



MACHU PICCHU

# PERU & GALÁPAGOS

## Mysteries of Machu Picchu and the Enchanting Galápagos

15 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **OCT - JUL**

*Get ready for the trip of a lifetime! This exciting itinerary combines two destinations at the top of every traveler's list: Machu Picchu and the Galápagos Islands. Begin your 15-day adventure exploring the highlights of Peru, including the archaeological site of Ollantaytambo, the salt mines of Maras, the agricultural terraces at Moray, the colonial buildings of Cusco and Lima, and of course, Machu Picchu. Continue your journey with a 4-night stay on the Galápagos archipelago's largest island, Isabela, which is teeming with a variety of wildlife and stunning lagoons. Plus, you'll have time to explore Quito, Ecuador's capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the Sacred Valley of the Incas and explore the mysterious ruins of Machu Picchu.
- Have a traditional lunch with members of a local family in the Sacred Valley, learn how to weave baskets from corn husks in Maras, and visit the community of Chincheros, famous for its colorful woven textiles.
- View the iconic wildlife of the Galápagos, like sea lions, turtles, marine iguanas, and Galápagos Penguins.
- Explore the fascinating geological features of Isabela Island by land and by sea, including natural pools and estuaries, lava flows, caves, Sierra Negra, and Chico Volcano.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

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



BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY BY STEPHANIE KOWACZ





## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### DAY 1 - LIMA

Upon arrival in Lima, proceed through customs and immigration before exiting the secured area of the airport. The 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. Hotel check-in usually begins at 3 pm. *Overnight at Casa Andina Select Miraflores or similar.*

### DAY 2 - LIMA

After breakfast, receive a welcome orientation before driving along the main streets, plazas, and avenues of the city. Continue to the main square, where the government palace and city hall are found. Visit the Cathedral of Lima and explore the Santo Domingo Convent; in the 17th century, San Martin de Porras and San Rosa de Lima walked these corridors, and their remains rest here today. Have a welcome lunch at one of the oldest taverns in Lima for an introduction to Peru's renowned cuisine, and enjoy a taste of the famous pisco sour. This afternoon, visit the Larco Museum for a comprehensive look at the most representative cultures of ancient Peru. Enjoy time at leisure this afternoon to walk around the Miraflores district and the Larcomar Center on your own. Before dinner at the hotel, receive a lecture on the history of Peru. *Overnight at Casa Andina Select Miraflores or similar. (BLD)*

### DAY 3 - YUCAY

After breakfast, return to the airport for your flight to Cusco. Upon arrival, transfer to the Sacred Valley, stopping en route at the Awanakancha Center to learn about South American camelids and products made using traditional and modern techniques, such as dyeing, spinning, and weaving. After lunch, visit the ruins at Ollantaytambo, which showcase the engineering genius of the Inca. The town has original buildings of Inca construction where the Inca retreated in the highlands for their last stand 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 this town's ancient heritage while walking the narrow streets and observing numerous aqueducts that remain unchanged. Late this afternoon, head to the hotel for dinner. *Overnight at Posada del Inca Yucay. (BLD)*

### DAY 4 - YUCAY

This morning, visit a local market in Urubamba. Discuss the importance of the Sacred Valley as a market for the Inca Empire and learn about the fruits and vegetables unique to the region. Continue to the Moray archaeological site for a lecture on Inca agriculture. Researchers and archaeologists theorize the Inca site at Moray was once used for agricultural studies and experiments. Its unique terraces are laid out in concentric circles within three large pits measuring as much as 100 feet in depth. Next, continue to Maras to view local salt mines and learn how valuable salt was in the preservation of food, especially meats. After enjoying a typical lunch with the local community, learn how to weave baskets from corn husks, about their farming techniques, and get a glimpse of daily life in the Sacred Valley. End the day with an ancient Pachamama ceremony led by a shaman. Pachamama is an important fertility goddess revered by the people of the Andes, similar to conceptions of "Mother Nature" in Western culture. *Overnight at Posada del Inca Yucay. (BLD)*

