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Andean Explorer: Peruvian Highlands

6 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

As you journey through the vibrant landscapes of Peru on the Andean Explorer, you transform into a traveler who sees beauty not just with the eyes, but with the heart. The gentle rhythm of the luxury train carries you to a place where the soul finds stillness amidst the grandeur of the Peruvian Highlands. Each moment aboard rejuvenates your spirit, inviting you to rediscover the world with a newfound appreciation for its wonders. The memories you create are not just stories to tell but chapters of your own personal growth.

Your journey begins in the bustling heart of Lima, where the city's vibrant spirit infuses you with anticipation. As you ascend to the ancient city of Cusco, the whispers of the Inca Empire awaken a sense of reverence within you. Standing before the majestic ruins of Machu Picchu, you feel a profound connection to the past, while the serene waters of Lake Titicaca offer a moment of reflection and peace. Each destination, from the tranquil beauty of Puno to the rich history of Arequipa, leaves an indelible mark on your soul, culminating in a journey of transformation that forever alters how you see the world.

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

LIMA

As you step into the vibrant heart of Lima, a wave of excitement washes over you, igniting a sense of wonder that stirs your soul. The rich aromas of local cuisine envelop you, and each moment feels like an invitation to savor life anew, reconnecting you with the vibrant pulse of culture that surrounds you.

In the serene embrace of the Hilton Miraflores Hotel, you find a sanctuary of peace, a place where the day's adventures linger in your heart. You reflect on the day’s experiences, feeling a profound sense of belonging and connection to this beautiful city, knowing these memories will forever inspire your journey ahead.

DAY 2

LIMA

You awaken in Lima, the air filled with a sense of possibility. As you stroll through the vibrant streets, the delightful blend of modernity and colonial charm envelops you, sparking a profound connection to the rich history surrounding you. Each step reveals stories of resilience and artistry, awakening a joy that resonates deep within your soul.

In the hushed elegance of Casa Aliaga, you find peace, a sanctuary amid the bustling city. The beauty of your surroundings and the warmth of local culture inspire a newfound appreciation for life's intricate details, leaving you with cherished memories that will forever illuminate your journey ahead.

DAY 3

CUSCO / LIMA

You awaken in the heart of Cusco, where the air is rich with history and the spirit of the Andes envelops you. Each moment spent here ignites a sense of wonder, as you connect deeply with the vibrant culture and the soulful stories etched into every stone. You feel a gentle awakening within, as the beauty of this ancient land stirs something profound in your heart.As you transition to Lima, the warmth of your experiences lingers, filling you with peace and joy.

You carry the vibrant colors and sounds of Cusco with you, shaping your memories into treasures that will inspire your future.

DAY 4

CUSCO / MACHU PICCHU

You awaken in Cusco, filled with anticipation as you set forth on a journey that transcends mere travel.

The breathtaking landscapes of the Peruvian Highlands unfold before you, each moment igniting a deep sense of wonder and connection to the ancient world. As you ascend to Machu Picchu, the serenity envelops you, whispering secrets of the past and igniting a profound appreciation for the beauty of life.In the shadow of this magnificent citadel, you find peace within yourself, embracing the joy of discovery and the richness of your surroundings.

DAY 5

CUSCO / PUNO

As you journey from Cusco to Puno aboard the Andean Explorer, a sense of wonder envelops you, igniting a profound connection to the majestic Peruvian Highlands. The rich tapestry of Raqchi's archaeological treasures unfolds before you, each stone whispering secrets of a bygone era, as joy blossoms within you, transforming your perspective on history and culture.

With each passing vista, from the breathtaking sunset at La Raya to the elegant ambiance of dinner under a canopy of stars, you carry with you the warmth of shared laughter and the serenity of the highlands, etching these moments into your heart as timeless memories of discovery and inner peace.

DAY 6

AREQUIPA / PUNO / TAQUILE

As the sun rises over the tranquil waters of Lake Titicaca, you feel a profound sense of peace wash over you.

