



Food, Art & Adventure in Peru

*A Handcrafted Arts, Culture & Culinary
Adventure from Lima to Machu Picchu*

Private Departures Year Round

9D / 8N: Lima, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu and Cusco
Optional extensions to the Amazon &/or Lake Titicaca

Whet Your Appetite

While the world is talking about the Lima restaurant scene, you'll be invited on the inside, to experience this culinary phenomenon alongside some of its most innovative players.

Accompany the team of Barra Lima, one of Peru's finest seafood restaurants, to forage along the coast for items that will be on your menu this same afternoon. Along the way, visit one of their dockside purveyors to understand the breadth and quality of Peru's thanks to the cold Humboldt Current that hugs its coast. Return to Barra Lima to enjoy a chef's choice tasting menu, prepared and presented by Chef John Evans Ravenna himself.

In the Sacred Valley, you'll walk through fields of organic grains, tubers and vegetable crops, and along Inca trails, all the while learning about the region's endemic ingredients and how this relates to local communities, culture and traditions.

At the mysterious crop circles of Moray, spend the afternoon with the team at Virgilio Martinez's magnificent destination restaurant, MIL, enjoying a signature tasting menu and contemplating the stunning natural environment that makes this one of the world's most memorable dining experiences.

In addition to superlative access and food experiences throughout the trip, get an off-the-beaten-path look at the art and architecture of Lima and of course enjoy an in-depth exploration of the UNESCO World Heritage wonder of Machu Picchu.

Balance active daytime adventures with sublime 5-star boutique lodging at night. From start to finish, this is an unforgettable, one-of-a-kind adventure you'll gleefully reflect upon for years.

Thumbnail Itinerary



Day 1: Arrive Lima / Included Meals: None

Most flights arrive to Lima at night. Be met upon arrival at the airport and transfer to your historic, art-filled boutique hotel in the heart of Lima's bohemian Barranco neighborhood.

Lodging for two nights in Lima

4-star option: at *Villa Barranco* (or similar), a Republican Era mansion recently restored and converted into a cozy boutique B&B in the heart of Lima's Barranco neighborhood.

5-star upgrade: at *Hotel B* (or similar), a luxuriously re-imagined national historic monument turned art-filled, urban oasis in the heart of Lima's Barranco neighborhood.

Day 2: Art & Architecture in Bohemian Barranco / Included Meals: B, L

Barranco is one of Lima's most walk-able, colorful, culturally rich neighborhoods. Explore it this morning on foot with a guided walking tour to discover its origins, art and iconic architecture. Finish with lunch at one of Latin America's top rated restaurants serving soulful *criollo* food.

Dinner in Lima on your own this evening. We're happy to make recommendations / reservations.

Day 3: Coastal Foraging + Chef's Table + Afternoon Adventure / Included Meals: B, L

Accompany the team of Barra Lima, one of Peru's finest seafood restaurants, to forage along the coast for items that will be on your menu this same afternoon. Along the way, visit one of their dockside purveyors to understand the breadth and quality of Peru's thanks to the cold Humboldt Current that hugs its coast. Return to Barra Lima to enjoy a chef's choice tasting menu, prepared and presented by Chef John Evans Ravenna himself.

Choose your own ABC afternoon adventure: Art, Bike or Coffee

Art: Enjoy a guided visit to the beautifully appointed *Larco Museum* – in my opinion, one of the finest of its kind in South America. With over 45,000 pieces of ceramics, sculpture, textiles and jewelry, the museum is the ideal place for an overview of Peru's ancient civilizations. --or--

Bike: Explore the Miraflores and San Isidro neighborhoods by bike, from the beauty of public spaces in Lima's seaside cliffs, to discovering a variety of native fruit and vegetables in the San Isidro Market. Archaeology and architecture, city parks, a popular cemetery and an ancient olive tree grove all form part of this fascinating urban panorama. -- or --

Coffee: Experience coffee from bean-to-bar with a master roaster in Lima. Use all five senses, as you progress through a guided tasting of Peru's various coffee growing regions.

Day 4: Gangland to Grace Notes + Flight to Cusco & Sacred Valley / Included Meals: B, L

Dive into Callão with a guided visit through *Casa Ronald* and its surrounding streets. This once grand building constructed in the early 20th century with cathedral-high ceilings and marble columns has been restored and transformed into an arts and music hub – reclaiming this formerly gang-infested neighborhood. The energy here is palpable, from the colorful mural-filled streets, to the artists in residence at work in their studios, a few of whom you'll have a chance to visit.

Continue to the airport for a late afternoon flight to Cusco. Upon arrival, transfer (approximately 90 minutes) by private vehicle to Urubamba, in the heart of the Sacred Valley.



Lodging for three nights in the Sacred Valley

4-star option: at *Green House Villas (or similar)*. A bucolic setting, all the comforts of home combined with the services of a fine hotel and tremendous Andean views have made it amongst the most coveted stays in the Sacred Valley.

5-star upgrade: at *Hacienda Urubamba (or similar)*, an award-winning hacienda filled with museum quality textiles, ceramics and other Peruvian art. A large, onsite organic *huerto* (vegetable garden) supplies the hotel's restaurant.

Day 5: **Weaving & Dyeing + Picturesque Picnic** / **Included Meals: B, L**

Drive to Chinchero, one of the most picturesque communities in the Sacred Valley any day of the week. If your visit can be timed with the weekly market each Sunday, it will be especially full of color, life and trade.

