

## HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ CATHEDRAL

Take a 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 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*.  
**RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN.**

### ■ SACSAYHUAMAN

Visit Cusco's most impressive Inca fortress, dedicated to the Sun cult, the forces that guided the Incas to be powerful in the region during 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Not just a fort, maybe the most important ceremonial center, where every 24<sup>th</sup> of June, the *Inti Raymi* festival is celebrated to honor the Sun God.  
**RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN.**

### ■ MAP (Museo de Arte Precolombino) Museum

See the best Pre-Columbian art and archaeological pieces set in a beautiful Viceroyalty house, located in the *Plaza Nazarenas* right beside Inkaterra La Casona . Formerly *Santa Clara* convent until the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 2003, opened as the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art - MAP. This historic Cusco monument is dedicated to recover the arts of ancient Peruvian cultures with a 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.

### ■ 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 12<sup>th</sup> century and when the Incas took over, they called it *Korikancha* ("courtyard of gold"). The Church of Santo Domingo was built using the ruined foundations of the temple flattened by the Spanish in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, a fine example of where Inca stonework has been incorporated into the structure of a colonial building. Major earthquakes severely damaged the church, but the Inca stone walls, built out of huge, tightly-interlocked blocks of stone, still stand thanks to its sophisticated stone masonry.

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### ■ SAN BLAS

Visit *San Blas*, one of Cusco's most picturesque communities, characterized by steep narrow streets that zigzag among old colonial houses with Inca stone walls. From colonial times to present day, the arts and crafts tradition of *San Blas* were passed from one generation to the next. The people of Cusco are justly proud of the great wealth of arts, where you will discover sculpture, pottery, paintings, jewelry, textiles, woodcarvings, stonework, religious art and antiques.

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### ■ HOUSE OF THE INCA GARCILASO MUSEUM

Discover one of the most visited museums of the imperial city, birthplace of the renowned mestizo author Inca Garcilaso 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 Bitti, historical documents, pre-Inca and Inca textiles, agricultural tools and musical instruments, as well as valuable art from the colonial and Republican periods.



### ■ ZONA X

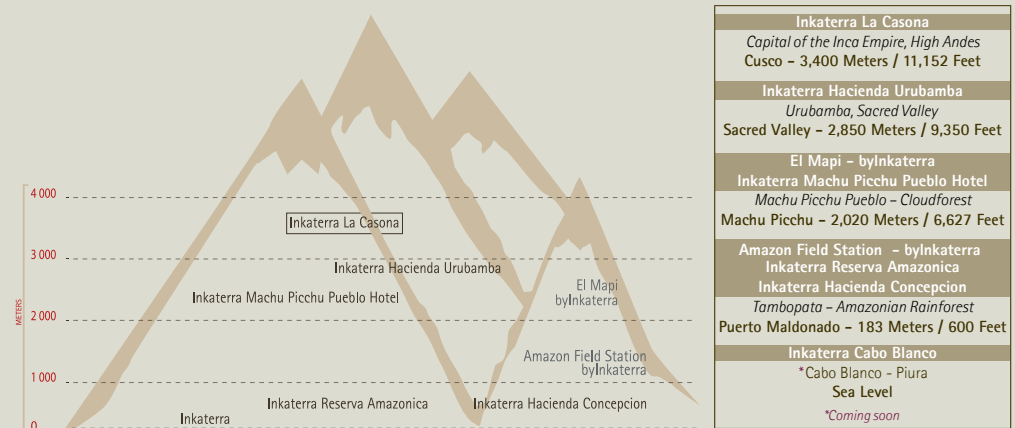
In the morning leave the city of Cusco to visit the lesser-known archaeological sites around the city. The first destination is the Temple of the Moon, then visit the *Zona X*, which is an amazing network of tunnels both natural and artificial. Stop at Chacon or Rainbow, where an Inca irrigation channel 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 enjoy in the landscape.

