



National Parks of Peru Day by day description

Day 1 LIMA

Arrival in Lima where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Optional tours available to be arranged on early arrival. Overnight at hotel, lunch and dinner on your own.

Day 2 LIMA / HUARAZ

Early morning departure by first class coach to the city of Huaraz, located about 400 kms. north of Lima. Following the Panamerican Highway north, we will pass several lush green valleys that cut through the coastal desert until we reach the town of Pativilca. Turning inland the main road winds its way up along the Fortaleza River for a good two hours. Finally, we reach the Pass of Conococha at 4,000 m.a.sl. (13,120 ft.) where we will get our first glimpse of the Cordillera Blanca, the highest tropical mountain range in the world. From here the road descends slowly along the Santa River as we pass a vast area of highland pastures. As we approach Huaraz, the vegetation changes into that of an interandean valley, surrounded by clusters of red-tiled houses. Arrival at hotel and overnight at 3,000 m.a.s.l. (9,840ft). Dinner on your own.

Day 3 HUARAZ / LLANGANUCO

Heading north along the Santa Valley, also known as Callejon de Huaylas, we pass small villages of farmers to reach Yungay. From here the road slowly ascends into the Llanganuco Valley. We pass the check point of the "Parque Nacional de Huascaran" and visit the overhanging valley. Passing two lakes we get to our lunch-spot at

Quebrada Demanda and a chance to hike up the valley below Mt. Chacaraju. Afternoon drive to the Llanganuco Pass and an optional downhill hike on the old mule trail. Beautiful views of Mt. Huascaran, Huandoy, Pisco and Chacaraju. In the afternoon we return to Huaraz for overnight.

Day 4 HUARAZ / CHAVIN

Depending on the weather and specific interests an all day excursion will be arranged to another area of the National Park that could entail a short hike. Other options include a drive to the ruins of Chavin; located on the eastern slope of the Andes. It is the oldest pre Inca site of the Chavin-Kotosh culture which has interesting structures and stone carvings. Return to Huaraz, dinner on your own and hotel overnight.

Day 5 HUARAZ / LIMA

We will take a vehicle back to Lima along the same road we came. In the afternoon, we arrive at our hotel, dinner on your own.



Day 6 LIMA / PUERTO MALDONADO / TAMBOPATA RESERVE

Early transfer to the airport for a flight to the southeastern area of Peru via Cusco, the Madre de Dios Department. Arriving in its main city, Puerto Maldonado, we will be transferred to the dock on the Tambopata River and taken to a lodge inside the Tambopata Reserve. On arrival we walk into our accommodations and begin a series of activities after lunch. All meals and excursions available are included.

Day 7 TAMBOPATA RESERVE

Depending on weather conditions and size of group a series of activities will be undertaken today. We will visit an indigenous settlement and observe their farming activities with local crops, we will walk to observation points where wildlife could be seen, we will explore an oxbow lake and in the evening watch caimans on the shores.

Day 8 PUERTO MALDONADO / CUSCO

An early canoe departure will bring us to the town where we will be met and taken to the airport for our flight to Cusco. Arrival and transfer to your hotel, rest of the morning free to relax, lunch on your own. Afternoon tour of the city and nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman, Kenko, Tambomachay and visit the main sites in the city - Inca temples and colonial churches. Overnight at hotel, dinner on your own.

Day 9 CUSCO / QENTE / MACHU PICCHU

Early departure by train to Q'ente, a sector of the Machu Picchu Sanctuary and a chance to visit the Inca sites in that area - Q'entamarca, Wayna Q'ente and Machu Q'ente - lunch at the Interpretation Centre. In the afternoon, we will take the train to Machu Picchu Pueblo. Overnight at a hotel, dinner on your own at one of the many restaurants available.

Day10 MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

Early morning visit to the citadel where we will have a guided tour of this outstanding site and its surroundings. Return to the village for lunch and a visit to the Headquarters of the Sanctuary to meet with Park authorities. In the afternoon, return to Cusco to arrive in your hotel late in the evening, transfer to your hotel, dinner on your own.

Day 11 CUSCO

Free day for optional side trips to the Sacred Valley of the Incas visiting other archeological sites or a chance to organize other excursions in the area. Lunch and dinner on your own, overnight at your hotel.

Day 12 CUSCO / PUNO

Depending on the day of the week we will take the bus to Puno. A beautiful full day ride past villages, colonial and archaeological sites along the Vilcanota River and Valley will bring us to the "puna" (highland savannah) past farmers and herders to finally reach Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca, transfer and overnight at your hotel.



Day 13 PUNO / LAKE TITICACA NATIONAL RESERVE

We will at first visit the shores of Lake Titicaca near the port, before we embark on a visit to the floating reed islands of Uros and the edge of the National Reserve of Lake Titicaca and its local population. From here a boat ride will take us to the island of Taquile and a chance to wander among the famed weavers of this unique spot on Titicaca Lake. Return to Puno, dinner on your own, overnight at hotel.

Day 14 PUNO / LIMA / PARACAS

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Lima; visit a local farm on the way. On arrival a vehicle will take you on the Panamerican highway south to the Paracas National Reserve. Overnight at a hotel.

Day 15 PARACAS / LIMA

Early morning departure to visit the Ballestas Islands by yacht. This morning visit will let you see the amazing scenery of sea lions and marine birds that cover the rocky outcrops - boobies, pelicans, Inca terns and if you are lucky Humboldt penguins. Return to the hotel and visit the National Reserve Interpretation Center where there are archeological exhibits of the Paracas Culture and a chance to wander on this desert peninsula. After lunch, return to Lima in time to catch your departing flight home in the evening after a farewell dinner.

SERVICES INCLUDED: Hotels with breakfast, tours where included, entrance fees to museums and National Parks, transportation, transfers on arrival and departure and lunches during full-day tours as well as official guides in the main sites.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED: Meals in the main cities, alcoholic beverages, extras, tips, laundry services, additional tours, insurance and airline tickets.