

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Spirit of the Incas + Amazon Extension (QPSA 2017)



TRIPDURATION  
**17**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Simply  
**Tour Pace:** Moderate

**Tour Type:** Small Groups  
**Accommodation Grade:** Simple

**Trip Code:** QPSA

#### Trip Highlights - Spirit of the Incas + Amazon Extension

- ✓ Machu Picchu - Travel by train to the 'Lost City', one of the New Seven Wonders of the World
- ✓ Cusco - Explore the ancient capital city of the Incas
- ✓ Arequipa - A chance to discover the fascinating Santa Catalina Convent and the magnificent Colca Canyon
- ✓ Lake Titicaca - Traverse the highest navigable lake in the world, visiting Uros and Taquile Islands
- ✓ Nazca - View the intriguing Nazca lines from platforms
- ✓ Amazon - From a jungle lodge discover an exotic world of flora and fauna on foot and by canoe

#### Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 8 nights Standard Hotel  
2 nights Simple Hotel  
1 night Simple Bus  
1 night Simple Village House  
1 night Simple Guesthouse  
3 nights Simple Lodge

**Included Meals:** 11 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners

**Start Point:** Join trip: Lima

**End Point:** Trip ends: Puerto Maldonado Airport

**Transport:** Bus, Train, Boat, Public Bus

**Countries:** Peru

## Spirit Of The Incas And Amazon Extension

Join us as we discover the highlights of Peru including its impressive mountain citadel, Machu Picchu. We sail on Lake Titicaca, visiting the Indian communities on the Uros and Taquile Islands, where we overnight with a local family. We also discover the colourful cities of Cusco and Arequipa and search for condors at the majestic Colca Canyon. We end the trip in the tropical Amazon Rainforest, exploring jungle-lined river banks by dugout canoe and searching for wildlife on walks through forest trails.



### 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.

### Accommodation Grade: Simple

No-frills accommodation which includes berths on sleeper trains, rooms in village houses, boat cabins, campsites, huts and simple family-run lodges, guesthouses and hotels. Sleeping arrangements are simple and amenities are adequate, sometimes with en suite facilities and occasionally communal.

### Tour Style: Simply

If your idea of adventure travel is to experience everyday local life in a country then try one of our Simply Explore tours. These grassroots adventures are flexible, affordable and fun

### 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 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 Join tour in Lima

Join the tour in Lima and check-in at the hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 2 Public bus to Nazca

Departing Lima this morning we take a public bus south, following the Pacific coastline, before turning towards the fertile mountain valleys that lie around town of Nazca. Our journey takes us through some of the driest desert regions on earth and into the winegrowing landscapes of the Ica Valley, a region that produces some excellent vintage, as well as Peru's distinctive local tippie, Pisco, a particularly potent mix made from the white grape. Our final destination for today is the oasis town of Nazca, lying in the shadow of Cerro Blanco, which, at over 2000m, is the highest sand dune on earth.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 3 In Nazca; optional view Nazca Lines from viewing platform or Chauchilla pre-Inca cemetery, overnight bus to Arequipa

Some specialists have speculated that the Nazca Lines represent the world's largest astrological calendar. Huge birds, spiders, whales, other creatures and geometrical figures are represented in outline. Here there is the option to climb nearby viewing platforms for views out over the lines etched into the desert. There should also be time for optional visit to the nearby Antonini Archaeological Museum, the Chauchilla pre-Inca cemetery or the Nazca aqueduct. Later today we take another public bus, continuing south through the night towards the city of Arequipa and the volcanic landscapes of the Andean Mountains.

