



## PERU

### WORLD OF THE INCAS

A classic tour of Cusco, the Sacred Valley and magnificent Machu Picchu



**DURATION:** 9 days, 8 nights

**SEASON:** April through December

**DEPARTURES:** Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 and maximum of 12 participants

**TRIP RATING:** Moderate Cultural & Archaeological Tour, Grade (II): This first-class adventure is an activity-oriented program featuring optional daily walking tours through villages and Inca sites (2-3 hours in duration at elevations above 8,000'). Although the trip reaches a high point of 12,350', the itinerary has been designed to allow gradual adjustment to the altitude.

**2017 DATES:** MAY 06 - 14 ○

JUN 18 - 27 (Sun-Tue) ☀

JUL 08 - 16 ○

AUG 05 - 13 ○

○ Full moon departures

SEP 02 - 10 ○

SEP 30 - OCT 08 ○

OCT 28 - NOV 05 ○

○ Inti Raymi Festival Departure

#### 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 who wish to deepen their appreciation of the Incas, 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 view the fortress at Ollantaytambo. The following morning we take the train to Machu Picchu and spend two full days exploring this jewel of Inca architecture and the nearby village of Machu Picchu. Returning to Cusco by train and private transport, we visit splendid royal palaces and admire the precise stonework of the Coricancha and Sacsayhuaman pre-Columbian sites. Our adventure ends with a tour of Lima's magnificent Larco Herrera Museum.

## Peru: World of the Incas

### DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01 (SAT): USA / LIMA

Travelers arriving this evening to Peru's capital city, **Lima**, are met at the airport by a Southwind representative and assisted checking into the [Costa del Sol Hotel](#) located near the International Terminal. Meals are on your own.

DAY 02 (SUN): LIMA / CUSCO / SACRED VALLEY

Travelers at the airport hotel in Lima are picked up early this morning to check in for the spectacular, one-hour flight over the Andes to **Cusco**, the archaeological capital of the Americas. You are met at the airport and we drive one-hour to Pisac in the **Sacred Valley of the Incas**. The route follows a winding mountain road providing superb vistas of the rugged canyon formed by the Urubamba River. Descending into the warm valley, our first stop is the town of **Pisac** (9,708') where we catch the traditional weekly market. Artists and vendors set up their stalls around the main plaza to sell food and colorful handicrafts. We enjoy a delicious Andean lunch and tour Pisac's 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. We visit the main sections of the site including the religious center *Intihuatana*, or Hitching Post of the Sun. Observing dozens of agricultural terraces, these formations were aesthetically built to follow the contours of the hillside rising from the Urubamba River valley. We continue down the valley to the community of Urubamba and check-in to the charming Andean hacienda-style, [Sol y Luna Lodge & Spa](#) (9,430'). The remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure with dinner included this evening. ○ **Full Moon** – Jul 09, 2017

(B,L,D)

DAY 03 (MON): CHINCERO / OLLANTAYTAMBO

Enjoy a morning drive to the highlands with panoramic views of the snow-capped Urubamba range including Mount Veronica and Pitusiray-both over 18,000 feet high. Arrive at **Chinchero** (12,335'), a charming community characteristic of Andean towns combining both Incan and colonial architecture. Observe a massive Inca wall with ten trapezoidal niches that dominates the main square. After exploring the colonial church and ruins of Inca Yupanqui's palace, join a local community in their courtyard for an overview of the Andean weaving process. After wool is carded, spun, and dyed, learn about the different techniques used to create ponchos, belts (*fajas*), and shawls (*mantas*). On the way back to the fertile Urubamba Valley we stop at the Inca Salt Mines, a series of over 2,000 terraced mountainside pools fed by a natural spring that local families still harvest today. Continue in our private vehicle to enjoy a typical Andean lunch. Here we have a chance to sample a variety of native delicacies including: several types of potatoes (tubers such as oca); quinoa (sacred to the Incas, referred to as the "mother of all grains"); fava beans; and perhaps try a taste of *cuy*, a savory meat roasted with a variety of herbs. Afterwards, we drive past burial tombs and ancient farming terraces still in use today to grow barley, wheat, and corn to reach the town of **Ollantaytambo**. We visit the main plaza and some of the side streets of this unique community which still retains the original street plan and foundations designed by the Incas. We'll explore the impressive terraced remains of the Sun Temple before returning to the peaceful comforts of the [Sol y Luna Lodge & Spa](#) in Urubamba to relax and unwind. ○ **Full Moon** – Aug 07, 2017

