



PERU EMPIRE·OF HIDDEN·TREASURES

Visiting Lima, Ayacucho, Cusco, Sacred Valley and an optional extension to the Amazon Jungle
\$2,795 USD per person, based on double-occupancy
Single supplement \$640 USD

May 1, 2014 – May 12, 2014
Ray Travel Resources

<http://hiddentreasures.peru.travel/?lang=en>

Day 1: Thursday, May 1, 2014 – travel to Lima

You will depart from your homeland to Peru on flights to be arranged. Late night arrival and you will be met, assisted and transferred to your hotel in Miraflores. Overnight at **Arawi Lima Hotel (4*)**

Day 2: Friday, May 2, 2014 – Lima

After your buffet breakfast, you will have the morning at leisure and begin touring in the afternoon. The tour begins with a drive to historic downtown Lima, also known as “the City of Kings” and an **UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site**.



Stops include the main plaza of Lima, upon which sits the Government Palace, the Cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace and the City Hall; next on the itinerary is a visit to Santo Domingo Convent. Once finished there, we'll be off to the modern district of San Isidro and then to we'll stop at the “**Parque del Amor**” (a sort of lover's lane/park) with its incredible view of the Pacific Ocean. Tonight you will enjoy an exquisite welcome dinner at **Huaca Pucllana Restaurant**, set next to pre-Incan ruins which are lighted and beautifully displayed at night.



Huaca Pucllana Restaurant ... lighted ruins in background

Overnight at **Arawi Lima Hotel (4*)** **Meals included: Buffet Breakfast – Dinner**

Day 3: Saturday, May 3, 2014 – Lima

After your buffet breakfast, you will visit one of Lima's symbolic markets to see the amazing variety of fish, fruit and vegetables used in Peruvian food. You will be equipped with a list of names of descriptions of foods you will encounter to help you enjoy this visit even more. Afterwards, you will watch as the chefs from the famous restaurant **Señorio de Sulco** demonstrate how to prepare some of the main dishes of Peru and learn how to make an exquisite cebiche or famous lomo saltado (sautéed beef tenderloin strips and French fries). Rounding out this culinary experience is a delicious lunch at this same restaurant. After your lunch, we will visit an artistic and bohemian district, known as “Barranco. It is a district with a vast tradition and history, boasting lovely streets, old mansions and plazas. It is famous for being the most bohemian and culturally oriented of Lima's districts, with museums, designer boutiques, handicraft fairs and live music. We'll start off with a stroll on the famous “Puente de los Suspiros”

(Bridge of Sighs) and breathe in some of the air of Lima past. Next is the Pedro de Osma Museum, where you will see an outstanding collection of Colonial paintings, furniture and textiles. The tour continues with a stop at the museum of renowned photographer Mario Testino (closed on Mondays) where on display is an extensive collection of his photographs; it is the only cultural institution in the world with permanent exhibits of this famous Peruvian artist. Overnight at **Arawi Lima Hotel (4*)** Meals included: **Buffet Breakfast – Lunch**

Day 4: Sunday, May 4, 2014 – Lima

After your buffet breakfast, we will visit Pueblo Libre, an historic district that is an important part of the city's architectural, cultural and urban development. It is one of Peru's oldest Spanish districts, a witness to the birth of the Republican era and the area where both liberators, Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin, lived. We'll start our tour in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology of Peru to see the huge collection of pottery, textiles, metal and stone artifacts that are part of the country's pre-Hispanic past. Next, we will visit the church of Santa Maria de Magdalena, Lima's oldest rural church, where you will marvel at the magnificent carved cedar pulpits and altars highlighted with gold leaf. The tour continues with a stop at **Queirolo**, a tavern famous for its piscos and wines, where we will make a toast with a delicious Pisco Sour, the national drink of Peru. The district was founded in 1670 under the name of **Magdalena** and renamed to **Pueblo Libre** by the liberator, Jose de San Martin. The Santiago Queirolo's winery was founded in 1880. Today, in the same place is the Old Queirolo's Tavern, as well as the headquarters of the winery. The tour ends at **Trentino Restaurant** with a delicious lunch in the cozy atmosphere of this colonial mansion.

