

MACHU PICCHU & GALAPAGOS

FROM \$4,635 • 13 TO 17 DAYS • LIGHT TRIP

Knowmad specializes in private and custom travel. Itineraries and physical difficulty are often flexible.



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience a variety of vibrant indigenous Andean cultures
- Ride the rails in a historic train along the ancient Inca Trail
- Explore the Lost City of Machu Picchu and the Sun Gate
- Wander the Incan ruins of Sacsayhuaman and Ollantaytambo
- Meander Cusco's cobblestone streets and bustling markets
- Get off the beaten path while discovering the ancient ways of Amaru villagers and bargain for colorful, hand-woven textiles in colorful Pisac market
- Lunch in a centuries-old hacienda while relaxing in the Sacred Valley

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 Lima

Upon arrival you'll be met at the airport by a Knowmad Adventures representative and taken to your accommodations centrally located in the Miraflores neighborhood. Explore Peru's diverse and delectable cuisine and visit some of the city's many sites and museums on your own or, depending on your time, make a guided exploration of the city or learn to make ceviche with a local chef on a culinary discovery.*

- No meals - Casa Andina Private Collection Miraflores

DAY 2 Lima – Cusco – Sacred Valley

After a short morning flight to the former Incan capital of Cusco where Andean cultures come alive (don't be surprised when the language doesn't sound like Spanish – it could be the native Andean tongue Quechua), you'll be met at the airport and taken for a light lunch. Departing for the Incan sites around town, you'll visit the fortress Sacsayhuaman and its megalithic stone terraces; Kenko, with its carved stone surfaces and subterranean altars; the Puka Pukara fortress that protected the royal capital from attacks; and the water temple, Tambo Machay.

Driving through the city and into the snow-capped Andean peaks with inspired views you descend past Chinchero village into the Sacred Valley of the Incas where you'll check in to your oasis at Sol y Luna. Take the afternoon to relax in their verdant gardens while acclimatizing to the altitude (the Sacred Valley is lower than Cusco and the perfect place to gradually acclimatize).

- B, L - Sol y Luna

DAY 3 Sacred Valley – Urubamba and Pisac

After breakfast you'll head by van along the Sacred Valley past the communities of Calca, Coya, Lamay and Pisac. From here go completely off the map winding up a small dirt road, which takes you through remote Andean villages and arrives to the Amaru community. This isolated community holds strongly to their ancient customs, and practices a largely subsistence lifestyle on the slopes of the Andes. The Amaru will proudly open their village to you where you will learn of their lifestyle and traditions. Among other things, take part in gathering plants used as natural dyes, learn of their medicinal and culinary properties, and see how the Amaru's world-renowned textiles are woven and brought to life.

Stay for lunch with community leaders or enjoy a picnic amongst the Pisac ruins that sprawl down the mountainside towards town. If still energized, you can enjoy a gentle hike through the extensive Inca terracing down the mountainside, or go by van, and arrive to Pisac – one of Peru's largest and most vibrant markets – where you can bargain with Andean campesinos for handcrafted wares. Return to Sol y Luna for a relaxing evening.

- B, L – Sol y Luna

DAY 4 Sacred Valley – Moray and Maras

Heading out early you'll arrive to the massive Inca agricultural terraces of Moray, thought to have been a nursery to experiment with and modify different varieties of crops. From here hike or go by van (depending on your preference, time, and weather) to the little-known village of Maras where pre-Columbian terraced salt pans are still being harvested in the traditional way by villagers. Enjoy a picnic in this surreal setting before a walk down the Andes to the valley floor where you board the train that chugs along the Urubamba River and parts of the Inca Trail towards the Amazon arriving at Machu Picchu Pueblo.

- B, L – El Mapi

DAY 5 Machu Picchu

Early risers can revel at the sunrise from the Machu Picchu citadel. This incredibly vast archaeological site - lost to the world until well into the twentieth century – is perched amidst Andean peaks and lush cloud forest making it one of the most breathtaking sights in the world. You'll have the opportunity to get a complete guided tour as you begin to unlock the mystery of the Inca, and also have plenty of time to wander the site on your own. Lunch at the Sanctuary Lodge adjacent to the ruins means you'll be able to enjoy the whole day without leaving awe-inspiring Machu Picchu. You can also climb the adjacent sacred peak Huayna Picchu for a bird's eye view.

