



## **LAT-08**

### **CUSCO ANCESTRAL & LIVELY CULTURE**

**Lima, Cusco, Sacred Valley, Huilloc & Machu Picchu**

**Six Days / Five Nights**

**Daily Departures**

A trip that will connect us with the villages that keep their ancestral traditions. Huilloc, Chinchero and Ollantaytambo, Inca villages, that will show us the richness of their life, in combination with the main attractions of downtown Cusco, Sacsayhuaman, the colorful atmosphere of the Sacred Valley and the magnificence of Machu Picchu.

#### **DAY 01: WELCOME TO LIMA, CITY OF KINGS AND THE LARCO MUSEUM**

Arrival to the city of Lima, assistance, and transfer to the hotel.

An exclusive and intense tour of the Historical Center of Lima will take us to know and admire the architectonic relics that are part of the old Lima. The Convent of Santo Domingo is the beginning of this magnificent experience. It was built during the foundation of Lima. The Universidad Mayor de San Marcos (University of San Marcos) was founded on this site, the oldest in America. Inside, the choir with the oldest stalls in the country; and the library, with 25,000 books, some printed from the XV century, has invaluable historical value. The mortal remains of San Martín de Porres, San Juan Masías and Santa Rosa de Lima lie inside. Crossing the Plaza Mayor, the Government Palace, and the Municipality, going into the Cathedral, a jewel in the history of Lima, with artworks that will make us feel closer to colonial Lima. Leaving downtown Lima and heading to the Larco Museum, where we will get a clear vision of the cultures that inhabited ancient Peru. We shall admire the gold pieces, textiles and erotic ceramics that are part of the collection which will introduce us to the cosmovision of the ancient Peru. The warehouse of this museum will be open during our visit to appreciate the expressions of art that were reflected in their ceramics.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight accommodations at selected hotel

#### **DAY 02: CUSCO, CAPITAL OF THE EMPIRE**

Arrival to the city of Cusco, assistance, and transfer to the hotel.

In the afternoon, exclusive stroll in the city that starts with a visit to the Plaza de San Cristóbal (San Cristobal Square) to enjoy a panoramic overview of the city. Afterwards, we will visit the San Pedro Market, where we will absorb the local flavors and learn more about the products of the area in this market that has it all and supplies the entire city. Later, the Qorikancha Temple will welcome us with all its splendor and magnificence, with walls that used to be covered in gold. From San Blas, the artisans' neighborhood, we will walk down the street Hatun Rumiyoq finding in our way the palace Inca Roca, today's Archbishops Palace, and we will have time to admire the world famous Twelve Angled Stone. We will continue to the Plaza de Armas to visit The Cathedral that houses colonial works of incredible value.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight accommodations at selected hotel

### DAY 03: ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF SACSAYHUAMAN AND THE COMMUNITY OF HUILLOC

Today, we will head to the village of Huilloc in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. The settlers are heirs of ancestral Inca traditions. This afternoon we will have close contact with them. They offer various activities to the traveler that visits them, choose one of the following:

**"Kusi Runa"** is an experience where you can share the daily routine in the life of the settlers of Huilloc by participating in the agricultural work that takes place in the chakra (farming fields). Symbolically, you will be a member of the community and experience their way of life and the daily chores of the runa (Andean peasants). As a member of the community, you will wear the typical poncho of Huilloc and use the traditional tools during work. The men will do the agricultural work and the women the kitchen work. You will end your experience participating in the ritual celebrations, enjoying the music and the local dances.

**"Willqa Uma"**, during the Inca times, the "willaq uma" was the high priest; he would deliver the oracles and was the bond between the sacred and the profane. In this activity we will assume the role of the willaq uma participating in ancestral ritual practices that will draw us closer to the Andean world from its spiritual and sacred aspects. This activity is a sacred ritual that intends to seek the harmony between the spirit of man, nature, and the energy of the Andean deity. As participants in this role, we will have the opportunity to express our wishes and desires so that they enter the harmony of the cosmos.

**"Chasqui"**, this experience with the community of Huilloc starts choosing a visitor that will assume the responsibility of being the chasqui (messenger). The rest of the group will be transported to the past together with him to join him in his adventure of delivering a khipu in the archaeological site of Aya Urqu. On our way we will visit the cave of Sutuq Mach'ay, a place where we ask permission so that we can have a safe trip. On our way we will enjoy the scenery that has many agricultural fields and learn about the properties of many of the native and healing plants. The sound of the pututu, a musical instrument made from a sea snail (*Strombus galeatus*), will announce our arrival at the archaeological site of Aya Urqu. In a previous location we will prepare so that our messenger can deliver the khipu and during this ceremony the local wiseman will

recall the dance of the Condor, which will be done by two authorities that will involve us in the ancestral Inca spirituality.

