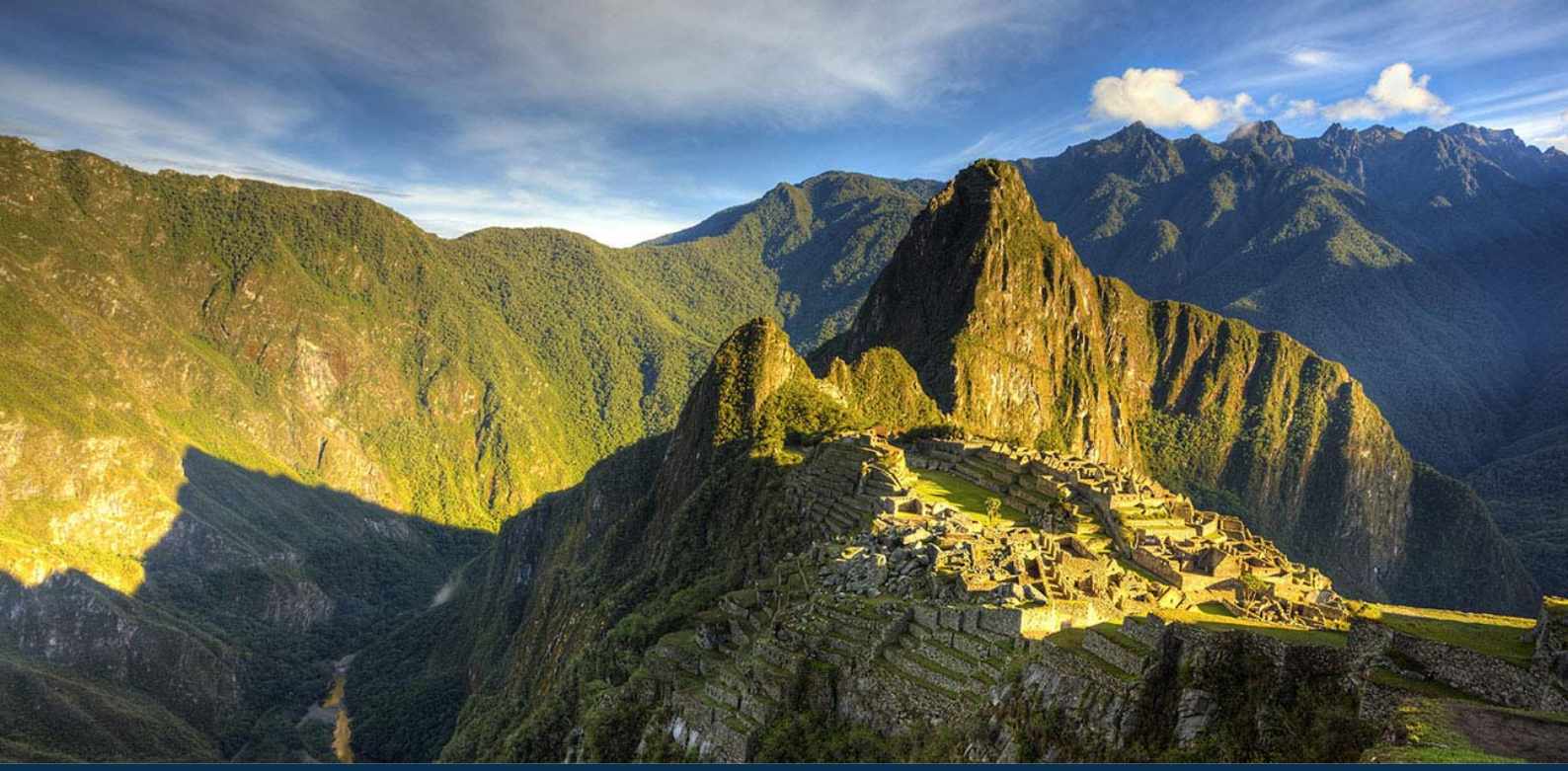


Earthbound Expeditions

Lima, Cusco and Puno, Lima Tour

8 days, from US$2,847 per person

Duration	Group size	Country
8 days	**10 people**	**Peru**

Lima, Cusco and Puno, Lima Tour Overview

An 8-day tour of three Peruvian cities, Lima, Cusco and Puno, combining natural scenery and a rich culture.

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Peru, in South America, offers a great variety of experiences. Its culture, nature and food are diverse and authentic.

The Lima, Cusco and Puno tour lets you explore three of Peru's cities. Lima, the capital and largest city of Peru, has significant churches, monasteries, mansions and balconies. Its main attractions include the Historic Centre, a World Heritage Site, the Plaza Mayor (Main Square), Lima Cathedral, the Government Palace, the San Francisco Church and Convent, the Gastronomy House and more.

