



Legendary PERU

CUSCO

The city of Cusco is located at 3399 masl in the southeastern region of the Peruvian Andes. It was the capital of the Inca Empire and it is considered the historical capital of Peru and South America. Due to its cultural and historical background, UNESCO has declared this place as a World Heritage Site, and it is considered as one of the most beautiful cities in Peru.

	SERVICE	LENGTH	DEPARTURE
Half day *			
City tour and nearby ruins	SIC / PVT	3.30h	Daily
San Blas walking tour	PVT	2h	Daily
Chincho	PVT	4h	Daily
Market and ruins of Pisac	PVT	4h	Daily
Maras and Moray	SIC / PVT	4h	Daily
Tipón and Piquillacta ruins and Andahuaylillas town	PVT	4h	Daily
Andean Baroque route	PVT	4h	Daily
Tarawasi ruins and Saywite Stone	PVT	1-2h	Daily

	SERVICE	LENGTH	DEPARTURE
Full day *			
Pisac market and Ollantaytambo	SIC / PVT	8h	Daily
Market and ruins of Pisac and Ollantaytambo	PVT	8h	Daily
Chincho, Maras and Moray	PVT	8h	Daily
Machu Picchu	SIC / PVT	4h	Daily
Huayna Picchu Mountain	-	3-3.30h	Daily
Machu Picchu Mountain	-	3-3.30h	Daily
Mandor	PVT	3-3.30h	Daily
Tourist bus Cusco / Puno	SIC	10h	Daily

*Departures and arrivals from/to Cusco

B Breakfast **BL** Box lunch **L** Lunch **D** Dinner

CITY TOUR AND NEARBY RUINS

In the city, we will visit (walking tour):

Coricancha ("enclosed place of gold" in Quechua) is the most important religious center of the empire, above which the Spaniards built the church of Santo Domingo.

The **Cathedral** is a construction that was started in 1559 and lodges the greatest collection of Peruvian colonial art.

The **Plaza de Armas**, place where the major religious holidays were celebrated.

Hatunrumiyoc is famous for the stone of twelve angles.



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Then, these ruins will be visited:

Sacsayhuaman ("satisfy yourself falcon" in Quechua). The fortress is north of Cusco, next to the district of Colcampata at 3570 masl. Visit the religious sector, the military sector, the three bastions, the three main doors, the sewers, the Inca baths, the rodadero, the amphitheater and the chincanas.

Qenqo ("crooked labyrinth with many turns" in Quechua) is how it could overlook and control two very close nearby archaeological groups that have enormous blossoming of limestone rocks. The complex is located in a hill on the east of the city of Cusco, on the road leading to Antisuyo (one of the four Suyos). Qenqo was a very important sanctuary during the Inca period.

Puca Pucará ("red fortress" in Quechua) is a fortress because of its location in the group and the existence of a semi-circular environ, and red because of the color of the soil of the place. The archaeological group is located at 3580 masl and at 7 Km. from Cusco, on the right side of the road that leads to Pisaq. It is strategically located, from which it can control all the territory; it has rooms, inner squares, baths, aqueducts, watchtowers and an old road easily recognizable.

Tambomachay ("collective lodging with all the necessary things for people who will stay for a short time" in Quechua) has traditionally been known as the bath of the princess; or "Ñusta". This is because it has two aqueducts where clean water flows all year round. It comes from remote places with steady volumes of water only known by their builders. The liquid gathers to fall through an outlet that seems to have been a liturgical fountain. The building is stuck on a hill, and it has three corridors or terraces that are equal to three floors.

SAN BLAS WALKING TOUR

San Blas is located near to the main square of Cusco. This neighborhood housing artisans, workshops and craft shops is one of the most picturesque sites in the city. Its streets are steep and narrow with old houses built by the Spanish over important Inca foundations. It has an attractive square and the oldest parish church in Cusco, built in 1563, which has a carved wooden pulpit considered the epitome of colonial era woodwork in Cusco.

