

EXCURSIONS

■ CATHEDRAL

Take an intimate tour of the Cusco Cathedral and get to know this superb symbol of the city closely, including its 11 chapels, 1 vestry, 7 altarpieces and 1 lower chorus completely carved in cedar wood from Cusco, more than 300 paintings, and a variety of carvings and sculptures. The highlight of all these is the Main Altar, covered entirely with layers of silver and the Silver Chariot, mounted on a pedestal, still used for procession during the religious festival of Corpus Christi.
DURATION: ¼ Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** I - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily - **ATTRACTIONS:** Architecture and Photos - **RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN.**

■ SACSAYHUAMAN

Visit Cusco's most impressive Inca fortress, which was dedicated to the Sun cult, to understand the forces that guided the Incas to be powerful in the region during 14th and 15th centuries. This archaeological site is one of the most astounding Inca constructions with tons of enormous stones carved and built together to a minute precision. It is probably the most important ceremonial center dedicated to the sun, and not just a fort, where every 24th of June, the *Inti Raymi* festival is celebrated to honor the Sun god.
DURATION: ¼ Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** I - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily - **ATTRACTIONS:** Archaeological Site and Photos - **RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN.**

■ MAP (Museo de Arte Precolombino) Museum

See the best Pre-Columbian art and archaeological pieces set in a beautiful Viceroyalty house with a large inner courtyard, located in the Plaza Nazarenas right beside La Casona Inkaterra. This museum used to be the convent of *Santa Clara* until the seventeenth century. In 2003, it opened its doors as the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art - MAP. This extraordinary Cusco historic monument holds the only museum in Peru dedicated to recover the arts of ancient Peruvian cultures. The collection of 450 master pieces dates from 1250 B.C to 1532 A.D. The exhibition uses texts in Spanish, English and French to emphasize the artistic context of the collection displayed in 11 showrooms. Its galleries were designed to meet the highest standards of modern museography enabling the visitors to admire Pre-Columbian art in its best expression. MAP Cafe is on the main patio where novo-andino cuisine is offered.
DURATION: ¼ Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** I - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily - **ATTRACTIONS:** Archaeological Site

■ KORICANCHA TEMPLE

Visit one of the most important temples in the Inca Empire dedicated to *Wiracocha*, Sun god or creator. This temple became Catholic when the Spanish conquerors built over it the convent and church of *Santo Domingo*. Its former pre-Inca construction of adobe and unpolished quartz lasted until the 12th century and when the Incas took over, they call it *Korikancha* ("courtyard of gold"). The Church of *Santo Domingo* was built using the ruined foundations of the temple that were flattened by the Spanish in the 17th century and is a fine example of where Inca stonework has been incorporated into the structure of a colonial building. Major earthquakes have severely damaged the church, but the Inca stone walls, built out of huge, tightly-interlocking blocks of stone, still stand thanks to its sophisticated stone masonry.
DURATION: ¼ Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** I - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily - **ATTRACTIONS:** Archaeological Site, Architecture and Photos - **RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN.**

■ SAN BLAS

Visit San Blas, one of Cusco's most picturesque communities, characterized by steep narrow streets that zigzag among old colonial houses constructed with walls of Inca stone. From colonial times to the present day, the arts and crafts tradition of San Blas has been passed from one generation to the next. The people of Cusco are justly proud of the great wealth of arts found here, where you will discover sculpture, pottery, paintings, jewelry, textiles, woodcarvings, stonework, religious art and antiques.
DURATION: ¼ Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** I - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily - **ATTRACTIONS:** Architecture, Photos and Handicrafts **RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN.**

