

UNIVERSALE DESCRIZIONE DI TUTTA LA TERRA CONOSCIUTA FIN QUI

PANAMA & PERU

BEYOND THE CONQUEST





Rather than a conquest, the arrival of the Spanish in the Americas was a meeting of cultures which resulted in a completely new, incredibly rich, and uniquely surprising culture.

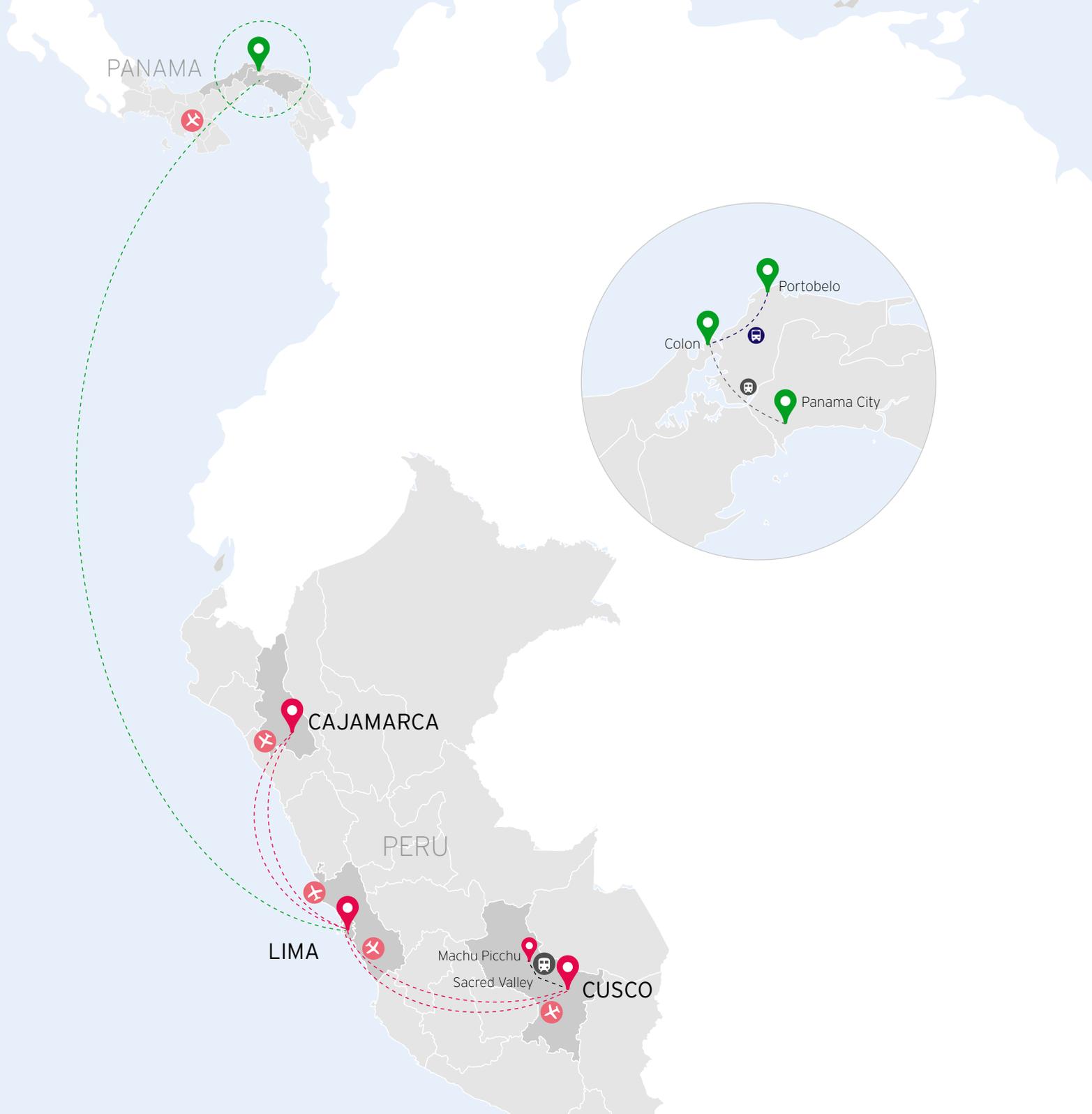
From the route taken by Vasco Núñez de Balboa across Panama, and the expeditions made by the Spaniards in search of the treasures of the Americas, including the three voyages made by Pizarro in his quest to be the first European to reach the mythical kingdom of Birú, to the stories behind the founding of Lima, Cusco and the port of Callao: This tour is a journey into the past, to cities that speak for themselves through buildings that are filled with history, including sacred temples and the houses of conquistadores.

