JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

SIGNATURE PERU: THE INCA HEARTLAND AND AMAZON RAINFOREST

10 days from **£2,510pp**

PERU / SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS / MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO / THE PERUVIAN AMAZON (SOUTH)



WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE, NO-ONE KNOWS LATIN AMERICA LIKE WE DO

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

- A passion for the region runs through all we do
- All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America
- Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

- Fully bonded and licensed
- ATOL-protected
- On your side when it matters
- Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

- Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks
- We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions
- Let us show you the Latin America we know and love

OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

This private tour of Peru explores the Inca heartland in the Andes, including the Sacred Valley, Cusco and Machu Picchu, before heading to the Amazon for a wildlife filled adventure. It offers the perfect blend of history, culture and wildlife and can easily be combined with other areas of interest either within Peru or one of its fascinating neighbours.

DAY 1	**Arrive in Cusco and drive to the Sacred Valley.**
DAY 2	**Visit Pisaq ruins, market and Ollantaytambo Inca ruins.**
DAY 3	**By train to Machu Picchu, guided tour of the site.**
DAY 4	**Return to Cusco by rail and road.**
DAY 5	**Guided tour of the city.**
DAY 6	**Day at leisure.**
DAY 7	**Transfer to the airport and fly to Puerto Maldonado**
DAYS 8-9	**Jungle excursions from your lodge**
DAY 10	**Transfer to the airport**

ITINERARY

Explore the rich history and breathtaking landscapes of Peru on this private tour. Begin your journey in the Sacred Valley of the Andes, visiting the Pisaq ruins and market, as well as the ancient Ollantaytambo Inca ruins.

Next, embark on a scenic train ride to the legendary Machu Picchu, where you'll enjoy a guided tour of this iconic site. Afterward, return to Cusco by rail and road, spending a few days immersed in the heart of the Inca Empire. During your stay, take advantage of optional excursions to Maras and Moray, or indulge in activities like white-water rafting, cycling, or e-biking..

Your adventure continues with a flight to Puerto Maldonado, the gateway to the Amazon. From there, travel downriver to a comfortable jungle lodge and choose from a variety of wildlife-based activities.

DAY 1

Arrive in Cusco and drive to the Sacred Valley.



You will be met at Cusco airport and transferred by road to the fertile Sacred Valley of the Incas. Once the bread-basket of the Inca empire, it was heavily populated in imperial times and scores of archaeological sites remain, where well-preserved ruins bear witness to the highly developed society that the Incas created. Overnight in the heart of the valley for two nights, beneath the dome of a vast, clear Andean sky.

DAY 2

Visit Pisaq ruins, market and Ollantaytambo Inca ruins.



Embark on a journey through the enchanting Sacred Valley, where you'll visit several villages and temple fortresses. Your adventure begins in Pisaq, exploring both the charming village and the ancient terraces and fortifications perched high above. The engineering and preservation here are truly unrivaled.

As you travel from the flat valley floor, the sculpted hillsides rise like a green staircase to the heavens. Continue through this picturesque, patchwork valley to the fortress and temple of Ollantaytambo. Here, the snow-capped Andean cordillera provides a stunning backdrop.

The fortress boasts intact colonial grid plans and original Inca foundations, offering breathtaking views over the sloping hillsides and into the fertile valley below.

DAY 3

By train to Machu Picchu, guided tour of the site.



Traveling just 1.5 hours by train from Ollantaytambo, you reach the awe-inspiring ruins of Machu Picchu. As the Urubamba River winds its way through a narrow gorge between densely forested granite hills, the single-track railway clings to the right bank, passing through tiny hamlets that are little more than clusters of shacks by the tracks. Near the base of the mountain, on a saddle where the citadel stands, lies the bustling town of Machu Picchu (also known as Aguas Calientes), which caters to visitors with its artisan markets, bars, and restaurants.

The majestic, ruined city, reclaimed from the tropical cloud forest, can be accessed by bus along a winding road or on foot via a near-vertical rocky path. Discovered by American explorer Hiram Bingham in 1911, the city was completely buried beneath jungle vegetation at the time. Perched on a ridge spur amid forested peaks and above a roaring river canyon, Machu Picchu offers an unforgettable experience. During your visit, you'll embark on a guided tour of the ruins, delving into the fascinating history of this mountaintop masterpiece, before heading back down to spend the night in the nearby town.

