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PALACE TOURS

Explore Peru: Empire of the Sun

8 Nights • Luxury Experience

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ABOUT THIS TOUR

Overview

Come face to face with the Sun centric religion of the Incas and the many monuments dedicated to the Sun God (Inti). Here as your journey from Lima to the capital of the Incas, Cusco, you will see remnants of the Temple of the Sun and the Sacsayhuaman fortress. As you travel along the paths taken by the Incas to Ollantaytambo in the Sacred Valley you will discover many of the beliefs and rites that were held sacred by them. Also you get to travel on two trains the Andean Explorer and the Vistadome, bask in their luxurious surroundings and taste great food and wine.

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

LIMA

- Arrival in Lima, reception and transfer to the selected hotel.
- Accommodation at the hotel and overnight.

DAY 2

CUSCO / LIMA

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning flight Lima/Cusco.
- Reception and transfer to the selected hotel.
- Afternoon City tour of Cusco including the Cathedral and the Koricancha Temple, them visit to the nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman, Tambomachay, Qenko and PucaPucara.

DAY 3

CUSCO / OLLANTAYTAMBO / PÍSAC / SACRED VALLEY

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning departure for a full day tour to the Sacred Valley of Urubamba, visiting Pisac market and the archaeological site of Ollantaytambo.
- Lunch at the Hacienda Huayoccari.
- Accommodation at the selected hotel at the Sacred Valley.

DAY 4

CUSCO / MACHU PICCHU / OLLANTAYTAMBO / SACRED VALLEY

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Transfer to the Ollanta train station where we will board the **Vistadome train or the 360° Machu Picchu Train** for an exiting 1 ½ hours journey to Machu Picchu.
- Upon arrival, meeting service at the train station and transfer by shuttle bus up (25 minutes) to the citadel of Machu Picchu located on the top of the mountain.
- Guided visit of the Citadel.
- Lunch at the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge hotel.
- Afternoon Vistadome train back to Cusco.
- Upon arrival, meeting service at the train station and transfer to the selected hotel.
- Overnight at the selected hotel.

DAY 5

CUSCO / MACHU PICCHU / OLLANTAYTAMBO / SACRED VALLEY

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Day at leisure in Cusco.
- Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 6

CUSCO / PUNO

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Transfer on time to the train station.
- 07:30 hrs. Board the Titicaca Train to Puno (operates WED – FRI – SUN).
- Lunch on board.
- 19:00 hrs. Arrival in Puno and transfer to the hotel.

DAY 7

CUSCO / PUNO / TAQUILE

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Full day visit to Uros & Taquile Islands on standard boat.
- Lunch included in Taquile.

DAY 8

JULIACA / LIMA / PUNO

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Transfer to the airport in Juliaca. En route visit the Burial tombs of Sillustani.
- Flight Juliaca/Lima.
- Arrival in Lima and transfer to the hotel.

DAY 9

LIMA

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning tour of Lima and visit to the Museum and site of Huaca Pucllana
- Transfer on time to the Airport for your international departure flight.

Tips & Travel Guide

What is the weather like?

Peru's climate can be divided into two seasons - wet and dry - though this can vary depending on the region. Temperature is mostly influenced by elevation: the higher you climb, the cooler it becomes.

Coastal areas - Lima, Ica, Nasca, Arequipa:

The coastal region of Peru is cool for its latitude and quite dry year-round. Temperatures are warmest during the summer months (December to March), with hot and humid days of around 29°C (84°F) and cool nights of just below 20°C (68°F). Winters (from April to November) are not too cold but extremely humid.

Highlands (Andes) - Cusco, Puno:

The highlands have a rainy season (November to April) and a dry season (May to October), when the days are clear and sunny but very cold at night especially at altitude. Dry season is therefore ideal for trekking and for mountaineering. Daytime temperatures will generally be between 16°C-21°C (60°F and 70°F), although in the intense sunlight of midday it can feel warmer. Night time temperatures can fall as low as -7°C (20°F).

