

Glimpses of Peru, Bolivia and Chile

Duration
16 days

Guaranteed
2 travellers

Group size
16 travellers

Price
From AUD \$ 7,568



WHAT TO EXPECT

Get a good overall impression of the western region of South America by experiencing the highlights of Peru, Bolivia and Chile during a 16-day tour. You will not only learn about the history of the Andean advanced civilization, but as well immerse yourself in the untouched nature and the diversity of the Andean countries. Peru, Bolivia and Chile will inspire you!

Day 1: Arrival in Lima

Welcome to Peru! Land at Lima International Airport. Transfer to your hotel on your own (a private transfer can be arranged against surcharge). Overnight at your hotel in Lima.

Day 2: Lima – Cuzco

Breakfast at the hotel. Half day Lima city tour: Discover Lima's Cathedral, the Government Palace and the San Francisco Convent among many other impressive colonial buildings. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Cuzco. Meet and greet your local host and transfer to your hotel. Overnight at your hotel in Cuzco.

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Guided tour of Lima

Day 3: Excursion to the Sacred Valley

Join a full day visit to the Sacred Valley. Drive from Cuzco to the village of Pisac, which is famous for its market with its many indigenous Quechua communities meeting to sell and trade their goods. Then visit Pisac Ruins. Transfer to Ollantaytambo, a fortified city built during the reign of Pachacutec, the most powerful Inca emperor. Take the train to Aguas Calientes and transfer to your hotel. Overnight at your hotel in Aguas Calientes.

- Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
- Insider Experiences: Visit of Pisac, Visit of Ollantaytambo

Day 4: Machu Picchu – Cuzco

After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the bus station to hop on a bus to the entrance of the archaeological site. Marvel at the 15th century Inca citadel Machu Picchu during a half day tour. The abandoned stronghold was rediscovered in 1911 by the American archaeologist Hiram Bingham, and the citadel is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. At the end of the tour, you will take the bus back to Aguas Calientes before you board the train to the Sacred Valley, then transfer to Cuzco. Overnight at your hotel in Cuzco.

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Unique - Visit of Machu Picchu

Day 5: Cuzco

Enjoy a day at leisure or join one of the optional excursions (against surcharge).

Option 1: Rainbow Mountain Trek

Trek to the top of Vinicunca Mountain, which reaches 5200m in altitude and is a colourful display of golds, reds and turquoises (duration: 6-7 hours). We will leave very early from your hotel to go to Checacupe then Pitumarka by bus. After breakfast, we start the trek and will cross impressive landscapes with small lagoons. After a 3-hour walk, we will take the road back to Cusco and have a break to enjoy a delicious and local meal.

Option 2: Mountain Bike in the Sacred Valley

After breakfast, leave for the Cruz Pata hamlet in your private vehicle. As you get closer, you'll see the characteristic landscapes of the Chinchero flatlands. Arrive in Cruz Pata, and after a safety briefing, start riding on the gravel path. The scattered houses are quickly left behind in place of snowy peaks of the Urubamba Cordillera. As you navigate ups and downs on the paths, you'll reach the circle terraces of Moray. According to archaeologists, the site of Moray was an Inca agricultural laboratory. Ride downhill to the small town of Maras, where you'll have lunch at the main square. Then bike down to the salt ponds on a more technical path. Avid riders can complete the tour on a steep downhill to the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

Note: These tours are year-round, but we do not recommend them during the rainy season (between December and March)

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Optional tours

Day 6: Cuzco

See some of the highlights during a half-day city tour. First you will visit Plaza Mayor and the San Pedro local market before you get to the most important Inca temple in the city - the Qoricancha or Sun Temple. "The Gold Precinct," as it was known, was a sacred place in which people honoured the most important Inca god, the INTI. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight at your hotel in Cuzco.

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Guided city tour of Cuzco

Day 7: Cuzco – Puno

After breakfast you will take the bus from Cuzco to Puno with visits enroute. First stop is the incredible church of San Pedro Apostol of Andahuaylillas, also known as the Andean Sistine Chapel. Continue to Raqchi, a former Inca stronghold on the edge of the Empire that served administrative, economic and military purposes and hosted the unique Temple of Wiracocha. Lunch stop at a buffet restaurant. The third stop is La Raya Pass, the highest point on the journey at 14,222 feet (4335 m). Finally, stop at the lithic museum of Pukara. Overnight at your hotel in Puno.

- Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
- Insider Experiences: Spiritual - Stop at the church of San Pedro Apostol of Andahuaylillas, Stop at Raqchi, Stop at La Raya Pass, Visit of the lithic museum of Pukara

Day 8: Lake Titicaca & the islands of Uros and Taquile

A 30-minute boat ride takes you to Uros, which is inhabited by Uros-Aymara families who still follow their venerable traditions, like fishing and hunting. Then, discover the island of Taquile where the friendly Taquileños have maintained

their customs and traditional agricultural techniques. Traditional lunch included. Return to Puno in the afternoon. Overnight at your hotel in Puno.

- Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
- Insider Experiences: Social - Visit of the islands of Uros, Social - Discover the island of Taquile

Day 9: Puno - Tiwanaku - La Paz

Transfer to Desaguadero and cross the border with a Bolivian guide in a private vehicle, moving towards Tiwanaku. Recognized as one of 754 World Heritage Sites and considered the Stonehenge of America, Tiwanaku is one of the most important precursors to the Inca Empire. Visit the Museo Cerámico (Museum of Ceramics), then see the Temple of Kalasasaya at the Tiwanaku complex, and locate the famous Puerta del Sol (Door of the Sun) and The Pyramid of Akapana. Depart for La Paz in a private vehicle. Overnight at your hotel in La Paz.