Overnight: **Simple Bus**

 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 4 Arrive Arequipa; Free afternoon for sightseeing

The beautiful city of Arequipa is spectacularly located at the foot of the volcanic slopes of El Misti, a perfect conical peak that rises to some 5822m above this grand colonial city. The city itself was founded by the Spanish in 1540, on the site of an old Inca settlement, and today is famed for its colonial architecture, including what is arguably one of the finest arcaded city squares anywhere in the Americas. Arriving this morning we will transfer to the hotel, after which the rest of the day is free to explore at your leisure, perhaps taking in the elegance of the Plaza de Armas and its immense twin-towered cathedral. You might also like to visit the striking 17th century churches of La Compania and San Agustin and the colonial grandeur of Casa de Moras, or perhaps pay a visit to the extraordinary Santa Catalina Convent, a miniature walled town in the heart of the city, which once housed 450 nuns and serving ladies in total seclusion for nearly 4 centuries. Riddled with a network of cobbled streets and lavishly restored with period furnishings and beautifully ornate touches, the convent is without doubt one of the highlights of any visit to the city. Other recommended sights are the old university and the archaeological museum, which has a fine collection of ceramics and mummies. Otherwise you may choose to take a seat at one of the cafes overlooking the main square and watch the comings and goings.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 5 Travel to Chivay, optional hot springs

Today we travel to Chivay. The afternoon is free to perhaps take a bathe in the hot springs (optional).

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 6 Visit the Colca Canyon, continue to Puno

This morning we visit the Colca Canyon. A spectacular river gorge, the Colca Canyon measures twice the depth of the more famous Grand Canyon and at one time it was believed to be the deepest gorge on earth (until it was eclipsed by the deeper Cotahuasi Canyon). Largely unknown to the outside world until the latter years of the 20th century, today it affords us an opportunity to discover a world of Andean villages and Inca terraces that make up one of the most outstanding natural settings in the Americas. This is the world of the Altiplano, where the Rio Colca meanders through a landscape of towering volcanic peaks that offer a stunning backdrop to a land inhabited by Cabana and Collagua Indians. Home to the massive and majestic Andean Condor, these awe-inspiring vistas derive their name from the old Incan practise of storing harvested grain in natural vaults carved into the canyon walls, vaults that the Indians called colcas. This afternoon we drive east, heading towards the beautiful landscapes that surround the unique waters of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world (3856m). Our destination is the town of Puno, a centre of Incan folklore nestling in a bay at the northwestern tip of the lake and the perfect base from which to explore something of the cultural and historical significance of the lake itself.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 7 Boat trip on Lake Titicaca; visit Uros Islands and overnight on Taquile Island

An immense body of water, Lake Titicaca covers over 8,000 sq km and its shoreline has been the home to the Aymara and Quechua for millennia. Its sacred waters have long been a site of religious ritual and devotion, from the earliest civilisations to the Inca conquerors, who believed the lake to be the site where the legendary founders of their dynasty arrived on earth. The Uros people have lived on the lake itself for countless generations, on 'floating islands' of totora, a reed-like papyrus that grows in the shallows and is used in the construction of houses and boats. Today we'll explore something of their unique world with a visit to Los Uros and Taquile, hopefully learning something of a people whose traditions live on for the most part only in the myths and legends of their oral history. Driven onto the lake to escape the attentions of larger ethnic tribes and further isolated by the arrival of the Spanish, the Uros had little contact with the mainland for generations, preferring instead to isolate themselves amongst the reeds and waters of their marine environment. After our visit to the Uros Islands we'll then continue by boat to Taquile Island, a setting that has managed to preserve much of its Inca and pre-Incan heritage and where the locals still speak the language of the Inca-Quechua. This afternoon we will take a walk to the highest point of the island, where we can enjoy the sun bathing the lake in the golden glows of sunset. Later this evening there may be an opportunity to enjoy an optional folklore show.