■ HOUSE OF THE INCA GARCILASO MUSEUM

Discover one of the most visited museums of the imperial city, birthplace of the renowned mestizo author Garcilaso Inca de la Vega. The grand colonial house was converted into Regional Historical Museum in 1946, a reliquary of colonial arts, located less than two blocks from the Plaza de Armas. Browse its thematic displays of history rich eras and get to know the life of the famous mestizo son of Cusco, Garcilaso. The Museum also houses a collection of paintings from the Cusco School of Arts, wood sculptures by Bernardo Biti, historical documents, pre-Inca and Inca textiles, agricultural tools and musical instruments, as well as valuable art from the colonial and Republican periods.
DURATION: ¼ Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** I - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Handicrafts

■ PAY THE EARTH CEREMONY (PACHAMAMA)

Take part in an ancestral "Pay the Earth" Ceremony, a mystical custom of indigenous Andean cultures. Led by a *shaman*, the ceremony involves making an offering of small amounts of native Andean cereals, grains and fruits, together with coca leaves. The ceremony invokes the Apus, spirits of the sacred mountains and the four elements: the three levels of life (*hanan pacha* – the world above; *kay pacha* – this world; and *ukhu pacha* – the underworld) represented by the components of the offering; and a ritual toast (*challa*) of *chicha de jara* (native corn beer). The service ends with the ritual burning of the offerings so these, as the belief goes, go back to where they came from, into the sky, while the remaining ashes are buried under the ground to complete the cycle.
DURATION: ¼ Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** I - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon
FREQUENCY: Every other day - **ATTRACTIONS:** Mysticism and Quechua

■ COCA LEAVES READING

Like all Cusco beliefs, coca leaves help see the future, past and present. You may know prophecies on topics such as love, work, health or family by way of coca leaf reading. It is a ritual that lasts 45 minutes per person in individual sessions.
DURATION: ¼ Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** I - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Mysticism, Medicinal Plants and Quechua

■ MYSTICAL LECTURES

Mysticism and the Andean cosmic visions are very important subjects in Cusco and the Andes. You can learn from their deities, rituals, visions and sacred places. When the Catholic religion was imposed, they had to handle this mixture and adjust to a new religion, and to this day the ancient rituals and their cultural and religious backgrounds remain.
DURATION: ¼ Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** I - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Mysticism and Quechua

■ MARAS AND MORAY

Enjoy a private guided trip to Maras Salt Mines and the circular terraces of Moray. On the way you will see some of the most scenic spots in the Sacred Valley. First, visit the ancient salt mines near the village of Maras, where salty springs emerge from the hillside and the Incas built terraces to capture the flows and harvest salt. Continue the excursion to Moray, where huge circular agricultural terraces were built by the Incas on limestone sinks served to plant various crops. It is said to have a cosmological significance, however, the Incas used the terraces as an agricultural laboratory to determine the optimum conditions for each species in varying altitudes.
DURATION: 1/2 Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** II - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Agriculture and Photos - **RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN.**

■ CHINCHERO AND NILDA

Visit a traditional Andean village, Chinchero, located in the highlands of Anta (3763 mt. a.s.l.), 30 Km. from Cusco. This village is surrounded by breathtaking views of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the mountain ranges of Urubamba and Salkantay snow peaks. Chinchero means the birthplace of the rainbow in Quechua. This excursion combines Inca archaeological sites, typical Andean community, a colonial church, snowy landscapes and a colorful traditional market that to date, on its market day practice the tradition of barter of goods. Then visit the Nilda Callañaupa Textile Center, famous for its hand-made fabrics, where you can see a live demonstration of the ancient art of weaving.
DURATION: 1 Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** II - **SCHEDULE:** Morning - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Handicrafts and Photos - **RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN.**

■ HORSEBACK RIDING

Experience an exhilarating horseback ride starting from the archaeological site of Qenko. Follow a path eastward through a small forest of eucalyptus until an open grasslands where there is a large rock called *Salumpuncu* (Temple of the Moon). Half a mile outside *Salumpuncu*, you get to see another eucalyptus plantation, with the view of the valley. Descending through these trees you get to some remains of terraces and the *Inkiltambo* which has several niches deeply dug to accommodate several mummies. Afterwards, descend and follow the ravine of *Choquequirao* that leads to a magnificent view of the *Huatanyay* valley. Continuing the ride to see two huacas, ancient temples: the first called *Titicaca* and the second is *Mesa Redonda*. Finally, return to Cuzco.
DURATION: 1/2 Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** III - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Archaeological Site, Birds and Photos

