

# Andes Overland



**Peru-Bolivia –Argentina-Brazil  
27 Days  
From \$9500**

**Group Departures: 3May,14Jun,2Aug,6Sep 2019  
8May,12Jun,7Aug,4 Sep 2020**

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- **Machu Picchu – legendary 'lost city' of the Incas**
- **Trail– follow the Inca Footsteps (optional)**
- **Nazca Lines – a huge etchings in the desert of Peru**
- **Colca Canyon – home of the mighty Andean Condor**
- **Cusco – Capital of the Inca Empire - a true experience**
- **Lake Titicaca – floating reed islands and Uros Indians**
- **La Paz – city of contrasts and colour**
- **Rio de Janeiro – vibrant and exciting**
- **Iguacu Falls – spectacular and simply stunning**
- **Buenos Aires – stylish 'Paris of the South'**

## **Latin Link Adventure**

***The South American Specialists***

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## **Information Sheet – Andes Overland**

Fully Guided . 27 days from Lima to Buenos Aires

### **A real kaleidoscope of the Andes - Peru – Bolivia – Brazil-Argentina**

This varied adventure gives you the opportunity to explore bustling colourful Andean markets and villages of rural Peru & Bolivia and to discover the mysteries of the Inca Empire.

Delight in the majesty of the spectacular Iguacu Falls, visit the Uros Indians on the curious floating Reed Islands of **Lake Titicaca**, marvel at the workmanship and energy of magical Machu Picchu in Peru plus fly over the mysterious **Nazca lines** in the desert of southern Peru.

Highlights also include spotting condors in the **Colca Canyon**, and the charming colonial city of **Cusco** . Heart of the Inca Empire. Wonder at the remarkable monument of Sacsayhuaman, villages of Chinchero and Ollantaytambo and Písaq. Cross the altiplano to Lake Titicaca and experience the Uros & Sun Islands then on to La Paz. From **La Paz** fly into stunning and vibrant Rio de Janeiro. See the spectacular views from Sugar Loaf Mountain and Christ the Redeemer statue, plus there is time to watch people on the famous Copacabana and Ipanema beaches.

Then to the Iguacu Falls. 275 cascades fall in a wild array of spray over a winding 3km cliff face into the gorge 60metres below -. An impressive sight! Finish up in stylish **Buenos Aires** where you can enjoy a tango show and an enormous juicy steak.

There are no unpleasant surprises once you are in South America, you know before you leave exactly what this trip will cost and it is a bonus not having to dip into your money belt all the time to pay for 'EXTRAS' like some companies do. We pride ourselves on being totally upfront before you leave. Compare our inclusions for yourself . detailed on our Trip Dossier.

We want your adventure to be as hassle-free as possible . so you can expect the following whilst planning to explore the "Andes Overland+

**NB. June departure includes the amazing Inti Raymi Festival in Cusco**

**Costs: 2019 Group Departures :3 May,2 Aug ,6 Sep NZ\$9500 : NZ\$; 14 Jun NZ\$9830**

**2020 Group Departures: 8May ,12Jun,7Aug,4Sep (Prices subject to change)**

**Independent Departures : Friday weekly NZ\$9800**

*Please note these costs only apply if travelling internationally to/from South America on LATAM Airlines. Should you wish to fly with Air New Zealand there would be a surcharge of NZ\$200*

**Single room supplement \$1550**

**Inca Trail Option:** additional NZ\$550

**Bolivia Salt Flats Option :** additional NZ\$1095 per person

**Early Booking Discount:** reserve your place on the tour by 30 Sep 2018 and receive a early booking discount of \$200.

#### **Galapagos Islands Pre Extension :**

Depart to Quito on Thurs ,1 week earlier for 3 nights in Quito,Otavalo Tour, 4 night Galapagos Islands Cruise & 1 night in Guayaquil Additional Cost: NZ\$5220 ( twin/double share , includes additional airfares )

**Amazon Pre Extension:**Arrive Lima on Sunday for 1night , then 4nights in Tambopata Reserve -itinerary on request

Additional cost :NZ\$2475 ( twin/double share, includes airfares & taxes from Lima ) Single Supplement \$620  
( *Itineraries for Galapagos & Amazon Extensions available on request* )

