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Romantic getaways in Peru, just in time for Valentine's Day!

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From Vamos for El Comercio
Translated and adapted by Rachel Chase

From the impressive Andean valleys to the romantic beaches of the north to the gorgeous landscapes of the jungle, Peru is full of places that will make you fall in love with your partner all over again.



Gocta Lodge. (Photo: Gocta Lodge)

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Thanks to our unique geography, Peru is full of jaw-droppingly beautiful locations on the coast, in the mountains, and in the jungle. These captivating places are especially great for spending time with loved ones. The options that one can find go from ancient relaxing therapies in the Urubamba Valley, to the unforgettable afternoons in the impressive resorts in Paracas. Whatever your choice is, the goal is the same: to disconnect and relax.

Disconnecting in the Andes

The lovely Sacred Valley, surrounded by imposing mountains, is an ideal place for a romantic escapade in the Peruvian Andes. The options available to travelers in this area are connected to some of the emblematic hotels of the area: Rio Sagrado and Tambo del

Inka. While the former offers guests sophistication in a natural environment, the second places emphasis on elegance and fine details.

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They both have spectacular suites with views of the Urubamba River, as well as exquisite food made with local ingredients. The spa treatments of each hotel deserve special mention, as they both use ancestral remedies such as coca leaves or Maras salts, all in modern areas with jacuzzis and heated pools.

If what you're looking for, however, is something a little more cosmopolitan, you can't forget the hotels located in the center of Cusco, like the Palacio Nazarenas, the Marriott, or La Casona Inkaterra, all located in historic mansions. The Palacio Nazarenas is home to the wonderful Senzo Restaurant, headed by chef Virgilio Martinez. The Marriott holds its own with beautiful architecture and a large courtyard that has been the scene of many a candlelight marriage proposal. The Casona Inkaterra offers the most intimate experience of the three, with its eleven elegant rooms, all of which have antique furniture and other historic details, like the fireplace in one area that dates back to the 1500s.

Another destination to keep in mind is Arequipa, specifically the Colca Lodge. It's a rustic-looking establishment, but it still has all the creature comforts one could want. Its strong point is its spa, which is located on the banks of a river. Another iconic hotel in this area is the Pueblito Encantado, a cozy place tucked away from Colca, where they prize tranquility and relaxation.

Similarly, the Cuesta Serena in Huaraz is a sweet boutique hotel. It is based upon the idea of revitalizing the mind and body—it even has yoga sessions and different different treatments that would help a couple relax and enjoy the scenery, while still enjoying the hotel's amenities.

Heading north

Everything's more romantic on the beach. Just imagine it: watching the sunset in Mancora, with your partner at your side. You could even take a horseback ride, or snorkel in the beautiful coral reefs in the area.

Now, let's revisit that sunset scene we talked about earlier, but this time, you've got a glass of white wine in your hand, and you're standing on the terrace of a suite with an ocean view looking out on a gorgeous strip of coast with whiter-than-white sand, at a hotel recently renamed Arenas de Mancora.

This hotel combines the modern style and natural groove of the area. They have suites with views of the ocean or their garden, or you could choose one of their villas, little private houses that will make you feel totally, completely connected to the person you're travelling with.

Another new feature in the area is K!Chic, a small lodge that is a romantic trip in and of itself. It has a beautiful palm tree garden, where lovers can feel like they're lost in nature. The main view is the northern sea, and their rooms are made with materials from the area. Their menu is mostly vegetarian, and they have yoga and meditation, all of which help to make it one of the best places for total disconnect from modern life.

One of the classic hotels in the area is DCO Suites, Lounge & Spa, a hotel whose main concern is always the comfort of its guests. They have a spa that lives up to that goal—a two and a half hour session starts with hydrotherapy, and then massage. The session ends with a bottle of champagne.

Eastern enchantment

A great romantic escape on which you can enjoy beautiful landscapes at the shores of Sandoval Lake is the Inkaterra Tambopata hotel. They have private tours that will take you into the jungle and a spectacular spa with a view of Rolin Island. The best time to visit is sunset, when it turns into a paradise for couples.

If it's enchantment you're looking for, Gocta Lodge, which has an impressive view of the Gocta waterfall, is another good option for couples that like to be out in nature and surrounded by history at the same time. Surrounded by mountains, the lodge is at the edge of the entrance to the Kuelap Fortress, one of the most beautiful places in the whole country.

Well, now you know what your options for a romantic getaway with your partner are— which destination will you pick?

TAGS: travel, peru, cusco, paracas, Huaraz, colca, Kuelap Fortress, gocta waterfall

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