



## PERU

### INCA TRAIL TO MACHU PICCHU

Walk in the footsteps of an ancient civilization



<b>DURATION:</b>	10 days / 9 nights (first-class, 4-5 star hotels and 3 nights tent camping)
<b>SEASON:</b>	April through November
<b>DEPARTURES:</b>	Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 and maximum of 12 participants
<b>TRIP RATING:</b>	Moderate/Strenuous Trek, Grade (III): This active trip features a 4-day, porter-supported trek of 24.5 miles (averaging 6.1 miles per day and reaching elevations up to 13,780'). A warm-up hike is also included to help with the acclimatization process.

<b>2015 DATES:</b>	APR 03 - 12 ○	AUG 21 - 30 ○
	MAY 01 - 10 ○	SEP 25 - OCT 04 ○
	JUN 16 - 26 (Tue-Fri) ☀	OCT 23 - NOV 01 ○
	JUL 24 - AUG 02 ○	

○ Full moon departures

☀ Inti Raymi Festival Departure

**Note:** plan early - required trekking permits often sell out 3-4 months in advance.

#### INTRODUCTION:

The Incas considered themselves “sons of the Sun” - their principal deity. By force of divine right and with a mastery of engineering, agriculture and economic skills, the Incas united warring tribes throughout the Andes under a common language and single religion, creating one of the most fabulous of ancient empires, *Tawantinsuyo*. At its apex in the late fifteenth century, this impressive kingdom encompassed lands stretching from southern Colombia to central Chile, connected by a network of more than 5,000 miles of stone-paved highways, primary trails, tunnels and bridges. The Qhapaq Ñan, or “Main Andean Road” running through this far-reaching network, gained UNESCO World Heritage status in 2014. The Incas governed this vast realm from Cusco, their administrative and economic center, where, in honor of their gods and king, they built fabulous fortresses and mountaintop citadels of legendary grandeur and precision, making the term “Inca” synonymous with architectural excellence. Weakened by civil war, this magnificent empire collapsed in the face of the Spanish invasion in 1532, leaving behind silent walls. In spite of the ravages of time, these mysterious stone monuments stand today as a testament to the greatness of their creators.

This classic trek along the stone-paved *Royal Road* leads directly to Machu Picchu, the fabled *Lost City of the Incas*. Travelers are treated to a broad introduction to Inca civilization. First, we acclimatize by visiting unique ruins such as the Coricancha, Sacsayhuaman and Tambo Machay near Cusco. Later, we hike to Pisac, dramatically perched over the Sacred Valley. En route to the trailhead, we stop in at the Indian market in Chinchero. Our wilderness route takes us across two high passes, through alpine meadows, lush cloud forests and beneath snow-capped peaks. Each day well-preserved Inca sites emerge – an exciting preamble to Machu Picchu. Arriving through the *Intipunku*, or Gateway of the Sun, the citadel unfolds below for a stunning first view. After hiking down into the ruins, we relax at the finest hotel in town. The next morning offers ample time to explore this treasure a second time before returning by train and bus to Cusco.

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### DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01 (FRI): USA / LIMA

Arrive this evening to Peru's capital city, **Lima**. Reception at the airport by a Southwind representative and assistance checking into the [Costa del Sol Hotel](#) adjacent to the international terminal. Meals are on your own today.