**“Allin Pachacuy”**, one of the main features of the settlers of Huilloc is, without a doubt, their clothes. It is not only colorful, but it contains a textile tradition that is hundreds of years old and symbolic representations of their cosmovision. In this program we offer you the opportunity to participate in the process of making the garments, using the traditional techniques, from dyeing with natural dyes to weaving with tools made of bones and wood. During the process you will learn the tricks and secrets needed to obtain a good garment, as well as the meaning of the symbols and drawings used. Finally, you will be able to purchase a beautiful piece of clothing from Huilloc and, in this way, contribute to the strengthening of this traditional activity and the maintenance of its iconography.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight accommodation at selected hotel

#### **DAY 04: INCA VILLAGE OF CHINCHERO, TERRACES OF MORAY AND THE INCA VILLAGE OF OLLANTAYTAMBO**

On this day we shall visit the most outstanding places in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We will depart towards the Village of Chinchero, the most typical and colorful of the Sacred Valley. This village is famous for its weaving women. Short stop in a textiles center to appreciate the old Inca techniques for dyeing and spinning using alpaca wool. After visiting the Inca Plaza with its beautiful colonial church, we will continue towards Moray, a beautiful Inca archaeological site made up of concentric agricultural terraces that served as a lab to recreate microclimates. Lunch. Later visit to the last living village of the Incas, Ollantaytambo. Also, a visit to the Temple of the ten windows, the bath of the princess, and the Sun Temple. The postcard pictures that we will take from the heights of Ollantaytambo will close this magical day in the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight accommodation at selected hotel

#### **DAY 05: MACHU PICCHU, THE LOST CITY**

The much-awaited day to visit one of the 7 Wonders of the World. Boarding at the Ollantaytambo station. Departure in the selected train. Arrival at Machu Picchu station. Assistance, from our staff to board the bus that will ascend a winding road, with a spectacular view of the Urubamba River which forms a deep canyon. **The Lost City of the Incas, Machu Picchu**, will greet us with its incredible terraces, staircases, ceremonial sites, and urban areas. Energy exudes from the whole place. Lunch. At the coordinated time, return by train and transfer to the hotel in Cusco.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight accommodations at selected hotel

## DAY 06: DEPART CUSCO

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Lima and connect with your return flight home or to another destination within Peru.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Larco Museum
- Chinchero, old Inca town.
- Ollantaytambo, the last living Inca town
- Huilloc Community, heirs of ancestral Inca traditions
- Machu Picchu, lost citadel.

### TOUR RATE INCLUDES:

- Private transfers between airports and hotels in Lima and Cusco
- Transfers between hotel and train station in Cusco
- All admission tickets on tours.
- Tours with English-Spanish speaking guide.
- Round trip railway ticket to Machu Picchu via Vistadome train service or similar
- 2 lunches.
- 1 night of accommodation in Lima in selected hotels.
- 2 nights of accommodation in Cusco in selected hotels.
- 2 nights of accommodation in Sacred Valley in selected hotels.
- Daily breakfast.

### NOT INCLUDED:

- Roundtrip international air between the USA and Lima
- Air transportation within Peru.
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Expenses of personal nature and/or land tour services and hotels not included in the itinerary.
- Gratuities.

### WHAT SHOULD TRAVELERS KNOW:

- Machu Picchu has limited capacity. It is required to give the full name, identification document, nationality, date of birth at the time of the reservation. The access to Machu Picchu is taking turns. We are allowed to only remain 4 hours in the citadel. The paths are delimited. We will follow the high-long path. Not permitted: to climb the walls, rest on the steps or terraces, or use walking sticks and drones.
- Operated exclusively by us, we offer an experience of visiting the city and the Archaeological Park of Sacsayhuaman in two half days to discover interesting spots of the city of Cusco that the traditional visitor does not cover. Our operation takes the visitor away from the crowd and gives each archaeological site and church the necessary time to get to know it.

### ALTITUDES: (Meters above sea level)

Lima - 40  
Cusco - 3,400  
Sacsayhuaman - 3,700  
Sacred Valley - 2,871  
Machu Picchu - 2,440

### WHAT TO BRING:

- Long sleeve shirt. The solar radiation is high at high altitudes. Protect your skin.
- Sunscreen.
- Sunglasses.
- Cap or hat. You can also get them in the artisan markets and contribute to the local economy.
- Warm clothing for the night. Scarf.
- Comfortable shoes for walking. Trekking sneakers.
- Raincoat, in the November to March season. Avoid purchasing single use raincoats.
- Reusable water bottle. Several hotels have water filters available to refill your reusable water bottles. We support the reduction of single use plastic water bottle.

