

PERU: THE INCA ADVENTURE

ITINERARY NIGHTS: Lima (2), Cusco (3), Posada Amazonas (2)

HIGHLIGHTS: Lima City Tour • Larco Herrera Museum • Peruvian Dinner • Sacsayhuaman Fortress and other Inca Sites • Cusco City Tour • Full Day Sacred Valley Tour • Ollantaytamo Ruins • Machu Picchu Ruins Tour • Andean Folklore Dinner • Tambopata Boat Trip • Three Meals Daily at Posada Amazonas • Ethnobotany Hike • Clay Lick Visit • Tres Chimbadas Lake Catamaran Trip • Community "Slash and Burn" Farm Visit

OPTIONS: Night Nature Walk



DAY 1 LIMA Board your flight to Lima, a busy city situated in Peru's coastal district between the Pacific and the western hills of the Andes mountains. Your courier will meet you at the airport and escort you to your hotel in this capital known as the "City of Kings."

DAY 2 LIMA Today's guided **City Tour** of colonial Lima includes the Main Square, the Cathedral, and San Francisco Convent and Catacombs. Nearly 500 years ago the Spanish Conqueror Francisco Pizarro destroyed one of the most highly advanced civilizations that has ever existed. Gain an understanding of the craftsmanship of Peru's forgotten Pre-Columbian civilizations at the **Larco Herrera Museum**, where you can see more than 45,000 magnificently crafted pieces of art, including ceramic pieces, textiles, jewelry and carved stones. Savor a delicious **Peruvian Dinner** at one of the best local restaurants tonight.

DAY 3 CUSCO Take a one-hour flight to Cusco, the

archaeological capital of the Americas and the continent's oldest continuously inhabited city. The rest of the morning is free. This afternoon, v i s i t

Sacsayhuaman

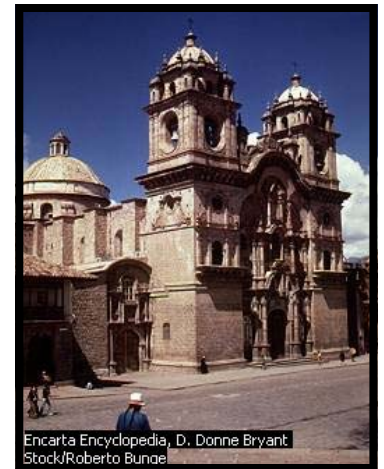
Fortress in the surrounding mountains, a jewel of Inca architecture. On to Q' enquo, a rock sanctuary with a monolithic altar representing a puma; the red fortress of Puca-Pucara; and Tambomachay, a beautiful fountain fed by a spring forming a series of basins. Also tour the **City of Cusco** to see the Main Square, the Cathedral and the Santo Domingo Church or the Koricanca (Temple of the Sun). Dinner tonight is in a restaurant on the Plaza Major with a magnificent view of the Cusco Cathedral.

DAY 4 CUSCO Take a full day excursion to the **Sacred Valley of the Inca** (Urumbamba) and visit **Pisac**, founded during colonial times, and set at the foot of a hill crowned by the ruins of an Inca city. Pisac is well known for its crafts market. Indians barter their products and artisans from all over the area sell alpaca blankets and ponchos, engraved gourds, baskets, antique reproductions and jewelry. Also visit **Ollantaytambo**, the only Inca town that is still inhabited, and explore the ruins towering

above it. Lunch is included in today's tour.

DAY 5 CUSCO Travel by train to Aguas Callientes, situated at the foot of the **Machu Picchu Ruins**. Machu Picchu is the ancient Inca town, the fabled lost city that has been forgotten for more than three centuries, escaping detection by Spanish conquerors. Take a bus up to the ruins for a guided tour that includes lunch. The natural surroundings and the mystical atmosphere make this place unique and unforgettable. It was built entirely of stone blocks, fitted with masterful precision. See the houses, temples, palaces, altars and a large central square; all surrounded by terraces cut into the mountainside that were used for agriculture. Return by train to Cusco for a dinner that includes a lively **Andean Folklore Show**.

DAY 6 POSADA AMAZONAS Take a 25 minute flight to the Tambopata river port of **Puerto Maldonado**, a bustling tropical frontier town. After a brief survey of the town, depart by motorized dugout canoes for **Posada Amazonas**, a comfortable lodge owned jointly by Rainforest Expeditions and the Ese'ija Native Community of Tambopata. It is constructed with architectural techniques that native communities throughout the Amazon use for building their homes: wood, palm fronds, wild cane and clay. All rooms have private bathrooms with hot



Encarta Encyclopedia, D. Donne Bryant
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water. The pristine rainforests of the reserve are a paradise for giant butterflies, river otters, various species of monkeys and bird-life, as well as jaguars, tapirs, caimans and capybaras. This afternoon's **Ethnobotany Hike** is led by an Ese'ija native who will explain the everyday uses of forest medicine, construction, food and fiber. Visit a small **Clay Lick** and take delight in the dozens of blue, red, green and yellow macaws and parrots that congregate here to ingest the mineral rich soil in an unforgettable spectacle of color and sounds.

DAY 7 POSADA AMAZONAS Take a quiet catamaran ride around beautiful **Tres Chimbadas Oxbow Lake** to look for giant river otters, turtles, hoatzin and wading birds. After lunch, visit a native **Community "Slash and Burn" Farm** and learn why the Ese'ija cultivation system is sustainable over the long term. **Option:** Take a nature hike into the rain forest tonight to observe the nightlife activities of exotic insects and frogs of different colors.

DAY 8 DEPART Journey back to Puerto Maldonado for the flight to Lima, then return home with images of your Inca Adventure etched in your mind forever.

For more information, please contact: