

The Empire of the Incas

August 4 – 17, 2020

This is a unique tour. Frankly, there is nothing like it offered in the State of Utah. In addition to visits to expected sites, such as Cuzco and Machu Picchu, our tour will take us off-the-beaten track to immerse ourselves in the world of Inca Empire. We visit historic and cultural sites, temples and native Indian markets that see few outsiders. One of our daily tours will take us to the Church of Andauaylillas, designated a UNESCO HERITAGE MONUMENT. It is called the Sistine Chapel of the Andes for their wall paintings and gold and silver altarpieces. We navigate one of the tributaries of the Amazon. Stay in a jungle lodge nestled deep in the Tambopata - Candamo Biosphere Reserve where over 1,000 species of birds, 300 species of trees, endangered animal and plant species could be found. Manu and Candamo are the largest protected area in Peru, with endless tropical forests, rainforest, cloud forests, and rivers brimming with life; all of these make the Peruvian rain forest a “Living Garden of Eden”.



No journey to the empire of the Incas would be complete without a visit to Cuzco and Machu Picchu. Cuzco, perched high in the Andes Mountains and a UNESCO World heritage site, was once the capital of the Inca Empire. Cuzco still retains its indigenous and colonial heritage and architecture. Machu Picchu has been declared by UNESCO one of the wonders of the world. New restrictions made by UNESCO and the government of Peru makes it now more restricted in visiting the citadel. The extra night in Machu Picchu, allows our group to visit the best highlights of the Lost Citadel of the Incas by entering twice to this magical wonder of the world.

This is no ordinary tour. This is an adventure for travelers who want to see, feel, and experience the Inca nation, its people and heritage. While staying in first class comfort and accommodations, you will journey in what can only be described as daily *National Geographic* type experiences with expert bilingual guides and most meals included. This is a life changing experience that does not often come our way. Please join Carlos on this amazing trip!



Our Host Carlos Fida: I am a native of Argentina where I held teaching positions at the University of Patagonia and at the Military Academy. I have lectured for university groups on the rich history of pre-Colombian and modern Latin American history. Travel & Leisure Magazine nominated me as one of the 125 Super Agents in Latin American Travel in the U.S. I have dedicated 42 years of my life to organize special travel arrangements for individuals and groups in the United States. This special tour will be my 52nd visit to Peru, one of my favorite countries in all of Central and South America.

August 4: Los Angeles - Lima

We depart Los Angeles at 2:00 P.M. on LATAM Airlines.

August 5: Lima

Arrive in Lima, Peru at 12:40 A.M. and transfer to our hotel. This afternoon we set out to discover the exciting sites and history of Lima, Peru's capital city. We see Plaza de Armas, the core and center of the city, surrounded by the Government Palace, the City Hall, and the Metropolitan Cathedral where the tomb of Conquistador Pizarro is found, as well as the archbishop of Lima palace, with its ornate porticos and balconies. Also included is a tour of the San Francisco convent and its catacombs. There is a large painting of the Last Supper. Lodging at Innside by Melia Lima Miraflores Hotel. **(B)**



August 6: Lima - Puerto Maldonado -Lake Sandoval Lodge

This morning we transfer to the Lima Airport for a short flight to Puerto Maldonado, gateway to the Amazon and Candamo Biosphere. Puerto Maldonado is the rainforest capital of Peru. We travel by boat down the Madre de Dios River to the Sandoval Lake Lodge; a rustic but comfortable jungle lodge in the primeval forest. The diversity of wildlife is due to its location at the confluence of the lowland Amazon forest and three other ecosystems. Rowing on Lake Sandoval will transport us into a pristine forest surrounded by palm trees. After dinner we enjoy a night walk with local native guides to observe some of the animals that inhabit the jungle. Overnight in the Amazon jungle at Sandoval Lake Lodge. This really is right out of *National Geographic!* **(B, BXL, D)**

August 7: Lake Sandoval Lodge

Today our excursion takes us to Lake Sandoval where we board our boat and explore the area for wildlife in the water, on land, in the trees, and in the sky; including the elusive Hoatzin, a rare tropical bird found in the mangroves, waters and forests in the Amazon. We also go spotting for caimans, macaws and other endemic species that inhabit the Amazon rainforest. Overnight in our Amazon jungle lodge. Talk about spectacular sunsets! **(B, L, D)**



August 8: Lake Sandoval Lodge

There is no other lake as beautiful as Lake Sandoval in the whole region. To see the sunset over the tall palm trees and the reflection on the waters of the calm lake is an unforgettable experience. Our daily navigation on Lake Sandoval offers the opportunity to see the playful giant otters swimming and fishing and feeding their little ones. This is another spectacular day! **(B, L, D)**

