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An aerial photograph of terraced rice fields in Peru. The terraces are built with dark stone walls and are filled with vibrant green rice. The fields are arranged in a series of concentric, curved steps that follow the contours of a hillside. In the upper middle section, three small figures of people are walking along a path that runs between the terraces. The overall scene is lush and green, with the stone walls providing a stark contrast to the rice. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Advertisement

EXPLORING LIMA, IQUITOS, AND CUSCO

PERU

LET YOUR SOUL WANDER

From world-class cuisine and restored palaces-turned-hotels to dense rainforests filled with rare and wonderful creatures, a visit to Peru is history, romance, and magic all rolled into one.

TIP When exploring bohemian Barranco, spend some time on The Bridge of Sighs—a lovely, tranquil wooden structure surrounded by scenic views. Then satisfy your hunger at coastal-fusion restaurant Chala, just around the corner.

AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL INSIDER
DEBBIE TILLOTSON



LIMA

Peru's capital city and main international gateway has long been a visitor favorite for its well-preserved historic center, scenic beaches, and trendy neighborhoods. In recent years, however, it's Lima's gourmet scene that has made news around the globe. From contemporary twists on classic Peruvian flavors to creative menus with international flair, Lima is all about pleasing the taste buds.

Chef Driven With renowned chefs like Gastón Acurio leading the way, Lima has become a home to a number of buzz-worthy (and TV-ready) chefs from around the world, who are inspired by the abundant local products and appreciative crowds. You'll find these gourmet gurus working their magic in five-star hotels, as well as in neighborhoods like Miraflores and Barranco.

Local Specials From quinoa and pisco to fresh seafood and close to 4,000 varieties of potatoes, Peru is a wonderland of indigenous ingredients. Be sure to try signature dishes like ceviche, often made with aji peppers; *causa*, with a base of layered potatoes and avocado; and *lomo saltado*, a beef-and-veggie fusion stir-fry.

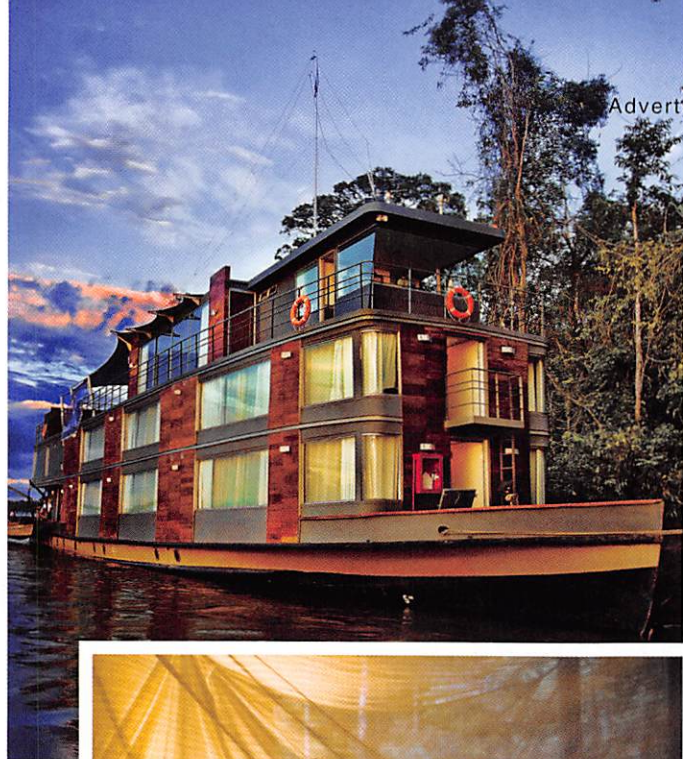
Asian Invasion Chef Nobu Matsuhisa may now helm restaurants all over the world, but true foodies know that his first restaurant—Matsuei—is in Lima. A large Japanese population (and the availability of fresh fish) helped make sushi a Lima staple, while fusion flavors come together in the *chifas* (Chinese-Peruvian restaurants) of Chinatown.

TO BOOK YOUR OWN PERU ADVENTURE, CALL AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL AT 1-866-901-1234 OR VISIT AMEXTRAVEL.COM/PERU.



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IQUITOS

The mighty Amazon, Nanay, and Itaya rivers run alongside rainforest-set Iquitos, the capital of the Loreto region and the fifth largest city in Peru. With all this water power, it's no surprise that the region has become a base for luxury river cruises, which take you deep into one of the world's top natural wonders. Here are some examples of what you'll enjoy:

Suite Sailing All the amenities of a five-star hotel await you on board an Amazon cruise, from stylish suites and refined service to gourmet cuisine. Enjoy al fresco breakfasts, surrounded by playful pink dolphins; later, after days spent exploring sites on land, return to relax with delicious drinks on your deck.

