EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Machu Picchu and Titicaca (PB 2015)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TOURDURAT
15
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Standard
tour Code: PB

Tour Highlights - Machu Picchu and Titicaca

- ✓ La Paz - Explore the 'City that touches the sky'
- ✓ Lake Titicaca - Spend two days trekking the Inca Pilgrim Way visiting Inca ruins along the way
- ✓ Cusco - Explore the ancient capital city of the Incas
- ✓ Inca Trail - Day walk from KM104 to Machu Picchu via the Sun Gate
- ✓ Machu Picchu - Travel by train to the 'Lost City', one of the New Seven Wonders of the World
- ✓ Sacsayhuaman - Visit the ancient fortress dramatically located high above Cusco

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	12 nights Standard Hotel 1 night Simple Hotel 1 night Simple Guesthouse
Included Meals:	14 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: La Paz
End Point:	Tour ends: Lima
Transport:	Bus, Train, Boat, Flight
Countries:	Bolivia, Peru

Machu Picchu and Titicaca

Travelling on some of the planet's highest roads, we traverse the other-worldly Andean landscapes from La Paz to Cusco. Our trip includes a two-day trek centred around the Isla del Sol on Lake Titicaca, sacred to the Incas of ancient America. We also enjoy a day trek along the Inca Trail via the ruins of Winaywayna and the Sun Gate to Machu Picchu, the 'Lost City' of the Incas.

Why Book this tour

This tour includes an optional day walk along the Inca trail to Machu Picchu. Perfect for those who want to experience part of this famous walk but do not want to do the whole four-day trek. Your first glimpse of Machu Picchu will be from the Sun Gate.

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.

Tour Comfort: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Tour Pace: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.

Your tour 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.

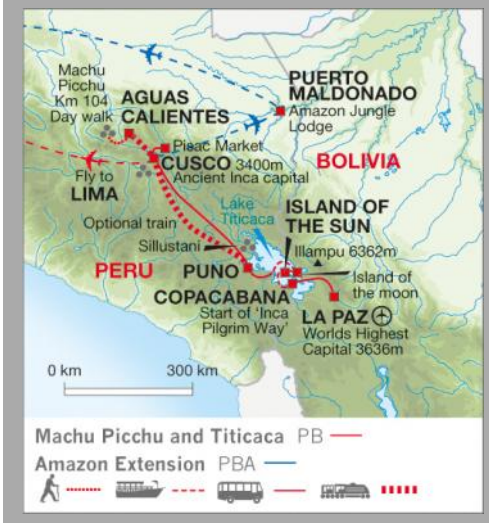
Your Tour Leader

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 Join tour in La Paz (Bolivia)

Tour only clients will arrive and check in at the first nights' accommodation in La Paz. Clients who have booked flights through Explore, will spend the first night of the tour on an overnight flight.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available



Included Meals: None

DAY 2 In La Paz; time to acclimitise

Today is a free day to acclimitise. Clients who have booked flights through Explore will arrive in La Paz this morning.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Walking tour of La Paz

Standing at 3636m above sea level, La Paz is cupped in the palm of two magnificent mountains. We enjoy a walking tour of the colourful street markets. On our second day there is an optional excursion to Tiahuanaco, Bolivia's largest archaeological site. It is thought that this ceremonial complex stood at the heart of an empire extending over northern Bolivia, southern Peru, northern Chile and north-western Argentina, but we can only conjecture on how it came to an end. In your free time you may wish to go up Mount Chacaltaya, which has the highest ski-lift in the world (5300m) and take the opportunity, if you feel fit enough, to walk to the peak at 5420m for stunning views over the saw-toothed Cordillera peaks, Lake Titicaca and La Paz. On one of our evenings here we have the opportunity to go and see the spectable of Cholitas wrestling - a popular local spectacular sport (optional).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 In La Paz; optional trip to Tiahuanaco archaeological site