DAY 4

Return to Cusco by rail and road.



This morning you can take the opportunity to return to the magnificent site of Machu Picchu (optional and at additional cost). Rising early and catching the first buses up to the site is well worth it, as the area can be much quieter in the early morning. You'll be greeted by swirling mists around the surrounding mountain tops, creating a mystical atmosphere.

You have the option to climb the steep and challenging Huayna Picchu mountain if you would like to see the ruins from a different perspective (advance booking required), or you can enjoy the thermal baths or take a walk in the village below. Afterward, return to Cusco by rail and road.

DAY 5

Guided tour of the city.



The name Cusco derives from the Quechua word for "navel," signifying its central location within the Inca Empire. Today, Cusco's impressive original Inca walls showcase extraordinary craftsmanship, while its bustling squares are adorned with ornate baroque colonial churches. It's a lively city where shoeshine boys and postcard sellers vie for your attention along cobbled streets lined with handicraft shops and cafés. As evening falls, the town center comes alive with people flocking to the numerous restaurants, bars, and cafés.

Today, embark on a guided tour of the city. You'll explore Q'oricancha, once the principal Inca Sun Temple, known for its intricate stonework. Next, visit a traditional textiles museum before heading to San Pedro market, where you'll discover a vast array of meats, fruits, and vegetables.

DAY 6

Day at leisure.



Cusco is a compact city, easy to explore on foot independently. You are at leisure to discover the colourful markets, the many churches and museums, and to wander the attractive narrow streets.

There are optional excursions in the surrounding region, including a trip to Maras and Moray, about an hour's drive from Cusco. Moray is a system of ancient agricultural irrigation paths which now form circular depressions in the earth, with wonderful views into the Sacred Valley and in the shadow of the snowy peak of Mount Veronica. From here it is a short drive to the salt pans at Maras, circular pans of glistening white carved into the mountainside. Feeling you'd like to be active? White-water rafting, cycling and e-biking are just some of your other options.

DAY 7

Transfer to the airport and fly to Puerto Maldonado

Transfer to the airport, where you will board a flight to Puerto Maldonado, the gateway to the Peruvian Amazon. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted by your guide and embark on bus ride to the Tambopata River. Continue by boat and navigate along the winding waters, immersing yourself in the breathtaking beauty of the jungle.

Arriving at your comfortable Amazon lodge, you'll settle in and prepare for a few days of exciting wildlife-based excursions.

DAYS 8-9

Jungle excursions from your lodge

From guided jungle treks and canopy walks to boat trips and nocturnal wildlife spotting, you'll have the opportunity to explore the rich biodiversity of the Amazon. Choose from a variety of activities that bring you up close with the incredible flora and fauna of this unique ecosystem.



DAY 10

Transfer to the airport

Travel back to the airport and either continue home or extend your adventure elsewhere.

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- Guided visit to Pisaq market and ruins, Ollantaytambo village and Inca fortress and the Sacred Valley
- Guided tour of Machu Picchu
- Tour of the city of Cusco and nearby ruins
- A range of activities whilst staying at your Amazon lodge

ESSENTIALS

Two scenic road journeys (2 hours each); two rail journeys (1.5 hours each); one flight (1 hour); 2 bus journeys (1 hour each); 2 boat journeys (45 minutes each).

On this tour we use good value mid-range hotels, they are small, friendly establishments, with well equipped ensuite rooms. In the Amazon we use a comfortable lodge with good access to the wildlife. Alternative options are available in all regions.

Breakfast daily, lunch days 2 and 3, dinner on day 7, and all meals on days 8 and 9.

We carefully select our local partners, some of whom we have worked with for over 25 years. Their English-speaking guides understand the expectations of our clients very well, and are consistently singled out for praise by clients on their return.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

10 days, 9 nights: Sacred Valley 2; Machu Picchu 1; Cusco 3; Amazon 3.

CURRENCY

The unit of currency in Peru is the sol.

