



## CUSCO

Once the imperial capital of the Incas, Cusco is said to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the Western Hemisphere, and it possesses a charming combination of Inca and Spanish colonial cultures. The surrounding hills look down on a harmonious array of sienna-colored buildings grouped around a series of plazas, including the Plaza de Armas (or Huacaypata), once the ceremonial center of the Inca empire. Nearby, the Plaza de las Nazarenas is, amazingly, the location of three hotels that we enthusiastically endorse. Cusco's historic district remains a popular place for processions, especially during Easter Week and Corpus Christi.

Belmond is the world's leading operator of luxury trains. In Peru, the *Belmond Hiram Bingham* shuttles travelers between Cusco and Machu Picchu. The evocative train consists of two dining cars, a bar car and a sumptuously appointed blue-and-gold observation carriage seating up to 84 passengers. The *Belmond Andean Explorer* offers one- and two-night journeys from Cusco, first to Puno on Lake Titicaca and then to the city of Arequipa. The train has 24 cabins, plus two dining cars, an observation car, a library, a cocktail lounge, a piano bar and spa car.

Find more travel information at [hideawayreport.com](http://hideawayreport.com).



PLAZA DE ARMAS



### BELMOND PALACIO NAZARENAS 96

This atmospheric hotel comprises a historic palace built in the mid-1500s on Inca foundations, and a more modern annex. A maze of alleyways and passages extends from a central cloistered courtyard, and surviving Inca water channels still irrigate the flower and herb gardens. The 55 stylish rooms feature a traditional Spanish style with leather accents, heavy furniture and carved wooden doors. Apart from Junior Suites, all accommodations can be supplied with supplementary oxygen via the air-conditioning system. Amenities include a contemporary Peruvian restaurant, a beautifully decorated library set in a restored chapel, a poolside bar specializing in cocktails with fresh regional ingredients, an outdoor infinity pool and a tranquil spa with a bougainvillea-draped relaxation area. +

**GOOD TO KNOW** Guests have dining privileges at Belmond Hotel Monasterio next door.

**LOWEST RATE: JUNIOR SUITE, \$545; EDITOR'S CHOICE: DELUXE CITY VIEW STUDIO SUITE, \$985. CALLE PLAZOLETA NAZARENAS 223, CUSCO. TEL. (51) 84-582-222.**

### INKATERRA LA CASONA 94

Located near the Plaza de Armas, this delightful hideaway is set within one of Cusco's most important early colonial buildings. The atmosphere of the 16th-century manor house is enhanced by a cozy salon with restored frescoes, colorful Andean textiles and hand-painted furniture. Nine of the 11 suites are arranged around a cloistered courtyard. The Plaza Suites offer dramatic city views and are especially recommended. Sophisticated lodgings include high timbered ceilings, working stone fireplaces and gorgeous folk tapestry. Surprisingly lavish baths feature heated floors, deep ovoid soaking tubs and marble-clad walk-in showers. Though the property lacks a pool and gym, it offers a spa therapy room, plus a small, elegant dining room serving dishes that fuse modern styles with traditional Peruvian ingredients.

**GOOD TO KNOW** The hotel can arrange for a shaman to perform a private coca leaf reading ceremony.

**LOWEST RATE: PATIO SUITE, \$440; EDITOR'S CHOICE: PLAZA SUITE, \$680. PLAZA LAS NAZARENAS 113, CUSCO. TEL. (51) 1-610-0400.**