(B,L)

DAY 04 (TUE): MACHU PICCHU

We head back to Ollantaytambo early this morning to catch the Vistadome train for the 1.5 hour ride to Machu Picchu town (formerly Aguas Calientes). Ascending to **Machu Picchu** (7,874') by bus, we join our expert guide for a private tour of this superb archaeological site. Perched atop a crest high above the meandering Urubamba River and surrounded by rugged, green Andean hillsides, Machu Picchu stands as more than just the jewel of Inca architecture. It represents the perfect union of human engineering and the natural environment, a city in harmony with its surroundings. Never reached by the Spanish, this magical place was brought to the world's attention in 1911 by the Yale historian, Hiram Bingham. Our explorations of *The Lost City of the Incas* include all of the various sectors of the ruins; the industrial area, the Temple of the Sun and the Royal Tomb, the ceremonial water fountains and baths, and the Sacred Plazas. There should be time in the afternoon for the 30-minute walk to the Inca Drawbridge. We stay at the charming [Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel](#), situated in 12 acres of cloud forest garden along the Urubamba River in town, where we enjoy dinner together this evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 05 (WED): MACHU PICCHU

Rising very early, those who wish can head to the ruins (gates open at 06:00) to catch the early morning light as the sun comes over *Intipunku*, or the Gateway of the Sun. There are several optional guided hikes in and around the site 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, 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. The schedule is flexible so those

## Peru: World of the Incas

who prefer can relax or explore a favorite spot at your own pace. Lunch is on your own. We return to the [Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel](#) for dinner. ○ **Full Moon** – May 10 & Sep 06, 2017 (B,D)

### DAY 06 (THU): MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

Today we have a second full guided morning to appreciate the glories of **Machu Picchu**. Since most of this time is unstructured, 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 handicraft stalls line the walk to the train station for shopping. We 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 as we leave the lush cloud forests and make our way back to the highlands. Reception upon arrival and transfer 1.5 hours by private vehicle to **Cusco** (11,150') and the historic [Libertador Palacio del Inka Hotel](#) (Palace of the first governor of Peru, Francisco Pizarro, built over the foundations of the Inca's *Aclla Huasi* or "house of the chosen women"), and centrally located near the main plaza. Dinner is on your own this evening to try some of the nearby gourmet restaurants in town. ○ **Full Moon** – Oct 05, 2017 (B,L)

### DAY 07 (FRI): CUSCO

After breakfast, join your guide for a private tour (combination of walking and vehicle) of this friendly, historical city. In the main plaza and side streets, we see how **Cusco** is still a very colonial city. There are no skyscrapers and most buildings are whitewashed adobe with red tile roofs set on Inca foundations. Cobbled streets lead up narrow passageways with brightly painted balconies overhead. Small plazas are filled with flowers and fountains. Visit the impressive *Coricancha*, the Inca's Sun Temple; the Cathedral, many of whose stones were taken from nearby Inca palaces; and the Incan walls along *Hatunrumiyoc Street*, which is named for the 12-angled stone that is clearly visible. Driving up to the surrounding hills we explore the Incan fortress of *Sacsayhuaman*, a spectacular complex with commanding views of the Cusco valley, and time permitting, *Tambo Machay*, whose ceremonial pools have remained clear and cold since the time of the Empire. Return to the [Libertador Hotel](#), lunch is on your own and the remainder of the afternoon available for personal activities. Tonight, we join our guide for a delicious farewell dinner and pisco sour, a traditional Peruvian drink. (B,D)

### DAY 08 (SAT): CUSCO / LIMA OR USA

Morning at leisure for personal explorations of Cusco's colorful San Pedro market and 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 resident 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 upscale Miraflores district. Participants leaving tonight have a return transfer to the airport this evening. ○ **Full Moon** - Nov 04, 2017 (B)

### DAY 09 (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 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. This trip is suitable for healthy participants accustomed to outdoor activities, age 7 and up. The Huayna Picchu ascent or the optional Km 104 hike are only recommended for kids age 12 and older. Some departures may include families with children. At Machu Picchu we stay at the comfortable Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel and there will be opportunities to visit the ruins in the early morning before most tourist trains arrive. At Cusco, in the case of early arrivals for the night before the Sacred Valley, we recommend 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. Distances and altitudes are approximate and travel times indicated do not include lunch breaks, rest or photo stops, time to explore the ruins, etc.

