



Journey to Machu Picchu and Argentina



Dear Enrichment Journeys Traveler,

As part of the process of preparing for your January 13, 2014 Journey to Machu Picchu and Argentina, I personally visited the area between July 30th and August 8th in order to preview the trip and to ensure that all of our arrangements are in place. I am pleased to report that you will find an interesting tour operated by our very knowledgeable associates in Peru, Chile and Argentina. I am also pleased to inform you that as a result of these visits, I have made some improvements to the itinerary that will add to your comfort and enjoyment of the trip. My comments follow the order of the trip and in some cases refer to some changes I have made to the itinerary.





As you may already know, greater Lima is a sprawling city with many districts. When locals refer to Lima, they are generally referring to the city center – a Colonial area featuring older architecture and most of the governmental buildings. The more modern hotels are located in the districts of San Ysidro and Miraflores, two of the more attractive sections of the modern part of the city.

Hotel Accommodations

Due to the size of our group, we have moved our hotel from the Doubletree to the HOTEL ESTELAR MIRAFLORES (<http://www.hotelesestelar.com/en/destinos/peru/lima/miraflores>). I found the rooms there to be generous in size and extremely comfortable. The hotel sits across from a modern casino, and is within walking distance of both shopping and several restaurants, although your time there includes both lunch and dinner.



Peru Lima Cathedral

Depending upon your arrival day and time, the tour may begin after leaving the airport or will take place mid-day.

It starts in the Colonial area, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Here you will find the Presidential Palace and the Lima Cathedral, impressive buildings that are still being used. Then visit Saint Francis' Church, which has an enviable collection of old books and a network of catacombs open to the public. Next, you will go to the traditional Pueblo Libre district, to visit the Larco Museum. Founded by Rafael Larco Hoyle in 1926, the museum is located inside a regal mansion built on a Pre-Columbian pyramid of the 7th



century. The visit to this museum allows an understanding of the five thousand years of development achieved by the cultures that flourished before the Inca Empire. It shows the most complete pre-Hispanic collection of gold and silver artifacts anywhere. Finally, you will be transferred to the Miraflores district, to visit the Love Park, located on the cliffs of Miraflores, which has a spectacular view of Lima's Bay. That evening, we've arranged for dinner at Dama Juana, a unique restaurant where creole cooking is the house specialty, and the ambience artfully combines dance, music and flavors.

Sacred Valley

Prepare yourself for an early departure from Lima for the one hour and 30 minute flight to Cusco. After arrival, your bags will continue on to your hotel and you will board an air-conditioned motor coach to drive about an hour to the Valley. On the way, you will tour at the Sacsayhuamán fortress, located a few minutes away from Cusco, and built by Inca Pachacútec in the 15th century. It is a huge fortress made of very large stones, and the manner in which they were transported and cut is still a mystery. You will then go to Qenko, a circular amphitheater built mainly for religious purposes, and then visit Puka Pukara, which means "red fortress", an architectural



complex presumably used for military purposes. Then it's off to Pisac, a town shaped as a partridge, which is known for its craft market established between colonial buildings and for housing one of the most impressive complex of agricultural terraces in the valley. The market has scores of stands that exhibit and sell products manufactured by the residents of the area.



We have planned a lunch at Wayra Ranch where you will be delighted by a meal designed by the prominent Chef, Pedro Miguel Schiaffino and Nacho Solis. The ranch is also known for the Peruvian Paso horse, renowned for the smoothest gait in the world. Stunning equestrian demonstrations and marinera music will create a memorable afternoon before we continue on to Ollantaytambo, a typical example of the urban planning of the Incas, whose residents still live in accordance with the old traditions. You will find a huge archaeological complex which, although it bears the name of fortress, it was actually a tambo, a leisure city used to accommodate the delegations that traveled long distances. The day ends with a surprise . . .

Hotel Accommodations

. . . **Imagine** heading back to Cusco on a two-lane road overlooking the Vilcanota River. Then you turn down a narrow road and cross a bridge before turning left and heading down a poorly paved road. You are confused and maybe concerned that the driver has lost his way. And then you see two massive doors at the end of the road. The driver honks, and the doors open to reveal a veritable oasis in the middle of the Sacred Valley. You have arrived at Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel and Wellness (an upgrade from our originally planned hotel). You'll enjoy a tranquil evening and a meal at this specially-chosen hotel built on the grounds of a 17th century colonial hacienda. **See** http://www.aranwahotels.com/sacred_valley_hotel.php



Of Special Note

One of the reasons that we have organized an overnight at Aranwa is because the altitude of Cusco is 11,200 feet while the altitude at Aranwa and in Machu Picchu is about 3,000 feet less, meaning that you will have some time to adjust to the higher altitudes before spending time in Cusco. Regardless of this, if you are prone to altitude sickness or have questions about the effects of higher altitude, we suggest that you check with your personal physician.





Peru Machu Picchu



Please note

Please note: be sure to bring your passport with you as local authorities check the name on the ticket against a picture ID. Also, luggage on the train is limited to a backpack. Having recently visited with a three pound camera and two pound lens, my personal advice is the less you bring the better – it's less to carry up and down the mountain.

