

Peru Private Tour & Galápagos Islands Expedition

Please note that all of the itineraries listed in our web site are actual private tour itineraries we have prepared for clients over the past 12-18 months. By the very nature of what we do, each private tour itinerary is custom, exclusive, and unique unto itself. Our over-riding goal is to create lifelong memories that you and your family will forever carry deep within your hearts.

Overview

Cusco and Machu Picchu are certainly among the most fascinating natural wonders of the world. Despite the excessive tourism to the locale of Machu Picchu, we suggest spending time in nearby Sacred Valley, where you may enjoy a more culturally compelling experience with a private hiking guide to show you the [many interesting trails you may travel](#). No Machu Picchu luxury travel experience is complete without a ride aboard the Hiram Bingham Train, an overnight stay at Belmond Sanctuary Lodge (on the actual grounds of Machu Picchu!). We love this combination of the challenging and rewarding Inca Trail and a three-night luxury cruise on the Amazon River!

UNESCO declared the Galápagos' 19 islands and surrounding marine reserve as a "living museum and showcase of evolution." Situated on the convergence of three ocean currents, the Galápagos plays host to an affluence of marine life. Its continuous seismic and volcanic activity is an exciting study that illustrates not only how the islands were created, but also that it is ever-changing. The meeting of such unique environmental conditions for an isolated archipelago has led to the highest levels of endemism (species found nowhere else) on the planet. Please note, some exploration hikes can be arduous, for example, the hike up Prince Philip's Steps on Genovesa Island. To explore this site, one of the vessels we recommend is the Endemic. The 16-passenger, M/C Elite is one of our top three favorite vessels! There are other luxury vessels we recommend for visiting the Galápagos, which you can [read more about here](#).

Best Travel Time: [Spring](#) [Summer](#) [Fall](#) [Winter](#)

<p>PERU Temperature Range Highs: Low 80's Lows: High 60's Area 1.28 Million SQ KM 496,225 SQ MILES Population 32 Million Language Spanish Capital Lima Currency Nuevo Sol</p>	<p>ECUADOR Temperature Range Highs: Low 70's Lows: High 50's Area 272,045 SQ KM 105,037 SQ MILES Population 16.5 Million Language Spanish & indigenous languages Capital Quito Currency US Dollar</p>
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Day 1

Fly to Lima

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assist with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

Day 2

Arrive Lima

Upon arrival in Lima, you will be privately transferred to the Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport Hotel.

Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport Hotel

Though certainly not a deluxe property, we feel the 192-room Wyndham Costa del Sol is the highest quality Lima airport hotel among limited choices and is convenient for a brief overnight rest before connecting to Cusco the

following day.

Accommodations: Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport Hotel

Day 3

Fly Lima/Cusco + Private Transfer to Sacred Valley

Following breakfast, you will be assisted with check-in for your flight to Cusco. Upon arrival in Cusco, you will be privately transferred to the Explora Valle Sagrado.

Explora Valle Sagrado

Being big fans of the outdoor-oriented Explora properties in Patagonia, Atacama, and Easter Island, we were excited about the 2017 opening of the Explora Valle Sagrado (Explora Sacred Valley). The 50-room, architecturally-striking lodge is set in a tranquil rural location, with a somewhat spartan Scandinavian aesthetic, including unvarnished wooden walls, stripped beams and pillars, and vaulted ceilings. We particularly like the naturally-lit rooms' alpaca-wool blankets and panoramic views of the surrounding plantations and mountains, as well as the nice pool here! Two of our favorite features here are the outstanding dining room with its cathedral ceiling and the spa in an adjacent 17th-century country hacienda. The emphasis here is on exploring nature (hiking and mild mountain hiking)! Please note, there are no TVs here, though similar to the Explora Patagonia, Wi-Fi is available in the common areas (restaurant and lobby area). Though it is not noted on their website, our contacts at Explora have advised us that there is laundry service available here.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Explora Valle Sagrado

