

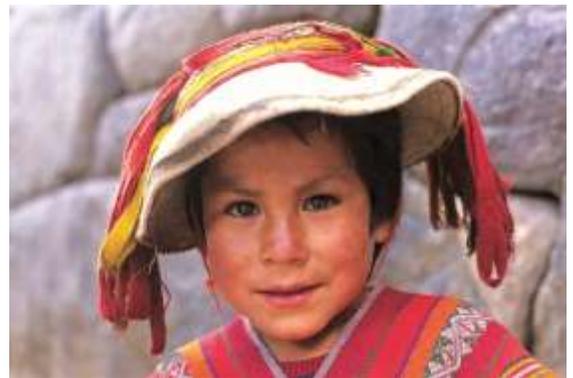
The Highlights of the Empire of the Incas

June 15 - 26, 2021

Cuzco • Machu Picchu • Inti Raymi Festival •
Temple of the Sun • The Amazon Basin, the primeval rainforest of Peru • The Sacred Valley of the Incas
– The Pisaq Indian Mark – The Village of Aguas Calientes.
Sacsayhuaman • Colonial Lima • Larco Museum of Lima.

Every year during the month of June thousands of natives, descendants from the Incas, gather on June 24 to celebrate the Inti Raymi or “Festival of the Sun”. This magnificent festival starts at the Temple of the Sun. Dressed in full regalia, the native representing the Inca proceeds to Main Square and then to the ancient fortress of Sacsayhuaman where the ceremonies take place. The “Inca Emperor” enters the plaza on a golden throne carried on the shoulders of soldiers and guards dressed in colorful costumes. They are followed by his “Queen” and high priests garbed in ceremonial robes. They re-enact the sacrifice of the llama and pray for good crops and blessings on the Inca and his people as they start the New Year. *Columbus Travel*[®] has secured tickets and reserved seats to view this colorful festival.

This tour is unique. Frankly, there is nothing like it anywhere else. 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 and empire of the Incas. We visit historic and cultural sites, temples, and native Indian festivals that see few outsiders. We visit UNESCO World heritage sites, navigate one of the tributaries of the Amazon (yes, the best Amazon viewing is in Peru) and overnight in a jungle lodge nestled deep in the Candamo Biosphere Reserve with over 1,000 species of birds, 300 species of trees, endangered animal and plant species. Manu and Candamo, the largest protected area in Peru, with its endless tropical forests, rainforest, cloud forests, and jungle- rivers brimming with life, is referred to as the “Living Eden”.



Of course, no journey to the empire of the Incas would be complete without a visit to Cuzco and Machu Picchu. Cuzco, nestled high in the Andes Mountains and a UNESCO World heritage site, was once the capital of the Inca nation. Cuzco still retains its indigenous and colonial heritage and architecture. Machu Picchu, the ancient Inca citadel, boasts more than 150 buildings and sits above the Urubamba River valley. It is another UNESCO site on our tour. Our overnight in the village of Aguas Calientes allows us to enter the citadel twice. On the second day we can observe the sunrise over the Vilcabamba range.

Visiting Machu Picchu is a glorious experience and one that will be unforgettable. It is a true immersion into a world completely different from any other experience you may have had in the world.

Join Mark Faldmo, the president of Columbus Travel, on a once in a lifetime trip to see and enjoy the wonders of Peru.



800-373-3328
ColumbusVacations.com



I am looking forward to hosting you on this exciting trip! My first experience in travel was when I was six years old and sailed to Hawaii when my father was going there for a work assignment. After 2 ½ years in Hawaii, my family returned to Utah and my parents began a travel company. I grew up in the travel industry. After graduating from college in 1975, I entered the travel business and have been in it ever since. I have owned and managed travel companies ranging from the very small to one that was among of the top 25 largest travel agencies in the U.S. I enjoy the working in the travel industry, but the true highlight of it all is traveling with groups. Traveling in South America was an amazing experience; I was spellbound by the beauty and the rich cultures found in them.

There is hardly a place I have not been and hardly a place to which I have not taken groups. I hope you'll join me on this wonderful trip!

Itinerary:

June 15: Lima

We depart Los Angeles at 2:00PM and arrive the following day in Lima, Peru.

June 16: Lima

We arrive in Lima, Peru at 12:40AM. Our bilingual guide will meet us at the airport and transfer us to the Wyndham Hotel, a few steps from the main terminal. After a good rest, return to the airport for a flight to Puerto Maldonado, the Gateway to the Rainforest of Peru.