DAY 02 (SAT): LIMA / CUSCO

Participants in Lima are transferred this morning to the airport's National terminal for a one-hour **flight to Cusco**, the former Inca capital. Reception upon arrival and transfer to the historic [Libertador Palacio del Inka Hotel](#) (former palace of Peru's first governor, Francisco Pizarro and built over foundations of the Inca's *Aclla Huasi* or "house of the chosen women") located near the main plaza. Remainder of the morning at leisure to begin acclimating to the high elevation. Lunch is on your own. Join your Peruvian guide in the early afternoon for an orientation tour of the city and the nearby Incan ruins. The tour includes: the main plaza and Cathedral, which houses important colonial pieces of gold and silver work, the *Coricancha* or Inca's Sun Temple, whose stonework is some of the finest in the country; *Sacsayhuaman*, the spectacular mountaintop complex overlooking the Cusco valley and surrounding hills; and *Tambo Machay*, where the clear cool springs of the ceremonial baths continue to flow 550 years after they were built. Later, after a chance to rest, enjoy a welcome dinner and trip briefing at one of Cusco's finest restaurants serving Novo Andino cuisine. ☉ **Full Moon** - Apr 04, 2015 (B,D)

DAY 03 (SUN): SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS / CUSCO

After breakfast, drive by comfortable vehicle to the highlands above the **Sacred Valley of the Incas** for a 2 hour warm-up adventure. From the village of Maras (11,070') we begin a 3 mile gradual downhill hike, first to explore the Pichincoto Salt Mines, a series of over 2,000 terraced mountainside pools fed by a natural spring. Local families have been producing salt here since Incan times. Continue downhill following a scenic route to the Sacred Valley. After a hearty lunch, we drive to the lively town of **Pisac** (9,708'). With your knowledgeable guide, explore the main plaza and narrow side streets typical of Andean communities. Sunday is market day in Pisac when local produce and colorful crafts are displayed. Above town, the Pisac ruins are perched on a ridge overlooking the valley. Observe how the Incas directed the meandering Urubamba River into a canal for farming potatoes and grains. Impressive stretches of agricultural terraces contour the mountainside. Nearby cliff walls house caves which served as South America's largest pre-Columbian cemetery. Walk about 2 miles following a stone-paved trail with expansive views, leading us to Pisac's religious complex with exquisite stonework and *Intihuatana* or Hitching Post of the Sun. Returning to the [Libertador Palacio del Inka Hotel](#) in Cusco by late afternoon, the evening at leisure with dinner on your own to explore town. ☉ **Full Moon** - May 03 & Sep 27, 2015 (B,L)

DAY 04 (MON): CUSCO / HUAYLLABAMBA CAMP

Enjoy the early morning light during a scenic drive northwest across the highlands with panoramic views of the snow-capped Urubamba range, including Veronica & Pitusiray peaks, both over 18,000 ft. **Chinchero** (12,335') is a picturesque community with characteristics of many Andean towns that combine Inca and colonial architecture. A massive Inca wall with ten trapezoidal niches dominates the village's main square adjacent to the colonial church. Continuing our drive to the trailhead in the lower end of the valley, we stop for a brief visit of Ollantaytambo's impressive terraced remains of the sun temple. The town maintains an original street plan and foundations designed by the Incas. The trailhead for our trek is at Km 82 near the village of **Piscacucho (9,150')**. We meet our camp staff and the Quechua Indian porters who carry our gear. Our journey begins following a relatively level trail winding above the Urubamba River as the fertile valley narrows into a rugged gorge. We hike through a desert-like environment interspersed with cacti and interesting flowering plants to reach the Inca site of **Llactapata** (8,366'). Our route today continues uphill along a gentle gradient passing fields and Inca terraces of the Cusichaca River valley. Snow-capped Mt. Veronica (19,188'), the highest peak in the Urubamba range, looms silently behind us as we approach the village of **Huayllabamba**, a Quechua community built on original Inca foundations. The [tent camping](#) experience is ready upon arrival to unwind and take in the view. **Hiking distance:** 6 miles or 6 hours; **Camp elevation:** 9,678' (B,L)