On our second day there is an optional excursion to Tiahuanaco, Bolivia's largest archaeological site. It is thought that this ceremonial complex stood at the heart of an empire extending over northern Bolivia, southern Peru, northern Chile and north-western Argentina, but we can only conjecture on how it came to an end. In your free time you may wish to go up Mount Chacaltaya, which has the highest ski-lift in the world (5300m) and take the opportunity, if you feel fit enough, to walk to the peak at 5420m for stunning views over the saw-toothed Cordillera peaks, Lake Titicaca and La Paz.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Drive to Copacabana on the shores of Lake Titicaca

A morning drive brings us to the small town of Copacabana, standing on a peninsula jutting into Lake Titicaca. We gain our first sight of one of the great highlights of our trip, Lake Titicaca (3810m). The lake itself is immense, the second largest in South America. It was from this lake that the Sun God sent forth the man and woman who founded the Inca Empire, the legendary Children of the Sun. Local people here have larger lungs, hearts and spleens, and blood that is particularly rich in red corpuscles. This has enabled them to adapt to high altitude living. We will re-pack this evening, as tomorrow we take just what is needed for the next two nights.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Walk the Inca Pilgrim Way; overnight on Isla del Sol

This morning we begin our two-day trek centering on the Isla del Sol. Leaving our main baggage behind, we use our daysacs for personal gear needed during the day and our overnight bags are transported for us. Leaving Copacabana, we walk to Kusijata village then we begin to climb the old Inca road, before descending to Sicuani. Next we take a short journey by motor launch to Pilkokaina, on the Isla del Sol to explore the ruins of the Palace of the Inca ruler Tupac Yupanqui, sited to overlook the Island of the Moon, the domain of his sister-queen (about 6 hours walking). This afternoon there may be a chance to take a boat trip to the Island of the Moon. The main occupation of the local people is fishing, cropping of reeds and farming. Much smaller than the Island of the Sun, it nevertheless has some interesting Inca ruins, and we may have time to explore the Inak Uyu (Sanctuary of the Virgins of the Sun) We continue by boat to Pilkokaina, where, if time permits, we will visit the ruins before walking to our accommodation near the village of Yuman. A highlight of our trip is our stay on the Island of the Sun where we stay in a locally run lodge. Although quite simple, all the rooms are ensuite and the views have to be seen to be believed.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 Trek via Challa-Pampa to Jardin Incaico

We begin today by walking up and along a high ridge path, from where we can enjoy tremendous views, and passing through three stone gateways (through which pilgrims to the sacred stones would have travelled) before reaching the ruins of Chinkana, the Temple of the Sun, situated on the crag of Titi Kala. We then take the boat to the Jardin Incaico. A series of terraces, some still in use today, hug the short, narrow valley which drops to the lakeside and a small harbour where colourful boats are sometimes moored. Later, there is a climb to arrive to our hotel (about 6hrs).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 Return to Copacabana and travel to Puno (Peru)

This morning we return across the lake to Copacabana before heading over the border to Peru and on to Puno. There may be an opportunity to visit Uros Islands (optional) - made entirely from reeds grown in the lake, these unusual man-made islands are home to small village communities.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Bus to Cusco via Sillustani or optional Andean Explorer train

Today we follow the legendary route taken by the first Inca ruler - Manco Capac - on his way to find Cusco. En route to Cusco we stop at the beautifully scenic site of Sillustani - a fitting home for the chulpas (funeral towers), which probably date from the 14th century. Driving up to the northern limit of the Altiplano we cross La Raya pass (4335m) and descend to Cuzco visiting the Inca temple ruins at Raqchi en route. Depending on time, those who wish may visit the colonial church at Andahuaylillas. The scenery is desolate but magnificent and we may spot flocks of llamas and alpacas grazing on the windswept pastures. There is also the opportunity to take the classic train journey from Puno to Cusco (optional) - one of the great railway journeys of the world, the full day journey covers some spectaular scenery over the high altiplano. We arrive at this fascinating mountain city and check into our hotel. Please note: the train must be pre-booked at time of booking and costs 115GBP per person. Please note that rail strikes are common in Peru and so there is the possibility that the train may not always be running. In the event that you have chosen the optional train ride and it is not operating, then we will make the journey from Puno to Cusco by bus, with the rest of the group.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Walking tour of Cusco, visit Pisac Market and Sacsayhumana Fortress

