

Earthbound Expeditions

Classical Adventure, Peru and Bolivia

13 days, from US$2,870 per person

Duration	Group size	Country
13 days	**15 people**	**Bolivia**

Classical Adventure, Peru and Bolivia Overview

A classic tour of the ancient history, archaeological sites and varied landscapes of two neighbouring South American countries: Peru and Bolivia.

This classic tour explores the ancient history, archaeological sites and varied landscapes of two neighbouring South American countries: Peru and Bolivia.

The tour combines adventure and culture, with guided sightseeing at the main sites of Peru and Bolivia. Within two weeks you visit the Sacred Valley of the Incas, including local markets and ruins; Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas; the Uros floating islands and Taquile Island on Lake Titicaca; Copacabana and Sun Island; and the Uyuni salt flat, and you trek to Rainbow Mountain.

The journey begins in Lima, known as the City of Kings, with its colonial World Heritage sites. You then fly to Puno to visit the Uros floating islands and Taquile Island in the Titicaca National Reserve. After seeing the ancient Inca steps on Sun Island, you take another flight to Uyuni to visit the Uyuni Salt Flats. Next, the tour takes you to the Sacred Valley for hiking and camping at Wayllabamba, Warmiwañusca, Pacaymayo, Puyupatamarca and Wiñaywayna. You then visit Machu Picchu, one of the wonders of the world, and Rainbow Mountain. The tour ends with sightseeing in Cusco and Lima.

Both countries have elegant colonial cities as well as natural and cultural landmarks. Over two weeks you explore the Andean highlands of Peru and Bolivia, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Machu Picchu, one of the seven wonders of the world.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Lima

When you arrive in Lima, you are met and transferred to your hotel for the night.

Altitude: 150 m On foot: None, arrival day Night: Hotel, Lima Meals: None

Day 2

Fly from Lima to Juliaca and transfer to Puno

After an early breakfast, you are transferred from the hotel to the airport for the flight to Puno. Please arrange your own flight. On arrival in Puno, you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Altitude: 3,830 m On foot: None, flight day Night: Hotel, Puno Meals: Breakfast

Day 3

Uros and Taquile islands on Lake Titicaca

After breakfast, you tour the Titicaca National Reserve and visit the Uros floating islands, a group of more than 40 islands made from layers of totora reeds. Although the Uros people have intermarried with the Aymara and no pure Uros remain, they continue to live as their ancestors did and keep some Uros traditions. The islanders fish, hunt birds and graze cattle on the islets. After approximately three hours, the tour reaches Taquile Island. Its population was relatively isolated from the mainland until the 1950s, and the sense of community remains strong, reflected in well-organised community life and collective decision-making. Taquile Island is known for its crafts, particularly weaving, which dates back to the ancient Inca, Pukara and Colla civilisations. You then return to Puno and the hotel. Lunch is included.

Altitude: 3,830 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Puno Meals: Breakfast

Day 4

Copacabana and Sun Island, then on to La Paz

After breakfast, you are transferred by bus from the hotel to Copacabana, stopping at the towns of Juli, Pomata and Yunguyo-Casani. In Copacabana you visit the cathedral and the main square. After boarding a catamaran at the harbour, you continue to Isla del Sol (Sun Island), the most visited island on Lake Titicaca because of its Inca ruins and scenery. The catamaran passes through the Strait of Tiquina. On arrival at the harbour of Chua, a bus takes you to your hotel in La Paz.

Altitude: 3,640 m On foot: Easy walking, 1–2 hrs Night: Hotel, La Paz Meals: Breakfast

Day 5

Fly from La Paz to Uyuni and visit the Uyuni Salt Flats

After an early breakfast, you are transferred from the hotel to the airport for the flight to Uyuni. Flights depart at 06:30 or 08:00 and take around 60 minutes. On arrival you are met, and passengers on the first flight are taken to a local restaurant for a second breakfast (paid by each passenger). The visit begins at the train cemetery, only 5 minutes from Uyuni, and then continues onto the great salt flat to Incahuasi Island, one of its main attractions. A small path leads to the top of the island, from where there is a 360° view of the salt flat. Lunch is served outdoors, followed by free time to enjoy the view. You will see water bubbling up on the surface, known as the 'Ojos de Salar', which comes from the underground river of the Tunupa Volcano. You then drive towards the village of Colchani to visit the salt factories and the souvenir market. Finally, you return across the salt flat, arriving at the hotel at sunset. The hotel is ranked among the world's ten most unusual hotels and offers a high level of comfort, with facilities built entirely from salt and views over the salt flat. After check-in, there is time to explore the hotel and relax before dinner in the restaurant.

Altitude: 3,660 m On foot: Easy walking, 1–2 hrs Night: Hotel, Uyuni Meals: Breakfast

Day 6

Fly from Uyuni to Cusco via La Paz

At the scheduled time, you are transferred from the hotel to the airport for the flight to La Paz and the connecting flight to Cusco. On arrival in Cusco, you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Altitude: 3,400 m On foot: None, flight day Night: Hotel, Cusco Meals: Breakfast

Day 7

Inca Trail: Cusco to Wayllabamba

After an early breakfast, the tour starts with a three-hour bus ride through the Sacred Valley to Km 82 (the 54.68-mile post) at 2,750 m (9,022 ft). From here you hike for approximately five hours through the Sacred Valley along the Urubamba River to the campsite at Wayllabamba, at 3,000 m (9,842 ft). Lunch and dinner are provided.