DAY 05 (TUE): PACAYMAYO CAMP

We face a challenging, full day of uphill hiking today (4,100' of elevation gain). The trail becomes quite steep as we follow the narrow Llullucha gorge leading up toward the highest pass of our journey. The switchbacks are well-marked, passing through a dense forest with abundant birdlife and flowering plants before topping out in the wide, open meadows of **Llulluchapampa**. Expansive views abound of the surrounding Andean peaks behind us and the highest pass of our route before us, *Warmiwañusqa*, at 13,780'. The final approach to the pass, a long steep ramp ending with a few switchbacks, typically takes about 2-2.5 hours from the meadows of Llulluchapampa. Reaching the top, we enjoy views of the rugged, glacier-clad *Wiyañey* peaks across the valley and the forested Pacaymayo gorge on the other side. We watch as our

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porters, or *Huayruros*, some dressed in their traditional red ponchos and *chullos* (earflap hats) carry their loads up the same route and then continue past us to arrive to the campsite ahead of the group. From the top our descent is steep, following a newly completed stone-paved trail with sections of staircases. Arriving to the upper meadows of **Pacaymayo** we settle into our campsite for an afternoon of photography, relaxing or exploring the area. **Hiking distance:** 6.5 miles or 6.5 hours; **Camp elevation:** 10,991' ○ **Full Moon** - Oct 27, 2015 (B,L,D)

### DAY 06 (WED): PHUYUPATAMARCA CAMP

A short, steep uphill section brings us to the **Runkurakay** watchtower this morning. We continue climbing Inca stairs past a small lake to reach our route's second high pass at 12,631'. A clear day offers excellent views to the horizon of the glacier-clad peaks of the Pumasillo Mountains as well as the deep gorges and ridges of the eastern Andes. Ahead of us is the Royal Road leading down past the strategic Incan site of **Sayacmarca** (11,811') and the smaller, neighboring ruins of Conchamarca. The descent is steep but follows a well-defined trail. After exploring the ruins, we contour along the ridge, marveling at the dense vegetation of the cloud forest as we walk on a 4-6 foot wide stone-paved trail. After ducking through an ancient tunnel, we reach the final crest of the ridge and arrive to **Phuyupatamarca**, or "the town above the clouds" as the site's name translates from Quechua. This final campsite is one of the most spectacular along the Camino Inca with a 360-degree view of both the Urubamba and the Aobamba River valleys, and **Mount Salcantay**, (20,575') whose impressive glacier-covered summit is the highest in the Vilcabamba range. Sunrise here can be spectacular, we begin to understand why the mountain was worshiped as a god by the Incas. Condors are sometimes seen soaring above the valley on their way to the highlands, as the world's largest flying bird, their wingspan can reach 10 feet! Trek length: 5.5 miles or 5.5 hours **Camp elevation:** 11,975' (B,L,D)

### DAY 07 (THU): MACHU PICCHU

Our final trekking day is filled with excitement and anticipation. We descend past the ceremonial baths at **Phuyupatamarca** following hundreds of stairs cut directly into the rocky hillside. This staircase, dropping down through the cloud forest, is a relatively recent discovery on the Incan highway. We lose elevation as we hike through increasingly lush vegetation, identifying some of the more than 370 species of orchids that grow in the region as we go, noting various bromeliads, lichens, bromeliads, begonias, mosses and tree ferns along the way. The air is warming, butterflies flit before us on the trail. We pass through a second tunnel and look down at one of the most dramatic sites of the route, **Wiñaywayna** (Forever Young), whose terraces and ceremonial baths cling to the mountainside overlooking the winding Urubamba River a thousand feet below. A steep, switchbacked descent along a dirt path leads us past a former hostel and on into the ruins. We explore this extensively terraced site for a while, enjoying views out over the Urubamba Valley and dipping our fingers into the water of the ceremonial baths that line the main trail through the site. Climbing two final sets of stairs, we reach **Intipunku** (8,860'), the Gateway of the Sun. Our efforts of the past days are rewarded with an incredible view of the magnificent **Machu Picchu** citadel and the surrounding mountains. After a 45-minute hike down to the ruins we have enough time for an initial overview of the lost city, saving the majority of our explorations for tomorrow. We catch one of the last buses to the village of Machu Picchu (formerly Aguas Calientes) and check into the charming [Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel](#), situated in 12 acres of secluded cloud forest garden along the Urubamba River. The day ends with a relaxing and delicious dinner, recounting tales from our trek, and a well-deserved cozy bed. **Trek length:** 6.5 miles or 6 hours; **Final elevation:** 7,874' (B,L,D)

