Quechua and dress in bright red outfits to differentiate themselves from the other peoples in the region and mark themselves as members of a single ayllu (family).

• Chinchero. An attractive church built during the Colony is the highlight of this village and on the inside hang lovely paintings from the Cusco School. Yet, it is on Sundays that the action really starts to happen when area merchants and farmers assemble at the flea market to buy and sell, using the age old method of bartering for goods. Likewise, you can visit impressive archeological remains in the area.

• Maras. Something very peculiar about this town is that you can still see the original Indian aridicostos coats of arms hanging on the outside of the church and houses. It is also the starting point for visiting the nearby Maras salt flats, a view of a patchwork of 3,000 wells that have been used since the Incan Empire.

• Moray agricultural terraces. An impressive spectacle – a circular system of terraces, possibly used for agricultural experimentation since the concentric nature of the circles enabled its engineers to generate different temperatures and thereby reproduce all the ecological terrains found within the Incan Empire.

• Ollantaytambo. A massive procession of 16 patron saints from different churches takes place. Some 50,000 people from different regions of the South take part, all decked out in their traditional costumes as they climb the mountain to the Sinaqrau Sanctuary. Pilgrims usually carry stones of different shapes and sizes that will later be piled on top of each other to form an apacheta ("stone mound"). On the way back, they carry blocks of ice on their backs.

Inti Raymi. June 24th. A staging of the festival of the Sun god. Celebrations begin at the Qorichancha and end at Sacsayhuamán. It is a sight full and utterly rooted in Indian traditions.

Qoyllur Rit'i. May or June, movable. Its name means “Brightness of Snow” and it is a mix of ancient Andean religions, dealing with mountain worship (apus – mountain protections), with Catholicism. Some 50,000 people from different regions of the South take part, all decked out in their traditional costumes as they climb the mountain to the Sinaqrau Sanctuary. Pilgrims usually carry stones of different shapes and sizes that will later be piled on top of each other to form an apacheta (“stone mound”). On the way back, they carry blocks of ice on their backs.

WHEN?

Holy Week, March or April, movable. Holy Monday is day of the procession and blessing of the Lord of Earthquakes, the patron saint of Cusco.

Corpus Christi, May or June, movable. A massive procession of 16 patron saints from different churches takes place.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16th. It takes place in the town of Paucartambo, a vibrant celebration of dancing, full of color and traditions, and a religious procession of the Virgin Mary.

Quechua and dress in bright red outfits to differentiate themselves from the other peoples in the region and mark themselves as members of a single ayllu (family).

• Chinchero. An attractive church built during the Colony is the highlight of this village and on the inside hang lovely paintings from the Cusco School. Yet, it is on Sundays that the action really starts to happen when area merchants and farmers assemble at the flea market to buy and sell, using the age old method of bartering for goods. Likewise, you can visit impressive archeological remains in the area.

• Maras. Something very peculiar about this town is that you can still see the original Indian aridicostos coats of arms hanging on the outside of the church and houses. It is also the starting point for visiting the nearby Maras salt flats, a view of a patchwork of 3,000 wells that have been used since the Incan Empire.

• Moray agricultural terraces. An impressive spectacle – a circular system of terraces, possibly used for agricultural experimentation since the concentric nature of the circles enabled its engineers to generate different temperatures and thereby reproduce all the ecological terrains found within the Incan Empire.

• Ollantaytambo. A massive procession of 16 patron saints from different churches takes place. Some 50,000 people from different regions of the South take part, all decked out in their traditional costumes as they climb the mountain to the Sinaqrau Sanctuary. Pilgrims usually carry stones of different shapes and sizes that will later be piled on top of each other to form an apacheta ("stone mound"). On the way back, they carry blocks of ice on their backs.

Inti Raymi. June 24th. A staging of the festival of the Sun god. Celebrations begin at the Qorichancha and end at Sacsayhuamán. It is a sight full and utterly rooted in Indian traditions.

