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800-462-2848 OR
SIGN UP ONLINE [HERE](#)



7 DAYS, 6 NIGHTS

Click [here](#) for departure dates and pricing details

Weaving together stunning Andean landscapes, fascinating Inca history and captivating Quechua culture, this journey wraps you in the essence of Peru. Old and new collide in Cusco, where trendy galleries rest on foundations of Inca stonework and local youngsters clad in jeans pass rural women wearing rainbow-colored *pollera* skirts and ponchos. Hear the music that keeps ancestral Andean traditions alive and feel Machu Picchu's *apukuna* mountain spirits). Explore a remote Andean village, view exquisite textiles and an evocative folkloric performance, and visit a ceramics studio dedicated to preserving ancient techniques. You're sure to delight in our Peruvian guides, who create a personal view into the region's deep traditional, mythological and religious roots.

Day 1

Meet your Backroads Trip Leaders (the folks wearing Backroads T-shirts) at **10:30 a.m.** at the Hotel Monasterio del Cusco, located at Calle Palacios 136 in Cusco. **Please arrive wearing comfortable shoes for walking.** See "Arriving & Departing" for additional logistics information.

Cusco Walking Tour 3½ Hours

Optional Visit to Museum of Pre-Columbian Art

Welcome to Peru! After a trip orientation and lunch, continue acclimating to Cusco's elevation (11,200 feet) on a stroll in the city with local guide Aurelio Aguirre, who'll be with us for much of our trip.

Once the center of the pre-Columbian Inca Empire, Cusco (or Cuzco) was transformed by Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century and is now a fascinating blend of old and new. Inca and Colonial architecture is prevalent throughout the town and most residents speak two or three languages: Quechua, Spanish and sometimes English. Ambling through the artist district, you'll find the simple 16th-century adobe church of San Blas, which features an ornate cedar pulpit considered the finest example of woodcarving in the Americas. Moving down narrow streets flanked by centuries-old walls, arrive at two of the most significant sites in town—Coricancha, a colonial church built atop the ruins of an Inca temple, and the main cathedral, a grand building filled with artwork blending Spanish and Incan influences. Your tour wouldn't be complete without a stop at Plaza de Armas, the town's central square and a hub of activity for travelers and locals. Following the tour, spend the remainder of the afternoon relaxing at the hotel or exploring Cusco on your own. Consider checking out the acclaimed Museum of Pre-Columbian Art (or M.A.P.) before gathering for pisco sours and nouveau-Peruvian cuisine (guinea pigs and all!) at the courtyard M.A.P. Café. *Lodging: Hotel Monasterio del Cusco*

IN BUSINESS FOR
29 YEARS,
BACKROADS IS
RECOGNIZED YEAR IN
AND YEAR OUT AS
ONE OF THE WORLD'S
TOP 10 TRAVEL
COMPANIES BY
TRAVEL+LEISURE



**Our Accommodations:
PREMIERE INNS[®]**

HOTEL MONASTERIO DEL CUSCO

(3 nights) A 17th-century monastery transformed into a graceful 5-star hotel and a member of Leading Hotels of the World.
Cusco
phone: 51-84-24-1777
www.monasterio.orient-express.com

SOL Y LUNA HOTEL

(2 nights) Located in the heart of the Sacred Valley, surrounded by beautiful gardens and featuring comfortable and tastefully appointed bungalows.
Urubamba
phone: 51-84-20-1620
www.hotelsolyluna.com

MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY LODGE

(1 night) Named one of world's top 500 hotels by *Travel+Leisure*, the Sanctuary Lodge is the only hotel located within the Machu Picchu citadel. Don't miss the sunset view from the hotel's orchid-filled garden and be sure to join the sunrise excursion to the ruins.
Machu Picchu
phone: 51-1-610-8303
www.orient-express.com

