

PERU

Pathways to Machu Picchu: Traversing the Inca Trail

12 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **SEP - JUL**

PLEASE NOTE: THIS PROGRAM HAS A STRENUOUS ACTIVITY LEVEL

Walk the road less traveled to Machu Picchu through a breathtaking tableau of Andean peaks, rushing streams, glacial valleys, and villages where Incan ways find vivid expression in today's Quechua cultures. The intimacy of your small group makes the grandeur even more stirring as you hike and camp along the famed Inca Trail. At every stop of the trail, enjoy refreshments as needed while you visit different historical and archaeological sites, ruins and valleys. Your adventure is complemented by exploration in the colonial gems of Cusco and Lima, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu through massive valleys, historical ruins and landmarks, archaeological sites, soaring elevations, and breathtaking sunrises and sunsets.
- Spend time within the Machu Picchu archaeological site, with the option to hike to Huayna Picchu for commanding views.
- Behold the massive stone walls of Sacsayhuaman.
- Explore the Inca-Quechua heritage of towns like Cusco, Ollantaytambo, and Chincheros.
- Visit the Andean community of Misminay, where you can interact with the locals and take part in a toast to honor the earth in a Pachamama ceremony.
- See the world-renowned collection of pre-Columbian ceramics and jewels at Lima's Larco Museum.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guides
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Most meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting





ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - LIMA

Individual arrivals in Lima. Proceed through immigrations, baggage claim and customs before exiting the secured area of the airport. A Holbrook representative will be waiting outside the exit door with a Holbrook sign. Transfer to the hotel and check in. Please note that this is an international travel day; no meals or program activities are scheduled on this day. Hotel check-in usually begins at 3 pm. *Overnight at Casa Andina Select.*

DAY 2 - LIMA

After breakfast, take a walking city tour of colonial Lima. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Larco Museum. In the afternoon join in a favorite pastime of Limeños during a late afternoon walk along the city's malecón (waterfront), enjoying magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean and landscaped parks. Then walk to Huaca Pucclana for dinner. *Overnight at Casa Andina Select. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - SACRED VALLEY

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your morning flight to Cusco. Upon arrival, transfer to the Sacred Valley. En route, visit the ruins at Sacsayhuaman, a walled complex on the northern outskirts of Cusco. The complex is made of large polished dry stone walls, with boulders carefully cut to fit together tightly without any mortar. Also stop at Awanakancha Alpaca Center, a living museum where visitors can see llamas, alpacas and vicuña. A demonstration will show how the wool from these South American animals is used to make woven textiles. Arrive at your hotel in the late afternoon and have a chance to rest and relax until dinner. *Overnight at Posada del Inka Yucay. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - SACRED VALLEY

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive up 1.5 hours to the small traditional hamlet of Huilloc, from where many of the porters

who hike the Inca Trail originate and where Quechua, the language of the Incas, is still used and traditional costumes are worn. Huilloc is famous as a weaving center where you will see traditional ponchos being made and worn before beginning your day's hike (45 min. community visit). Begin with a short, steep climb up to Puma Marca, a remarkably well-preserved and extensive Inca ruin with spectacular views down the valley towards Ollantaytambo. Later follow the Inca Trail along the steeply terraced valley down toward Ollantaytambo, stopping en route for a picnic lunch (3 hr. hike including lunch). You will have time to visit the Inca town of Ollantaytambo before returning back to the hotel. *Overnight at Posada del Inka Yucay. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - SACRED VALLEY

Breakfast at the hotel. Today drive to Cruzpata in the Pampas of Chinchero. From here, you will begin your exciting hike from the Huaypo Lagoon to reach the experimental agricultural site of Moray (1 hr at Moray, 4 hrs total). Enjoy a picnic lunch. Also visit the Andean community of Misminay, where you will meet some of the tradition-preserving locals. Families live in small single or double room houses, made out of adobe. They raise guinea pigs (cuyes),



cattle and sheep. Participants will be able to plow or harvest the soil, depending on the time of the year, and take part in a toast in a ceremony to honor Mother Earth, Pachamama. Additionally, you will observe the ladies spinning wool and dyeing with natural ingredients, and lastly tapestry knitting, according to the ancient techniques. Later in the evening, meet with the leader for a pre-dinner briefing/orientation of the trek at the hotel. There will be time for questions after the orientation. *Overnight at Posada del Inka Yucay. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - INKA TRAIL

