



Iconic Itinerary
As seen in Condé Nast Traveler Magazine
Including an optional day hike on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu



- DURATION:** 9 days / 8 nights
- SEASON:** April through December
- 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.
- 2017 DATES:** On request any week throughout the season. 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 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 and 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 Larco 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 by a Southwind representative and assistance checking into the [Costa del Sol Hotel](#) (Junior Suite) located near the International Terminal. 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 Awana Kanca craft center displaying some of the finest textiles in the Cusco region. In the village of Pisac (crafts market every day, typical food market on Sundays) we walk among local artisan shops before lunch at the Royal Inka restaurant serving delicious regional cuisine. This afternoon tour the impressive Incan ruins, perched spectacularly on a ridge overlooking the town and countryside. The walking tour is about 2 miles and follows a wide, exposed, stone-paved trail high above the valley. Visit the main sections of the site including the religious center *Intihuatana*, or Hitching Post of the Sun, and see cliff walls housing caves which served as South America's largest pre-Columbian cemetery. The dozens of agricultural terraces were aesthetically built to follow the contours of the hillside rising from the Urubamba River valley. A short drive down the valley brings us to the luxurious [Belmond Rio Sagrado Hotel](#) (Deluxe Terrace room), your hotel is located along the river with a temperate outdoor pool set among lovely gardens. Settle in for a restful night. (B,L)

DAY 03: SACRED VALLEY

This morning, 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. 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 2,000 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 Wayra 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 [Belmond Rio Sagrado Hotel](#) (Deluxe Terrace room) for dinner on your own at the El Huerto Restaurant in a cozy and sophisticated atmosphere. (B,L)

DAY 04: MACHU PICCHU

Board the Vistadome train early this morning for a short ride to the **Km 104 trailhead** at approximately 7,260'. Begin an optional, 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, join up with a section of the **classic stone-paved Inca Trail**. After another 2 hours of hiking, ascend 2 final sets of stairs to reach the Intipunku (9,005') or Gateway of the Sun site to be rewarded with an incredible view of the Machu Picchu citadel and surrounding mountains. By late afternoon, descend on foot 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 is approximately 7 miles and takes about 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 Intipunku to meet the hikers. (B,L,D)

DAY 05: MACHU PICCHU

Departing the hotel early by shuttle with your guide, enter the ruins to find an ideal spot to catch **sunrise at Machu Picchu** (gates open at 06:00). Join your guide for a private tour of the citadel with a variety of optional hikes according to how active you wish to be. At 8,860' **Huayna Picchu**, or Young Peak, looms over the citadel. An optional 1 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**. This passage is an excellent off-the-beaten-path alternative to the main ruins. Take a break mid-day with lunch on your own today to try the Tinkuy buffet restaurant just outside the gates which serves a variety of hot and fresh selections. The afternoon is set aside for personal explorations to simply enjoy and photograph the dramatic natural beauty of this archaeological wonder. For an additional easy going hike, your guide can lead you to the Inca Drawbridge

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built into the cliffside on the outskirts of the complex. After taking in the afternoon light, board the 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 the hotel's glass-walled restaurant overlooking the lush Urubamba River. (B,D)

DAY 06: MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

Today is another full morning to appreciate the glories of **Machu Picchu**. Join your guide for an optional hike as a farewell to the ruins or simply choose an overlook to meditate, photograph and continue personal guided explorations of this archaeological wonder. You have the option to relax in the community of Machu Picchu where colorful crafts are on display by local artists. Meet together in town for lunch at the Sumaq hotel restaurant (one of the finest in town) 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, leaving the lush cloud forest en route back to the highlands. Reception at the station and transfer by private vehicle for 1.5 hours to the elegant and historical [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 El Tupay at the Monasterio for delightful international cuisine featuring fresh, locally-sourced ingredients in a cozy setting, or the renowned Map Café encased in a stylish glass capsule within the nearby pre-Columbian Art Museum, offering a sophisticated Peruvian-French inspired menu. (B,L)