Overnight: **Simple Village House**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 8 Morning on Taquile Island, afternoon return to Puno

This morning is free on Taquile Island to make the most of a setting where the local people still preserve a rich tradition of music and dance. You might like to take a walk up to the Inca ruins (optional), or visit the market, presenting an ideal opportunity to buy some of the locally made embroidery that is produced by the men of the island. Later this afternoon we then return to Puno by boat, where there is the chance to pay a visit to the restored British built Yavari Steamer (optional) or take a stroll through the markets in search of excellent llama and alpaca wool items.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 9 Public bus to Cusco

Today we follow the legendary route taken by the first Inca ruler - Manco Capac - on his way to find Cusco, passing through a landscape that is both desolate and magnificent, where flocks of llamas and alpacas graze amongst the windswept meadows. We'll travel via the small market town of Ayaviri and La Raya, traversing the northern extremes of the Altiplano and crossing La Raya pass (4321m) and the continental divide, before beginning the descent towards Cusco along the Rio Vilcanota. We arrive at in the late afternoon and check into our hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 10 Orientation tour of Cusco, rest of the day free

The old capital of the Inca Empire, Cusco is the archaeological capital of the Americas and the oldest continuously inhabited city on the continent. Imbued with an atmosphere of mystery and grandeur, the Spanish-style city of today, with its attractive pink tiled roofs, arcaded plazas and steep winding alleyways, stands upon tremendous Inca foundation stones, its links with the Inca Empire everywhere to be seen, from the stone walls that line the city streets, to the museums filled with artefacts and relics of a long dead people. This morning we make a short orientation tour of the city with the tour leader pointing out the key sites, before some free time to continue exploring further. We will see the Inca wall of Hatunrumiyoc with its famous twelve-sided stone (its typical bevelled joints creating the patterns of light and shadow so typical of Incan walls), as well as the rich majesty of the Plaza de Armas and the incredible remains of Qoricancha, once the heart of Inca society. The city itself is filled with monuments to its more recent colonial past too, with churches and galleries in abundance, making it an ideal city to enjoy at your own pace (entrance fees not included).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 11 Train to Aguas Calientes; visit Machu Picchu

This morning we transfer to the railway station to catch the train to Aguas Calientes, our gateway to one of the greatest of all archaeological sites. The train slowly meanders down the valley, following the tumultuous waters of the Urubamba River through a series of rock cut tunnels before emerging at the small town of Aguas Calientes, serenely nestling amidst a lush landscape of cloud forests. From here we take a public bus up to the mountain complex of Machu Picchu, the fabled lost city of the Incas and probably the most spectacular feat of engineering in ancient America. The rest of our time is then spent in this magnificent city, dividing our time between a guided tour (4 hours) and some free time to explore these spectacular ruins privately. Temples, stairways, palaces and gabled stone dwellings are scattered everywhere, testifying to the energy and ingenuity of the builders. Not without reason is this site probably the most revered tourist attraction in the Americas; its location alone is dramatic in the extreme, teetering on the saddle of a high mountain peak that towers above the valley below. Built in the mid 15th century by Pachacuti, the city was thought to have been a major agricultural centre for the Incan Empire and its inaccessibility seems to have preserved it from the looters of the intervening years, resulting in the remarkably well-preserved ruins that we see today. Returning by bus to our simple accommodation in Aguas Calientes, situated on the valley floor below, this evening then affords a chance to relax in the local thermal baths (optional).

Overnight: **Simple Guesthouse**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 12 More time to discover Machu Picchu (optional); train back to Cusco

We have another chance this morning to explore the site and if you want to have a very early start it may be possible to catch sunrise. It is also possible to climb the steep and difficult peak of Huayna Picchu to look down on the Temple of the Sun. This must be pre-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. Alternatively, you can walk along part of the Inca Trail to the Gate of the Sun. Later we take the train to Cusco.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 13 In Cusco; optional whitewater rafting

With a full free day in Cusco there's the chance to go white water rafting on the Urubamba River; grade 2-3 (optional), or perhaps visit the market town of Pisac, strategically located at the head of the Urubamba Valley (optional). Pisac once controlled the road connecting the Inca Empire with Paucartambo on its eastern borders and the magnificent Inca ruins that once so dominated this valley still occupy the mountainside above the town, providing a worthy match for any of the temples of Machu Picchu. Other alternatives include a full day visit to the outlying Inca sites at Qenqo, Puka Pukara and Tambo Machay, or maybe a visit to the fortress-citadel of Saqsaywaman. Built to defend the Inca capital, Saqsaywaman broods high above the town, its huge, zigzagging stone walls broken into 66 sharply projecting angles to catch attackers in a withering crossfire. Meant to represent the head of a puma, 20,000 conscripted workers toiled for 90 years to finish it and it was the site of one of the most fiercely fought battles of the Spanish conquest, when the Incas made one last ditch attempt to drive out the Spanish, an attempt that ended in defeat and death for thousands of them. Otherwise you may want to chill out in Cusco and enjoy the atmosphere of this lively town.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 14 Fly to Puerto Maldonado, transfer to Amazon lodge