Altitude: 3,000 m On foot: 12 km, 5–6 hrs Night: Tented camp, Wayllabamba Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8

Inca Trail: Wayllabamba to Pacaymayo via Warmiwañusca Pass

After breakfast, you climb to Warmiwañusca Pass at 4,200 m (13,779 ft), which has a panoramic view of the Peruvian Andes. The trail then descends to the second campsite at Pacaymayo, 3,600 m (11,811 ft). Total hiking time is approximately six to seven hours. Lunch and dinner are provided.

Altitude: 3,600 m On foot: 12 km, 6–7 hrs Night: Tented camp, Pacaymayo Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9

Inca Trail: Pacaymayo to Wiñaywayna

After breakfast, the hike continues past the archaeological sites of Runkurakay, Sayacmarca and Phuyupatamarca to Wiñaywayna, at 2,650 m (8,594 ft). The third campsite is at Wiñaywayna. Total hiking time is approximately seven hours. Lunch and dinner are provided.

Altitude: 2,650 m On foot: 16 km, 7 hrs Night: Tented camp, Wiñay Wayna Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10

Inca Trail: Wiñaywayna to Machu Picchu and Huayna Picchu, return to Cusco

After an early breakfast, the hike starts at 5:30 am to see the sunrise at Intipunku, the Sun Gate. You arrive at Machu Picchu at around 8:00 am for a two-hour guided tour. After the tour, you climb Huayna Picchu mountain. At the scheduled time, you take a shuttle bus down to Aguas Calientes for lunch, then the train back to Cusco and your hotel. Lunch is included.

Altitude: 3,400 m On foot: 6 km, 5–6 hrs Night: Hotel, Cusco Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 11

Day trek to Rainbow Mountain from Cusco

A day tour, including a trek, to the mountain known as the 7 Colour Mountain, departing from Cusco. Located in the Cusco region of southern Peru, the route passes through landscapes of glaciers, snow-capped mountains and clear rivers and lakes. You pass villages of Quechua descendants and the surrounding countryside, and see the colours of Rainbow Mountain. You are collected from your accommodation at around 3:00 am and drive first to Arco (on the road to Puno) and then to the Checacupe district (a 2-hour journey). The drive continues to Pitumarca and several small villages until you reach the community of Hanchipata-Quesuno (another 1.5 hours), where the hike begins. Along the way there are views of the surrounding mountains and the Ausangate glacier, and you can see local wildlife and camelids in their natural environment. The trek takes about 3 hours to reach Vinicunca (Rainbow Mountain). Here you have about an hour to rest and take photographs. You then hike back to the starting point and return to Cusco, arriving at approximately 19:00.

Altitude: 5,200 m at Rainbow Mountain On foot: 3–4 hrs Night: Hotel, Cusco Meals: Breakfast

Day 12

Cusco sightseeing

After an early breakfast, you spend the day sightseeing in Cusco.

Altitude: 3,400 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Cusco Meals: Breakfast

Day 13

Fly from Cusco to Lima and Lima sightseeing

In the morning you fly to Lima, and in the afternoon you go sightseeing in the city. The tour begins in the historic centre with important buildings such as the Government Palace, Lima Cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace and the Municipal Palace. It also includes the Church and Monastery of San Francisco, the largest complex of colonial art in the Americas. You will see the stone facades and wooden balconies of the colonial houses, and pass Huaca Pucllana, a pre-Inca structure that was most likely an important ceremonial and administrative centre of the Lima culture. The tour ends in the modern districts of San Isidro and Miraflores. San Isidro has modern apartment buildings and parks such as El Olivar, with olive trees brought from Spain in the 15th century. Miraflores has its Central Park and the Larcomar shopping centre overlooking the Pacific Ocean. In the evening you visit the water fountains, followed by a cultural show and dinner.

Altitude: 150 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Lima Meals: Breakfast

What's included

- Camping equipment, including double-occupancy tents, mattresses, kitchen tent, dining tent, toilet tent, table, chairs, cooking equipment and utensils
- All meals during the hike as indicated in the itinerary, cooks, and porters to carry and set up all equipment and tents
- Bilingual tour guide and assistant
- Bus from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes
- Train ticket from Aguas Calientes to Cusco
- Emergency oxygen tank and first aid kit

Not included

- Sleeping bags, personal porter (available by prior arrangement) and personal items.
- Note: on the Inca Trail you need items such as toilet paper, a sleeping bag and a backpack. We recommend light sportswear during the day, extra layers and jackets at night, sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses, a hat or cap and a torch. Keep your passport or personal ID with you in a safe place at all times.

Photos, videos and reviews of this trip: earthbound.rajansimkhada.com/classical-adventure-peru-and-bolivia