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IGUAZU FALLS AND MACHU PICCHU TOUR



Inca Cities to Guarani Falls

11 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS

The Iguazu Falls, located on the border of southern Brazil and northern Argentina, and the ruins of Machu Picchu, nestled in the cloud forest of Peru, have been difficult to combine into a quick South American tour -- until now. These two highlights of South America are easily accessible with a flight direct from Iguazu to Lima. Now a whirlwind tour of South America's world wonders is an easy feat, and a rewarding one at that. Imagine yourself gazing upon the 275 waterfalls of Iguazu, and then exploring the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu -- all within a week. Then finish this Iguazu Falls and Machu Picchu tour with a visit to Rio de Janeiro, the "Marvelous City" of Brazil.

Have more time to spare? Also see the similar Lost City and Cidade Maravilhosa Tour that includes Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil.

FROM
**CONTACT
US!**
per person

THIS TOUR INCLUDES:

- All 4* & 5* accommodations
- All Breakfasts
- All Sightseeings and Transfers
- All Entrance Fees
- 1st Class Train or Bus Transportation
- Profesional English-speaking guides

HIGHLIGHTS

- Lima
- Cuzco
- Machu Picchu
- Iguassu Falls
- Rio de Janeiro

ITINERARY



Day 1

ARRIVE IN LIMA

Arrive in Lima, the "City of Kings" and the capital of Peru. Your tour guide will greet you at the airport and transfer you to your Lima hotel. Spend some free time enjoying the city, which was founded by the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535. The Plaza de Armas and Plaza San Martin are well-preserved tributes to Spanish colonial power, which had its viceroyalty here until Peru was granted its independence from Spain.



Day 2

LIMA CITY TOUR

Walk through the historic district, exploring the Cathedral, Government Palace, and Archbishop's Palace with its intricate wood-carved balconies. Stroll along Jirón de la Unión street, now full of clothing shops and restaurants housed in storefronts that have preserved some of the the original colonial architecture. You can opt for a Lima city tour that covers the historic district, many of Lima's museums, and shopping districts. Or explore on your own. We recommend dining in the Miraflores district, and watching the hanggliders float over the Larcomar shopping center at sunset.

Today late afternoon you will take your 1.30hr flight to Cuzco.



Day 3

CUZCO

Cuzco, the city that was the capital of the Inca Empire. The Incas called Cuzco "the naval of the universe". Inca architecture is still visible in many of the buildings in this city, as well as in the ruins in the outskirts, such as Sacsayhuaman. Spanish colonial architecture is also evident, even admits the modern shops, restaurants, and stores that have come to this city in recent years.

Make sure to allow yourself time to acclimatize to the altitude; Cuzco is located 3,400 m (11,200 ft) above sea level. You can sip coca tea, relax in your hotel room, or purchase altitude sickness pills to help acclimate. Some 4* & 5* Cuzco hotels also offer oxygen supplementation in guest rooms. It is recommended that you avoid strenuous exercise and alcohol during your first night in Cuzco, to help your body adjust.

Walk to the Plaza de Armas to witness the Cathedral and the nearby churches of La Compañía, La Merced and San Francisco. Also visit Koricancha, which was the Temple of the Sun during Inca times but now is the Church of Santo Domingo.



Day 4

SACRED VALLEY

Today you will enjoy a full day excursion by private coach to the plentiful and beautiful Urubamba Valley, known as the the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Visit to the colonial town of Pisac. Pisac is famous because of the colorful Indian market that takes place in the town. A buffet lunch will be served in a local restaurant. The tour ends in Ollantaytambo, which is also a beautiful little town and at the same time one of the most important Inca sites of Peru. Not only is it home to historical buildings and temples, but it also has spectacular terraced landscapes and open views to the Urubamba valley.



Day 5

MACHU PICCHU

Wake up extra early today for a quick breakfast before transferring to the station of Ollantaytambo, to catch your train to Aguas Calientes, gateway to Machu Picchu! The train journey from the Sacred Valley to Machu Picchu is a highlight of any trip to the Andes. The scenery is simply spectacular. The 1 1/2 hour journey takes you through a changing landscape with wonderful vistas.

