



Inti Raymi – the Festival of the Sun in Peru

Visitors from across South America and around the world travel to **Cusco** in Peru for the annual *Inti Raymi* festival, the most important ceremony of the Inca Empire calendar. Each winter solstice, native residents honor the **Sun God** marking the beginning of a new year: **the Festival of the Sun**.

The 24th of June is the most important day of the festival, when a theatrical representation of the Inca ceremony takes place: the **Sapa Inca**, the Incan emperor, dressed with silver and gold ornaments, calls on blessings from the **god Inti**, the ancient Incan sun god. The modern day **re-enactment** of *Inti Raymi* still retains all of its majestic glory drawing crowds of international visitors and locals alike.





Processions and ceremonial acts take place with music, prayers and dancing. A white llama is sacrificed to ensure the fertility of the earth and good crops. Once again, a new year has begun.

With daytime exhibitions and top Peruvian musical groups playing in the *Plaza de Armas*, the *Inti Raymi* celebrations are a must-see and it is the second largest festival in South America.

12/06/2017