August 9: Puerto Maldonado - Cuzco

We bid farewell to the Amazon basin, its flora and fauna. We walk the two miles under a canopy of trees on a board walk, reach the pier and navigate the Tambopata River, returning to Puerto Maldonado. Transfer to the airport for our 40-minute flight to Cuzco. Upon arrival check-in at our hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure to explore downtown Cuzco on your own, or to do some shopping in the thousands of shops that line the cobblestone street of the former capital of the Inca Empire. **(B)**

August 10: Cuzco – Sacred Valley of the Incas

Our visit to the "Sacred Valley", will connect us to the glorious past of the Ollantaytambo fortress, an area packed with Inca sites, colonial towns, and isolated villages. Ollantaytambo, a former Inca administrative center and gateway to the Antisuyo (the Amazon corner of the Inca Empire), sits at the northern end of the Sacred

Valley. At the time of the Spanish invasion and conquest of Peru, Ollantaytambo served as the last stronghold for the Inca resistance against the conqueror. We continue to the native market of Pisac where you can purchase textiles, silver jewelry, articles made of Alpaca wool and many other interesting gifts to bring home. Overnight at Sonesta Yucay Hotel, a former convent turned into a hotel. **(B, L)**

August 11: Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu

Today we experience the highlight of any journey to Peru: Machu Picchu, the Lost Citadel of the Incas. We take the morning train to Machu Picchu Pueblo, a charming village at the base of the Machu Picchu Mountain. Buses are waiting to take us to the citadel, which stands perched high atop the Andes Mountains. An expert guide will introduce us to the history of the city and its mysterious abandonment. Overnight at Casa Andina Hotel. **(B)**



August 12: Machu Picchu

This morning we re-enter the citadel of the Incas to do some further exploration and sightsee the ancient complex built by the Incas. Weather permitting, we may see the sunrise over the Vilcabamba range and the citadel. Lunch at El Indio Feliz Restaurant. Afternoon return by train and bus to our hotel in Cuzco. **(B, L)**



August 13: Cuzco

Today we explore the former capital of the Inca Empire. The Qoricancha or Temple of the Sun is the place where the Incas congregated to worship the Sun, their god. The early chronicles tell us that the walls of the Temple were covered with gold. The gardens and courtyards contained magnificent reproductions of animals made of solid gold. Outside of the city is the colossal structure of the Fortress of Sacsayhuaman. The Incas shaped enormous stones and fitted them together with incredible precision. We will walk where the Incas walked, and admire their talent in building majestic buildings still intact, except for the destruction caused by the Spanish

Conquistadors. The 17th Century Cathedral is not just another cathedral, but a monument to faith and skilled labor. The walls are covered with artwork of the 16th and 17th century of the Cuzco School of Painting. Altars made in gold and silver adorn the largest cathedral in the city of Cuzco. There is so much history here. You will learn about the syncretism of two religions; Christian and pagan. **(B)**

August 14: Cuzco – Lima – Tapon – Andahuaylillas

Today we travel the South Valley of Cuzco and reach Andahuaylillas, one of the small villages that dot the landscape of the Andes. There are two main valleys near Cuzco; one is the Sacred Valley of the Incas and the next one is the South Valley of Cuzco. Driving along the South Valley, each one of the small villages specializes in different type of food; for example, the cui, a traditional dish for the people of the high Andes, or delicious bread, which we will taste in the town of Oropesa. We visit the ruins of Tapon, a well-designed archaeological site. Inca terraces and water fountains are well preserved and functioning today. This is the first time we include this site in our tours to Peru. The highlight is the visit to the Church of Saint Peter the Apostle, a UNESCO Monument, called the Sistine Chapel of the Andes for their decorated walls and ceiling, as well as altars covered in gold and silver. Return to Cuzco. Carlos will invite the group to lunch at a renowned restaurant where the group will have the opportunity to taste delicious Peruvian dishes. **(B, L)**

August 15: Cuzco -Lima

We have scheduled an early evening flight to Lima, to allow our travelers to do some last-minute shopping or to catch up rest with a late morning wake up. Upon arrival in Lima, our guide will be waiting to escort us back to our hotel, the Inside Lima by Melia Hotel. Remainder of the evening free. **(B)**

August 16: Lima – Pachacamac

Here is another tour never incorporated to previous trips to Peru. The archaeological complex of Pachacamac dates back 200 years B.C. It was built one thousand years before the Incas. It is a very impressive site, with great pyramidal temples, remains of frescos decorating the adobe walls, large plazas and wide adobe paved streets. The citadel is very close to the Pacific Ocean, like so many other cultures that flourished in the desert coastal areas of what today we call Peru. Upon returning to Lima a typical Peruvian lunch awaits us. Late evening transfer to the airport for out flight to Los Angeles. **(B, L)**



August 17: Lima – Los Angeles

Our LATAM Airlines flight departs at 1:50 A.M. arriving in Los Angeles at 8:40 A.M., early enough to connect to any of our flights home.

