

Sacred Peru



TRIP OVERVIEW

Travel into the heart of South America to experience misty volcanoes, llamas, alpacas, hanging ancient tombs; Machu Picchu, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, all set amidst the backdrop of the spectacular Andes. Witness the White City of Arequipa and stunning frescoes and paintings in mystical Catholic churches. Journey to Lake Titicaca, the highest and largest navigable lake in the world and Colca Canyon, famed for its deep ravines, majestic condors and hot springs. Our spectacular tour of Peru will truly leave you in awe.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Peru. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Lima

Depart the UK on your overnight flight, via Madrid.

DAY 2: Lima B

On arrival in Lima, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 3: Lima to Arequipa B

Known as the 'City of the Kings', today's tour combines the historic downtown with modern Miraflores. First, visit the main square to see the Cathedral, Government Palace and City Hall. Next see the beautiful Santo Domingo Convent, before visiting Miraflores, a bustling shopping area. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Arequipa.

DAY 4: Arequipa B

With its large traditional square and colonial buildings, Peru's second largest city, Arequipa, has a very Spanish feel. Known as the 'Cuidad Blanca' (White City) and set against the backdrop of a misty volcano, Arequipa offers some truly wonderful cultural and historic sites, including the frescoes of America's Sistine Chapel and the Santa Catalina Convent. The tour ends with a relaxed walk around the local areas of Cayma and Yanahuara. The rest of the afternoon and evening are at leisure.

DAY 5: Arequipa & Colca Canyon B/L/D

Today, the tour moves on to the open plains of the Pampa Cañaguas and Salinas where you will see llamas, alpacas, and guanacos roaming in the wild. The wetlands are teeming with different species of birdlife and Patapampa viewpoint offers stunning vistas of volcanoes. Later, you will arrive at Chivay, your base for the night, where dinner is included.

DAY 6: Colca Canyon to Puno B/L/D

An early start from Chivay sets you up for a spectacular scenic tour of the Colca Canyon with its terraced fields and deep gorges, all culminating with a chance to see the majestic condors as they rise deep from within the canyon. You will then make your way back to the hotel and after lunch, commence your journey to Puno, arriving in the evening where dinner at your hotel is included.

DAY 7: Puno B/L

Today's highlight is a trip to Lake Titicaca, the highest and largest navigable lake on earth. The views from Taquile Island that, on a clear day, can stretch to Bolivia are stunning and well worth the hour or so walk to the top from the port. Have a 'coca tea' break half way up before lunch is taken in a simple restaurant that overlooks the lake. Later you will walk back down to the port and board a boat for a brief visit to one of the floating reed islands to visit a local family home. Overnight is in Puno.

DAY 8: Puno to Cusco B/L

This morning you will travel from Puno to Cusco and be able to appreciate the surrounding valleys' wonderful landscapes en route. The journey includes a stop at La Raya pass, 4,300 metres above sea level, from where you will be able to take in some amazing vistas of the Andean snow-capped mountains. You will also stop at the Raqchi ruins, known as the Temple of the God Wiracocha, and Andahuaylillas village where there is a beautiful church from the 17th century. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before arriving in Cusco and transferring to your hotel.

DAY 9: Cusco to the Sacred Valley B/L

Today the tour heads for Urubamba, the Sacred Valley of the Incas, where one of the highlights is a visit to the imposing Inca Fortress at Ollantaytambo. En route you will visit a camelid compound to see these unique animals at close quarters as well as the colourful Pisac market where local Indians display and sell their handmade artefacts. Lunch is in a comfortable restaurant then the journey continues to reach your hotel for an overnight stay in the valley. **Please Note: An overnight bag is required for the night in Sacred Valley, a backpack is suggested.**

DAY 10: The Sacred Valley to Cusco B/L

Machu Picchu is one of the New Seven Wonders of the World and this morning you will be taken to the station to board the train to start your adventure to this incredible site. The train will take you to the city of Aguas Calientes where you disembark and board a bus to the archaeological site. Constructed on a saddle between two Andean peaks, Machu Picchu was one of the greatest achievements of South American civilisation. After a guided tour of this 550 year old citadel, there is some free time for you to explore and absorb the awe-inspiring atmosphere. You will then descend back to Aguas Calientes for lunch, then catch the train back to Ollantaytambo and return to Cusco by coach.