The soft lapping of the waves against the boat mirrors the gentle rhythm of your heart, awakening a connection to the ancient cultures that have thrived here. With each moment spent on the serene islands of Uros and Taquile, you discover not just the beauty of the landscape but a deeper understanding of yourself and the world around you.Surrounded by the vibrant colors of traditional dances and the laughter of locals, joy fills your spirit.

DAY 7

AREQUIPA / LIMA

You awaken in Lagunillas, the soft morning light illuminating the beauty around you, and feel a profound sense of wonder as you embrace the vibrant spirit of the Peruvian Highlands. Each moment spent among the Sumbay caves deepens your connection to the earth, awakening a sense of peace and joy that resonates within your soul.

As you journey onward to Arequipa, the memories of breathtaking landscapes and newfound friendships fill your heart with gratitude. The laughter shared over lunch on board creates bonds that transcend time, and you leave with a treasure trove of cherished moments, knowing this experience will forever enrich your life's tapestry.

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

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 Cusco3,360m (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

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

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.

How many guests can the Belmond Andean Explorer accommodate?

A maximum of 68 passengers in 34 cabins.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

Booking Conditions

Deposit: 15% of the total fare confirms your booking. **Balance:** due 56 days before departure; bookings made within 56 days of departure are payable in full at booking.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be made in writing and take effect when acknowledged. Charges apply as a percentage of the total fare for the person(s) cancelling:

- 56 days or more before departure: 15%
- 55–21 days before departure: 30%
- 20–3 days before departure: 70%
- 2 days or less before departure, or no-show: 100%

Date changes follow the same charge schedule as cancellations. A booking may be transferred to another guest up to 14 days before departure (an amendment fee plus any supplier costs apply); name changes require at least 7 days' written notice. No refunds are made for unused services or no-shows.

Important

Comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation is strongly recommended. Schedule per Belmond's Trains & Cruises booking conditions (world excluding EEA/UK, last updated 11 February 2026). Palace Tours' terms and conditions also apply.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the Andean Explorer: Peruvian Highlands tour?

> The tour lasts 7 days and 6 nights, starting and ending in Lima. It combines two nights in Lima, time in Cusco with a day trip to Machu Picchu, and two nights aboard the Andean Explorer luxury sleeper train from Cusco via Lake Titicaca to Arequipa, before a flight back to Lima on day 7.

What is the route of the Andean Explorer: Peruvian Highlands tour?

> The route runs Lima (days 1-2), a flight to Cusco (day 3), a day trip to Machu Picchu (day 4), the Andean Explorer train from Cusco to Puno with a stop at Raqchi (day 5), a day on Lake Titicaca before the train continues to Arequipa (day 6), and the Sumbay caves and a flight from Arequipa to Lima (day 7).

What is the Andean Explorer train?

> The Andean Explorer is described as the first luxury sleeper train in South America. On board you will find cabins designed with traditional Peruvian patterns and warm alpaca tones, two Restaurant Cars serving fresh local ingredients, a Lounge Car with a baby grand piano, and an Observation Car with an open deck for watching the Andes pass by.

What cabins are there on the Andean Explorer and how many guests does it carry?

> The train has 34 cabins for a maximum of 68 guests: 2 double cabins (suites), 20 twin cabins and 12 bunk cabins, each en-suite with a shower. The suite, the largest on board, has a double bed, a sitting area for two and a total area of about 13.1 square metres. Twin cabins have two single beds on the lower level with a day and night configuration.

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

> Diamond class travels to Machu Picchu on the Hiram Bingham luxury train and sleeps in a deluxe double-bed cabin on the Andean Explorer. Gold class also uses the Hiram Bingham train, with a twin-bed cabin on the Andean Explorer. Silver class travels to Machu Picchu on the Vistadome train, with a twin-bed cabin on the Andean Explorer.

How do we get to Machu Picchu on the Andean Explorer tour?