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Unique - Visit of Tiwanaku, Visit of the Museo Cerámico, Visit of the Temple of Kalasasaya

Day 10: La Paz – Uyuni

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Uyuni (flight not included). Upon arrival in Uyuni, transfer to the hotel. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight at your hotel in Uyuni.

- Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11: Salt Flats of Uyuni & Incahuasi Island

After breakfast depart for the renowned Uyuni Salt Flats. The Salt Flats of Uyuni were once part of a prehistoric inland sea called Lake Minchin, which included most of southwestern Bolivia. With more than 12,000 km² in land area, it's considered the largest salt desert in the world. Observe the process of extraction and refinement of salt. Visit Incahuasi Island, home of the Inca in Quechua. Take a lunch break before you depart for San Pedro de Quemez (194 km). Overnight in San Pedro de Quemez.

- Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Insider Experiences: Unique - Excursion to Uyuni Salt Flats, Visit of the Incahuasi Island

Day 12: Jewels of the Andes & Siloli Desert

After breakfast visit of Pueblo Quemado (burned village). Then depart for Salar de Chiguana and visit Mirador de Ollague Volcano, which stands at 5868 meters above sea level. Afterwards depart for Jewels of the Andes, in which the lagoons are named Cañapa, Hedionda, Chiari Khota, and Honda. Enjoy a picnic lunch during your excursion. In the afternoon visit of Paseo del Leon (Pass of the Lion) and Siloli Desert. Transfer to your hotel. Overnight at the hotel

- Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Insider Experiences: Visit of Pueblo Quemado, Mirador de Ollague Volcano (5868m), Unique - Excursion to the Jewels of the Andes, Visit of the Paseo del Leon (Pass of the Lion), Visit of Siloli Desert

Day 13: Excursion to Eduardo Abaroa National Reserve & Moon Valley

Start your day with an excursion to the Eduardo Abaroa National Reserve in South Lipez with a visit of the Red Lagoon, located at an altitude of 4,278 meters above sea level. Marvel at Sol de Mañana (Sun of Tomorrow), a geothermal area dotted with geysers and fumaroles. See the thermal waters of Polkes, then visit the Salvador Dali Desert. Enjoy a picnic lunch during your excursion. Afterwards depart for the Green Lagoon, then to the Hito Cajon border. Private transfer from Hito Cajon to your hotel in San Pedro de Atacama. In the late afternoon, depart for Moon Valley (shared excursion) to observe the lunar-like patterns formed by erosion, which are covered with a thin layer of salt. These curious formations were caused by the existence of an ancient lake and by erosion from the wind and water. In the silence of

the desert, you'll experience one of the most beautiful sunsets ever seen. Overnight at your hotel in San Pedro de Atacama.

- Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
- Insider Experiences: Excursion to the Eduardo Abaroa National Reserve, Unique - Excursion to the Moon Valley

Day 14: Altiplanic Lagoons & Salt Flat Excursion

Morning departure to Atacama Salt Flat with views of the Licancabur Volcano. Visit the village of Toconao and the Chaxa Lagoon, where a large variety of flora has adapted to the desert climate. Then see the Miscanti and Meñiques Lagoons situated at 4300 meters (2671 feet) above sea level, where you'll have a spectacular view over the high plateaus. Lunch in a local restaurant along the way before you return to San Pedro de Atacama. Overnight at your hotel in San Pedro de Atacama.

- Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
- Insider Experiences: Excursion to Atacama Salt Flat, Visit the village of Toconao and the Chaxa Lagoon

Day 15: Tatio Geysers – Santiago

Depart early this morning (around 5 a.m.) for Tatio Geysers, which are situated at 14,100 feet (4300m) above sea level, and arrive at sunrise, a time when the geysers are most spectacular. El Tatio is the largest place of this kind in the southern hemisphere. The eruption of the highest geyser reaches about 20 feet (6m). Picnic breakfast in the middle of the geysers. Return to San Pedro de Atacama around noon. Transfer from your hotel in San Pedro de Atacama to Calama Airport (shared service) for your flight to Santiago (not incl). Assistance at Santiago Airport to get to your hotel in Santiago. Overnight at your hotel at Santiago Airport.

- Meals included: Breakfast
- Insider Experiences: Unique - Sunrise at Tatio Geysers

Day 16: Departure from Santiago de Chile

Check out from your hotel after breakfast and walk to the airport on your own (3 min walk) for your departure flight back home.

- Meals included: Breakfast

Inclusions

Insider Experiences

- Social - Visit of the islands of Uros
- Social - Discover the island of Taquile
- Spiritual - Stop at the church of San Pedro Apostol of Andahuaylillas
- Unique - Visit of Machu Picchu
- Unique - Visit of Tiwanaku
- Unique - Excursion to Uyuni Salt Flats
- Unique - Excursion to the Moon Valley
- Unique - Sunrise at Tatio Geysers

Accommodation

15 nights in 3-4 star hotels

Transport

Air-conditioned vehicle

Meals

- Daily breakfast
- 5 Lunches
- 3 Dinners

Touring

- English speaking tour guide
- All entrance fees

Contact your local travel agent