CHINCHERO

Chincho at 3672 masl ("town of the rainbow" in Quechua), is proud to have the most genuine Indian market of the region. Every Sunday its large main square, surrounded by an impressive 2-meter-tall Inca wall decorated by 10 trapezoid-shaped niches, holds a produce market where they trade only by bartering. The colorful and lively garments used by peasants coming from different communities are admirable. One cannot miss the visit to the colonial church built on top of the foundations an ancient Inca palace.

Note: The Chinchero market is open every Sunday. On the other days, we will visit the ruins.

MARKET AND RUINS OF PISAQ

Pisaq ("big size partridge" in Quechua) located at 2972 masl and 33 Km. from Cusco) is famous for its peasant fair which offers produces and craftsmanship. Attractive and of particular interest is the "wood oven" or firewood ovens where bread and tasty "empanadas" are created. On Sunday, the **Varayocs** or mayors of neighboring communities go to mass to the local church wearing their best clothes and their characteristic command sticks.



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These are the ruins:

Intihuatana ("where the sun is tied" in Quechua) is a sacred site in the middle of the mountain and as its name suggests it could be linked to astronomical observations.

Maucka Panteon ("old pantheon" in Quechua) is a "huaca" with many burials.

The district of **Pisac**, is formed by 30 sites that are basically arranged in two rows and follow a curved figure of the land on which they are founded.

Ccorihuayrachina ("tosses gold" in Quechua) is an archaeological section where one can observe a rock surrounded by a circular polished stone wall that forms a small terrace from where one can keep surveillance of the east, south and west sides of the valley.

Urinpisaq, a citadel with 34 rooms surrounded by terraces of different shapes and magnitude.

Kjalla-Kcasa, is a compound complex with 38 rooms in the highest area and in a rocky slope.

MARAS AND MORAY

The town of **Maras** (3385 masl) was founded by the Spaniards. The houses facades on the main street preserve the typical colonial architecture and family coat of arms.

Salineras of Maras or **Inca's Salt Mine**. From the mountain that surrounds the place hot spring waters with a large quantity of salt appear. The Incas used to canalize and distribute wells as in pool terraces. When evaporating the waters would leave a crust of salt that was periodically extracted for its use. Currently the site has more than 5000 puddles that are exploited and traded by locals.

With a supplement, it is possible to descent along a path that borders the mines until reaching the riverbanks of the Urubamba River where one can visit the **Grotto of Pichingoto**, inhabited since Inca times by the locals.

Moray, ancient farm laboratory, is formed by circular terraces used by the Incas to experiment and tame the plants that would afterwards be planted in other parts of the empire. (The place is of difficult access during the months of rain – November to March)

Note: SIC service from Monday to Saturday

TIPÓN AND PIQUILLACTA RUINS AND ANDAHUAYLILLAS TOWN

The word **Tipón** ("where it boils or to boil" in Quechua) is due to its abundant uprisings of underground water. This important place is located 17.5 Km. from the highway to Puno at 3416 masl. It is a natural ravine with slight sloped hillsides caused by erosion from rainwater. The Incas transformed into 12 successive terraces that occupy twelve different successive gradual plains, sheltered sidewise by transversal terraces and some groups of buildings, turning the section into a paradisiacal place with excellent climate.

In the area, there is a series of fountains with multiple uses that had utilitarian functions as well as ritual ones. One can also observe a series of water canals where one can notice the expertise on hydraulic engineering they had.

The archaeological remains of **Piquillacta** at 3310 masl ("city of the fleas" in Quechua) is located 32 Km. southeast of Cusco. It is of special interest because it is the only pre-Inca city in the Cusco region. High bulwarks, built with unspoiled stones and mud, limit the neighborhoods that form this complex extent. Its origin is attributed to Huari culture.