■ RIVER RAFTING

This intensely active excursion starts with a private transfer from your hotel to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, to a private facility located in *Pachar*; here you will have a briefing about river rafting safety and equipment. The first part of the tour will be in easy waters with spectacular views of the mountains and archeological remains. Then pass through *Ollantaytambo* and its Inca terraces to continue to rapids class II and III, finishing with "El Resbaladero" (the slippery one) a strong class III rapid, that includes waves and small whirlpools.
DURATION: 1/2 Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** II - **SCHEDULE:** Morning - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Canoe and Birds



TRAIN STATION

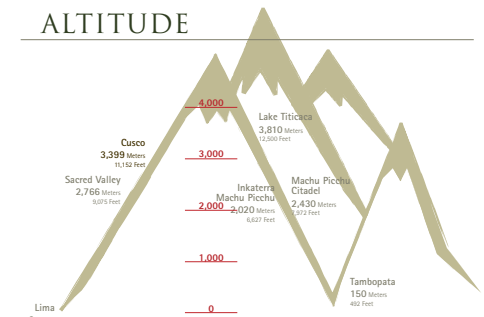


BUS STATION

WEATHER

Jan 18°-6° 69°-43° F	Feb 18°-6° 65°-43° F	Mar 19°-6° 66°-43° F	Apr 19°-5° 67°-41° F
May 19°-2° 67°-36° F	Jun 19°-2° 66°-32° F	Jul 19°-2° 66°-32° F	Aug 19°-2° 67°-35° F
Sep 20°-4° 68°-39° F	Oct 21°-5° 69°-41° F	Nov 21°-6° 69°-42° F	Dec 21°-6° 69°-43° F

