



tour dossier for:

Magical Incas 2

14 nights / 15 days • Peru



Adventure Tours
Varied local transport • Pleasant hotels

The Facts

Dossier Last Updated: 30-03-2008

Tour Code: PML

Duration 14 nights / 15 days

Joining City: Lima

Departure City: Lima (via jungle)

Nearest International Airport (joining / departing):

This dossier is designed for this particular tour and should be read in conjunction with the country dossier(s), regional pre-departure booklet and optional excursions guides relevant to your itinerary. You will also receive a joining letter in advance of your journey with further information, while last minute updates may be posted in the Latest News section of our website. Please see tucantravel.com for details.



What's Included

Accommodation: 8 nights in hotels, 3 nights camping on the Inca Trail, 2 nights in jungle lodge (triple share), 1 night with local Indians (very basic)

Meals: All meals on the Inca Trail, in the Amazon Jungle & on Amantaní Island

Excursions: Inca Trail trek (or visit to Machu Picchu by train for reduced tour price), Machu Picchu, Sacred Valley tour, most site entrance fees in the Cuzco area and Sacred Valley, Amazon Jungle, Uros, Amantaní & Taquile Islands

Transport: Local public bus, minibus, train, motorised canoe, boat, on foot, flights, taxi

Group: Average 8 - 12; max 18

Age: Recommended 18 - 60

Staff: Tucan tour leader, Tucan guides, local guides, local reps

What's Excluded

Local Payment

International flights & departure tax

Domestic flight taxes approx US\$6 per flight

Tips on included excursions, visas, travel insurance, personal items, other tips, sleeping bag

Pre & post tour accommodation

Airport transfers

Spending money allow US\$25-30 per day to cover meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry, tips and any extras

Optional Excursions - Please see our Optional Excursions Guide (available from www.tucantravel.com) for a comprehensive list of optional activities and excursions available on this tour.

Brief Overview

Encounter a truly magical Peru and absorb an array of culture, history, mystery and tradition. Colourful markets, fascinating ruins, spectacular mountain scenery and flourishing Amazon ecosystems provide the perfect insight into this alluring destination.

Itinerary

Day 1 to 3

Lima - Puerto Maldonado - Amazon Jungle (or free time)