DAY 11: Cusco to Lima B

This morning's tour of Cusco will introduce you to this amazing colonial city built on the foundation of Inca palaces. Visit the 'Temple of the Sun' where you can appreciate the incredible masonry of the Incas, the Plaza de Armas and the cathedral with its carved woodwork and paintings. Later, you will drive to the Inca fortress of Sacsayhuaman, then to the underground cave and temple of Kenko — one of the largest wak'as (holy places) in the region. Experience a panoramic view of Puca Pucara and, finally, stop at the living art workshop to admire how the local artisans create wonderful silver pieces, paintings and wood carvings. Later this afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight to Lima.

DAY 12/13: Lima to the UK or Extension B

Transfer to the airport for your overnight return flight, via Madrid, or continue with your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to leisure hotels. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Peru. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Lima you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Pure Peru**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Pure Peru representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries. However, if you need to contact Pure Peru during your stay the details are:

Pure Peru

Telephone Number: 0051 998754080

Email: customer-service@pure-peru.com

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Pure Peru

24 hour telephone number: 0051 99 875 4080

Email: customer-service@pure-peru.com

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

British passport holders are not currently required to obtain a visa in order to travel to Peru. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you to check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up to date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Altitude Sickness

Altitude sickness is a fairly common condition that can occur when you ascend to a high altitude (generally higher than 2,500 metres above sea level) quickly. The decrease in atmospheric pressure can make reathing more difficult as the body is not able to take in as much oxygen. Most cases are mild with symptoms that can include: headache, nausea, dizziness and exhaustion. Several of the places in Peru are located at high altitude (over 2,500 metres above sea level) including Puno, Lake Titicaca and Cusco. Therefore, you may find you experience some symptoms at this altitude. It is advised that at these high altitudes, you keep hydrated and avoid alcohol. If you do experience symptoms of altitude sickness during your tour, ensure you tell your guide immediately who will be able to advise the best thing for you to do. You can contact your GP before you travel for advice on medication for altitude sickness.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Sacred Peru is rated as Advanced. A higher level of fitness as required as you may be on your feet for most of the day though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, getting on and off coaches, trains, boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. There may be some time spend at high altitude. You will stay in variety of hotels, possibly including overnight trains, and accommodation standards may not match those you are used to at home. Our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tour Guides

A Tour Leader will be with you on your trip starting in Arequipa on Day 3, ending in Cusco on Day 11. On your arrival into Lima you will be met by a local English-speaking guide and transferred to your hotel. On Day 11, your arrival back into Lima and on Day 12, your transfer back Lima airport will be provided by a local driver, full details of these transfers, with timings, will be given to you in resort.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tipping

It is at your customary to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately USD\$5 per person per day for your tour leader, and USD\$2-\$4 per person per day for any other staff. This is a total of USD\$62-\$84 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the end of your tour. Tips are accepted in US dollars.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Peru is the Nuevo Sol, the symbol is S/. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. US Dollars are widely accepted in Peru should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you. Cash machines are available in all the major cities to withdraw money in the local currency. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £200- £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Itinerary changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

WHAT TO PACK

- Warm clothes in case of cold weather
- Rain wear for rainy season
- Long-sleeved shirts and long trousers
- Insect repellent & personal toiletries
- Suncream & a hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Comfortable shoes such as trainers
- A pair of light boots and sandals
- A torch with batteries and binoculars
- Sunglasses and plastic bags

