



### Peru & Bolivia Explorer

19 Days Lima to Lima

21 Days Lima to La Paz

27 Days Lima to La Paz

**Day 1** The capital of Peru, **Lima** is a city of contrasts. Here you'll encounter both abundant wealth and grinding poverty, modern skyscrapers next to some of the finest museums and historical monuments in Latin America. Your tour leader will meet you the evening before in the Hotel. There will be a notice in reception advising you of this and the time and place of the meeting. You will have a free day to explore its many museums, markets and colonial plazas. (breakfast)

**Day 2** Our first stop, south of Lima, on the Peru overland travel adventure is at the **Ballestas Islands in the Paracas National Reserve**. Here we take a boat trip to view one of the most important marine reserves in the world with the highest concentration of rare and exotic sea birds and sea mammals. (breakfast)

**Day 3** An hours drive inland in the heart of the **Ica Desert** is Peru's main wine centre. Here we visit the **Tacama winery**, originally a Jesuit run Bodega it now produces export quality wines as well as Peru's national drink, Pisco. After our own tasting session we continue a few kilometres to the nearby **Oasis of Huacachina**. A palm fringed lake surrounded by impressive sand dunes, you can relax on the beach, go for a swim and then if its an adrenaline rush you're after head out with your Tour Leader on a custom made **dune buggy** and roar across the desert sands to the top of enormous dunes and then sand board down them - **imagine snowboarding but on sand instead!** Tonight, after an unforgettable desert sunset, we sit around the campfire while our guides cook up a storm, followed by a night sleeping out under the stars. (breakfast, dinner)

**Day 4** Travel to Peru is not complete without a trip to one of the world's greatest archaeological mysteries - **the Nazca Lines**. Only discovered 70 years ago from the air, these huge figures carved into the desert floor are best viewed by light aircraft. Thought to have been made by three different civilisations going back more than 2000 years, there are many contrasting theories about what they signify and why they are there, it is worthwhile asking local opinion - you may well be surprised with the replies, this will undoubtedly be one of the best experiences on your Peru travel adventure! Also memorable is a visit to **Chauchilla Cemetery** with its well-preserved mummies. Leaving the Atacama Desert we begin to climb into the Andes mountain range towards **Arequipa**. (breakfast)

**Days 5 to 8** Four days are dedicated to exploring this beautiful colonial city and the spectacular surrounding area. Continuing as always with our theme of adventure travel, Peru offers many options to go white water rafting, cycling, trekking, horse riding as well as a visit to the **Colca Canyon**, which at 900m is not only one of the deepest in the world but also the home of the majestic **Condors**. Here you can view the condors circling lazily in the thermals rising from the canyon floor. (breakfast)

**Days 9 & 10** A short flight over the dramatic Andes Mountains takes us to **Cuzco**, the outdoors capital of Peru and our base for the next 7 days. A mecca for adventure travel, Peru's famous Inca Trail begins near this city. Although Cuzco is today a colonial city most of its churches and museums are built on top of original Inca stonewalls which are clearly visible. We include a day tour of the beautiful **Urubamba or Sacred Valley of the Incas** where you'll find temples, terraces, local communities and markets and finally our comfortable campsite at km82, the start of the **Inca Trail!** (breakfast x 2, dinner x 1)

## Festival of Inti Raymi

When it comes to Peru overland travel you should not miss the Festival of Inti Raymi. This is Cuzco's prime annual event and a public holiday. The sun was the principle object of Inca worship and at their winter solstice, in June, the Incas honoured the solar deity with a great celebration known as Inti Raymi, the sun festival. Hundreds of local men and women play the parts of Inca priests, nobles, soldiers and the Inca Emperor. The procession winds its way from Qoricancha Sun Temple through Cuzco accompanied by singing and drinking, to Sacsayhuaman, where thousands of people gather on the ancient stones to watch the ceremony begin. The music and dancing continues to nightfall. If you travel to Peru with us in June, you'll be able to visit this Fiesta.

**Days 11 to 14** In the Urubamba Valley we begin our 4 day hike along the Classic **Inca Trail to Machu Picchu**. This moderate to strenuous hike is a once in a lifetime experience and anyone with a good level of fitness can master it. A stunning combination of awesome views, Inca ruins, magnificent mountains and exotic adventure. There are also alternatives to this trek available, for when the Classic Trail is unavailable, or by your choice. Please see the section on Inca Trails for details, and ensure that you contact Oasis at the time of booking to arrange any alternatives. Our route back to Cuzco for all options is by train. (breakfast x 4, lunch & dinner x 3)

**Day 15** of your Peru travel experience is a free day in **Cuzco** to relax and recover as well as explore more of the city and its museums and churches or look for local crafts from Alpaca woollen jumpers to musical instruments. The adventurous can go white water rafting on the Urubamba River. (breakfast)