#### **Cost Includes:**

ALL flights within South America	2 dinners, 2 lunches
ALL transport (boats, buses, taxis, trains etc)	ALL accommodation with breakfasts
ALL entrance fees as per itinerary	ALL camping fees, tents, sleeping mats/bag/sheet on the trek
ALL national park entrance fees	ALL meals during Inca Trail
ALL sightseeing as per itinerary	ALL transfers as per itinerary
Services of experienced local guides Inca Trail	Farewell dinner & Tango show in Buenos Aires
Services of porters to carry gear on Inca Trail	NB: 4.5kg limit on all treks - rest of gear to be left at hotel
Services of experienced Tour Leader	Services of English speaking local guides

#### **Does not include:**

Tips allow USD200 per person  
Insurance - Laundry - Personal Spending - Medical Expenses

#### **Tour Leaders:**

Our experienced bi . lingual Tour Leaders travel with the group departures (subject to a minimum of 6 people travelling )

#### **Accommodation:**

We use comfortable 3 star hotels throughout All rooms have your own private bathroom . Hotels are chosen for their location and service and most would have free WIFI

#### **Personal Spending :**

We suggest allow for US\$30-40 per day to cover incidentals, laundry, meals not included

**Group Size :** groups are limited to a maximum of 15 people

Day	Date	Program	Overnight
<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<p><b><u>Lima</u></b>  Arrive Lima  Outside the baggage claim area our representative will be waiting for you with a sign %ATIN LINK %  They will transfer you to our hotel .  Accommodation: Hotel Antigua Miraflores  <a href="http://www.antiguamiraflores.com">www.antiguamiraflores.com</a></p>	Lima
<b>2</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<p><b><u>Lima</u></b>  Lima, city of Kings and capital of Peru.  This was the principal city of Spanish South America from its founding in 1535 until the independence of the South American republics in early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It never rains in Lima, except for 2 months of the year when the skies are blue, in January and February.  You have the morning to explore Lima. A city tour of the Greater Colonial Lima this morning allows you to appreciate the wonderful colonial buildings in downtown Lima such as the Santo Domingo Convent and the Casa Aliaga, one of South America's oldest Spanish homes. Drive by the elegant tree-lined avenues of San Isidro and Miraflores.  Afternoon at leisure or we suggest a visit to the Gold Museum or Larco Museum</p>	Lima (B)
<b>3</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<p><b><u>Lima - Paracas</u></b>  This morning we travel south by bus along the Panamericano Highway through desert countryside alongside the Pacific Ocean   Accommodation Hotel Mar Azul  <a href="http://www.hotelmarazul.com.pe">www.hotelmarazul.com.pe</a>  Visit the Paracas Nature Reserve , a marine sanctuary located at the shore of the Pacific Ocean</p>	Paracas (B)
<b>4</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<p><b><u>Paracas - Nazca.</u></b>  This morning visit Ballestas Islands, known as Peru's mini Galapagos. An opportunity to watch resident and migratory birds, including flamingos, red-legged cormorants, Inca terns, bobbies, as well as playful sea lions, amusing Humboldt penguins and, we are lucky, we might see marine otters.  This afternoon travel by bus to Nazca.  This small oasis town is famous for the mysterious lines etched in the desert pampas. Are they messages to travellers from outer space that landed here thousands of years ago or the works of an ancient culture depicting a planting calendar? Cut into the stony desert, like a giant sketching pad, these many lines include geometrical figures, giant animals and birds.  Accommodation: Hotel Alegria  <a href="http://www.hotelalegria.net">www.hotelalegria.net</a></p>	Nazca (B)

