EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Comfort Itinerary Version (TMPE2)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TRIPDURATI
15
DAYS

Tour Type: Tailormade

Trip Code: TMPE2

Trip Essentials

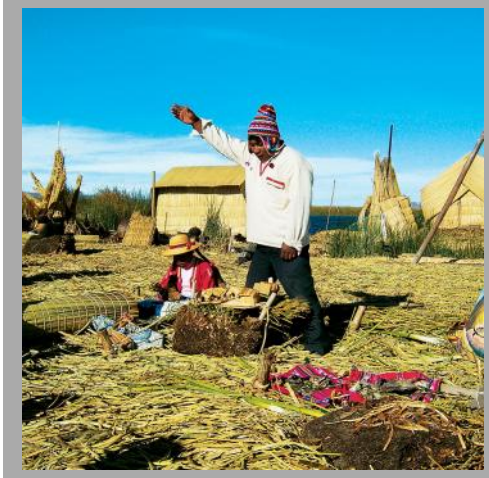
Accommodation:	2 nights Premium Hotel 6 nights Hotel 1 night Basic Homestay
Included Meals:	14 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
Transport:	
Countries:	Peru

Tailormade Classic Peru - Incas and Andes

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.



Your trip itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you’re travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Fly to Lima

Depart from the UK on the flight of your choice, arriving Lima late the same day.

Overnight: **Premium Hotel**

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Fly to Arequipa

Fly to Arequipa and settle into your hotel. This afternoon is left free for you to explore and acclimatise.

Overnight: **Hotel**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 In Arequipa; visit South Catalina Convent

This morning you have a guided tour of the White City. The historic city is predominantly built from sillar, a white volcanic stone that give the city it name. You'll visit the main square, with its colonial architecture and the Church if the Society of Jesus with its colourful frescos. You will also visit the Santa Catalina Convent, a miniature walled town which once housed 450 nuns and serving ladies in total seclusion. This afternoon has been left free for you to explore at your leisure.

Overnight: **Hotel**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 To Colca Valley

Your scenic drive to the Colca Valley is almost as stunning as the destination. The route takes you to a higher altitude, past giant volcanoes and herds of vicuña. On arrival you can bathe in one of the local hot springs.

Overnight: **Hotel**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Condors and Lake Titicaca

From Chivay you make an early start to the mirador Cruz del Condor, you'll pass through Aguada Blanca National Reserve where you may see alpacas and llamas roaming the plains. In Colca we aim to see the rare Andean Condor in flight, a highlight of any itinerary. Continuing to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca: the highest navigable lake in the world at an elevation of 3,820m, and the legendary birthplace of the Inca civilisation. The local Aymara and Quechua–speaking Indian people have adapted over generations to life at altitude and have larger lungs, hearts and spleens, and blood that is particularly rich in red corpuscles.

Overnight: **Hotel**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 Taquile Island

From Puno you depart early and head towards Taquile Island, around 35 km away and 3950 m above sea level. Taquile island has preserved much of its Inca and pre-Inca heritage and the islanders still speak the language of the Inca - Runa Simi or Quechua. While on the island, you visit the community of Huayllano, who will show you their artistic handicrafts. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional lunch, followed by a walk down to the island’s main square, upon which sits its most important church and handicraft centre. The afternoon ends at a lookout point where you can enjoy an incredible views of the sunset on the lake. Later you return to your lodgings where you will eat with your hosts and learn about their traditions, and spend the night in their home.

Overnight: **Basic Homestay**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Uros Island, Return to Puno

This morning you’ll have breakfast with your hosts, then help with their farming duties and maybe visit the local beach. You then take a boat trip on Lake Titicaca to explore the floating reed islands, home to the Uros people who live on the lake itself. Their islands are made from totura, a reed-like papyrus that grows in the shallows and is used in most aspects of their life, including the construction of their boats and homes. Also visit Amantani Island, located at an elevation of 4150 m, it is famous for its terraced hillsides that used to be farmed by the locals. Pre-Incan people claimed this island was a sacred place, and that you can feel its mystical energies flow around you. Later, you transfer back to Puno.

Overnight: **Hotel**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 Bus to Cusco

Today we follow the legendary route taken by the first Inca ruler - Manco Capac - on his way to find Cusco. Driving up to the northern limit of the Altiplano you'll cross La Raya pass (4335m) and descend to Cusco. The scenery is desolate but magnificent and you may spot flocks of llamas and alpacas grazing on the windswept pastures. En route you'll visit the 15th Century Raqchi, Temple, also known as The Temple of God Wiracocha and the colonial church at Andahuaylillas, home to a beautiful organ decorated with angels and cherubs. Your journey ends in Cusco. Please note: There is also the opportunity to take the classic train journey aboard the Andean Explorer from Puno to Cusco - one of the great railway journeys of the world, the full day journey covers some spectacular scenery over the high altiplano. The train must be pre-booked at time of booking, please discuss with your Tailormade consultant. Please note that rail strikes are common in Peru and so there is the possibility that the train may not always be running.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Cusco