This morning after a brief stop for last-minute purchases, transfer to Pisacucho (or Km 82), where porters will meet the group. Formal registration procedures are required at this time at the official control point at the start of the Inca Trail. Upon completion of registration, cross a footbridge over the Urubamba River and start your Inca Trail hike. This initial hike will take approximately one hour and 30 minutes before the first rest stop. Stop for a 20-minute snack and rest break. Arrive at the Patallaqta viewpoint, classic Inca ruins at the intersection of three valleys with wonderful photo opportunities. Enjoy a sit-down lunch at Tarayoc, and then continue walking for one hour and 45 minutes to the first camp site. *Overnight at camp site. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - INKA TRAIL

Early morning wake-up call with a hot beverage and breakfast. The first portion of this morning's hike will take approximately one hour and 30 minutes. The first stop will be at Avapata. Take the opportunity to rest, use the local toilet facilities, and/or rehydrate. Water and energy drinks will be available. Breakfast at the camp. Continue walking on ascending stairs for two hours and 30 minutes. After lunch at Llulluchapampa begin your two-hour walk to Abra Warmiwañuska. The first pass, Abra Warmiwañuska, is at an elevation of approximately 13,776 feet. Descend to the second camp site at Pacaymayo (11,580 feet). *Overnight at camp site. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - INKA TRAIL

Early morning wake-up call with a hot beverage and breakfast before beginning the approximately one-hour hike to the Runkuracay archaeological site overlooking the Pacaymayo Valley. Enjoy a site lecture. The next 20 minutes will be spent hiking to the Runkurakay Pass (12,960 feet), the second pass on the trail. After reaching the pass, continue downhill for approximately one hour before arriving at the narrow staircase that will take you into Sayacmarca ("Inaccessible Town"). Enjoy a site lecture. The ruins of Sayacmarca are the remnants of a fortress or travelers' lodge used by the Inca. Sayacmarca was built on a narrow mountain ridge with only one entrance, probably planned as a means of defense. The thatched roofs are long gone, but an observatory, small plaza, ritual baths, housing complex, and other constructions remain. The lack of agricultural terraces and farmland point to a dependence

on outside suppliers—a big weakness in times of war. In its heyday, Sayacmarca is thought to have housed as many as 200 people. After lunch, continue walking for another hour and 45 minutes to the last camp site at Phuyupatamarca (10,695 feet). Leave the ruins and hike for another 20 minutes before breaking for lunch at Chaquicocha. Once at the camp, reward your day's efforts with a tea break and free time before dinner. *Overnight at camp site. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - AGUAS CALIENTES

Early wake-up call to witness the spectacular sunrise. Enjoy a final breakfast at camp and begin walking to the Phuyupatamarca archaeological ruins, located approximately 15 minutes from the camp. The ruins of Phuyupatamarca (Cloud Level Town) include many terraces and a series of ceremonial baths. A large platform on the highest part of the site once served as an open-air temple, the Temple of the Sun. Continue walking for another three hours and 30 minutes and arrive at Wiñay Wayna in time for lunch. After lunch resume walking. This final stretch of the Inca Trail will take approximately one hour and 45 minutes to complete. Once at Intipunku (Sun Gate) begin the descent into Machu Picchu, just as the late afternoon shadows begin to accentuate the mysterious citadel. After a quick walk through the ruins, board the bus to Aguas Calientes and check in at your hotel. Enjoy a hot shower and commemorate the end of your exciting hiking adventure during dinner. Get a good night's rest in preparation for the next morning's activities in Machu Picchu. *Overnight at Machu Picchu Pueblo. (BLD)*



DAY 10 - CUSCO

After breakfast take the bus to Machu Picchu ruins for a guided exploration. Some might want to take the optional hike to the summit of Huayna Picchu for an amazing overview of the site, while others may want to investigate Machu Picchu's many hidden architectural treasures independently. After your explorations, return to Aguas Calientes for a late lunch and then take the train back to Ollantaytambo. Upon arrival, meet your driver and transfer to Cusco. Dinner will be at the hotel. *Overnight at Sonesta Hotel Cusco or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - DEPARTURE

Today, explore colonial Cusco, including a visit to the Koricancha Temple. Lunch will be at a local café in the main plaza, where you can enjoy the colonial architecture of the city. Have some free time in the afternoon before you transfer to Cusco airport for your late afternoon flight back to Lima. Upon arrival to Lima, check in for your international flight. There is no hotel night included on this day. (BL)

DAY 12 - ARRIVE HOME

Arrive United States.

LAND PRICING

\$3,395 (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$3,595 (10 participants + 1 leader)

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2020.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.

MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. We hope that your experiences in Peru and Ecuador will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

Please join our Facebook page and share photos of your program. Visit us at www.facebook.com/holbrooktravel. We hope to hear from you.



CHINCHEROS WOMAN AND GIRL BY ERIC LINDBERG



INKA TRAIL PHOTO BY LAURA HARE



SACSAYHUAMAN PHOTO BY CHRIS PALMER