



KUÉLAP BY PELIN KARACA

PERU

Lost Civilizations of Peru: Kuélap to Machu Picchu

12 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: APR - NOV

Machu Picchu tops the list of “must-see places” for many travelers to Peru, and for good reason. The Inca citadel’s well-preserved ruins are arguably among the most spectacular on the continent. Meanwhile, Peru’s northern region is largely a still-hidden gem, where archaeological sites and cloud forests are waiting to be explored. This adventurous 12-day program takes you off the beaten path and introduces you to many facets of the country’s indigenous and colonial heritage. Examine the history of the Inca Empire as well as that of the Chachapoyas, a pre-Incan, Andes civilization known as the “Warriors of the Clouds.” Visit Machu Picchu, Cusco, and the Sacred Valley in the south, as well as lesser-known but equally impressive sites in the north, like Kuélap (nicknamed “the Machu Picchu of the North”) and Revash, remnants of the Chachapoyas.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike to the foot of Gocta Waterfall, one of the world’s highest cascades, and watch for Peru’s national bird, the Andean Cock-of-the-rock.
- Ride horseback up mountain trails to view the tombs of Revash, a Chachapoyas burial site carved high into the sheer cliff face.
- Visit Kuélap, the mountaintop ruins that were once an important political, religious, administrative, and military center for the Chachapoyas.
- Explore the highlights of Cusco, the oldest continuously inhabited city in South America.
- Walk in the footsteps of the ancient Inca at the iconic Machu Picchu and learn about the site’s historical significance.

WHAT’S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



CUSCO BY LAURA HARE



ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - LIMA

Upon arrival in Lima, after clearing customs and immigration, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight attend a welcome dinner and orientation to your program. *Overnight at Casa Andina Select Miraflores. (LD)*

DAY 2 - LIMA

After breakfast drive along the main streets, plazas, and avenues of Peru's capital. Start at Lovers' Park in the Miraflores district, looking out over the Pacific Ocean, then take in a panoramic view of Huaca Pucllana, a ceremonial center used by the ancient Lima culture. Visit San Isidro, the financial center of the city, and continue to the Main Square, where you will find the Government Palace and City Hall. Visit the Cathedral of Lima and explore the Santo Domingo Convent, whose corridors San Martín de Porres and Santa Rosa de Lima used to walk in

the 17th century and where their remains rest today. Have a welcome lunch at one of the oldest taverns in Lima for an introduction to Peruvian food and a taste of the famous pisco sour. This afternoon visit the Larco Museum for a comprehensive look at the most representative cultures that inhabited ancient Peru. Enjoy time at leisure this afternoon to walk around the Miraflores district and the Larcomar Center on your own. *Overnight at Casa Andina Select Miraflores. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - COCACHIMBA

Depart Lima and fly to the city of Jaén in northern Peru. From here, transfer to Cocachimba, approximately a 3- to 4-hour drive. Check into the lodge and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure, taking in beautiful views of Gocta Waterfall from the hotel. At 2,528 feet, Gocta is among the world's tallest cascades, yet until 2005 only locals knew of its existence. *Overnight at Gocta Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - CHACHAPOYAS

Spend today exploring the ruins at Kuélap. First, check out of your hotel and head to the cable car station in the nearby town of Nuevo Tingo. Enjoy incredible views as the cable car carries you up the side of the mountain to the walled city of Kuélap. This ancient site was an important political, religious, administrative, and military center for the pre-Incan Chachapoyas culture; the ruins sit atop a mountain surrounded by cloud forest, giving the Chachapoyas a reputation as the "Warriors of the Clouds." The fortress is surrounded by an immense and impressive wall almost 2,000 feet in length. Have a boxed lunch on site. After leaving Kuélap, you will have the opportunity to stop and observe the burial towers of Macro, an outpost of the Chachapoyas culture built into cliffs overlooking the Utcubamba River. *Overnight at Hacienda Achamaqui. (BLD)*



