

Hello Fellow Travelers,

We hope you're enjoying a fantastic autumn so far! If you're like us these days, you're busier than ever with work, the kids and all the other everyday things that seem to make the time fly by. Even with the best of intentions, it's so easy to let things get in the way of spending real quality time with good friends. So we decided it's high time to do just that: take a break from the daily grind and get reconnected with our favorite people. We're planning a group getaway—an extraordinary week of biking and hiking (and who knows what else!) in Peru. And we'd love for the two of you to join us.

Imagine a journey from colonial Cusco, through the Andean highlands and deep into the heart of the Sacred Valley. Picture yourself riding on mountain paths, walking across the altiplano, visiting traditional markets, hiking a stretch of the Inca Trail and exploring incredible Machu Picchu. Intrigued? You know you are!

We're organizing the trip through Backroads, the active travel company that hosted our family reunion in the Canadian Rockies last year. (For those of you who haven't already heard us rave about it, the trip was fabulous!)

The Peru trip is fully supported (you don't have to carry any of your own gear) and we'll have our very own pair of Backroads trip leaders providing inspiration and making sure our needs are met throughout the entire adventure. (Basically, this means you won't have to lift a finger, except to summon the van if you'd like a lift.) The trip begins on Sunday, September 10 and ends on Sunday, September 17. You can check out the enclosed travel planner for details, but a few of the highlights include:

- Stays at the Hotel Monasterio del Cusco, Willka T'ika and the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, three incredible hotels that have been featured by *Condé Nast Traveler* and *Travel+Leisure* magazine.
- A guided tour of Cusco, a visit to Sacsayhuaman, said to be the “Stonehenge of the Andes,” and a guided tour of Ollantaytambo, home to the best-surviving example of Inca city planning.
- An incredible bike ride along the Urubamba River and chance to shop at a local market near old Pisac.
- An unforgettable hike on the Inca Trail that leads us to Machu Picchu, the breathtaking “Lost City of the Incas.”

The trip price is per person, based on double occupancy and a minimum group size of 14 people. Our goal is to have at least 14 with a maximum of 20 participants (plus leaders) on the trip, and it's on a first-come-first-served basis, so don't delay.

Once you've decided YES, you'll need to send a deposit to Eve Mezvinsky, the Private Trip Manager at Backroads, to reserve your spot or call Eve at 510-527-1889 ext. 128. The first couples to make their deposit will get a reserved space.

We hope you can join us on what's sure to be wild and crazy adventure!