

# HARVARD

ALUMNI TRAVELS



## THE LARES ADVENTURE TREK HIKING IN PERU MAY 26–JUNE 4, 2024 DETAILED ITINERARY

Travel on a lodge-to-lodge adventure to majestic archaeological sites that lead to remote and uncrowded trails abounding in natural beauty and dotted with Andean communities. Local traditions of weaving and agrarian traditions have been firmly rooted here since Incan times.

Expert guides will tailor your experience with an offer of à la carte activities to suit your physical abilities and desires. Daily activities include natural and cultural encounters that range from easy, moderate, or challenging hiking options to cooking lessons, mountain biking, or visiting an ancient weavers' village.

At each day's sunset, settle into a lovely mountain lodge with a welcoming Jacuzzi, spacious room, comfortable bed, private bathroom, balcony, and gourmet dinner awaiting you.

The journey culminates with an ascent of the Andean Mountains by train to the enchanting site of Machu Picchu. Here, comfortably lodged in the town below, explore the serene sanctity of this "Lost City of the Incas."

On the return, visit the center of Incan universe, Cusco, and explore the bohemian quarter of San Blas with its cobblestone streets and Incan walls.

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## SCHEDULE BY DAY

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner*

### SUNDAY, MAY 26 DEPART FROM HOME CITY / LIMA

Depart the U.S on a flight to Lima, the capital of Peru. Arrival and a short walk to the hotel.

Overnight: *Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport Hotel*

### MONDAY, MAY 27 LIMA / CUSCO / SACRED VALLEY

Depart on a morning flight to Cusco.

Transfer to your hotel located in the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

On the way, stop at the Museo Sulca Textiles where Mr. Walter Sulca, invites you to explore pre-Inca and Inca fabrics explaining the significance and weaving pattern in his workshop. The collection is also enriched with

modern and colorful Andean tapestries and khipus.

Continue to Sacasayhuaman fortress located just outside Cusco. Here, massive stone blocks were fitted together so tightly, without mortar, that a knife blade cannot be inserted between them.

Next, head to the private Hacienda Sarapampa, located in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. A delicious welcome lunch will be served based on indigenous ingredients and colonial cuisine.

Upon arrival at your hotel, the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the facilities of the hotel.

Gather for an evening briefing for the Lares Trek to Machu Picchu. Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: *Lamay Lodge* (elev. 9,705 ft.), (B, L, D)

## **TUESDAY, MAY 28**

### **SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS / BEGIN LARES TREK / EXPLORE PISAQ**

Start your day with either an invigorating hike from the village of Amaru to the community of Viacha or a visit to the Awanakancha textile center followed by an exploration of the lively town and colorful artisan marketplace of PISAQ.

Midday, both cultural explorers and hikers will reunite in the village of Viacha to learn about Andean artisanal farming. Afterward, either hike or drive to the PISAQ archaeological site. Take the unique opportunity to explore this magnificent site without the crowds and with the sun setting behind the peaks.

Enjoy a traditional "Pachamanca" meal, cooked under hot stones for dinner at the Lamay Lodge.

Overnight: *Lamay Lodge* (elev. 9,705 ft.) (B, Box lunch, D)

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 29**

### **LARES REGION | INTO THE HEART OF LARES**

Take a journey to the small town of Lamay followed by a scenic drive into the mountains, along the celebrated "Inca Weaver's Trail" to visit the unique and uncrowded archeological site of Ancasmarcha.

After lunch, you can choose between visiting the traditional and ancient weavers' village of Choquecancha, or opt for hiking amidst turquoise blue lakes and towering peaks to the remote village of Huacahuasi, where we all meet to spend the night. The lodge is run as a joint venture with the local community and aims to protect the cultural heritage, traditions, and the environment of the area.

Lunch is included for those taking the cultural visit (Choquecancha) and box lunch for those taking the hike.