5	Tues	<p><b><u>Flight over Nazca Lines – then to Arequipa</u></b></p> <p>This morning it is your turn to become airborne and theorise on these mysterious lines etched in the desert. Wow - up you go to witness this gigantic sketching pad in the desert pampa. Who drew them? Why? Draw your own conclusions or come away with as many questions as answers!</p> <p>This afternoon depart Nazca on our super comfy bus , arriving Arequipa later this evening . Transfer to your hotel</p> <p>Accommodation: Majestad Hotel Historical Center, Arequipa <a href="http://www.majestadhotel.com">www.majestadhotel.com</a></p>	Arequipa (B)
6	Wed	<p><b><u>Explore Arequipa</u></b></p> <p>Arequipa, situated at the foot of El Misti Volcano (5882m), is the Ciudad Blancaq. the white city, boasting a delightful climate, plenty of fascinating colonial buildings and gateway to the famous Colca Canyon, home of the condors, one of the world's deepest canyons.</p> <p>Must sees here are a visit to the peaceful Santa Catalina Convent, one of the most fascinating religious colonial buildings in Peru. The convent, opened to visitors in 1970, is surrounded by imposing walls and the 450 nuns who lived here led a completely secluded life. Also here is Juanita+the mummy of a young girl found in 1995 by an American mountain climber on Mt Ambato. She is encased in a freezing chamber inside the Museum and is on display.</p>	Arequipa (B)
7	Thurs	<p><b><u>Arequipa - Colca Canyon Adventure</u></b></p> <p>An early start through to the awesome Colca Canyon, one of the world's deepest canyons which is only accessible by a dirt road over the Altiplano before dropping to the village of Chivay at 3600 metres above sea level. The landscape is remarkable for its Inca and pre-Inca terracing which goes on for many kilometres and is the most extensive in Peru. Life here has changed very little through the centuries where the campesinos still farm the remarkable Inca terracing as their ancestors did before them. Visit the Canyon to the Cruz de las Condors. This is a remarkable highlight . you can watch the impressive condors rising with the thermals . your chance to get great photos of these wonderful birds</p> <p>Stay overnight in the small village of Chivay where you can relax in the hot thermal springs and delight in the haunting melodies of the panpipes. Dinner will be at a local restaurant</p> <p>Accommodation: Colca Llatqa Inn <a href="http://www.colcallatqahotel.com">www.colcallatqahotel.com</a></p>	Chivay (B,D)
8	Fri	<p><b><u>Colca Canyon- Cusco</u></b></p> <p>We continue our journey of discovery and exploration in the hinterland of the Andes travelling overland to Cusco arriving early evening</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel Royal Inka 1 <a href="http://www.hotelroyalinka.com">www.hotelroyalinka.com</a></p>	Cusco (B,L)

9	Sat	<p><b><u>Cusco</u></b>  Cusco, heart of the Inca Empire, known by the local Quechua Indians as 'Navel of the Universe'.  Cusco is an amazing experience. Lying in an exceptionally beautiful countryside 3300 metres above sea level, here you will encounter a fine blend of Spanish and Inca cultures, colourful Quechua Indian markets, Inca temples and massive stone walls which form the foundations of Colonial Cusco, originally part of the impressive monument of Sacsayhuaman, situated above the town.  This morning enjoy a comprehensive walking tour of this delightful city, including the Cathedral, Plaza de Armas, Temple of the Sun followed by a visit to Sacsayhuaman - this magnificent Inca fortress, which overlooks the city of Cusco. Sacsayhuaman can be variously translated as 'speckled falcon' or 'speckled head'. The last interpretation refers to the belief that the city of Cusco was set out in the form of a puma whose head was the hill of Sacsayhuaman. The origins are uncertain but the fortress is generally attributed to the period of Inca Pachacuti, the man who essentially founded the Inca empire.  We also visit the ruins of Qenko, an area of well - preserved archaeological ruins and the Red Fortress of Puca Pucara.</p>	Cusco (B)
10	Sun	<p><b><u>Cusco -Sacred Valley</u></b>  Drive through stunning scenery to Chinchero, the most colourful and authentic market in Peru. Continue on to Maras Salt Pans. Another fabulous walk today. Discover these amazing salt pans still mined as they were hundreds of years ago,  Also visit Moray . these unusual Inca ruins consist of several enormous terraced circular depressions, the largest of which is about 30m. deep. Continue through the Sacred Valley to our hotel an old monastery (completely restored of course!).  Accommodation: Hotel Recoleta Monasterio  Urubamba  <a href="http://www.hotelessanagustin.com.pe/hotel_recoleta.htm">www.hotelessanagustin.com.pe/hotel_recoleta.htm</a></p> <p>NB June departure itinerary will have a slight change of order to attend the Inti Raymi Festival on 24 June</p>	Cusco (B)
11	Mon	<p><b><u>Cusco – Sacred Valley Trekkers in group depart for Inca Trail Day 1</u></b>  Continue through the beautiful Sacred valley of the Incas.  Next is Pisac where you will enjoy a panoramic walk along the original Inca pathways and terracing to the ancient town below. Visit the markets then continue through this lush valley where the towering fortress of Ollantaytambo dominates the surrounding area.</p>	Sacred Valley of the Incas (B)
12	Tues	<p><b><u>Train to Aguas Calientes or Day 2 - Inca Trail</u></b>  After breakfast you have an early morning transfer to Ollantaytambo to catch the train to Aguas Calientes, a small railroad town with tons of character . enjoy a soak in the hot pools under the Andean sky or explore the town  Accommodation: Santuario Hotel  <a href="http://www.santuariohotel.com">www.santuariohotel.com</a></p>	Aguas Calientes(B)

