

The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Presents

Culinary Adventure in Peru

May 1 – 11, 2025

\$5,400 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Day by Day Itinerary

Thursday, May 1 – CHICAGO / Miami / LIMA (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this morning by scheduled service of American Airlines on our journey to Lima, Peru. On arrival, we'll meet our Kipachi Peru Travel Tour Guide who will travel with us throughout our vacation. As we'll soon learn, Peru's capital lies on the Pacific coast, halfway between the country's northern border with Ecuador and its southern border with Chile. However, Lima's strongest appeal may not be its location in the heart of Peru, but its distinction of being the gastronomic capital, not only of Peru but also of South America.

Friday, May 2 – LIMA (B,D)

Today will be spent exploring Lima. We'll start our tour by visiting the Plaza Mayor, the city's main square that is the heart of Lima, where we'll see the Government Palace, the Archbishop's Palace, and step inside the **Cathedral of Lima**. Next, we visit the **Convent of San Francisco**, the greatest architectural complex of its kind in Latin America. Our morning sightseeing comes to an end following a visit to the **Larco Herrera Archeological Museum**. The museum is housed in an 18th century vice-royal mansion built over a 7th century pre-Columbian pyramid and displays an impressive collection of pre-Columbian artwork covering 4,000 years of Peru's history.

Late this afternoon we'll enjoy a hands-on cooking class while learning about the history of how Peruvian-Spanish iconic dishes and cocktails were first made. All Peruvian dishes have a special flavor (sazón) which come to life with the perfect combination of ingredients. No experience is needed, we'll be guided throughout each step and be given tips and recommendations needed to recreate our own dishes when we return home.

Saturday, May 3 – LIMA / AREQUIPA (B)

This morning we depart Lima and take to the skies for Arequipa, the colonial-era capital of Peru's Arequipa Region. Basking in the shadow of the snow-capped Misti, Chachani, and Pichu Pichu volcanoes, Arequipa is built almost entirely from sillar, a white volcanic rock, from which the city derives its nickname of the 'White City.' Our introduction to Arequipa begins with a visit the **Museum of the Catholic University of Santa Maria de Arequipa**. The museum's most famous exhibit is Juanita, the Lady of Ampato. Believed to have been sacrificed by Inca priests high on Mount Ampato, Juanita was buried with wooden and gold figurines, and assorted items she would need in the afterlife.

Sunday, May 4 – AREQUIPA (B,L)

Today begins with a walking tour of Arequipa and a visit to the San Camilo Market for a very Peruvian culinary experience. As we wander through its bustling alleys, brimming with a kaleidoscope of colors and an irresistible medley of aromas, the history of the Mercado San Camilo will come to life in the stalls of this neat, orderly and

curious market. Afterward, we'll visit the **Monastery of Santa Catalina**, a city within the city. Considered a masterpiece of colonial architecture, the monastery served as a cloister for Dominican nuns from the 16th to the 18th centuries, and still houses a small religious community today.

As we'll soon experience, life in Arequipa is extremely pleasant, relaxed, and unhurried. With the afternoon at leisure, enjoy time spent in one of the outdoor cafes on the Plaza de Armas. It's where locals come to socialize and read newspapers under the shade of palm trees, and come to gaze at the towering Basilica Cathedral of Arequipa.

Monday, May 5 – AREQUIPA / CUSCO (B,D)

This morning we depart Arequipa and take to the skies for Cusco, located in the south-eastern part of the Andes. Known by the Incas as the "home of gods," Cusco became the capital of one of the largest pre-Columbian empires, the Tawantinsuyo. Today, Cusco is also both a mestizo and colonial city, with splendid churches and manors built on foundations of the elaborately carved stone.

Late this afternoon we continue our Peruvian culinary experience with an opportunity to go beyond just teaching recipes – a chance to expand our cultural and educational journey into the world of Peruvian cuisine.

Tuesday, May 6 – CUSCO (B)

Today we tour Cusco, a living example of the mixture of the Andean and Spanish cultures. We'll begin with a walking tour to the sweeping Plaza de Armas. We'll see both Cusco Cathedral and the beautiful Church of La Compania, and visit the **Convent of Santo Domingo del Cusco** built over the foundations of the famous "Inti cancha" in 1534. According to Inca conception, the Qoricancha was the religious, geographical, and political center of Cusco. This afternoon we'll visit the **Sacsayhuaman Fortress** to learn about its significant role during the Spanish conquest of Peru. We'll also visit the archaeological sites of **Qenko** and **Tambomachay**. Qenko is known as a "labyrinth" in Quechua, where the rock channels flowed with llama blood or sacrificial chicha (corn beer) during ceremonies honoring the sun, moon and stars; while Tambomachay is home to a series of platforms, niches and functioning fountains testifying to the Incas' worship of water as a key life force.