- Towel and swimsuit
- Anti-bacterial hand gel
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Medicine to arrest or prevent the so-called 'Soroche' or altitude sickness; please seek medical advice
- An electric plug converter - three different plug sockets are used, so it is best to bring a multi adapter
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- **Please Note: An overnight bag is required for the night in Sacred Valley**

FLIGHT INFORMATION

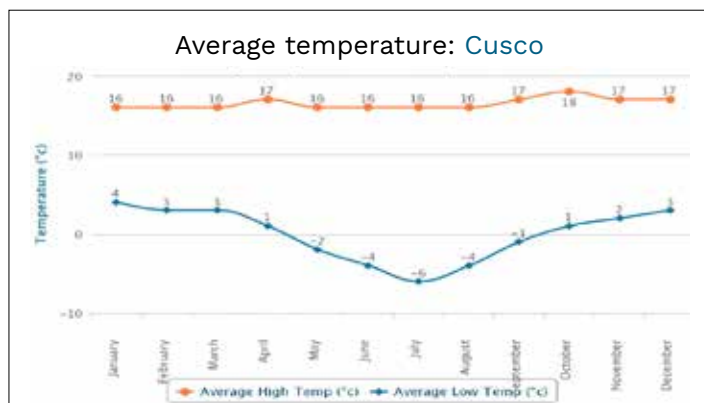
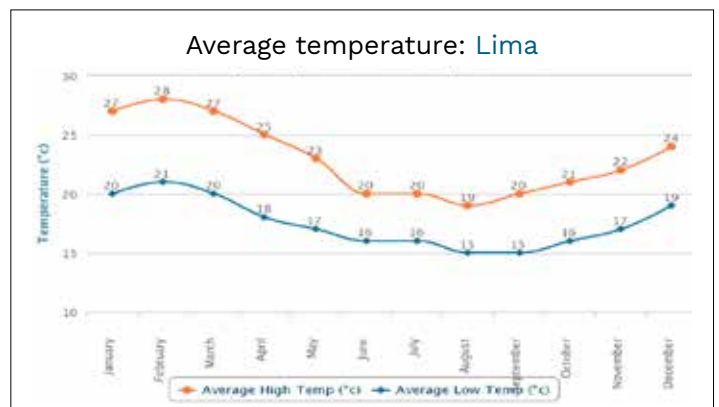
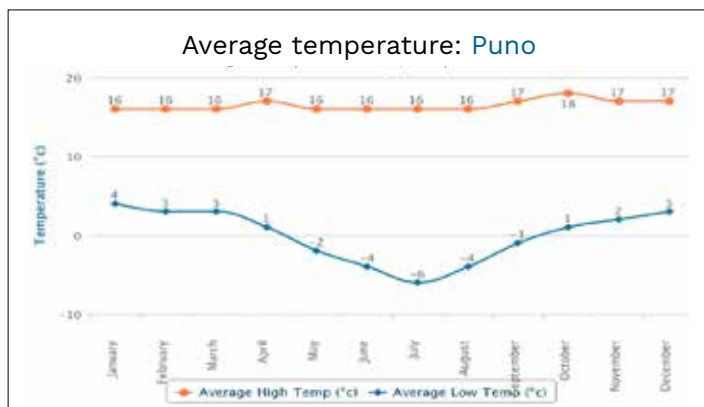
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Lima City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Two nights in the capital city of Lima provides the perfect opportunity to explore the 'City of Kings', a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Lima.

Lima:

A UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, Lima offers rich history, great museums, temples and colonial mansions. Discover more of the city or venture out to the nearby, bohemian district of Barranco where daily life is more relaxed and take a stroll around the old colonial and republican houses. The beautiful area of Miraflores, known for its gardens, parks and beaches, is not to be missed.

Hotel Information

Your Lima stay will take place at the 3★ Casa Andina Standard Benavides on Bed & Breakfast, unless otherwise stated at booking. All internal transfers are included.