Today we transfer to the airport for a short flight to Puerto Maldonado, located in the Southern Amazon area of Peru. You can leave your main luggage in Puerto Maldonado and just take with you what you need for the next few days. The Amazon comprises 60% of Peru and the Peruvian Amazon is the second largest section of the Amazon Rainforest after Brazil. The Amazon basin covers two fifths of South America over many countries including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela and it is the most bio-diverse environment in the world. Most of the basin is covered by the rainforest, which is the largest rainforest in the world. We travel along the Madre de Dios River by dugout canoe (approximately 1 hour) and check into our Amazon lodge. As the lodge is in a remote location, the electricity is provided by a generator and is only available for certain hours of the day. After lunch, we will walk to the Caiman Cocha, a small lake with an abundance of caimans.

Overnight: **Simple Lodge**  
**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 15 In Amazon Jungle; walk in the rainforest, visit Monkey Island

After breakfast, we'll hike towards the depths of the forest, walking on trails crossing gorges and rivers. During the journey we will observe the flooded forest and a variety of flora and wildlife as we continue to the crystal clear Lake Apu Victor which is surrounded by marshes and giant trees. Afterwards, we'll go up to the observation deck to enjoy a panoramic view of the lake and observe wildlife such as parrots, toucans and herons. If we are lucky, we may be able to observe the giant river otter, one of the rainforest's most spectacular animals. After lunch, we head off to 'Monkey Island' where four species of monkeys live, the largest being the spider monkey. These monkeys were originally captured by local people but were since rescued and now live on this island in freedom.

Overnight: **Simple Lodge**  
**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 16 In Amazon Jungle; walk to the Lost Cocha, canoe ride around the lake

Today we will hike in the virgin rainforest to get to the Lost Cocha which constitutes a refuge and feeding ecosystem for a huge variety of animals. This area has huge swamps and palm tree forests and from here we'll have the chance to observe the local fauna. We will visit the observation deck for great views of the rainforest. Afterwards, we'll have a pleasant canoe ride around the lake and will return to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, you can choose to pay an optional visit to the local botanical garden or if you prefer relax around the swimming pool.

Overnight: **Simple Lodge**  
**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 17 Early morning boat to Puerto Maldonado and end trip at airport

Our Amazon adventure comes to an end today after breakfast and we will travel by boat back to Puerto Maldonado, before transferring to the airport. If you prefer you can end your trip at the office in Puerto Maldonado and arrange a taxi transfer to the airport yourself at a time that better suits your own itinerary. The office is a short taxi ride from the town, and about 20 minutes by taxi from the airport.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Accommodation and Meals

### Accommodation Notes

The Ecoamazonia Lodge is a relatively large property located in the middle of the Tambopata ecological reserve; only 30km from Puerto Maldonado on the Madre de Dios River. The accommodation comprises of simply furnished individual wooden bungalows with a porch. The bungalows have mosquito nets on their windows and each have en suite bathroom. The property has a main dining room where buffet breakfasts and lunches are served, a games bar and indoor pool where guests can relax. The property is accessed by a network of bridges and pathways where you'll likely spot some of the resident wildlife. Electricity is provided by a generator twice a day 5am to 6am and from 5pm to 10pm so room lights can be used, batteries charged, etc. but a strong torch is also required. Hot water can be intermittent, the lodge use solar panels to obtain hot water therefore if overcast this may be luke warm.