It is a journey that tells of encounters with pirates, and the construction of the fortresses built to repel those same pirates.

We invite you to journey with us through time, as we take you into a past you will never forget.

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First Contact with the Isthmus

The Isthmus of Panama was inhabited by indigenous people for thousands of years that excelled in the art of pottery making, stone carving and gold work.

However, in 1501, an expedition of Spaniards led by Rodrigo de Bastidas gives the first news of mainland and the following year, Admiral Christopher Columbus founded the first European settlement near the gold deposits of Veraguas.

He also makes the first report regarding the land between the two seas. This will mark the transit route destination for the next 500 years.

The Influence of Vasco Nuñez de Balboa

Soon after, Santa María La Antigua is founded in 1510 due to the leadership of Vasco Núñez de Balboa, who goes from stowaway refugee due to debts to Visionary of the South Sea as he was the first European to discover it in September 1513.

Balboa was a skillful strategist who became allied with the most powerful Cuevas' Chiefs, who told him about the great riches beyond the other sea and guided him to the Pacific Ocean.

After building the first flotilla in the Pacific, Balboa travels through the Pearl Islands and takes possession of the famous Peregrina Pearl.

Over the next few years, the Isthmus is named Castilla de Oro because of the many treasures collected from the tribes.

The First city of Panama and its Importance

In a tragic turn of history, Vasco Núñez de Balboa is accused of treason and is decapitated in 1519 by orders of Pedrarias Dávila.

That same year the city of Panama is founded, the oldest Spanish settlement on the American Pacific coastline, and Santa María La Antigua is abandoned.

Governor Pedrarias Dávila uses the city of Panama as a platform to conquer the Central American isthmus and establishes the first path uniting the Pacific with the Atlantic, up to Nombre de Dios.

By order of Charles V, the possibility of making a channel is explored because of the narrowness of the isthmus but the idea is later dismissed.

Another Lieutenant of Pedrarias, Pascual de Andagoya, departs in search of the Biru which he never finds. Those are years of intense explorations and changes, the indigenous people decrease and the importation of enslaved manpower from Africa begins and this creates a miscegenation pattern which results in the current Panamanian population.





Panama, Peru and the Royal Roads

The company that eventually embarked on the conquest of the Inca Empire was organized in Panama, since Francisco Pizarro, who was Balboa's companion, had also settled in Mainland as one of the most outstanding conquerors. Those were times of incredible feats against powerful empires that, when surrendered, changed the history of the continent.

Panama established a close relationship with the Peruvian colony and the Isthmus was quickly consolidated as the prominent communication hub with the metropolis.

They built the Camino Real (Royal Road) that communicated the port of Nombre de Dios with the Camino de Cruces, which also connected with the Chagres river on a mixed land, river and marine route. That stone path, which is still today traversed near the Panama City, is the direct predecessor of the Panama Canal.

During the colonial period most of the wealth extracted from the South American colonies went through the so-called Strategic Triangle formed by the ports and fortifications of San Lorenzo, Portobelo (replacing Nombre de Dios) and Panama.



The Wealth of America and the Pirate

The Isthmus was considered one of the “Keys to the Empire” and was the subject of attacks from emergent commercial and maritime powers that coveted the wealth and monopoly of the trade that Spain had with the New World.

In addition, in Panama the first slave rebellions occur (the Cimarrones who challenged Castilla de Oro by allying with corsairs like the Englishman Francis Drake) and they had to be suppressed by diplomacy and weapons.

Drake destroys Nombre de Dios and forces the transfer of the port to Portobelo (named by Christopher Columbus).

As wealth increases and the system of fleet of galleons and trade fairs are consolidated the Caribbean is infested with pirates and buccaneers. In 1671, the Welshman Henry Morgan gives a final blow to the Spanish empire by attacking and destroying Panama, which forced its transfer to its current location.

Spain rebuilt the fortresses of Portobelo and San Lorenzo and built a wall around Panama, but it was too late.

The route decayed and was replaced by Cape Horn in 1739. The Isthmus fell, but it regained importance for trade a century later with the construction of the first interoceanic railway in 1850-1855. From there onward, Panama recovered its transit destination with the Panama Canal and its current multimodal hub.



The great Inca Empire

Let's start at the beginning. Around the middle of the 15th century, Inca civilization began the period of expansion through which it would create a great empire. From the southern Andes, Inca power spread far and wide, as the new state consolidated its power through both peaceful means and warfare.

When the Spanish arrived in the Americas in 1492, Tahuantinsuyo was already the largest empire the continent had ever seen. Its ruler at the time was Inca Tupac Yupanqui.

