

## tour dossier for:

# Ballestas 1

20 nights / 21 days • Peru, Bolivia



### The Facts

**Dossier Last Updated:** 03-04-2008

**Tour Code:** ZLLP

**Duration** 20 nights / 21 days

**Joining City:** Lima

**Departure City:** La Paz

**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](http://tucantravel.com) for details.



### What's Included

- Accommodation: 14 nights in hotels, 2 nights jungle lodge (triple share), 3 nights camping on the Inca Trail, 1 night with local Indians (very basic)
- Meals: Some lunches, all meals on Inca Trail, Amazon Jungle & Amantaní Island
- Excursions: Ballestas Islands, Huacachina Oasis, Chauchilla Cemetery, Puerto Inca, Colca Canyon, Amazon Jungle, Inca Trail Trek, Machu Picchu, Pisac, Uros / Amantaní / Taquile Islands, Tiahuanaco ruins
- Transport: Tucan vehicle, boat, on foot, train, 2 flights
- Group: Average 15 - 24; max 34
- Age: Recommended 18 - 55
- Staff: Tucan tour leader, Tucan driver, Tucan guides, local guides, local reps

### What's Excluded

- International flights & departure tax, tips on all excursions, visas, travel insurance, personal items, other tips, sleeping bag
- Pre & post tour hotels plus airport transfers
- Spending money, allow US\$25-30 per day to cover meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry and any extras
- Optional Excursions - Please see our [Optional Excursions Guide](#) for a comprehensive list of optional activities and excursions available on this tour

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## Brief Overview

One of our most extensive tours in Peru plus finishing in Bolivia, this trip combines the wild and scenic highlights of the Pacific coast with stunning Colca Canyon, Cuzco the vibrant highland capital of the Incas, the steamy Amazon Jungle and the fascinating islands of Lake Titicaca.

This is a **Discovery Tour**. [Learn about our Travel Styles](#).

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## Itinerary

### Day 1 to 6

#### **Arrive Lima - Pisco - Ballestas Islands - Huacachina Oasis - Nazca - Chauchilla Cemetery - Puerto Inca - Arequipa**

South along the coast is Pisco where we take a speed boat ride to the Ballestas Islands to watch sea lions and bird life. There are huge sand dunes in the desert at Huacachina and nearby are the amazing Nazca Lines dating back thousands of years. We see ancient mummies laying exposed at Chauchilla Cemetery then travel to Puerto Inca to explore the ruins of this old Inca port located on a stunning beach. Arequipa has a magnificent colonial plaza overlooked by the active volcano, El Misti.

### Day 7 to 12

#### **Chivay - Colca Canyon - Cruz del Condor - Cuzco - Puerto Maldonado - Amazon Jungle - Cuzco - Sacred Valley -Pisaq - Ollantaytambo**

We travel over high passes to the Colca Canyon where condors can be seen soaring over the world's deepest canyon. A soak in the local hot springs (optional) before a mountainous drive to the old Inca capital, Cuzco. Flying to Pto Maldonado we are transported by bus and motorised canoe to our jungle lodge with in the mighty Amazon rain forest. Along with our guide we will have the opportunity during our visit to experience this magical place with walks into the jungle to discover many species of plants and wildlife. It is not uncommon during our jungle experience to see many species of monkey, Caiman, Tarantula spiders, many different and unusual bird species and if we are lucky the rare giant otter. A short flight brings us back to Cuzco where there is free time to explore the sights, enjoy great shopping and to see some excellent Andean bands in the local nightclubs or you might like to visit the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

### Day 13 to 16

#### **Inca Trail (or free time) - Machu Picchu - Aguas Calientes - Cuzco -**

We now take a four day trek through spectacular scenery along the famous Inca Trail to Machu Picchu or you might like to visit the fabulous Lares Valley instead before you visit the celebrated ruins. On arrival there is a guided tour then free time to explore before returning to Cuzco. Those choosing not to trek have extra free time around Cuzco with an included train ride to Machu Picchu.

### Day 17 to 21

#### **Lake Titicaca - Puno - Uros, Amantani & Taquile Islands - Puno - Tiahuanaco Ruins - La Paz -**

We head to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca. Here there is a boat trip visiting the floating reed islands of the Uros Indians before travelling further across the lake to stay overnight with local Indians on the island of Amantani. A picturesque drive around the lake to the pre-Inca ruins of Tiahuanaco in Bolivia. La Paz is next, a beautiful colonial city with steep streets built up the side of a canyon. Day 21, Depart La Paz

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### **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 [www.tucantravel.com](http://www.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 Discovery Tours**

Our Discovery Tours are exciting, action packed private transport journeys for travellers who are young at heart and seeking a great value trip with a high quality of service. If you enjoy group travel with the added flexibility of being on a private vehicle and the comfort and assurance of competent personal guiding, then this style of trip is perfect for you!

Don't forget that Tucan Travel also offers four other tour styles: Adventure Tours, where we travel by public transport wherever possible and so have a high degree of interaction with the local people; 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) 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**

Discovery 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 Travel Tour Leader, Tucan Travel driver, and local guides. The Tucan Travel Tour Leader accompanies your tour and Tucan Travel driver is responsible for transporting you safely and maintaining the vehicle. Local guides will lead your included and optional excursions.

### **Degree of Difficulty/ Fitness**

Discovery Tours suit people who are relatively fit and healthy. Although no experience is required there is occasional moderate walking at medium altitude.

### **Pre Departure Information**

Once you have booked the tour (paid your deposit), your travel 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 and joining letter for your arrival city, your tour voucher and transfer voucher (if applicable see below).

### **Country Dossiers**

This Tour Dossier is designed to be read in conjunction with our relevant 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 and costs, taxes and tips, climate, local food etc.

### **What you need to bring**

A full list of suggested equipment can be found in the pre departure booklet. Large or rigid suitcases are totally unsuitable for these tours as they often cause problems in vehicle packing. Smaller cases with wheels and a vertical handle (the type which will fit into an overhead bin on an airline) are acceptable as your main luggage but do have a tendency to break easily. A backpack (or similar soft luggage) is highly recommended. You may wish to bring some kind of waterproof protection cover for your pack, as luggage may get dirty and/or wet.

### **Transfers**

In Lima we offer an arrival and departure transfer service, either or both of which can be booked for an additional charge (see our current brochure for prices). 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. 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 rare occasions, multi share rooms.

### **Transport**

Transportation on this tour will either be a modern local coach, one of our more robust Mercedes' Benz trucks or a combination of both vehicles. Some privately hired vehicles may also be used in the Cuzco region. On all Tucan Travel vehicles you will find superior comfort, from our carpeted interiors with curtained and tinted windows, modern reclining coach seats, overhead storage shelves, writing tables, a small library (which you can use and add to!) and a stereo cassette player for the groups use. Most vehicles also have a refrigerator for cold drinks and food. There will also be plenty of storage space for your luggage and souvenirs as well as kitchen equipment, tables and camp stools for picnic lunches. Tucked away will be specialised equipment for the maintenance and upkeep of the vehicle. On rare occasions it may be necessary to utilise a privately hired vehicle for the duration of the tour. Although modern and comfortable, these vehicles may not include all the facilities and equipment listed above.

This tour also includes domestic flights and excursions may also include travel by local bus, mini bus, boats and trains.

## **Meals**

Lunches are included on days travelling between hotels. More information will be supplied shortly.

All other meals, extra snacks and drinks on the tour are at your own expense (even on included excursions). Please see the relevant Country Dossier for more information about the local food.

## **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.tucantravel.com).