### DAY 08 (FRI): MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

In order to witness the citadel bathed in the morning light, we have an early breakfast and join our guide for a tour through the main sections of **Machu Picchu**, enjoying a couple of peaceful hours before the trains arrive. The Incas' renowned *Lost City* was first brought to the world's attention in 1911 by the American historian Hiram Bingham, having escaped earlier discovery by the Spanish Conquistadors. Perched atop a crest high above the meandering Urubamba River and surrounded by the rugged, forested slopes of the Andes, this archaeological treasure is more than just the crown jewel of Incan architecture. It is a city in harmony with its surroundings, the perfect union of human engineering and the natural environment. Our stop includes visits to the Temple of the Sun and the Royal Tomb, examinations of ceremonial water fountains and baths, and a stroll on the Sacred Plaza. At 8,860' **Huayna Picchu**, or Young Peak, looms over the citadel. An optional one-hour climb along a very steep, narrow 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 up and downhill hike on a shaded trail ends at the mysterious, partially excavated *Temple of the Moon*. Part of the day is free for personal explorations before we catch the afternoon bus and Vistadome train for the 1.5 hour scenic ride back to Ollantaytambo. Reception at the station and 1.5-hour transfer by private vehicle to **Cusco** and the familiar [Libertador Palacio del Inka Hotel](#). ○ **Full Moon** - Jul 31, 2015 (B,L)

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DAY 09 (SAT): CUSCO / LIMA / USA

Morning at leisure to explore Cusco's colorful San Pedro market, the many side-street craft shops, museums and plazas. We are picked up at the hotel late-morning for the drive to the airport in **Cusco** to catch the flight back to **Lima**. Upon arrival, we join our local guide for a private tour of colonial Lima and the fascinating Larco Herrera Museum with an extensive collection of pre-Columbian artifacts. Lunch and dinner are on your own to try a typical seafood meal such as ceviche at one of the several gourmet restaurants in the coastal Miraflores district. Participants leaving tonight have a return transfer to the airport this evening. ○ **Full Moon** - Aug 29, 2015 (B)

DAY 10 (SUN): USA

Arrive in the US this morning and make onward connections home.

**NOTES ON THE ITINERARY:** Although we do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above, the day-by-day activities on this itinerary are subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control, including group acclimatization, pace, weather, road, river, and trail conditions or train and plane schedules. Hiking distances and altitudes are approximate; times indicated do not include lunch breaks, rest stops, time to explore the ruins, etc. This trip is suitable for physically fit participants age 12 and up accustomed to outdoor activities. At Cusco we may use the new and deluxe boutique-style **Aranwa hotel** (also located near the main square, this restored colonial mansion from the XVI century brings the added benefit of oxygenated rooms) instead of the Libertador, at least for all the nights before the trek.

**2015 LAND COST:**  
\$4,605 p.p.d. (4-6 participants)  
\$4,185 p.p.d. (7-12 participants)  
\$ 925 Single Supplement

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

☀ **2015 INTI RAYMI DEPARTURE - JUNE 16-26** (11 days/10 nights):

Our June 16 departure is 1 day longer, beginning on Tuesday rather than Friday, in order to incorporate the fabulous *Inti Raymi Celebration* on June 24 in Cusco. The schedule of activities is as follows:

JUN 16-23: As described on pages 2-3 for DAYS 01-08.