Overnight: *Huacahuasi Lodge* (elev. 12,585 ft.) (B, Lunch (Cultural option), Box lunch (Active), D)

## **THURSDAY, MAY 30**

### **SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS / THE ROAD TO OLLANTAYTAMBO**

Begin the day with a scenic drive to the community of Huilloc. From there, choose a morning hike from the village of Huilloc to the historic ruins of Pumamarca, or explore the village and the nearby shepherding community before regrouping for lunch and a midday exploration of the Pumamarca archaeological site.

After lunch, choose to hike from Pumamarca to Ollantaytambo or drive and spend the afternoon exploring Ollantaytambo's maze-like alleys and passageways.

Note: Afternoon hikers will meet the rest of the group at the hotel upon arrival in the Sacred Valley.

Overnight: *Willka Tikka Lodge* (elev. 9,400 ft.) (B, L, D)

## **FRIDAY, MAY 31**

### **OLLANTAYTAMBO / MACHU PICCHU**

From its beginnings as the royal estate of Inca Emperor Pachacutec to a stronghold against the Spanish conquistadors, the temple at Ollantaytambo was regarded by the Incas as one of their most important ceremonial centers.

On this day, an optional and short early morning hike to Inca storage structures high above Ollantaytambo will give you a magnificent view of the town and of the main archeological site across the valley.

Afterward, your guide will lead you through a morning tour of the temple and explain its strategic architectural planning.

You will then embark on a scenic train ride along the famous Urubamba River to the town of Machu Picchu (formerly Aguas Calientes), located at the base of the mountain.

Begin your journey to Machu Picchu with a 30-minute bus ride up to the breathtaking Lost City of the Incas.

Overnight: *Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel* (elev. 6,232 ft.) (B, L, D)

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 1 THE CITADEL OF MACHU PICCHU / OLLANTAYTAMBO / CUSCO**

In the morning, enjoy a second visit to Macchu Picchu.

At 7,600 feet located above the rainforest on the eastern slopes of the Andes, Machu Picchu was abandoned by the Incas and remained "hidden" in the jungle until 1911 when Hiram Bingham "rediscovered" it.

As you enter the "Sanctuary," the morning sun rises over the iconic Sun Gate and washes the structures and terraces with resplendent light. Prepare to be awed by the imposing and skillful architecture of the Watchtower, the Temple of the Sun, and the royal Inca residences, among many others. Take a moment to quietly sit and listen to the wind or to meditate and absorb the mystical energy that envelops you. Your imagination will soar as you contemplate the history of Machu Picchu and its mysterious origins.

Later this afternoon, depart for Ollantaytambo by train and transfer to Cusco by road.

Overnight: *Costa del Sol Wyndham Cusco* (elev. 11,152 ft.), (B, L)

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 2 CUSCO**

In the morning, tour the famous Santo Domingo Church on what was, during the Inca Empire, the Temple of the Sun or "Koricancha" in Quechua.

Take a walking tour of the bohemian quarter of San Blas, famous for its narrow cobblestone streets, its cozy square, and artisan workshops. Visit the church of San Blas with its famous intricately carved pulpit.

Continue to the Plaza de Armas, the main square of Cusco to see the city's cathedral.

Enjoy lunch at the Inka Grill restaurant. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Cusco.

In the evening, gather for a farewell dinner at the Main Plaza of Cusco.

Overnight: *Costa del Sol Wyndham Cusco* (elev. 11,152 ft.), (B, L, D)

## **MONDAY, JUNE 3 CUSCO / LIMA / U.S.**

The morning is free to explore Cusco on your own before an afternoon flight to Lima.

Upon arrival in Lima, connect to overnight flights to the U.S.

Passengers who prefer to take an early morning return flight home may overnight at the Lima airport hotel for an additional charge and fly home on June 4.

B Overnight Flight

## **TUESDAY, JUNE 4 ARRIVE U.S.**

Arrive in the U.S. and connect with a flight home.