



# **CUSCO**

While Cusco's beginnings are lost in the fog of history, it was the capital of the historic Inca Empire. The first Spanish Conquerors arrived in the city in 1533, renaming it "The very noble and great City of Cusco".

Cusco or Qosqo, in the local Quechua language, is a place which combines the prehistoric with the modern world, where ancient Inca walls are topped with Spanish-style adobe constructions housing minimalist bars that offer the most outrageous cocktail combinations to both international travelers and the modern descendants of the Incas alike.

It is a place where Quechua-speaking people dressed in traditional Andean highland clothing share the narrow streets with multilingual travelers wearing fashionable designer sunglasses and their instantly recognizable trekking clothes.

It is a city where the markets are filled with the latest produce from the mountains and the jungle. In the evening Peruvian chefs use these ingredients to create delicious dishes that will surprise diners' unsuspecting taste buds. In the day time, the view is unique: deep blue skies, dark brown hills, white-washed houses, red-colored tiled roofs, all of which remind us of the vivid colors of a spectacular rainbow – which coincidentally serves as the city's flag. It is no surprise that the Incas chose this valley as their capital. To them, this was the "navel of the world".

Your guide will take you to the following sites in and around Cusco in the most logical sequence, avoiding crowds and taking into account the spectacularly beautiful sunsets (in the case of tours stretching into the afternoon). The minimum recommended time you should set aside for this tour is half a day (4 hours). However, if you prefer to turn this into a gentle acclimatization hike, you should opt for the half-day walking tour.

### **GET AROUND CUSCO**

#### Tambomachay

An alternative local name for this site is *El Baño del Inca*, or the Inca's bath. It consists of a series of aqueducts, canals, and waterfalls that run through the terraced rocks. The site's original function is uncertain: it may have served as a religious site or a spa resort for the Incan political elite – a question your guide will be happy to discuss!

#### Puca Pucara

The remains of the small nearby fortress consist of large walls, terraces, and staircases. Puca Pucara means "Red Fort" in Quechua, and comes from the red color of the rocks at dusk. This construction is an example of the city's defensive outposts that also functioned as an administrative center.

#### **Q'enqo**

Q'enqo, meaning "labyrinth" in Quechua, is one of the largest huacas (holy places) in the Cusco Region. Many huacas were based on naturally occurring rock formations. It is generally believed that sacrifices and mummification were practiced here.

#### Sacsayhuaman

The impressive fortress-like structure of Sacsayhuaman ("satisfied falcon" in Quechua) is a walled complex strategically placed on a hill overlooking the city. This construction, like many other Inca buildings, is made of large stone walls, each massively huge boulder carefully cut to fit tightly to the next one without any mortar in-between. The stones used in the construction are among the largest used in any pre-Columbian buildings and display a precision of fitting that is unmatched in the Americas.

#### San Blas

This neighborhood, home to artisans, as well as their work- and craft shops, is one of the most picturesque in the city. Its cobblestone streets are steep and narrow, lined with old houses built by the Spanish over important Inca foundations. It has an attractive square with a delightful little colonial church featuring an intricately carved pulpit considered to represent the zenith of colonial-era local woodcarving.

#### The Plaza de Armas

This plaza was the scene of several important events in the history of this city, such as the proclamation by Francisco Pizarro of the conquest of Cusco. Similarly, the Plaza de Armas witnessed the execution of Tupac Amaru II, considered to be the most important indigenous resistance leader of the post conquest era.

#### **The Cathedral**

This very imposing building was constructed on the foundations of the palace of Viracocha Inca. Built between 1560 and 1664, its interior has a variety of different architectural styles, ranging from the late-Gothic to the Baroque. The cathedral harbors outstanding examples of religious art, especially paintings from the distinctive colonial-era "Cusco School", such as the Last Supper depicting Jesus and the Twelve Apostles feasting on guinea pig, a traditional Andean delicacy.

#### Korikancha

The former Korikancha, or "Temple of the Sun", was the most important place of worship dedicated to the Sun deity during the Inca Empire. Plates of gold once covered its walls made up of tightly fitting rectangular exquisitely polished stones from top to bottom. The Spanish built the still functioning convent and church of Santo Domingo (St. Dominic) on top of the pre-Columbian foundations.

#### Museo Inka

The Museo Inka (Inca Museum), also known as the Archaeological Museum of Cusco, houses and important collection of artifacts that trace Peruvian history from pre-Inca civilizations and Inca culture to the impact of the Conquest and colonial times on these native cultures.