What clothing and other items are recommended to bring?

Please dress comfortably according to the local weather conditions. We recommend bringing sweatshirts, fleece jacket, raincoat, trousers, cargo shorts, t-shirts, hat, hiking shoes, sandals, swimsuit, toiletries, first-aid kit, insect repellent, aspirin, sun block and sunglasses.

What health precautions should I take before visiting Peru?

You should visit your personal physician for a check-up prior to taking your trip to Peru. The following are the recommended vaccinations for Peru: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, typhus, hepatitis A/B, rabies. P A yellow-fever vaccine is strongly recommended for trips to the Amazon (Puerto Maldonado or Iquitos). The vaccine is required for all travelers arriving from a yellow-fever-infected country in Africa or Latin America. The yellow-fever certificate is valid 10 days after vaccination and for a subsequent period of 10 years. Malaria is prevalent in northern parts of Peru and in Iquitos (Amazon). The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) recommends taking anti-malarial drugs. Please refer to your doctor for the most up to date information about anti-malarial medication.

What precautions against mosquitoes do I need to take?

You will find mosquitoes and other stinging insects especially in the rainforest. A good protection not only prevents from itching but also from transmission of diseases such as Malaria or yellow fever. Wear light-colored clothing, long trousers and long-sleeved shirts; use mosquito repellents containing the compound DEET on exposed areas; avoid perfumes and aftershave. Use a mosquito net impregnated with mosquito repellent (permethrin). In case you have a very sensitive skin you could use an anti-allergic cream, for example 'After bite' or 'Bite away' that reduces the itchiness. Double-check that your lodge provides a mosquito net in your room.

Is the water safe to drink?

The standards for health and hygiene in the larger cities and tourist regions are relatively high. Nevertheless, travelers should drink only bottled water, which is widely available. Do not drink tap water, even in major hotels, and try to avoid drinks with ice. If you're trekking in the mountains or visiting remote rural areas where bottled water is not available, boil water to purify it or use water-purification tablets. You are safer eating fruits that you can peel or salads and fruits washed with purified water, as well as foods that have been thoroughly cooked. Your best bet is to avoid food from street vendors.

What should I expect regarding altitude sickness?

For a healthy person traveling to the Andes, there is just a minimal risk of suffering from altitude sickness. You should take enough time to acclimatize after arrival, especially in Andean cities like Cusco 3,360m (11,023ft) or Puno 3,827m (12,556ft). We recommend avoiding physical efforts during the first few hours as well as alcohol. Try to eat light food and drink a lot of water. The local coca tea is recommended in case of altitude sickness. People with cardiovascular disease should not stay in an altitude over 2,000m. Altitude sickness can be counteracted by inhaling pure oxygen, and oxygen bottles can be purchased locally.

What is the official currency?

Peru's official currency is the Nuevo Sol, divided into 100 centavos. The US dollar is the second currency and many hotels, plenty of shops, restaurants, and bars across Peru accept US dollars for payment. Partly, the Euro is also accepted. Banks are no longer the place of choice in Peru for exchanging money: Lines are too long and rates are often lower than at 'casas de cambio' (exchange houses) or by using credit or debit card ATMs or 'cambistas' (money-changers), which are legal in Peru. Money-changers, often wearing colored jackets with "$" insignias and photo checks, can be found on the street. They offer current rates of exchange, but count your money carefully and make sure you have not received any counterfeit bills. We recommend bringing USD cash for the first few days.

How common are ATMs? Can I exchange traveler's checks?

Peru is still very much a cash society. In small towns, it could be impossible to cash traveler's checks or use credit cards. Automatic teller machines (ATMs) are the best way of getting cash in Peru; they are found in most towns and cities. ATMs with the Maestro sign allow customers to withdraw money with a credit or debit card. Visa and MasterCard ATM cards are the most widely accepted. American Express and Diners Club are less common. You can easily pay with credit card in most of the stores in tourist cities. Note that many banks assess a 1% to 3% 'transaction fee' on all charges you incur abroad. Traveler's checks can be changed in the largest banks. Generally speaking you'll pay a service charge ranging from 1% to 4%. Most stores don't accept traveler's checks.