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Meals: **B** breakfast, **L** lunch, **BXL** box lunch, **D** dinner

GRATUITIES:

Included: Tips to Drivers, Guides, Porters.

Not Included: Tips to waiters when meals are included.

LAND PRICE:

Based on double or triple occupancy, rate \$3,312.00* per person

Single occupancy \$4,625.00*

*Tour will depart with a minimum of 16 passengers.

AIRFARE PRICE:

Round Trip Airfare from Los Angeles, rate \$1,470.00 per person

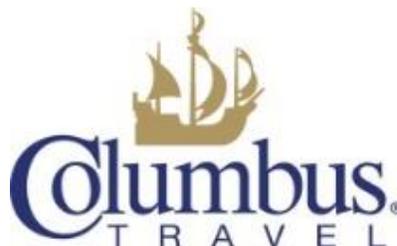
Rates include all taxes, fuel charges, local taxes as of October 21, 2019. Taxes and fuel surcharges are subject to change.

DEPOSIT:

\$500.00 per person

FINAL PAYMENT:

Final payment for land and air is due by **April 30, 2020**.



RESERVATION INFORMATION CONTINUED

CANCELLATION AND REFUND:

In case of cancellation the following per person cancellation penalties apply:

Land and air package

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Prior to April 30, 2020	\$500 deposit refundable
April 30, 2020 or later	No refunds

TRAVEL PROTECTION: *Columbus Travel*[®] recommends that you purchase a Travelex travel protection plan to help protect you and your trip investment. Consider travel protection for:

- Trip Cancellation
- Trip Interruption
- Emergency Medical Expenses
- Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation of Remains
- Trip Delay
- Baggage & Personal Effects
- Baggage Delay and more

For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, Omaha NE; NAIC #222276.

INTERNATIONAL TRIPS:

For all tours and cruises that include international air, a valid passport is required. *Columbus Travel*[®] must receive a copy of your passport information page by final payment date. Airlines have strict policies concerning name changes/corrections after tickets have been issued. If a name change/correction is required on your ticket, you will be required to cover the cost of the fees.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Travel Services, Inc., d.b.a. *Columbus Travel*[®], ("Agent") gives notice that all services, reservations and arrangements for transportation, or cruise, or conveyance, or hotel or lodging, or meals or sightseeing services or any other activities made by Agent, are made by Agent as dual agent for the traveler, (Passenger) and for the air carriers, hotels, sightseeing companies, transportation companies, cruise lines and other companies (Suppliers) providing services for this program. As such, Agent shall not be liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reasons of defect in any vehicle or mode of transportation, through the acts, defaults, financial difficulty or bankruptcy or omissions of the Supplier or person engaged in carrying out the arrangements of the trip or otherwise in connection therewith. Agent is not liable for delays and/or cancellations of services and resultant expenses or loss caused by acts of God, sickness, quarantine, weather, strikes, war, terrorism, social or labor unrest, local laws, mechanical or construction difficulties, abnormal conditions or other situations, actions, omissions or conditions outside Agent's control. Agent is not liable for loss of, or damage to baggage or personal possessions. Agent and Supplier reserve the right to alter or cancel the itinerary or substitute services as conditions require or for the safety of Passenger.

As a matter of privacy, we do not disclose addresses or other personal information about other travelers in the group. We do all in our power to assure seats for passengers traveling together on aircraft are assigned together, but because airline seating assignments for groups are controlled by the air carrier, we cannot guarantee specific seat assignments. Passengers must be in good health and able to care for their own needs. Please contact us regarding any health concerns you may have or if you need to bring any specialized medical equipment such as wheelchairs, oxygen tanks, C-Pap, etc. so that we can determine if transportation services, hotels, and other suppliers can accommodate your equipment. If it is determined that your equipment can be accommodated, you or your traveling companion are fully responsible for it and must be able to lift, fold, push, and handle the equipment. Tour directors on the trip cannot be of assistance with such needs. We reserve the right to remove passengers from the group at their own expense if the care of or actions of a passenger become detrimental to the functioning of the tour. Payment of deposit(s) as outlined in this agreement shall be deemed consent to be bound by the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Airline schedule changes, mechanical or weather delays may affect flight times. Your connecting flights and/or transportation to and from the tour start and end point, whether issued by Columbus Travel or on your own arrangement, may be affected. Please allow extra connection time. Columbus Travel is not responsible for misconnections, delays, and/or cancellations. **Once your first flight has commenced the air carrier controls your reservation. Any flight delays, misconnections, or cancellations must be re-scheduled by the responsible airline.**

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