

Travel to Machu Picchu and the Galápagos Islands to discover two of Latin America's most fascinating destinations in a small group of 8-16 travelers (average of 14). You'll benefit from the guidance of two local Trip Experience Leaders, one Peruvian and one Ecuadorian Galápagos Naturalist, who will point out hidden gems along the way.

First, follow in the footsteps of the ancients as you walk among the impressive ruins of the "Lost City of the Incas" and experience Peruvian culture in the Andean landscape of the Sacred Valley. We stay here overnight so you can fully explore the enigmatic ruins, arriving early in the morning before the larger crowds and staying late after other travelers have cleared out—an exclusive opportunity that few companies offer. Then continue to Ecuador's Galápagos Islands, where you may swim in unspoiled waters with rollicking sea lions as your playmates. You'll also find a living laboratory of Darwin's theory of evolution in these "Enchanted Isles."

From the city to the countryside, we'll delve into the cultural legacies of Peru and Ecuador. We visit Machu Picchu twice, giving us ample time to explore the site without crowds, hike to its storied point Inti Punku, and see its mysterious beauty in varying lights. While in Peru, you'll also have the opportunity to visit a local school, hear from women who sell coca leaves, and shop side-by-side with residents in the open-air produce market. In Ecuador, we glimpse the legacy of the Spanish Empire in Quito, the best-preserved colonial city in South America. And in the Galápagos, our private, exclusively-chartered ship allows us to slip into secluded coves and land on pristine shores—all in the comfort and camaraderie of our small group.

REMINDER: Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, call Curtis Whitaker at (269) 209-5889. Or reserve online at www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com. If you haven't experienced a Scott & Curtis travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions or meet with our staff. *Welcome!*



Itinerary: Machu Picchu and the Galápagos Islands

Dates: July 6- 23, 2022

Day 1 – Depart U.S. on Flight to South America

Day 2 – Lima / Local Interaction

Day 3 – Explore Colonial Lima / Larco Museum

Day 4 – Fly to Cuzco / The Sacred Valley / Explore Chinchero / Weaving Demonstration

Day 5 – Explore the Sacred Valley / Experience A Day in the Life of the Urubamba community / School Visit / Home-Hosted Lunch

Day 6 – Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu

Day 7 – Second Visit to Machu Picchu

Day 8 – Transfer to Cuzco / Ollantaytambo / Chinchero Weaving Demonstration with Locals

Day 9 – Cuzco / Explore Sacsayhuaman & Kenko / Qoricancha Sun Temple

Day 10 – Cuzco / Fly to Quito, Ecuador

Day 11 – Explore Downtown Quito / Market Visit / Local Interaction

Day 12 – Quito / Sinamune Children’s Orchestra / Equator Museum

Day 13 – Quito / Fly to Galápagos / Embark Galápagos Small Ship

Day 14 – Galápagos Cruise

Day 15 – Galápagos Cruise

Day 16 – Galápagos Cruise

Day 17 – Galápagos cruise / Fly to Quito / Fly to U.S.



COVID-19 UPDATE: Your health and safety is our #1 priority. In partnership with our travel providers Great Circle Travel and OAT, we are monitoring the COVID-19 situation daily, including how it may impact future travel plans. If any changes are made, we will do our best to alert you as soon as possible. If you have questions in the meantime, please call Curtis Whitaker during regular business hours at (269) 209-5889. Thank you!





Detailed Itinerary: Machu Picchu and the Galápagos Islands 2022

Day 1 – Depart U.S.

Travel by air with your travel friends to Lima, Peru.

Day 2 – Lima / Local Interaction

Morning: At leisure. You are free to relax and enjoy the amenities of your centrally-located hotel, which may include an onsite restaurant and bar, air conditioned rooms, and cable TV depending on which hotel you stay at. Or venture out into the city for a café con leche (coffee with milk) and sightseeing.

You'll meet your small group around 11:15am, including travelers who took our optional The Amazon Rain Forest of Peru or Bolivia: La Paz, Lake Titicaca & Uyuni pre-trip extensions, at a Welcome Briefing held at the hotel. During this 45-minute briefing, we will introduce ourselves and review our itinerary in more detail (including any changes that may need to occur). Our Trip Experience Leader will also discuss logistics, safety and emergency procedures, and answer questions we may have—come prepared, this is your chance to get them answered firsthand, whether you have questions about a particular optional tour, how much free time you'll have during your first stay in Lima, specific activities or places you are hoping to see, and beyond.

Our Welcome Briefing will conclude around 12:15pm, when we'll set off to explore Lima's Miraflores district on an orientation walk. This stylish, modern neighborhood is a cultural and artistic center full of small cafés, fine shops, and art galleries. We'll stroll through boulevards, plazas, and even the Miraflores malecón (boardwalk), a six-mile long walkway that stretches along the Pacific Ocean. Our tour concludes around 1:30pm.

Lunch: On your own. Perhaps you will try Lima's most famous dish, ceviche, raw fish "cooked" in citrus juices.

Afternoon: From 12:45pm-2pm, we'll also make a stop at the Parque Kennedy, a park in central Lima named for American president John F. Kennedy in honor of the aid he gave Peru to promote democracy during his presidency. Here, you'll witness a reality of life in Peru—school-age street vendors selling cigarettes, food, water, and other basic items. While child labor is a controversial topic we will touch on again during our time in Peru, it is not uncommon for children to work to supplement their families' income. It's even legal here for children between the ages of twelve and 14 to engage in "light" work, with many feeling that this law is too vague. We'll return to our hotel around 3:30pm, when you'll have the freedom to make your own discoveries in Lima. Perhaps you'll continue to explore Miraflores, or head to Lima's Indian market.