Contact: Av. Alfredo Benavides 271 Miraflores, Miraflores 15074, Peru
Telephone Number: +51 1 3791610

Personal Expenses

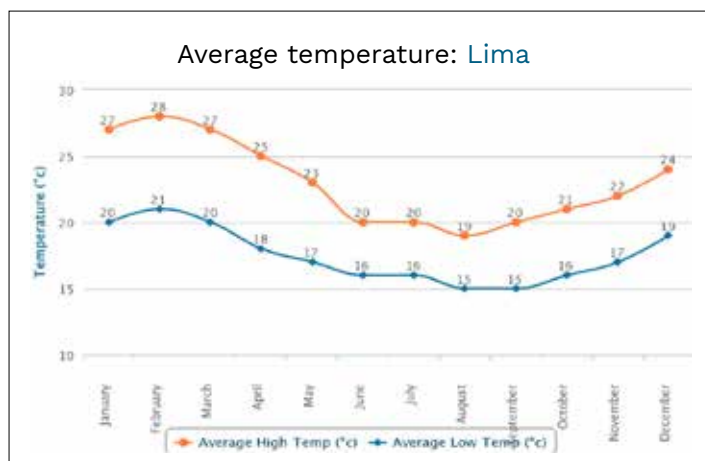
You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches and dinners, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry, drinks and snacks.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Lima is not escorted by a tour guide. Transfers will be provided by a local driver, and full details, including timings will be given to you in resort.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Casa Andina Classic Centro

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Tumbes, Peru Beach Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Head to the beautiful beaches of Tumbes for 3 nights of relaxation. With an idyllic coastline and diverse wildlife, Tumbes provides the perfect end to your Sacred Peru tour.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Tumbes.

Tumbes:

A uniquely lush area of coastal Peru, Tumbes boasts beaches of white sand, warm clear waters and almost year round sunshine. Offering an expanse of ecological reserves and mangroves, choose to spend this extra time in Peru exploring the local area, enjoying water-based activities and fresh seafood or simply unwind and relax on the picturesque beach and coastline.

Hotel

Please note that on your Tumbes Beach Stay, you will spend three nights in Tumbes and one night in Lima

Tumbes (3 nights): Your Tumbes stay will take place at the 3★ Casa Andina Select Tumbes or the 4★ Aranwa Vichayito Tumbes on Bed & Breakfast, unless otherwise stated at booking. All internal transfers are included.

3★ Casa Andina Select Tumbes

Address: 1A Zorritos, Peru

Telephone Number: +51 1 2139700 or 913 007 079

4★ Aranwa Vichayito Tumbes

Address: Mancora, Peru

Telephone Number: +51 1 4364173

Lima (1 night): You will spend 1 night in Lima before your return flight to the UK staying at the 3★ **Hotel Casa Andina Standard Miraflores Centro** - Avenida Petit Thouars 5444, Miraflores 15074, Peru. Telephone Number: 0051 1 447 0263.

Tour Guides

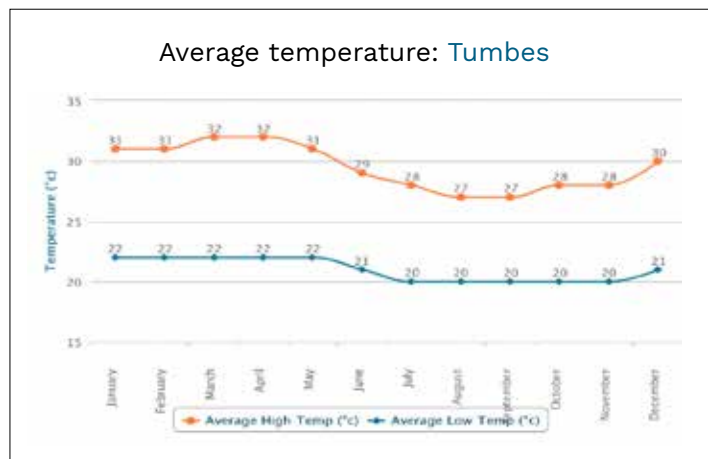
Your stay in Tumbes is not escorted by a tour guide. Transfers will be provided by a local driver, and full details of these transfers, including timings, will be given to you in resort.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches and dinners, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry, drinks and snacks.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Aranwa Vichayito Tumbes

