

Machu Picchu and the Ancient Cultures of Peru

June 4 – 14, 2023

This is a unique tour. There is nothing like it offered in the State of Utah. In addition to visits to expected sites, such as Cuzco, Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley of the Incas, we will immerse ourselves in the world of Inca Empire with its legendary traditions, such as the authentic festivity and parade of the Corpus Christi celebration. This celebration held in Cuzco, on the 7th and 8th of June is a true act of faith for the Peruvians. It is the most important and iconic festivity of the year. We will be able to see the procession, with young and old dressed in colorful costumes as they walk behind the multicolored statue of the saints. Music and dances are being performed in the main square. The 17th century old cathedral, the Jesuit church of La Compania de Jesus, and the colonial arcades serve as a perfect frame for the celebration. You will feel transported to an imaginable world. We visit historic and cultural sites; Inca temples and native markets who few outsiders see.

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. We have also added extra days in Cuzco and the Sacred Valley, to make this tour more comfortable and relaxed for our travelers.

This is no ordinary tour. It is a deluxe adventure for travelers who want to see, feel, and experience the Inca nation, its people and heritage. While staying in deluxe 5 star hotels, 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. Join Carlos on this amazing trip!



To book this tour, call your preferred travel counselor at Morris Columbus Travel. You can also reach our Latin American Travel experts, Carol Alegre at 801-483-6165 or Carlos Fida at 801-483-5212.

To see this tour and others check our websites: www.mmetours.com, www.columbusvacations.com

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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 44 years of my life to organize special travel arrangements for individuals and groups in the United States. This special tour will be my 53nd visit to Peru, one of my favorite countries in all of Central and South America.

I invite you to listen the Travel Show on KNRS 105.9. I am a cohost in Larry Gelwix Travel Show every Saturday from 11:06 am. to 1:00 pm.

June 3: Los Angeles - Lima

We depart Los Angeles at 8:30 P.M. on LATAM Airlines.

Jun 4: Lima – City tour.

Arrive in Lima, Peru at 7:05 A.M. Escorted transfer by a bilingual guide to the Sonesta el Olivar Hotel, located in the heart of San Isidro, across the street from a 400 year old olive grove. After a few hours rest, and early afternoon city tour of Colonial Lima. A short walk will take us to the Metropolitan Cathedral where the remains of Conquistador Pizarro are laid to rest in a special mausoleum. During the city tour we visit the San Francisco Convent and its catacombs. **(B)**



June 5: Lima- Larco Herrera Museum –Casa Luna

After Breakfast we leave down town San Isidro to visit the Larco Museum located in an 18th century mansion that houses 3.000 years of Peru's pre-Colombian history. The museum boasts a magnificent collection of gold and silver that demonstrates the skilled art of ancient civilizations, such as the Moche, Paracas, Nazcas and Chan-Chan. The Paracas were the weavers while Moche and Nazcas created beautiful pieces of pottery, used for ceremonial purposes. There is nothing like this private museum in all of Peru. The specialized guides will introduce us to the wonders of ancient Peru.

We return to San Isidro to enter Casa Luna. A unique collection of nativity scenes from all over the world fill the different rooms of this mansion. Ambassador Luna collected the most beautiful handcrafted collection of the nativity scenes ever found in all of Latin America. **(B, L)**

June 6: Lima to Cuzco.

Early morning transfer to the airport of a 90 minute flight to Cuzco. Upon arrival in Cuzco, our guides will escort us to the Palacio Del Inca Hotel, a former residence the Spanish Conquistador. The mansion, now a hotel is a five hundred year old historic landmark.

After a few hours of rest to acclimate to the high altitude, we start the city tour of the former capital of the Inca Empire. The visit to the ancient capital includes visits to the fortress of Sacsayhuaman, the Temple of the Sun, located across the street from our hotel and the 17th century old cathedral with its collection work of art of the Cuzco School of Painting and altars of solid gold and silver. The enormous painting of the Last Supper, executed by Marcos Zapata in 1753 shows Christ and the 12 apostles seated around a table to partake of a guinea pig, a traditional meal still prepared in Cuzco. The symbols on the table are those known to the native Incas.