> On day 4 you transfer to Poroy station near Cusco and take a first-class train through the valley to Machu Picchu, a journey of about three and a half hours; the train depends on your class. A shuttle bus climbs about 25 minutes to the citadel for a guided visit, followed by lunch and an afternoon train back to Cusco.

What happens on the first day aboard the Andean Explorer?

> On day 5 you board the train in Cusco around 11:00 for the Peruvian Highlands programme. The day includes a visit to the Raqchi archaeological site, lunch and tea time on board, sunset at La Raya pass, and dinner on board before the train reaches the Lake Titicaca station at about 22:15.

What do we see on Lake Titicaca?

> Day 6 begins with sunrise over Lake Titicaca and breakfast on board. A full-day tour then visits the Uros floating islands and Taquile Island, with lunch and a show of typical dances, before tea time and the onward journey toward Arequipa with dinner on board.

What are the Sumbay caves?

> On day 7, after breakfast at Lagunillas, the train programme includes a visit to the Sumbay caves in the highlands above Arequipa, followed by lunch on board. You then arrive in Arequipa and transfer to the airport for your flight to Lima and your international connection.

Which meals are included on the Andean Explorer: Peruvian Highlands tour?

> The tour includes 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 2 dinners as specified in the itinerary, which covers the meals served aboard the Andean Explorer and lunch on the Machu Picchu day. Other meals, tips and personal expenses are not included.

What is included in the price of this Peru luxury train tour?

> The price includes 6 nights' accommodation as per the itinerary, the meals specified, private transfers and services (shared with other guests on board the Andean Explorer), an experienced English-speaking guide in each city, entrance fees to all sites in the programme, the train to Machu Picchu and the Andean Explorer from Cusco to Puno and Arequipa.

Are flights included in the Andean Explorer: Peruvian Highlands tour?

> No. Domestic and international airfare is not included. The tour uses a flight from Lima to Cusco on day 3 and from Arequipa to Lima on day 7, and these are quoted separately based on the fares available when you book, so booking early usually secures a better fare.

Does the Andean Explorer run all year?

> No. The Andean Explorer train does not run in February. In addition, standard prices do not apply on special dates such as Holy Week, Inti Raymi in late June, Peru's national holidays at the end of July, Christmas and New Year, so those dates are quoted on request.

What is the best time of year for the Andean Explorer tour?

> In the Peruvian highlands around Cusco and Puno, the dry season from May to October brings clear, sunny days but very cold nights at altitude, while November to April is the rainy season. Lima and Arequipa on the coast are fairly dry year-round. Remember that the train does not run in February.

Is altitude a concern on the Andean Explorer tour?

> Yes, much of the journey is at high altitude, including Cusco, the La Raya pass and Lake Titicaca. The higher you climb, the cooler it becomes, and some travellers feel the altitude. If you have heart or breathing conditions, consult your doctor before travelling and take the first days in Cusco at a gentle pace.

How much is the deposit and when is the balance due for this tour?

> A 15% deposit secures your booking on the Andean Explorer: Peruvian Highlands tour. The balance is due 61 days

Can children travel on the Andean Explorer tour?

> Children may travel, with child pricing in two bands based on age at departure: under 5, and from 5 to under 12, and the adult rate from age 12. Because the train has a limited number of cabins and much of the route is at altitude, please discuss younger children with a specialist first.

When can I travel on this tour and what does it cost?

> No fixed departure dates are currently listed on this page, so the tour is quoted on request. Train rates vary, so prices are reconfirmed for each enquiry, per person sharing in USD and depending on your class. Single occupancy is available on request with a supplement.

What is not included in the Andean Explorer: Peruvian Highlands price?

> Not included are travel insurance, domestic and international airfare, meals and services not specified, expenses due to mishaps, tips for restaurants, hotels, drivers and guides, and laundry or other personal expenses.

How do I ask a question or book Andean Explorer: Peruvian Highlands?

> 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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