Overnight at **Arawi Lima Hotel (4*)** Meals included: **Buffet Breakfast – Lunch**

Day 5: Monday, May 5, 2014 – Lima – Ayacucho (altitude 9,000 feet)

After your early morning buffet breakfast you will be driven to the airport for your flight to Ayacucho, where you will be met, assisted and transferred to your hotel. Around 10:00 AM you will have a walking tour of the city, after which, you will enjoy a delicious typical lunch. Ayacucho is like no other city in the Peruvian Andes, because fancy hotels, restaurants and shops are virtually non-existent. For this reason, the curious visitor has many opportunities to enjoy Ayacucho's daily life, while trying the local cuisine and meeting local inhabitants. The Santa Ana district is the home of many artisans who



Weavers, stone-carvers and potters abound. Visiting the artisans is particularly interesting for those who enjoy interacting with the local population and entering actual workshops. Around 3:00 PM we will continue the visit into Ayacucho, arriving at the Acuchimay mirador for a

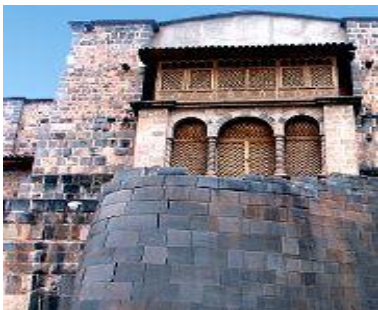
panoramic view of the city. We'll continue on to the artisan and handicraft town of Santa Ana where you will visit with local artisans. We will then visit the Anthropology museum and the famous neighborhoods of San Bautista and Carmen Alto. Overnight at **Hotel Sevilla (3*)**
Meals included: Buffet Breakfast – Lunch

Day 6: Tuesday, May 6, 2014 – Ayacucho – Wari – Quinua

After your breakfast at the hotel, we will have a guided visit over the first archeological complex in the Andes, the **Wari (Huari)**, visiting the site museum. Later, we will arrive at the famous town of **Quinua**, home of the best artists in the Peruvian central Andes. You will have the opportunity to participate in the confection of basic mud handicraft, and you will have the chance to shop for the finest pieces. You will also visit the Mud Museum. We'll continue on to Pampa de Ayacucho, where the most important battle in Peruvian history occurred, resulting in freedom from the Spanish. We'll continue to Huamanguillas, the first Spanish town founded by the conquerors. We'll continue on to **Huanta**, where you will enjoy a famous kind of meal, "**Pachamanca**", which includes at least three kinds of meats and various organic ingredients found in the Andes. This meal is traditionally cooked in a pit using very hot stones. After lunch, we'll go to the local market, used every day by the local villagers. We'll continue on, visiting the very traditional towns of Maynay and Luricocha, and the final stop will be **Pikimachay Cave**, where the oldest man in South America was discovered. Overnight at **Hotel Sevilla (3*)**
Meals included: Breakfast – Lunch

Day 7: Wednesday, May 7, 2014 – Ayacucho – Cusco (altitude 11,200 feet)

After breakfast at the hotel, we will head to the airport for our flight to Cusco, where we'll be met, assisted and transferred to our hotel. Most of us will feel the higher altitude, and it is recommended to rest, drink the coca tea available at the hotel, and avoid alcoholic and carbonated beverages and heavy meals for at least the first day. Lunch will be on your own, and in the afternoon, we will have a tour of the amazing colonial city built on the foundations of Inca places. You will visit **Korikancha (Temple of the Sun)**, where you can appreciate the incredible masonry of the Incas, the Plaza de Armas and the Cathedral with beautiful carved wood, altars and paintings. We'll continue to the Inca fortress of **Sachsahuamán**,



Korikancha (Temple of the Sun)



Marvelous masonry of Sachsahuamán



then to the underground cave and temple of **K'kenko** and on to **Tambomachay**, known as the Baths of the Inca. Our last visit will be to the neighborhood of San Blas, where the finest Cusco artists have lived since colonial times. We will enjoy a Novoandean dinner tonight at **Mutu Restaurant**.