There is no other cathedral in the world where the emblems of the Christian world and the ancient traditions of the Inca civilization join in a unique syncretism, of the old and the new. **(B-L)**

June 7: Cuzco – Corpus Christi Celebration.

The Corpus Christi festivity is considered one of the most lavish celebration of faith in the Christian world. After the ceremony performed in the Cathedral a solid silver carriage takes in a procession the golden sun, which represent the sacrament. The people dressed in typical colorful dresses follow the silver carriage accompanied by civil and religious leaders. A lunch will be served in a restaurant. From the balconies, overlooking the main square and the cathedral our group will be able to see the procession. Afternoon free to explore downtown colonial Cuzco. **(B, L)**

June 8: Cuzco – Parade and celebration

This morning we walk a short distance with our guides. We reach Plaza de Armas, or Main Square. The images of saints finely dressed, travel from the different churches around the city, and enter the cathedral, followed musicians and dancers. Some of you attended the Oberammergau in Bavaria. You will be surprised by the elaborate celebration of the Corpus Christi. This is not just a show, but a religious feast of devotion by the locals, who labor all year to prepare their costumes and practice the music for the activities in honor of Christ. **(B, L)**



June 9: Sacred Valley of the Incas– PISAQ Indian Market.

Our visit to the “Sacred Valley of the Incas”, will connect us to the glorious past and traditions of the Incas, We explore colonial towns, and pass isolated villages lost in the mist of times.. Our tour will include a visit to the Awanacancha. All the camelids of South America, starting with Llamas, Alpacas, Vicunas and Guanacos are exhibited here. Local villagers will show their skills in the ancestral methods of dyeing the wool and making the best textiles and clothes. Before check- in to the luxurious Tambo Del Inca hotel, we will taste a delicious lunch and a “Paso Horse Show” **(B, L)**



June 10: Sacred Valley of the Incas – Ollantaytambo Inca town and Fortress.

Our visit takes us to one of the last remaining Inca villages. Ollantaytambo was one of the massive Inca fortress built by the Incas to protect the Sacred Valley from invasions coming from natives living in the rainforest or from the Aymaras on Lake Titicaca. After exploring Ollantaytambo and its village, we travel to the town of Chincheros where we see the finest textiles made by the artisans of Peru.

Our gourmet traditional dinner will be at the hotel. The restaurant named cinco fuegos (five fires) offers five different types meats or vegetables being cooked on several grills. (Chinese roasting box, cylinder, grill, clay oven and pachamanca. **(B, D.)**

June 11: Sacred Valley of the Incas – Machu Picchu.’

A train ride will cover the distance from Ollantaytambo to the village of Aguas Calientes. The ride offers spectacular views of the high Andes following the course of the Urubamba River, through deep canyons and mountains that jut to the sky. Upon arrival in Aguas Calientes, personnel from the deluxe Sumaq hotel will transfer our luggage to the hotel while we board a bus to the top of Machu Picchu, the Lost Citadel of the Incas. We will tour part of the ruins before returning to Aguas Calientes and to our hotel, where a lunch will be served. **(B, L)**

June 12: Machu Picchu - Cuzco

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)**

October 13: Cuzco – Lima

Today we have a free morning for last minute shopping and relaxation. There are several highlights in the former capital of the Inca Empire which could only be visited by walking along the cobblestone street. Over the many tours to Peru, my travelers always request an extra time in Cuzco, the jewel of the Andes. Late afternoon we are escorted by our guide to the airport for a flight to Lima. We arrive in Lima and connect to our flight to Los Angeles. **(B)**

June 14: Lima – Los Angeles

Our LATAM Airlines flight departs at 1:00 A.M. arriving in Los Angeles at 7:55 A.M., early enough to connect to any of our flights home.

Cost of land services, per person, double occupancy \$ 3,981.00

Single occupancy \$ 4,837.00

Estimated air itinerary from Los Angeles, round trip \$1,200.00

Deposit \$500 per person at the time of booking

Final payment due by March 3rd, 2023

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INTERNATIONAL TRIPS: For all tours and cruises that include international air, a valid passport is required and must be valid for at least 6 months from the return date of the trip. Morris Murdock Escorted Tours 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 any fees.

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