After breakfast, you will be driven half an hour to the Ollantaytambo train station and embark for the two hour ride to Agua Caliente, also known as Machu Picchu pueblo. After leaving the train, you will walk through a crafts market and board a local bus for the ascent to Machu Picchu, the most important archaeological site in Peru. The ascent takes about 20 minutes on narrow switchback roads – you will marvel at the skill of the drivers as your expectations heighten with each new vista. Your local guide will talk about the site and will lead you in small groups around the site according to the level of exercise you are comfortable with. All I will say about the experience is that the view from the top is well worth the climb, though it helps to have the right shoes and a strong stamina. You will spend roughly two hours on the site and have lunch in Agua Caliente before boarding the train for the return to Ollantaytambo station and the roughly two hour ride to Cusco.

Hotel Accommodations

We have changed the itinerary and upgraded the hotel to provide you with a two-night stay at the new **JWMarriottHotelinCusco**(<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cuzmc-jw-marriott-hotel-cusco/>).



By allowing two nights in Cusco, we have slowed the pace so you can enjoy this quaint city that served as the capital of the Inca Empire. We have planned a morning visit to the Coricancha, also known as the “Temple of the Sun” built by Inca Pachacútec (1438-1471), and used as base for the construction of the Santo Domingo Convent upon



the arrival of the Spaniards. This is the temple whose walls were fully covered with gold sheets and its courtyards were planted with golden corn and life-size llamas. You will then go to the Cathedral, the most important Building on the Main Square of today’s Cusco, and one of the most splendid Spanish colonial churches in America. Its construction lasted almost a century. You will visit the Sacsayhuamán complex, built with megalithic blocks that still pose a mystery today as to how the blocks were transported and how they were lifted into place. Finally, you will visit Qenqo, located four kilometers away from Cusco City. An archaeological complex used mainly used for religious purposes, it is believed that agricultural rituals took place here. You will also visit the vestiges of Puka Pukara, located seven kilometers away from Cusco. You’ll enjoy lunch and an afternoon at leisure, before a farewell dinner and a morning departure for Santiago.



On arrival in Santiago, you will need to pay a Reciprocity Tax of \$160 per person before proceeding through local immigration and customs. This tax is levied on all North American visitors and is apparently the same as the entry fee the US imposes on persons arriving from Chile. The tax may be charged on your credit card and it appears as a US amount. After collecting your bags and proceeding through customs, you will be met and transferred to a motor coach.

Hotel Accommodations

We are planning a short tour around the city that will include main landmarks in the city of Santiago, such as Avenida Bernardo O'Higgins, Santa Lucia Hill, Barrio Lastarria, the La Moneda Palace, the Santiago City Hall, the Cathedral, the old financial district, and the urban park Parque Forestal, the confines of which hold the lovely Museum of Fine Arts building. Last, but not least, you will take a tour of the new financial district, cleverly known as "Sanhattan", located at the highest point in the city. You will then check in to the Crown Plaza hotel and spend the balance of your day at leisure. See <http://bit.ly/ej-crowne>



In the morning, you will check out of your hotel and meet your guide for your trip to the coastal area and your Celebrity Infinity embarkation later in the day. You will start with a visit to a local winery with wine tasting and lunch included, and then enjoy a brief tour at the cities of Valparaiso & Viña Del Mar ending at the pier. The main port of Chile, Valparaiso was recently appointed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. You will tour Errazuriz Avenue, the harbor, the Promenade and Prat Pier, Sotomayor Square, the Custom building, Portales Beach and the Membrillo Fishermen cove, Playa Ancha district with the Naval Academy, Cerro (Hill) Artilleria - with a panoramic sight over the port and the bay, the old bohemian port quarter, and continue through the business center. If time allows, you may be able to ascend one of the older funiculars to the Gervasoni and Atkinson Promenades with XIX century aristocratic mansions overlooking the harbor.

Viña Del Mar, a resort town and also a residential area for both cities, was created in XIX Century by the breaking up of the old Viña del Mar Estancia (farm) owned by the Vergara family and slowly converted into an attractive town, today a primary resort on the South Pacific coast of South America. On arrival we will see the garden clock on the hillside of Cerro Castillo, on top of which stands the Presidents' summer residence, following the La Marina Avenue and the seaside Peru Avenue, will observe the Casino. Further on will visit La Salinas and Reñaca beaches, the coastal road leading to Concon fishermen village. At the Oceanic Rock View Point, we turn around toward the center of the city via the Libertad Avenue in sight of the La Rioja Palace, the Sporting Club racing track, the Vergara Square and the classic Valparaiso promenade-street. The tour will end at Valparaíso pier and a hearty Bon Voyage as you join your cruise.





Argentina

Buenos Aires



As is the case of Chile, you will be required to pay a per person Reciprocity Fee to Argentina in the same amount (USD \$160.00). In this case, you are required to pay it in advance and may do so online at <https://virtual.provinciapagos.com.ar/ArgentineTaxes/>

As you may know, your cruise is docked in Buenos Aires overnight and will offer shore excursions during the day of arrival. On your departure day, Enrichment Journeys has arranged a tour that will leave from pier side in the morning and will offer a city highlight tour before making a shopping stop. You will have time for strolling, shopping or perhaps lunch, before continuing on to the airport for a late afternoon check-in for your flight home.