



Iconic Itinerary
as seen in Condé Nast Traveler Magazine
including an optional 1 day hike on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu



DURATION: 9 days / 8 nights
SEASON: Year-round
DEPARTURES: Guaranteed with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 12 participants
TRIP RATING: Moderate Cultural & Archaeological Custom Tour, Grade (II): This luxury adventure is an activity-oriented program featuring daily walking tours through villages and Inca sites (2-3 hours duration at elevations above 8,000'). The optional Km 104 hike to Machu Picchu is a challenging day with a total of 7 miles and 1,745' elevation gain to a maximum altitude of 9,005'. The highest elevation of the overall trip is 12,350', and the itinerary has been designed to allow gradual adjustment to the altitude.

2012 DATES: On request any week of the year. April & May or September & October are ideal months in the Andes of Peru. January-March is the rainy, but less crowded season.
Note: The Km 104 hike requires hiking permits that can sell out 3-4 months in advance, so plan early. Km 104 is usually closed in February for trail work.

INTRODUCTION:

The Incas . . . Sons of the Sun . . . mysterious builders of stone fortresses, mountaintop citadels and golden temples. According to legend, Manco Inca & Mama Ocllo, the first Inca rulers, came forth from Lake Titicaca to unite warring tribes under a common language and a unified religion, creating one of the most fabulous of ancient empires, *Tawantinsuyo*, "the four quarters of the world." At its apex in the late fifteenth century, this impressive kingdom spanned an area more than five times the size of the state of California! The Incas governed this vast realm, which was connected by thousands of miles of stone-paved highways, from their cultural and religious center in Cusco. Persecuted by Spanish *conquistadores*, much of the Inca's history was destroyed. Even so, many stone monuments stand today, a testament to the skill of their master architects.

Designed for those looking to deepen their appreciation of the Incas while traveling in comfort, this exciting cultural and archaeological adventure takes us into the very heart of *Tawantinsuyo*. We begin in the Inca's Sacred Valley, joining Quechua villagers at the traditional market in Pisac before surveying the ruins overlooking town. Next, we visit a family in Chinchero, enjoy a weaving demonstration by master craftswomen and marvel at the fortress of Ollantaytambo. The following morning we take the Vistadome train to the famous Km 104 trailhead and begin an optional uphill hike to Wiñaywayna ruins where we join the classic Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. As we reach Intipunku, the Gateway of the Sun, our first view of the ancient city is impressive and unforgettable. In 2007 Machu Picchu was honored as one of the New 7 Wonders of the World, we spend 2 full days exploring this jewel of Inca architecture and the nearby village of Machu Picchu (formerly Aguas Calientes). Returning to Cusco by scenic Vistadome train and private vehicle, we trace the footsteps of ancient Inca leaders in their royal palaces and admire the precise stonework of the Coricancha, Sacsayhuaman and other pre-Columbian sites. Our adventure finishes with a tour of Lima's splendid Amano Museum.

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01: USA/LIMA

Depart the U.S. and arrive in Lima, Peru this evening. Reception and transfer to the new **Costa del Sol Hotel** (Junior Suite) located near the International Terminal. Alternate arrival: overnight flights are available to Lima via JFK or Miami allowing you to connect to Cusco the morning of Day 02 bypassing the short overnight in Lima.

DAY 02: LIMA/CUSCO/SACRED VALLEY

Transfer to the airport for a 1 hour flight to **Cusco** (11,150'). Reception and drive 1 hour by private vehicle to the lower elevation Sacred Valley (9,700') to help acclimatize. En route to **Pisac**, we stop at the Awanacancha craft center displaying some of the finest textiles in the Cusco region. In the village of Pisac (market on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays) we walk among local artisan shops before lunch at the family owned *Doña Clorinda* or Royal Inca restaurants serving delicious regional cuisine. This afternoon we explore Incan ruins perched on the terraced mountainside. The cliff walls house caves which served as South America's largest pre-Columbian cemetery. A short drive down the valley brings us to the new and lovely **Aranwa Resort & Spa** (Colonial room) or the comfortable Andean hacienda-style **Sol y Luna Lodge & Spa** (Bungalow Suite), according to availability. (B,L,D)

