

Holbrook's Explorer Series

The Inca Highlights of Peru

With Dr. Marylin Lisowski

June 27-July 5, 2008



Peru presents tremendous contrasts, from arid coastline and high mountain peaks to vast jungles in the Amazon. Culturally, Peru offers small Indian villages, beautiful colonial cities and the mysterious and awe-inspiring ruins of the pre-Columbian civilizations. This eight-day program takes you through an in-depth exploration of Peruvian cultures, past and present. Participants learn about the anthropology and archaeology of the Inca while visiting Machu Picchu, Cusco and the Sacred Valley. You'll also meet the Inca descendants and learn how these groups live and continue ancient languages and traditions. Peru's rich and layered cultural history makes it a fascinating place of exploration for all travelers.

Cost Per Person: \$2247 plus international airfare

Cost is based on 10 participants and includes Lima-Cusco-Lima flights, accommodations in triple occupancy, transportation, expert local guide, activities and meals as stated in the itinerary. Additional \$30 per person to room in double. For a single room, add \$245. Forced doubles or singles charged at final payment. Not included: gratuities for drivers/guide, \$30 departure tax and international airfare. Call Holbrook at 800-451-7111 for a quote from your city. A completed enrollment form and \$200 per person deposit is due now to secure your space on the trip, final payment is due March 24, 2008. Final payments are non-refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. See www.travelinsured.com or call 800-243-3174 for more info—Holbrook's agency number is 15849.

Itinerary Highlights

Yucay

- Explore the **Sacred Valley** and the **ruins of Ollantaytambo Fortress**
- Experience the bustle of the **Pisac and Urubamba Markets** and the vibrant colors of the **local art**
- Learn about current **agricultural practices** and **modern cultures** of the Andes
- Visit with members of the **Willoq community**

Cusco

- Explore the **city of Cusco** – the oldest continuously inhabited city in South America
- Walk through history as you wander the **Sacsayhuaman Ruins** on a **bicycle**
- Learn about **Andean music** and different instruments

Machu Picchu

- Marvel at scenic vistas as you ride via train to **Aguas Calientes**
- Journey high into the Andes to discover the mysteries of **Machu Picchu** and explore the ruins and their surroundings

 **HOLBROOK**

800-451-7111

www.holbrooktravel.com

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Day 1

Lima

Upon your arrival at Lima's International Airport, you will be met by a local driver representative and taken to your hotel in Miraflores, a suburb of Lima. As most flights arrive at night you will check in and spend the night. Overnight at **Hotel Casa Andina or similar**

Day 2

Lima

Guided day around Lima and surroundings. Overnight at **Hotel Casa Andina or similar (BLD)**

Day 3

Yucay

Early in the morning your driver will take you to the airport for your flight to Cusco. On arrival you will be met by your local guide and transferred to Yucay at 8500 feet. Along the way, you will visit the Awanakancha Center to learn about the South American camels and derivatives gotten using the traditional and modern techniques such as dyeing, spinning and weaving. Afterwards, you will stop at the Pisac market. Pisac comes alive on market day! Members of the surrounding communities travel to Pisac to sell their goods and to buy and trade for day-to-day items. Past the handicraft stalls that offer souvenirs you will find the produce section, which is the most authentic and colorful in Peru. Women sell dozens of varieties of corn; butchers with huge machetes carve pork; men weigh powdered dye for those wishing to color newly spun alpaca wool. Overnight at the **Hotel Illary or similar (BLD)**

Day 4

Yucay

After breakfast visit the Indian community of Willoq. Ethnologists consider Willoq to be virtually unchanged in its social structure, dress and language from pre-Inca times. Once the agricultural heart of the Inca Empire, now more than 200 cultivars of potato and several dozen varieties of corn are still grown here. You will have a chance to visit a local school (if in session). Basic school supplies are appreciated! This afternoon you will continue to Ollantaytambo, the oldest continuously occupied settlement in the Americas and learn about its ancient heritage while walking on the narrow streets and marveling at the numerous canals unchanged since Inca times. Overnight at **Hotel Illary or similar (BLD)**