Overnight at **Novotel Cusco (4*)** **Meals included: Breakfast – Dinner**

Day 8: Thursday, May 8, 2014 – Cusco – Sacred Valley – Ollantaytambo – Pisac Market

After an early breakfast, you will be transferred to Ollantaytambo, an Inca town that was a military, religious and agricultural center. Here, the fortress located in the highest part of the mountain protected the valley from invaders. The view of the town from the top is overwhelming. Narrow streets and water channels constructed by the Incas are still used by the locals. We will

have time to explore the town and then we'll continue on to **Wayra Ranch** from Sol Luna, where you will enjoy a lovely lunch and then an incredible, unforgettable **Peruvian Pazo Horse** show.



Wayra Ranch from Sol Luna demonstration



Wayra Ranch from Sol Luna



Peruvian Pazo Horse show with Marineria



Pisac Market



Pisac Market



Pisac Market

We'll continue on to Pisac, a beautiful town famous for its typical handicraft market, loaded with color and tradition. Overnight at **Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel (4*) Meals included: Breakfast – Lunch**

Day 9: Friday, May 9, 2014 – Misminay (Sacred Valley Indian Community) (altitude 11,000 feet)

Today, we will visit the Andean community of Misminay, in the outskirts of Cusco, where you will be able to spend the day with the tradition-preserving locals.



Misminay local women



Misminay woman using ancient loom technique

The tour to the village goes through native botanical species, crop fields, using a narrow and winding path that will take us to the village. There is a natural balcony with a spectacular view of the Sacred Valley of the Incas and the snow-covered mountains in the background. Families live

in small single- or double-room houses, made out of adobe. They raise guinea pigs (cuyes), cattle and sheep. You'll have the chance to actual plow or harvest, depending upon the time of year, appreciate a toast to honor the earth during a ceremony of Mother Earth, and later we'll enjoy a traditional lunch prepared by the ladies of Misminay, with naturally cultivated ingredients from their camps. Additionally, you'll observe them as they make their handicrafts: women spinning, dyeing wool with natural ingredients and tapestry knitting, using ancient techniques. Overnight at **Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel (4*)** **Meals included: Breakfast – Lunch**

Day 10: Saturday, May 10, 2014 – Machu Picchu (altitude 7,900 feet)

After breakfast, we will board the Vistadome train to the Aguas Calientes Station in Machu Picchu where you will be transported by bus to the top of the mountain and the citadel of Machu Picchu, one of the most renowned examples of Inca architecture in the world. You'll be amazed to discover that you are surrounded by lush cloud forest and many ferns and wild orchids. Lost in history, it was not discovered until 1911 by the American explorer Hiram Bingham. After a guided visit of the ruins, you will have a self-service lunch at a local restaurant. The balance of the afternoon is free for you to marvel at the ruins and discover more of this incredible city on your own. Dinner is included at the hotel. Overnight at **El Mapi Hotel by Inkaterra (3*)** **Meals included: Breakfast – Lunch – Dinner**



Vistadome Train interior



Machu Picchu with Huayna Picchu in background

Day 11: Sunday, May 11, 2014 – Machu Picchu – Cusco (altitude 11,200 feet)

After breakfast you will have a second entrance and bus ride to Machu Picchu. You will be able to enjoy another view of the ruins such as **Intipunku (Gate of the Sun)** and to have a photograph-worthy oversight of the citadel. In the afternoon, you will board the train back to Cusco, and you will be transferred back to your hotel. Overnight at **Novotel Cusco (4*)** **Meals included: Breakfast**

Day 12: Monday, May 12, 2014 – Cusco – Lima – farewell (or beginning of optional extension to the jungle)

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Lima and for connections for your flights home.

or

Puerto Maldonado optional extension

3 days / 2 nights

\$550 USD per person, based on double-occupancy

Single supplement \$125

Day 12: Monday, May 12, 2014 – Cusco – Puerto Maldonado

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your 45-minute flight from Cusco to Puerto Maldonado. You will start your journey as you arrive and check in at the Inkaterra Lounge

(Butterfly House), where the staff will welcome you and give you the necessary information for your stay. Navigate by outboard motorized canoe along the Madre de Dios River to **Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica**



Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica



Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica



Hammocks for relaxing

(approximately 45 minutes).