13	Wed	<p><b><u>Bus to Machu Picchu- Cuzco or Day 3 – Inca Trail</u></b></p> <p>It's an early start today. This is the best time to enjoy the peace and tranquillity not to mention the magic of Machu Picchu is before the trainloads of visitors arrive. Machu Picchu, known also as the Lost City of the Incas It is undoubtedly the best known and most spectacular archaeological site on the continent and is considered a must for all visitors to Peru. You will travel by bus up the zig-zag, the Hiram Bingham highway, to the ruins where your first views will take your breath away. Enjoy a fully guided tour of the ruins, some time to explore on your own, before returning down the mountainside. Time for a snack and then board the train to Ollantaytambo and transfer to our hotel in Cusco.</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel Royal Inka 1  <a href="http://www.hotelroyalinka.com">www.hotelroyalinka.com</a></p>	Cusco(B)
14	Thurs	<p><b><u>Cusco or Day 4 Inca Trail</u></b></p> <p>Free day to explore this delightful city . everyone's favourite. The day is yours to enjoy, all the convents, churches, museums, alpaca and jewellery bargains.</p>	Cusco (B)
15	Fri	<p><b><u>Cusco - Puno</u></b></p> <p>Bus ride to Puno through the dramatic landscapes of the highland plateau, with occasional views of tiny Andean villages and herds of llamas and vicunas. We will stop at Andahuaylillas, where there is a beautiful baroque church built at the beginning of the XVIIth century. It is very well known thanks to its beautiful mural paintings. We will make a second stop at Raqchi, where there is an Inca temple built to worship Wiracocha, one of the most important Inca gods. Finally, we will stop at the archaeological museum of Pukara (200BC-AD300) then we will lunch at a restaurant en route.</p> <p>Arrive in Puno late afternoon.  Accommodation: Qelqatani Hotel  <a href="http://www.qelqatani.com">www.qelqatani.com</a></p>	Puno (B,L)
16	Sat	<p><b><u>Uros Islands -Copacabana</u></b></p> <p>What an experience! By boat visit the curious floating reed islands and the Uros Indians who live there. Everything is made of these reeds, houses, schools, boats, churches etc. Once you reach the reed islands, you can experience gliding across Lake Titicaca in an authentic reed boat - you can't beat it! Return to Puno.</p> <p>This afternoon continue through lovely scenery, which follows this mighty lake to the Bolivian border.</p> <p>After border formalities continue to the sleepy town of Copacabana.</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel Rosario del Lago  <a href="http://www.hotelrosario.com/lago">www.hotelrosario.com/lago</a></p>	Copacabana(B)

17	Sun	<p><b><u>Copacabana – La Paz</u></b>  Morning at leisure to explore around Copacabana . The opportunity for an optional boat trip out on the lake to tranquil Isla del Sol (Island of the Sun) where legend has it that the first Inca King rose out of the lake.  On this legendary island, visit the Pilkokaina Inca Palace and enjoy a short walk to the Gardens, Sacred Stairs and Fountain of the Inca. As we ascend to Yumani village, we have a magnificent view of the lake set to the backdrop of Mount Illampu.  Depart Copacabana and continue through even more stunning scenery, with snow-capped peaks and the blue lake, to La Paz, capital of Bolivia and highest capital in the world.  Known as City of Contrasts, here ancient traditions meet the new millennium of chaotic traffic and towering buildings.</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel Rosario  <a href="http://www.hotelrosario.com/la-paz">www.hotelrosario.com/la-paz</a></p>	La Paz (B)
18	Mon	<p><b><u>City tour and shopping</u></b>  A morning tour takes you down to where the air is thicker and the elite live. Visit the witches markets, Calle Jaen with its museums, San Francisco Church, Plaza Murillo, National Congress, Cathedral, Presidential Palace. "See local neighborhoods as you take public transportation up the hill to reach a spectacular viewpoint. Continuing to the very unusual eroded formations of the Moon Valley.  The afternoon is free to enjoy the uniqueness of this colourful bustling city and shop for bargains and gifts.</p>	La Paz (B)
19	Tues	<p><b><u>Explore La Paz</u></b>  Optional tour to Tiwanaku (Pre-Columbian) ruins outside the city or a hike into the Palca Canyon or a Mountain Bike down the world's most spectacular road or spend the day with a little more shopping and people watching. A great city to do that!</p> <p><b><u>OPTIONAL TOUR To BOLIVIA SALT FLATS (B,L)</u></b>  Transfer to the airport early this morning for a flight to Uyuni  On arrival commence a full day tour of the Salt Flat of Uyuni. Visit the train cemetery and then continue towards the great Salt Flat of Uyuni, visiting on the way the Colchani village, where you will enter into a domestic salt processing plant. Journey across the salt flats, visiting an area called "Los Ojos de Agua" (Eyes of Water) where you will see the manual extraction of salt by local communitarian industries. Continue the trip along the Salt Flats towards the Incahuasi Island, better known as "Isla Pescado" (Fish Island) where you will find enormous Cactus and hike around the interesting geology of the area. Lunch will be served on the shores of the Island. Return to Colchani and overnight out the unique Hotel - made entirely out of salt  Accommodation: Luna Salada Hotel  <a href="http://www.lunasaladahotel.com.bo">www.lunasaladahotel.com.bo</a></p> <p><b><u>Wed Day 20 UYUNI- SANTA CRUZ -RIO de JANEIRO (B)</u></b>  After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Santa Cruz and connect with rest of group for flight to Rio.  Additional cost : NZ\$1095 per person, single supplement NZ\$150  <i>(Based on a minimum of 2 people travelling)</i></p>	La Paz(B)
20	Wed	<p><b><u>La Paz –Rio de Janeiro</u></b>  An early start as we say adios to the Andes and transfer to the airport for our flight to Sao Paulo with a connection to Rio.  Transfer to your hotel in Copacabana  Accommodation: Hotel Martinique  <a href="http://www.windsorhoteis.com.br/martinique">www.windsorhoteis.com.br/martinique</a></p> <p><i>Located 1 block back from Copacabana beach</i></p>	Rio (B)