At its height, the lands controlled by the Inca empire stretched north as far as Pasto in present-day Colombia, and south as far as the Maule River, in present-day Chile. The capital of this vast empire was established in Cusco.

Seeking a kingdom known as Biru

Following Columbus's first voyage in 1492, the Spaniards continued their exploration of the New World, in search of new territories and a route to the east.

In 1502, the conquistadores set foot for the first time on the continent of America. In 1513, Vasco Núñez de Balboa discovered the South Sea. From 1519 to 1521, Hernán Cortés conquered the Aztec empire, and at the same time the Spaniards who had settled in Castilla de Oro (present-day Panama) first heard stories of the existence of a fabulous and remote indigenous kingdom called Birú, and of how that distant land to the south was rich in gold.

The governor of Castilla de Oro sent a total of five expeditions to explore lands to the south and find the mythical kingdom of Birú. It was during the last of those voyages that the captain Francisco Pizarro found what the Spaniards had been searching for.



Partners in Conquest

Many figures played central roles in this story of conquest. In 1522, Pizarro entered into partnership with Hernando de Luque and Diego de Almagro to organize the expedition that would finally discover and conquer the kingdom of Pirú. Their third voyage set off on January 20th 1531, in two ships carrying 180 men and 37 horses, as well as slaves and indigenous auxiliaries.

By the beginning of the following year, they had arrived in the Gulf of Guayaquil, where they disembarked at Puná Island before continuing as far as Tumbes, where they were attacked by natives.

The Spaniards found themselves in a land desolated by a civil war being waged by two brothers, each of whom claimed the throne.

A Great empire at war

Continuing their journey south, on August 15th 1532, Pizarro and his companions founded the first Spanish city in Peru, San Miguel de Tangará.

Following long days spent journeying through Inca territory, it dawned upon the Spaniards that they were facing a great empire, one governed by Inca Atahualpa, who had succeeded in capturing his brother Huascar, during a devastating war of succession.

Atahualpa was a great strategist, and he sent spies among the band led by Pizarro. From them, he learned that the “bearded men”, as the conquistadores were known, were not gods; they were ordinary mortals who followed different trades, such as the “blacksmith” who looked after the horses’ hooves, and the barber who by shaving them made old men youthful once more.



Pizarro & Atahualpa: encounter, captivity and death

On November 15th 1532, Pizarro and his men reached the city of Cajamarca, which they found practically deserted.

Atahualpa, who was camped outside the city of Cajamarca (at a place now known as the Inca's Baths), accepted the invitation delivered by Hernando de Soto. On the appointed day, Atahualpa returned to Cajamarca accompanied by 2000 unarmed followers, having left his army outside the city, waiting. The Spaniards had developed a plan of attack. When Atahualpa and his entourage arrived in the main square, the priest Vicente Valverde and an interpreter were waiting. Following a brief conversation, the priest offered the Inca a bible. Atahualpa threw the book down on the ground, giving the Spaniards the excuse they had needed to attack. The conquistadores called upon Saint James to aid them and launched themselves at the Inca and his followers.

By November 16th 1532, following the Spaniards defeat of their enemy, Atahualpa was their prisoner.

Finding himself a prisoner, Atahualpa took advantage of his captors' thirst for precious metals, and in exchange for his freedom the Inca offered to fill the room where he was being held prisoner, once with gold and twice with silver. The Spaniards agreed to his proposal. Today, this room is known as the Ransom Chamber.

It took eight months to gather together the gold and silver; however, the Spaniards broke their word and subjected Atahualpa to a trial, condemning him to death on charges of treason, idolatry, fratricide, polygamy and incest. The sentence was carried out on July 26th 1533.

It has been estimated that the Inca's ransom consisted of six tons of gold and twelve tons of silver, which today would be worth around 300 million dollars, or 240 million euros.



Rebellion and death in Cusco

On August 11th 1533, Pizarro and his men set off for Cusco, following the Inca highway or Capac Ñan. During their journey, they were intercepted by Manco Inca Yupanqui, the son of Huayna Capac, who they proclaimed Inca, naming him Manco II. On November 14th 1533, they entered Cusco. The city's inhabitants received them warmly, believing that Pizarro was the god Huiracocha, and that he had avenged the death of the Inca Huascar.

Manco Inca II quickly understood that the Spaniards were using him to control his subjects, and he began to plan a revolt. During his initial attack, he took control of the fortress of Sacsayhuaman, but the Spaniards were able to call upon reinforcements from among the Huanca, Cañari, Chachapoya, Tarma, Yauyo and Chanca ethnic groups, who repelled the attackers and defeated the Inca army. Manco II fled to Vilcabamba, where he was assassinated in 1542 by fugitive supporters of Diego de Almagro.