DAY 03: SACRED VALLEY

This morning, we drive back up to the highlands, enjoying panoramic views of the snow-capped Urubamba range including Mount Veronica and Pitusiray-both over 18,000 feet high. We arrive midmorning at the picturesque highland village of **Chincho** (12,335'), a charming community characteristic of Andean towns in that it combines both Incan and colonial architecture. On market day (Sunday), we watch as locals trade goods using an ancient system of bartering. We'll enjoy a weaving demonstration, see the nineteenth-century church and walk along an Incan wall with trapezoidal niches below the ruins of the Inca Yupanqui's palace. Later this morning brings us to the concentric terraced ruins at **Moray** that served as an agricultural center where the Incas experimented with acclimatizing and domesticating crops. We also visit the **Inca Salt Mines**, a series of over 5,000 terraced mountainside pools fed by a natural spring that are still worked by local families today. An optional 1 hour hike brings us down to the valley. Lunch today is at Alpamanka or El Huacatay restaurants serving *Novo Andino* cuisine. This afternoon is a tour of **Ollantaytambo's** ancient Sun Temple and a visit to a local home in the historic district. Return to the **Aranwa Resort & Spa** or the **Sol y Luna Lodge & Spa**. (B,L,D)

DAY 04: MACHU PICCHU

Board the Vistadome train early this morning for a short ride to the **Km 104 trailhead** at approximately 7,260'. We begin an optional, but exceptionally rewarding **dayhike** from the Sacred Valley to Machu Picchu. The trail gains approximately 1,585 ft in elevation to the Wiñaywayna ruins at 8,845'. Following a picnic lunch, we join a section of the **classic stone-paved Inca Trail**. After another 2 hours of hiking, we ascend 2 final sets of stairs to reach the Intipunku (9,005') or Gateway of the Sun where we are rewarded with an incredible view of the Machu Picchu citadel and the surrounding mountains. In the late afternoon, we descend on foot for 45 minutes through the ruins during the most tranquil time at the sanctuary after the crowds have dispersed. Ride the shuttle bus to the village of Machu Picchu (6,560') and check-in to the impressive **Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel** (Junior Suite Deluxe with fireplace) set among lush orchid gardens. Hike: 7 miles; 6 hours. Hiker luggage stays on the train and is retrieved by the hotel staff, you carry only a daypack while hiking. Non-hikers remain on the train and continue to the village of Machu Picchu with an assistant guide, enter the ruins and walk up to the Intipunku site to meet the hikers. (B,L,D)

DAY 05: MACHU PICCHU

Departing the hotel early by shuttle with our guide, we catch the **sunrise at Machu Picchu** (gates open at 06:00). We'll have a guided tour of the citadel with optional hikes for more active group members. At 8,860' **Huayna Picchu**, or Young Peak, looms over the citadel. An optional 1 hour climb along a very steep and exposed trail ends at terraces and ruins on the mountain's top, providing an excellent, bird's-eye view of Machu Picchu. Another 1.5 hour downhill hike on a shaded trail ends at the mysterious, partially excavated Temple of the Moon. This passage is an excellent off-the-beaten-path alternative to the main ruins. Lunch is on your own today (the Tinkuy buffet restaurant just outside the gates is an excellent option). With the afternoon set aside for personal explorations, you might want to visit the Inca Drawbridge before catching the late afternoon shuttle back to the **Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel**. Here you can relax with a Pisco sour, the national cocktail, followed by creative fusion cuisine in either the hotel's glass-walled restaurant or on the open-air terrace overlooking the lush Urubamba River. (B,D)

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DAY 06: MACHU PICCHU/CUSCO

Today we have another full morning to appreciate the glories of **Machu Picchu**. You may join your guide for an optional hike as a farewell to the ruins, or those who prefer may simply choose an overlook to meditate, photograph, or continue personal explorations of this archaeological wonder. Others might wish to explore the community of Machu Picchu where artists display a variety of colorful crafts. We meet together in town for lunch before catching the early afternoon Vistadome train for the 1.5 hour scenic journey back to Ollantaytambo. Tracing the course of the Urubamba River, we wind our way past Incan terraces and Quechua communities as we leave the lush cloud forest and make our way back to the highlands. Reception at the station and transfer by private vehicle to the elegant and historic **Monasterio Hotel** (Deluxe oxygenated room with terrace or balcony) in **Cusco** (11,150'). Dinner is on your own to try one of Cusco's fine restaurants. We recommend the chic Cicciolina, with a *bar de tapas* and a superb selection of wines. (B,L)