Dinner: Depart from your hotel around 6:15pm by bus to enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant, starting around 6:45pm. Experience an authentic taste of Lima during a sit-down meal with your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers. Finish dinner around 8pm and bus back to your hotel for an approximate 8:15pm arrival.

Evening: You are free to return to your room to rest after your overseas flight, or you may choose to venture out on



your own to experience the contrast of Lima’s high-rises alongside colonial buildings and the way they’re illuminated at night.

Freedom to Explore: During your two full days in Lima, you have the freedom to experience one of Peru’s most memorable cities on your own during your free time. Below are a few recommended options for independent explorations.

Explore the Gold Museum of Peru: Travel back in

Important Travel Notes:

- For your comfort and safety, we recommend this tour for individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking, this may be a difficult trip for you.
- We reserve the right to cancel this tour due to insufficient registration. Full refund will be given if tour is canceled due to insufficient registration.
- If traveling alone, we will match you up with a roommate (this tour is double occupancy only).
- Please read the “What to Expect” box on the next page carefully. If you have further questions, call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.

time and see private collections of pre-Hispanic gold, ceramics, and textiles. Many of the gold, silver, and gilded copper pieces the museum holds are considered the most important in pre-Columbian history. How to get there: About a 25-minute taxi ride, approximately \$15 USD one way. Hours: 10:30am-6pm, daily. Cost: A ticket is around \$10 USD.

Enjoy a Mirabus Panoramic Tour of Miraflores: Venture through the charming streets of Peru’s capital and see pre-Inca relics, gaze out at sweeping vistas of the Pacific Ocean, and take in the grandeur of the republican mansions. You’ll also have an unparalleled opportunity to interact with local Peruvians where they work, live, and play, allowing you to intimately delve into the regional culture. How to get there: About a 10-minute walk from the hotel. Hours: Monday to Friday: Tours at 11am, 2pm, 3:30pm, and 5pm; Saturday and Sunday: Tours at 11am, 1pm, 2:45pm, 4pm, and 5:30pm. Cost: About \$5 USD per person

Discover the Barranco Bohemian District: Sit back and relax at one of the many restaurants and bars along the seaside cliffs of Bajada de los Baños. Then experience the 19th-century Italian architecture in the Plaza San Francisco, home to many of Lima’s writers and artists. How to get there: About a 10-minute taxi ride, around \$7 USD one way. Hours: 2pm-6pm, daily. Cost: Free.

Visit the Indian Market of Lima: If you want to make

sure you don't go home empty handed, the mercado indio is the perfect place to pick up souvenirs at a bargain. This three-block long market houses vendors selling gorgeous textiles, jewelry, ceramics, and even traditional instruments. How to get there: About a 10-minute taxi ride, around \$7 USD one way. Hours: 10am-8pm, daily. Cost: Free.

Day 3 – Explore Colonial Lima / Larco Museum

Morning: Our day begins at 8am, when we depart our hotel for the Chorrillos fish market by bus. When we arrive at 8:15am, we'll interact with local fishermen who make their living off of small-scale artisanal fishing operations in the wharf as they start their day. This market is a favorite among locals as the catch is fresh and includes fish that inhabit the waters immediately surrounding Lima. You'll learn about what life is like for these men who work adjacent to one of Lima's most wealthy areas (Miraflores), and have the opportunity to ask them questions. Perhaps you'll ask about the challenges and rewards of this line of work. Around 9am, we'll depart for Larco Museum by bus. We'll arrive after an approximately 45-minute drive.

We'll take an hour-long guided tour of the Museum, known for its privately-owned collection of pre-Columbian artifacts and artwork, including thousands of ceramic objects. The museum is housed in a former viceroy's mansion dating back to the 18th century, and is built on the site of a seventh-century temple.

Around 11am, a local guide will meet up with us for a private walking tour of San Francisco Church, a distinctive yellow building constructed in the Baroque style, known for its painted ceilings and extensive catacombs. We'll depart the church on foot around noon to explore more of Lima's colonial streets and architecture—evidence of the city's Spanish heritage. We'll also walk through the Historic Centre of Lima, where we can witness landmarks such as the Archbishop Palace, the Museum of Italian Art, the House of Aliaga, and more.

Lunch: We'll take a 5-minute walk to a local restaurant, arriving around 1pm.

Afternoon: Around 2pm, we'll depart the restaurant by bus and drive towards Lima's charming colonial side led by your local Trip Experience Leader. Around 3:15pm, return to your hotel and spend the evening as you wish.

Dinner: On your own. Perhaps you'll opt to continue your quest for authentic Peruvian cuisine, such as Lomo Saltado, a classic hearty lunch of stir-fry beef

What's Included in the Package

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit Metro Airport to and from South America, including airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements.
- All land transportation and 5 internal flights.
- Accommodations for 3 nights in Lima, 2 nights in the Sacred Valley, 2 nights in Aguas Calientes, 2 nights in Cuzco, 3 nights in Quito, and 3 or 4 nights aboard a privately chartered small ship.
- 38 meals: Daily breakfast, 12 lunches, and 10 dinners.
- 21 guided tours and cultural experiences, including 2 days in Machu Picchu, Galápagos shore excursions, and all park fees.
- Services of two local Trip Experience Leaders—one in Peru & a certified Galápagos naturalist on the islands—with your group of 8-16 (average of 14) throughout your adventure
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, ship-crew, and luggage porters

and potatoes. Or maybe you'll try a Pisco Sour, a South American favorite cocktail made from Pisco liquor, citrus juices, simple syrup, and in some cases, egg whites and Angostura bitters.

Evening: Rest up for tomorrow's adventures or continue exploring on your own. If you chose the latter, perhaps you'll head back into Miraflores to enjoy live music with a chilcano (brandy cocktail) or chicha morada (purple corn-based cocktail) beverage in hand.