DAY 5 - CHACHAPOYAS

Follow the Utcubamba Valley upstream, spotting herons and perhaps the Torrent Duck (an Andean endemic) in the river as you slowly ascend. At the village of Santo Tomás, turn off the main highway, crossing the river and ascending a side valley through typical Chachapoyas farmland. Huge cliffs loom overhead; it is here the ancient Chachapoyas built the tombs of Revash, where they interred their dead. Continue your journey to Leimebamba, with a boxed lunch along the way. The city retains much of its antique charm, with balconied houses and narrow streets. Set in a spacious garden environment, the Leimebamba Museum features a collection of extraordinary artifacts recovered from another group of cliff tombs discovered as recently as 1997 at the remote Laguna de los Condores, high in the mountains east of town. After the museum tour, visit the Kenticafé across the street for a cup of the best coffee in Chachapoyas. Watch as dozens of the region's hummingbirds flit among the strategically placed feeders, perhaps including the dazzling and highly endangered Marvelous Spatuletail. *Overnight at Hacienda Achamaqui. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - CUSCO

After an early breakfast, return to Jaén and fly to Cusco via Lima, arriving in the late afternoon or early evening. *Overnight at Sonesta Hotel Cusco. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - CUSCO

Spend today exploring Cusco and the surrounding areas, starting with a visit to the fortress of Sacsayhuaman. Old Cusco is said to be built in the shape of a puma, with Sacsayhuaman forming the head. The fortress is a wonder of technical achievement and a testament to human will. Its construction remains a mystery, because the stones are not found in the region and most of the blocks weigh over a ton. The ruins are constructed of huge polygonal blocks that interlock with one another and are so precisely placed that a knife blade cannot be inserted between them. Next explore Cusco, where modern and colonial buildings are built on top of Inca foundations and colonial churches dominate the central square. *Overnight at Sonesta Hotel Cusco. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - AGUAS CALIENTES

After breakfast take the train to Machu Picchu, traveling alongside the Urubamba River with spectacular views of the Andes. Upon arrival journey by bus to the Machu Picchu ruins, and have lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, tour the ruins on a guided field trip. Known as

“The Lost City of the Incas,” Machu Picchu is probably the best known yet least understood of all Incan sites. Apart from a few locals, nobody knew of Machu Picchu's existence until 1911, when American historian Hiram Bingham stumbled upon the thickly overgrown buildings almost by accident. The quality of the stonework and the abundance of ornamental sites indicate that Machu Picchu must have been an important ceremonial center, but knowledge of the city's history has been lost over time. Have dinner at the hotel this evening. *Overnight at Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - SACRED VALLEY

This morning take the train back to Ollanta and visit the Ollantaytambo ruins, gaining a glimpse into the engineering ingenuity of the Inca. The town has original buildings of Inca construction where the Inca retreated for their last stand in the highlands against the Spanish. Running water still flows through the aqueducts, terraces are still farmed, and the pinnacle above the town is a burial ground. Learn about its ancient heritage while walking the narrow streets and observing numerous aqueducts that remain unchanged. Later transfer to the Sacred Valley. *Overnight at Posada del Inka Yucay. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - SACRED VALLEY

Spend a full day in the Sacred Valley. Visit the salt mines of Maras, and then continue to Chinchero to visit a local weaving community. Learn about the ancient traditions

still practiced by modern-day descendants of the Inca. Have a traditional lunch with members of the weaving community then end the day with an ancient Pachamama ceremony led by a shaman. *Overnight at Posada del Inka Yucay. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - DEPART

This morning visit the Awanakancha Alpaca Center, a living museum where visitors can see llamas, alpacas, and vicuñas. Watch a demonstration showcasing how wool from these South American camelids is used to make woven textiles. Continue to Cusco for your late afternoon flight back to Lima and connect with evening flights home. *(BL)*

DAY 12 - ARRIVE US

Arrive home following your overnight flight.

Please note: *This itinerary is subject to change.*





WEAVING DEMONSTRATION BY LAURA HARE



CATHEDRAL OF LIMA BY LAURA HARE



LAND PRICING

\$3,975 (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$4,465 (10 participants + 1 leader)

Program includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, flights within Peru, private vehicle transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, guide and driver, and carbon offset.

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 traveling in 2018 or beyond. 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. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

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 is 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.

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