Qoyllur Rit'i. May or June, movable. Its name means “Brightness of Snow” and it is a mix of ancient Andean religions, dealing with mountain worship (apus – mountain protections), with Catholicism. Some 50,000 people from different regions of the South take part, all decked out in their traditional costumes as they climb the mountain to the Sinaqrau Sanctuary. Pilgrims usually carry stones of different shapes and sizes that will later be piled on top of each other to form an apacheta (“stone mound”). On the way back, they carry blocks of ice on their backs.

WHEN?

Holy Week, March or April, movable. Holy Monday is day of the procession and blessing of the Lord of Earthquakes, the patron saint of Cusco.

Corpus Christi, May or June, movable. A massive procession of 16 patron saints from different churches takes place.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16th. It takes place in the town of Paucartambo, a vibrant celebration of dancing, full of color and traditions, and a religious procession of the Virgin Mary.

Quechua and dress in bright red outfits to differentiate themselves from the other peoples in the region and mark themselves as members of a single ayllu (family).

• Chinchero. An attractive church built during the Colony is the highlight of this village and on the inside hang lovely paintings from the Cusco School. Yet, it is on Sundays that the action really starts to happen when area merchants and farmers assemble at the flea market to buy and sell, using the age old method of bartering for goods. Likewise, you can visit impressive archeological remains in the area.

• Maras. Something very peculiar about this town is that you can still see the original Indian aridicostos coats of arms hanging on the outside of the church and houses. It is also the starting point for visiting the nearby Maras salt flats, a view of a patchwork of 3,000 wells that have been used since the Incan Empire.

• Moray agricultural terraces. An impressive spectacle – a circular system of terraces, possibly used for agricultural experimentation since the concentric nature of the circles enabled its engineers to generate different temperatures and thereby reproduce all the ecological terrains found within the Incan Empire.

• Ollantaytambo. A massive procession of 16 patron saints from different churches takes place. Some 50,000 people from different regions of the South take part, all decked out in their traditional costumes as they climb the mountain to the Sinaqrau Sanctuary. Pilgrims usually carry stones of different shapes and sizes that will later be piled on top of each other to form an apacheta ("stone mound"). On the way back, they carry blocks of ice on their backs.

Inti Raymi. June 24th. A staging of the festival of the Sun god. Celebrations begin at the Qorichancha and end at Sacsayhuamán. It is a sight full and utterly rooted in Indian traditions.

Qoyllur Rit'i. May or June, movable. Its name means “Brightness of Snow” and it is a mix of ancient Andean religions, dealing with mountain worship (apus – mountain protections), with Catholicism. Some 50,000 people from different regions of the South take part, all decked out in their traditional costumes as they climb the mountain to the Sinaqrau Sanctuary. Pilgrims usually carry stones of different shapes and sizes that will later be piled on top of each other to form an apacheta (“stone mound”). On the way back, they carry blocks of ice on their backs.

WHEN?

Holy Week, March or April, movable. Holy Monday is day of the procession and blessing of the Lord of Earthquakes, the patron saint of Cusco.

Corpus Christi, May or June, movable. A massive procession of 16 patron saints from different churches takes place.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16th. It takes place in the town of Paucartambo, a vibrant celebration of dancing, full of color and traditions, and a religious procession of the Virgin Mary.

One of a kind architecture plus a profound feeling of history equals one of the most seductive cities on the planet: Cusco. Radiant by day, Cusco’s main square dresses itself up for a party at night, soft yellow lights illuminating lovely arcades and the head turning facades of the Cathedral and the Church of the Company of Jesus.

Then, upon leaving the city limits one comes face to face with what looks like a sort of an Incan theme park in the fortress of Sacsayhuaman—with menhirs standing up to 29.5 feet and weighing 77 tons. A little farther along, there are other sacred sites where people went to worship their deities, like Qenko, or the very popular Baños del Inca (Inca baths) or Tambomachay , a fascinating site dedicated to worship water.

