

PERU

An unforgettable journey to the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, and the Amazon Rainforest

MAY 6-15, 2020



10-DAY ITINERARY

May 6 Fly DFW to Lima, Peru

May 7 Guided tour of Lima

May 8 Fly Lima to Cusco

May 9 Cusco city tour

May 10 Sacred Valley tour

May 11 Machu Picchu tour

May 12 Fly to Puerto Maldonado

May 13 Amazon tour

May 14 Amazon tour

May 15 Fly Maldonado-Lima-DFW

Friends,

In the past ten years I've led groups of friends on annual trips to Paris, London, Europe, the Mediterranean, Baltic States, Russia, and North Africa. We've never had a malfunction or bad experience; just memorable, life-enhancing moments.

I invite you to join me on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to one of the great historical and geographical countries in the Southern Hemisphere—Peru. We'll start our trip in Lima, then travel to Cusco—the gateway to the Sacred Valley and home to the Inca civilization. We'll visit Machu Picchu, one of the wonders of the ancient world. Then we'll travel to the Amazon Rainforest and spend three days at the Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica lodge in the diverse Puerto Maldonado area. In 2013, Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica was selected by National Geographic Traveler magazine as one of the world's 25 best eco-lodges. We'll travel on airplanes, trains, buses, vans, boats, and shoes.

Mary and I took this trip in July, 2018. It was one of our favorite trips of all time (we've been to 47 countries). We always felt safe, the accommodations are elegant and authentic, the food is world-renowned, the geography is diverse (metropolitan Lima, the Andes mountains, Amazon Rainforest), and Peruvians are friendly—the trip was incredible.

It's been said that one of the joys of traveling is not only where you go but who you go with and who you meet along the way. This tour group will be limited to 50 interesting ladies and gentlemen who travel well—friends of mine who enjoy exploring great places.

Travel takes time and money, but it's worth the investment. You'll be stretched and challenged, and you'll learn more about the world in which you live and the life you live in the world.

I hope you'll join me on this memorable trip to Peru.

Don McMinn
djmcminn@msn.com

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS ///



DAY 1 - DFW TO LIMA /// American Airlines has a direct flight to Lima. There's no time change so no jet-lag. The flight leaves in the evening so we'll sleep on the flight and arrive feeling fresh in Peru.

DAY 2 - LIMA /// We'll arrive early in the morning, drop our luggage off at the hotel and then enjoy a half-day tour of Peru's capital, including: the UNESCO-recognized Historic Center of Lima, the beautiful Plaza de Armas founded in 1535, gorgeous churches, and old mansions while learning about dramatic moments in the city's history. Late afternoon and evening on your own. [Lima hotel]

DAY 3 - LIMA TO CUSCO /// We'll take an early morning 90-minute flight to Cusco, the entrance to the Sacred Valley. This charming town, nestled in the cradle of the Andes mountains, is the "two-mile high city" with an elevation of 11,140 ft. The altitude and beauty of the city will "take your breath away" so we'll take the entire day to acclimate to the altitude. Our hotel is located a few blocks from the town center. [Cusco hotel]

DAY 4 - CUSCO /// Our day-long tour will begin in the UNESCO-recognized historic center of the city. Our guided tour will include the Cusco Cathedral and the Qoricancha or Temple of the Sun. Then we'll board chartered vans and explore the countryside to see the ruins of Sacsayhuaman, Qenko, Tambomachay, and Pukapukara. [Cusco hotel]

DAY 5 - SACRED VALLEY /// The Sacred Valley was the spiritual center of the Inca Empire, where all-powerful emperors built private estates, temples, fortifications, and thousands of agricultural terraces. The day-long tour will explore the Pisac ruins and Ollantaytambo. You'll have plenty of time to shop at famous artisan markets and explore stone-lined streets. [Sacred Valley hotel]

DAY 6 - MACHU PICCHU /// We'll take the early morning train—[the Vistadome](#)—to the base of the mountain, then board a bus to the foothills of Machu Picchu. For 400 years this archeological treasure remained lost to the world until a Yale professor, looking for the fountain of youth, discovered the ruins in 1911. Here's a [National Geographic 4-minute video](#) on Mach Picchu. [Sacred Valley hotel]

