

Peru - Lima / Cusco / Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley

With

Daniel Koupermann

June 17th – 27th, 2027

June 17th: Arrival in Lima, Peru. Everyone will be met at the airport and taken to Hotel Casa Andina Select Miraflores.

June 18th: **LIMA**, this morning, we will visit the Rafael Larco Herrera Museum. This private museum has one of the largest collections of ceramics in the world. It is said to include over 50,000 pieces. They include a selection of gold and silver pots, feathered textiles and a Paracas weaving that contains 398 threads to the linear inch (a world record). Many tourists are lured here by the famous collection of pre-Columbian erotic pots illustrating the sexual practices of ancient Peruvians. Then we will drive out of Lima for 40 minutes to a beautiful farm where Peruvian Paso Finos are bred. We will enjoy a demonstration of these beautiful horses and learn about their tradition in Peru. Lunch will be at the farm. Lima panoramic City Tour. This evening we will have dinner in a local restaurant.

June 19th: **LIMA – CUSCO**, In the morning, we will fly to Cusco around 10:30am. Our private bus will take us to our hotel. Lunch will be in a local restaurant. After lunch, we will take a walking tour of the city. The city will be alive with music and colors because it will be the beginning of the Festival of Inti Raymi (the most important annual festival for the Incas celebrating the Summer Solstice). Cusco is the “hub” of this spectacular happening. Some of the highlights of Cusco are Korikancha (the Temple of Gold), Ceque Lines, the Rainbow Temple and San Francisco Cathedral (at the center of the festivities). Dinner will be in a typical Cusco restaurant.

June 20th: **CUSCO (Inti Raymi / Sun Festivity)**, After breakfast we will travel a little way out of the city to explore Sacsayhuaman (pronounced “sacksy woman”), which is in the zigzag shape of a serpent, and is said to be connected to the energy of lightning. Sacsayhuaman, a huge Inca temple with many interesting structures, holds the key to understanding the traditions of the local people. The name or Sacsayhuamán is derived from two Quechua words: “Sacsay,” which means satiate and “wamán,” which means hawk; together they mean “eat your fill, hawk.” This puzzling meaning is a reference to the fact that the birds were divine protectors of the Incas \ and the military battalions. It is located 1.25 miles from Cusco’s square at an altitude of 12,140 feet above sea level, surrounded by the mountains Ausangate, Pachatusán and Sencca. It covers an area of twelve square miles, which holds incredible archaeological

and architectural sites. It is believed that around 20,000 men worked to cut and transport gigantic stones from Huaqoto and Rumiqolqa and build this ceremonial Inca fortress. Sacsayhuamán is an architectural work with megalithic walls made of stones that can weigh from 99 to 138 tons. The stones are different sizes, and some have several angles, each fitted and joined with no mortar of any kind. After visiting Sacsayhuaman, we will go to a private space close, to do a Tobacco ceremony and get the energy of this amazing place.

Lunch in a local restaurant and free afternoon to explore Cusco by yourself. There will be colorful costumes, parades, dancing, fireworks and amazing sights during this celebration of the Solstice. Dinner in local restaurant.

June 21st: CUSCO – KIMSACOCOA LAKE - PISAC – OLLANTAYTAMBO, Today is the solstice day!! It is optional to go at 5:30am to the Koricancha plaza to participate in the ceremony of the Pututeros, receiving the first sun of the Solstice and the Andean New Year. Most of the people participating are locals and we can be part of it. We will leave Cusco and travel to Kimsacocha Lake and receive the Pampamesayok Rites, also called the Daykeeper Rites. A Qero elder will lead a despacho (ceremony). He will bless any sacred ceremonial items you may have found or brought with you. We will visit the Pisa archeological site to observe the agricultural terraces, the main citadel and the cemetery in the cliff next to the complex. We will have lunch in the late afternoon in the plaza. After our lunch, we could wander around Pisac Mercado (an amazing market for Peruvian handicrafts). At the end of the afternoon, we will set up in our Hotel in Ollantaytambo. Dinner and rest.

June 22nd: OLLANTAYTAMBO – AGUAS CALIENTES, In the morning, we will explore the village (citadel) which was built on top of the original Inca walls, then visit the archeological site of Ollantaytambo, the Temple of the Sun, Winds, and Waters. In the 15th century Inca Pachacutik conquered and began to rebuild Ollantaytambo constructing terraces for farming and an irrigation system. These huge terraces make up what is called Fortress or Temple Hill. The town became home of the Inca nobility. After Inca Pachacutik death's, the town and its surroundings fell into the hands of his family and then eventually of those of Inca Manco, who used Ollantaytambo as a retreat from the attacks of the Spanish. The fortress, originally built for religious purposes, was the site of major battles. One of the only successful ones was against the conquistadors. From high above in the terraces of Ollantaytambo the Incas managed to hold back and defeat the Spanish. In addition, they flooded the plain below, forcing the Spanish to withdraw. The Spanish had been briefly defeated. The fortress of Ollantaytambo was soon captured by Pizarro and his men. In the afternoon, we continue by train to Aguas Calientes at the base of Machu Picchu and check into our hotel – Panorama B&B. Aguas Calientes is a picturesque town, just for pedestrians. It's full of restaurants, coffee shops and thermal springs. Dinner in local restaurant

June 23rd: MACHU PICCHU, we will catch the bus up to the Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, the Crystal City of Light. We will walk in the ruins enjoying the spiritual essence of Machu Picchu and the intricate handiwork of the Inca people. The bus will take us back down to Aguas Calientes in the late afternoon.

