch by the river.

Why we like it

- Set on the banks of the Urubamba River in the Sacred Valley of the Incas
- Take a tour with the hotel's head gardener to learn about the unique flora and fauna in the area
- Indulge in traditional treatments in the Spa May Wilka
- Activities on offer include a shaman ceremony, horseriding and rafting
- Excellent base for exploring Mach Picchu

Sanctuary Lodge, A Belmond Hotel, Machu Picchu



This Belmond hotel stands amidst a place rich in ancient heritage, renowned spirituality and incredible natural beauty. It is the ideal base from which to explore the archaeological wonders, spot rare species of birds and flowers (especially orchids of which there are an estimated 300 species in the area) or unwind and enjoy breath-taking scenery from the lodge's garden.

An intimate hotel, it has fewer than 30 rooms and only two suites, so we recommend requesting this hotel well in advance. All are simply, yet stylishly furnished, with large comfortable beds dressed with warm duvets.

Pleasant as they are, however, the rooms (and everything else) play second fiddle to the location. No other hotel stands as close to the Inca citadel or offers such jaw-dropping views.

Why we like it

- 12 of the 29 rooms and suites have mountain views, some from private terraces
- The Sanctuary Lodge enjoys an exclusive location, nestled adjacent to the awe-inspiring Machu Picchu Inca citadel
- The intimate Tampu Restaurant serves international cuisine and Andean specialities using fresh, local ingredients
- Spa services include Inca or aromatherapy massages and complimentary yoga sessions
- Other facilities include bars and terraces, beautiful gardens and, of course, an array of tours and excursions to Machu Picchu (as well as some of the area's lesser known sights)

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco



One of the cities most unique hotels, Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco combines centuries-old charm with professional service. A national monument, you can experience a touch of Peruvian history without even leaving your room, each one remaining largely unchanged. All rooms are unique, varying in design and size. Most offer pleasant views across the courtyard of the cobbled streets of Cusco.

With a 300-year old cedar tree as its centrepiece and a chapel complete with an art collection, this elegant hotel is rooted within the local culture. The Belmond's team will be happy to arrange guided cultural tours, traditional crafts classes or even a hands-on cooking class. In the evenings, sit back and relax at the elegant lobby bar with a pisco sour in hand whilst listening to the finest jazz musicians.

Why we like it

- A restored 16th-century monastery, the hotel is renowned for its magnificent architecture and impressive art collection
- Discover the origins of Peru's national drink, pisco, and enjoy tasting several varieties
- Take a tour of vibrant San Pedro Market before taking part in an action-packed cookery class

Four Seasons Casa Medina, Bogota



Newly opened, the historic Four Seasons Casa Medina in Bogota has been declared a monument of cultural interest by the Colombian Ministry of Culture boasting impressive stone columns, a brick façade and colonial beamed ceilings. The hotel has 62 rooms and suites, each different yet with common amenities such as hand-carved dressers, leather armchairs, thermo-acoustic windows to keep the city noise of to a minimum and customisable beds. There is a choice of restaurants and tapas bars, a lush atrium courtyard and sidewalk terrace plus fitness centre and Spa with four treatment rooms.

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