Day 4 – Fly to Cuzco / The Sacred Valley / Explore Chinchero / Weaving Demonstration

Activity Note: Please be advised that we will be taking a one-hour flight today, and we'll spend the next six days at elevations above 9,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated and eating light while at high altitude. Travelers may rest at the hotel if necessary.

Morning: We'll make bus transfer around 7:30am from our hotel to the Lima airport (a one-hour drive). We'll take off from Lima around 10:30am and touch down in Cuzco around 12pm. Around 12:45pm, we'll set off on a two-hour motorcoach drive for the Sacred Valley with stops along the way.

What to Expect:

Machu Picchu and the Galápagos Islands 2022

■ **Physical Requirements:** Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids. You must be able to walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6-8 hours of physical activities each day. This trip takes you to remote places with no medical facilities nearby. Days 4 and 5 are spent at altitudes above 9,000 feet and Days 8, 9, and 10 are spent at altitudes above 11,000 feet. We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience. Altitude: 9 full days at altitudes between 7,000-11,000 feet (7 days in Peru & 2 in Ecuador). We strongly recommend that you discuss precautions for altitude sickness with a healthcare professional before you travel on this trip. Proper preparation, including any medication recommended by your healthcare professional, is essential to traveling comfortably at these elevations.

■ **Terrain & Transportation:** Traveling on unpaved roads; walking on rough, steep, slippery trails that do not have handrails; climbing many high stone steps; wet landings via motorized Zodiac rafts; snorkeling excursions; and encounters with rough seas while cruising. Agility and balance are required for embarking and disembarking small motor dinghies. Travel by 20-passenger coach, train, 16-passenger small ship, and motorized Zodiacs rafts. 4-6 hour drives, 2 1.5-hour rail journeys, 4 internal flights of 1.5-3 hours each, and 1 international flight from Lima to Quito of about 2.5 hours on Day 10. Flight Information: Travel time will be 9-14 hours and will most likely have two connections. Internal flight to/from Galápagos has a stop-over in Guayaquil airport; travel time can take up to 8 hours.

■ **Accommodations & Facilities:** Hotel rooms are smaller than in the U.S. and offer simple amenities. All accommodations feature private baths. Travel onboard a small ship with simple hotel amenities.

■ **Climate:** Daytime temperatures in Cuzco, Machu Picchu, and Quito range from 50°F-75°F; these cities have a mountain climate with a large drop in day to night temperature. Daytime temperatures in the Galápagos range from 65°F-90°F; there is no shade during walks on the islands. Water temperature in the Galápagos ranges from 70°F-78°F.

Passport & Visa Information

Passport: It should be in good condition. Your passport should meet these requirements for this itinerary. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. It should have the recommended number of blank pages (refer to the handbook for details). The blank pages must be labeled "Visas" at the top. Pages labeled "Amendments and Endorsements" are not acceptable. Visas: U.S. citizens do not need a visa for this trip.

Vaccinations Information

Our travel partner GCT requires a valid Covid-19 vaccination **plus** booster shot for all travelers. For other vaccinations that **may** be recommended for this trip, please visit the CDC's "Traveler's Health" website at www.cdc.gov/travel.

Lunch: We'll enjoy a boxed lunch en route to the Sacred Valley. This typically includes your choice of sandwich, a cereal bar, a piece of chocolate, juice, and water.

Afternoon: On the way to our hotel, we'll stop to talk to local women who sell coca leaves around 1pm. They'll tell us about the importance of coca leaves to their culture, and we'll have the opportunity to ask them any questions. Since the drug cocaine is produced from the coca leaf, perhaps you'll inquire as to how the traditional tea they make differs from the addictive stimulant. We'll also have the opportunity to try this tea, or llipta, or try chewing coca leaves like the locals do.

Around 3pm, we'll arrive at our hotel, which is conveniently located a short driving distance from the Inca sites of Ollantaytambo and Pisac. Depending on where you stay, you may have access to a hotel lounge and restaurant. Rooms may include cable TV, wireless internet, and a personal safe. We'll check in and take an orientation walk around the area at 5:30pm so your Trip Experience Leader can show you where to find restaurants, bars, and other entertainment that you can get to on foot in your free time.

Dinner: In the hotel. Around 6:15pm, have a sit-down meal with American and Peruvian options that includes a main entrée, dessert, water, and coffee or tea.

Evening: Dinner concludes around 7pm, and you have the evening free. Relax and enjoy the amenities at your hotel or explore Urubamba, the town you're staying in, with a selection of local restaurants and cafés within a five- to ten-minute walk from your hotel.



Day 5 – Explore the Sacred Valley / Experience A Day in the Life of the Urubamba community / School Visit / Home-Hosted Lunch

Activity Note: We will spend the day at elevations above 9,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated while at high altitude.

Today’s activities involve a visit to a local school. However, alternate activities may be arranged if this visit falls on a weekend or holiday, as school will not be in session.

Morning: We’ll depart our hotel around 8:45am to begin our A Day in the Life of the Sacred Valley. After a 15-minute bus ride, we’ll arrive at a local school, where we’ll meet the students (when school is in session) and spend time with their teachers to see what school is like in this part of rural Peru. Donations from Grand Circle Foundation—part of the World Classroom initiative—have helped pay for classroom construction at the school. We’ll have the opportunity to meet the children and help to teach them English words. We’ll also listen to the school principal discuss the controversial topic of child labor in Peru, informed by the young vendors we encountered while in Lima. We’ll bid our new friends farewell around 10:30am, when we depart for the market, which is only a ten-minute bus ride away.

The market is where locals do their food shopping, and we’ll join right in to pick up ingredients we’ll use later for our Home-Hosted Lunch. Then, around noon, we’ll stop at a small bar serving chicha, a type of traditional Peruvian beer made with maize (corn). Sample this local favorite, chat with fellow patrons (many of whom might be farmers from the highlands), and perhaps even play sapo, the popular Peruvian game that consists of trying to throw a coin into a metal frog’s mouth for points.