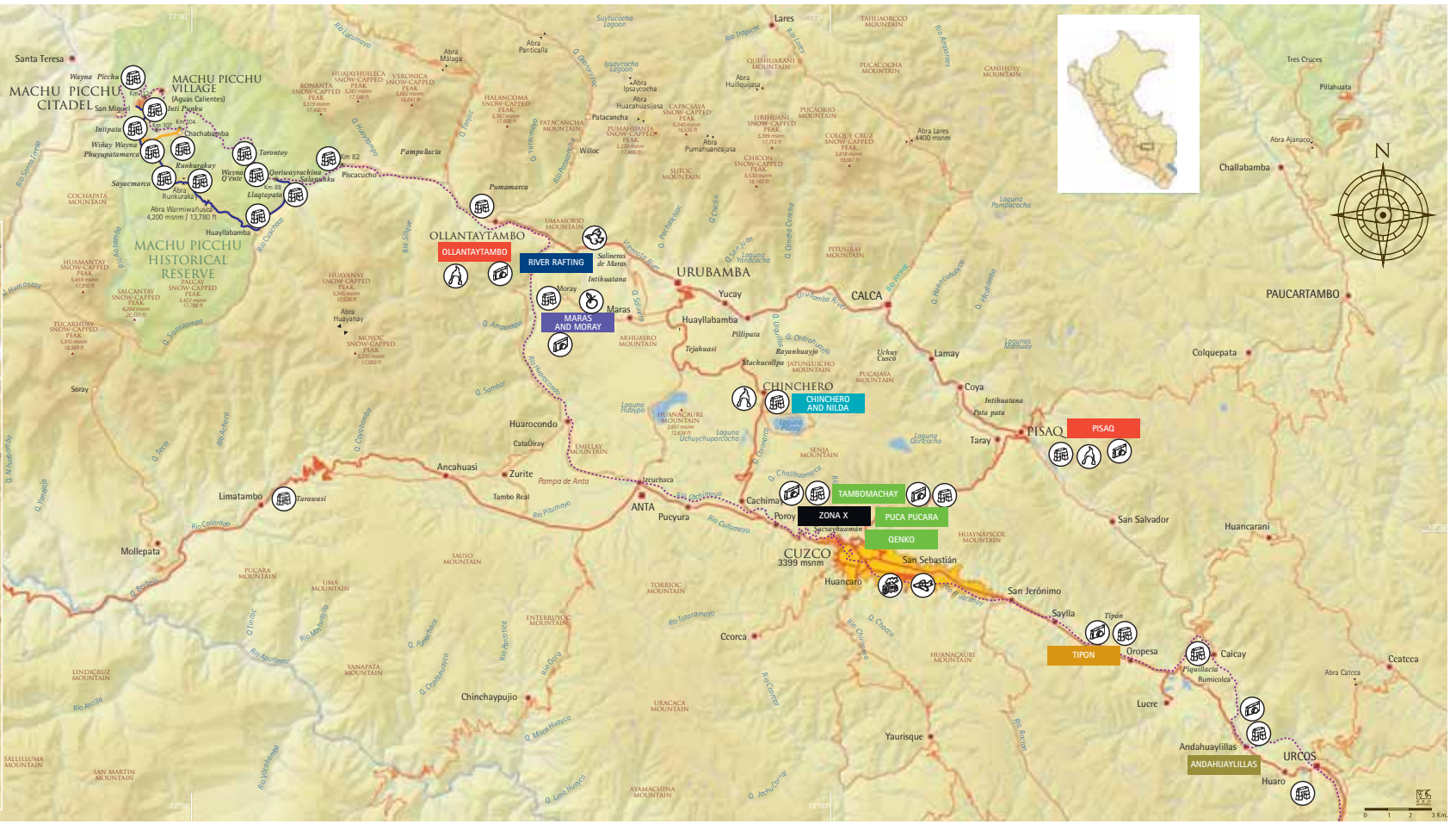
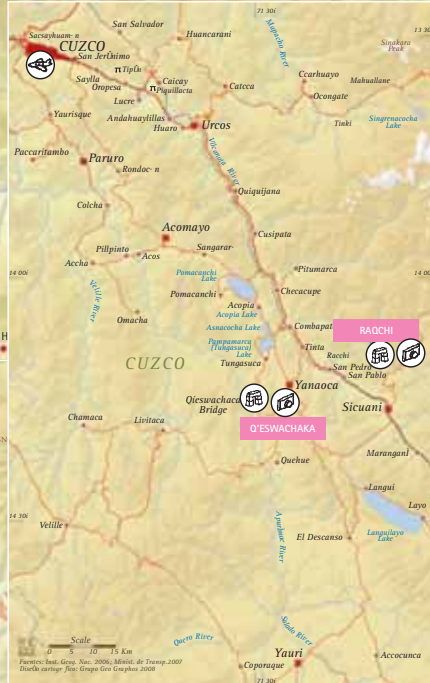
ALTITUDE



LA CASONA

INKATERRA

CUSCO



- Departmental Capital
- Provincial Capital
- District Capital
- Village
- Airport
- Archaeological Site
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Railroad Line
- One Day Inka Trail
- Inka Trail
- Protected Area

ATTRACTIONS

- < ARCHITECTURE
- < ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
- < PHOTOS
- < MEDICINAL PLANTS
- < CANOE
- < BIRDS
- < AGRICULTURE
- < HANDICRAFTS

■ SACRED VALLEY

Start this interesting excursion from the archaeological site of Ollantaytambo, which is one of the most ancient continually occupied human settlements in America. This site shows the best example of city planning done by the Incas. Its excellent construction with its strong walls was both a temple and a fortress. Then visit another impressive Inca complex, the archaeological site of Písaq, with terraces built on its hills. To visit the site, you must walk along winding paths along a mountain cliff. Among the most important buildings are Pisaca, which is a curved wall; the Intihuatana, a solar clock among a group of temples and the military zone called "Q'Alagasa". Also visit its colorful market where an artisans' fair takes place every Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, an exhibit and sale of fine woven crafts, colorful tapestries, handicrafts and textiles from Pisac and neighboring villages.