### DAY 5 - AGUAS CALIENTES

After breakfast, depart for the train station and ride to Aguas Calientes, following the Urubamba River with spectacular views of





the Andes Mountains. Upon arrival, continue with a bus transfer to the Machu Picchu ruins for a full afternoon guided field trip in and around Machu Picchu. Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas, is arguably the best known and most spectacular archaeological site on the continent. The quality of the stonework and abundance of ornamental sites indicate that Machu Picchu was an important ceremonial center, but archaeologists are still uncovering details. Have lunch at a local restaurant close to the ruins. Dinner will be at the hotel. *Overnight at El Mapi. (BLD)*

#### DAY 6 - CUSCO

The morning is free to explore the town of Aguas Calientes on your own or to visit Machu Picchu a second time (additional cost). Take the late morning train, arriving to Ollanta in time for lunch. Then continue to Chinchero for a visit to a local weaving community, where you will learn which ancient traditions are still practiced by modern-day descendants of the Inca. Afterwards continue to Cusco and check in at the hotel. Dinner will be on your own tonight to explore the local fare. *Overnight at Los Portales. (BL)*

#### DAY 7 - CUSCO

Today explore colonial Cusco, including a visit to the Koricancha Temple, possibly the most sacred Inca site, and the Cathedral Complex. Nowadays the colonial structure of the Church and Convent of Santo Domingo sits on top of the original temple foundations. Lunch is at a local café in the main plaza surrounded by its colonial architecture. The afternoon is free to enjoy the city on your own. Before dinner, regroup for a presentation by a local expert on the history of Incan and Andean musical instruments at the hotel. Afterwards, dinner is at a local restaurant on your own. *Overnight at Los Portales. (BL)*

#### DAY 8 - QUITO

After breakfast, transfer to the airport, where you will say goodbye to your Peruvian guide and board your flight to Quito via Lima. Upon arrival in Quito, clear customs and immigration and meet your Ecuadorian guide outside the airport. After lunch at a local restaurant, check in at the hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to rest and relax. Have dinner tonight in the district of La Ronda for the chance to see Quito by night. *Overnight at Sheraton Quito. (BLD)*

#### DAY 9 - QUITO

This morning explore Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Surrounded by volcanoes, Quito is a unique city that boasts one of the largest and best-preserved colonial centers in America. Visit La Compañía Church, the Alabado Museum (pre-Columbian art), and San Francisco Church. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Museo Casa del Alabado. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon and have the rest of the day at leisure to get ready for your departure to the Galápagos Islands tomorrow. Before dinner, there will be a lecture on the geology of the Galápagos Islands. Please note that there is a 50-pound luggage weight limit for the flight. You can leave extra luggage in Quito if needed, and we will make arrangements to transfer any excess luggage to the final night's hotel in Quito. *Overnight at Sheraton Quito. (BLD)*

#### DAY 10 - ISABELA ISLAND, GALÁPAGOS

This morning, fly from Quito to the Baltra airport in the Galápagos. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to Puerto

Ayora to board your fast boat to Puerto Villamil on Isabela Island. En route, visit Los Gemelos, the "twin craters" that were actually formed by sinkholes. Have lunch at a local restaurant. Upon arrival to Isabela Island, check in at Scalesia Lodge, where you'll have the rest of the afternoon at leisure. *Overnight at Scalesia Lodge. (BLD)*