By the middle of the 13th century, the city of Cusco was the main political and administrative center of Inca power.

According to the first chroniclers, Cusco was a city of unique beauty. In accordance with the territorial organization of the Incas, Cusco ("the navel of the Earth") was the center of a land divided into four "suyos" [regions], with Chinchaysuyo to the north, Collasuyo to the south, Antisuyo to the east, and Contisuyo to the west.

Its buildings were made from stone, with the Temple of the Sun or Koricancha located at their center, along with the House of the Virgins of the Sun, or Acllahuasi, and the palaces of Hatun Cancha, Pucamarca and Casana, which had once belonged to the Incas Pachacutec, Tupac Yupanqui and Huayna Capac.

The architecture of the city was composed of several plazas, long streets, and bridges and stairways that provided access to Cusco's upper sectors. To this day, the imposing fortress of Sacsayhuaman stands high above the city.



The founding and settlement of Lima, its walls and the Port of Callao

In his search for a capital for Nueva Castilla, Pizarro founded Jauja, but this new city was too far from the coast, and he continued his journey to the sea, arriving at Pachacamac. From there, he ordered Juan Tello and Alonso Martín de Don Benito to explore the coastal valleys. They set off on January 6th and found a nearby valley to the north, on the left bank of the Rímac River. It was here, on January 18th 1535, that Pizarro founded the city of Lima, under the name "City of the Kings of Peru".

As a defensive strategy, in 1684 construction began on Lima's walls. The city's outer wall would eventually have an internal perimeter of 11,700 meters. The three main components of the system of walls built to safeguard Lima were gateways, bastions and retaining walls.

In the earliest years of the colonial period, Callao had been chosen as Peru's main port, by virtue of the deep and sheltered natural harbor that made it one of the safest anchorages in the world.

Callao served as the midpoint for coastal shipping arriving from other Peruvian ports and the busy trade route between Peru and Mexico, Central America, Santa Fe and Chile, becoming the busiest trading center in the Spanish Americas, after Portobelo and Panama.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, Callao was attacked fiercely by the English and Dutch.

Following a devastating earthquake and tsunami in 1747, the viceroy José Antonio Manso de Velasco, Count of Superunda, ordered the construction of Real Felipe, a heavily-walled fortress that has survived to this day. Real Felipe fortress, known as the "Castle of Independence" during the republican period, was one of the major works of military engineering produced on the continent during the 18th century, and the most important fortification on the Pacific coast of the Americas.



The Viceroyalty is threatened by pirates, corsairs and buccaneers

During the 16th and 17th centuries, the first maritime powers of the Modern Age, Portugal and Spain, embarked upon a period of expansion to the East and into the Pacific Ocean, seeking to consolidate their overseas dominions.

The first Englishman to threaten Peruvian coast was Francis Drake. The goal of his three-year voyage was to attack Spanish merchant shipping and to capture vessels carrying Peruvian silver to Panama. In February and March 1578, aboard his ship the Golden Hind, Drake captured two vessels in Peruvian waters loaded with silver and gold.

Another English corsair, Thomas Cavendish, raided several ports along the Peruvian coast and captured the galleon Santa Ana, which was loaded with gold.

For their part, the Dutch organized three expeditions against the Viceroyalty of Peru.

The first of these, from 1598 to 1600, was captained by Oliver Van Noordt, who attacked Arica and Callao.

The second expedition was led by Joris Van Spilbergen, who between July and August 1615 attacked Arica, Huarmey and Paita.

The third and largest expedition was commanded by Admiral Jacques L'Hermite, who with a flotilla of eleven ships blockaded and attacked the port of Callao from May to August 1624.

His intention was to land and capture Lima, in order to seize control of the viceroyalty of Peru and its silver production. Spanish defenders on land stopped the Dutch from landing, while disease killed many of the Dutch sailors, including Admiral Jacques L'Hermite, thereby condemning the invasion to failure.