Will there be internet access or phone accessibility?

It is relatively simple to make local and long-distance domestic and international calls from pay phones, which accept coins and phone cards 'tarjetas telefónicas'. Many of these cards can be purchased at newspaper kiosks and street vendors. Most phone booths display country and city codes and contain instructions in English and Spanish. Peru's country code is +51. Roaming agreements exist with some international mobile phone companies. Mobile phones can be rented in Lima and the main cities. Internet access in Peru is very cheap. The rates vary between USD 0.50 and USD 1.00 per hour. Also, you will be able to find Internet Cafes, where most of the times you will be able to access for free via wireless Internet.

What are the guidelines for tipping?

A tip in Peru, like in most of the countries in South America, is given to reward good service. Porters in hotels and airports expect USD 1.00 for 2 luggage pieces. A 5-10% tip is sufficient in most restaurants unless the service has been exceptional. There is no need to tip taxi drivers. Fares are negotiated before departure. It is customary to offer your tour guides and driver a token of appreciation at the tour's end, if you feel pleased with their service.

What should I know about taxis?

There are numerous taxi providers in Lima and other cities who offer reservations by telephone or hotel. These taxis are safer and drivers may understand some English. Street taxis are cheaper but not that safe. In any case, due to the fact there are no taximeters you should negotiate the price in advance.

Is bargaining common while shopping?

At stores and in open markets, bargaining (gentle, good-natured haggling over prices) is accepted and even expected. However, be careful of getting the haggling fever and trying to bargain beyond reason. Consider how important the one or two extra dollars are to you compared to how important they might be to the vendor. Bargaining is not common in restaurants.

What electric outlets are there?

All outlets are 220 volts, 60 cycles (except in Arequipa, which operates on 50 cycles) with two-prong outlets that accept both flat and round prongs. Some large hotels also have 110-volt outlets.

How much are airport taxes?

If the airport tax is not included you have to settle it after checking in at the airport. The amount depends on the place and kind of flight. It's approximately USD 6.05 for domestic flights. You will be charged USD 30.25 for an international flight.

What safety issues do I need to be aware of?

Peru recognizes that tourism plays an important part in its developing economy and has taken great steps in the last few years to change its security record. The possibility of having a bad experience can be greatly reduced by taking a few simple precautions: - Copy all important documents (passport, air tickets) and carry only copies with you - Leave your valuables and important documents such as passport, international flight tickets, jewelry at the hotel, if possible in the safe. In case there is only one safe in the reception, obtain a receipt with each item listed. If necessary, carry important documents and cash in a belt under your clothes and do not leave items unattended. Be especially cautious in crowded places, especially at tourist hotspots such as Lima and Cusco; rural areas are widely safe. Remember that you are subject to the laws of Peru, and it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these laws before leaving. Drug trafficking is a serious crime, and the export of cultural or artistic items from the country is not permitted. Avoid walking alone in quiet areas or at night, travel in a group if possible and tell somebody where you go if you are alone. In case you get into trouble with authorities insist on seeing their identification. Check your change and check the banknotes and coins.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