Wednesday, May 7 – CUSCO / YUCAY (B,L)

This morning we depart Cusco and travel to the small rustic town of Chinchero, home to the **Interpretation Center of Andean Textiles**, where we'll enjoy weaving demonstration. As part of our visit, we'll also have an opportunity to meet the women who spin and create the unique alpaca sweaters. Afterward, we'll enjoy lunch with a peasant community to learn about Pachamanca, a culinary ancestral meal prepared in a unique way. Then, we'll be on our way to Moray for a visit to the **Center of Inca Agricultural Research**. At first

glance, it appears to look like an amphitheater or even something extraterrestrial; however, it actually served as an agricultural lab to the Incas. Next, we visit the **Maras Salt Mines**. Historians know little about exactly who created the mines and when, but to this day over 3,000 ponds, locally owned by 600 local families, make up the picturesque Maras.

Thursday, May 8 – YUCAY / MACHU PICCHU (B,L)

Anticipation builds today as we continue our exploration of the Sacred Valley. We'll visit the **Pisac Archeological Site**, spread over a vast green area of the mountain, and afterward stop in the town of Pisac; a perfect example of Inca city planning still intact. This afternoon we travel to Ollantaytambo, the oldest continuously occupied settlement in the Americas. Here, we'll have an opportunity to wander Ollantaytambo's narrow streets and visit the impressive **Archaeological complex of Ollantaytambo**. This fortress is where the Manco Inca defeated the Spanish in 1538 before fleeing to the mountains of Vilcabamba. Afterward, we'll hop aboard the Machu Picchu Train. Sit back and relax, as the hour and half rail journey will take us to Machu Picchu. Isolated atop a mountain peak, Machu Picchu is one of the world's most awe-inspiring sites. Hidden in the vegetation of the jungle in the Urubamba Valley, the sacred citadel was abandoned by the Incas, reclaimed by the jungle, and lost to history until it was discovered by Hiram Bingham in 1911.

Friday, May 9 – MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO (B)

There are many theories as to the origins of Machu Picchu, but three of the most popular ideas include a temple to the sun, a fortress against the jungle inhabitants or a sanctuary for the Incas, and we'll learn about each on our guided walk through the site. Accompanied by a local Tour Guide, we'll explore the city's ruins, and feel its pulse as we visualize the lives of the priests, craftsmen, and servants who inhabited this seemingly uninhabitable citadel. Excavations at the site have revealed skeletons, artifacts and woolen



clothing, but no gold. Late this afternoon we return to the Machu Picchu Pueblo Train Station for the rail journey back to Ollantaytambo; an opportunity to reflect on today's personal discovery. On arrival in Ollantaytambo, we'll board our waiting motorcoach as we travel to Cusco.

Saturday, May 10 – CUSCO / Lima / EN ROUTE (B,L)

This morning we depart Cusco on a morning flight back to Lima where on arrival we'll board our motor coach and travel out to the Barranco District. A tour of the district will introduce us to the legends and stories that surround the Puente de los Suspiros and the Ermita de Barranco. Afterward, we'll enjoy a farewell lunch at a local favorite serving one of the finest selections of Peruvian and international cuisines. Then, as all good things must come to an end, we return to Lima's Jorge Chavez International Airport in preparation for our return journey home.

Sunday, May 11 – MIAMI / CHICAGO

Early this morning we arrive in Miami and change planes for the final leg of our journey home, no better time to reflect on memories of our *Culinary Adventure in Peru* that will last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Airline transportation by scheduled service of American Airlines and LATAM Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Peruvian Tour Guide.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Airline taxes and fuel surcharge, and all taxes for included ground services.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; luggage handling at the airports and train stations; gratuities to the Motor Coach Drivers, Tour Guide, and Step-on Guides; meals other than those stated above; and Travel Protection.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC CULINARY ADVENTURE IN PERU

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Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges may be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or my.travelinsure.com/niu. Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase. Travel insurance also may be purchased through other providers.

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The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. Substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

No Refunds. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current tariff and exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based.

No Travel Carrier Liability. The travel carriers involved in this Tour are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

For more information contact:
The Alumni Association Travel Program at 815-753-1512
or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.