Machu Picchu is a 15th-century Inca citadel located in the Eastern Cordillera of southern Peru on a mountain ridge at 2,430 meters (7,970 ft). Often referred to as the “Lost City of the Incas”, Machu Picchu is one of the most iconic symbols of the Inca civilization and a major archaeological site in the Americas. Built around 1450, it is believed to have served as an estate for the Inca emperor Pachacuti, though no contemporary written records exist to confirm this. The site was abandoned roughly a century later, likely during the Spanish conquest. Modern radiocarbon dating places its occupation between c. 1420 and 1530. Machu Picchu was constructed in the classical Inca style, featuring finely crafted dry-stone walls. Notable structures include the Temple of the Sun, the Temple of the Three Windows, and the Intihuatana ritual stone. Although the site was known locally and reached in the early 20th century by Peruvian explorer Agustín Lizárraga, it was brought to international attention in 1911 by American historian Hiram Bingham III. The original Inca name of the site may have been Huayna Picchu, after the mountain on which part of the complex stands. Designated a National Historic Sanctuary by Peru in 1981 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983, Machu Picchu was also named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in 2007. As of 2024, the site receives over 1.5 million visitors annually, making it Peru’s most visited international tourist destination.

In the afternoon we will take the train back to Ollantaytambo to do the check-in in our Hotel.

June 24th: PATACANCHA COMMUNITY- PUMAMARCA HIKE, Gratitude Offering, lunch and textiles techniques. We will ride for 50 minutes to the community of Patacancha. For a large part, life here hasn’t changed much over the past century and ancient Quechua community traditions are still part of daily life. Weaving, farming and raising cattle are among the main activities we’ll find. Arriving to the community we will do a short and easy hike to a ceremonial site with our hosts to do a Payment to Pachamama (offering to Mother Earth) as well as **Tika Alpaca**, that are a symbolic way of acknowledging gratitude and ask for protection for the family, the land and animals. Then we will learn about Andean life and the weaving tradition from Awamaki artisans.

We will start going downhill in our Vann until the beginning of the trail to Pumamarca, a pre-Inca fortress dating from approximately 900 AD, probably built by the Wari culture. Pumamarca is a fortified citadel on top of a hill that overlooks the Patacancha valley. It is strategically positioned to defend Ollantaytambo from the eastern approaches, which lead to the jungle.

The complex consists of Chulpas (grain storage towers), military observation posts, a central square flanked by buildings for religious and monarchical use, and a grid-shaped city plan with buildings of various shapes and uses.

After approximately one hour of exploration in the Fortress, we will begin the return along the Qhapaq Ñan (Imperial Inca Trail), which will take us past the Inca irrigation channels and the Chocobamba terraces.

We will stop for a picnic on the way and then finish the walk at the Inca platforms of Media Luna ("Media Luna"), which are terraces with beautiful shapes that resemble medical and eating utensils, as well as tools for agricultural use.

Check In to our hotel for dinner and rest.

June 25th: WACHUMA CEREMONY (Optional), In the morning and fasting we will offer an optional Wachuma Ceremony. For those of you that are interested we will offer Wachuma (San Pedro Cactus / Echinopsis pachanoi) a plant of power, to experience the teachings that come from it. It has been used for healing and spiritual purposes in the Andean Mountains for over 3000 years.

The ceremony will be offered at Quillarumiyoc (The rock that has a moon), that was a site dedicated to the worship of **Quilla**, the Moon. For the Incas, this deity – also called **Mama Quilla** – was one of the most important: mother of the firmament, symbol of the feminine side of the universe and influence on the tides, plant growth and fertility.

A mystical atmosphere surrounds the complex in this place, the Incas built lunar calendars and temples dedicated to this deity, and apparently preferred remote places where nature was exuberant. The origins of Quillarumiyoc date back more than three thousand years, and today the complex has been equipped with signposted trails, which favor the route.

The Temple of the Moon is an architectural marvel that showcases a profound understanding of astronomical phenomena. Its structures and alignments are thought to have been used for tracking celestial events, such as solstices and equinoxes, which were crucial for agricultural and ritualistic purposes.