**Days 16 to 18** Bordering Peru and Bolivia at 3800m lies **Lake Titicaca** which will be one of the most memorable stops on your tour. Lake Titicaca is the original place of the **Uros Indians** who have made their homes on **floating reed islands**. By boat we visit the floating islands during the day and then we go that one step beyond the average and spend the night with one of the Indian families on the lesser known islands **Isla Amantani or Taquile**. Spending some time in these local communities is a definite highlight of travel to Peru and is almost like stepping back in time. This experience will provide a unique opportunity to learn more about the traditional lifestyle of the

Andean people and their customs as well as supporting these families with some extra income. (breakfast x 3, lunch & dinner x 1)

**Day 19** Those on the 19 day trip will board the plane today to Lima where the trip ends on arrival. (Should you like to stay extra nights in Lima, let your tour leader know whilst in Lima at the beginning of the trip, or arrange direct with the hotel then.) The rest of the group have a free day to relax in Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca, and experience the rich Andean culture. (breakfast)

**Day 20** Our tour of Peru draws to a close this morning, as we leave for **Bolivia**. Just after crossing the border, is the picturesque lakeside village of Copacabana where we stop for lunch. From here we continue onto the impressive city of **La Paz**.

Bolivia is considered the most indigenous of all South American countries and this is clearly visible in La Paz. The capital is a hilly city full of markets and traditionally dressed people. There is also the opportunity for a one day **'gravity assisted' mountain bike adventure**. A great place to spend a few extra days at the end of your Peru overland travel adventure as the city is renowned for sightseeing, shopping, its museums and several other excursions. The rest of the day is yours to explore the city. (breakfast)

**Day 21** Those on the 21 day tour finish this morning. However if you wish to spend some extra time in La Paz, we can help arrange post tour accommodation for you. (breakfast)

**Please note that this next part of the trip is not escorted by your Oasis tour leader, but by an experienced jungle guide.**

**Day 22** - Depart **La Paz** by plane to **Rurrenabaque**, a small town on the **Beni River**. We transfer you to your hotel and overnight here. (Dinner included.)

**Days 23 & 24** – Meeting our guide we jump on board jeeps for the journey to the **Yacuma River** in the **Pampas**. We transfer to **motorised canoe** and travel to our camp on the edge of the river, passing tortoises sunning themselves, **alligators** lying on the banks with their jaws open and **capybara** cooling off in the shallows. During our time in the Pampas we hope to **spot pink dolphin, all sorts of monkeys, maybe a toucan or anaconda**. In the evening we venture out in the canoe to see alligators' eyes glowing in the dark. Our accommodation is basic– no flushing loos or showers! (3 meals a day included.)

**Day 25** – Back to the jeeps for the drive to **Rurrenabaque**. From here we travel by **motorised canoe** along the **Beni River** to our **jungle camp** in **Madidi National Park**. (3 meals included.)

**Day 26** – Our guide will take us on walks to spot different kinds of monkeys and birds and teach us about the traditional uses of plants, some for medicine, some for poison! At night we can go on a trek, the only way to experience the sounds of the jungle! (3 meals included.)

**Day 27** – Transfer back to **Rurrenabaque** for the flight to La Paz. Your trip ends on arrival in La Paz. (Breakfast included)

Should you like to stay extra nights in La Paz, let us know and we can arrange post tour accommodation for you.

**N.B. FLIGHT TIMES FROM THE JUNGLE CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE (PARTICULARLY DURING THE RAINY SEASON) SO MAKE SURE YOUR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT BOOKINGS ALLOW AT LEAST ONE SPARE DAY AFTER THE JUNGLE EXCURSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED!**

## **Optional Excursions** Excursion Price (US\$)

- Sand Boarding and Dune Buggy 45
- Flight over Nazca Lines 60
- Cuzco Museum pass 20
- Cuzco City Tour 10
- Colca Canyon Tour 80

## What's Included

- Airport transfer on arrival in Lima
- Ballestas Islands Boat Tour
- Inca Trail Trek to Machu Picchu (4 days trek including all meals on Inca Trail)
- Entrance to Machu Picchu
- Return train to Machu Picchu
- Sacred Valley Tour (inclds ent & guide)
- Flight Arequipa to Cuzco
- Meals as per itinerary - approx 50%)
- All local transport
- All Accommodation (simple hotels & hostels & 3 nights camping on Inca Trail)
- Services of Tour Leader

## What's NOT Included

- International Flights Airport Taxes and end of Trip transfers
- Travel Insurance
- Visas
- Drinks
- Meals not specified
- Tips and Optional excursions as listed

**Important:** Before you travel please check your **Tour Voucher** and **Arrival Information** for the latest joining instructions. This will be sent to you upon receipt of final payment.

**All itineraries are subject to change without prior notice.**