



HIGHLIGHTS OF PERU

From intricate frescos to architectural marvels, Peru is home to one of South America's most sophisticated ancient civilisations and a thriving modern culture.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Latin America, Peru



9 days from AU\$8,950 pp



Private

Journey Overview

From intricate frescoes to architectural marvels, Peru is home to one of South America's most sophisticated ancient civilisations and a thriving modern vibe. Unearth the past in Lima. Delight in Cusco's tapestry of colonial charm and Inca spirit. Unlock hidden treasures in the lesser-known South Valley. And make the pilgrimage of a lifetime to the mountaintop ruins of Machu Picchu.

Journey Highlights

- Discover the mystery of the lost city of Machu Picchu
- Explore one of South America's oldest colonial dwellings and a treasure trove of period curios in Lima
- Lose yourself in Cusco's rich tapestry of old and new
- Discover the spectacular ruins and breathtaking landscapes of the Sacred Valley



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Lima

Welcome to the City of Kings. Perched on cliffs above the Pacific Ocean, Lima is a rising star on the international food scene. Accompanied by your A&K representative, transfer to your luxury accommodation in the vibrant Miraflores neighbourhood. Spend time discovering your neighbourhood full of resplendent boutiques, or head down to the Pacific Ocean and watch the mighty Pacific disappearing over the western horizon.

Miraflores Park, A Belmond Hotel

Day 2: Lima

Unlock the secrets of the city on a private walking tour led by a local expert. Get the key to one of South America's oldest houses, Casa Aliaga, amongst hidden courtyards and ramshackle rooftops. Stand in Lima's birthplace, the Plaza Mayor, and appreciate architectural masterpieces including the historic cathedral, grand presidential palace and Santo Domingo Convent. Later, lose yourself amongst more than 45,000 classified pre Colombian archaeological objects in the Larco Museum.

Miraflores Park, A Belmond Hotel | Meals: B

Day 3: Lima - Cusco - Sacred Valley

Transfer to the airport for your short flight to Cusco, the former ancient capital of the Inca Empire.

Upon arrival in Cusco, you are met and transferred directly to the Sacred Valley of the Incas (2,900 metres). Once the epicentre of the Inca Empire, the Sacred Valley is speckled with little-known but spectacular ruins, many of which remain unexplored. It is difficult to imagine anywhere better to soak up the tranquillity of the mountain-ringed valley than your luxury property, Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba Hotel. Take time to acclimatise the local way — with rest and coca tea.

Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba Hotel | Meals: BD

Day 4: Sacred Valley

This morning, experience a unique visit to an Andean highland community to meet local Quechua-speaking farmers and weavers. This personal encounter introduces you to the lifestyle and traditions of these Incan descendants. Experience complete cultural immersion as you join in the daily activities and discover how local communities live today. Learn how vibrant food is being cooked in wood-fired, mud-brick stoves and delve into the ancient agricultural methods used for centuries in this challenging Andean mountain environment.

Afterward visit the dramatic salt mines of Maras. These evaporation ponds — numbering 6,000 in total — have been used to produce salt here since pre-Inca times, and the natural colour variation of the pools, staggered in terraces down the side of the canyon, make them a breathtakingly beautiful sight. Continue on to Moray, where a mysterious Inca archaeological site is located. The ruins of the circular agricultural terraces are thought to have been used by the Incas to determine the optimal conditions for growing crops.

Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba Hotel | Meals: BLD

Day 5: Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu

Begin your pilgrimage to Machu Picchu, stopping en route at the imposing fortress of Ollantaytambo, where the Incas celebrated their greatest victory over the invading Spanish. Afterward, board your train and absorb the majestic Andean landscape as the train winds through the mountains and cloud forest to Aguas Calientes where a short bus ride will bring you to the ruins of Machu Picchu.

Overlooking the raging Urubamba River and discovered by American explorer Hiram Bingham in a hidden tangle of trees, the true history of Machu Picchu will forever remain an enigma, as the Incas left no written records. Unravel its mysteries as you explore with your expert guide.

Return to your hotel, an intimate styled Andean village with terraced hills, waterfalls, and stone pathways.

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel | Meals: BLD

Day 6 - Machu Picchu - Cusco

Spend time exploring the natural beauty of your lodge seeking out the more than 200 species of birds, before heading back to further discover the ruins. Delve deeper into the mysteries of the ancient citadel with the opportunity to climb to the “Inti Punku”, the famous Sun Gate. Or, for superior views across the ruins, pre-book to climb further to the highest mountain, Huayna Picchu, or continue a leisurely tour of the rambling stone terraces. Later board the Vistadome train to Ollantaytambo and continue by road to Cusco, the former ancient capital of the Inca Empire.