The old capital of the Inca Empire survives only in its ruins, imbued with an atmosphere of mystery and grandeur. The Spanish colonial city, with its attractive pink tiled roofs, arcaded plazas and steep winding alleyways, stands upon tremendous Inca foundation stones. This morning take a walking tour of this lovely city to see important Inca and Colonial monuments, such as Plaza de Armas, the main square and the Koricanha, once an Incan Palace dedicated to the sun god, Inti. You then visit one of the outlying Inca sites - Cusco's temple-citadel, Saqsaywaman which broods high above the town, its huge, zigzagging stone walls broken into 66 sharply projecting angles to catch attackers in a withering crossfire. The journey continues to the archaeological sites at Qenko, Puca-Pucara, and Tambomachay and ends with a visit to an Andean art workshop.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Cookery lesson with a local family

This morning you will visit a local market in the town of San Pedro where you will pick out your fruits, vegetables and spices needed for your recipes. Heading back to your family's home you will learn to cook three traditional dishes and enjoy them for lunch. The afternoon has been left free for you to explore at your leisure.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 11 Full day tour in the Sacred Valley

Take a trip out into the Sacred Valley to visit the areas of Chinchero, Maras and Moray. The local people of Chinchero are famous for their traditional Andean weaving techniques and the town square with its popular handicraft market, is a great place to see their colourful clothes. Known locally as the 'laboratory of the Incas' Moray contains unusual Inca ruins, mostly consisting of several enormous terraced circular depressions, the largest of which is about 30 m (98 ft) deep. The purpose of these depressions is uncertain, but their depth and orientation with respect to wind and sun creates a temperature difference of as much as 15 °C (27 °F) between the top and bottom. This large temperature difference was possibly used by the Inca to study the effects of different climatic conditions on crops. In other words, Moray was perhaps an Inca agricultural experiment station. As with many other Inca sites, it also has a sophisticated irrigation system.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12 Full day visit to Machu Picchu

Take an early morning train along the side of the Rio Urubamba, flanked by high cliffs and peaks, then climb by bus to Machu Picchu – the famous Lost City at 2,400m. The existence of this exquisite masterpiece of ancient civilisation remained unknown to the outside world until it was 'discovered' by an American archaeologist, Hiram Bingham in 1911. Explore this mountain-top stronghold – the most spectacular feat of engineering in ancient America. Returning to Aguas Calientes for the night.

Overnight: **Hotel**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13 Free morning, transfer back to Cusco

This morning has been left free, perhaps you may like to visit Machu Picchu again or climb Huayna Picchu to experience an alternative viewpoint. Taking the train back to Ollantaytambo, you then transfer by bus to Cusco, where the rest of the afternoon has been left free.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 Fly to Lima

Leaving Cusco behind, you fly back to Lima. Founded in 1535 and called the City of Kings, Lima today is both ancient and modern. Stroll through the downtown Lima stopping in the main square to admire the colonial architecture. You'll visit Santo Domingo Convent, the modern district of San Isidro and then Miraflores, with a stop at the "Parque del Amor" for its incredible views of the Pacific Ocean.

Overnight: **Premium Hotel**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15 Depart Peru

Unfortunately, time to leave Peru and fly home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 16 Arrive UK

Included Meals: None

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 14 breakfasts, 3 lunches,1 dinner included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Trip

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the trip price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Peru

Lunch £: 3.00 - 5.00

Dinner £: 6.00 - 8.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Peru

Bottle of Beer £: 2.00 - 4.00

Water £: 1.00

Foreign Exchange

Peru

ATM Availability: Available in Major towns. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance: In major restaurants.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques are not always easy to exchange.

Local Currency: Nuevo Sol

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling or Travellers Cheques which are more difficult to exchange. We recommend to take a minimum of US$400-$500 of your total spending money in cash for your tour, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

Where to Exchange: Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

Joining your Trip

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

EXPLORE!
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Vaccinations & Protection

Peru

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. We recommend protection against yellow fever. There have been very few cases reported, but local authorities do recommend travellers get immunised against yellow fever. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider.

Preparing for your Trip

Climate

Peru

There is a rainy season from Dec - Mar however on the coast it rarely rains. Jun-Oct is damp and misty, but temperatures never drop below 10°C. At high altitudes although there are sunny days temperatures can drop dramatically, and conditions can change suddenly.

Luggage allowance on trip:

Unfortunately it does occasionally happen that luggage does not always reach its destination on the same flight as its owner, or possibly it may be damaged in transit. If you are unlucky enough for this to occur, it is important that you file a PIR (Property Irregularity Report) with the airline before leaving the airport. This is essential when you come to make a claim either against the airline or from your travel insurance company

General Information

Country details

Peru

Population: 29,496,000

Size of Country: 1,285,216 sq km

Major Language: Spanish

Religion: Catholicism

Time Difference to GMT: -5

Electric Supply & Plugs

Peru

2 Pin Flat

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2017.

Trip Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2. 3/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 3.

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