DAY 07: CUSCO

Morning at leisure to explore Cusco's vibrant San Pedro market or the city's many side-street craft shops, museums and plazas. The former Incan capital still retains ancient walls dating back hundreds of years. Lunch is on your own (Tunupa offers a local favorite - guinea pig or try Greens for vegetarian fare). Join your guide for an afternoon tour of **Cusco**. At the Inca's most important temple, the Coricancha, we learn how the floors and walls were once lined with solid gold. At the Cathedral we see how stones were taken from nearby Inca palaces. Above the city, we tour the ancient ceremonial pools at Tambo Machay. We say goodbye to Cusco from the hilltop fortress of Sacsayhuaman while enjoying the views just as the sun sets over the mountains. Back in town, dinner is on your own (we recommend the renowned Map Café housed in the Museo de Arte Precolombino). Settle in for the night at the familiar **Monasterio Hotel** (Deluxe oxygenated room with terrace or balcony). (B)

DAY 08: CUSCO/LIMA OR USA

Enjoy a relaxed morning at your own pace for some final shopping, sightseeing or walking the narrow streets of colonial Cusco. In the early afternoon, we transfer to the airport and fly to **Lima**. During the layover in the capital, your expert Lima guide escorts you through the colonial district and the Amano Museum (available Mon-Fri at 3 or 4pm), known for exquisite pre-Incan textiles. Lunch and dinner are on your own, we recommend a typical seafood meal such as ceviche at one of the several gourmet restaurants in the upscale Miraflores district. By late evening, we transfer back to the Lima airport with check-in assistance for your overnight flight to the U.S. (B)

DAY 09: USA

Arrive in the U.S. this morning and make onward connections home.

NOTES ON THE ITINERARY: Although we do our best to adhere to the above schedule, this itinerary is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control, including group pace and acclimatization, weather, road and trail conditions, flight delays or cancellations, as well as changes in plane and train schedules. **On Day 04**, the Km104 day hike is optional, those not wishing to hike can plan on remaining on the train and approach Machu Picchu via a short shuttle bus ride from the village. This trip is suitable for healthy participants accustomed to outdoor activities, age 7 and up. Some departures may include families with children and those will be designated as family departures. In Pisac and Chinchero the main typical food and handcrafts market day is Sunday, on Tuesdays and Thursdays there is also a smaller handcrafts market. At Machu Picchu we stay at the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel and there will be opportunities to visit the ruins in the early morning to avoid the crowds, well before the trains arrive. **On Day 08** we may substitute the visit of the Amano Museum for the Larco Herrera Museum (available daily 9am-6pm) or the Gold Museum (open everyday 12am-7pm). Distances and altitudes are approximate and travel times indicated do not include lunch breaks, rest or photo stops, time to explore the ruins, etc. **A deposit does not guarantee a specific hotel or a trail permit, these are subject to availability at the time of your reservation.**

2012 LAND COST:	\$5,325 p.p.d. (2-3 participants)
	\$4,925 p.p.d. (4-6 participants)
	\$4,545 p.p.d. (7-12 participants)
	\$2,055 Single Supplement

p.p.d.=per person based on double or triple occupancy

These Land Costs are valid for bookings until 3 months prior to departure. Bookings within 3 months of departure are subject to Land Costs increase.

