Lima, Cuzco & Inti Raymi 11 days

Before heading off on your expedition up to Macchu Pichu, take some time to explore Cuzco and attend it's greatest festival, Inti Raymi - Festival of Light! Brightly coloured locals, brilliant stage shows and heaps of singing and dancing are what makes this Peru's most famous festival!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Lima / Ends in: Lima
- Departs: Saturday 22 June 2013
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:3, Lunch: 3, Dinner: 3
- Hotel Rating: Simple hotels/guest houses, 3 nights trekking/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: Lima - capital of Peru

Saturday 22nd June 2013. Upon arrival to your hotel in Lima the afternoon offers free time for you to explore the city. This evening our group welcome meeting takes place. Overnight - Lima

Day 2:

Lima - Cuzco. A short flight high into the Andes over spectacular mountain scenery brings us to the former Inca capital of Cuzco, which means 'navel of the earth' in the language of Quechua. Enjoy an orientation walking tour of this enchanting city. With a mostly indigenous population, Cuzco is a fantastic place to see Inca architecture with massive walls and building foundations. Wander around the Plaza de Armas, dominated by the Cathedral and La Compañia de Jesus Church, and through the cloistered arcades housing fine restaurants, bars and shops. Explore the city's amazing churches, colonial buildings, picturesque streets and the ceremonial fortress of Sacsayhuaman that overlooks the city on top a hill. For the adventurous, try our hand at white water rafting, horse riding, mountain biking or canoeing. Overnight - Cuzco

Day 3:

This moring 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 adoring crowds can see him. Speeches are made and an enactment 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

Days 4 - 5:

Staying in Cuzco for the next two days we spend day 4 on a full day tour of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. The Pisac ruins are perched on a hilltop with incredible views of the snow-capped mountains whilst the traditional Indian market of the same name is famous for its colourful atmosphere. Practise your bartering skills and pick yourself up some wonderful souvenirs. Continuing along the valley we reach the temple fortress of Ollantaytambo. Here, enormous Inca terracing is constructed on the side of a steep mountain. Overnight - Cuzco (2)

Days 6 - 9:

On day 6 we start the trek of a lifetime along the ancient Inca Trail. After a briefing with your tour leader, we depart early the following morning (day 7). Day 1 of the trek is a relatively easy walk of 13km and will prepare you for the trail's highest pass, Warmiwanusca, at a height of 4,200m! The name translates as 'Dead Woman's Pass' and we'll reach it by lunch time on the second day of our trek. After the high pass we follow the trail downhill as it winds its way along old Inca stairs. Trekking on the third day (day 9) we visit the ruins of Runkurakay, Sayacmarca and Phuyupatamarca with an overnight stop at Winay-Wayna. We rise early the next morning for the final walk to Machu Picchu where we greet sunrise over the famous 'Sun Gate'. Explore this fabled lost Inca city on your own or simply take in the magnificence of the place. Discover the cloud-shrouded ruins of palaces, baths, temples, storage rooms and some 150 houses, all in a remarkable state of preservation.

Towards the end of the day you'll have the chance to relieve those tired muscles with a trip to the hot springs of Aguas Calientes. You'll also have time to meander through the markets before returning to Cuzco by train. If you are not participating in the trek you will spend your time in Cuzco enjoying the many activities on offer and travel to Machu Picchu by train. Overnight - Inca Trail (3) Cuzco (1)

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Day 10:

Today we are transferred to the airport for a flight back to Lima. Once we've arrived in Lima you will be transferred to the hotel and the remainder of the day is free for exploring the city. Overnight - Lima

Day 11: Lima

Tuesday 2nd July 2013. Your adventure comes to an end today, please confirm with the reception the check out time. If you have a late flight or have lengthened your stay by adding post tour accommodation you will have more time to explore the sights.

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

- The Inti Raymi Festival - Peru's most famous festival.
- Lima - free time to explore the capital's vibrant markets and spanish colonial museums
- Cuzco - UNESCO listed and historical capital of the Inca Empire
- Guided tour of The stunning Sacred Valley
- Guided tour of the beautiful Inca ruins of Ollantaytambo
- Trekking the magnificent Inca Trail
- Sunrise at Sun Gate - entrance to Machu Picchu.
- Machu Picchu ruins - ancient and awe inspiring

What's Included

- Entrance and local guide to the Inti Raymi Festival.
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- 7 nights simple hotels and guesthouses, 3 nights camping
- Guided tour of Sacred Valley and Ollantaytambo
- Guided tour of Machu Picchu
- 4 day Inca Trail hike
- Escorted by a tour leader and specialist local guides whilst hiking the Inca Trail.
- Economy class flight - Lima to Cuzco
- Relevant transport by public bus, train and boat
- Entrance fees to Sacred Valley, Inca Trail and Machu Picchu

What's Not Included

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

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $2,339

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.
22 JUN - 02 JUL	USD $2,339	USD $99