The tour begins in Lima, Peru's capital. Lima was founded by the Spanish Conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535, after he eradicated the Incas and made the city his capital. Lima has many fine colonial buildings and some of the best museums in South America including the Gold Museum, Museum of the Inquisition and the Catacombs below the San Francisco Church. Peru's capital has a lot to offer and many of the sights, including the city's two main squares the Plaza de Armas and Plaza San Martin, are within easy walking distance. The Plaza de Armas houses the Cathedral, Municipal Palace and Presidential Palace where the changing of the guard can be seen every day at 12 noon. If you want more time to explore Lima properly you may wish to allow a few extra days at the beginning of your trip. On Day 2 we fly to the jungle community of Puerto Maldonado, our starting point to visit the Amazon rainforest. If you choose not to visit the Amazon Jungle you will have free time in Cuzco and a portion of your tour cost will be deducted (see brochure for prices). This bustling town has many thousands of motorcycles, busy markets and shops. Upon arrival we have a short tour of the town's medicinal markets. Our journey begins here to the jungle lodge, firstly by bus and then motorised canoe, a 30km journey along the River to our jungle lodge: (Approx 2 hours total, bus & canoe). The large canoes are very safe and lifejackets are supplied. Today we fly to the jungle community of Puerto Maldonado, our starting point to visit the Amazon rainforest. If you choose not to visit the Amazon Jungle you will have free time in Cuzco and a portion of your tour cost will be deducted (see brochure for prices). This bustling town has many thousands of motorcycles, busy markets and shops. Upon arrival we have a short tour of the town's medicinal markets. Our journey to the jungle lodge begins here, firstly by bus and then motorised canoe, a 30km journey along the river (approx 2 hours total, bus and canoe). The large canoes are very safe and lifejackets are supplied. Arriving at the inviting lodge at the river's edge you will be allocated a bungalow, all of which are built from rustic and typical materials from the area. Each room is sealed by meshed netting to stop mosquitoes and other insects from entering your room. All rooms have private en suite bathroom. Other facilities in this complex include a welcoming reception area with friendly staff (as well as some semi-wild animals, mostly parrots) dining room, bar facilities, a library and living room where you can relax. All excursions are led by local guides who specialise in biology and ecology, and all our jungle guides are English speaking. After a delicious lunch on the first day and settling into the lodge our jungle program begins, with an introductory walk in the jungle. You will have plenty of time to enjoy marvellous jungle landscapes and rich diversity of flora and fauna. It is possible to see a great variety of monkeys such as the 'maquisapa', the black and the white Martins', Leoncito de la Selva' (Little lions), Frailes' (Friars), Achuñis', Ronsocos' etc, as well as an array of birdlife. In the evenings it is often possible to enjoy the wonderful sunset, one of the most impressive sights of the forest (weather permitting). Tonight we will travel by canoe to spot caiman and other nocturnal wildlife along the rivers edge. The next day we will awake to the sounds of the jungle. After a typical jungle breakfast we will set off early to walk through the rainforest along specially adapted pathways with bridges to cross the marshes. Our guide will explain the medicinal plants and delicate ecological systems of the Amazon Jungle before arriving at a hidden oxbow lake. The lake has transparent waters surrounded by wide marshes and giant trees. We take a short canoe ride observing caiman, abundant bird life and the possibility to catch a glimpse of the rare giant otter. Afterwards we will enjoy the view of the lake and observe the parrots, guacamayos, toucans, camungos, shanshos, herons, turtles and caiman (alligators) from our viewing point. Then we will return to the lodge for a well deserved lunch. A short siesta to pass the heat of the day and then it's time to visit a farming family close by the lodge, to observe the local way of life of the Amazon people. This evening our guide will take us on a short night walk to listen to the sounds and sights of the jungle.

Day 4 to 5

Cuzco - Sacsayhuaman - Sacred Valley - Ollantaytambo

On the final day in the jungle we return upriver to Puerto Maldonado for our flight back to Cuzco where you have the rest of the day free to further explore this fascinating ancient capital. You can take an orientation walking tour of this enchanting city, which has an

indigenous population of around 300,000. Cuzco's centre is the Plaza de Armas, dominated by the opulent Cathedral and La Compañía de Jesus Church. Its cloistered arcades house many fine restaurants, bars and shops. Make the most of your free time to explore Cuzco's amazing churches, colonial buildings and picturesque streets, many of which have Inca walls, arches and doorways. On a hill overlooking the city stands the ceremonial fortress of Sacsayhuaman, where some of the most spectacular Inca walls can be found, one of the stones is a massive 130 tons. This is also the location of the famous annual Inti Raymi Festival, which takes place on the 24th June. In close proximity are some other fine examples of the Inca ingenuity: Kenko, Tambo Machay and Puka Pukara. In the evening those who are trekking to Machu Picchu will have a briefing to prepare for the Inca Trail Trek. A full day is spent visiting the Sacred Valley of the Incas; firstly, Pisac ruins, perched on a hilltop with incredible views of the snow-capped mountains, and down to the famous traditional Indian market of the same name, which is full of colour and atmosphere. A great place for souvenirs! After lunch, we continue along the valley to the temple-fortress of Ollantaytambo with its enormous Inca terracing constructed on the side of a steep mountain. Those on the Inca Trail Trek will have an early departure the following morning.