JUN 24 (WED): This is the principal day of the **Inti Raymi Festival**, the greatest of all Inca celebrations, which is re-created each year on June 24<sup>th</sup>, the time of the Winter Solstice, in honor of *Apu Inti Tayta*, or the Sun God-the source of life in the Andes. The current event is a re-enactment of the original pageantry. It is possibly one of the most spectacular Andean festivals in South America, with parades, processions, dance contests and folk music culminating in the main ceremony on June 24<sup>th</sup>. We join our local guide shortly after breakfast and head first to the Coricancha, or Sun Temple, where the Inca (a local resident selected to play this role) starts the celebrations with an invocation. Dancers and musicians offer their praises to Inti Tayta. Then the Inca and his procession go to the main square where we witness the rite of coca in which the future of the Empire is made known through the sacred leaf. Afterwards, we continue up to the Sacsayhuaman ruins where we have excellent seats to watch as the Inca rekindles the sacred fire and offers sacrifices to bring the sun back from its long journey north. We return to the [Libertador Hotel](#). Dinner is on your own. (B,L)

JUN 25-26: As described on page 4 for DAYS 09 &10.

**2015 INTI RAYMI LAND COST:**  
\$5,130 p.p.d. (4-6 participants)  
\$4,660 p.p.d. (7-12 participants)  
\$1,145 Single Supplement

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

**HOTEL UPGRADE:** We can reserve the elegant 5-star JW Marriott Hotel in Lima's Miraflores overlooking the Ocean; the Sacred Valley's Aranwa Resort & Spa or Libertador Tambo del Inka (with a heated pool); the historical Monasterio Hotel in Cusco; and the exclusive Sanctuary Lodge adjacent to Machu Picchu for an additional fee. Due to high demand these reservations are recommended at least 4-5 months in advance. These and other possible hotel upgrades are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. See details in '[Accommodations](#)'.

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### SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country transfers** as scheduled (transfers on different days are additional). Ground transportation in comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers. Occasionally, other Southwind travelers may share the same vehicle, particularly for transfers and tours in Lima.
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance**.
- **First-class Vistadome or similar train** from Machu Picchu town to Ollantaytambo. Machu Picchu bus service to/from town and the archaeological sanctuary.
- All **accommodations in first-class (4-5 star) hotels** as listed (or at similar hotels) 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 our group space, we may have to use a different hotel for those nights. Advanced bookings are recommended if you plan to arrive early or extend your stay. Double beds for couples (king/queen) can be requested in advance, but cannot be guaranteed, as most hotels offer few rooms with double beds.
- Single Supplement includes single room and single tent on trek. Due to limited space in campsites and at hotels in Cusco and Machu Picchu, the number of singles available per group are limited to 2. If you require single accommodations, we recommend making reservations well in advance.
- All **meals** indicated on the 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 **guided tours** (as listed) conducted on a private basis (except the Inti Raymi Festival tour, where other Southwind travelers may join for the same activities) by knowledgeable, English-speaking native guides (includes applicable entrance fees).
- **First-class trekking service** includes:
  - Experienced, licensed, English-speaking, Andean guide (assistant guide provided for 9 or more participants). The main guide will have a satellite phone for logistics and emergencies.
  - Expert camp chef & kitchen assistant, camp assistant & Quechua Indian porters (porters are treated & compensated well, they carry a maximum of 20 lbs of an individual trekker's personal gear).
  - All group camping equipment: spacious 3-person all season Eureka K-2 or North Face VE-25 tents (shared by just 2 participants), Thermarest™ sleeping pads, kitchen tent, enclosed shower, separate dining tent, folding tables, camp stools and an environmentally friendly toilet tent.
  - All meals: we serve a variety of healthy food with fresh native ingredients. A cup of hot wake-up tea is brought to your tent door followed by a hot breakfast, box or picnic lunch, and a 3 course dinner.
  - Tips to the porters.
  - First-aid kit.

### NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, international flights, nor local flights within Peru.
- Peruvian airport departure taxes (for USA and Canadian travelers these taxes are included in the airfare).
- Four (4) meals at approx. \$20-30 each.
- Tours or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Tips to the tour guides & drivers plus main trekking staff (trekking guide, assistant guide and chefs).
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment, laundry & phone calls.
- Sleeping bag & other personal gear. Southwind has a limited number of synthetic or down sleeping bags rated to 0° or +10°F available for rent for \$45 per person. Advance reservations and prepayment are required.
- Expenses incurred in preparing for this trip such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets or traveler's insurance, nor additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.

**EARLY ARRIVAL TO CUSCO:** Participants living at sea level and travelers with an extra day of vacation time are **encouraged** to consider arriving to Cusco (11,150') on a direct or connecting flight on Day 01 of this Itinerary (e.g., leaving home the day prior to Day 01). Not only does this provide a head start in the process of acclimating to the higher elevations (a definite advantage when you are trekking), but also allows more time to explore this lovely, historical city and enjoy some of the great shopping that is available.

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### 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. To view the extensions on our website, click on [‘Extend Your Trip’](#).

**PRIVATE TRIPS ARE AVAILABLE:** Southwind can customize our Inca Trail Trek around your preferred schedule for a minimum of 4 participants. Please contact our office for details.

**GLAMPING:** For travelers seeking more comfortable and refined camping, we offer a new “[glamping](#)” experience with upgraded amenities and services. Extras include additional support staff such as a specialized camp chef and optional massage therapist, more spacious tents that are tall enough to stand upright, and a cot with plush mattress pad that allow for more comfort and better sleep on the trail. Available for private parties with a minimum of four participants. Contact your Southwind Travel Consultant for details and additional costs.

### ANDEAN GUIDES:

**Romulo Lizarraga** - Romulo is one of the most knowledgeable, experienced and professional guides in the Andes. This University of Cusco graduate was born in Intihuatana, at the foot of Machu Picchu Mountain where his grandfather grew up exploring the region, making Romulo a descendent of the local discoverers of Machu Picchu! Romulo has over 25 years of experience in the Peruvian Andes and has co-authored two books. He’s an avid hiker having led trekking groups throughout the mountain ranges in the Cusco region and beyond. He is married with two daughters and is fluent in Quechua, Spanish and English.

**Francis Casapino** - A native of the Andes, Francis graduated with a degree in Tourism from the San Antonio Abad University in Cusco. Over the past 15 years he’s had 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 fluent English and has quickly become a favorite of Southwind clients receiving superb comments regarding his knowledge, charm and caring attitude.

**Ronny Peña, Jose Ayerbe & Aly Amaut** - each have a minimum of 5 years of extensive experience leading groups in the southern Andes of Peru. These native bilingual guides have received exceptional reviews and are among the finest professionals sharing the beauty of their country with Southwind travelers.

**WEATHER:** Andean nights are cool, days are pleasant and springlike. Temperatures encountered on this trip may range from 28°-90°F. **Daytime highs along the trekking route average 74°F on sunny days** (higher elevations have cooler temperatures) but may only reach the mid 50’s on overcast days. At the high campsites you should expect **nighttime lows of 25-30°F**. **Cusco** has daytime highs in the mid 70’s and evening lows in the 40’s. The daytime temperatures at **Machu Picchu** will be hot (85-90°F) with mild nights (45-55°F). The trip takes place in the cloud forests on the eastern edge of the Andes, **so rain showers should be expected any month**. Hail, sleet or snow storms might also occur at the highest elevations at anytime. Trekking during the Andean rainy season, December-March, is not recommended because of high risk of mud slides, rock fall or lightning and high passes may be closed due to heavy hail or snow fall.

<b>Cusco</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>
AVE HIGH (°F)	65	65	66	67	67	66	66	67	68	69	69	69
AVE LOW (°F)	43	43	43	41	36	32	32	35	39	41	42	43
AVE RAINFALL	6.3	5.2	4.3	1.8	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.9	1.9	3.1	4.7

Rainfall amounts are in inches.