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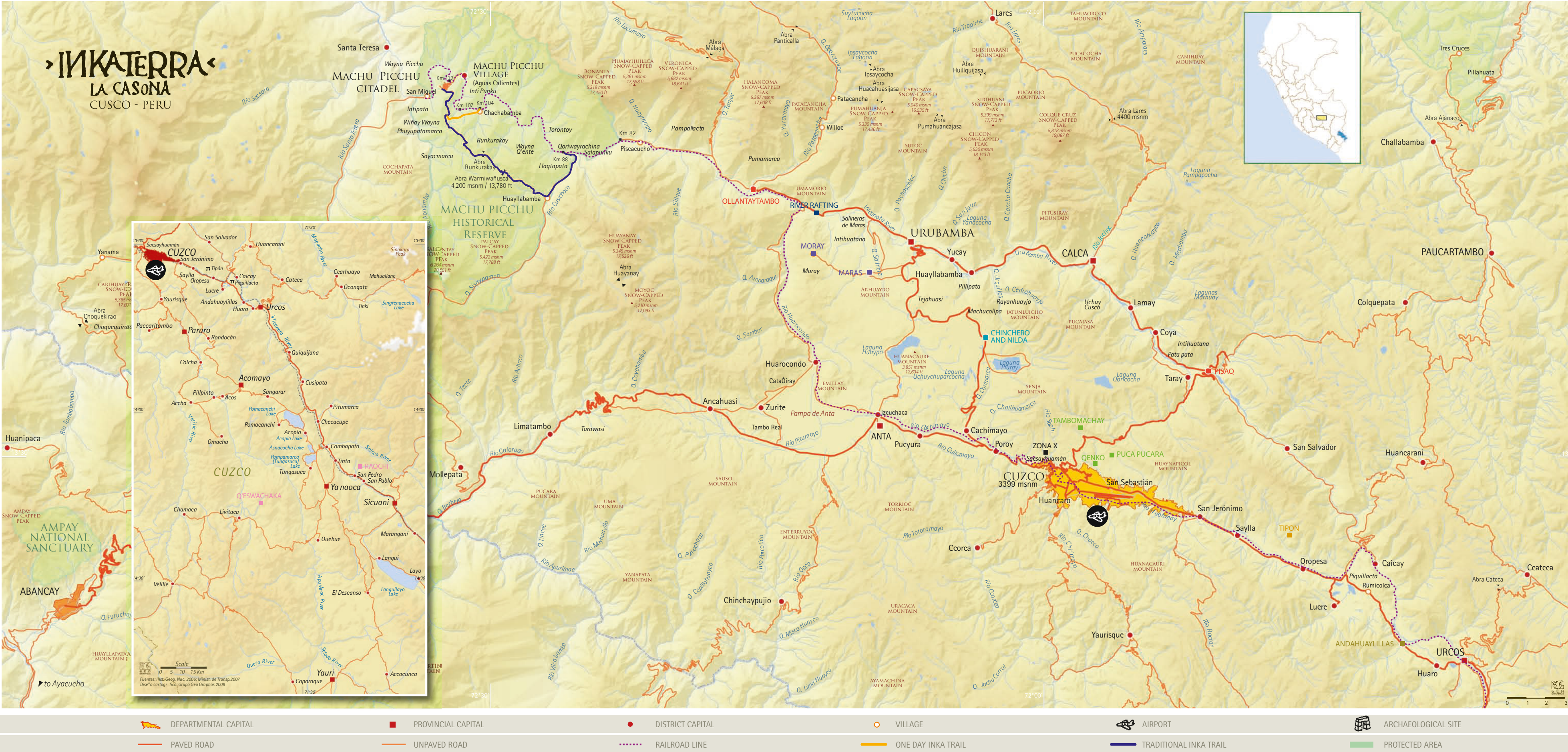


<b>Jan</b> <b>18°–6°</b> C 65°–43° F	<b>Feb</b> <b>18°–6°</b> C 65°–43° F	<b>Mar</b> <b>19°–6°</b> C 66°–43° F	<b>Apr</b> <b>19°–5°</b> C 67°–41° F
<b>May</b> <b>19°–2°</b> C 67°–36° F	<b>Jun</b> <b>19°–2°</b> C 66°–32° F	<b>Jul</b> <b>19°–2°</b> C 66°–32° F	<b>Aug</b> <b>19°–2°</b> C 67°–35° F
<b>Sep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

### INKATERRA ALTITUDE INDEX







- MARAS AND MORAY

Visit *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 the Incas built huge circular agricultural terraces on limestone sinks served to plant various crops. Said to have a cosmological significance, however, the Incas used the terraces as an agricultural laboratory to determine the optimum conditions for each plant species in varying altitudes.

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- 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 which still to date, practice the tradition of barter. 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.

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- 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 Inkilambo which has several niches to accommodate mummies. Afterwards, descend and follow the *Choquequirao* ravine to a magnificent view of the *Huataniy* valley. Continue the ride to see two huacas, ancient temples: the first called *Titicaca* and the second is *Mesa Redonda*. Finally, return to Cusco.
- RIVER RAFTING

This intensely active excursion starts with a transfer from your hotel to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, to a private facility located in *Pachar*. 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 slide) a strong class III rapid, that includes waves and small whirlpools.
- SACRED VALLEY

Visit the archaeological site of *Ollantaytambo*, one of the most ancient continually occupied human settlements in America. Shows the best example of city planning done by the Incas, both a temple and a fortress, excellent construction with strong walls. Then explore another impressive Inca complex, the archaeological site of *Pisac*, with terraces built along the hillsides, walking on winding paths on a mountain cliff. Among the most important buildings and temples are *Pisaca*, which is a curved wall; the *Intihuatana*, a solar clock and a military area called "*Q'Allaqasa*." Also visit *Pisac*'s colorful market, an exhibit and sale of fine woven crafts, colorful tapestries, handicrafts and textiles from *Pisac* and neighboring villages.
- TIPON

Visit the archaeological site of *Piquillacta*, which literally means "place of the flea", 32 kilometers south east of Cusco. The archaeological site was built around 1100 AD by the Wari culture, which is made of more rudimentary stone works. 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.
- QENKO - PUCA PUCARÁ - TAMBOMACHAY

See Cusco's important archeological sites. First stop is *Q'enko*, which means "labyrinth" and contains two temples: *Qenko Grande*, which is located at the bottom of the road, and *Qenko Chico*, underground galleries and small canals carved in rocks in zigzag form. Continue to *Puca Pucará* 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*.

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- ANDAHUAYLILLAS

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.
- Q'ESWACHAKA BRIDGE AND RAQCHI

Travel to south of *Cusco*, to *Q'eswachaka* picturesque bridge built by the Incas to cross the astounding *Apurimac* River. Then on your return to *Cusco* city, visit the little known but important archaeological site of *Raqchi*, with its impressive 2-story high temple walls and various round-shaped grain storage for agricultural crops. Along the route, you can see four Andean highland lakes, which reflect the stunning Andean landscapes.