Stop into the CTTC, an indigenous weaving cooperative founded two decades ago by our friend, renowned textile expert and National Geographic Grantee Nilda Callañaupa. Learn how the 2,000 year-old Peruvian textile arts play a key role in Andean life, rituals and festivals.

Enjoy a picnic lunch and an afternoon hike along the shores of an Andean lagoon while snow-capped sacred mountains and an ever-changing sky playfully reflect off its glassy surface. Return to Hacienda Urubamba in the late afternoon.

Day 6: **Fertile Fields, Crop Circles & MIL Moray** / **Included Meals: B, L**

Accompanied by a specialist guide, walk through fields of native grains, tubers and vegetable crops, and along ancient Inca trails, all the while learning about the region's endemic ingredients and how this relates to local communities, history, culture and Andean traditions.

At the mysterious crop circles of Moray, spend the afternoon with the team at Virgilio Martinez's magnificent destination restaurant, MIL, enjoying a signature tasting menu and contemplating the stunning natural environment that makes this one of the world's most memorable destination dining experiences.

Day 7: **Ollantaytambo + On the Orchid Trail** / **Included Meals: B, L, D**

Transfer to the idyllic market town of Ollantaytambo this morning & marvel at the enormous Inca-designed stone fortifications.

Take the mid-morning train to Machu Picchu Pueblo, the town just below Machu Picchu Citadel and continue to the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, nestled in its own lush, 12-acre nature reserve below Machu Picchu. Enjoy an afternoon exploration of the world's largest native orchid garden (with 372 varieties registered) and a twilight walk accompanied by an expert naturalist guide.

Lodging for one night near Machu Picchu

At the stunning and secluded *Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel (or similar)*, one of South America's most awarded eco-lodges.



Day 8 / Magic Machu Picchu – First Light / Included Meals: B, L

Be amongst the privileged first few to enter Machu Picchu as the sun begins to rise. It's easy to feel the magic and this special hour before others arrive from the town below. Continue to enjoy an unstructured exploration of the ruins, walking back to the Sun Gate or just meditating in one of many quite corners.

Take a train this afternoon to the Sacred Valley & continue with a ground transfer to Cusco.

Lodging for one night in Cusco

4-star option: at *El Mercado (or similar)*, an elegant, welcoming boutique hotel that incorporates flavorful elements of a local market into its décor and atmosphere.

5-star upgrade: at *La Casona (or similar)*, a Relais & Chateaux awarded 11-suite luxurious boutique hotel housed in a 16th Century Spanish colonial mansion built over the palace of Inca Manco Capac.

Day 9: Cusco Unveiled / Included Meals: B, L

Cusco is, simply put, one of the most beautiful Spanish colonial cities of the Americas. This morning is dedicated to an in-depth exploration of this charming city on foot. Delve into one of Cusco's boisterous, fragrant open markets to see and taste some of Peru's exotic fruits and produce.

Continue your urban explorations with historical visits including: Santo Domingo, built directly on the Inca stone base of the Koricancha temple (the Temple of the Sun), the Plaza de Armas, the Cathedral, and the artists' neighborhood of San Blas.

Transfer for your late afternoon flight to Lima in time for your overnight flight home. -- or --
[Extend for an extra night \(at additional cost\) for an unstructured day in Cusco.](#)

END OF CULTURE XPLORERS' PROGRAM -- FOOD, ART & ADVENTURE IN PERU

Costs & Details



\$5,497* = Food, Art & Adventure / 4-star lodging / per traveler / double occupancy
\$5,997* = Food, Art & Adventure / 5-star upgrade / per traveler / double occupancy
International airfare + two internal Peru flights additional / please see notes below
*\$500 *Peru Restaurant Week* discount already deducted from each of the trip options above

Included:

- Specialist guides in Lima, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu and Cusco as well as chefs, farmers, indigenous textile artists & other cultural ambassadors join you throughout the course of this Peru adventure
- Culture Explorers' *Signature Experiences* listed throughout this itinerary
- Lodging in sumptuous boutique hotels (choose either the 4-star or 5-star options) brimming with history, style & local character
- Meals: breakfast and lunch daily (except Day 1) plus one dinner
- Private ground transportation throughout (except train & shuttle buses to Machu Picchu)
- All entry fees to included museums, trail permits, national parks, monuments, etc.
- Emergency oxygen supply aboard our vehicle throughout your time in the Andes
- Purified water provided aboard our vehicle – you will also receive a stainless steel eco bottle which may be refilled at the hotel and aboard our transport – our goal is to reduce plastic waste from single use disposable bottles
- Private airport transfers
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials, including: articles of interest, a recommended reading list, packing, weather & other tips to help you navigate smoothly in Peru

Additional:

- International airfare to and from Lima, Peru
- Two domestic air segments within Peru: LIM / CUZ / LIM (approximately \$380/pp)
- Tip to guides & drivers – thumbnail guidelines included in our pre-departure materials
- Approximately 1 meal per day
- Traveler's medical and emergency evacuation insurance (highly recommended)
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcoholic beverages, etc.

Details:

- Private, customizable departure for a minimum of 2 travelers
- Trip length: 9 days, plus international travel time
- Activity level: on a scale of 1 to 5, this trip is a 2+. It's physically active, but not too demanding. You must be able to walk comfortably and unassisted up to 2 hours at a time & up to 3 hours per day at altitudes ranging from sea level to 12,000 feet. Walking surfaces will vary from city sidewalks, paved roads, cobblestone streets and dirt trails. If you choose biking in Lima, it's closer to a 3. It can easily be adapted to your preferences.

TO LEARN MORE PLEASE CONTACT US

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