DAY 07: CUSCO

Morning at leisure for personal explorations of 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 (Chicha 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, learn how the floors and walls were once lined with solid gold. At the main square and Cathedral see how stones were taken from nearby Inca palaces. Above the city, we tour the ancient ceremonial pools at Tambo Machay. 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 Incanto near the lively main square lit up at night, specializing in grilled Andean fusion dishes with Italian influence in a relaxed ambiance complete with live harp music. Another great choice is the chic Cicciolina, with a *bar de tapas* and a superb selection of wines. Settle in for the night at the familiar [Monasterio Hotel](#). (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, transfer to the airport and fly to **Lima**. During the layover in the capital, your expert Lima guide escorts you through the colonial district which in 1988 was declared by UNESCO a World Heritage Site for its originality and high concentration of Spanish colonial monuments. We also tour the fascinating Larco Herrera Museum with an extensive collection of pre-Columbian artifacts (available daily 9am-10pm). 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, 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 planning to hike will remain 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. In Pisac and Chinchero the main typical food and handicrafts market day is Sunday; every day there is also a smaller handicrafts 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 most of the trains arrive. 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; hotels listed above are subject to availability at the time of your reservation.

2017 LAND COST: \$5,785 p.p.d. (4-6 participants)
\$5,355 p.p.d. (7-12 participants)
\$2,295 Single Supplement

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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 revision.

End-of-the-year holiday departures may have a Land Cost surcharge of 10-15%. Please check with your personal Southwind Travel Consultant for more details.

HOTEL AND TRAIN UPGRADES:

In Lima, you can choose to upgrade to the prestigious [Lima Country Club Hotel](#) just 20 minutes from the airport. Or if staying longer in the capital, we recommend the luxurious [Belmond Miraflores Park Hotel](#) or the elegant [JW Marriott Hotel](#), both overlooking the Pacific Ocean in the upscale Miraflores pedestrian friendly district, 45 minutes from the airport. In the Sacred Valley, you can upgrade to the [Libertador Tambo del Inka Hotel](#) offering a deluxe resort and spa experience. At Machu Picchu, upgrade to a Suite with fireplace and outdoor shower at the [Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel](#) or perhaps the exclusive [Belmond Sanctuary Lodge](#) just outside the entrance to Machu Picchu. In Cusco, select the new and historical [Belmond Palacio Nazarenas Hotel](#).

The deluxe **Hiram Bingham Orient Express train** offers top level service and fine dining during the 3.5 hour return ride from Machu Picchu to the Poroy Station (outside Cusco). During the rainy season (January-March) and high season in May, please note that the Hiram Bingham train may provide services only from/to the Sacred Valley station, in this case the ride will be about 45 minutes shorter. Due to high demand, we recommend reserving at least 4-5 months in advance, with a deadline of 90 days before departure. Upgrades have an additional cost quoted upon request, they are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. See details in [Accommodations](#).

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. Advanced bookings, at least 4-5 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. 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 is provided for groups of 9 or more participants. A separate English-speaking resident 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 single rooms. 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 and Canadian bound flights).
- Eight (8) meals at about \$25-40 each.
- Tours or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment, laundry and 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.

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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.

EARLY ARRIVAL TO CUSCO: Participants living at sea level and those with an extra day of vacation time are **encouraged** to arrive to Cusco a day earlier or on a connecting flight Day 01 of this Itinerary (i.e., 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. Extra charges for additional night at Monasterio and transfer in Cusco to the hotel 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, Paracas Reserve, 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](#)'.

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. 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 17 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.

Rosa Garcia - One of Cusco's finest guides, Rosa is a delightful and compassionate trip leader. She has been guiding trips professionally since 1992. She is exceptionally versed in Inca culture and history and enthusiastically shares her knowledge of local lifestyles with guests. She holds a degree in tourism, speaks fluent English and always receives glowing comments from Southwind groups.

Aly Amaut, Jorge Olivera & Ronny Peña – each with a minimum of 5 years of extensive 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 mostly during the rainy season, January through March. 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.

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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 and 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.

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.

- **Passport note:** Due to the mandatory Inca Trail and Km 104 trekking permit system, a **valid passport** (with a recommended 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 and local staff) are allowed into the park each day on a first-come first-serve basis. Generally the hiking permits sell out 4 months in advance. Due to Cusco and Machu Picchu's popularity, we recommend making reservations at least 4-6 months in advance.

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.

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

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

LC=Total Land Cost per person including extensions and 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.

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

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