DAY 7 - AMAZON VALLEY /// We'll fly from Cusco to Puerto Maldonado. Upon arrival we'll check our large luggage in town (limit of 22 pound bag into the rainforest), transfer to the port and board a boat to the Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica lodge. The lodge is adjacent to the lush Tambopata National Reserve, where the Madre de Dios river meanders through the Southern Peru rainforest region, known as the Biodiversity Capital of Peru. We'll start our tour of the Amazon in the afternoon. [Amazon hotel]

DAY 8 & 9 /// We'll have two full days of touring the Amazon including (depending on conditions): a local farm, native community, and nighttime walks. Our naturalists guides will take us on hikes to explore the rainforest ecosystem and on a canoe ride on the Madre de Dios River. The lodge will serve as our home base; all meals are provided. [Amazon hotel]

DAY 10 /// In the morning we'll take boats back to Puerto Maldonado, retrieve our luggage, fly to Lima, and back to the United States. [Your own bed]

COST & DETAILS ///

Hotels in Peru

Lima - [Courtyard Lima Miraflores](#)

Cusco - [Casa Andina Premium Cusco](#)

Sacred Valley - [Casa Andina Premium Sacred Valley](#)

Amazon Rainforest - [Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica](#)

Trip Cost

\$4,989 per person, double occupancy

Includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from DFW. If you provide your own airfare, subtract \$1,100 from the price listed above.
- Three domestic flights on Latam Airline (OneWorld member): Lima—Cusco; Cusco—Puerto Maldonado; Puerto Maldonado—Lima
- Eight nights accommodations in four and five-star hotels
- Ground transportation
- Entrance to all sites and professional tour guides
- Breakfast every day
- All meals at the Amazon lodge

Does Not Include:

- Some lunches and dinners (unless specified otherwise)
- Trip insurance - Numerous companies offer trip insurance to cover cancelled trips, medical emergencies, and other issues. If you think an insurance policy would be beneficial, pursue this on your own. Options include Generali Global Assistance (generalitravelinsurance.com), Travel Guard (travelguard.com), and Travelex (travelex.com)



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Payment Schedule/Cancellations/Refunds

- *Deposit* \$989 per person (\$400 is nonrefundable). The trip is limited to the first 50 people who make a deposit.
- *1st payment* of \$1,600 due June 1, 2019 (\$800 of this payment is nonrefundable for a total of \$1,200 nonrefundable.)
- *2nd payment* of \$1,200 due December 1, 2019 (\$800 of this payment is nonrefundable for a total of \$2,000.)
- *Final payment* of \$1,200 due March 6, 2020 (no refund 60-days out)

TRIP REGISTRATION ///

TRAVELER INFORMATION

1. Your name exactly as it appears on your passport

2. Your passport number _____

3. Date of birth _____

4. Place of birth _____

5. Date passport issued _____

6. Date passport expires _____

7. Best email address _____

8. Cell number _____

9. Your roommate _____

10. Preferred name for name badges _____

11. Mailing address

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Please double-check the accuracy of your information. Inaccuracy may create problems with reservations and tickets. To register, send this form and a check (payable to Travel with Friends) to 2322 Creekside Circle South, Irving, TX 75063.

Airfare (Please check one.)

I will make my own international airfare reservation (roundtrip from your city of departure to Lima, Peru) If you're arrival doesn't correspond to the group's arrival time, you may be responsible for transportation to and from the Lima airport to our hotel.

I will fly with the group on its flight from DFW to Lima.

Pre-Trip Opportunities

1. I'll schedule several group meetings before we leave so we can get to know one another and learn more about the places we'll visit.

2. Your trip will be enhanced by learning more about our destinations, so I'll recommend books to read and videos to watch.

Note: We'll need to pack light for this trip. I recommend one checked bag per person (50 lb. limit) and one carry-on (22 lb. limit).