

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Inca Sun Festival: Peru's Fabulous Inti Raymi Celebration

(Littleton, Colo.) – Southwind Adventures is offering seven scheduled adventures in June 2004 that include the annual June 24th solstice celebration of Inti Raymi in Cuzco, Peru. The festival, one of the largest and most colorful in South America, is a re-enactment of a sacred Inca rite welcoming the seasonal return of Father Sun, the source of life to the Andes.

Cuzco's Inti Raymi re-creation, based loosely on colonial accounts of the event, began in the 1940s as a way to renew native traditions lost in the Spanish conquest 400 years earlier. More than 150,000 natives and visitors gather in Cuzco for this celebration of music, dancing and pageantry, culminating in the main ceremony on June 24th at Sacsayhuaman, an impressive Inca fortress overlooking the city.

Southwind programs that coincide with Inti Raymi range from easy hotel-based cultural odysseys to the classic Inca Trail Trek. Land costs for the definitive 10-day "**World of the Incas**" program, featuring two nights at Machu Picchu and the festival activities, begin at \$2,795 per person. Price includes first-class lodging, most meals, ground transportation, entrance fees and private guided tours.

Southwind has specialized in nature, cultural and adventure travel to South America since 1990. Popular destinations include Andean treks, Galápagos Island cruises, biking in Patagonia and Amazon nature tours. Small groups and custom trip planning are a specialty. For a copy of Southwind's color brochure, call 1-800-377-9463. Web site: www.southwindadventures.com

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