- B, L – El Mapi

DAY 6 Machu Picchu – Ollantaytambo - Cusco



Taking the train after breakfast, you'll have time to roam through Ollantaytambo town admiring the ancient ruins towering above. Heading into the valley you'll stop to enjoy lunch at an authentic colonial-era hacienda before continuing on and arriving in the early evening to Cusco. Your accommodation is an artfully restored colonial-era mansion surrounding a traditional courtyard with Spanish arches and fountains.

- B, L – Aranwa

DAY 7 Cusco

Enjoy the day at your leisure independently exploring a city where traditional Andean cultures, the colonial Spanish, and modern Peru come together in one of South America's most culturally and visually dynamic cities. Visit Incan architectural jewels such as Korikancha – the temple of the sun, shop at Andean markets, enjoy savory, wide-ranging Peruvian cuisine, and see the colonial cathedrals built atop Incan foundations around the Plaza Central. We can also arrange guided city tours, a culinary exploration with a top local chef, or - for those bursting with energy - mountain biking, horseback riding, or even whitewater rafting.*

- B – Aranwa

DAY 8 Cusco – Lima - Quito

In the morning you will make the short flight back to Lima in accordance with your flight to Quito, Ecuador. Upon arrival to Quito, a Knowmad Adventures representative will meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel in Quito. If time permits, you may want to explore some of the architecture nearby to your hotel that has helped Quito's old quarter be declared a UNESCO World Heritage city.

- B – Hotel El Relicario del Carmen

DAY 9 Quito – Galapagos

Fly 600 miles over the Pacific to the Galapagos Islands where you are transferred to your vessel and begin exploring the Galapagos.

- B, L, D – On yacht

DAY 10 – 13 Galapagos

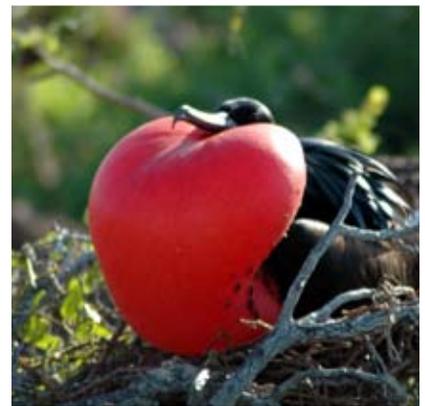
Island hop aboard an intimate yacht and get face-to-face with an incredible array of animal species. Whether walking, snorkeling, kayaking or in a zodiac, you will be overwhelmed with wildlife such as the giant Galapagos Tortoise, marine iguanas, albatrosses, blue-footed boobies and more. Exact itineraries vary depending on the vessel and your available dates. We select partner ships based on expert guides, comfortable cabins, food quality, and overall value. Let us help pair you with your perfect Galapagos experience.

- B, L, D – On yacht

DAY 14 Galapagos – Quito

After disembarking from your vessel you will be transferred to catch your flight from the Galapagos to Quito, where you will be transferred to your accommodations for a leisurely evening. It may be possible to schedule your international flight for the evening and depart directly home.

- B, L – El Relicario del Carmen



DAY 15 Quito – Return Home

You will be transferred to the Quito airport in accordance with your international flight home.

- B

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2012 COSTS \$4,635 per person (4 or more travelers). Additionally, regional airfare is estimated at \$1,250 (Lima/Cusco & Cusco/Lima, Quito/Galapagos & Galapagos/Quito—subject to change). Knowmad Adventures is happy to book and issue these tickets for you.

WHAT YOUR TRIP COST INCLUDES

Personal pre-departure support
Expert leadership & guiding
Accommodations as indicated & based on double-occupancy
Local excursions as indicated
Airport transfers as indicated
Backcountry field arrangements as necessary
All necessary equipment for adventure excursions
Ground transportation and support vehicles
Additional guides and porters as needed
Entrance fees and permits

WHAT YOUR TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International and domestic airfare
Visa, passport, departure/arrival and excess baggage fees
Trip insurance (we strongly recommend you obtain trip insurance offered by Knowmad Adventures, including trip cancellation insurance)
Activities listed as optional and/or denoted with asterisk
Meals not indicated in the itinerary
Optional tipping to local guides and staff
Personal items

TYPE Flexible Date Private Departures. You choose the date, your travel companions and one of our adventures. This is great for families, groups of friends and couples.