PANAMA & PERU *beyond the Conquest*



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

PANAMA > PERU

- **DAY 1**
Arrival in Panama
 - Arrival and transfer to hotel
 - Overnight in Panama City
- **DAY 2**
Panama City
 - Visit the surroundings of Panama City
 - Panama Viejo archaeological site
 - Old Quarter: San Felipe
 - *Optional: Lunch with cultural presentation*
 - Overnight in Panama City
 - B
- **DAY 3**
Panama City > Chagres River > Camino de Cruces
 - Boarding boat
 - Observation and interpretation of wildlife in the lower reaches of the Chagre River
 - Box lunch
 - Colonial Routes: Camino de Cruces
 - Overnight in Panama City
 - B / BL
- **DAY 4**
Panama city > Colón
 - Assistance at train station
 - Trf train station
 - Trf Colón / San Lorenzo
 - San Lorenzo protected area
 - Chagres and Fort San Lorenzo
 - Lunch
 - Trf San Lorenzo / Portobelo
 - Overnight in Colón
 - B / L
- **DAY 5**
Colón > Portobelo > Colón
 - Visit to San Fernando Fortress
 - Trf El Otro Lado > Portobelo
 - Royal Customs House of Portobelo
 - San Gerónimo and Santiago de la Gloria Fortresses
 - Lunch
 - Congo dancing presentation
 - Trf Casa Congo > Hotel El Otro Lado
 - Overnight in Colón
 - B / L
- **DAY 6**
Colón > Panama city
 - Exploration of mangroves and wildlife observation
 - Half day at beach or snorkeling at Drake Island

- Lunch
- Trf Portobelo / Colón
- Assistance at train station
- Trf train station
- Overnight in Panama City
- B / L
- **DAY 7**
Panama city > Lima
 - Transfer to airport
 - FLIGHT PANAMA CITY / LIMA
 - Arrival in the city of Lima, assistance and transfer to hotel
 - Rest of the afternoon free
 - Overnight in Lima
 - B
- **DAY 8**
Lima
 - Visit to the Pachacamac Sanctuary (*)
 - Lunch with Peruvian Paso Horse exhibition
 - Overnight in Lima
 - B / L
- **DAY 9**
Lima
 - Visit to the Historic Center of Lima (Cathedral & Santo Domingo)
 - Visit to Casa de Aliaga with hostess Wilma Ehni de Aliaga (**)
 - *Optional: Lunch at Casa de Aliaga with hostess Wilma Ehni de Aliaga*
 - Visit to the Barbosa Stern Private Collection (*exclusive product*)
 - Overnight in Lima
 - B
- **DAY 10**
Lima > Cajamarca
 - Visit to Callao and the Real Felipe Fortress
 - Lunch
 - Transfer to airport
 - FLIGHT LIMA / CAJAMARCA
 - Arrival in Cajamarca, assistance at the airport and transfer to hotel
 - *Optional: Visit to the Nicolás Puga Private Collection*
 - Overnight in Cajamarca
 - B / L
- **DAY 11**
Cajamarca > Lima
 - Visit to the Inca's Baths
 - Tour of the city of Cajamarca
 - Lunch
 - Transfer to airport
 - FLIGHT CAJAMARCA / LIMA
 - Arrival in Lima and assistance at airport

- Overnight at Costa del Sol Wyndham Lima Airport hotel
- B / L
- **DAY 12**
Lima > Cusco > Valle Sagrado
 - Assistance at the airport
 - FLIGHT LIMA > CUSCO
 - Arrival at Cusco, assistance in the airport and transfer to the Sacred Valley
 - Visit to Chinchero & weavers' workshop with hostess Nilda Callañaupa (**)
 - Lunch and Peruvian Paso Horse show in Wayra
 - Overnight in the Sacred Valley
 - B / L
- **DAY 13**
Sacred Valley
 - Visit to the Fortress of Ollantaytambo
 - Tour of the salt pans and village of Maras
 - Lunch at Iskay
 - Tour of the Moray agricultural terraces
 - Overnight in the Sacred Valley
 - B / L
- **DAY 14**
Sacred Valley > Machu Picchu > Cusco
 - Transfer to train station
 - Vistadome train Ollantaytambo / Machu Picchu
 - Visit to Machu Picchu
 - Buffet lunch at Belmond Sanctuary Lodge
 - Vistadome train Machu Picchu / Ollantaytambo
 - Transfer from train station to hotel in Cusco
 - Overnight in Cusco
 - B / L
- **DAY 15**
Cusco
 - Tour of the city of Cusco
 - Fortress of Sacsayhuaman
 - Santa Ana neighborhood / Conquista Street / Saphi Street
 - Main Square & visit to the cathedral
 - Lunch
 - Visit to Casa Garcilaso
 - Visit to Korikancha
 - Overnight in Cusco
 - B / L
- **DIA 16**
Cusco > Lima
 - Transfer to airport
 - FLIGHT CUSCO / LIMA
 - Arrival in Lima and assistance at airport for international connection
 - B

(*) The Pachacamac Sanctuary is open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday.
(**) Subject to availability.



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