Day 4

Sacred Valley

Along with Cusco and the ancient city of Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley formed the heart of the Inca Empire, dating back to the 13th-century. The area is peaceful and stunning, with attractive colonial towns and isolated villages. The main attractions here are the markets and the Inca citadels of Pisac and Ollantaytambo, but there is much more to explore. Its unique geography, the Inca remains, and the authenticity of the local people inspired Explora to create over 30 explorations that can be completed either on foot, by van, or bike. While here, you may choose to explore traditional towns barely touched by the force of globalization, ancient ruins perfectly preserved from the passing of time, and lagoons at the foot of snow-covered mountains with Explora's expert guides.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Explora Valle Sagrado

Day 5

Private Transfer to Inca Trail Trailhead + Inca Trail Day 1: Pisacacucho to Huayllabamba

Following breakfast, you will be privately transferred to the Inca Trail trailhead situated by the rural community of Pisacacucho. Beginning here, you will start your trek with your group and guides, passing through the small settlement of Miskay with views of the Inca city of Llactapata. You will then descend toward the archaeological site and trek up the valley of the Kuschaca River, gradually ascending for several hours until reaching the farming community of Huayllabamba, where you will camp for the night.

Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: Huayllabamba Campsite

Day 6

Inca Trail Day 2: Huayllabamba to Pacamayo River Valley

Following breakfast at the campsite, you will depart from the main Kusichaka River Valley and begin ascending the tributary valley of Llulluchayoc, towards Warwihuañusca pass "Dead Woman Pass". There is abundant birdlife, with a predominance of finches, thrushes, tanagers, and seed-eaters. The cloud forest is also one of the preferred environments of the Andean spectacled bear. There are fine views of the surrounding mountains from the summit of the pass you will descend into the Pacamayo river valley.

Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: Pacaymayo Campsite

Day 7

Inca Trail Day 3: Pacamayo River Valley to Phuyupatamarca

Following breakfast at the campsite, today will be the longest day of the trek yet and by far the most rewarding. From Pacaymayo you will ascend the second pass, known as the Abra de Runkurakay. Halfway to the summit lies the archaeological complex of Runkurakay, consisting of a small, slightly oval circular structure believed to have served the purpose of observation post or perhaps a small garrison. You will pass by Yanacocha (Black Lake) until reaching the archaeological complex of Sayajmarca. Upon descending from Sayajmarca back onto the main trail, you will enter a stretch of dense cloud forest, before ascending a moderate gradient, following a wide Inca road. This road eventually flows onto the third pass of the Inca Trail, the Abra of Phuyupatamarca. Just below the Phuyupatamarca Pass, lies the archaeological complex of Phuyupatamarca.

Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: Phuyupatamarca Campsite

Day 8

Inca Trail Day 4: Phuyupatamarca to Machu Picchu

Following breakfast at the campsite, this morning you will likely be able to appreciate what is probably the most spectacular sunrise ever on the Inca trail. From an elevated vantage point above the ruins and close by your camp, you may take in a 360° panoramic view of all the surrounding cordilleras, among them the Pumasillo massif of the Cordillera Vilcabamba to the west, as well as Salkantay and the seldom-seen Pallcay to the south, and the Urubamba-Verónica range to the north-northeast. You will begin today's trek from the lower section of the Phuyupatamarca complex. Discovered as recently as 1983, it descends to Wiñaywayna, the largest archeological site on the Inca trail, second only to Machu Picchu. After one more hour of hiking through the cloud forest on a walkway paved with ashlar, you will arrive at the Intipunku "the Gateway of the Sun", from where you may finally see the fabulous hidden city of Machu Picchu. From Intipunku, a 40-minute descent will lead you to the so-called "House of the Guardians" and the entranceway to the citadel. At the end of the trail, you will be assisted to the Belmond Sanctuary Lodge for check-in and a well-earned rest.

Belmond Sanctuary Lodge

The 31-room Belmond Sanctuary Lodge is the only hotel adjacent to the ruins, a location that grants special access to this other-worldly place. Based on its management by the Belmond Group, the service and overall

dining options here are of the highest quality. Though the rooms are relatively small, they are newly refurbished with the usual luxury amenities you would expect from a Belmond Property. The fundamental and priceless benefit of staying at this property is having exclusive and direct access to the adjacent Machu Picchu ruins.

Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: Belmond Sanctuary Lodge

Day 9

Machu Picchu Hiking + Train to Cusco

This morning, you will have the opportunity to take your choice of hike through Machu Picchu with your private guide. The Sun Gate Trail is a steady incline and hike many explorers choose to be able to view the high agricultural terraces. For a more challenging hike, you may choose the Huayna Picchu, tackling narrow staircases and steep lanes for an incomparable sight of this civilization. In the late afternoon, you will board the Hiram Bingham Train back to Cusco, where you will be assisted to check-in at the Belmond Palacio Nazarenas.

Belmond Palacio Nazarenas

Restored from a former 17th-century palace and convent, the historic 5-star Palacio Nazarenas is one of our two favorite luxury properties in Cusco (the other being the Hotel Monasterio). Despite its location close to Cusco's main square, the Palacio is quiet and truly an oasis of comfort. With only 55 oxygen-enriched suites (much needed at 11,100 ft. elevation), the service here is high touch, including personal butler service. All 55 suites feature elaborate, wood-carved furniture, Inca inspired artwork and furnishings and underfloor heating in the Peruvian marble bathrooms. We particularly like the nice outdoor-heated pool and full-service spa. The hotel's cloistered courtyard with fountain certainly evokes the old Hacienda style of living.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodations: Belmond Palacio Nazarenas

Day 10

Half-Day Cusco Private Tour + Fly Cusco/Lima

Today, you will take a private tour of Cusco, including the City's Cathedral, considered the most beautiful churches in the Americas, and 16th-century Santo Domingo. You may also walk amidst the incredible Indian military structure, Saqsaywaman, as well as the Qenko shrine, devoted to Mother Earth. Following your tour, you will be privately transferred to the airport for your onward flight to Lima. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to Hotel B, where the remainder of your day will be free to spend at your leisure.

Hotel B

Located in the artsy, Bohemian, Barranco district of Lima, Hotel B is perhaps our favorite luxury, boutique hotel in all of Peru. The property was originally built as a seaside retreat for the president of Peru, Augusto Leguía, in the 1920s. Noted French architect Claude Sahut was commissioned to design the original building, completed in 1914. With only 17 suites/rooms, the early 20th-century style rooms include high-ceilings, big windows with balconies, and the usual luxury amenities. Though the majority of the 17 suites are in the original building, the newly-built annex suites are also very nice, with no real downgrade in quality. The restoration of Hotel B is considered to have been the new standard for historic restoration in Lima. The hotel's

Oscar Velarde restaurant is a can't-miss experience, as is the property's cozy, funky bar. In addition to being surrounded by many art galleries and studios, Hotel B has its own art collection and is linked directly with the Lucia de la Puente Gallery. Lucia is also one of the hotel's investors.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Hotel B

Day 11

Fly Lima/Iquitos + Board Amazon River Cruise

Today, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight to Iquitos, the gateway to the Amazon and the Amazon River. Here, you will be transferred to board the M/V ARIA Vessel for an immersive, three-night river exploration.

M/V ARIA Amazon River Vessel

We love the M/V Aria and consider the three or four-night Amazon River Cruise to be a highlight of our Peru Private Tour itinerary. Originally launched in 2011 and completely refurbished in 2015, the luxury, 16-cabin M/V ARIA river vessel provides a high-touch, fun Amazon River expedition experience. Custom built by noted Peruvian architect Jordi Puig, the ARIA includes 16 air-conditioned cabins (250 sq. feet each), all featuring updated bathrooms and showers, floor-to-ceiling windows, and 24/7 hot water access. The vessel is limited to 32 guests, in addition to 24 crew members, including a paramedic and four naturalist guides. Other features include an indoor bar, spacious dining room, observation deck, a small workout area (treadmill and stationary bike), and Peruvian 5-star cuisine. We feel the Peruvian dining experience onboard the ARIA is among the highest standards anywhere in the country. Using the ARIA's expedition skills to explore the Amazon tributaries, you will have ample opportunities to fish for Piranha! Also of note is the ample peacock bass fishing available during the September and October season! Please note, the ARIA's eight-passenger skiffs use Mercury 60 HP Marine Outbound engines, operating at ultra-low emission levels for minimum disruption to wildlife. It is important to note that the ARIA does not have internet access, though guests sometimes are able to connect via roaming data on their devices.