The tour then visits Cusco, where history is visible in the streets, squares, valleys and towns. The places you will explore here include the Sacred Valley, the archaeological site of Ollantaytambo and Machu Picchu, the most important archaeological site in Peru.

After these two cities, the tour takes you to Puno, on the Andean plateau of Peru beside sacred Lake Titicaca. Puno is known for its legends, its colourful festivals, and its natural and artificial islands. You will tour the Titicaca National Reserve to visit the Uros Floating Islands and Taquile Island.

The Lima, Cusco and Puno tour suits travellers interested in colonial monuments, archaeology, handicrafts, birdwatching, museums, beaches and Peruvian food.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Lima

On arrival 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

Lima city tour

After an early breakfast, at the scheduled time, you tour Lima, the capital of Peru. The tour begins in the historic centre, with visits to important buildings such as the Government Palace, the Cathedral of Lima, the Archbishop's Palace and the Municipal Palace. It also includes a visit to the Church and Monastery of San Francisco, the largest monumental complex of colonial art in the Americas. You will also see the stone façades and wooden balconies of the colonial houses. The tour passes Huaca Pucllana, a pre-Inca building that was most likely an important ceremonial and administrative centre of the Lima culture. It ends with a visit to 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, which overlooks the Pacific Ocean. Return to the hotel.

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

Day 3

Fly from Lima to Cusco

After an early breakfast, you transfer from the hotel to the airport for the flight to Cusco. On arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel. At the scheduled time, a guided city tour visits the Cathedral, important for its architecture and its collection of paintings from the "Escuela Cusqueña" (Cusco School); the Temple of the Sun, or "Koricancha", which was used as the foundation of the Santo Domingo Monastery

and is a classic example of the fusion of Inca and Western cultures; and the archaeological sites of Sacsayhuaman, Q'enqo, Pucapucara and Tambomachay. Return to the hotel.

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

Day 4

Sacred Valley tour

After an early breakfast, you take a scheduled tour of the Sacred Valley, formed by the Vilcanota or Urubamba River. The tour begins at Pisaq Market, where artisans sell a wide variety of handicrafts. After lunch, the tour continues to the archaeological site of Ollantaytambo, where local people still live in the original buildings of the Inca town. You then transfer to your hotel in the Sacred Valley. Lunch is included.

Altitude: 2,870 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Sacred Valley Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5

Sacred Valley to Machu Picchu and Cusco

After an early breakfast, you set out on a full-day excursion to Machu Picchu, the most important archaeological site in Peru. The citadel lies 113 km (70 miles) north-west of Cusco. The day starts with an early transfer to Ollanta station for the morning train to Aguas Calientes, a journey of about three and a half hours. A 20-minute bus ride then takes you up to the archaeological site for a guided tour. Rediscovered by Hiram Bingham in 1911, Machu Picchu is considered a masterpiece of architecture and a unique record of the Inca civilisation. Lunch is provided. At the scheduled time, you return to Cusco and transfer to the hotel.

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

Day 6

Bus from Cusco to Puno

At the scheduled time, you travel to Puno by regular bus. On the way there are several stops to visit the Andahuaylillas Chapel and archaeological sites including the Temple of Raqchi, La Raya and Pukara. A buffet lunch is provided in the village of Sicuani. On arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel for the night.

Altitude: 3,830 m On foot: None, 9–10 hr drive Night: Hotel, Puno Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7

Uros Islands and Taquile Island

After breakfast, you tour the Titicaca National Reserve to visit the Uros "floating islands". These are a group of more than 40 islands made of layers of "Totora" reeds. The Uros people have intermarried with the Aymara and no pure Uros remain, but the islanders still live as their ancestors did and keep some Uro traditions. They fish, hunt birds and graze cattle on the islets. After about 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. This is reflected in the island's 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. 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 8

Fly from Puno (Juliaca) to Lima

After breakfast, you transfer from the hotel to the airport in Juliaca for the flight to Lima. On arrival in Lima, you are met and transferred to your hotel.

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

What's included

- LIMA
- 4 transfers in and out, city tour
- 2 hotel nights with breakfast
- CUSCO
- 2 transfers in and out, city tour and ruins
- Tour to Machu Picchu with lunch
- 3 hotel nights with breakfast
- Tourist bus ticket to Puno, with lunch and entrance fees
- SACRED VALLEY
- Tour of the Sacred Valley: Pisaq Market and Ollantaytambo ruins, with lunch
- 1 hotel night with breakfast
- Transfer from the hotel to Ollantaytambo train station
- PUNO
- 2 transfers in and out
- Tour to the Uros Islands and Taquile Island, with lunch
- 2 hotel nights with breakfast

Not included

- LAN Peru domestic flights
- Any other costs not listed, such as international flights, some meals and tips

Photos, videos and reviews of this trip: earthbound.rajansimkhada.com/lima-cusco-and-puno-lima-tour