Day 5

Aguas Calientes

With small overnight/carry-on bag in hand, you will board a train early this morning for the scenic ride to Aguas Calientes. The train weaves through valleys and rivers until it reaches the base of the peak on which Machu Picchu is located. A short bus ride up to the ruins and the splendor of the Inca unfolds before you. Machu Picchu, The Lost City of the Incas is probably the best-known and most spectacular archaeological site on the continent. The quality of the stonework and the abundance of ornamental sites indicate that Machu Picchu must have been an important ceremonial center, but archaeologists are still trying to uncover details of the city's history and purpose. Guided tour of the ruins this afternoon after lunch. Overnight at **Presidente Hostel or similar (BLD)**

Day 6

Cusco

After breakfast, enjoy a hike to the Mandor Waterfall for a picnic lunch before returning to check out of the hotel and take the scenic train ride back to Cusco. Upon arrival, the rest of the day is at leisure to explore Cusco. Once the heart of the Inca Empire, Cusco today displays streets lined with Inca-built stone walls upon which rest the foundations of colonial and modern buildings. Overnight at **Cusco Plaza or similar (BLD)**

Day 7

Cusco

This morning you will depart the city and visit a few of its many surrounding ruins on a bicycle. Begin with a visit to the Qenko amphitheatre followed by a visit to Sacsayhuaman, translated as "satisfied falcon," located at the head of what the Incas thought of as the puma-shaped city of Cusco. This mountaintop site overlooking Cusco was once a fortress and was hosted one of the fiercest battles between the Incas and their Spanish Conquistadors. Also visit Pucapucara, situated on a hill with superb views over the surrounding countryside it was more likely a tambo, or kind of post house than an actual fortress. Finally visit Tambomachay, commonly referred to as the 'Baños del Inca' or Inca baths. This was a site for ritual bathing. In the afternoon, you will have a tour of Cusco and its environs. Begin with a visit to the Plaza de Armas, called Huacaypata during Inca times, and the center of the historic section of Cusco. The Plaza, now filled with Spanish colonial buildings including la Catedral and la Compañía, was twice its current size during Inca times and served as the heart of Inca life. Continue on to La Merced, rebuilt in the 17th century, this monastery includes a spectacular series of murals that depict the life of the founder of the Mercedarian order, St. Peter of Nolasco. Next visit the Plaza San Francisco. These colonial architectural examples of the Franciscans were the second order to arrive in Cusco, in 1539. During your exploration of the city, you will also visit the Temple of the Sun, or Coricancha, which was once the most important temple of the Incas. During Inca rule, the Coricancha, or "Golden Courtyard," was covered with gold and silver sculptures representing llamas, corn, babies, and the sun, all of which were later destroyed or melted down by the Spaniards. The temple also served as a tomb for several Incas, or kings. In the late afternoon, you will enjoy a music lesson, where you will learn about Andean music and different instruments that were used. Dinner will be at a local restaurant. Overnight at **Cusco Plaza or similar (BLD)**

Day 8

Lima

This morning after breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Lima. Built on the banks of the Rio Rimac, Lima is Peru's largest city and its capital. It was used as the headquarters of the Spanish conquistadors and became the commercial and administrative center of the Spanish empire in South America, bringing a period of prosperity to the city until an earthquake in 1746 destroyed much of the city. Following this devastation the opportunity was taken to elaborately rebuild the city. Today's wide streets, huge plazas and old houses with ornately carved balconies are a legacy of this period. Begin your exploration of this historical city with a visit to the Plaza the Armas, a UNESCO World Heritage. Running along two sides are arcades with shops: Portal de Escribanos and Portal de Botoneros. In the center of the Plaza is a bronze fountain dating from 1560. Located in the Plaza is the Cathedral, with its splendidly carved stalls, the silver covered altars surrounded by fine woodwork, mosaic covered walls bearing the coats of arms of Lima and Pizarro. Next to the Cathedral is the Archbishop's Palace. Next you'll visit the XVII century Monastery of San Francisco, famous for the tile work and paneled ceiling. Continue your exploration with a visit along the old colonial streets in the center of the city, and modern Lima with the district of San Isidro where you will visit the pre-Incan Huaca Huallamarca pyramid. The two-story construction is made of adobe with a steep ramp leading to the upper level. Archaeological excavations have unearthed mummies, on display with ancient objects inside the on-site museum. Finally bid farewell to Peru with dinner at a local restaurant. Later this evening transfer to the airport for overnight flight home. Day room at **Casa Andina or similar (BLD)**

Day 9

Arrive in U.S.