

# Cusco & Lima, Peru



**Time Frame:** 8 days + 2 travel days

**Destinations:** Cusco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, & Lima, Peru

## Travel Day/Day 1

### Arrive in Cusco, Peru

Take a red-eye flight to **Lima, Peru**. After you arrive, re-check back into the airport for a quick flight to **Cusco, Peru**.

Uber to your hotel in the **San Blas** neighborhood of Cusco to store your luggage until check in (*we liked Huascaran Casa Boutique San Blas Hotel*). Grab a coffee & lunch at Llama Cafe down the street.

Pre-book a 3:30pm free walking tour of the **Cusco Historic City Center** with Inkan Milky Way. Be sure you have cash to tip your tour guide!

- <https://www.inkanmilkyway.com/en/cusco/free-walking-tour-cusco/>

Grab dinner at Raices

## DAY 2

### Cusco, Peru

Get your **Tourist Ticket** (\*TT, *more info at end*) for \$76 per person (pp) at the COSITUC Central Office (Av. el Sol, 103, office 101; open 8a-6p)

Go by the **Alpaca Expedition Office** to check in and pay your remaining balance for the short Inca Trail you'll be doing in a few days! (Calle Heladeros 157 Office 24-25; open 9a-1p & 3p-7p)

Self-guided walking tour around these **Cusco City** spots:

- **Plaza de Armas**
- **Plazoleta Regocijo**: Museo Histórico Regional (on TT) & Choco Museo (free chocolate tastings!)
- **Plaza San Francisco**: Museo y Catacumbos del Convento San Francisco (\$6 pp), St Claire Arch
- **San Pedro Market** for lunch
- **Qorikancha** (Temple of the Sun): Site Museum & Church of Santo Domingo (on TT)
- **San Blas**: Sapantiana Aqueduct, Calle Siete Borreguitos, San Cristóbal Viewpoint

Dinner at Intillay

## DAY 3

### Sacred Valley of the Incas, Peru

#### Sacred Valley Day Tour:

- Visits **Chincho, Maras & Moray Salt Flats, Ollantaytambo, & Pisac Ruins**
- Book this ahead of time with Inka Altitude on GetYourGuide for \$39pp  
<https://www.getyourguide.com/ollantaytambo-193095/from-cusco-sacred-valley-and-moray-salt-mines-t317787/>
- Includes: Hotel pick up at 6am, buffet lunch, city center drop off around 7pm
- Bring: Water, snacks, passport, TT, cash entrance for salt mines, tip

Dinner at Pizza Carlo once back in Cusco

# Cusco, Peru



## DAY 4

### Cusco, Peru

Take an uber to the **Sacsayhuaman** ruins (on TT) & spend an early morning walking around before the crowds (be aware the uber drop off point on Don Busco Rd requires quite a hike to the entrance).

#### **Peruvian Cusco Flavors Cooking Class & Market Tour:**

- Meet at the San Pedro Market at 10am for a market tour
- Cooking class includes: Pisco sour & chicha punch cocktails, ceviche, causa limeña, quinoa tamales & picarones
- Book this ahead of time on their website for \$55pp + bring a tip  
<https://peruviancuscoflavors.com/producto/peruvian-cooking-class-cocktails-market-tour-in-cusco/>

Visit the **Museo Machu Picchu** for \$6pp

Dinner at Tejas y Piedras Restaurant

## DAY 5

### Machu Picchu, Peru

#### **2-Day Short Inca Trail Trek:**

- Book this ahead of time with **Alpaca Expeditions** for \$570pp  
<https://www.alpacaexpeditions.com/inca-trail-with-hotel-2d1n/>
- Includes: Permits & guides for trek, entrance fee to Machu Picchu, all transportation including Cusco pick up & drop off, 1 night hotel, lunch & dinner on first day, breakfast on 2nd day
- Bring: Hiking clothes & boots, hiking backpack with toiletries/meds & 2nd day outfit, water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray, hat, sunglasses, chargers, cash for tips

#### **Itinerary:**

- Pick up from Cusco hotel at 3:50am → 1.5 hr van to Ollantaytambo → 1 hr 10 min train from Ollantaytambo → trek starts at Km 104
- Trek: Total of 6 hrs, ~8 miles, 2400 ft elevation gain → follows Urubamba River, stops at Wiñay Wayna Inca site, lunch & water provided → cont trek to Sun Gate for Machu Picchu view → trek ends at Machu Picchu for **Circuit 1** of ruins

