

Peru Entices Adventurers with Rainforests, Mountains, Lakes and Cultural Interaction

When you think of Peru, you probably envision pictures you've seen of yoga aficionados posing atop the dramatic ruins and peaks of Machu Picchu, or brightly dressed Peruvian villagers peddling their wares on llama-strewn mountain paths, or any of the [eleven UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#) the country has to offer. While these famous attractions lure many travelers from around the globe, Peru has many other treasures to offer the discerning traveler. Whether they're seeking a cultural excursion, adventure vacations, or an ecological paradise that hosts many of the world's biodiversities, the country has off-the-beaten track getaways for all.

The heart of the Amazon rainforest holds many of these well-kept secrets. One such gem is [Inkaterra's Reserva Amazonica Lodge](#) in the Peruvian Amazon where travelers can challenge themselves with jungle treks and vigorous paddling trips or simply enjoy the enchantment of exotic yet accessible of rainforest trails. A tree-top canopy bridge gives nature enthusiasts, bird watchers, and any traveler who desires something more than the confines of the city life access to incredible biodiversity. Visitors who stroll along the Anaconda Walk marvel at the sheer depth and variety in their surroundings.

Or visit the [WASAI Tambopata Lodge and Research Center](#), located in the [Tambopata Candamo National Reserve](#), where the Amazon Rainforest joins the Andes Mountains, juxtaposing a primary rainforest landscape against the stark and often icy slopes. The Lodge offers a variety of eco-tours and activities, such as ziplining through the jungle and over waterfalls and rivers, kayaking through a bird watcher's paradise, and sport fishing on the volcanic banks of the Tambopata River (imagine your bragging rights should you catch a Giant Piranha!) Visit with Baltimore, the local community to see how Peruvians really live, or head slightly upriver from the lodge where there are less dwellings and people, providing a peaceful home to a variety of flora and fauna unseen anywhere else in the Amazon.

If you're a culture buff, there's multiple experiential travel options in Peru to help you learn about both Peru's history and current culture.

Within the [Titicaca Islands](#) and [Cuzco's Sacred Valley](#) communities, you can partake in agricultural projects that still use successful Inca irrigation and farming techniques such as terracing, learn how to create traditional textile crafts, and even participate in local religious experiences. Or take a [Chavín Llama Pack Trek](#) in Ancash for a thrilling high altitude trekking adventure along a 23 milepre-Inca pilgrimage path. The trip starts with a llama pack at the Olleros village, and continues round scenic sites in the [National Huascarán Park](#) before arriving at Chavín (3140 masl / 10302 fasl) one of the oldest archeological sites in the Americas. Spend your nights in Andean communities to share with their traditions, music, cottage industries and local cuisines.

While Peru is well known for its [mountain climbing](#) and [trekking](#) opportunities, it also has a host of other adventure opportunities. Evidence of surfing in Peru actually pre-dates that in Polynesia and the South Sea Islands, as far back as 2,000 years ago when fisherman would use objects to ride the waves while in the water as they fished. Today, fisherman in northern villages such as Huanchaco, Santa Rosa and Pimentel, still use these handmade totora reed rafts during their daily fishing trips. Modern day surfers can enjoy some of the world's best waves year round in over [seven different surf spots](#) across the coast. Peru also has [over a dozen rivers](#) that are excellent for rafting trips, with rapids of all classes, and Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, is a prime spot for kayaking. Mountain bikers of all experience levels will have



Anaconda Walk/Inkaterra Reserva Amazónica; Tambopata, Peru



Macaw clay lick © Rainforest Expeditions



Llama Trek in Ancash © Anibal Solimano PromPerú

[options year-round](#) that will lead them through ancient Incan and pre-Incan trails, archeological sites, picturesque villages, and through different ecological tiers in just a few hours. [Paragliders and hang gliders](#) will rejoice in soaring over the ruins of the The Sacred Valley of the Incas, between the breathtaking mountains in the Huaylas Valley of Ancash and over the ocean and city of Lima near Costa Verde.

Finally, if you feel that you can't go to Peru without experiencing the magic of trekking to Machu Picchu, you can still do it without sacrificing comfort or cultural authenticity. [Trek between four](#) of the [Mountain Lodges of Peru](#), where guests are provided service, comfort, and safety at the end of each day of traversing mountain passes amidst snow-capped peaks and passing through 15 different ecosystems on [The Salkantay Trekking Route](#). Guests will trek from 12,800ft to 6,900ft, while entrenching themselves in a mountainous escape that's often overlooked and interacting and sharing with local-natives work closely with the Mountain Lodges of Peru, which has taken an active role in the socioeconomic development of its neighboring communities by helping to elevate the education level of the area's families and creating incentives for the local population to take part in tourism development. Whatever you're seeking from your next vacation, Peru's diversity is limited only by your imagination. Some of the world's finest nature, oldest civilizations and cultures, and most unique attractions are waiting for you.

<http://news.adventure.travel/2012/06/04/peru-entices-adventurers-with-rainforests-mountains-lakes-and-cultural-interaction/>



Paragliding over Miraflores in Lima © Carlos Ibarra / PromPerú



Salkantay trek to Machu Picchu © Mountain Lodges of Peru



Machu Picchu Citadel © Alex Bryce / PromPerú