Lunch: Around 12:50pm, we’ll arrive at the home of a local family in the Sacred Valley and use the ingredients we bought at the market to help prepare a typical Andean meal consisting of an appetizer, main course, and tea, coffee, or juice. After we share lunch, we’ll explore the family’s property, and see what life is like in the Sacred Valley. We’ll also have the opportunity to ask our hosts any questions we may have about country life in Peru.

Afternoon: We’ll transfer back to our hotel by bus around 2:30pm. When we arrive around 2:45pm, you’ll have the choice to rest at the hotel or join your fellow travelers for an optional visit to the Seminario Pottery Factory, which is a 10-minute bus ride from the hotel. If you opt for the latter, you’ll learn how ceramic handicrafts are made from. You’ll engage about the full process that starts with wet clay and eventually yields the carefully made pieces



before you. We'll depart the factory around 5:45pm for a 6pm arrival at our hotel.

Dinner: Shortly after reconvening at our hotel, we'll depart on foot for a five-minute walk to a local restaurant. Around 6:45pm we'll enjoy a dinner of Peruvian rotisserie chicken or similar fare.

Evening: We'll return to our hotel around 8pm where you'll have the choice to settle in for the night or explore Urubamba on your own. Take a walk through the quaint town, stop at one of the local cafes near your hotel, or ask your Trip Experience Leader for a recommendation based on your interests.

Day 6 – Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu

Activity Note: Activity Note: Today's discoveries involve extensive walking on steep and uneven planes and an altitude of more than 8,000 feet. We recommend you stay hydrated and rest if necessary.

Morning: Around 9:15am, gather with your fellow travelers at your hotel to witness a traditional healing ceremony conducted by a curandero, an Andean medicine man. This ancient healing tradition has deep roots in Inca culture and is not simply a cure for illnesses, but also a prayer for good health and well-being with an offering to Pachamama, a deity associated with fertility and Mother Earth. We are likely to see coca leaves being used once again, as they play a major roll in these exercises. We'll have the opportunity to ask the curandero questions,

to better understand the ceremony's importance and the instruments he uses. We also may participate in a ceremony to thank Mother Earth for allowing us to visit the Sacred Valley.

At 10am, we'll depart from our hotel for a 30-minute drive to the Ollantaytambo Station to catch a train to Aguas Calientes. The train ride takes a bit less than two hours and offers views into the gorge of the Urubamba River.

Lunch: A boxed lunch will be served aboard the train around noon. This may consist of chicken salad or pasta, cookies, fruit, a snack, and a bottle of water.

Afternoon: We'll disembark from our train around 1pm in the town of Aguas Calientes, or Machu Picchu town. Then, we'll transfer by bus to the storied ruins, arriving around 2pm. Most travelers visit Machu Picchu on a day trip, which makes for a hectic pace and only limited time at this unique archaeological wonder. We can take a closer look, and have a more relaxed pace, during our overnight visit to Machu Picchu, an uncommon experience that we're one of the few travel companies to offer. This drive takes about a half an hour, as we must follow a zigzag route up a steep hill. (The return trip by bus takes the same amount of time; or if you prefer, you can walk downhill and along the valley floor for about two hours).

Our expert Trip Experience Leader gives us a complete and compelling look at the fabled "Lost City of

the Incas,” which was discovered in 1911 by Yale archaeologist (and later, U.S. Senator) Hiram Bingham. Subsequent discoveries (such as Bingham’s later unearthing of the Inca Trail and the 1941 discovery of nearby Huayna Picchu) suggest that Machu Picchu was not simply a “lost city” but part of a whole “lost region.” More than 172 tombs have been excavated, and in 2002 Peruvian archaeologists uncovered the first complete burial site, with a woman’s skeleton, bronze pins, and a clay pot. Here we can explore sites like the Ritual Baths, the Palace of the Princess, the Main Fountain, and the Temple of the Sun, quietly contemplating the achievements of this most fascinating and mysterious civilization. When the day-trippers leave the ruins to catch the last train of the day, we remain longer and enjoy an uncrowded experience. We’ll depart Machu Picchu around 4:45pm, giving us almost three hours to explore the sprawling ancient civilization. We’ll transfer back to Aguas Calientes by bus and arrive back at our hotel around 6pm.

Dinner: Included at your hotel tonight at about 7pm. You’ll have both American and regional options consisting of a hot entrée, dessert; and water, coffee, and tea.

Evening: After dinner at 8pm, you can choose to retire to your hotel or continue to explore throughout the evening on your own. You may choose to take a walk through Aguas Calientes and see this small community come to life at night.

Freedom to Explore: During your two days in Machu Picchu, you have the freedom to explore the “Lost City

of the Incas” on your own during your free time. Below are a couple of recommended options for independent explorations.

Embark on the Orchid Trail Tour: You don’t have to be an orchid enthusiast to enjoy a journey down this colorful trail dubbed one of the world’s largest collection of orchid species by the American Orchid Society. How to get there: About a 5-minute walk from the hotel. Hours: At request. Cost: Approximately \$25 USD per person

Experience the Machu Picchu Site Museum Manuel Chavez Ballon: Visit what is often considered the most important historical sanctuary of Peru with multimedia displays that showcase the significance of Machu Picchu as a National World Heritage Site. How to get there: About a 25-minute walk from the hotel. Hours: 10am-4pm, daily. Closed on Sundays. Cost: Entrance fee is approximately \$7 USD per person.

Unwind in the Hot Springs at Machu Picchu Pueblo: Within walking distance from your hotel, these thermal baths will provide you relaxation after a day of trekking though the ruins. They’re also nestled within the mountains, giving you breathtaking views from the baths. How to get there: About a 10-minute walk from your hotel. Cost: \$3 USD per person.