The old capital of the Inca Empire survives only in its ruins, imbued with an atmosphere of mystery and grandeur. The Spanish-style city of today, with its attractive pink slate roofs, arcaded plazas and steep winding alleyways, stands upon tremendous Inca foundation stones - enormous blocks of grey granite fitted together with the precision of a jeweller. We take a walking tour of this fascinating city to see Inca and colonial monuments, and also visit the colourful market at Pisac in the Sacred Valley and Cusco's temple-citadel, Sacsayhuaman.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11 Free day in Cusco; optional whitewater rafting

For river-lovers there is a the opportunity of a raft-trip (optional) down the Urubamba in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. This is an exciting way to see the valley and no previous experience of rafting is necessary - full instruction and safety equipment are provided (grade 2-3).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12 Day trek to Machu Picchu

We take an early morning train along the side of the Urubamba river, flanked by high cliffs and peaks. Subject to train timings we plan to disembark at KM104 - just short of Machu Picchu. This allows us to walk part of the famous Inca Trail from the valley floor up to the abandoned ruins of Winay Wayna and on to the Gate of the Sun for dramatic views down on Machu Picchu (about 5hrs walking). Alternatively for those who do not wish to walk, or when there are no longer inca permits available, we will continue to Aguas Calientes by small bus and then head to Machu Picchu, where the rest of the group will meet after their walk. The famous Lost City (at 2280m) is set in a grandiose landscape that amazes all spectators - temples, stairways, palaces and gabled stone dwellings are scattered everywhere, testifying to the energy and ingenuity of the builders, in the most dramatic setting of all of ancient America. We return to Aguas Calientes on the valley floor, to stay in a simple guesthouse with the chance to soak in the nearby natural hot baths (optional).

Overnight: **Simple Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 13 Explore Machu Picchu, return by train to Cusco

After more time exploring and soaking up the magic of the site, we return to Cusco.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 Fly to Lima; optional city tour

Today we fly from the mountains to Lima, on the Pacific Ocean. Subject to flight timings, an optional city tour will be offered. Places you may wish to visit include the Cathedral, which contains Pizarro's mummified body in a glass casket; or the Larco Herrera Museum which you may enjoy guided or at your own pace.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15 Tour ends in Lima

Included Meals: Breakfast

Included Activities

Additional notes for tours that include the Inca Trail
1. In order to regulate the number of people walking on the Inca Trail it is necessary to buy an Inca Trail Pass specific to the days that you wish to travel. There are 200 passes per day for tourists, the remainder are for guides and porters.
2. If you are travelling on an Explore tour, Explore buy the necessary permit on your behalf. This is non-refundable and can't be refunded or transferred after you have confirmed your booking.
3. Passes are sold on a 'first come first served basis' and sell out quickly, so we would urge that you book your tour well ahead of your intended travel date. New Inca Passes are released in January of each year so ideally we would recommend that you book your tour at least 6 months ahead and by December for the following year where possible.
4. In order to buy your pass we will need your: full name, passport number, date of birth and nationality. If you change passport before travelling it will be necessary to provide a copy of both passports in advance of travelling and to carry a copy of your previous passport with you.
5. The Peruvian authorities may change the regulations for the Inca Trail Pass at any time. In the event of this we will inform you as soon as possible.

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 14 breakfasts, 3 lunches,2 dinners included in the price of this tour. 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 Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour 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.

Bolivia

Lunch £: 5.00

Dinner £: 8.00

Peru

Lunch £: 9.00

Dinner £: 13.00

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.

Bolivia

Bottle of Beer £: 1.47

Water £: 0.60

Peru

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

Water £: 1.00

Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Optional Excursions

La Paz - Half day to Mount Chacaltaya US$ 35 (minimum 3 passengers); Tiahuanaco (Bolivia's most important archeological site) US$ 60; Cholitas Wrestling US$ 10.
Puno - Uros Islands US$ 30; Andean Explorer train to Cusco GBP£115 - must be paid at time of booking.If you change your passport between your time of booking and prior to travel please take your original passport with you to avoid being fined.
Cusco - Rafting on the Urubamba US$ 40/45 (depending on numbers), Andahuaylillas entrance US$ 4.
Huayna Picchu - 86 us$ inc. transport - subject to space availability please confirm this with your leader on arrival.
Aguas Calientes - Hot springs US$ 3.
Lima - City Tour US$ 30; Larco Herrera Museum US$ 35 guided, US$ 11 unguided; Lima Detour - alternative view of the city of Lima US$ 35 (price may go up if less than 4 passengers).

Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group’s tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.
Accordingly, you should allow US$ 35 for tipping

Foreign Exchange

Bolivia

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

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a 10% service charge

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

Local Currency: Boliviano.

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.

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 Tour

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.

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.

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

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 joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited. who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

Visa Information

Bolivia: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, and Canadian citizens. However, US citizens will require a visa.

Peru: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens.

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

USA (If flights transit): According to US law, passengers will have to disembark, collect luggage and clear immigration before re-boarding for the onward flight.

Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). This applies if you enter the country by sea or by air on a carrier participating in the visa waiver scheme, holding a return/ onward ticket. The passport requirements are that it must be machine readable, and must contain a digital photograph of the holder and also an integrated circuit chip that stores biographic information.

All passengers travelling to the USA under the Visa Waiver Programme must provide their details online no later than 72 hours prior to travel. British travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely to be detained and sent home.

When completing an application for transit you should enter the words 'In Transit' with your final destination location in the address line. Anyone applying for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ESTA) to travel under the Visa Waiver system will be charged a fee of 14USD (9GBP).

For more information, and to apply online, please visit the following website at https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov. Once obtained, the application will be valid for a period of two years, or for the validity of your passport (whichever is shorter).

For more information about who is eligible for the VWP, or any other questions you may have regarding your eligibility, or machine readable passports, please contact your local consular office, or visit www.usembassy.org.uk

Vaccinations & Protection

Bolivia

A yellow fever certificate is not compulsory to enter Bolivia for the areas we visit. We also recommend protection against typhoid, polio, infectious hepatitis, tetanus and malaria. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. 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.

Peru

We recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, polio, infectious hepatitis and malaria. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. 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 Tour

Altitude Description

As this tour reaches altitudes over 3800 meters, we strongly recommend that travellers with heart or lung conditions, anaemia, asthma, high blood pressure or on the pill should seek the advice of their GP.
You must have adequate travel insurance for your trip. Please ensure that your insurance policy covers you to the maximum altitude indicated above. If you have Explore insurance you will be covered to this altitude.

Climate

Bolivia

Conditions vary from region to region and with altitude. Bear in mind that at high altitude temperatures can drop dramatically, and conditions can change suddenly. Inland - Hot and humid from October to March (summer). Mild to hot from April to September (winter). Highlands -- All year, sunny days, chilly to cold evenings. Rainy December to March. Mainly dry rest of yearbest time for mountain travel.

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.

Clothing

The highlands of Bolivia have dry sunny days but extremely cold nights so thermal underwear, a well-insulated fleece/jacket and a thick sweater are essential. Bring a warm hat and gloves as the Island of the Sun can be especially cold during June and July. Bring

something warm to sleep in. A light raincoat is recommended. A sun hat and sunglasses are advisable as is high factor sunscreen, due to the thinness of the atmosphere. Bring a swimming costume for the thermal baths at Aguas Calientes.

Equipment

Bring a torch.

Footwear

Comfortable lightweight walking/trekking boots, trainers and sandals.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of luggage, a good sized daypack and a small bag to contain clothing for the two nights at Lake Titicaca (your main luggage will be left in Copacabana). Whilst trekking, our luggage for the Inca Pilgrim Way will be carried for us, but your daypack should be large enough to carry warm and waterproof clothing as weather can be quite changeable.
One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Bolivia

Population: 10,907,778

Size of Country: 1,098,581 sq km

Major Language: Spanish

Religion: Roman Catholic

Time Difference to GMT: -4

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

Bolivia

3 Pin Flat

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, elephant, 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 and traditional, 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 http://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 andÂ security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. ForÂ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link atÂ http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/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 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour 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: 2015 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2015. 2016/17 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

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