

# A Perfect Week in Cusco

Into the Andes

By Susana Lay



Plaza De Armas, Cusco by [Saurabh Thakur](#)



Picture yourself inhaling fresh mountain air and soaking up the sunlight from the soaring peaks of the Andes. With its narrow cobblestone streets and the merging of Inca and Spanish cultures, the Peruvian city of Cusco provides a gateway to a historical journey made modern by cafés and restaurants, handicraft shops and hotels for every taste. Follow this plan to get the most out of your trip to one of the globe's most breathtaking World Heritage sites.

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# Monday

## Inkaterra La Casona

In the lap of luxury



Inkaterra La Casona via [Website](#)

If you are looking for the perfect balance of intimate and high style, the stunning 16th-century colonial manor house of [Inkaterra La Casona](#) will charm you. Enormous carved doors, stone fireplaces, Andean textiles and a lavish courtyard make La Casona one of the finest places to stay during your visit to Cusco. Located minutes from the Plaza de Armas, at the tiny Plazoleta Nazarenas, the hotel is within easy reach of the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, MAP café and cobblestone streets. If you are lucky enough to experience breakfast through dinner here, try the crispy guinea pig confit with Andean ratatouille and sweet pears cooked in purple corn and pisco.

*Plaza las Nazarenas, Cusco. +511 610 0400; [inkaterra.com](http://inkaterra.com)*



# Saturday

## Machu Picchu

You made it



Photo by [Shubhika Bharathwaj](#)

When the explorer Hiram Bingham III encountered Machu Picchu in 1911, he brought the Peruvian Andes to the world's attention. The classic journey to the Inca citadel is a challenging multiday hike along the Inca Trail, but if you already made it all the way to Aguas Calientes, you can contact an Inkaterra private guide and discover the archaeological site within minutes. No matter how you arrive to the "Old Peak" (its name in the native Quechua language), the result is astounding: You'll feel a sublime combination of reverence, wonder and appreciation. A sense of mystery that invites you to go beyond what you already know. (You may want to spend a full 48 hours here: Check out our [Perfect Weekend in Inkaterra Machu Picchu](#) for your itinerary.)