



## **MYSTIFYING PERU**

### **Day 1 *DEPART FOR LIMA, PERU***

Depart from your hometown today to begin your Peruvian adventure.

### **Day 2 *ARRIVE LIMA***

Arrive in Lima early this morning. After clearing Immigration and Customs, our local representative will be on hand to welcome you and transfer you to your accommodations. Your rooms are pre-reserved from the night before in order to guarantee immediate check-in, and you have time to rest up from the international flight.

In the afternoon set out on an orientation tour of Lima. Visit San Martin Square, Saint Peter's Church and Santo Domingo Convent. Drive by La Merced and continue through the residential areas of San Isidro and Miraflores, the new commercial area south of Lima.

#### ***MIRAFLORES PARK HOTEL***



### **Day 3 *LIMA***

A private visit to the Museo Larco-Herrera is your destination this morning. This museum provides an overview of 3,000 years of pre-Columbian history in Peru, beautifully showcased in chronological galleries. The setting of the museum is a unique mansion of the 18<sup>th</sup> century built over a 7<sup>th</sup> century pre-Columbian pyramid. The finest gold and silver collection from Ancient Peru is housed here.

Continue to Casa Aliaga for lunch. This special home has been in the same family since it was built in 1535. In the afternoon visit a Peruvian crafts exhibition in the traditional district of Barranco.

Return to the hotel in time to freshen up before heading out for your welcome dinner at Huaca Pucllana, the only restaurant located inside an archaeological complex.

#### ***MIRAFLORES PARK HOTEL***

### **Day 4 *LIMA – CUZCO***

After breakfast this morning, you are transferred to the airport for your flight to Cuzco. Upon arrival in Cuzco, proceed to your accommodations in a former convent where deluxe oxygenated rooms have been reserved for you – due to Cuzco's higher altitude.

#### ***HOTEL MONASTERIO***

**Day 4 – cont. LIMA – CUZCO**

In the afternoon visit Sacsayhuaman, the Inca fortress overlooking Cuzco, Koricancha or the Santo Domingo Church, and continue to La Merced Church, the main square and the cathedral.

**Day 5 URUBAMBA VALLEY**

Today's excursion brings you to Urubamba, the "Sacred Valley of the Incas." Visit Chinchero, a typical Quechua village, and see how they continue to weave their elaborately, colorful textiles. From the nearby Colonial church, you have an overview of the Inca terraces.



Continue to the Salt Mines of Maras, which have been producing salt since Inca times. Then visit the Inca fortress of Ollantaytambo before returning to Cuzco for the night.

***HOTEL MONASTERIO***

**Day 6 CUZCO – MACHU PICCHU – CUZCO**

Today's adventure begins at the Poroy railway station where you depart via the Hiram Bingham train to Machu Picchu, named after the explorer who discovered the fascinating remains of the Inca citadel in July of 1911. This is the most luxurious way to travel between Cuzco and Machu Picchu, in carriages elegantly decorated in the style of the 1920's Pullman trains.

After brunch is served on board, arrive in Aguas Calientes located at the foot of the Machu Picchu ruins. From here, begin your discovery of this ancient city, built entirely of stone blocks. Complete with houses, temples, warehouses, a central square, and agricultural terraces cut into the side of the mountain, the entire citadel was built with masterful precision.

In the late afternoon depart Machu Picchu via the Hiram Bingham train, enjoying cocktails and a gourmet dinner on board. Arrive Cuzco and return to your accommodations in time for a good night's sleep.

***HOTEL MONASTERIO***

**Day 7 CUZCO – AREQUIPA – COLCA CANYON**

Enjoy leisure time this morning for independent exploration of Cuzco. Then transfer to the Cuzco Airport for your flight to Arequipa.

Upon arrival in Arequipa, you are transferred to Colca Canyon and your accommodations for the next three nights, a haven for peace and tranquility in the heart of the Canyon.

***CASITAS DEL COLCA***

**Day 8 COLCA CANYON**

This morning visit the picturesque village of Chivay, the capital of the entire Colca region. Here

people still live like their ancestors did centuries before, and you will delight in strolling past the colorfully-clad locals.