Then, there is the Sacred Valley of the Incas, an overcharged natural setting. Eye pleasing agricultural terraces descend down the mountains, like giant stair steps. The air is filled with the scent of baking bread, prepared in mud ovens, and endless fl elves of corn dance with the wind. Under the intense blue sky sit picturesque villages like Pisac , Yucay and Ollantaytambo, and on their outskirts lie noteworthy Incan palaces. Machu Picchu, the magical citadel, brings the visitor within reach of an intact ancient world where history is found in every nook and cranny. Lest we forget, recently opened Choquequirao, is another Incan site that takes the breath away. In Cusco, the word mystical gets its true meaning.
We cannot limit the wonders of Cusco to just Machu Picchu. To begin with, there is a fantastic city, rich cultural expressions, and many other striking archeological complexes scattered across a truly amazing geography.

### Routes & length of stay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 days</th>
<th>2 days</th>
<th>City and surrounding area: Sacsayhuamán, Qenko, Puca Pukara and Tambomachay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>Machu Picchu – take the train from the city to the mountain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 day</td>
<td>Inca Trail trek to Machu Picchu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>1 day trip: Sacred Valley of the Incas: Pisac, Ollantaytambo and Chinchero</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>Southern circuit: Pikillaqta and Andahuaylillas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>Suyukutambo Canyon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 days</td>
<td>Trek to Choquequirao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Department of Cusco**

- Sacsayhuamán
- Tambomachay
- Pisac
- Yucay
- Ollantaytambo
- Machu Picchu
- Choquequirao

**LEGEN**

- Capital city
- Asphalted road
- Non-asphalted road
- Airport
- Interprovincial border
- Periphery of city
- World Heritage Site - UNESCO
- Local offices
- Tourist information and assistance

---

1. La historia vive en cada uno de los poblados del Cusco.
2. Descubra cada esquina que la ciudad del Cusco le depara.
3. Descubra el patrimonio cultural con esta ruta incaica.
4. Los Apus, los espíritus de las montañas, son los guardianes del Cusco.
5. Recorra los caminos que conectaron el Tahuantinsuyo.
6. Descubra verdaderas joyas de arte.
7. No se pierda uno de los espectáculos más impresionantes.
Lodging and tourist services

Cusco has any and all types of accommodation, from luxurious 5 star hotels with fine restaurants to hostels and family houses. The village of Machu Picchu, also known as Aguas Calientes (Hot Springs) does have modest lodgings and 3 star hotels, and, at the entrance of Machu Picchu, there are restrooms, telephones, a restaurant and one hotel.

As for other services, you can rent hiking, camping and rafting gear. Transportation includes buses and cars and you can find agencies offering guided and specialized tours.

Recommended for

Archeology lovers, who, besides Machu Picchu, can visit other fabulous sights, like Choquequirao, Sacsayhuaman, Tipón, Pisac and Urubamba, just to name a few.

People interested in religious landmarks, who will find the city is full of them, as are the surrounding country villages (Andahuaylillas, Huaro).

Popular tradition buffs, who can attend such festivals as the Inti Raymi and the Qoyllur Rit'i.

Experiential tourism aficionados, who, at Raqchi, can share in the daily labors of the farmers there.

Birdwatchers, who should not pass on the journey to Huacarpay Lagoon and the Málaga Pass.

Adventure sports lovers, who can river-raft, mountain bike, paraglide and do many other adrenaline pumping activities at spots located in and around Cusco.

Handicraft collectors, who must visit the San Blas quarter in Cusco and check out the Sunday flea markets at Chinchero and Pisac.

Archeology
Nature
Culture
Aventure
Birdwatchers

Recommended for

Archeology lovers, who, besides Machu Picchu, can visit other fabulous sights, like Choquequirao, Sacsayhuaman, Tipón, Pisac and Urubamba, just to name a few.

People interested in religious landmarks, who will find the city is full of them, as are the surrounding country villages (Andahuaylillas, Huaro).

Popular tradition buffs, who can attend such festivals as the Inti Raymi and the Qoyllur Rit'i.

Experiential tourism aficionados, who, at Raqchi, can share in the daily labors of the farmers there.

Birdwatchers, who should not pass on the journey to Huacarpay Lagoon and the Málaga Pass.

Adventure sports lovers, who can river-raft, mountain bike, paraglide and do many other adrenaline pumping activities at spots located in and around Cusco.