*With 2 Casual Inn nights at Sol y Luna

**EACH YEAR,
3 OUT OF 4 OF OUR
GUESTS HAVE
PREVIOUSLY
TRAVELED WITH US OR
BEEN REFERRED BY
SOMEONE WHO HAS**

Day 2

Free Time in Cusco / Local Market Visit 3 Hours

Cooking Class 3 Hours

Shuttle to Q'Enko 30 Minutes

Explore Sacsayhuamán 3 Hours

After breakfast at the Monasterio's lavish buffet, explore town on your own or visit the vibrant outdoor market with your Backroads leaders and our local guides. You'll rub shoulders with vendors selling Peruvian wares, from brightly colored produce to textiles and trinkets. Open-air markets are your chance to indulge in alpaca sweaters, ceramics, weavings and jewelry—find souvenirs for everyone on your list. (Bring your best Spanish bartering phrases because little English is spoken here!) With Aurelio's help, we purchase a variety of fresh ingredients to use later during a fun hands-on cooking class. It's a tasty introduction to Peruvian cuisine, as you roll up your sleeves and prepare (and eat) traditional dishes.

We then shuttle into the countryside to Q'enko, a temple and ritual site embellished with impressive rock carvings. Stroll to one of the region's most awe-inspiring Inca sites: Sacsayhuamán. Though they may not have invented it, the Incas mastered the art of monumental stonemasonry—even today, scientists aren't sure how these ancient people integrated enormous boulders with such precision, without mortar, that not even a needle can fit between them. Sacsayhuamán, a formidable fortress often called the "Stonehenge of the Andes," is a perfect example of Inca building. Our local expert leads us on an interpretive walk through the site, providing a look at the famed Temple of the Moon. After your Sacsayhuamán visit, feel free to further explore Cusco, shop for handicrafts and enjoy dinner on your own. *Lodging: Hotel Monasterio del Cusco*

Day 3

Shuttle to Moray 45 Minutes

Visit Salineras of Maras 2½ Hours

Afternoon on Your Own

Shuttle to Hacienda Huayoccarí 1 Hour Round-trip

We get an early start and head to one of the most stunning areas in Peru's Sacred Valley, the Inca salt pans (Salineras of Maras). Your jaw will drop seeing the spectacular honeycomb of pools rising tier upon tier near the village of Maras. Fed by an underground river, each salt-encrusted basin has been raked, scraped and bagged for centuries, with families passing plots of land from generation to generation like heirlooms. Even today, the mismatched white squares are an important and vital means of income for the local population.

The afternoon is yours to relax and spend at your leisure. Indulge at the spa, play tennis, go horseback riding or head into Urubamba (within walking distance of the hotel) to shop and explore—it's up to you! Perhaps you'd enjoy a visit to El Seminario ceramics studio for a peek at pottery created using pre-Inca and Inca techniques. As tradition dictates, the men mix the clay (which is harvested from the surrounding mountains) and craft the forms, such as cups, plates, bowls and vases, while the women focus on decorating.

This evening we shuttle to the beautiful private Hacienda Huayoccarí, perched on a hillside overlooking the Urubamba Valley. Here we're warmly welcomed by our hosts Ana Maria and José Ignacio, descendants of Ponce de León, who chat with us about their fascinating family history—a story that holds all the drama and intrigue of a classic murder mystery. We gather for cocktails in the art- and antique-filled living room before sitting down to an incredible meal. *Lodging: Hotel Sol y Luna*



Top Reasons Why *you should take this trip*

We provide the inside connections and knowledge you need to truly experience a place in the most authentic way.

■ You'll stay in the area's finest hotels, each carefully selected based on our rigorous quality standards.

■ You'll enjoy the best of the region's cuisine, as well as Backroads' trademark grand picnics.

■ Our Trip Leaders have undergone hundreds of hours of training and are the best in the industry.

WHEN YOU SIGN UP
FOR A TRIP, YOU'LL
RECEIVE A
COMPREHENSIVE
TRAVEL PLANNER
WITH ALL THE
INFORMATION YOU
NEED TO PLAN
AND PREPARE

Day 4

Shuttle to Ollantaytambo 30 Minutes

Ollantaytambo Walk 2 Hours

Shuttle to Huilloc 1 Hour

Huilloc Village Experience 1½ Hours

Shuttle to Hotel 1½ Hours

Our morning destination is Ollantaytambo, a peaceful town situated on the northern end of the Sacred Valley and home to the best-surviving example of Inca city planning. With Aurelio, investigate this historic treasure trove and check out its advanced stone-masonry that still perplexes modern-day engineers. Afterward, we take a leisurely walk to a nearby school and join the kids in activities such as art projects, singing and reading stories.

