

## Machu Picchu & the Galápagos

Trip B: July 31 - August 17, 2027

# Essence of Andes & Islands: Machu Picchu to the Galápagos

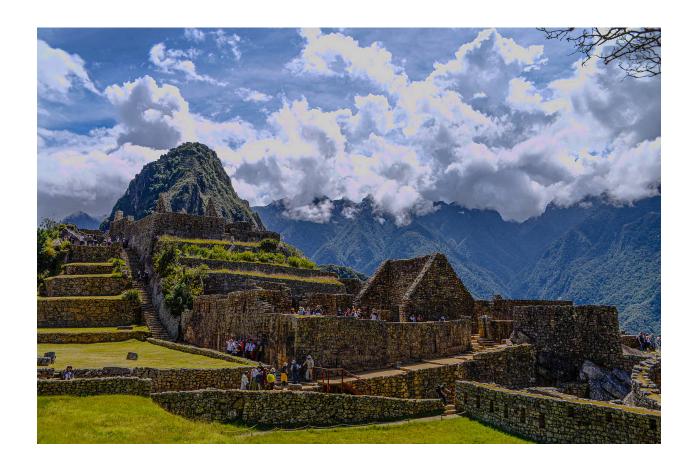
You step off your flight into Lima's high-altitude embrace, the Andes unfolding across the horizon. In Cusco, ancient Inca stonework glimmers in the golden light, and the air hums with centuries of history. The journey begins with the whispered stories of the Sacred Valley—sunlit terraces, mist-shrouded peaks, and local villagers crafting textiles as they've for generations.

Then, a sunrise train ride along the hills brings Machu Picchu into view: Huayna Picchu's peak stands guard over the fabled citadel. Under expert guidance, you explore the Incan sanctuaries where mystery and craftsmanship meet the sky.

Next, you fly to Ecuador's capital, Quito, nestled between volcanic peaks. Within hours, you're drifting into the ever-blossoming life of the Galápagos aboard your small ship, where snorkeling with sea lions and hiking volcanic beaches become your daily rhythm. Onboard a 16-passenger vessel exclusively charters for groups like yours, each cove

reveals new wonders: marine iguanas, giant tortoises, playful penguins—and that sense of endless discovery.

From the timeless Andes to evolutionary marvels of the Pacific, this journey connects culture, wildlife, and awe in every moment.



**OP** Check Out the Latest <u>Trip Itinerary Preview Video</u>



**Duration:** July 31 – August 17, 2027 (18 days)

Base Price (Main Level Cabin): \$6,695 per person

Round-Trip Airfare (from DTW): \$1,150 per person

Optional Travel Protection: \$949 per person

**!!Please note:** Prices are subject to change.

## Sample Itinerary (Day-by-Day)

#### Day 1–2: Depart U.S. → Arrive Lima, Peru

- Evening flight from Detroit (DTW) to Lima, Peru.
- Transfer to hotel upon arrival and rest after late-night check-in.
- Morning orientation walk and welcome briefing in Lima.

#### Day 3: Lima → Cusco → Sacred Valley

- Fly to Cusco (11,000+ ft elevation) and descend into the Sacred Valley.
- Visit a local Andean weaving cooperative.
- Overnight in the peaceful countryside.

#### Day 4: Sacred Valley – Pisac & Ollantaytambo

- Explore Pisac Market and hilltop Inca ruins.
- Visit Ollantaytambo's ancient fortress—one of the few remaining Incan towns still inhabited.
- Optional home-hosted lunch with local families.

#### Day 5: Train to Aguas Calientes → Explore Machu Picchu

- Scenic train ride along the Urubamba River to Aguas Calientes.
- Afternoon guided tour of the legendary **Machu Picchu** ruins—sacred temples, sun dials, and panoramic terraces.

• Overnight near the site for next-day re-entry options.

#### Day 6: Optional Sunrise Visit → Return to Cusco

- Early morning optional re-entry to Machu Picchu.
- Afternoon train and motorcoach return to Cusco.
- Evening at leisure.

#### Day 7: Discover Cusco

- Explore Cusco's colonial architecture built on Inca foundations.
- Visit Koricancha (Temple of the Sun) and the cathedral.
- Afternoon free to shop, relax, or visit the San Blas artisan district.

#### Day 8: Cusco → Quito, Ecuador

- Fly to Quito, Ecuador via Lima.
- Arrival and transfer to hotel.
- Evening at leisure in this highland capital.

#### Day 9: Quito City Tour

- Explore Quito's colonial Old Town—UNESCO-listed and full of charm.
- Visit the Middle of the World Monument at the Equator.
- Briefing for Galápagos cruise begins in the evening.

#### Day 10: Fly to Galápagos → Embark Small-Ship Cruise

- Morning flight to Baltra Island, Galápagos.
- Board your 16-passenger chartered vessel.
- Begin your 4-night Galápagos cruise through pristine islands.

#### Day 11–13: Galápagos Islands Exploration

#### (Exact islands may vary based on itinerary rotation, but may include:)

- •Santa Cruz: Giant tortoise reserve, Darwin Research Center.
- Floreana: Snorkel with sea lions and see flamingo lagoons.
- Española or Santiago: Watch blue-footed boobies and marine iguanas in the wild.
- Hike lava fields, swim in turquoise waters, and enjoy nightly lectures onboard.

#### Day 14: Disembark → Return to Quito

Disembark in Baltra and fly back to Quito.

• Final afternoon at leisure or join a local excursion.

#### Day 15: Quito → Lima

- Fly to Lima for your final night.
- Farewell dinner to celebrate your South American adventure.

#### Day 16-17: Fly Home

- Depart Lima for your return flight to Detroit.
- Arrive home the following day with unforgettable memories from the Andes and the Galápagos.

## What's Included

- Accommodations in Lima, Cusco, Sacred Valley, Quito, and a small-ship cabin
- All meals per itinerary; meals include local and international cuisine
- Train transfer to Machu Picchu, national park fees, guided tours
- 4-night Galápagos cruise on a private vessel
- Airport transfers, domestic flights, expert guides
- Optional travel protection plan available

## Tlight Booking Notes

When confirming your deposit, please specify:

- Cabin preference (A, B, C, D)
- Flight class (Coach, Premium Select, Business)

- Seat preference (Aisle or Window)
- Any special meal or accessibility needs

### Additional Notes

- **Activity Level:** Around Level 4–5—expect trekking over uneven terrain for up to 4+ hours; altitude may reach 10,000 feet or higher.
- **Group Size & Experience:** Intimate experience aboard privately chartered 16-passenger ship; no single supplement.
- Optional Travel Protection: \$949 per person for medical, evacuation, and cancellation coverage.
- **Important**: Machu Picchu sequence is logically placed before beach-style cruising—but actual order may vary for logistics.



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