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The beautiful town of **Andahuaylillas** at 3122 masl, with mansions, groves and big trees, is famous for its main church built in the seventeenth century. The fabulous decorations in *pan de Oro* (gold leaf) and the murals that decorate the walls have given it the name of the “**Sistine Chapel of America**”.

ANDEAN BAROQUE ROUTE

Visit to the Catholic precincts in the south of Cusco, which date from the XVII and XVIII (seventeenth and eighteenth) centuries, whose baroque and renaissance artistic manifestations through architecture, painting and sculpture are perfectly combined with the warmth of its villages and customs of its inhabitants. On the itinerary, we will visit:

Andahuaylillas, which is known as the Sistine Chapel.

Huaro, the small town of Huaro is located at 4 Km. south of Andahuaylillas. Its white church dedicated to John the Baptist was built at the end of the 17th century. Its structure, made up of a single nave, is of classic style. Its façade is enlivened by indigenous decorations and flanked by a bell gable. Inside, the Renaissance altar is among the oldest of Peru. However, the magnificent pair of frescos made by Tadeo Escalante, situated on both sides of the entrance gate, is undoubtedly the most fascinating artwork in the church.

Canincunca, the Canincunca chapel dedicated to the Virgin of Candelaria was probably built at the beginning of the 17th century for evangelizing the indigenous populations. It stands above Urcos Lake on a significant pre-Hispanic site. The cemetery that sits on the hill behind the chapel holds remains that date back to the Incan Empire. The inside of the chapel contains an Andean Baroque iconography such as representations of vizcachas and a representation of the Virgin of Candelaria.

TARAWASI RUINS AND SAYWITE STONE

Tarawasi (“house of tara” in Quechua, tara is a tree of the region) at 2554 masl is located at 77 Km. from Cusco, on the shores of Colorado River or Suntur Mayo. The main wall counts with a great wall that encloses it in its three sides. In the second platform, one has the channelled Suntur Mayo River and the Chakimayo creek and lastly the polished and engraved stone walled terraces. The main building’s walls have the shape of a parallelogram whose fourth side is still to be discovered. The ruin with a pyramid projection is very well preserved. The containment walls of the main platforms have stone external sides finely carved in the same style as in the major external containment wall decorated with 8 nooks in each one of its sides and 12 in the north-eastern part. By the structural and architectural characteristics, it is indubitable that the site has had a recognized prestige in the region.

The **monolith or stone of Saywite**, is located above a temple west of the valley of the same name 45 Km. from Abancay. It is in an area of puddles where there are numerous archaeological remains slightly unearthed. It is considered a symbolic and ecological fountain because it has 203 embossed figures adapted to the natural sinuosity of the rocks. It is about an original creation of the indigenous mind that has left sculpt in stone some of the most important religious concepts over problems of water, land fertilizing and from the being that sponsored such productive strength. It is represented in the sinuosity of the block the mountainous geographic environment, gorges, vertical flanks, lagoons in the peaks, rivers and courses of water streams that run down to lower parts, canals and irrigation ditches distributed in varied directions. As custodians of this sacred site, one finds felines, pumas, monkeys in alert positions or violently descending supporting themselves on their rear feet. However, the anthropomorphic gods, generally put in couples (man and woman), form the most important aspect of this complex. She holds a jug on her hand and is always near the eye of the brooks, rivers



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or in neighboring places. Everything leads us to think the valley of Saywite was a religious center of great importance, privileged site of springs around which many temples were built and where engineers created such witty pieces of Indian art.

Note: These places can be visited along the Cusco / Chalhuanca route.

OLLANTAYTAMBO

The **Fortress of Ollantaytambo**, is located north of the town of the same name, perched on the skirts of a hill and is one of the most important examples of Incan military architecture. The entire complex is formed by temples, palaces, burial galleries, and mausoleums, huts to lodge soldiers, religious sites, trenches, weapons and food storage rooms. Bulwarks, galleries, burial chambers, the great worshipping center, religious construction formed by enormous monoliths, the entrance terraces, the farming terraces, the vestiges of the ancient town, and the Ñusta baths feature. Because of its location and strategic position, that controls great part of the region, it has been defined as the fortress or the fortified citadel.