And what a destination awaits you! Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas, is one of the wonders of the Americas. The stunning ruins of the ancient citadel, perched on a mountain peak high in the Andes, are perhaps the greatest surviving testament to Inca civilization. Built in the 15th and 16th centuries, Machu Picchu was the secret city of the Incas, never discovered by the Spanish. It was only rediscovered in 1911, by an American, Professor Bingham, and it remains South America's most spectacular archaeological site.

Upon arrival in Aguas Calientes, make the brief walk through the town markets and over the railway bridge to board any one of several coaches which will take you up to the entrance of Machu Picchu. Guided visit to the Lost City of the Incas. After the tour, return to Aguas Calientes. Lunch will be serve at a local restaurant.



Day 6

TRAVEL TO FOZ DO IGUAÇU

Catch the flight from Cuzco to Foz do Iguazu, which is located on the Brazilian side of the Iguazu Falls. Named "Iguazu" by the Guarani natives, the Iguazu Falls name means "Big Water." And this waterfall is huge -- there are over 275 waterfalls, including the formidable Devil's Throat. The waterfalls straddle the border between Brazil and Argentina, and are close by the border of Paraguay. The adjacent Itaipú Hydroelectric Dam supplies approximately 90% of Paraguay's electricity, and 19% of Brazil's. Note: LAN Airlines offers one non-stop flights from Lima to Foz do Iguazu on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.



Day 7

IGUAZU FALLS TOUR

After breakfast at the hotel, you will start with the Iguazu Falls exploration - this time to the Argentine side. Explore its Iguazu National Park, which has an ecological train ride, and multiple catwalks and observation decks where you can view the waterfalls from multiple angles. Butterflies, plants, and animals are in abundance in this region, the lush subtropics of the Misiones Forest.

In the late afternoon, return to your hotel and rest.



Day 8

IGUAZU FALLS TOUR

Enjoy your last day in Foz do Iguacu with a last visit to the falls and its national parks.

Begin by exploring the falls from the Brazilian side, in the Iguazu National Park. You may also want to take a boat ride that goes up close to the base of the falls, covering you in mist and the deafening roar of the water. Check in to your hotel in the evening and rest. You may also want to visit the Bird Park, home to several species such as the Hyacinth macaw and tucanos. Later you will catch your flight to Rio de Janeiro.



Day 9

RIO DE JANEIRO

Finish your Iguazu Falls and Machu Picchu tour with a visit to Brazil's "Marvelous City," Rio de Janeiro. With its golden beaches, lush Atlantic Rainforests, friendly *cariocas* (locals), and samba music, Rio de Janeiro is a unique and vivacious city. Today you will visit the Christ the Redeemer, whom keeps an eye on Rio from an elevation of 710m (2340ft). Board the *trenzinho* (cogwheel railway) up to the top of Corcovado Mountain for a bird's eye view of the center of the city from the center of the city! The 38-meter statue is the image of the faith and friendliness of *cariocas*. The monument was inaugurated on the day of Our Lady of Aparecida, 12 October, 1931 by then President Getúlio Vargas and cardinal Dom Sebastião Leme. Then get a close-up look at Rio's world famous beaches.



Day 10

RIO DE JANEIRO

The panoramic view from the top of the Sugar Loaf Mountain, at 1,296 ft (395m) above sea-level, is breathtaking. Two sets of cable cars elevate you to the top of Sugar Loaf. The first brings passengers to the top of Urca Mountain. From Urca Mountain a second set of cable cars brings passengers to the summit with its 360° spectrum of golden beaches, green forests and a thriving metropolis that has earned Rio de Janeiro the title of the world's most beautiful city. Sightseeing continues with a tour of Rio's historical past. Learn how Portugal's prince scandalously broke all family ties and declared himself Emperor of Brazil



Day 11

FLIGHT BACK HOME

On your final day in Rio de Janeiro, your guide will transfer you to the airport for your return flight home.