Gather for a signature Backroads picnic lunch in a spectacular setting amid hundreds of Inca terraces. Then shuttle off the beaten path to the remote mountain community of Huilloc, whose rugged and resilient villagers still speak the language of their Inca ancestors and grow crops on the tiny terraced plots 12,000 feet above sea level. In this isolated weaving hamlet, you have the rare opportunity to visit the home of a local family for an intimate look at the traditional Andean way of life.

After returning to the hotel, we sit down to a traditional Andean-style feast called *la Pachamanca*, in which meat, veggies and fruits are stone-roasted underground. The meal honors Pachamama (the earth goddess) and has been part of the Andean village rituals for centuries. *Lodging: Hotel Sol y Luna*

Day 5

Ceramics Workshop / Leisure Time at Sol y Luna

Shuttle to Ollantaytambo 1 Hour

Train to Aguas Calientes 1¼ Hours

Relax this morning at the hotel, or take part in an authentic workshop where you'll learn about Peruvian ceramics and get the chance to make a masterpiece of your own. We then shuttle to the Ollantaytambo train station and board the comfortable Vistadome for a scenic rail ride through the Urubamba River Canyon, passing the awe-inspiring 18,000-foot Mount Veronica.

Arriving in the town of Aguas Calientes, we shuttle to the hotel and check in at the famous Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, which shares Inca cities' most desirable trait: location, location, location. Dinner tonight takes place at the lodge's fine restaurant Tampu. *Lodging: Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge*

Day 6

Optional Sunrise Visit to Machu Picchu

Machu Picchu Guided Exploration 2½ Hours

Intipunku "Gate of the Sun" Hike 2.6 Miles (1,000-foot elevation gain & loss)

Shorter Hiking Option: Inca Drawbridge 1.5 Miles (330-foot elevation gain & loss)

Journey on Hiram Bingham Train to Cusco 3½ Hours

Looming at 7,700 feet in the Andes, suspended on a terraced saddle between two dramatic peaks, is one of the greatest architectural masterpieces of the ancient world: Machu Picchu. Prepare for an experience that surpasses your imagination as you spend a full day exploring this enigmatic citadel, marveling at the magical play of sunlight, shadows and fog against perfectly constructed temples, baths and aqueducts. If you're an early bird, you'll want to visit the site at sunrise, an event that has no rival. Afterward join our guide on a private walk through the ruins



Note

While the information presented here details this trip's planned routes, activities, accommodations, meeting and departing times, we are constantly seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Naturally, we will keep you up to date on any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging.

and learn about the significance of the astrological designs created by the sun-worshipping Incas, the exquisite stonework of the temples and other structures, as well as the fascinating story of Machu Picchu's discovery. Lunch is at the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, where you can enjoy the bountiful Tinkuy Buffet or dine in the more intimate setting of the Tampu restaurant. After eating, feel free to take an afternoon hike up to Intipunku, also known as Gate of the Sun. Or for a less strenuous walk, head to the Inca Drawbridge. Savor high tea at the lodge this evening, just before we say goodbye to Machu Picchu.

We all travel back to Cusco on the incredible Orient Express Hiram Bingham luxury train, which travels a spectacular route through lush valleys of the Urubamba River, with views of the snowcapped Andes peaks in the distance. During this once-in-a-lifetime rail journey, we add a final flourish to the trip with a world-famous—and truly unforgettable—Orient Express experience: cocktails, live entertainment and a sumptuous gourmet dinner on board the train. The week's adventures will likely have provided us with a wealth of stories to swap. Expect a fun-filled evening! Upon our arrival at Poroy, a private coach takes us back to the Monasterio. *Lodging: Hotel Monasterio del Cusco*

Day 7

Conclusion of the Trip

Savor one last breakfast at the Hotel Monasterio del Cusco before the trip concludes. Backroads offers transportation to the Cusco airport. Please see "Arriving & Departing" for end-of-trip logistics.

Arriving & Departing

Please note that meeting and departing times provided here were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change. PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS UNTIL YOU ARE CONFIRMED ON YOUR VACATION AND HAVE VERIFIED THE DETAILS OF ARRIVING & DEPARTING WITH YOUR TRIP CONSULTANT.

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

On the first day of the trip, meet your Backroads Trip Leaders in Cusco at 10:30 a.m. at the Hotel Monasterio del Cusco.

