



## SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

# Peru: Lima, Machu Picchu, Cusco, Sacred Valley & Rainbow Mountain 2022

8 days from \$15,058 per person

Limited to 5 guests

Join us on a thrilling photographic expedition to Machu Picchu, Cusco, the Sacred Valley and Seven Colors Mountains. The city of Cusco, at 11,200 feet/3,400 meters above sea level, is located in a fertile alluvial valley fed by several rivers in the heart of the Central Peruvian Andes of South America. We will explore the ancient Incan ruins of Machu Picchu, about 50 miles/80 kilometers northwest of Cusco, in the Cordillera de Vilcabamba of the Andes Mountains.

The Sacred Valley of the Incas envelops a fertile agricultural and cultural landscape, punctuated by small villages of Quechua speaking communities and dotted with the surviving remains of great Inca family estates. We will visit the Rainbow Mountain, famed for its natural, multi-colored beauty at a staggering 5,200m above sea level. This rainbow-like appearance is created by the sediment of minerals throughout the area giving the mountain its multitude of colors such as turquoise, lavender, gold and other colors.

## Included

- Flight inside Peru
- All hotel accommodations
- Meals (excluding some dinners)
- Access to locations
- Transportation throughout tour
- Vehicle for the expeditions
- Photographic instruction throughout tour
- Photography classes
- Alcoholic beverages for lunch
- All applicable taxes

## Excluded

- Airfare to/from Peru
- Personal items (laundry, souvenirs, etc.)
- Gratuities for lead photographer and guide
- Skylodge Hotel
- Belmond Hiram Bingham Train
- Lunch Mil Centro restaurant Sacred Valley

# Itinerary

## DAY 1: ARRIVE LIMA, PERU

Arrive in Lima and transfer to hotel, located in the city's exclusive Miraflores residential district.

Miraflores Park, A Belmond Hotel, Lima.

## DAY 2: LIMA, CUSCO

Commercial flight to Cusco (1 hour, 25 minutes).

Arrive in Cusco we will go to the Belmond Monasterio Hotel, near Plaza de Armas is an ancient monastery that has been at the heart of the city for centuries. The Hotel interiors are rich with art and antiques. Monasterio is a true jewel in the treasure trove of Cusco.

We will go to the traditional neighborhood San Blas, is famous for concentrating craft shops as well as workshops of the most famous artisans in Cusco. It is also called the 'Balcony of Cusco', because it is located on the Plaza de Armas of the city. Its streets are narrow and cobbled. Its colonial houses house many of the best art shops and workshops. It has restaurants with typical regional and foreign food.

We can take images from the architecture of Cusco, different view from the city;

Also, we will see the craft market and the Inca ancient temple dedicated to the god of lightning built in 1563.

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco. Meals: Breakfast, lunch.

Photography: Landscape photography from Cusco, architecture, culture.



## DAY 3: CUSCO, MACHU PICCHU

Train to Machu Picchu. (3 hour, 20 minutes).

Arrive at Machu Picchu and transfer to the Sanctuary lodge.

Lunch at Sanctuary Lodge.

We will go to Machu Picchu lost city, located at 2,430 meters high in a place of great beauty, in the middle of a tropical mountain forest, the sanctuary of Machu Picchu was probably the most amazing architectural achievement of the Inca Empire. Its walls, terraces and gigantic ramps give the impression of having been carved into the escarpments of the rock, as if they were part of it. The natural setting, located on the eastern slope of the Andes, is part of the upper Amazon basin, which has a very varied flora and fauna.

We will take images from the viewpoint La Guardia from the sunset in Machu Picchu.

Sanctuary Lodge, A Belmond Hotel. Machu Picchu. Meals: Breakfast, lunch.

Photography: Landscape from Machu Picchu and surrounding areas. Sunset photography from

Viewpoint La Guardia.

## DAY 4: MACHU PICCHU, HUAYNAPICCHU

We will take images from Machu Picchu at sunrise in a viewpoint and then we will explore the citadel.

Lunch at Sanctuary Lodge

We will climb Huayna Picchu (aka Wayna Picchu or Wayna Pikchu), a large mountain directly behind Machu Picchu, seen in all its glory in the picture above. The total ascent is just over 1,000 feet/300 meters, with the summit providing breathtaking views of the city and valley below (1 hours, 15 minutes).

Sanctuary Lodge, A Belmond Hotel, Machu Picchu. Meals: Breakfast, lunch.

Photography: Landscape photography Machu Picchu surroundings, valley and vegetation.