Return to your hotel for lunch, and in the afternoon, choose from the many activities this luxury eco-lodge has to offer. There is a farm on property where you can bottle feed baby alpacas. The vegetable garden with its organic produce is delightful to visit, and you can even select your own meal – directly from the fields! Perhaps you would like to go horseback riding; the Peruvian Paso horse is a local breed known for its smooth ride, and the horses will transport you to areas of the Canyon which are otherwise inaccessible. Or discover the secrets of Peruvian cuisine with one of the chefs on property. Considered to be one of the most diverse cuisines in the world owing to many influences throughout history, Peruvian cuisine combines flavors from four continents.

### **CASITAS DEL COLCA**

#### **Day 9 COLCA CANYON**

Colca Canyon is more than twice as deep as the Grand Canyon, however, the canyon's walls are not as vertical. Parts of the canyon are habitable, and pre-Inca as well as Inca terraces are still cultivated in the less steep areas.

Colca Canyon is also home to the Andean Condor, the largest flying land bird in the Western Hemisphere. Today's early morning excursion will bring you in fairly close range to these magnificent creatures as they fly through the canyon walls. A national symbol of many South American countries, worldwide efforts including captive breeding programs are now in place to save this species considered near threatened. Cruz del Condor, the pass where condors soar gracefully on the rising air currents as the air warms from the canyon floor 3,960 feet below, is one of the best places to view them.



After this thrilling experience, visit picturesque villages before returning to the hotel in time for lunch. The afternoon is again at leisure to partake in one of the many activities available to you on property.

### **CASITAS DEL COLCA**

#### **Day 10 COLCA CANYON – AREQUIPA – LIMA**

Depart Colca Canyon today by road. Stop at Chucura at an altitude of over 5,000 meters from where seven volcanoes can be seen; some of them are still active today. Continue overland through several small lakes, passing vicuna (relative of the llama) and alpaca farms whose herds are out grazing in the fields.

Arrive in Arequipa in the afternoon, and board your return flight to Lima. Upon arrival in Lima, you are transferred to your hotel to freshen up before celebrating the evening's farewell dinner party in an 18<sup>th</sup> century manor house.

### **MIRAFLORES PARK HOTEL**

#### **Day 11 LIMA – HOME**

You are transferred to the International Airport today, and your journey comes to an end as you board your flight.

You arrive home – greatly enriched and enlightened by the sights and experiences you have had in this magical country.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### **MIRAFLORES PARK HOTEL, Lima** Executive Ocean view suites



The Miraflores Park Hotel in Lima is located in the Malécon de la Reserva in an exclusive residential area. The hotel provides easy access for all that's best about Lima and is renowned for its beautiful setting with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean

[www.miraflorespark.com/web/olim/miraflores\\_introduction.jsp](http://www.miraflorespark.com/web/olim/miraflores_introduction.jsp)

### **HOTEL MONASTERIO, Cuzco** Deluxe oxygenated rooms



A former monastery raised on Inca stones, this is a haven of near-religious calm. Yet just outside its tranquil cloisters is Cuzco's lively city centre, where brightly-clad traders hawk their wares, trekkers prepare to hike the Andes trails and Peruvian musicians gather enthusiastic crowds.

[http://www.orient-express.com/collection/hotels/hotel\\_monasterio.jsp](http://www.orient-express.com/collection/hotels/hotel_monasterio.jsp)

### **LAS CASITAS DEL COLCA, Colca Canyon** Casitas



Las Casitas del Colca is a luxury hotel set in the peace and serenity of the Colca Canyon and one of the most stunning destinations Peru has to offer. The hotel boasts twenty individual casitas offering supreme privacy and exclusivity and an opportunity to experience the beauty of the Andes. Limitless authentic activities make this a magic retreat that will surprise and delight the eco-aware.

[http://www.orient-express.com/collection/hotels/las\\_casitas\\_del\\_colca.jsp](http://www.orient-express.com/collection/hotels/las_casitas_del_colca.jsp)