Dinner + hotel in **Aguas Calientes** included

## Day 6

### Machu Picchu, Peru

Breakfast at hotel → 6am bus back up to Machu Picchu for **Circuit 3** tour of ruins

Lunch & coffee in Aguas Calientes

Afternoon 1 hr 45 min train to Ollantaytambo → 1.5 hr van to Cusco → van transfer to hotel in Cusco

Dinner nearby

# Lima, Peru



## Day 7

### Arrive in Lima, Peru

Check out of your hotel, grab coffee at Kaldi Coffee, then get an uber to the airport for a 1.5 hr flight back to **Lima**

Uber from the Lima airport to a hotel in the **Miraflores** neighborhood (*we liked the Casa Andina Standard Benavides*)

Walk to **Miraflores** spots:

- **Parque Kennedy** (cat park)
- **Malecón de Miraflores** (oceanfront park): Parque Chino, Lighthouse of Miraflores, Lover's Park

Dinner at Sapiens

## Day 8

### Lima Peru

Uber to **Centro Historico** to walk around:

- **Plaza Mayor Basilica Cathedral, Presidential Palace, City Hall, Jiron de La union, Barrio Chino, Museo Central**

Uber to **Museo Larco** (\$14pp)

Lunch at Ataki Burger

Uber to **Barranco** to walk around:

- **Municipal Park, Bridge of Sighs, Plaza Chabuca Granda, Bajada de banjos**

Dinner at Tokuyo Lima Sushi

## Travel Day

### Travel Back Home

Have breakfast at the hotel & check out

Take an uber to the airport

Hop on your flight home!

# Cusco & Lima, Peru



## Tips

Currency	<p>Peruvian sol (PEN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>ATMs</u>: Lots in Cusco, would recommend having PEN cash for entrance fees &amp; tips</li> <li>- Most restaurants take cards but don't have option to add tip, so use cash for tips</li> <li>- <u>Tipping</u>: 10% at restaurants, 10-20% for guides</li> </ul>
Apps	Download Google Maps, Google Translate, Uber (use in Cusco & Lima), currency converter
Altitude	Take the first few days in Cusco slow, drink lots of water & electrolytes, avoid alcohol, have meds for headaches. Can also chew coca leaves/drink coca tea (we didn't need to)
Water	Avoid drinking tap water, brushing teeth with tap water, drinks with ice cubes, fresh fruits or veggies that may have been washed in tap water. There are convenient stores on every corner to buy large bottles of water for very cheap.
Pack	Layers for cold nights & warm days, rain coat, hat, sunscreen, bug spray, hiking gear for Inca Trail, electrolytes, meds, ear plugs, tissues/toilet paper (for public restrooms)
Tourist Ticket	<p><b>Required</b> for Cusco &amp; Sacred Valley sites, must be paid in <b>PEN cash</b> at site entrances or in office in Cusco (recommend doing this on day 1). Must bring passport when buying.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General ticket (130 soles/\$36) for 10 days, all sites (ideal if doing Sacred valley + Cusco sites)</li> <li>- Partial ticket (70 soles/\$20) for 2 days with different circuit options (good if only doing Sacred Valley). <i>*Salt mines have a separate entrance fee.</i></li> </ul>

## Recs

Stay	<p><u>Cusco</u>: Huascarán Casa Boutique San Blas Hotel (San Blas area)</p> <p><u>Lima</u>: Casa Andina Standard Benavides (Miraflores area)</p>
Eat	<p>Empanadas, ceviche, aji de gallina (chicken in yellow chili sauce), anticuchos (meat skewers), papa a la huancaína (potatoes in spicy cheese sauce), papa rellena (crispy mashed potato stuffed with meat), choclo con queso (corn with salty cheese), picarones (fried corn dough dessert), mazamorra morada (purple corn pudding), chicha morada (purple corn juice), Inca cola (yellow soda), muna tea (for digestion), pisco sour</p> <p>Bottled water options are "with gas" or "without gas" (sparkling or still)</p>
Other Things To Do	<p><u>Cusco</u>: Mirador desde el Cristo Blanco (25 min walk up stairs), Temple of the Moon (30 min away), food tour, other museums &amp; spots on TT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Day trip to Humantay Lake, 7 Lakes, Palcoyo Mtn, or Rainbow Mtn</li> </ul> <p><u>Lima</u>: Huaca Pucllana ruins, Circuito Mágico del Agua in the Parque de la Reserva, Markets in Magdalena &amp; Gamarra, food tour or bike tour in Miraflores &amp; Barranco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Day trip to Huacachina desert or Paracas</li> </ul>