Day 6 to 10

Inca Trail (or free time) - Machu Picchu Agua Calientes - Cuzco

The Lost City of Machu Picchu was originally completely self-contained, surrounded by agricultural terraces sufficient to feed the population, and watered by natural springs. Located high above the fast flowing Urubamba River, the cloud shrouded ruins have palaces, baths, temples, storage rooms and some 150 houses, all in a remarkable state of preservation that will simply take your breath away. The ruins were only discovered by the outside world in 1911, when American explorer Hiram Bingham found them while looking for another lost city called Vilcabamba. Due to their isolation many of the buildings are still quite intact and you can't help but admire Huayna Picchu (Young Mountain), which towers above the ruins. It is a hard climb to the top of the mountain (it takes about 50 minutes) but you are rewarded with spectacular views over the whole site. You return to Cuzco in the afternoon by train. The next day is free to enjoy Cuzco. Please ask your agent or download our 'Inca Trail Information Sheet' or 'Lares Trek Sheet' for a day to day itinerary of your trek.

Day 11 to 13

Puno - Lake Titicaca - Uros, Amantani & Taquile Islands Puno

Leaving Cuzco, we'll drive along roads abundant with herds of llamas, alpacas and vicuñas before reaching the Altiplano (high plain) where our journey takes us past hot mineral pools, snow capped mountains and through villages where the Indians sell food, fur hats and alpaca sweaters. At the highest point, the La Raya pass at 4,321 metres, you can see the research station for high altitude animals. The beautiful scenery is continual all the way to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca, which at 3,855 metres above sea level, is the highest navigable lake in the world. We'll arrive in time so you can visit the colourful market or you can visit the unique burial towers at Sillustani (optional). The next morning departing Puno for our overnight excursion we visit the floating reed islands in the Bay of Puno to see the Uros Indian's way of life and ride in a traditional reed boat before continuing our boat journey to the island of Amantani. Here we enjoy the hospitality of the native Aymara/Quechua Indian families to sleep in their homes, we usually purchase gifts for the families at the port of Puno. The next morning we visit Taquile Island, where the men stand around knitting distinctive woollen hats while the women work the fields. You can buy some of these unique handicrafts in the local co-operative shops. After lunch we board our boat for the return journey to Puno.

Day 14 to 15

Puno - Juliaca - Lima

From Puno, take a short drive to the nearby town of Juliaca and fly back to Lima. Enjoy free time to do some final shopping and sightseeing at some of Lima's great museums. Our tour concludes on Day 15 in Lima.

Amazon Jungle (or free time)

This tour gives you the option to take a two-night excursion into the Amazon Jungle. If you choose not to visit the Amazon a discount will be taken from your tour price and you will have free time in Cuzco. See brochure and tucantravel.com for prices.

The Inca Trail Trek (or free time)

This tour allows time to complete the famous Inca Trail. Regulations regarding the Inca Trail are subject to frequent change (often without notice) by the Inca Trail Governing Body. It is therefore vital that you visit our website for details of how to book the trek and secure a permit. You may not be able to complete the trek if you do not read this information. We also offer an alternative 'Lares Trek' another 3 day trek which culminates with a visit to Machu Picchu. If you decide not to do either trek, a discount will be taken from your tour cost (see price box) and an overnight train trip to Machu Picchu is included instead. If choosing the Inca Trail or Lares Trek, your first choice MUST be decided on at the time of booking.

Important note: The itinerary listed above is to be used as a guide only. Occasionally we may need to update this document and it may be different to the information printed in our current brochure. Tour leaders may need to make adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances during the tour. It is very important that you visit our website and review a copy of this dossier as close as possible to your

departure date in case of changes that may affect your plans. Any last minute changes may also be posted in the Latest News section of our website.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

Very little time is spent in the starting and finishing cities and you will need to allow a few days at the beginning or end of your tour if you want to explore them further. For details of pre and post tour accommodation bookings (which should be made at the time of your tour booking) please refer to our current brochure or contact our reservations team.

About Adventure Tours

Adventure Tours travel by public transport wherever possible and so have a high degree of interaction with the local people. This hands-on style means that you will need to travel light (see below for details). Tucan Travel Adventure Tours will bring you into contact with cultures and experiences that contrast dramatically with those at home and therefore a sense of humour and patience is essential!