Handicraft collectors, who must visit the San Blas quarter in Cusco and check out the Sunday flea markets at Chinchero and Pisac.
Places to visit and celebration dates

WHERE?

In Cusco:

• Main Square. When the Incas ruled Cusco, it was known as the Huacaaypata, or “place of worship at the center of the square”, and was the backdrop to sacred ceremonies held there. It has likewise been the stage to several key historical events.

• The Cathedral. Built in the 16th century, this landmark is really three churches in one as well as a repository of valuable masterpieces – more than 1200 are on display - , ranging from gold leaf altars, a wood carved choir and a painting with an interesting interpretation of the Last Supper, where the artist included, among the food served, a Guanaco pie, which is traditional meal of Cusco.

• Church of Our Lady of Mercy. This church is headquarters of the Order of Mercy (Mercedarians) in Peru. It is an excellent example of architecture coming out of the time when Peru was a Spanish viceroyalty. On its interior walls hang flawlessly restored paintings from the Cusco School.

• Church of the Company of Jesus. A Jesuit church, located to one side of the Main Square. Inside are priceless works of art, delicate wood religious statues and uncommon places fuscused away in corners of the building, like its underground chapel dedicated to praying for the dead, its sacristy and its aerial corridors that reach to the central cupula.

• Saint Dominic Convent. Build over the remains of the Incan Goricianca, or Temple of the Sun, which according to the Incas was the exact center of the world. A tour of the place includes the remaining sections of the old Incan temple, royal apartments, three other minor temples (dedicated to the moon, the stars and the rainbow) and the circular tower, which is the signature to this landmark.

• San Blas, quarter and church. A charming section of town where Cusco’s artisans live and work. The church there to see a nice collection of paintings.

• Archbishop Palace and the 12-angle stone. Built during the Colonial on the palace foundations of one of the Incan Emperors, Yana Roca, and exhibiting definite Arabic influences, is currently site of the Museum of Religious Art.

• Next to the Archbishop Palace on Humburumuyu Street, is an ancient Incan wall, a famous example of the notable stone work of the Incas, which accompanied themselves in painting and fitting together blocks of stone. This is the wall that contains the celebrated 12-angle stone, famous for the perfect fit of each one of its corners.

• Larco Museum of Pre-Columbian Art. Another nice collection of Incan works of art are on display here, done between 1250 B.C. and 1532 A.D.

• Sacsayhuaman archeological complex: the Fortress, Qenko, Puacapakara, and Tambomachay. There are 33 archeological sites within this area, yet obviously the most important is Sacsayhuaman itself. Its name means “house of the sun”, and every June 24th, the Inti Raymi or Festival of the Sun is celebrated at this spot. Other sites include: 1) Qenko, which means “labyrinth”, that researchers believed was built around 1500 A.D. and may have been the center of sun, moon and star worship; 2) Puacapakara features chambers, inner places, aqueducts, stairways and trails and seems to have served as a temple, or an inn, where the Incan Emperor might have stopped and rested for the night; and 3) Tambomachay, which some historians hypothesize that might have been a place for water worship and earth regeneration.

Sacred Valley of the Incas:

• Pisac. To go to this village it is necessary to experience its handicraft market as well as to see ancient Incan constructions: an irrigation system, an observatory, an Inca temple (stone used as a calendar, taking into account the position of the sun, and agricultural terraces.

• Qoyllur. This town is located at the skirts of two huge mountains: Pusallu and Sawawarmi, and in and around it all different attractions: Machu’y Ososo or “Small Cusco” archeological complex and two sets of springs: Machuayacu (heated sulfurous waters) and Minasmoqo (cold bubbling mineral waters).

• Yucay. This community has historically been seen as a very important center for irrigation technology and farming. Built here long ago was a palace for Manco Sayaj Tipyac, which according to legend was first owned by the Incan Emperor Huayna Capac.

• Urubamba. This town is in the heart of the Sacred Valley. Before the Conquest, it was an extremely important agricultural center and still today, farming forms part of its economic base, along with tourism.