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Amazon Adventure Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Delve deep into the mighty Amazon basin with a 3 night stay in a Amazonian Lodge to witness the jungles rich flora and fauna.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to the Amazon.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 12: Lima to the Amazon B/L/D

Depart Lima early this morning for your flight to Puerto Maldonado. Here you will be welcomed by the friendly staff and transferred to the nearby wharf where you will board a motorised canoe. Journeying along the beautiful Madre de Dios River, marvel at the never-ending forests and abundant wildlife that is home to this area with some of the richest biodiversity in the world. Upon reaching your lodge and getting back onto dry land you will enjoy lunch before taking a stroll through someone the property's nature trails to learn about primary and secondary rainforests in the region. When dusk falls, an exciting twilight river excursion awaits you. A motorised canoe will again take you along the Madre de Dios River where your guide will explain about its ecosystem, Amazonian creeks, nocturnal animals inhabiting the area and the southern sky's stellar constellations. Return to the lodge for dinner and your overnight stay.

DAY 13: Amazon B/L/D

This morning you will prepare for a long trek deep into the Tambopata National Reserve and towards the sparkling, palm-rimmed Lake Sandoval. Navigating across the tranquil, oxbow lake by dugout canoe you may be able to spot one of the many species of wildlife that call the area home, such as the endangered giant river otters, macaws, red howler monkeys and one of the world's biggest fresh water scaled fish, the paiche. After returning to the lodge for lunch you will take a 20 minute canoe ride to a canopy walkway where you can cross the seven hanging bridges connecting the treetops at a height of 90 feet before to gain a birds-eye appreciation of the vast jungle. Descend to walk along the 650 foot wooden bridge over the swamps which are home to the legendary anaconda. This evening get ready to further explore the nocturnal activity of the Amazon rainforest with an excursion into the surrounding jungle areas where you will listen to the sounds of nature and observe the intriguing behaviour patterns of the wildlife found here.

DAY 14: Amazon B/L/D

Rising early after daybreak, visit a native farm to learn local techniques of cultivation and even sample some of the products. Continuing on to the botanical gardens, discover the immense variety of medicinal plants considered part of the 'natural pharmacy' and used by the locals in the amazon region. This afternoon you will take a dugout canoe ride on the lake by your lodge to try your hand at the native 'catch and release' fishing technique whilst enjoying the beautiful scenery and wildlife.

DAY 15: Amazon to Lima B

Today journey back to Puerto Maldonado by motorised canoe and transfer to the airport there to board your flight to Lima. On arrival you will be met and transferred your hotel to spend the evening.

DAY 16: Lima to the UK B

Transfer to the airport for your overnight return flight, via Madrid.

Hotel Information

Amazon (3 nights): 3★ Hacienda Concepcion

Address: Rio Madre de Dios Km8, Puerto Maldonado 052, Peru.

Contact number: +51 (0)1 610 0400

Lima (1 night): 3★ Hotel Casa Andina Standard Miraflores Centro

Address: Avenida Petit Thouars 5444, Miraflores 15074, Peru.

Telephone Number: 0051 1 447 0263

If the hotels listed are unavailable alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

Tour guides

This is an escorted tour extension, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you during your stay in the Amazon, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

PLEASE NOTE: It is important that you bring only necessary clothing and equipment to the lodge. Due to weight and space limitations on the boat, passenger luggage is limited to 10 kg. (22 lbs.) Per person. Excess Luggage is stored in the main headquarters of the Lodge in the city of Puerto Maldonado, you will be reunited with your excess luggage at the end of the tour.



Hacienda Concepcion

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**