You'll enjoy a buffet lunch with organic ingredients and native flavors. After lunch, you'll take a guided walk through trails in the jungle, where you will discover and learn about primary and secondary rainforest, its components, uses, transformations by the human being and its relevance for the world. At dusk, navigate by outboard motorized canoe on the Twilight river excursion. Sailing on the Madre de Dios River, you will learn about its ecosystem, Amazonian creeks, nocturnal animals' behavior and the southern constellations. In the evening you will enjoy a very nice dinner in the dining room. Overnight at **Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica ... Meals included: Breakfast – Lunch – Dinner**

Day 13: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – Puerto Maldonado

New experiences are ahead and after your nutritious buffet breakfast, get ready for a long trek through terra firma into the Tambopata National Reserve towards lake Sandoval. Here you will understand why Madre de Dios is called the biodiversity capital of Peru, while learning about the Reserve's conservation efforts and the lake's formation. Navigate by dugout canoe across this irror-like oxbow lake that is home to the endangered giant river otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), blue and yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*), red howler monkey (*Alousatta seniculus*), black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*) and one of the world's biggest fresh water scaled fish, the paiche (*Arapaima gigas*). Back to the lodge for lunch and later on the Inkaterra Canopy Walkway and Anaconda Walk awaits.



Inkaterra Canopy Walkway



Typical accommodation at Inkaterra Reserva Lodge

Take a 20-minute ride by outboard motorized canoe to the Inkaterra Canopy Walkway Interpretation Center where you will learn about its construction and the conservations projects of ITA-Inkaterra Association (NGO). Ascend one of the two 98-foot towers and cross the 7 hanging bridges that connect the treetops to 91-feet high. Enjoy the breathtaking vistas and get the chance to watch white-throated toucans (*Ramphastos tucanus*), woodpeckers, trogons, squirrel

monkeys (*Saimiri boliviensis*) and the three-toed sloth (*Choleopus hoffmani*). After descending, keep on feeling the incredible primary rainforest energy going along the 200-meter wooden bridge over the aguajales swamps. You will learn about the fauna and flora of this flooded ecosystem. At night, prepare for an adventure at the Hidden Rainforest excursion, where you will explore the Amazon rainforest that gives way to nocturnal animals who display intriguing behavior patterns, and enhanced senses as adaptation mechanisms. Listen to nocturnal living nature sounds and penetrate this hidden world. Your day will end with a pleasant dinner. Overnight at **Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica ... Meals included: Breakfast – Lunch – Dinner**

Day 14: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 – Puerto Maldonado – Lima – farewell

After a buffet breakfast, take a ride back to Puerto Maldonado by outboard motorized canoe. Arrive at the Inkaterra Lounge (Butterfly House) where you may wait while learning about the fascinating transformation of these colorful insects, bred in the laboratory right there. After this, you will be transferred to the airport to board your flight back to Lima and connect with your international flight. **Meals included: Breakfast**

Notes: It's easy to forget that people were in Peru long before the Incas. The Inca Empire expanded at such an astounding rate not because of increased population, but because it incorporated civilizations that were already there. Evidence of humans in Peru dates back to 12,000-8000 BC and evidence of civilization in Peru dates back to 3000 BC in Caral—which is also the oldest civilization center discovered in all the Americas. Though experts dispute the exact date of origin, one of the oldest sites in Peru is Pikimachay Cave. There is little to see in this cave, located outside of the highland city of Ayacucho, other than an impressive view of the expansive Peruvian interior. But it was here some of the earliest evidence of human civilization was discovered, including signs of agriculture. - See more at: <http://www.saluxuryexpeditions.com/blog/ayacucho-peru-pikimachay-cave-other-historic-sites/#sthash.s2ecMHZg.dpuf>