Incas & Inti Raymi 9 days

Combine your amazing Inca Trail journey with a visit to the famous Inti Raymi Festival in Cuzco. Celebrating the winter solstice and the start of the Andean New Year, this ancient festival is filled with brightly coloured robes, fire, a stage play and lots of singing and dancing. A sight to behold!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Cuzco / Ends in: Cuzco
- Departs: Sunday 23rd June 2013
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:3, Lunch: 3, Dinner: 3
- Hotel Rating: Simple hotels, guesthouses & camping
- Tour Guide: Yes - tour leader escorted

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

Trip Prices ::: Why Us ::: Inca Trail ::: Top Spots ::: Best Time to Travel ::: Hotels & More ::: Useful Info ::: FAQs ::: Visas ::: Photo Gallery

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Day 1: Cuzco - Ancient Capital of the Incas

Sunday 23rd June 2013. Once you arrive into Cuzco you'll have the rest of the day at leisure. You are free to head out and explore Cuzco or just relax and start acclimatising to your new altitude. Overnight - Cuzco

Day 2:

This morning we will head out into Cuzco to celebrate the country's most famous festival, Inti Raymi - Festival of the Sun! Dating back to the 15th century and once banned for many years Inti Raymi is an amazing mix of colour, music and traditional customs.

Watch as the Sapa Inca is transported by a 60 kg golden throne through the streets and into the Sacsayhuaman fortress, high up in the hills. Once here, the Sapa Inca climbs to the sacred altar so that the all adoring crowds can see him. Speeches are made and an reenactment of a llama sacrifice takes place. Although this used to be done for real, it is now cleverly adapted into a stage show. Later on as the sun sets, bales of straw are set alight and people dance around them to honour the famous, Tawantinsuty, Empire of the Four Wind Directions. Back in the day it was said that no fire was allowed on the day of the festival until after these fires were lit. After much dancing and merriment the procession heads back to Cuzco, on the way the high priests and representatives of the Supas bless the people. A new year has begun! Later on we return to the hotel for a good nights sleep. Overnight - Cuzco

Day 3:

Today is spent at leisure for you to explore the sights of Cuzco including the cathedral and ceremonial fortress. Overnight - Cuzco

Day 4:

Our adventure begins with a full day of touring around the Sacred Valley of the Incas. First on the itinerary are the Pisac ruins. Marvel at the incredible views of the snow-capped mountains with its hilltop location. Next we visit the famous traditional Indian market of the same name. Enjoy the colourful atmosphere and stock up on souvenirs. We stop for lunch before continuing along the valley to the temple fortress of Ollantaytambo. Here, enormous Inca terracing sweeps down the side of a steep mountain and makes for a challenging climb. We end the day with a briefing to prepare for the next few days. Overnight - Cuzco

Days 5 - 7:

We depart Cuzco early in the morning to begin the infamous Inca Trail Trek. During your hike you will cross spectacular passes and visit more Inca ruins en-route to Machu Picchu. A local guide will lead this expedition and there will be cooks and porters to carry the main equipment, leaving you with just a small daypack. Nights will be spent in two person tents in designated campsites along the route. A relatively easy 13km walk today will get you limbered up for the highest pass at Warmiwanusca (4200m) which we reach before lunch time tomorrow. After the pass it is all downhill as the trail winds its way along ancient Inca stairs. On the third day of the trek we pass the ruins of Runkurakay, Sayacmarca and Phuyupatamarca, walking approximately 15 kilometres in seven hours and spending the night in Winay-Wayna. Overnight - Inca Trail Camp (3)

Day 8:

Early this morning we walk the final leg to the Lost City of Machu Picchu and greet daybreak over the famous 'Sun Gate'. Enjoy free

time to explore Machu Picchu on your own or opt to climb up Huayna Picchu (Young Mountain) and reward yourself with spectacular views over the entire site. Once a completely self-contained city, Machu Picchu was surrounded by agricultural terraces with enoughcrops to feed the entire population and natural springs provided the city's water.

Today you can explore the remarkably preserved palaces, baths, temples, storage rooms and some 150 houses, surviving intact due to the city's isolation.Later in the day you will have the chance to soak your tired muscles in the hot springs at Aguas Calientes before returning to Cuzco by train. Overnight - Cuzco

Day 9: Cuzco - at leisure

Monday 1st July 2013. Today marks the end of our adventure and you can depart at any time. For those who would like to see more of Cuzco, we recommend booking pre or post tour accommodation and extending your stay. Cuzco is a city with many wonders to discover with a mostly indigenous population. Lose yourself in the narrow cobblestone streets, lined by massive Inca-built walls and discover even more ancient treasures inside museums, colonial mansions and churches. The city's plazas are thronged with Quechua-speaking descendants of the Incas, who named Cuzco the 'navel of the earth'.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Cuzco - UNESCO listed and historical capital of the Inca Empire
- The beautiful Sacred Valley and Ollantaytambo Inca archaeological site.
- Magnificent Machu Picchu - ancient and awe inspiring
- Hiking the Inca Trail or Lares Trek
- Iconic Sun Gate - entrance to Machu Picchu
- The Inti Raymi Festival - Peru's most famous festival.

What's Included

- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- 5 nights hotels and guesthouses, 3 nights camping
- Guided tour of Sacred Valley and Ollantaytambo
- 4 day Inca Trail Trek or Lares Trek and guided tour of Machu Picchu
- Escorted by a tour leader and local guide for the Inca Trail.
- All relevant transportation including bus, train and taxi.
- Entrance fees to Sacred Valley, Inca Trail and Machu Picchu.
- Entrance and local guide to the Inti Raymi Festival.

What's Not Included

- International flights, visas and drinks
- Items of a personal nature, additional meals and drinks

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $1,729

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies to travellers who would like the comfort of their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price (please note that single rooms may not be available at every overnight stop, refer to the Go Guide to see which nights this is applicable to). If travelling solo and you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement. When booking a trip that includes the Inca Trail, this section of the holiday can not be confirmed until an Inca Trail Permit is obtained. It is essential at time of booking that you provide us with your full name as it appears in your passport, date of birth, nationality and passport number. We will then reply to you within 72 hours as to whether the Inca Trail Permit has been obtained. Once the permit has been obtained we cannot make any changes to it what so ever. If amendments are required you would need to pay for the cost of a new permit. Booking your holiday more than 3 months in advance greatly increases your chances of obtaining one on the 500 Inca Travel permits allocated per day! If the Inca Trail is not available you will then be given options of hiking the Lares trek or visiting Machu Picchu by train. Deposit - If trekking the Inca Trail or Lares Trek please note that you will need to pay our standard tour deposit plus a non-refundable Inca Trail/Lares Trek deposit. This is not an extra payment and will be deducted from your final tour payment. Please contact us for further details.

2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
23 JUN - 01 JUL	USD $1,729	USD $69