For two hours we travel by boat down the Madre de Dios River to our Amazon jungle lodge considered one the best accommodations in the primeval jungle. The area where the lodge is located offers the opportunity to see butterflies and birds and many other species endemic to the headwaters of the Amazon. This location of the Rainforest biosphere is home to at least 13 endangered animals, including the jaguar, giant otter, ocelot, harpy eagle, and giant armadillo. After dinner we enjoy a night walk with local native guides to observe some of the animals that inhabit the jungle. Overnight in at the Eco Amazon Lodge. This place really is right out of *National Geographic!* (B, BXL, D)



June 17: Amazon

Before dawn we may again be sailing and will experience the beautiful sunrise over the jungle trees. We will explore the region 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. Upon returning from the oxbow lake we ascend a canopy tower for a complete overview of the area. Overnight in our Amazon jungle lodge. Talk about spectacular sunsets! (B, L, D)

June 18: Amazon

This could be a relaxed day in the primeval forest. Those who would like to, can have an early exploration. After the exploration we can enjoy a wholesome breakfast. Following this activity we can visit areas where many medicinal plants and trees grow. We will find the pamichu, the palm that provides the material for the thatched roofs of the houses and the lodge, the ginger candle used as an anti-inflammatory medicine and the chinchona tree, whose bark saved millions for the ravaging fever of the malaria. After lunch we will take a walk through the quietest and most secluded part of the forest. During the evening hours we will have the last opportunity to seek the black caiman along the shores of the lake or go for a short hike in the forest. These

activities may vary, according to weather conditions of decisions made between the guides and you, our travelers. Overnight in our Amazon jungle lodge. This is simply another amazing day! (B, L, D)

June 19: Cuzco

We bid farewell to the Amazon, its flora, fauna, wildlife, and indigenous native people and navigate by boat down the Tambopata River passing native villages and spotting wildlife along the way, returning to the port city of Puerto Maldonado before transferring to the airport for our flight to Cuzco, the former capital of the Inca Empire. Today is a free day to walk along the old cobblestones streets of Cuzco, the number one Colonial/Inca city in the world. Cuzco is a city to be explored by walking. The city does not allow cars in certain areas. You can shop and buy silver at excellent prices, as well as typical nativity scenes made by famous artists. Many restaurants surround the main square. We will point the best places for lunch. We will provide you with a map of the city as well as a list of a few restaurants. Overnight Cuzco. (B)



June 20: Sacred Valley of the Incas.

Today our journey will take us to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Driving along the Urubamba River while visiting the famous Pisco Indian Market and climbing to the top of the tallest Inca fortress of Ollantaytambo is an experience you won't find anywhere else in the world. Here we immerse ourselves into the daily amazing world of the Incas. We walk the narrow streets of the only Inca village still standing, which was never assimilated by the Spanish Conquistador into the colonial period of the time. We overnight in a quaint hotel in the heart of the Sacred Valley. (B -L)

June 21: Machu Picchu

This day we experience the highlight of any journey to Peru: Machu Picchu, the Lost Citadel of the Incas. Morning transfer to the station for a train ride to Machu Picchu following for a few miles the winding Urubamba River. Upon arrival in Aguas Calientes we drop our luggage at the hotel and bus to the top of the mountain and enter the gates of the Lost Citadel by the Incas. Expert guides will introduce us to the history of the city and its mysterious abandonment. Following the tour lunch will be served at a local restaurant. The small village stand amidst the towering Andes. It is a vibrant town with restaurants, locals dressed in colorful attire, and music being played in every restaurant. Overnight in Aguas Calientes. (B, L)



June 22: Machu Picchu – Cuzco

Early morning, after breakfast, we leave our hotel and re-enter the citadel of Machu Picchu. Enjoy a sunrise over the Andes Mountains and visit other places we did not have the opportunity to see on the first day. By government regulations we can stay in the citadel, and being guided by an authorized guide for a period of three and a half hour. At the end of the visit we can return to the village of Aguas Calientes and have lunch on our own before walking to the train station for a ride to the station of Poroy. We board a bus that will take us to our hotel in Cuzco. (B)