June 26th: MARAS – MORAY – TAYPIKALA, we will drive through de Sacred Valley to visit the town of Maras, located some 6 kilometers above the salt flats, which are also worth a visit. In Maras you can see the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, built of adobe brick, which still shelters some oil paintings by Antonio Sinchi Roqa Inka, a well-known artist from the Cusco School of painting. The lintels of many of the house's date from the Colonial Era, and you can see the shields and family crests that were carved in stone along with the name of the owner and the date when the house was built and the lintel was put in place. The Maras salt flats are a collection of more than 3000

evaporation pools which date from before the time of the Inca Empire. A small stream of salty water emerges as a natural spring from underground and is distributed through an ingenious system of canals and channels to each pool. The whole complex of pools covers some 5000 square meters in terraces on the steep slope of the side of a mountain called "Qaqañiway". Then we will continue to Moray, which was possibly a center for agricultural investigation in Inca times, where experiments were done on planting crops at different altitudes. The placement of the terraces produces a grading of microclimates with the center of the terraces at a higher temperature and a gradual lowering of temperatures as one climb to the upper levels. In this way, it was possible to simulate up to 20 different types of microclimates. It is believed that Moray could have served as a model to calculate agricultural production, not only in the Valley of the Urubamba but for different parts of the area as well. There are different theories to explain how Moray was used in Inca times. According to John Earls, each terrace in Moray reproduces the climatic conditions of different ecological zones throughout the Inca Empire. Due to its protected position each of these terraces represents approximately a thousand meters of altitude under normal working conditions. The whole complex would have twenty or more ecological zones represented in scale. Additionally, the complex may also have helped Inca officials to calculate the annual production for different parts of Tahuantinsuyo.

June 27th: TAYPIKALA– CUSCO – LIMA, our van will take us to Cusco to fly back to Lima. You can book your flight home after 7:00pm or stay at the airport hotel to fly the next day.

Cost of the journey 2027: \$4,300 per person, based on double occupancy and on a group minimum 8 people

Single Supplement: \$1,200

A deposit of \$1,000 on February 15th, 2027, will reserve your space to visit **Machu Picchu**, is the only way to assure the tickets with the current policies. Please send an email to Linda Leyerle at lleyerle@aol.com for information about how to make your deposit and scan your passport to us. Time is of the essence so please respond as soon as possible if you are interested in this journey. This will ensure your Machu Picchu tickets. Our deadline for purchasing the train and entrance tickets is March 15th.

Journey 2027: Second payment of \$2,300 is due March 15th, 2027, and the balance of \$1,000 is due May 15th, 2027.

Reservations: All reservations are subject to availability. In Peru, it is not possible to reserve rooms, train travel and entrance tickets to Machu Picchu without passport names, numbers, and country of issuance, expiration date and birth date.

Cost includes: Private tour bus or van for travel during the journey, all meals, hotels, tips for restaurants and hotels, non-alcoholic beverages during meals, transportation to and from airport in Lima, intra-country flights Lima-Cusco-Lima, Machu Picchu train and entrance fees, all expenses for excursion, local guide and/or shamanic guide to share history and archaeological information, Quero elders to share their ancient teachings and traditional ceremonies of despachos and Karpay and the Wachuma ceremony also. Daniel Koupermann escorting.

Cost does NOT include international roundtrip airfare to Lima, alcoholic beverages, tips for the guide and private bus driver, personal items and souvenirs.

This journey is for individuals ready to get an educational/experiential experience. People with physical or psychiatric challenges may find this journey too difficult or uncomfortable. We recommend a visit with your doctor at least 6 weeks in advance of departure.

No immunizations are required unless you will be entering Peru from a country with Yellow Fever. In which case you will need a yellow fever immunization and be prepared to show proof. We will be at high altitudes in Cusco (11,152 feet above/sea level). If you think you may have issues with the altitude, please talk to your doctor. You can also check the CDC webpage for more information.

Once you have reserved your space, we will be sending you more information – packing lists, info about the country, etc. You will be fully prepared for the journey. Also, I am always available by email for any questions or concerns – whatever they may be. No Visas are required for most people entering Peru (US, Canadian, EU, Australia and New Zealand citizens). If you have questions about this, please let me know.

Your passport must be valid at least 6 months after the date of your return (December 28th, 2027).

Cancellations & Refunds: Due to availability of space on our journey and the time required to process trip reservations, your deposit will not be refundable if received after March 15th, 2027. We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance in order to protect yourself in case extenuating circumstances force you to cancel your trip. Travelex or CSA are two respected possibilities.

Responsibilities: ANDEAN PATHS reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a participant at any time, and to make changes in the itinerary whenever deemed necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of our participants, and to cancel a journey at any time. In the event a journey is cancelled, ANDEAN PATHS shall have no responsibility beyond the refund of monies paid to it by program participants as listed. By registering, the participant agrees that neither ANDEAN PATHS and/or their affiliates shall be liable for any damage, loss or expense occasioned by any act or omission by

any supplier providing services to any program participant. The only reason that we would cancel a program is for safety reasons due to impassable roads, protests in Peru, or similar unforeseen events. We look forward to assisting you in all ways for this journey!

By Andean Path