



Global Explorers

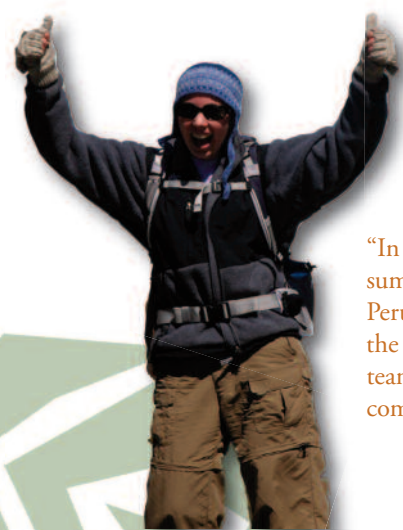
WHERE // Machu Picchu & The Sacred Valley: Peru

Program Highlights

- ◀ Experience the solitude of the Andes as you trek to the ancient citadel of Machu Picchu. Gaze in awe and explore these fabled ruins first-hand.
- ◀ Discover the wonder of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the famous center of the Incan Empire known for its stunning highland terrain, colorful culture and captivating history.
- ◀ Enjoy a fireside Pachamanca dinner, cooked in the ground, and engage in a service project alongside members of a rural highlands

Program Description

Machu Picchu tops the must-see list for many of the world's intrepid travelers. After encountering this mysterious sanctuary and its famous walls, it comes as no surprise that Machu Picchu was named one of the "New 7 Wonders of the World." This adventure also brings us through the lush and jagged peaks of the Andes and to a variety of rich cultural and historical sites in Cusco and the mystical Sacred Valley. We engage in service, immerse ourselves in the lively culture of the Peruvian highlands and reflect on our own lives amidst a backdrop of some of Earth's most extraordinary scenery.



"In order to reach my personal summit in life, I learned on a Peruvian mountain that no matter the impairments of me or my team, a determined spirit overcomes all obstacles."

- Riley, Student Explorer

Pre-Travel Curriculum

- ◀ Andes ecology and regional conservation issues.
- ◀ Incan history, Peruvian culture and Spanish language.
- ◀ Leadership skills, service learning and responsible travel knowledge.

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Program Itinerary

Please visit the Machu Picchu page at www.globalexplorers.org for other itineraries that include alternate Inca trails or train rides to Machu Picchu.

Day 1

We depart the U.S. and travel to Lima, Peru. Depending on our flight schedule, we may spend the night at a hotel or we may head directly to Cusco.

Days 2 – 3

This morning we travel to Cusco and settle into our hotel, located near the main plaza downtown. We meet for a guided tour of the city and enjoy a welcome dinner with a cultural show. On Day 3, we explore the Sacred Valley, beginning in the colonial town and Inca city of Pisac. After shopping, we follow the sacred Urubamba River on our way to Ollantaytambo. Later, we proceed to our private campsite at Km. 82, where we enjoy a Pachamanca dinner and camp for the night.

Days 4 – 6

This morning we meet our porters and begin our trek. A day of initially gentle hiking along the Urubamba River brings us to the ruins of Llactapata, the village of Huayllabamba and a private campsite at Paucarcancha, perched next to a magnificent archaeological site. On our second day on the trail we march on past Huayllabamba to a lunch site with spectacular mountain views. We pass through a cloud forest and climb our way over Warmiwanusca, the highest point of our trek at 13,830 feet above sea level. We follow incredible views along a

brief descent to our next campsite at Pacaymayu. Passing through different ecological zones the next day, we climb our second highest pass, hopefully catching a glimpse of the snow-covered peaks of Cordillera Vilcabamba above the lush valley below. We encounter masterful Incan engineering at several more ruins sites and reach our final campsite before Machu Picchu at Phuyupatamarca, the "Place Above the Clouds."

Day 7

We say goodbye to our camp crew this morning and hike an easier trail for several hours down a stone paved road with incredible stairways, a small tunnel and several viewing terraces. We enjoy a lunch at Wiñay Huayna and continue on to Inti Punku, or "the Gate of the Sun," where we catch our first glimpse of Machu Picchu. Today, we spend some time exploring the ruins on our own and spend the evening at a hotel in the nearby town of Aguas Calientes.

Day 8

Today we have a full day of guided tours of Machu Picchu followed by some additional time to explore the ruins on our own. In the afternoon we board the train to return to Ollantaytambo and transfer to our hotel in Cusco.

Days 9 – 10

On Day 9 we catch a flight to Lima and hop aboard our late night flight home. We arrive in the U.S. the morning of Day 10.

Program Details

Expedition Length: 10 days

Location: Peru – Cusco, Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley

What's Included:

All lodging in Peru; all meals and drinking water in Peru; all transportation in Peru; all daily activities and related fees; Global Explorers Expedition Leader; local guides and drivers; all gratuities; basic travel insurance; airport departure fees; preparatory materials and support; t-shirts and journals; carbon offsets for international air travel. Tents, sleeping bags and sleeping pads are provided while trekking.

What's Not Included:

International airfare between your home city and Lima, Peru; passport fees; immunization fees; spending money (for souvenirs and extra snacks); expenses as a result of travel delays or cancellations that fall outside of Global Explorers' control.

Maturity Level:

This program is open to middle school and high school groups. Trekking participants need to consider physical fitness as a requirement.

Group Size:

We require a minimum group size of 10 paying participants for this program.

Accommodations:

Students stay in a safe and clean hotel in Cusco. While trekking, students camp in tents with gear packed in by porters and pit toilets at campsites. Food is delicious and healthy local cuisine. Fresh drinking water is always available.