Since many of our activities take place at or near 11,000 feet, we highly recommend that you arrive in Cusco at least one full day before the trip starts to become better acclimated to the elevation.

CONCLUSION OF THE TRIP

On the last day of the trip, Backroads provides transportation to the Cusco airport. LAN Peru offers several flights from Cusco to Lima (where you will catch your international flight home) in the morning and afternoon—just let your Trip Leaders know what time you plan to fly out, and they'll make airport shuttle arrangements for you. Please note that because of prevailing weather patterns, afternoon flights out of Cusco are less reliable and less frequent than morning flights. If you plan to spend an extra night (or more) in Cusco at the end of the trip, we suggest you book a morning flight out of Cusco.

Note: Peru requires you to pay an airport departure tax of \$5 on domestic flights and approximately \$30 on international flights (payable in U.S. dollars or local currency) prior to boarding.

ASK FOR REFERENCES
FROM PAST GUESTS
WHO HAVE TAKEN THE
TRIP THAT INTERESTS
YOU

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

We recommend that you fly to Lima, Peru (airport code: LIM), then catch a connecting flight to Cusco (CUZ). Airlines flying to Lima include American, LAN Peru, Continental, TACA and Delta. From Lima it’s a 1-hour flight to Cusco, where the trip begins. You may need to purchase tickets for these flights separately from your international flight. For your convenience, we suggest that you consider booking a flight into Cusco that arrives prior to 10 a.m. We’ve found that the earlier flights are subject to fewer weather-related delays than flights arriving later in the day.

Depending on your flight schedule, you may need to stay overnight in Lima before catching your connection to Cusco. (See “Where to Stay Before & After Your Trip” for a list of suggested hotels in Lima.)

For help arranging air transport to and from your Backroads trip, please work with your own travel agent, the airline directly or an online travel site. For assistance locating a travel agent please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents and online travel sites charge a fee for their consulting services.)

GETTING FROM CUSCO AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL MONASTERIO DEL CUSCO

Taxi service to the hotel is available at the Cusco airport and costs about \$10. Another option is to call the hotel for shuttle service when you arrive at the airport (\$20).

Where to Stay Before & After Your Trip

For help arranging pre- or post-trip hotels in conjunction with your Backroads trip, please work with your travel agent or the hotels directly. For assistance locating a travel agent please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents charge a fee for their consulting services.) Of course, we also recommend extending your stay at any of the hotels that we visit on this trip; see the sidebar above for details.

Please refer to the Hotel Room Rate Guide in the sidebar for starting double-occupancy rates. Note that the chart reflects the Internet and/or Best Available rates, which were accurate at the time of printing, but hotel rates are always subject to change.

CUSCO

Hotel Monasterio del Cusco (Day 1 meeting location, first two nights’ lodging & Day 6 lodging)

The colonial San Antonio Abad seminary, built more than 300 years ago, is now an elegant member of Leading Hotels of the World. Experience a unique encounter with Inca and Spanish traditions as you roam the Monasterio’s tranquil courtyard and ornamental chapel. Just a 10-minute drive from the airport and two blocks from the Plaza de Armas, the Monasterio is close to Cusco’s most enticing cultural attractions. Calle Palacios 136; Phone: 51-84-24-1777; www.monasterio.orient-express.com; 109 rooms and 18 suites. Rates: ◆◆◆◆

Note: If you choose to stay at the Hotel Monasterio prior to the start of your Backroads trip and would like to remain in the same room once the trip begins, please reserve a Deluxe Room.

Hotel Libertador Cusco

This landmark hotel, once the home of Peru’s first Spanish governor Francisco Pizarro, sits in the city center just three blocks from the main plaza. Touted as “the best five-star hotel in the city,” the Libertador offers comfortable accommodations, a desirable location and appetizing cuisine accompanied by Andean dance performances. Plazoleta Santo Domingo 259; Phone: 51-84-23-1961; www.libertador.com.pe; 254 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆

**ORGANIZE A
BACKROADS PRIVATE
TRIP FOR YOUR
FAMILY, FRIENDS OR
COLLEAGUES FOR THE
TRIP OF A LIFETIME**

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

Picoaga Hotel

Former home of the Spanish Marquis of Picoaga, this 17th-century mansion adorned with graceful stone archways, Spanish columns and serene courtyards, is situated mere steps from the Plaza de Armas, Cusco’s main square. After a day of exploring, savor regional cuisine in the hotel’s dining room overlooking the city. Santa Teresa 344; Phone: 51-84-25-2330; www.picoagahotel.com; 72 rooms. Rates: ◆◆

LIMA

Layovers in Lima: Because U.S.-bound flights typically depart Lima after 10 p.m., you may have a long layover in Lima after your Backroads trip. If you’d like to leave the airport and explore the city during your layover, 24-hour secure luggage storage is available in the domestic terminal. Central Lima is a 20-minute taxi ride from the airport. (Please note: You should only use official registered taxis; kiosks for registered taxis are located inside the terminal.) The hotels listed in this section offer day-use rates for guests with long layovers. See individual hotels for more information.

Where to stay in Lima: Though central Lima has numerous hotels, most travelers head to the seaside suburbs of Miraflores and San Isidro, which have fewer sights but are generally safer and offer newer hotels. Both suburbs are a 30-minute taxi ride from the airport, and with beaches and shopping close by, they’re ideally located for exploration.

Delfines Hotel & Casino (San Isidro District)

This luxury hotel, also located in the San Isidro district, offers a comfortable escape from the often frenetic pace of Lima. With tasteful guest rooms overlooking the Lima Golf Club, and an aquarium where you can observe daily training sessions with the two resident dolphins, this fine hotel makes an excellent base for your Peruvian excursions. Calle Los Eucaliptos 555; Phone: 51-12-15-7000; www.losdelfineshotel.com.pe; 196 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆◆; Day use (9 a.m.–6 p.m.): ◆◆

Costa del Sol (Lima International airport)

This recently opened four-star hotel offers the ultimate in comfort and convenience, situated just meters from the main terminal of Jorge Chávez International Airport. Beside the easy airport commute, the hotel offers a gymnasium, a spa and pool for those final moments of Peruvian relaxation. Avenida Elmer Faucett; Phone: 51-1-711-2000; www.ramada.com; Day use rates available; 130 rooms and suites. Rates: ◆◆◆

JW Marriott Hotel Lima (Miraflores District)

If you want glam, look no further. The JW Marriott’s two striking towers, each the color of the sea, dominate the skyline. Beneath the glitz also lies casual comfort, with plush guest rooms that offer ocean views and provide a sanctuary from the bustling Miraflores district. And fun is only an elevator ride down: a casino, fitness center, sauna, outdoor pool, shops and two restaurants provide endless entertainment. Malecón de la Reserva 615; Phone: 800-721-7033 or 51-12-17-7000; www.marriott.com; 288 rooms and 12 suites. Rates: ◆◆◆◆; Day use (10 a.m.–6 p.m.): ◆

Miraflores Park Hotel (Miraflores District)

Featuring ocean views from guest rooms lavished in fine cotton linens, antiques, and marble and granite bathrooms, this Orient Express hotel is designed to exceed your every expectation. Tucked away in the park-filled district of Miraflores, the hotel provides an exceptional dining experience at Ambrosia Restaurant, where inventive and mouth-watering Peruvian-European cuisine awaits. Avenida Malecón de la Reserva 1035; Phone: 51-12-42-3000; www.mira-park.com; 81 rooms and suites. Rates: ◆◆◆◆; Day use (hours depend on availability): ◆◆

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

Country Club Lima Hotel (San Isidro District)

Built in 1927 in the distinguished San Isidro district, this refurbished hotel is now a national monument. Meandering through this palatial mansion, you can't help but appreciate its incredible collection of eclectic artwork, glamorous architecture and meticulously manicured grounds. You can enjoy a variety of leisure activities, from relaxing in the sauna to playing a round of golf (with exclusive guest privileges) at the adjacent Lima Golf Club. Calle Los Eucaliptos 590; Phone: 51-16-11-9000; www.hotelcountry.com; 75 rooms and suites. Rates: ◆◆; Day use (11 a.m.–6 p.m.): ◆◆

We hope you've found this information useful, but nothing substitutes for speaking with one of our experienced Trip Consultants. Please call 800-462-2848 Monday-Sunday, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pacific time.