Day 7 – Second Visit to Machu Picchu

Activity Note: Today’s discoveries involve extensive walking on steep and uneven planes and an altitude of more than 8,000 feet. We recommend you stay hydrated and rest if necessary.





Morning: We get an early start this morning, departing our hotel at 6:30am to walk to the bus station. Today, we'll head back to Machu Picchu to further explore the city, arriving before the crowds at around 7:15am. Our overnight stay and second day of exploration allows you to take in this enigmatic site at your own pace and absorb the scenery as you hike. Our early departure also makes it likely that we will beat the larger crowds. You can remain at the hotel if you wish, but most travelers appreciate this chance to see the ruins in a different light.

You can wander the sprawling ruins on your own, or, depending on which trails are open, choose between two hikes. One brings you to the Inca Bridge, where a trail built with impressive Inca engineering crosses a cliff face. In one spot, the Incas left a deep gap, which they bridged with logs that could be removed to render the trail impassable to enemies. The second option is an ambitious hike to the Sun Gate at the Machu Picchu end of the Inca Trail, which offers a view over the ruins. Along the way, you may spot friendly llamas, who make their home in and around this mountaintop citadel.

We'll come back together around 11:30am, at which point we'll board a bus and head back to Aguas Calientes.

Lunch: When we pull back into town after a 30-minute drive, we'll disembark and head to a local restaurant, arriving around 1pm. We'll enjoy a lunch of local fare and share our discoveries from our last two days of

exploration. We'll finish lunch around 2:30pm and head back to our hotel, which is a ten-minute walk away.

Afternoon: This afternoon, you'll have about four hours of free time to make your own discoveries in Aguas Calientes. Perhaps you'll decide to walk the orchid trail tour, where you'll behold a surprising array of orchid species native to Peru or visit the traditional market to barter with the locals for fresh produce.

Dinner: On your own tonight. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with suggestions for regional cuisine that's in line with your preferences. Perhaps you're keen to try lomo saltado, a sliced beef stir fry with tomatoes, onions, and chilies that's commonly enjoyed here.

Evening: Enjoy free time tonight by relaxing at your hotel or joining up with your fellow travelers to further explore the town. Perhaps you'll get to know the locals or other visitors at a nearby café where you'll share appetizers, drinks, or laughs.

Day 8 – Transfer to Cuzco / Ollantaytambo / Chinchero Weaving Demonstration with Locals
Activity Note: We will spend the day at elevations above 11,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated while at high altitude.



Morning: This morning, we'll depart our hotel around 8am for the train station, which is a ten-minute walk away, to board an 8:30am train. We'll chug through the Urubamba Gorge, alighting at Ollantaytambo station around 10am. From there, a five-minute bus ride takes us to the massive Inca fortress of Ollantaytambo. This is one of the few places where the Spanish lost a battle during the conquest of Peru. In 1536, the army of Manco Inca held off a Spanish invasion company led by Hernando Pizarro. We can climb up the huge terraces guarding the ancient hilltop temple area.

Lunch: We'll depart the ruins around 12pm and take a 15-minute bus ride to a local restaurant in the Sacred Valley, arriving around 12:15pm. You'll notice this establishment is surrounded by vegetable gardens used to produce their signature fresh dishes.

Afternoon: We'll depart from the restaurant around 1:45pm and journey to the mountain weaving village of Chinchero, which—at an elevation of 12,500 feet—is a literal high point of our exploration of the Sacred Valley, and provides scenic views of the surrounding mountains. We'll arrive around 2:30pm.

Chinchero was the site of a 16th-century Inca emperor's estate, as well as a resting place on the Inca Royal Road. Today, this small village is known for its weaving industry, which is all done by hand by local women, who use plants and, in some cases, bugs to produce the

dye they use. We'll have an opportunity to chat with the weavers about life in the small village and ask questions about the process of designing and creating these vibrant garments. Then we'll observe a textile-making demonstration, seeing how the Chinchero women create complex patterns in colorful cloth as their ancestors have for centuries.

Around 3pm, we'll depart from Chinchero and take an hour drive to our hotel in Cuzco. We'll check in around 4pm. Hotel services available include a restaurant serving Peruvian cuisine, a currency exchange, a souvenir shop, and a hairdresser depending on which hotel you stay at. Each room features a minibar, cable TV, direct-dial phone, safe, and Internet access.

Dinner: On your own tonight. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with suggestions for regional cuisine that's in line with your preferences. Perhaps you'll try a local favorite, adobo, a pork stew made with corn beer. Daring diners might like to try roasted cuy (guinea pig).

Evening: Tonight, you're free to make your own discoveries in Cuzco. You can explore the storied San Blas Neighborhood with your fellow travelers, catch a folk dance performance at the Centro Qosqo de Arte Nativo, or ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Freedom to Explore: During your two days in Cuzco, you have the freedom to delve into the rich culture of this historic city on your own during your free time. Below are a few recommended options for independent explorations:

See the historic San Blas Neighborhood: Witness the artistic and architectural colonial relics that tell the history of this neighborhood located in the heart of Cuzco. How to get there: About a 25-minute walk or 10-minute taxi ride from the hotel, around \$3 USD one way. Hours: Recommended to visit between 9am and 6pm. Cost: Free.

Treat yourself to handmade chocolate at the Chocolate Museum and Workshop: Go behind the scenes of the chocolate production process starting at the harvesting of the cacao bean. Learn how to make chocolate during an interactive workshop with more than 15 flavors to choose from. How to get there: About a 10-minute taxi ride from the hotel, around \$3 USD one way. Hours: Museum is open 9am-7pm; workshops are held at 8:30am, 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm and 6:30pm, daily. Cost: Museum entrance is free; workshops are around \$25 USD per person.