M/V Nera Amazon River Vessel

Launching in August 2020, the new, 20-suite Aqua Nera will operate alongside the ARIA Amazon. A redesigned interior from the award-winning architect, Noor Design, draws inspiration from the Amazon's mystical, blackwater lagoons. The Aqua Nera will also feature comprehensive amenities including an indoor lounge and bar, as well as a river-facing plunge pool and gym. Onboard dining remains overseen by the renowned Peruvian chef, Pedro Miguel Schiaffino. Congrats to our friends at Aqua!

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: M/V ARIA Amazon River Vessel

Day 12 - 13

Amazon River Cruise

Aboard the ARIA, you will experience the Amazon's unique flora, fauna, primates, amphibians, and marine life on your journey. In addition, you'll have a chance to visit island river communities for a holistic Amazonian immersion.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: M/V ARIA Amazon River Vessel

Day 14

Disembark + Fly Iquitos/Lima/Guayaquil + Guayaquil Private Night Tour

Following breakfast and one last excursion, you will be transferred to the airport to board your onward flight to Guayaquil, via Lima. Upon arrival in Guayaquil, you will be privately transferred to the Hotel del Parque. This evening, you will have the option of a private night tour. Located on the banks of the Guayas River, Guayaquil is Ecuador's principal harbor and largest city, with three million inhabitants. Starting in Centennial Park, your guide will take you to see the city's ongoing regeneration.

Hotel del Parque

Opened in January of 2017, this historical, 44-room, luxury, boutique hotel is our new favorite property in Guayaquil! This hotel is located in the lush Guayaquil Historical Park in the upscale Samborondón area of the city. Hotel del Parque offers a surreal and calming oasis from the noisy city center. Originally conceived in 1891, the building served as a homeless shelter for the elderly and disabled. The rooms are spacious, including extra-large bedrooms with modern bathrooms. Among the amenities is the amazing restaurant, Casa Julian, which overlooks the hazy Daule River. The hotel offers an outstanding spa service, located in the chapel's bell tower, with spectacular 360° views over the gardens.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodations: Hotel del Parque

Day 15

Fly Guayaquil/Baltra + Board M/C Elite Galápagos Expedition

Following breakfast, you will be privately transferred to the airport for your onward flight to Baltra, Galápagos. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to board the M/C Elite to begin your Galápagos Islands expedition. Time permitting, you will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station & Fausto Llerena Breeding Center.

M/C Elite

Designed to sail the Galápagos, this sleek, twin-hulled catamaran provides guests with a stable cruise and spacious interior. Onboard you will be able to enjoy a semi-covered sky deck, alfresco dining area, and cozy bar-salon. All suites onboard are spacious (Golden Suite is 35 sq. meters), each with ocean views through panoramic windows, outdoor balcony, and rainforest style showers in private bathrooms. Aboard the M/C Elite, you will enjoy delicious meals made from fresh and local ingredients prepared by the chef on board. Just launched on June 15, 2019, with a capacity of only 16 passengers, the Elite is the perfect place to relax after a day of exploring the islands and wildlife that make up the Galápagos.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: M/C Elite

Day 16 - 18

Galápagos Expedition on the M/C Elite

Over these three full-days, you will explore the UNESCO-designated Galápagos Islands aboard the M/C Elite. You will dock to explore fabulous places like Darwin Beach, formed by the rim of a sunken crater; climb Prince

Phillip's Steps, also known as the "Stairway to Seabird Heaven"; the beautiful white sand beaches of Espumilla Beach, Buccaneer Cove, and Bachas Beach; the black sand beach of Egas Port; The Highlands, home to an abundance of Scalesia trees and giant tortoises in the wild, and the iconic Kicker Rock. All the while, you will be awed by the unique and endemic plant and animal species you encounter!

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: M/C Elite

Day 19

Fly San Cristobal/Guayaquil/Home

After your final stopover, you will disembark the M/C Elite on San Cristobal Island and a representative will transfer you to the airport for your return flight to Guayaquil. Upon arrival, you will be assisted in connecting to your onward flight home.

Meals: Breakfast