# Itinerary FULL DAY CITY TOUR

## **PRIVATE TOUR**

1 GUEST	US \$ 320.00
2 GUESTS	US \$ 205.00 PER PERSON
<b>3 GUESTS</b>	US \$ 165.00 PER PERSON
4 GUESTS	US \$ 145.00 PER PERSON

The full day Cusco City Tour begins by visiting the Inca sites of Tambomachay, Puca Pucara, Q'enqo and the impressive fortress of Sacsayhuaman, built strategically on a hill overlooking Cusco.

We then enjoy a typical Peruvian lunch at the Pachapapa restaurant in San Blas. Afterwards, we walk through bohemian San Blas, known for its many artisans and their workshops. While walking back to the Main Square, we will walk by the famous 12-angled stone on Hatunrumiyoc Street. Then we visit the Main Square (Plaza de Armas) where we will see the impressive cathedral—the square focal point. Next, we make our way to the Temple of the Sun, at the Korikancha. And finally, we visit the Inca Museum.

#### NOTES

In case of a large group, please ask for a special rate.

Our recommended pick-up time is at 9:00am. We suggest ending the tour at around 5:00pm.

The rate includes an English-speaking guide, transportation, lunch, and entrance fees if necessary.



# Itinerary HALF DAY CITY TOUR

PRIVATE TOUR		
1 GUEST	US \$ 215.00	
2 GUESTS	<b>US \$ 140.00</b> PER PERSON	
<b>3 GUESTS</b>	<b>US \$ 115.00</b> PER PERSON	
4 GUESTS	US \$ 100.00 PER PERSON	

The Cusco City Tour begins with a visit to the Temple of the Sun, at the Korikancha. Then, we walk back to the Main Square (Plaza de Armas) where we will see the impressive cathedral—the Square's focal point.

We then visit the Inca sites of Q'uenqo, Tambomachay, Puca Pucara, as well as the impressive fortress of Sacsayhuaman, built strategically on a hill overlooking Cusco.

#### NOTES

Pick-up time is at 9:00 a.m. This tour takes about 5 hours. The rate includes an English-speaking guide, transportation, and entrance fees if necessary.

### **GROUP TOURS**

US \$ 90.00 per person Pick-up time is at 1:00pm. Return time is at approximately 5:30pm-6:00pm. Group tours are not available in the morning.



# Itinerary HALF DAY WALKING TOUR

PRIVAT	'E TOUR
1 GUEST	US \$ 120.00

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2 GUESTS	US \$ 80.00 PER PERSON
3 GUESTS	US \$ 65.00 PER PERSON
4 GUESTS	US \$ 60 .00 PER PERSON

You can do the half day Cusco city tour just walking too. The difference is that in this tour, you visit the places that are accessible by foot, so we will visit the Cathedral and the Main Square, follow by Koricancha and the Inca Museum.

### NOTES

In case of a large group, please ask for a special rate. Pick-up time is at 9:00am. This tour takes about 5 hours. The rate includes an English-speaking guide, transportation, and entrance fees if necessary.



### Itinerary ROOFTOP KITCHEN COOKING CLASS

PRIVATE

**GROUP** 

US \$ 94.00 PER PERSON

US \$ 64.00 PER PERSON This tour is a culinary experience with a unique insight into Peru's food and culture through the use of regional products like quinoa, yellow peppers, and trout. With the chef you will create fusion gourmet dishes and enjoy the most spectacular views that the city has to offer.

The cooking lessons starts at either 11:00 am or 4:00 pm and includes pick up and drop off the customer's hotel. The class starts with a 30 minute tour of the traditional open air San Pedro market. Afterwards you will head to the Rooftop Kitchen facility, with breathtaking views of the city, to start the cooking lesson. The class consists of the preparation of an appetizer, main course, and pisco sour. There are also vegetarian options (please specify when you reserve). The lesson lasts approximately 2 hours.

Individual cooking stations for a limited number of students (2 kitchens with 8 stations and 18 stations, 26 people maximum).

**Duration of Culinary Experience** Approximately 3 hours





www.mountainlodgesofperu.com info@mountainlodgesofperu.com PERU +51 84243636
 NORTH AMERICA 1 877 491 5261
 BRAZIL 0 800 891 5372

/ EUROPE +44 (0) 800 014 8886 AUSTRALIA 1 800 445 497