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel | Meals: B

Day 7: Cusco

Cusco’s rich tapestry of Spanish and Quechua influences is yours to explore this morning on foot with an expert guide. The cathedral in the central Plaza de Armas is considered one of the most beautiful churches in the Americas, and it will leave you breathless. Seek out the fresco of ‘The Last Supper’ with Jesus eating guinea pig, a sacred motif of Incan paganism. Later, unearth the well-preserved ruins of Sacsayhuaman, a testament to Incan architectural skill and precision. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Stroll at your own pace along the cobblestone plazas and winding alleyways, and search for treasures in one of the fascinating markets that dot the city.

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel | Meals: B

Day 8: Cusco

Venture into Cusco’s South Valley, Peru’s hidden treasure. Gaze in wonderment at Tipón, where the Incas created an impressive hydraulic system of baths, canals and aqueducts worthy of an empire that stretched from Colombia to Chile. Journey onwards to the enormous red adobe archaeological complex of Pikillacta, the only pre-Inca site in the Cusco area. Then, step into the surprisingly vivid “Sistine Chapel of Peru” in Andahuaylillas.

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel | Meals: B

Day 9: Depart Cusco

Following a leisurely breakfast, meet your Guardian Angel who will accompany you on your private transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Miraflores Park, A Belmond Hotel, Lima



Renowned for its beautiful garden location beside the Pacific Ocean, the Miraflores Park enjoys breath-taking views out to sea. In typical Belmond style, it combines personalised service, exceptional dining and indulgent facilities to create the perfect base from which to explore - colonial architecture, superb museums and glamorous shops, bars and restaurants are all just moments from the hotel.

The suites are very well appointed and have huge windows to let the light, and the views, flood in. Tastefully decorated in neutral tones, they are brought to life by colonial style furniture and details like freshly cut flowers. As you'd expect, every detail, from the fine cotton linen on the beds to the size of the showerheads in marbled bathrooms has been designed with the utmost care, to create comfortable and stylish accommodation.

Why we like it

- The suites offer wonderful city, ocean or garden views, whilst the Presidential Suites all have private terraces
- Set in one of Lima's most fashionable areas, the Miraflores Park Hotel puts guests at the heart of all that's best about this great capital city
- Dining options include Mesa 18 for a culinary experience based on local ingredients, and The Observatory Restaurant

- The hotel has a lovely roof terrace swimming pool
- Other facilities include bars and lounges, a fitness centre and the innovative 'Bath Butler' service

Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba



Built in the heart of the Urubamba Valley, among the flowers and trees that carpet the mountainous region, Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba has been designed with the architecture of the Cusco region in mind. Local life is also reflected in the kitchen, with alpaca steaks, river trout, lamb and guinea pig bred at Inkaterra's own organic homestead near that quite well-known ruin, Macchu Pichu. From the arrival drinks (pisco sours, Peruvian beers made from quinoa, wheat and maize, or chilled purple corn) to the vegetable garden, it's unlikely you'll go hungry. You can work off the indulgence in the 14-acre grounds or roam further afield with one of the hotel's ecological guides.

Each room is designed as a calm retreat to return to after a busy day of exploring, with warm fireplaces for the colder mountain nights, terraces for panoramic views, dining areas for private meals, and a living area to take some time out. VIP treatment comes as standard so take an extra day just to enjoy the calm of your private palace.

Why we like it

- Nothing but awe-inspiring views over the Sacred Valley
- Modern design with colonial inspiration, set in an iconic Peruvian valley
- The 10 acre organic plantation affords the freshest produce: you can pick your own vegetables for dinner
- Experience a multitude of activities, including horse riding, bird watching and star gazing

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo



Located just a short shuttle ride from the entrance to Machu Picchu, the lodge serves as an excellent base from which to explore. Skilled artisans built the 85-room hotel using stone, adobe stucco and eucalyptus beams to create a delightful Andean village ambience.

Rooms are large, well equipped and located in one or two-storey whitewashed cottages, reached via stone pathways weaving their way through the tropical gardens. All the rooms and villas feature thick alpaca blankets and handmade wool coverlets, crackling fireplaces and comfortable spaces for sitting and dining, as well as spa-style bathrooms.

This hotel creates an authentic Andean ambience and offers a rare slice of barefoot luxury in this ancient location.

Why we like it

- Some suites and villas have private terraces with plunge pools
- Inkaterra Machu Picchu is located in a five-hectare cloud forest garden alongside the Vilcanota River and on the edge of the village of Aguas Calientes
- A first-class restaurant boasts stunning views of the rushing Vilcanota River from an outdoor terrace
- The hotel's UNU Spa is one of a kind, offering treatments based on a combination of classical options with a mystical Andean approach
- Other facilities include Café Inkaterra, a bar and gift shop

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

Abercrombie & Kent

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