Don't forget that Tucan Travel also offers four other tour styles: Discovery Tours (Central & South America) where we travel by private and comfortable, custom-built vehicle staying in hotels; Overland Expeditions (in South America only), which usually have a high percentage of camping, travel by overland truck and suit travellers who love the great outdoors; Budget Expeditions (great value tours for 18 to 35s in South America) are flexible tours offering travellers optimum control over their budgets, travelling in our custom-built expedition vehicles, plus coaches and local transport, staying in pleasant hotels, hostels and campsites; Independent Travel offers personalised itineraries, stopovers and language schools with your choice of accommodation and flexible travel days.

Local Payment

The cost of all Tucan Travel tours includes a compulsory Local Payment which is in addition to the Tour Price paid to your booking agent. The Local Payment MUST be paid to your Tour Leader in full \$USD cash at the pre-departure meeting on the first day of your tour. The Local Payment is administered by Tour Leaders and no refunds can be made for any unused services or if you decide to leave the tour early.

Pre Departure Meeting

The address of your joining hotel can be found on your joining letter and tour voucher. On arrival you should look for a Tucan Travel information sheet on the hotel notice board where you will find details of the pre-departure meeting. The tour leader will normally hold the pre-departure meeting on the afternoon of Day 1 (assuming that all clients have arrived by then). Your tour leader will give a briefing about the tour, outline the plan for the next few days, answer any questions and collect your Local Payment in full in US\$ cash. Then there may be an option for everyone to go out for dinner and drinks to start to get to know one another. Please note that you will need to bring the following important items to the pre departure meeting:

1. Passport (including any necessary visas) original document and a photocopy.
2. Vaccination certificates (e.g. Yellow Fever, if required)
3. Travel voucher
4. Travel insurance policy
5. Local Payment

Tour Personnel

Adventure Tours use a variety of different styles of leadership in order to maximize your enjoyment and experiences. On this tour you will have a combination of Tucan tour leader, Tucan guides, local guides and local reps. The Tucan Tour leader accompanies your tour and Tucan guides will escort you at times when your tour leader may not be available. Local guides will lead your included and optional excursions, and local reps are local businesspeople also responsible for occasional meet and greet and transfers.

Degree of Difficulty / Fitness

Adventure Tours suit people who are fit and active. Although no experience is required there are many walks between bus/train terminals and hotels and travellers must be able to carry their own luggage over various terrains.

For information on the trek to Machu Picchu (difficulty, fitness etc) please ask your agent for our 'Inca Trail Information Sheet' or 'Lares Trek Sheet' or download a copy from our website.

There is fairly easy walking through the rainforest on the jungle excursion and moderately demanding uphill walking on Taquile and Amantani islands (due to the altitude).

No hard walking is involved in the Sacred Valley excursion. Most people will suffer from some degree of altitude sickness at some point during the tour. We suggest that heavy smokers either cut down or stop completely for their time at altitude. The local coca tea is usually very helpful in combating altitude sickness, however if you are worried you should consult your doctor and possibly obtain some altitude sickness tablets prior to leaving home.

Pre-Departure Information

Once you have booked the tour (paid your deposit), your booking agent will provide you with a detailed pre-departure booklet with in-depth information to help you prepare. If you do not receive your pre-departure information shortly after booking your tour please consult your travel agent. After you have paid for your tour in full you will also receive from your travel agent: a local map & joining letter for your arrival city, your tour voucher and transfer voucher (if applicable).

Country Dossiers

This Tour Dossier is designed to be read in conjunction with our Country Dossiers which you can download from our website or obtain from your booking agent. The Country Dossiers contain essential information about visas, arrival transfers, spending money & costs, taxes & tips, climate, local food etc.