June 23: Cuzco

During the morning hours, our guide will pick us up at the hotel and start a tour of the main attractions of Cuzco. We will enjoy a visit to the Temple of the Sun, the 17th Century Cathedral, some of the ruins in the outskirts of the city. In Cuzco there is a blend of the old, the not so old and new. The Spanish Conquistador could not destroy the Inca traditions, and could not even instill in the mind of the people the Christian religion that they brought. The population was subject to cruelty and pressure to join the new ways. Even today we can see the syncretism of the two religions, the ones professed by the Spanish and the one worshiped by the Incas. This is manifested in art as well as the way they dress and live. (B)

June 24: Inti Raymi Festival

Shortly after breakfast we transfer to the Koricancha Temple where the opening ceremonies start and the re-enacting of the Inti Raymi begins. The Inti Raymi (Quechua from “Sun Festival or the Ritual of the Sun”) is a religious ceremony of the Inca Empire in honor of Inti, god of the sun and one of the most venerated deities in Inca religion, and to commemorate the winter solstice. (In the southern hemisphere, June is a winter month.) The person representing the Inca Emperor addresses the multitude in the Quechua language. After the opening remarks, we walk to the main square for the continuation of the colorful ceremonies. Later our motor coach will take us to Sacsayhuaman, a fortress built on the northern outskirts of the city, where the main ceremonies continue. We return to our hotel after the festival concludes. This is a one-day and one-day only festival, and we are here! Overnight Cuzco. (B, BXL)



June 25: Cuzco – Lima

Morning transfer to the airport for our one hour and twenty flight to Lima. Upon arrival drop luggage to our hotel and start the city tour of Lima. The City of Lima was founded by Conquistador Pizarro in the 1500's There are two Lima's; the Old Colonial downtown with its magnificent palaces and churches and the new one where our hotel is located. Lima is called “The City of Kings,” as it was founded around the 12th Day of Christmas, the festivity observed when the Three Wise Men came to visit the Child Christ. This year we have arranged a visit of the Larco Museum. This visit is an immersion into the different cultures of Peru, starting with the Chavin culture; 900 years B.C, and continuing many other civilizations that flourished along the Pacific Coast of Peru. The Inca is the most known civilization as the empire covered what today is Ecuador, part of Colombia, all of Peru, Bolivia, northern Argentina and half of Chile. It was the largest empire in the American before the Spanish came and plundered Cuzco, the capital of the empire. After a few hours at the hotel and a farewell dinner, transfer to the airport for our flight to Los Angeles.



June 26: Arrive USA

Departure at 1:50AM from Lima and arrive at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) 8:45AM to make connections to our final destination.

Hotels:

- Lima: Wyndham Hotel and Inside Inn
- Amazon: Eco Amazonia Lodge
- Cuzco: Palacio del Inca.
- Sacred Valley: Sonesta Yucay
- Mapi: Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu.

Meals: B breakfast, L lunch, BXL Box lunch, D dinner

Gratuities: Driver and guide gratuities are included. Gratuities for included meals (\$1.00 per person per meal) are not included. This tip could be left by the plate at the end of the lunch or dinner.

LAND PRICE

Based on double occupancy \$2,892.00 per person

Single occupancy \$ 3,623.00



**AIRFARE, FROM LOS ANGELES TO ALL DESTINATIOS WITHIN PERU AND BACK.
\$ 1,378.00 per person.**

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Rates include all taxes and fuel surcharges current as of January 2021. Taxes and fuel surcharges are subject to change.

FINAL PAYMENT: Final payment for land and air is due on **March 5, 2021**

DEPOSIT: \$400 per person for the land and \$200 per person for the airfare

CANCELLATION AND REFUND: In case of cancellation the following per person cancellation penalties apply:

Land and Air Penalties:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Prior to March 15, 2021	No Penalty – Full Refund
March 15, 2021 or later	100% Nonrefundable

TRAVEL PROTECTION: For your convenience *Columbus Travel*® offers travel protection plans through Travelex Insurance Services to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For more information on the available plans visit <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/index.aspx?location=44-0036&go=bp> or contact Travelex Insurance 800-228-9792 and reference location number 44-0036.

The full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, are contained in the insurance policy. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

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.

This tour's airfare starts and ends in Los Angeles. 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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563 West 500 South, Suite 180, Bountiful, UT 84010

Tel: 801-295-9568; 800-373-3328; Fax: 801-295-9688

www.columbusvacations.com