Experience traditional live music at the Centro Qosqo de Arte Nativo: Witness the folk traditions of the Cuzco region, including daily folk music and ritual dance performances. How to get there: About a 7-minute walk from the hotel. Hours: 6:30pm-8:10pm, daily. Cost: No

cost, fee is included in the multisite ticket.

Day 9 – Cuzco / Explore Sacsayhuaman & Kenko / Qoricancha Sun Temple

Activity Note: We will spend the day at elevations above 11,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated while at high altitude.

Morning: This morning around 8:30am we'll depart from our hotel and transfer to the Kenko Religious Center by bus, a historic architectural marvel of Cuzco. We'll arrive around 9am. This structure formed from rock features curated steps, wells, and channels that visitors flock to explore. The wells and channels are thought to have been used for disposing of chicha, a beverage once consumed during rituals and still enjoyed today. We'll explore this site until we depart for Sacsayhuaman around 9:20am.

We'll take a ten-minute bus ride and arrive at 9:30am. The massive Sacsayhuaman fortress is set high on a hilltop overlooking Cuzco. Its double-zigzag wall is said to symbolize a puma's teeth, and at one time, there were three immense towers and a labyrinth of rooms large enough to garrison 5,000 Inca soldiers. Today, the interior buildings are gone, having been dismantled by the Spaniards for their stone, but the imposing outer walls remain. Recent excavations have revealed this ancient stone complex to be much larger than previously thought. As we walk through, consider first that Inca workers built its walls entirely by hand, securely fitting boulders





weighing as much as 125 tons without a drop of mortar. Our tour finishes at 10:45am. We have some time to walk around and take photographs before we depart by bus around 11am.

An hour drive (depending on traffic) will bring us to the Qoricancha Sun Temple, Cuzco's most important ceremonial structure during the Inca era. Historical records of the time note that its walls were once covered with 700 sheets of gold studded with emeralds and turquoise; when the sunlight streamed through the windows, the reflection off the precious metals was blinding. We'll embark on a walking tour during which your Trip Experience Leader will enrich your experience with interesting trivia about the temple. We'll depart for our hotel around 12:30pm, which is a 15-minute walk away.

Lunch: On your own today. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with suggestions for regional cuisine.

Afternoon: You'll have the rest of the afternoon to yourself until dinnertime to make your own discoveries in Cuzco. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide recommendations, or you may choose to visit the Cuzco Cathedral or shop like a local at the San Pedro Market.

Around 6pm, you and your fellow travelers will gather for a Farewell Briefing with your Trip Experience Leader as you prepare for tomorrow, when you'll leave Peru behind and greet new experiences in Ecuador.

Dinner: After our Farewell Briefing, we'll depart to a local restaurant for an included Farewell Dinner around 6:45pm where you'll enjoy your choice of hot Peruvian entrée, dessert, and drink. Bid farewell to your Peruvian Trip Experience Leader this evening.

Evening: Relax at your hotel after dinner and finish up any last-minute packing for Ecuador, or head out for one last look at Cuzco.

Day 10 – Cuzco / Fly to Quito, Ecuador

Activity Note: We will spend the day at elevations above 8,000-9,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated while at high altitude. Travelers may rest at the hotel if necessary.

Morning: We'll depart from our hotel by bus at 6:45am and transfer to the airport for our flight to Lima. We'll touch down around 9am when we'll catch a connecting flight to Quito, Ecuador. Expected arrival time is around 3pm. You'll meet your Ecuadorian Trip Experience Leader at the airport. You'll then transfer to your hotel by bus for a 4:30pm check in. Your hotel is centrally located and amenities may include an onsite restaurant and lounge as well as rooms equipped with a mini-bar, air conditioning, and cable TV depending on which hotel you stay at.

Lunch: Have lunch onboard your flight from Lima to Quito, or grab something to take onboard when we stop in the Lima international airport.

Afternoon: At 4:30pm, feel free to settle into your hotel or take a stroll around Quito to take in your surroundings. You might choose to visit the Botanical Gardens or simply admire the landmarks near your centrally located hotel. We'll reconvene around 6pm for a Welcome Briefing where your Trip Experience Leader will have you introduce yourself and review your itinerary in more detail (including any changes that may need to occur). You'll also discuss logistics, safety and emergency procedures, and answer questions you may have. This talk will conclude around 6:30pm.

Dinner: On your own tonight. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with suggestions for regional cuisine. Maybe you'll sample some traditional hornado, or fried pork.

Evening: Tonight you'll have the option to settle into your hotel or to further explore Quito at your leisure. Perhaps you'll mingle with locals at a nearby café or bar, or take in one of the many scenic hilly views at night.

Freedom to Explore: During your three days in Quito, you have the freedom to explore this lively and spirited city on your own during your free time. Below are a few recommended options for independent explorations:

Explore Quito's Botanical Garden: Stroll through La Carolina Park to see more than 1,200 species of orchid and other native flora of the Andes. How to get there: About a 15-minute taxi ride, approximately \$5 USD one way. Hours: 8am-4:45pm, Monday-Friday, 9am-4:45pm on weekends and holidays. Cost: Entrance fee is around \$3.50 USD per person.

Experience a tribute to pre-Columbian natives at the Chapel of Mankind Museum: Explore the depths of human emotion as you witness themes like exploitation, anger, tenderness, and sacrifice in this exhibit focused on the suppression of Latin Americans. How to get there: A 15-minute taxi ride, about \$10 USD. Hours: 10am-5pm, Monday-Sunday. Cost: Entrance fee is approximately \$8 USD per person.

Attend the Jacchihua Ballet: See this award-winning national folkloric performance that celebrates the heritage and culture of Quito. How to get there: About an 8-minute taxi ride, around \$5 USD one way. Hours: 7:15pm-9:20pm, Wednesday-Friday. Cost: A ticket is around \$50 USD.