Nature Calls Peru's Amazon is one of the best-preserved parts of this biodiverse land, and one where you're sure to feel the spirit of this iconic river. Top sites in the Amazon Basin include the Parque Nacional del Manu, as well as the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, which is accessible via a cruise.

Back on Land Before or after your luxury cruise, spend some time exploring Iquitos, which is about a two-hour flight from Lima. Stroll past early-20th-century rubber-baron mansions, savor exotic cuisine at a riverside café, and shop the colorful market in the floating village of Belén.



CUSCO

The historic capital of the Inca Empire, the town of Cusco now serves as both a gateway to regional sites such as Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley, as well as a lively base for dining, nightlife, and meeting up with other travelers. It's also become a hotbed of luxury hotels, where you can get acclimated to the high altitude in plush comfort.

A Cultural Paradise A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Cusco is full of notable historic sites like the 12th-century Sacsayhuaman archeological complex and the 16th-century Cathedral, as well as a vibrant central square lined with cafés, bars, and markets. Be sure to take it easy, though: the city is almost 11,000 feet above sea level.

High-End Haven From former monasteries to restored royal residences, Cusco is home to some of Peru's most luxurious—and historic—hotels. So along with top-notch service and international menus, you'll find extensive art and antique collections, perks like oxygen-enriched rooms, and maybe even original Inca foundations stones.

A Sacred Journey In the Incas' time, the Sacred Valley was a place of rest and reflection—and not much has changed. Today, visitors come to soak up the lush landscape and disconnect from the world on the shores of the Urubamba River. If you're feeling up to it, though, exciting activities like rafting, horseback riding, market-shopping, and visits to archeological sites await.

TIP Relax at some of the Sacred Valley's amazing spas and health and wellness centers. Treat yourself to a Yucamani stone massage and a "Gods" facial, or rejuvenate the mind and body with hyperbaric chambers, Vichy showers, and aromatherapy oxygen rooms.

**AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL INSIDER
DEBBIE TILLOTSON**

STAY IN STYLE

Make the most of your journey to **Peru** by booking with these spectacular hotels, resorts, and river cruises.



BELMOND
HOTEL MONASTERIO
CUSCO

Belmond Hotel Monasterio

Near Cusco's lively central square, this restored 16th-century monastery is a delightful retreat with exceptional architecture, a stunning central courtyard, and a gilded chapel hung with fine works of art. ➔ belmond.com



BELMOND
HOTEL RIO SAGRADO
SACRED VALLEY

Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado

In the Sacred Valley of the Incas, Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado lies among verdant fields and towering mountains on the banks of the Urubamba River. El Jardin restaurant offers an unforgettable natural culinary experience. ➔ belmond.com



JW MARRIOTT
LIMA

JW Marriott Lima

With a stunning, central location in the Miraflores district, across from the Larcomar shopping center, the JW Marriott Lima offers sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean from its 300 rooms. Enjoy a Peruvian restaurant, sushi and ceviche lounge, and seasonal outdoor swimming pool. ➔ jwmarriottlima.com



BELMOND
PALACIO NAZARENAS
CUSCO

Belmond Palacio Nazarenas

Set behind Cusco's main square, this restored 17th-century palace is an irresistible mix of ancient and modern, with a fabulous spa, the city's first outdoor pool, and two cutting-edge restaurants. ➔ belmond.com



JW MARRIOTT
EL CONVENTO
CUSCO

JW Marriott El Convento Cusco

Located in the city's historical center, JW Marriott El Convento Cusco was designed around a 16th-century colonial convent, which now houses 153 rooms (all with a built-in oxygen enriched system), restaurant, bar, spa, and archaeological exhibition spaces. ➔ jwmarriottcusco.com



BELMOND
MIRAFLORES PARK
LIMA

Belmond Miraflores Park

Set in Miraflores, one of Lima's most exclusive residential areas, this 81-suite hotel offers breathtaking sea views, state-of-the-art function rooms, spacious suites, and pampering services. ➔ belmond.com



AQUA EXPEDITIONS

Aqua Expeditions

Aqua Expeditions is a leader in luxury small ship cruising on the world's greatest rivers, from Peru to Cambodia and Vietnam. Explore the Amazon on a one-of-a-kind journey aboard the Aqua Amazon or Aria Amazon. ➔ aquaexpeditions.com



BELMOND
SANCTUARY LODGE
MACHU PICCHU

Belmond Sanctuary Lodge

Just steps from the entrance to Machu Picchu, Belmond Sanctuary Lodge is the only hotel that neighbors the Inca citadel. This charming mountain retreat is the perfect place to relax. ➔ belmond.com



INKATERRA
HACIENDA URUBAMBA
VALLE SAGRADO - PERU

Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba

At this contemporary, hacienda-style retreat, all rooms feature incredible views of the mountains of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, leaving guests with a relaxing sense of space, serenity, and blissful solitude. ➔ inkaterra.com