<B style="mso-bidi-font-weight: normal"><SPAN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial"> <P class=MsoNormal style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><B style="mso-bidi-font-weight: normal"><SPAN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial">PAYMENT TERMS:<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" /><o:p></o:p> </SPAN></B></P> <P class=MsoNormal style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><B style="mso-bidi-font-weight: normal"><SPAN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial">10% of total tour cost due at the time of booking<o:p></o:p></SPAN></B> </P> <P class=MsoNormal style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><B style="mso-bidi-font-weight: normal"><SPAN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial">90% or balance no later than 65 days prior to tour departure date<o:p></o:p></SPAN> </B></P> <P class=MsoNormal style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><B style="mso-bidi-font-weight: normal"><SPAN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial"><o:p> </o:p></SPAN></B></P> <P class=MsoNormal style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><B style="mso-bidi-font-weight: normal"><SPAN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial">CANCELLATION FEES*:<o:p></o:p></SPAN></B></P> <P class=MsoNormal style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><B> <SPAN lang=EN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial; mso-ansi-language: EN">(i) 10% of the total tour value if cancelled more than 36 days prior to date of first service sold by TRAVBUZZ / PALACE <?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarttags" /><st1:City w:st="on">TOURS</st1:City>
(ii) 60% of the total tour value if cancelled 20-35 days prior to date of first service sold by TRAVBUZZ / PALACE <st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on">TOURS</st1:place></st1:City></SPAN></B></P> <P class=MsoNormal style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><B> <SPAN lang=EN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial; mso-ansi-language: EN"><st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on">(iii) 80% of the total tour value if cancelled 13-19 days prior to date of first service sold by TRAVBUZZ / PALACE <st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on">TOURS</st1:place></st1:City></st1:place></st1:City></SPAN></B> </P><B><SPAN lang=EN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial; mso-ansi-language: EN"><st1:City w:st="on"> <st1:place w:st="on"><st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on"> <P class=MsoNormal style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><B> <SPAN lang=EN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial; mso-ansi-language: EN"><st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on">(iv) 100% of the total tour value if cancelled 0-12 days prior to date of first service sold by TRAVBUZZ / PALACE <st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on">TOURS</st1:place></st1:City></st1:place></st1:City></SPAN></B> </P> <P class=MsoNormal style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><B><SPAN lang=EN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial; mso-ansi-language: EN"><st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on"><st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on"> </st1:place></st1:City></st1:place></st1:City></SPAN></B> </P><B><SPAN lang=EN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial; mso-ansi-language: EN"><st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on"><st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on"> <P class=MsoNormal style="MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt"><B><SPAN lang=EN style="FONT-SIZE: 7.5pt; FONT-FAMILY: Arial; mso-ansi-language: EN"><st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on"><st1:City w:st="on"><st1:place w:st="on">*Please note: Cancellation FEES listed do not reflect the additional FEES of the hotels. These will be advised on a case-by-case basis as the FEES vary depending on the hotels utilized and the dates booked.</st1:place></st1:City> </st1:place></st1:City><o:p></o:p></SPAN></B></P></st1:place></st1:City></st1:place></st1:City><o:p></o:p> </SPAN></B></st1:place></st1:City></st1:place></st1:City><o:p></o:p></SPAN></B></SPAN></B><B><SPAN lang=EN

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COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the Explore Peru: Empire of the Sun tour?

> Explore Peru: Empire of the Sun lasts 9 days and 8 nights. It starts with your arrival in Lima and ends on day 9 with a morning tour of Lima before your transfer to the airport for your international flight.

What is the route of the Empire of the Sun tour?

> The route runs Lima, a flight to Cusco, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, a free day in Cusco, a train journey to Puno on Lake Titicaca, the Uros and Taquile islands, the Sillustani burial towers en route to Juliaca, a flight back to Lima and a final Lima tour. It follows the Inca heritage of the sun-worshipping empire.

What do we see in Cusco on the Empire of the Sun tour?

> On day 2 you fly from Lima to Cusco and, in the afternoon, tour the city including the Cathedral and the Koricancha, the Inca Temple of the Sun. The tour continues to the nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman, Tambomachay, Qenko and Puca Pucara.

What is included on the Sacred Valley day?

> Day 3 is a full-day tour of the Sacred Valley of the Urubamba, visiting the Pisac market and the archaeological site of Ollantaytambo, with lunch at a hacienda in the valley. You spend the night at a hotel in the Sacred Valley, which places you close to the train station for Machu Picchu.

How do we travel to Machu Picchu on this tour?