Day 11 – Explore Downtown Quito / Market Visit / Local Interaction

Morning: We'll depart our hotel at 8am this morning and head to Inaquito Market by bus, a busy local market

brimming with exotic fruits and colorful spices. We'll arrive around 8:15am. We'll have the chance to interact with locals during our market visit. Our Trip Experience Leader will facilitate this by giving you a dollar to barter with. You can then shop at the kiosk of a vendor of your choice and find out how far one dollar can get you.

Around 9:30am, we'll depart for a 40-minute bus ride to downtown Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We enjoy a walking tour of Quito's colonial nucleus: Independence Plaza (Plaza de La Independenzia), featuring a winged statue representing freedom.

We'll also see the Presidential Palace from the outside, with its stalwart guards in traditional uniforms keeping watch. We'll explore the inside of La Compania Church and take in its opulently decorated halls. Around 12pm we'll continue exploring with a stroll on La Ronda, a historic narrow lane where you can sample traditional candies, see work by local artists, and hear musicians. Around 12:30pm we'll depart for a 15-minute bus ride to a local restaurant.

Lunch: We'll enjoy authentic cuisine at a restaurant in Quito, with an included three-course meal with soft beverages, at 12:45pm.

Afternoon: Around 2pm, we'll depart for a 20-minute drive to our hotel. We'll take a brief orientation walk to get acquainted with the area, then enjoy the rest of the afternoon and evening on your own.

Dinner: On your own tonight. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with suggestions for regional cuisine. Perhaps you'll try Ecuador's popular Llapingachos, savory potato pancakes.

Evening: Continue to explore Quito this evening or relax at your hotel to prepare for tomorrow's discoveries.

Day 12 – Quito / Sinamune Children's Orchestra / Equator Museum

Morning: We'll depart our hotel around 8:15am and take a 45-minute bus ride to enjoy a moving musical performance by the Sinamune Disabled Children's Orchestra, whose members are physically or mentally disabled. Grand Circle Foundation is proud to provide Sinamune with financial assistance, helping to give these talented and dedicated musicians the support and encouragement they deserve. The performance will conclude around 9:30am, giving us ample time for a Q&A.

Around 10:15am, we'll take a 30-minute bus ride to visit the Inti Nan Museum. Inti Nan is the Quechua phrase for "Path of the Sun," and the sun quite literally charts a path through the museum—it sits directly on the equator. Explore the museum's replicas of indigenous sun temples and other interesting artifacts.

Lunch: On your own today. Perhaps you and your fellow travelers will gather to scour the area around your hotel for irresistible South American cuisine that you have yet to try.

Afternoon: This afternoon you'll have ample time for independent exploration. Head back to the local market, further explore the middle of the Earth, or relax with a book at your hotel.

Dinner: Around 6pm we'll depart to a local favorite restaurant for an included Farewell Dinner where you'll enjoy your choice of hot Ecuadorian entrée, dessert, and drink. Perhaps you and your group will discuss what you hope most to see on your upcoming Galápagos cruise.

Evening: Tonight at 7:30pm, we'll retire to our hotel and rest up to prepare for a very early wake-up call.

Day 13 – Quito / Fly to Galápagos / Embark Galápagos Small Ship

Activity Note: From Day 13 to Day 16, you will enjoy a cruise through the pristine Galápagos archipelago. The following description is meant only as a general guide to the cruise itinerary that you are likely to follow. The selection and order of islands visited cannot be guaranteed due to the Galápagos' frequently variable weather, marine, and environmental conditions, and changes in airline schedules between the mainland and the Galápagos. This is a carefully managed park with fragile ecosystems. To safeguard them (and to ensure your own comfort), ship and park authorities have the prerogative to revise our course at a moment's notice. Typically, you'll have two shore excursions a day (one in the early morning and one in the afternoon) lasting about 1.5-2 hours each. Depending on the island, there may be a specific timeframe allotted for our visit. Your Trip Experience Leader will keep you informed of the schedule on a daily basis.

Today's Activities: After breakfast, we'll depart for the airport by bus, arriving around 5:30am. We have a very early morning flight departing around 6:45am from Quito via Guayaquil to the Galápagos—an enchanted Pacific archipelago that straddles the equator some 600 miles west of Ecuador's coast, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Upon landing around 10:45am, we make a 45-minute bus transfer to the dock, where we board our boat. Our 16-passenger Galápagos small ships are chartered exclusively for our group. These vessels were custom built to maneuver easily among the islands, allowing for excellent views. They feature lounge areas, a bar, a sun deck, and a dining room serving local and international cuisine. The simply appointed cabins have twin beds, a window, and a private bath with shower. You can stow your gear in your cabin and orient yourself on deck. We'll stay onboard in comfortable cabins for the next four nights, roaming the archipelago with the services of our boat crew and our expert Trip Experience Leader, who is a certified Galápagos naturalist. You'll attend a mandatory safety drill at 2:30pm, and then have the rest of the day to relax onboard.

During the summer and fall, the Humboldt Current moves through the Galápagos Islands, cooling sea and land temperatures, and creating a mist that covers the islands—locally known as garúa (soft rain)—during the day. The Humboldt Current is strongest from July to October, delivering the choppy water that surrounds the islands.

Today's Meals: All meals will be served in the ship's dining room, with American and regional options available. The dining room atmosphere is relaxed, the dress code is smart casual, and you are free to sit at whichever table you please. Breakfast and some lunches will be buffet-style, while some lunches and all dinners will be sit-down meals. During sit-down meals, you'll be offered a choice of appetizer, soup, entrée, and dessert, and soft drinks.