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HOTEL & TRAIN UPGRADES: In Lima, choose the luxurious **Miraflores Park Hotel** or the elegant **JW Marriott Hotel**, both overlooking the ocean. At Machu Picchu, choose a Suite with fireplace & outdoor shower at the **Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel** or perhaps the exclusive **Sanctuary Lodge** just outside the entrance to Machu Picchu. The deluxe **Hiram Bingham Orient Express train** offers top level service and fine dining during your 3.5 hour return ride to Cusco. Due to high demand these reservations are recommended at least 4-6 months in advance, with a deadline of 90 days before departure. Upgrades have an additional cost quoted upon request, are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. Please contact our office for details.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country private transfers** as scheduled (transfers on different days are additional). Ground transportation in spacious and comfortable private vehicles with experienced professional drivers.
- **First-class, round trip Vistadome or similar train** from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu town. Machu Picchu bus service to/from town and the archaeological sanctuary.
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance**.
- All **accommodations in First and Deluxe-class (4-5 star) hotels** as listed on a shared basis with private bath. Note: As reservations for early arrivals or late departures are not placed at the same time as those for the Iconic Itinerary, we may have to use a different hotel for those nights. Advanced bookings, at least 4-6 months prior to departure, are recommended if you plan to arrive early or extend your stay. Double beds for couples (primarily king or queen size) can be requested in advance, but cannot be guaranteed, as most hotels offer few rooms with double beds. Advanced bookings are necessary to increase the chances to obtain the room type of your choice.
- All **meals** indicated on itinerary (B=breakfast L=lunch D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request (advance notification required). For other diets, consult your travel specialist before making a reservation.
- All **private guided tours** (as listed) conducted by knowledgeable, English-speaking local guides (includes applicable entrance fees).
- A native expert English-speaking guide/escort is provided for Cusco, Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu segments (Days 02-08), an assistant guide/escort is provided for groups of 8 or more participants. A separate English-speaking guide is provided in Lima.
- Single Supplement provides single room accommodations in all hotels. The best hotels in Cusco & Machu Picchu have a limited number of rooms, maximum 2 single rooms per group. Advanced reservations are recommended if you require a single room.

NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, International flights, nor local flights within Peru.
- Local Peruvian airport departure taxes (currently included in airfare for US & Canadian bound flights).
- Six (6) meals at about \$25-30 each.
- Tours or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment, laundry & phone calls.
- Tips to the local staff.
- Expenses incurred in preparing for this program such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets or traveler's insurance, and additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing a plan to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance helps to cover unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, geologic events, local strikes, a personal injury/illness to you, family member or your traveling companion could cause interruption or changes to your itinerary, missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or need for medical attention on the trip or evacuation which is why coverage is important. We recommend the *Worldwide Trip Protector (WTP)* plan offered by Travel Insured International (TII). **Kids 17 and under are free with related adult on the WTP plan.** Information and an application are sent upon receipt of your deposit (sooner if requested). Policies can be purchased securely online at: www.southwindadventures.com/insurance.html. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you should purchase the WTP policy within 21 days of your deposit in order to be reimbursed for non-refundable costs if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply). Please call our office or visit our website for more information.

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EARLY ARRIVAL TO CUSCO: Participants living at sea level and travelers with an extra day of vacation time are **strongly encouraged** to arrive to Cusco on a direct or connecting flight Day 01 of this Itinerary (e.g., leaving home the afternoon or evening before). Not only does this provide a head start in acclimating to the higher elevations, but also allows more time to explore this lovely, historical city and enjoy some of the great shopping that is available. Another benefit is avoiding the short overnight stay in Lima, a busy city of 8 million people. The additional night at Monasterio and transfer in Cusco to the hotel is extra and will be quoted on request. We also recommend a Deluxe room with oxygen for this first night in Cusco to help acclimate.

OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSIONS: Travelers with extra days may wish to extend their trip to the Galápagos Islands, Amazon Basin, Lake Titicaca, Northern Peru or the Nazca Lines. All extensions require a minimum of 2 participants. Call our office to request our **2012 Peru: Summary of Trip Extensions** or view them on our website, click on *Trips>World of the Incas-Iconic Itinerary>Extend Your Trip*.

ANDEAN GUIDES:

Rosa Garcia - A mature, caring and enthusiastic guide with 18 years of experience, Rosa has extensive knowledge of the Inca culture and history. She holds a degree in tourism and speaks fluent English. Over the past 13 years that she has closely worked with Southwind, she has received outstanding comments from travelers of all ages.

Francis Casapino - A native of the Andes, Francis graduated with a degree in Tourism from the San Antonio Abad University in Cusco. He has a variety of experiences in the travel industry, having worked as a guide, receptionist in hotels, at the regional tourism office, in travel agencies and as a guard in Manu National Park. He speaks English very well and has quickly become a favorite of Southwind clients receiving excellent comments regarding his knowledge, charm and caring attitude.