LIGHT TRIP Trips suitable for nearly all ages and ability levels. Walks are generally short and on flat terrain. Activities include cultural opportunities, history, optional hiking, train ride, shopping, yacht cruising, snorkeling, walking, optional kayaking.

DEPARTURES Year round; can be set up to match your dates.

LENGTH 13-17 days – 9 nights comfortable hotels, 5 to 8 nights yacht

BEGIN Lima, Peru END Quito, Ecuador

SUMMARY

Fascinating history and culture come together with mind-boggling wildlife encounters while lush cloud forest and Andean peaks are contrasted by placid turquoise waters and white sand beaches as you combine two of the world's most fascinating destinations for the ultimate South American exploration.

AIR TRAVEL

INTERNATIONAL

Airfare is not included in the land cost of our trips. You may arrange your international airfare independently, or we are happy to offer our feedback and assistance in helping you book it.

REGIONAL

If booked by Knowmad Adventures, internal airfare for this trip (Lima/Cusco & Cusco/Lima, Quito/Galapagos & Galapagos/Quito) averages \$1,250, however this is an approximation and the airfare is subject to change upon booking. If you would like to arrange your own regional flights, please consult us prior so we can verify the departure and arrival times.

WEATHER & WHEN TO GO

This trip partly takes place in the Peruvian highlands. Throughout the year the average temperature is in the mid-50s °F (10-12 °C) and does not fluctuate greatly. Evenings are cooler. There are primarily two seasons: wet and dry. December through March sees much more precipitation than other times of the year and is the less visited season. As Peru has three distinct climate zones, if you are interested in combining this trip with a visit to the jungle or the coastal areas please inquire for more weather details.

MONTH	AVG. TEMP.	& RAINFALL	MONTH	AVG. TEMP.	& RAINFALL
January	55°F	5.9"	July	50°F	.1"
February	55°F	4.5"	August	52°F	.3"
March	55°F	3.8"	September	54°F	.9"
April	55°F	1.5"	October	56°F	1.9"
May	53°F	.3"	November	56°F	2.7"
June	50°F	.1"	December	56°F	4.3"

Weather in the Galapagos Islands is unique. December through May is considered the rainy season but oddly enough it is also the sunniest time of the year. The water is also warmest during these months, which makes for comfortable snorkeling—yet many species of fish wait for the cooler waters later in the season. Between December and May is breeding season for birds and the mating rituals are fantastic. You can also see sea turtles nesting and sea lions mating. The ocean is calmer during these months as well, so if you're prone to sea sickness keep this in mind. In February, March and April most all of the Galapagos flowers are blooming.

Between the months of June and November the weather is a little cooler, cloudier and windier, but it can also be a great time to visit the Islands. The Humboldt current arrives during these months, bringing cold water and lots of nutrients and plankton, resulting in a myriad of fish and bird life. This is the best time for diving.

Prior to your departure, we provide you with a detailed pre-trip information packet, which includes a recommended pack list, information about the regions you'll be visiting, suggested readings, and up-to-date health information including any recommended vaccinations.

IS IT FOR ME?

Exceptional for all ages as well as for families, this multi-country itinerary features exceptional guides, hotels and yacht, cuisine, and excursions throughout which allows you to maximize an incredible itinerary.

Knowmad has vast knowledge and operating capacities in Peru; this is a private trip and we are happy to modify excursions, accommodations, and the flow of the itinerary to perfectly suit your travel style and interests.

REFERENCES

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Ready for the trip of a lifetime? Signing up is easy. Call us at 1-877-616-8747 or email travel@knowmadadventures.com and reserve your spot. Or simply download our registration form from www.KnowmadAdventures.com/contact, fill it out, and send it back to us along with your trip deposit.

PLEASE REFER TO REGISTRATION FORM FOR TERMS & CONDITIONS