Day 14 – Galápagos Cruise

Activity Note: The following description is meant only as a general guide to the cruise itinerary that you are likely to follow. Your Trip Experience Leader will keep you informed of the schedule on a daily basis.

Today's Activities: Today we continue our exploration of the Galápagos. Our Trip Experience Leader will give us an orientation briefing, including conservation techniques suggested by the Galápagos National Park.

He or she is a graduate of the elite certification program conducted at the Charles Darwin Research Station on Isla Santa Cruz by the Galápagos National Park Service. We file our Galápagos cruising itinerary with the conservation authorities of the Galápagos National Park. Park biologists periodically review it, and they have the authority to make changes to our plan to minimize our impact on the ecosystems of the islands.

Our Trip Experience Leader also provides the park with information on species behavior, and we are proud to work in cooperation with Park officials in preserving the priceless natural wonders of the Galápagos.

During our cruise, we'll see unique wildlife and geological formations. We'll make numerous landings by small motor dinghies that involve wading ashore. Once on land, we'll walk with our Trip Experience Leader along trails that bring us close to the many indigenous species. Wildlife sightings are unpredictable, but you may see a wealth of unique species. When we are not viewing wildlife on shore, we can swim, sunbathe, and perhaps go snorkeling. We'll see remote white-sand beaches, sparkling clear water, and volcanic landscapes of black and red rock.

During your free time aboard, you may choose to take a tour of the kitchen room and see where your meals are prepared, or, at night, enjoy star mapping with a view of the sky alongside your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers.

Today's Meals: All meals will be served in the ship's dining room. Your crew and Trip Experience Leader will inform you of precise start times.

Day 15 – Galápagos Cruise

Activity Note: The following description is meant only as a general guide to the cruise itinerary that you are likely to follow. Your Trip Experience Leader will keep you informed of the schedule on a daily basis.

Today's Activities: Here is a preview of the islands you may call on during your Galápagos cruise. The islands visited depend on your ship's itinerary.

Santiago (James): Tidal pools reveal a profusion of octopi, starfishes, and other undersea life. Rare fur sea lions that were once on the verge of extinction cavort nearby, and we often spot oyster-catchers, blue herons, and yellow-crowned night herons.

Bartolome: One of the youngest islands, Bartolome displays a fantastic landscape of lava formations—including its famous signature, Pinnacle Rock. Penguins are often spotted on the shore.

Mosquera Beach: Mosquera Beach is a very small, white-sand islet, located between Baltra and Seymour. It is ideal for swimming and snorkeling, and sea lions often visit.

Rabida (Jervis): A reddish beach and steep volcanic slopes give this island a distinctive look.

Santa Cruz (Indifatigable): At the Charles Darwin Research Station, learn about pioneering ecological studies and the giant Galápagos tortoise-breeding program.

Isabela (Albemarle): The largest island of the Galápagos chain and the least visited, Isabela is known for its large population of land tortoises, and the flocks of flamingos that grace the lagoons and marshes at dusk.

Floreana (Charles): Like the other islands, Floreana has its coterie of remarkable creatures. But it's the human stories that will engage you here as your guide tells of the first inhabitant, a shipwrecked Irishman, and the quirky "post office" in a barrel, where sailors since 1793 have been leaving letters for delivery. This "post office" still operates today.

Santa Fe (Barrington): Hike through a forest of opuntia cactus where land iguana doze, and then snorkel in clear water with coral reefs, sting rays, sea turtles, and colorful schools of fish.

North Seymour: Here you'll find the largest colony of frigatebirds in the Galápagos and a major nesting site for the blue-footed booby, depending on the season. On the beach, sea lions ride the waves.

San Cristobal (Chatham): The town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on this island is the sleepy capital of the Galápagos province. Nearby is Lobos Island, home to pelicans, frigatebirds, and a sea lion colony.

Española (Hood Island): Sea lions, marine iguanas, and many kinds of birds are found here, including Darwin's finches, Hood mockingbirds, and blue-footed and masked boobies. Along the southern shore, cliffs rise up from the sea. From April to November, the waved albatross, which can spend years at sea without touching land, can be seen performing their unique, choreographed mating ritual.

During your free time aboard, you may ask you may participate in a ceviche making demonstration so you can make a South American favorite dish for your friends and family once you return home.

Today's Meals: All meals will be served in the ship's dining room. Your crew and Trip Experience Leader will inform you of precise start times.

Day 16 – Galápagos Cruise

Your Trip Experience Leader will keep you informed of the schedule on a daily basis.

Today's Activities: Here is a preview of the islands you may call on during your Galápagos cruise. The islands visited depend on your ship's itinerary.

Santiago (James): Tidal pools reveal a profusion of octopi, starfishes, and other undersea life. Rare fur sea lions that were once on the verge of extinction cavort nearby, and we often spot oyster-catchers, blue herons, and yellow-crowned night herons.

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During your free time aboard, you may ask you may participate in a ceviche making demonstration so you can make a South American favorite dish for your friends and family once you return home.

Today's Meals: All meals will be served in the ship's dining room. Your crew and Trip Experience Leader will inform you of precise start times.

Day 17 – Galápagos cruise / Fly to Quito / Fly to U.S.





Pricing Summary & Trip Dates

Trip Name: Machu Picchu and the Galápagos Islands

Trip Dates: July 6- 23, 2022

Trip Prices: (Main Deck) \$5,095

Airfare from Detroit (DTW): \$1,000

Travel Protection: \$799; not required but is highly recommended. For details, please call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.

Reservation Deposit: The deposit to reserve your space on this trip is \$500 per person fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

Need Help? For personal assistance or more information about this trip in the meantime, please call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.

TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**. A \$500 deposit is required to guarantee your place (credit cards accepted). Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

Note: The information, dates and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

Pricing Disclaimer: *Every effort will be made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, venue fee increases, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, please call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.*