MACHU PICCHU

Machu Picchu ("old mountain" in Quechua) is located at 112,5 Km. north of Cusco. It stands on the left margin of the Urubamba River at 3000 masl. The journey by train from Cusco lasts three and a half hours approximately. The last part of the journey is done in a minivan that after sorting 8 km of zigzag road, now paved, one arrives to the gateway of the ruins. Dr. Hiram Bingham made the scientific discovery in 1911, during his second trip to Peru.

Walls of almost 5 meters protect the units and sections of the complex of which the following are part of: the **Wayna Picchu**, the **Temple of the Moon**, the **Intipunku**, the **drawbridge**, the **farming sector** and the **urban sector**. Inside these sectors feature **Temple of 3 Windows**, the **Sacred Temple** or the **Sun Temple**, the **Royal Tomb** or mausoleum, the solar clock or **Intihuatana** and the dungeons. The cemetery located on the east terraces is guarded by the house Ayacamayoc or "guardian of the dead". During the excavations, 138 corpses were found, 109 belonging to females. Thanks to the fact that the conquerors did not know about its existence, the complex has been well preserved and has not suffered any major destruction than that of natural deterioration.

HUAYNA PICCHU MOUNTAIN

The **Huayna Picchu Mountain** (Young Mountain in Quechua) with an altitude of 2,693 masl is known mainly for being the backdrop of most panoramic photographs of the Inca archaeological remains of Machu Picchu. The paths are quite steep, so you will need ropes to get past some parts of the trail. It will cross stone stairways and wooden stairs. The path is visually terrifying, as it is a steep mountain with precipices and many steps (not recommended if you suffer from vertigo). It has *andenerias* and the Temple of the Moon, built inside a natural cave. There is also abundant vegetation, which serves as habitat for birds, moths and insects. There are two daily departures: 7am and 11am, 200 people each group.

MACHU PICCHU MOUNTAIN

The **Machu Picchu Mountain** (Old Mountain in Quechua) with an altitude of 3,082 masl can be made in 3.30h and although there are no archaeological remains, compared to Huayna Picchu, you will find a great variety of orchids, butterflies and birds. The path is less steep and have panoramic views of the Inca City and Huayna



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Picchu Mountain. As this climb is of a moderate-high level, this hike is ideal if you come with children or with elderly people.

There are two daily departures: 7am and 11am, 400 people each group.

MANDOR

This is a beautiful trail with a great variety of local flora and fauna, such as orchids or bromeliads. The road follows the tracks of the train for 4 km, parallel to the course of the Vilcanota River. Upon entering the cloud forest, you will reach Mandor **Falls**. The waterfall itself is about 12 meters high and the water comes here from the sacred mountain of Yanantin.

TOURIST BUS CUSCO/PUNO

The journey includes these visits:

Andahuaylillas: place where is located the Saint Peter and Saint Paul's small church. The fabulous decorations in *pan de Oro* (gold leaf) and the murals that decorate the walls have given it the name of the "Sistine Chapel of America".

Raqchi: is located at 118 Km from Cusco. Archaeological complex with a temple dedicated to the Wiracocha's God at the Inca's time. The residence constructions, fountains and terraces show us the importance that it was like pilgrimage center.

La Raya: is the highest point in the way, at 4335 masl, and is the limit between Puno and Cusco. From this place you can appreciate the mountains range's snow around.

Pukara Museum: is located 106 Km. from Puno. Pukara is a ceramists' town that conserve the name of the Peru's southerly first civilization. Its origin remotes to 1600 BC, and its archaeological remains, in addition to its stone pieces and ceramics, exhibit itself in the place museum.

This service includes a lunch buffet in a local restaurant at Sicuani town.