## DAY 5: MACHU PICCHU

We will take images from Machu Picchu at sunrise in a viewpoint and then we will explore the citadel.

Lunch at Sanctuary Lodge

We will go to Huchuy Picchu. The Huchuy Picchu mountain is one of the three summits that surround Machu Picchu. This mountain is located next to the famous Huayna Picchu, on the north side of the archaeological site. The walk to the top of Huchuy Picchu is only about 1 hour. The top is located 2,497 meters above sea level. During the trail we will walk stone paths built by the Incas. From the top we can get one of the best landscape photos of the Inca citadel at sunset.

Sanctuary Lodge, A Belmond Hotel, Machu Picchu. Meals: Breakfast, lunch.  
Photography: Landscape photography from Machu Picchu and Huchuy Picchu.



## DAY 6: SACRED VALLEY, CUSCO

We will take the train to Ollantaytambo (2 hours) and explore the Ollantaytambo ruins, 25 miles/40 kilometers from Machu Picchu, a fortress that was rebuilt in 1440 by the Inca Pachacútec. The magnificent citadel is built from huge, precisely cut stone blocks that were transported without wheels! from a quarry four miles/six kilometers away (10 minutes).

Lunch: Mawic, Sacred Valley.

We will go to Maras, well known for its salt evaporation ponds, which have been in use since the time of the Inca. Next are the Salineras de Maras (salt mines of Maras), about 2.5 miles/4 kilometers north of Maras, which date to pre-Incan times. The salt-evaporation ponds are stepped terraces that descend a canyon to the Rio Vilcanota and the Sacred Valley of the Incas (35 minutes).

If we have time we will go to Huaypo Lagoon, it is surrounded by the mountain ranges of Salkantay, Chicón and Verónica; In the surroundings live indigenous communities that maintain their native customs. We will see an Andean flora and fauna.

Return to Cusco (1 hour, 30 minutes).

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco. Meals: Breakfast, lunch.

Photography: Landscape photography from the sacred valley, the ruins, the salt mines and the terraces; flora and fauna.

## DAY 7: CUSCO. VINICUNCA

We will go to the heliport from Andes Helicopter. Flight to Vinicunca, also called Montaña de Siete Colores, "Mountain of Seven Colors" (30 minutes). The Rainbow Mountain is at 5,036 meters above sea level. We will take panoramic views from the air at sunrise, we will fly from the surroundings for an hour. We'll be able to see the Ausangate Mountain, Peru's fifth highest mountain. We will fly over the Red Valley. Once again, admire the views of the Red Valley located at 5,038 meters above sea level. After an hour, we'll return to Cusco. Then, head back to Cusco where we'll be dropped off at the Heliport and go to the hotel.

Lunch at Tunupa restaurant.

We visit the Sacsayhuaman fortress and temple complex at the northern edge of the former Inca capital Cuzco. Constructed during the reign of Pachacuti (1438-1471 CE) and his successors, its massive, well-built walls remain today as a testimony not only to Inca power but also the skills of Inca architects and their approach of blending their monumental structures harmoniously into the natural landscape (2 hours).

Next we visit three other archaeological sites: Qenqo, Puca Pucara, and Tambomachay. In the impressive Inca Temple of the Sun, in the heart of Cusco, sits Coricancha, the Inca Empire's most important temple. Coricancha (also spelled Koricancha or Qorikancha) means "Golden Temple" in Quechua (1 hour, 30 minutes).

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco. Meals: Breakfast.

Photography: Aerial photography from red valley and the mountains seven colors surroundings, geology from the mountains. Landscape photography from Cusco surroundings; culture photography Pre Inca ruins and archaeological sites.

## DAY 8: CUSCO. LIMA

Return to Lima for your flight (1 hour, 25 minutes) home.



## Equipment

### Clothing

- Windbreaker
- Waterproof jacket
- Hiking shoes
- Hiking socks
- Hiking pants
- Thick fleece or down jacket
- Gloves
- Winter hat
- Sunscreen, lip balm, and sunglasses
- Backpack
- Water Bottle

### Photographic equipment

- A good camera with full manual controls, such as Sony A7iii equivalent or better. A selection of lenses is recommended, including a wide angle zoom (14-24 or similar) standard zoom (24-105 or similar), and a prime lens (50mm or similar) if desired.
- Memory cards
- Spare batteries for your camera
- Tripod
- Shutter release cable
- Laptop with photo editing software installed (optional)
- Binoculars
- Flashlight
- External storage for backing up your data, recommended 'Sandisk Extreme Pro Portable V2'
- Batteries