HOW TO TAKE IT

Cash machines are available in all major cities and towns, and so taking a debit or credit card with a PIN number is the most convenient way of withdrawing money while on your trip, and in most shops and restaurants you can also pay by card. However, since cards can get lost, damaged, withheld or blocked, you should not rely exclusively on a card to access funds.

We recommend that additionally you take a reasonable quantity of US dollars cash (no more than is covered by your insurance), which you can exchange into local currency, and possibly some travellers' cheques, though these are gradually falling out of use (American Express are the most widely accepted). Dollar bills should be in good condition, soiled or torn bills may be refused. You can take sterling, but the exchange rate is not always competitive or even available, restricting the number of places where you can change money.

DAILY SPEND

It is very difficult to give a guideline for essential expenses but a budget of around US$35 per day should cover the cost of meals not included in the holiday itinerary, drinks and the odd souvenir. Eat at the best restaurants and you will pay considerably more.

TIPPING

Tips are welcomed and local guides often rely on their tip as a significant proportion of their income.

Most service industry workers will expect a tip of some kind and so it is useful to have spare change for hotel porters, taxi drivers and the like. It is common to leave 10 – 12% in restaurants.

Tipping guidelines can be found in our Briefing Dossier.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is essential.

Details of our recommended policy can be found on our Travel Insurance page.

AIRPORT TAXES

If you have purchased your flights through Journey Latin America, the international departure tax and taxes on internal flights are usually included in the ticket.

TRIP SUITABILITY

This holiday is suitable for all able-bodied, reasonably fit visitors, including families. Although there are some early starts, there is also some time at leisure.

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Anyone with a different nationality should enquire with us or check with the relevant consulate.

If flying to the US, or via the US you will need to fill in your online ESTA application.

The rainy season in the Andes runs between November and March, when there are showers most afternoons. The dry season is in June, July, and August, when the sun is strong during the day, but at night the temperature drops dramatically (from freezing point to 10°C). May, September, and October are less predictable, with both rainy and sunny spells.

In contrast, Puerto Maldonado in the Peruvian Amazon experiences a tropical climate with warm temperatures year-round. The rainy season runs from October to April, characterized by abundant rainfall and lush greenery. The dry season, from May to August, offers a respite with lower rainfall and slightly cooler temperatures. The average annual temperature is around 24.9°C (76.8°F), making it a warm and inviting destination.

Your stays in the Sacred Valley (2800-3000m) and Cusco (3400m), are at high altitude. Although you fly into Cusco, you'll transfer directly to the Sacred Valley, then Machu Picchu (2000m). This minimises the time spent at altitude and gives your body time to acclimatise. Most people are only mildly affected and if you drink plenty of water and don't exert yourself or drink alcohol for the first couple of days, you'll probably be OK. Symptoms vary: most common are mild headaches, slight nausea and breathlessness. If you don't recover in a day or two speak to our representatives; in very rare instances it is necessary to descend to lower altitudes.

Altitude is not an issue once you reach the Amazon.

Please refer to our Briefing Dossier for further information.

For day-to-day wear you should go prepared to encounter all seasons. Both warm clothing and a sun hat are essential at altitude; a light fleece jacket and a waterproof/breathable outer shell makes a good combination. Trousers, skirt or shorts made from light, quick-drying synthetic materials work well. If you plan to eat in smart restaurants, although clothing is not formal (no need for jacket and tie), something quite smart would be appropriate. Dark clothing is better for wildlife spotting in the rainforest, while long sleeves and trousers will help protect you from mosquitos.

Strong, comfortable footwear is essential and you should bring insect repellant, sun block and sun glasses. You should take swimwear for pools though most hotels don't have them. Due to luggage restrictions on the train to Machu Picchu, main luggage must be left in Cusco. You can take up to 10kgs per person on the train and an overnight holdall is recommended to separate your luggage for the night spent away from Cusco.

Please get in touch with the office before departure if you have any doubts. Good equipment is very important and hard to come by in South America.

Preventative vaccinations are recommended against the following: typhoid; polio; tetanus; hepatitis A. You should consult your GP for specific requirements.

You can also find helpful information on the Masta Travel Health website.

With economic accommodation and shared excursions, this trip is suitable for single travellers.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

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