DURATION: 1 Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** II - **SCHEDULE:** Morning - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Archaeological Sites, Handicrafts and Photos

■ TIPON

Start the tour by visiting the archaeological site of *Piquillacta*, which literally means "place of the flea", 32 kilometers south east of Cuzco. The archaeological site was built around 1100 AD by the *Wari* culture, which is made of more rudimentary stone works than those of the Incas. It is the only pre-Inca archaeological site located in the area, close to a lake. Next, head to Tipon and its extensive Inca ruins, which include baths, terraces and irrigation systems still in use today, as well as a temple complex. From the ruins, it is possible to travel farther up to see more Inca constructions, roads and a deep irrigation canal.

DURATION: 1 Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** II - **SCHEDULE:** Morning - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Archaeological Site and Photos

■ QENKO - PUCA PUCARÁ - TAMBOMACHAY

Visit Cusco's important archeological ruins. First stop is *Q'enko*, which means "labyrinth" and contains two ruins: *Qenکو Grande*, which is located at the bottom of the road, and *Qenکو Chico*. These are Inca temples with underground galleries and small canals made of rocks in zigzag form. Continue to *Puca Pucará* located seven kilometers northeast of the city, its *Quechua* name means "red fortress"; it was a military construction composed of elevated terraces, inner patios, aqueducts, watch towers, high walls and stairways. Your last stop is *Tambomachay*, its *Quechua* words *Tampu* means lodging or inn, and *Machay*, means a resting place. Formed by stone structures, aqueducts, waterfalls, springs and thermal sources, it is commonly referred to as the *Baños del Inca* or Inca baths, former site for ritual bathing by the royal Incas.

DURATION: 1/2 Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** I - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Archaeological Site and Photos - **RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN.**

■ ANDAHUAYLILLAS

During this full day journey, explore the interesting sites found on Cusco's southern route. Visit *Andahuaylillas*, a pretty Andean village famous for its lavishly decorated Jesuit church, called the "Sistine" because of its beautiful frescoes, and quaint plaza surrounded by trees. In the afternoon see the village of *Huaro*, with its dazzling recently restored colonial church. The walls were decorated with paintings by Thaddeus Escalante in 1802, which were originally used to evangelize the illiterate.

DURATION: 1 Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** II - **SCHEDULE:** Morning - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Architecture and Photos

■ Q'ESWACHAKA BRIDGE AND RAQCHI

This unique excursion brings you to the south of Cuzco, to Q'eswachaka picturesque bridge built by the Incas to cross the astounding Apurimac River. Then continue to the little known but important archaeological site of *Raqchi*, with its impressive 2-story high temple walls and various round storehouse to store grain and agricultural crops harvested in the area. Along the route, you can see four Andean highland lakes, which reflect the stunning Andean landscapes.

DURATION: 1 Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** III - **SCHEDULE:** Morning - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Archaeological Site and Photos

■ ZONA X

In the morning leave the city of Cusco to visit the lesser-known archaeological sites around the city. The first destination is the Temple of the Moon, then visit the *Zona X*, which is an amazing network of tunnels both natural and artificial. Our third stop is *Chacon* or *Rainbow*, where there is an Inca irrigation channel that is still in use. This tour is a relatively easy walk along farmlands with some rest along the way. Explore the idyllic area and enjoy the impressive views of Cusco and the valley, as well as relax in *Chacon* to take pleasure in the landscape.

DURATION: 1/2 Day - **DIFFICULTY LEVEL:** II - **SCHEDULE:** Morning and Afternoon - **FREQUENCY:** Daily
ATTRACTIONS: Archaeological Site and Photos - **RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN.**