



Peruvian Exploration Tour!

Dates: Saturday, August 11 - Saturday, August 18, 2012

The Inca whisper in the wind. We hear their echoes in meticulously carved stonework, amid soaring Andean peaks ... from the heights of Machu Picchu to the splendor of Cusco and the Sacred Valley. Our small group uncovers the ancient and colonial mysteries of this wondrous land, even staying overnight near the base of the Lost City. Join Hermes Tours and witness natural beauty and inspiring architecture that's unrivalled, and glimpse the heart and soul of a welcoming people.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Lima**, including Plaza Mayor, Miraflores
- **Sacred Valley of the Incas**, including Ollantaytambo and Pisac
- **Machu Picchu**, including a morning tour before daytrippers arrive
- **Cusco**, including Sacsayhuaman, Tambomachay, and Puca Pucara
- **Scenic train travel** between Cusco and Machu Picchu
- Accommodations for 8 nights in 4 star, centrally located hotels
- Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, and 3 dinners
- Services of a Hermes Tours escort
- Services of an expert, local guide in all cities
- **\$100 per person savings if you reserve 5 months before departure!**

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 –Saturday, August 11, 2012 - Arrive in Lima

Fly to Lima, Peru today. Arrive anytime and meet your fellow travelers at the hotel.

Day 2 - Sunday, August 12, 2012 - Lima (B, D)

We get to know La Ciudad de los Reyes, or the City of Kings, on today's tour. We'll explore the historic district, noted for its 1,600 distinctive, colonial-era balconies. Our tour stops at Plaza Mayor, center of commerce and government, and Casa Aliaga, constructed in the year of Lima's founding, 1535. We'll also stroll the upscale Miraflores district. Get to know fellow travelers at tonight's Hermes welcome dinner.

Day 3 - Monday, August 13, 2012 - Fly to Cusco - Sacred Valley (B)

We rise early today as we have a full day and fly to Cusco and drive to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We visit Ollantaytambo, once a royal estate of an Incan emperor. After lunch, we stop at a local market in Pisac and try our hand at bargaining.

Day 4 - Tuesday, August 14, 2012 -Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu (B, L)

Journey by train to Machu Picchu and enjoy a guided tour of the Lost City. Because we're staying overnight near the base of the ruins, we can return in the morning before day-trippers arrive.

Day 5 - Wednesday, August 15, 2012 - Machu Picchu - Cusco (B)

Rise early to admire the morning sun as it bathes the extraordinary ruins. Your guide will point out some hiking trails for you to explore. This afternoon we return to Cusco by train.

Day 6 - Thursday, August 16, 2012 - Cusco (B)

You may feel right at home in Cusco, since its official flag displays a rainbow. If you look closely you'll see that some of its colonial buildings still have their original Inca foundations. We'll venture outside the city to the ancient sites of Sacsayhuaman, said to resemble a Puma head; Tambomachay, a system of aqueducts, canals, and waterfalls; and Puca Pucara, with impressive views of the valley.

Day 7 - Friday, August 17,, 2012 - Cusco (B)

Today is free to explore Cusco on your own. Your tour escort will have a number of suggested options for you including visiting a local farm.

Day 8 - Saturday, August 18, 2012 - Cusco - Lima (B)

The morning is free in Cusco. This afternoon we fly to Lima where you can connect with your evening return flight home. .

A note about your return flight: Flights depart for the U.S. either very late this evening or very early tomorrow morning. For those with a morning departure, we can arrange an extra night at an airport hotel.

TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE:

Please visit https://www.formdesk.com/happygaytravel/hermes_tours_reservation to make a reservation. A \$500 deposit is required. Payments may be done via any major credit card or check. Final payment is due 80 days prior to departure via credit card or check.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Main Tour Dates: Saturday, August 11 - Saturday, August 18, 2012

Price:

- \$2395 per person, double occupancy, land only. (International & domestic airfare is not included)
- Book 5 months before departure and save \$100!
- **Single Supplement:** \$870 USD, Not Required. Hermes Tours can match you with another traveler should you wish at no cost.
- Please note that there is a limited number of single rooms available.

Hotels:

Lima: 4* Double Tree Pardo Hotel

Sacred Valley : 4* Sonesta Posada del Inca Yucaj

Aguas Calientes (Machu Picchu) : 4* Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel

Cusco: 4* Sonesta Cusco Hotel

Included:

Please note that the above cost includes all accommodation in 4 star, gay friendly hotels, with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, portorage, tips and service charges. Tips to local drivers/guides, All activities as outlined in the itinerary; all meals as per itinerary; the services of a Hermes Tours Escort throughout the trip; all ground transportation as per itinerary; Entrance fees to all sites on itinerary.

Not Included:

International airfare to/from Lima, Peru; airport transfers, domestic air tickets between cities (budget \$525), passport & visa fees if applicable; personal travel and cancellation insurance; meals and activities not specifically included in the itinerary; services of a personal nature like alcohol; soft drinks; bottled water; laundry; telephone calls; faxes as well as customary tips to drivers and guides.

Visas:

Canadian and American passport holders are NOT required to have visas to enter the Peru for tourism purposes.

Shots and Immunizations:

There are no shots that are required for travel to Peru but Hermes Tours does recommend that your tetanus booster be up to date.

Currency and Money Issues:

It is very easy to withdraw money from ATMs located throughout the country as well as to use your Visa or MasterCard. The American Express card is less widely accepted. Travelers checks are also accepted however can carry a heavy commission fee. We recommend to travelers to bring only a small amount of cash and/or travelers checks and to rather use their ATM and credit cards while traveling.

LIABILITIES / DISCLAIMERS

Making a reservation with a deposit will be considered to be consent to the following conditions:

Hermes Tours reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a member of the tour at any time and to make whatever changes become necessary with or without notice.

Guaranteed departure with a minimum of 8 participants.

Hermes Tours is not responsible for airline cancellation or change penalties incurred by individual tour participants for air tickets purchased prior to notification that the tour is a confirmed departure.

Hermes Tours does not accept responsibility in whole or in part for any delay, loss, accidents, personal injury, sickness, medical expenses, or property damage occasioned by fault of any person from whatever cause. All participants are required to sign a standard liability form.