## Peru: World of the Incas

<b>2017 LAND COST:</b>	\$4,715 p.p.d. (4-6 participants)
	\$4,385 p.p.d. (7-12 participants)
	\$1,170 Single Supplement

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

**Note:** We can also arrange this trip on a private basis for 2-3 participants, budget on a Land Cost of approx \$5,145 per person and call for specific pricing according to your travel dates.

### ☀ 2017 INTI RAYMI DEPARTURE - JUNE 18 - 27 (10 days/9 nights):

Our June 18 departure is 1 day longer, ending on Tuesday rather than Sunday in order to incorporate the fabulous *Inti Raymi Celebration* on June 24 in Cusco. The schedule of activities is as follows:

JUN 18-23: As described on pages 2 & 3 for DAYS 01-06.

JUN 24 (SAT): 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 25-27: As described on page 3 for DAYS 07-09.

<b>2017 INTI RAYMI LAND COST:</b>	\$5,255 p.p.d. (4 - 6 participants)
	\$4,875 p.p.d. (7-12 participants)
	\$1,400 Single Supplement

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

### OPTIONAL UPGRADES:

We can reserve the elegant 5-star JW Marriott Hotel in Lima's Miraflores overlooking the Ocean; the Sacred Valley's Libertador Tambo del Inka or Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado (both 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](#)'. Private *World of the Incas* departures are also available on request for a minimum of 2 participants. Please contact our office for details.

**Km 104 Inca Trail dayhike on Day 04:** A private trekking guide will accompany those group members who choose to disembark the Vistadome train at Km 104 and trek the classic stone-paved Inca Trail through the Gateway of the Sun to approach Machu Picchu as the Incas did centuries ago. The 7-mile hike is moderate/difficult but highly rewarding and takes approximately 6.5 hours. Extra costs apply for the required permit and logistics, advance planning is recommended (permits tend to sell out at least 4-5 months in advance). Please contact our office for details.

### 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.
- **First-class round trip Vistadome or similar train** from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu town. Machu Picchu bus

## Peru: World of the Incas

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-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 (king/queen) for couples can be requested in advance, but cannot be guaranteed, as most hotels offer few rooms with double beds.
- 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, when other Southwind travelers may join for the same tour) by knowledgeable, English-speaking native guides (includes entrance fees).
- A local English-speaking guide/escort is provided for Sacred Valley/Machu Picchu/Cusco segments (Day 02-07). An assistant guide is provided for groups with 9 or more participants.
- Single Supplement provides single room accommodations in all hotels. Due to the limited number of rooms at the small hotels, there is a maximum of 2 singles allowed per group. If you require single accommodations, making reservations well in advance is recommended.

### NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, International flights, nor local flights within Peru.
- Local Peruvian airport departure taxes (for USA and Canadian travelers these taxes are included in the airfare).
- Six (6) 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 trip preparation such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets, travel insurance, and additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.

**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.

**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](#)'.

### 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 fluent in Quechua, Spanish and English.

**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.

## Peru: World of the Incas

**Francis Casapino, Jorge Olivera & Ronny Peña** - each are native bilingual guides with a minimum of 5 years of extensive experience leading tours in the southern Andes of Peru. Their knowledge and caring personalities have led to exceptional reviews, they are among the finest professionals sharing the beauty of Peru with Southwind travelers.

**WEATHER:** Much of the *World of the Incas* trip takes place 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 time is included in the cloud forests on the eastern slopes of the Andes, so **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 springlike. **Cusco** has daytime highs in the mid 70's and nighttime lows in the upper 30's. The **Sacred Valley** is 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, 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:** Please complete Southwind's [Trip Reservation eForm](#). There are fields for up to 4 travelers per form with the same address. Upon receipt, your Travel Consultant will send you a SmartPay link **to pay your \$1,000 per person deposit** by any major credit card. If you prefer, you can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements by phone or send a check. You will receive confirmation of your deposit.

Due to the popularity of Cusco and Machu Picchu, we recommend making reservations at least 4 months in advance. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive comprehensive pre-departure planning documents by email.

**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. Provided services and space are available, reservations can be accepted up to 30 days before departure.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under the current [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  
[www.southwindadventures.com](http://www.southwindadventures.com)

\*Discounts are calculated on the lowest published 2017 land cost

17-woi.version:May16