What you need to bring

A full list of suggested equipment can be found in the pre-departure booklet. You will need a good warm sleeping bag for the Inca Trail trek. Adequate ones can be hired locally (for approx. US\$12 for the Inca Trail / Lares Trek), but we take no responsibility for the standard and we therefore recommend that if possible you bring your own. (For a full Inca Trail packing list please see the Inca Trail Update & Information Sheet). Thick blankets are supplied when on Amantani Island (Lake Titicaca) but they have a tendency to be dusty, so you may also need a sleeping bag or sheet (they cannot be hired here). You should consider bringing a towel although a sarong may be a useful alternative and it is a good idea to bring a torch.

On Amantani Island it is customary to buy a kilo of sugar or rice or some eggs to present to your host family. This should cost no more than US\$2-3 per person.

On Adventure Tours it is very important that you do not bring too much luggage as you will find it extremely difficult to get on/off buses and trains etc and there is a fair amount of walking to/from hotels. You are also likely to encounter many cobbled streets and dirt roads so luggage on wheels is totally unsuitable. You will also need a daypack for the jungle excursion.

You must be prepared to carry your own bags at all times. We therefore strongly urge you to limit your luggage to a maximum of 10-14 kgs. Please see the relevant Country Dossier and Pre Departure Information booklet for further information about luggage requirements and what to pack.

Transfers

In Lima we offer an arrival transfer service which can be booked for an additional charge (see our current brochure for prices). We also offer a departure transfer service in La Paz. Both these services should be arranged when making your tour booking. Due to the late arrival and departure times of many flights in and out of Lima, we recommend that passengers travelling through Lima book an airport transfer through Tucan Travel, especially if travelling alone. Alternatively, please refer to your tour Joining Letter for detailed guidelines.

Accommodation

All hotels are chosen for their central locality, security, friendliness, cleanliness and ambiance. Although sometimes simple, you will find clean comfortable rooms with mostly en-suite facilities (occasionally bathrooms may be shared but this is rare), and often a bar and restaurant are attached or close by. All rooms will be allocated on a share basis, usually in twins or triples (depending on the male/female ratio) and on occasions, multi-share rooms

The jungle lodge

Each room has comfortable beds (multi-share triple rooms) with all bedding & towels, mosquito nets, candles or oil lamps, as well as a well equipped bathroom with cold (or tepid) running water, toilet and shower. There is no electricity at the lodge so please remember to charge your video and camera batteries in advance! All meals are prepared by a professional cook with fresh ingredients (fruit, vegetables, fish etc.). The bar also sells cold beers, mineral water and soft drinks.

Transport

On Adventure Tours our goal is to offer you as much variety as possible while meeting the local people. On this trip we will be using local public buses, mini buses, taxis, train, boats and motorised canoes. The tour also includes 3 flights and optional excursions may use other forms of transport, for example horses or mountain bikes.

Meals

Meals are included on the jungle excursion, Amantani Island and on the Inca Trail (see below for meal guideline). On the Inca Trail your cook and porters will prepare three meals a day usually consisting of bread, eggs, tea and coffee for breakfast; guacamole, cheese, tomato, cold meat and rolls for lunch and a two or three course dinner usually accompanied by rice, pasta or potatoes. There is usually a constant supply of coca tea and coffee and meals will be supplemented by tea breaks with biscuits and fruit. At the jungle lodge you will experience delicious dishes typical of the region, such as the "juanitos" a dish served with rice, chicken and vegetables cooked in a banana leaf and a great variety of fish from the area, like the golden "dorado", maiden "doncella" and jumping "saltón" fish.

All other meals, extra snacks and drinks are at your own expense. Your tour leader will be able to advise the best places to eat. Please see the relevant Country Dossier for more information about the local food.

Tour Highlights

Orientation walks Introductory walks conducted by your expedition leader at each main stopover.

Lake Titicaca homestay on the island of Amantani followed by a stopover at Taquile Island and the floating reed islands of the Uros Indians.