Ana Zamalloa, Romulo Lizarraga & Jorge Olivera, each with a minimum of 5 years experience leading tours in the southern Andes of Peru, these native bilingual guides are also among the fine professionals working with our groups.

WEATHER: Much of the Iconic Itinerary takes place in regions where atmospheric conditions can change suddenly. Guests must be prepared for all possibilities ranging from intense sunshine to rain, cold, and/or wind. Generally the **Andean** climate during the months of April-November is clear, dry and cool, but as this program includes time in the cloud forests on the eastern slopes of the Andes, **rain should be expected any month**. Brief hail, sleet or snow storms might also occur at the highest elevations at anytime. Andean nights are cold while the days are pleasant and spring like. **Cusco** has daytime highs in the mid 70's and nighttime lows in the upper 30's. Both daytime and nighttime temperatures in the **Sacred Valley** are about 10-15° warmer. The daytime temperatures at **Machu Picchu** are hot (80-85°F) with mild nights (lows around 45-50°F) and the likelihood of rain is high. Expect showers or mist on most departures. The sun is quite intense at these elevations and a good sun hat along with sunscreen is needed to prevent severe sunburn. Insect repellents such as Skintastic or Skin-so-Soft or long pants are a wise choice to guard against the no-see-ums at Machu Picchu.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE: The Land Cost DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip **international** air from US gateways (New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Houston, Atlanta) is approximately \$800-\$1,000 per person. **In-country flights** are estimated at \$400 per person for Lima-Cusco-Lima. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind will send you more information about booking your flights to match your land itinerary.

✉ Please send us your flight schedule at least 45 days before departure so we can arrange your transfers. We recommended that you **DO NOT** purchase any airline tickets until your trip is guaranteed to operate. Southwind sends a trip confirmation letter once a trip is guaranteed or you may contact us to check the status of your departure.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Submit Southwind's Trip Reservation form along with a \$1,000 per person per trip deposit (payable by check or credit card) to make a reservation. Both the form and deposit may be completed securely online at www.southwindadventures.com by clicking on "Book a Trip" at the top of our homepage. Or you may print the Trip Reservation Form and mail/fax it to our office with your deposit. If you prefer, you may call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements (**your deposit will be charged and your reservation confirmed once we receive your Trip Reservation Form**).

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Passport note: Due to the mandatory Inca Trail & Km 104 trekking permit system, a **valid passport** (with expiration of at least 6 months after your return from Peru) is needed at the time of deposit or soon thereafter. Only 500 spaces (for hikers & local staff) are allowed into the park each day on a first-come first-serve basis. Generally the hiking permits sell out 3-4 months in advance. Due to Cusco & Machu Picchu's popularity, we recommend making reservations at least 4-6 months in advance. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive a comprehensive pre-departure packet.

Land Balance: The Peru Iconic Itinerary is **finalized 90 days prior to departure and full payment is due at that time**, by Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover or check. You will receive an invoice with your pre-departure packet. The Iconic Itineraries are custom programs and do not qualify for any Southwind discounts except the Children & Alumni Discounts mentioned on our website.

Cancellation Fees: The following fees are valid for all Iconic programs (fees are per person and notification must be in writing):

Minimum fee	\$500
120-91 days in advance	\$1,000
90-61 days	75% of the LC
60 days or less	100% of the LC

LC=Total Land Cost per person including extensions & extra services per your invoice. Excludes discounts.

Substitutions: On occasion a client must cancel participation on a trip and there is a friend or family member willing to take their place. Substitutions are allowed up to 91 days prior to departure. The cancelling participant must pay the minimum fee of \$500. Any remaining monies received by SWA will be refunded upon receipt of payment and the required documentation from the substituting participant. At 90 days or less, the person cancelling faces the full cancellation fee as indicated above. No substitutions are allowed 30 days or less before departure. Transfers to another departure or trip at 91 days or more before departure are possible with a \$500 per person fee, transfers made at 90 days or earlier applies the full cancellation penalties.

For other policies refer to the 2012 Terms & Conditions on Southwind's website (click Book a Trip>2012 Terms & Conditions).

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