<b>Machu Picchu</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>
AVE HIGH (°F)	77	75	77	79	77	77	77	79	77	81	79	77
AVE LOW (°F)	50	50	50	50	46	45	46	46	48	52	52	50
AVE RAINFALL	8.1	8.5	7.7	4.2	1.3	0.7	0.9	1.3	2.1	3.6	4.5	6.8

Rainfall amounts are in inches.

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**PRESERVATION:** The *Inca Trail* can become very busy, particularly during the May-November season. Nearly 75,000 people trek the trail each year and an additional 750,000 visit Machu Picchu by train! In 2000, a governmental decree limited the number of trekkers along this route by restricting the groups to a maximum of 15 plus local staff, and requiring that all groups be accompanied by official guides. If you want to hike the Inca Trail, the way to minimize your own impact is to join a group operated by an experienced outfitter such as Southwind Adventures. If you prefer to avoid large groups of hikers on this popular route, you may want to join an alternate, equally spectacular trek following an off-the-beaten-path route such as our **Urubamba Weaver's Trek**.

**ESTIMATED AIRFARE:** The Land Cost DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip international air from US gateways (New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta) is approximately \$900-\$1,100 per person. Airlines offering service to Lima include American, United, Delta and LAN. In-country flights on LAN are estimated at \$375 per person for Lima-Cusco-Lima. The best way to save on airfare is to have Southwind quote all your air using LAN for your international & in-country flights. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you more information about booking flights to match your land itinerary. It is important to NOT purchase any airline tickets until your trip is guaranteed to operate. Southwind sends you a trip confirmation once your trip is guaranteed.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend purchasing coverage to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance is important in case of unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, geologic events, local strikes, personal injury/illness for you, your traveling companion or family members, could require itinerary interruption or changes. Missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or the need for medical attention or evacuation are also reasons why coverage is important. Southwind offers several plans through Travel Insured International (TII) to fit your budget and coverage amount. We recommend TII's *Worldwide Trip Protector* which offers a good value and **free coverage for kids 17/under traveling with a related adult**. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you can still receive coverage if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply and plan purchase needs to be done **within 21 days of your deposit date**). **Please call our office for a quote** or to discuss your insurance options. See our [Travel Insurance](#) page to learn more and purchase a plan.

### HOW TO SIGN UP:

Submit Southwind's [Trip Reservation Form](#) along with a \$1,000 per person per trip deposit by credit card via our secure [Online Payment Form](#). If you prefer, you can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements or send a check. **Your deposit will be charged and your reservation confirmed once we receive your Trip Reservation Form.** Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive comprehensive pre-departure planning documents by email.

**Permits Required – Plan Early!** Due to the popularity of Cusco & Machu Picchu, we recommend making reservations at least 4 months or more in advance. **Note:** Due to the mandatory Inca Trail trekking permit system, a **valid passport number** is needed at the time of deposit or soon thereafter. Only 500 people (both trekkers and staff, including porters) are allowed onto the trail each day. Generally the trekking permits sell out 3-4 months in advance.

**Land Balance:** Final payment is due at 90 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or check. You will receive a trip invoice indicating your balance due.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under the [2014/2015 Terms & Conditions](#) on Southwind's website.

### Save! Early Sign-up Discounts

Sign up 10 months in advance for **10% savings** per person\*

Save **4% to 9%** for booking 4 to 9 months in advance respectively

Call **1-800-377-9463** for details, questions or to make a reservation

\*Discounts are calculated on the lowest published 2015 land cost

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**[www.southwindadventures.com](http://www.southwindadventures.com)**

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PO Box 621057 Littleton, CO 80162 • Tel: (303) 972-0701 or (800) 377-9463 • Fax: (303) 972-0708  
info@southwindadventures.com • www.southwindadventures.com