Full day tour of the Sacred Valley of the Incas including the colourful Pisac market

Machu Picchu 4 day Inca Trail trek or train to the Lost City of the Incas

Jungle excursion - visit to the Amazon Basin staying overnight in a jungle lodge

City of Cuzco Explore the former Inca capital with a combined entrance ticket giving access to the main monuments, museums and archaeological sites.

Andean Music local bands playing pan-flutes, zampoñas and charangos will be in abundance throughout the tour.

Day to Day Itinerary & Meals

Day 1 Arrive Lima

Day 2 Fly to Puerto Maldonado, LD

(or free time in Cuzco see brochure or website for details)

Day 3 Jungle excursion, BLD

Day 4 Fly to Cuzco, B

Day 5 Sacred Valley of the Incas

Day 6 Inca Trail, LD

(or free time in Cuzco plus an included visit to Machu Picchu by train at a reduced tour price - see brochure or website for details).

Day 7 Inca Trail, BLD

Day 8 Inca Trail, BLD

Day 9 Machu Picchu

Day 10 Cuzco free day

Day 11 Bus to Puno

Day 12 Boat via Uros Islands to Amantani (overnight), LD

Day 13 Boat via Taquile back to Puno, B

Day 14 Fly back to Lima, free time

Day 15 - Depart Lima

(B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner included)

Please note the day to day itinerary and meal outline above is given as a GUIDELINE ONLY.

Responsible Travel Tips

At Tucan Travel we are serious about our responsibility to care for the environment and people that we visit. Here are a few tips to help you to enjoy your tour while minimising your impact and enhancing your travelling experience. Learn more about our responsible travel policy at www.tucantravel.com.

1. Carbon offset your Tucan Travel tour and flights. Check out our website for details about how you can go about this www.tucantravel.com.
2. Bring your own metal water bottle. Fill up at restaurants or treat your own water on tour instead of buying lots of plastic bottles. Bear in mind that there may not be recycling facilities available at some destinations.
3. Cut out plastic remove and recycle the packaging of new travel gear before you pack, and bring a light cotton or string bag for your shopping, so you can politely refuse plastic bags at shops and markets.
4. Bring a stack of pens and pencils and hand these out to children rather than offering sweets. Your alternative gifts will still be popular and the parents will thank you for saving their children's teeth access to dental services may not be readily available there.
5. Learn a bit of the local language before you travel. Being able to say even a few words like hello, please and thank you will help you to connect with people in a positive way and really enhance your personal experience. Bring a phrase book on tour and keep practising to improve your confidence. You will also find some good language tips in the country dossier(s).

Feedback

At the end of your tour we would greatly appreciate it if you could take the time to complete a questionnaire about your experiences. The tour leader will give you a paper copy and an electronic version can be found on our website. We take feedback very seriously as it allows us to maintain and improve the very high standards we expect from our road crew, local operators, hoteliers, transportation and office staff, among others. We also use this information to improve our itineraries and optional excursions on offer. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Subscribe to our e-newsletter

If you're keen to keep up-to-date with the latest news, special offers, events and competitions, why not sign up to our newsletter? It's easy - just enter your details in the 'subscribe' section on our home page, and that's it. Don't worry, we won't spam you, or pass on your details to any third parties, and it's easy to unsubscribe if you decide later on that it's not for you.

Join our online communities

Make friends with fellow passengers in the Tucan Travel forums, and ask questions about any tour you like we've got the answers! See Share your tour photos and videos on Youtube and Flickr, and keep in touch with group members on Facebook, Bebo and Myspace. There are many Tucan Travel communities out there waiting to welcome you, just a few clicks away.

Write a travel diary and get published on our website!

Share your experiences of life on tour and you may be rewarded! Get in touch with us for details through www.tucantravel.com.

We want your photos!

We've taken you to some of the most amazing places on earth why not share that with the world? Send us high resolution colour photos of your adventures, and you could be published on our website or our brochure. Contact us through www.tucantravel.com.