• Ollantaytambo. It is called “a living Incan town” since people there still follow traditions and customs passed down through the years. The archeological complex of Ollantaytambo includes a temple, agricultural terraces and an urban sector. Why the Incas were in power, it was an chief administrative center and a fort, as the towering walls and imposing fortified towers so readily demonstrate. A short distance from Ollantaytambo is the village of Wilcos, whose inhabitants speak

What to buy?

Cusco is a handicraft lover’s dream come true, with so much to choose from that it will be hard to say no to any of them, starting with handmade clothing, pottery pieces, silver jewelry, copies of paintings from the Cusco School, wood carved statues decorated in gold leaf, religious figurines (the Three Kings, the Virgin Mary, Baby Jesus and archangels), masks, etc. The San Blas quarter is traditionally where you will find most of Cusco’s famous artisans’ workshops, the likes of Edilberto Mérida, Antonio Olave, Jesús La Torre and the Mendívil family.

What to eat?

Since visitors from all over the world come to Cusco, food to satisfy all palates and budgets is served there. You can find restaurants that serve traditional southern Andean dishes, like quinoa (a grain) and aguaymanto (type of berry), in modern style, which has prided itself on using rediscovered Andean produce, that are increasingly providing specialties from the Novo-Andean cuisine. Among the popular dishes, you will find meat (prized for its tenderness and low cholesterol), and restaurants that offer varied menus without losing the taste of a good home cooked meal.


Special recommendations

Seeing that you are in the Andes, it will be necessary to acclimatize yourself. Take it easy the first day, eat light food and drink what the natives drink to keep from feeling the affects of altitude sickness – mate de coca (coca tea). During the rainy season, bring a waterproof jacket, but during the dry season, wear a hat and use plenty of sun block. When traveling in the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, please follow the posted rules that will help in preserving its natural and cultural beauty.

1. Solère (or coca leaves) Incas always chewed on granules of leghuminous plant.
2. Amaranth (or quinoa plant).
3. Chicha. Also called in modernity “chicha de jora”.
4. A行业 and its aerial corridors that reach to the central cupula.
5. Qoricancha, or Temple of the Sun, which according to the Incas, was the exact center of the world. A tour of the place includes the remaining sections of the old Incan temple, royal apartments, three other minor temples (dedicated to the moon, the stars and the rainbow) and the circular tower, which is the signature to this landmark.
6. San Blas, quarter and church. A charming section of town where Cusco’s artisans live and work. The church there to see a nice collection of paintings.
7. Archbishop Palace and the 12-angle stone. Built during the Colonial on the palace foundations of one of the Incan Emperors, Yana Roca, and exhibiting definite Arabic influences, is currently site of the Museum of Religious Art.
8. Next to the Archbishop Palace on Humburumuyu Street, is an ancient Incan wall, a famous example of the notable stone work of the Incas, which accompanied themselves in painting and fitting together blocks of stone.
9. Sacred Valley of the Incas:
10. Pisac. To go to this village it is necessary to experience its handicraft market as well as to see ancient Incan constructions: an irrigation system, an observatory, an Inca temple (stone used as a calendar, taking into account the position of the sun, and agricultural terraces.
11. Qoyllur. This town is located at the skirts of two huge mountains: Pusallu and Sawawarmi, and in and around it all different attractions: Machu’y Ososo or “Small Cusco” archeological complex and two sets of springs: Machuayacu (heated sulfurous waters) and Minasmoqo (cold bubbling mineral waters).
12. Yucay. This community has historically been seen as a very important center for irrigation technology and farming. Built here long ago was a palace for Manco Sayaj Tipyac, which according to legend was first owned by the Incan Emperor Huayna Capac.
13. Urubamba. This town is in the heart of the Sacred Valley. Before the Conquest, it was an extremely important agricultural center and still today, farming forms part of its economic base, along with tourism.
14. Ollantaytambo. It is called “a living Incan town” since people there still follow traditions and customs passed down through the years. The archeological complex of Ollantaytambo includes a temple, agricultural terraces and an urban sector. Why the Incas were in power, it was an chief administrative center and a fort, as the towering walls and imposing fortified towers so readily demonstrate. A short distance from Ollantaytambo is the village of Wilcos, whose inhabitants speak