> On day 4 you transfer to Ollantaytambo station and board the Vistadome or 360 Machu Picchu train for a journey of about an hour and a half. A shuttle bus takes about 25 minutes up to the citadel for a guided visit, followed by lunch near the site and an afternoon Vistadome train back to Cusco.

What is the train journey from Cusco to Puno like?

> On day 6 you board the Titicaca Train at 07:30 for a full-day journey across the Andean highlands, with lunch served on board, arriving in Puno at about 19:00. This train operates on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, so the tour dates are planned around it.

What do we see on Lake Titicaca?

> Day 7 is a full-day boat visit to the Uros floating islands and Taquile Island, with lunch included on Taquile. The Uros islanders live on reed islands much as their ancestors did, and Taquile is known for its traditional community life.

What are the burial towers of Sillustani?

> Sillustani is an ancient burial site near Puno, visited on day 8 on the way to Juliaca airport. After the visit you fly from

What is Huaca Pucllana?

> Huaca Pucllana is an ancient archaeological site with a museum in the heart of Lima. You visit it on day 9 as part of the morning tour of Lima, before your transfer to the airport for your international departure.

What is the difference between the Gold, Silver and Diamond classes?

> All classes share the same sightseeing and services, but the hotels differ. Gold class uses deluxe rooms, including an ocean-view room in Lima and deluxe or superior rooms in the Sacred Valley, Cusco and Puno. Silver class uses comfortable standard or superior rooms. A specialist will confirm the hotels for your chosen class.

What is included in the Explore Peru: Empire of the Sun price?

> The price includes 8 nights' hotel accommodation, 8 breakfasts and 4 lunches, private transfers and services, an experienced English-speaking guide in each city, and entrance fees to all the sites mentioned in the programme.

Are flights included in the Empire of the Sun tour?

> No. The flights from Lima to Cusco and from Juliaca to Lima are quoted separately, based on the fares available when you book, so booking early usually secures a better fare. International flights to and from Lima are also not included.

What is not included in the tour price?

> Air tickets, meals and services not specified, expenses due to mishaps, tips for restaurants, hotels, drivers and guides, and laundry or other personal expenses are not included. Lunches beyond the four listed and all dinners are at your own expense.

Is Explore Peru: Empire of the Sun a private tour?

> Yes, the tour uses private transfers and services with an English-speaking guide in each city, so you travel at your own pace rather than with a large group. The trains and the Lake Titicaca boat are shared with other passengers.

Is altitude a concern on this Peru tour?

> Yes. Cusco, the Sacred Valley and especially Puno and Lake Titicaca are at high altitude, and the higher you climb the cooler it becomes. The free day in Cusco on day 5 helps you adjust. If you have heart or breathing conditions, consult your doctor before booking.

What is the best time of year for the Empire of the Sun tour?

> In the Andes around Cusco and Puno, the dry season from May to October brings clear, sunny days and very cold nights, while November to April is the rainy season. Standard prices do not apply on special dates such as Holy Week, Inti Raymi in late June, the national holidays at the end of July, and Christmas and New Year.

How much is the deposit and when is the balance due?

> A 10% deposit secures your booking of Explore Peru: Empire of the Sun. The balance is due 50 days before departure, so bookings made within 50 days of travel are normally paid in full at the time of booking.

Can children join the Explore Peru: Empire of the Sun tour?

> Yes. Child pricing uses two bands based on age on the day of departure: under 5, and from 5 to under 12, and from age 12 the adult rate applies. Because much of the trip is at altitude, please discuss younger children with a specialist first.

When does the Empire of the Sun tour depart and what does it cost?

> No fixed departure dates are currently listed on this page, so the tour is quoted on request, timed around the Titicaca Train's Wednesday, Friday and Sunday service. Prices are per person sharing in USD and depend on your class. Single occupancy is available on request.

How do I ask a question or book Explore Peru: Empire of the Sun?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/17864080610, answered by a travel specialist or our AI assistant. Any departure listed on this page can be booked directly online, and if none suits you, the team will quote your preferred dates.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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