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## Food & Drink

Included meals: 11 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners 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

### 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

Nazca - Antonini archaeological museum entrance fee US\$ 8 (US\$ 33 for guided tour - includes entrance fee); Chachilla pre-Inca cemetery US\$ 33 (includes guide, transport and entrance fee); Nazca aqueduct US\$ 34 (includes guide, transport and entrance fee).

Arequipa - Visit to Santa Catalina Convent US\$ 14

Puno - Yavari Steamer US\$ 5; 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. The train will no longer be running from 1st May 2017

Taquile Island - Evening folklore show US\$41

Aguas Calientes - Thermal Springs US\$ 4.

Machu Picchu - second entry- approx US\$ 54 and subject to availability, bus to entry US\$ 25 return. Huayna Picchu - £80; Machu Picchu Mountain £80 (both including transport) - Subject to availability - these must be pre-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 - Whitewater rafting US\$ 45; Trip to Pisac US\$ 40-60 depending on numbers.

### 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 approx. US\$ 45 for gratuities for local staff.

### 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. In some establishments Master card is not accepted.

**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](http://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](http://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

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## Travel Aware

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](http://www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety)

We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting [cr@explore.co.uk](mailto:cr@explore.co.uk) or 01252 379438.

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## 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.

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## Visa Information

Peru: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

USA: (including those in transit) 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) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done on line - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely to be refused boarding.

You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover.

If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information. (Not necessary if in transit)

For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on **0208 5431846**.

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## Vaccinations & Protection

### Peru

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against 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. Please note many countries in Central America, South America and the Caribbean require a yellow fever vaccination certificate if travelling from infected areas. A detailed list of these countries can be found on the NaTHNaC website - <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>. Also on the NaTHNaC site there is a list of Countries (and specific areas within a country) which are at risk of infection and a vaccination is therefore recommended. Yellow fever is only recommended for those travelling on the Amazon Extension. 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.

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## Preparing for your Trip

### Altitude Description

As this tour reaches altitudes of 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.

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### 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.

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## Clothing

The highlands enjoy dry sunny days but extremely cold nights so thermal underwear, a well insulated fleece/jacket and a thick jumper are essential. 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.

For your jungle extension, you can expect warmer and more humid conditions. However, there may also be heavy rain showers (it tends to be cooler and drier between May and October). Bring light and loose clothing - long sleeved shirts and long trousers are best when walking through jungle, and a lightweight rainjacket. The warmer clothes from your time in the mountains may also come in useful during the evenings, in case of cool weather.

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## Equipment

A good insect repellent is essential, particularly for use in the jungle. Also bring a small torch, sunhat, water bottle, sunscreen and a small towel (for rafting and thermal baths).

Equipment that you will need for your jungle experience is:

A good torch and spare batteries for night walks and when the generator is not on.

Card games or books for your evenings in the lodge, particularly if there is no electricity

Long sleeved tshirts and full length trousers are recommended to avoid insect bites

A small backpack for walks and boat trips

A good camera with zoom, spare battery and memory cards

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## Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes, trainers and sandals.

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## Luggage: On Tour

One main piece and a daypack and an extra bag for the overnight in Aguas Calientes / Amazon. In Aguas Calientes - The main bags will be left in storage in your hotel in the Sacred Valley. In the Amazon your main luggage will be stored in the offices in Puerto Maldonado. Remember, you are expected to carry your own luggage (i.e. on and off transport etc.) so don't overload yourself. It is recommended you bring lockable bags.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

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# General Information

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## 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

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## Electric Supply & Plugs

### Peru

2 Pin Flat

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# 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 & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of 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.

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## 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.

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## Earth Matters

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) and have recently supported women's cooperatives in Borneo and Morocco. We are a member of Tourism Concern's Ethical Tour Operator Group ([www.tourismconcern.org.uk](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)) and support their campaign for fair and ethical tourism. We also care passionately about the world's wildlife and actively support and promote the Born Free Organisation and Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

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## 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 Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. 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.

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### 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

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### 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.

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### 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: 2017 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2017. 2018/19 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2018.

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