#### DAY 11 - ISABELA ISLAND, GALÁPAGOS

This morning visit Las Tintoreras, an islet formed by lava flows located 10 minutes by dinghy from Puerto Villamil. "Tintoreras" is the Spanish name for the white-tipped reef sharks frequently seen in this area. Different types of animals can be seen here, such as sea lions, marine iguanas, and penguins. This is a perfect place to practice snorkeling. Return to the hotel by lunch time. In the afternoon visit Los Humedales, a complex with various trails where you can find the Galápagos' four species of mangroves. This area is characterized by solitary beaches, lava tunnels, natural pools, and estuaries where you can see flamingos and other birds. Also visit the Arnaldo Tupiza Tortoise Breeding Center, where the national park breeds tortoises in danger of extinction. Some of these giant tortoises have been released by the park and can be found on the trails. *Overnight at Scalesia Lodge. (BLD)*



GIGANT TORTOISES BY LAURA HARE

#### DAY 12 - ISABELA ISLAND, GALÁPAGOS

Today visit some of Isabela's best attractions, Sierra Negra and Volcán Chico. Sierra Negra is one of the most active volcanoes of the archipelago. The volcano's elliptical crater is considered one of the largest in the world (about four by six miles wide). Volcán Chico is also an active volcano, and sulfur vents can be seen in this area. It is approximately a six-hour walk to appreciate all the splendor of the volcanoes, with a snack provided along the way. Return to Scalesia Lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, free time to enjoy the magical beach of Puerto Villamil or enjoy an optional activity like biking, surfing, or kayaking (additional cost). *Overnight at Scalesia Lodge. (BLD)*

#### DAY 13 - ISABELA ISLAND, GALÁPAGOS

Make a visit this morning to the Wall of Tears, a historical site three miles west of Puerto Villamil, constructed between 1945 and 1959 by prisoners in a penal colony on the island. The wall reaches up to 65 feet and runs over 300 feet long, and its construction was dangerous work, resulting in the deaths of a number of prisoners from both sickness and injury. In the afternoon, follow a wooden pathway to Concha de Perla in the Port of Villamil. The bay's calm, clear, shallow waters are ideal for observing the incredible array of marine life. Visitors can swim and snorkel alongside tropical fish, sea lions, penguins, and turtles, and it is also possible to observe up to 20 bird species. *Overnight at Scalesia Lodge. (BLD)*

#### DAY 14 - QUITO

After an early breakfast, take the fast boat back to Puerto Ayora and transfer to Baltra for your flight to Quito. Lunch will be on your own. At Baltra airport, there are opportunities to get a sandwich and drink. This afternoon is at leisure. Tonight attend a farewell dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hostería Rincón de Puenbo. (BD)*

#### DAY 15 - DEPARTURE

This morning head to the airport for your flight home.

## LAND PRICING

**\$5,995** (10 participants + 1 leader)

**\$6,495** (15 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, internal flights (Lima-Cusco/Cusco-Quito/Quito-Baltra/Baltra-Quito), private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

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

Valid for travel in 2021.

## 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. 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 \$350 per person deposit and enrollment form are due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 150 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 150 days prior to departure.*



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](http://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)



ACTIVITY LEVEL

4

MODERATE-STRENUOUS

## WHAT TO EXPECT

This journey showcases two very different geographic locations with an emphasis on nature, archaeology, and culture. Your mainland itinerary includes daily walks or hikes of one to two miles, conducted at an easy pace but in high altitudes between 5,080 and 12,375 feet. To help you acclimate, vehicles and hotels have oxygen tanks. During high season (May–October) there may be long lines at Machu Picchu, where your visit lasts 2–3 hours and includes a walk from the upper citadel to the lower sections, with uneven terrain and many steps. A more relaxed circuit of the lower sections is also available. In the Galapagos you'll explore by foot and boat, making wet and dry landings in small dinghies and stopping to swim and snorkel. Paths here can be sandy, rocky, dusty or uneven. One excursion at a volcanic site takes about six hours, with rest stops. Depending on the season, mainland temperatures in and around Cusco range from 55°–79° F, with cooler evenings. There can be high humidity, with intermittent fog and rain. Temperatures in the Galapagos are generally 10°–15° warmer. There are two internal flights and one scenic, 3.5-hour train transfer between Cusco and Aguas Calientes.