<b>21</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<p><b><u>Rio de Janeiro</u></b></p> <p>This morning travel to the Cosme Velho Train Cog Station at the bottom of the Corcovado Mountain, you will stop by Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas. Once at the mountain, you will take the ride up to the top, through the dense Tijuca rain forest to the 38m tall Christ the Redeemer Statue. From the top, you will enjoy the spectacular views of Rio and the surrounding countryside. This afternoon starts with a panoramic tour of downtown Rio where you'll pass by the infamous Sambadrome, the exhibition area for the renowned Samba schools in Rio. A brief stop is made at the Metropolitan Cathedral, made famous for its unusual pyramid shape. Admire its beauty and rareness from both the outside and the inside! Your panoramic city tour continues with a visit to the traditional Cinelandia Square where you'll tour the various historic buildings such as the Municipal Theatre, the National Library and the National Museum of Fine Arts. Head towards the Urca neighborhood, where one of Rio's most iconic symbols is located, Sugar Loaf Mountain.</p> <p>Travelling up Sugar Loaf mountain in a cable car, you will make a brief stop at a vantage point approximately 700 feet (215 meters) above sea level. Capture unparalleled panoramic views of the city, Guanabara Bay, the Rio-Niteroi Bridge and Corcovado Mountain. You'll then ascend to the peak of Sugar Loaf for breathtaking views of Copacabana Beach, the Santa Cruz Fortress and the beaches of Niteroi.</p>	Rio (B)
<b>22</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<p><b><u>Rio de Janeiro</u></b></p> <p>Day at leisure , perhaps explore the quaint district of Santa Teresa or enjoy a day at the beach .</p>	Rio (B)
<b>23</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<p><b><u>Rio -Iguacu</u></b></p> <p>Transfer to the airport for our morning flight to Iguacu . On arrival commence a tour to the Brazilian side of the falls followed by a visit to the Bird Park , an opportunity to enter the huge 8-meter high forest aviaries to study and photograph birds in their natural habitat without the restrictions of netting and cages. There are over 160 species, both indigenous and from other continents. Then transfer to your hotel</p> <p>Accommodation : Bourbon Business Hotel  <a href="http://www.bourbon.com.br/hotel/midscale-pt/business-hotel-pt/bourbon-foz-do-iguacu">www.bourbon.com.br/hotel/midscale-pt/business-hotel-pt/bourbon-foz-do-iguacu</a></p>	Iguacu (B)
<b>24</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<p><b><u>Iguacu Falls - Buenos Aires</u></b></p> <p>Travel to the Argentine side of the falls, these falls defy description! Enjoy the majesty of the world's most spectacular waterfalls. Set in pristine rainforest with countless birds and butterflies, situated on the borders of Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil, they plunge in a series of gigantic waterfalls over 3kms long and more than 80 metres high. The thunderous roar of crashing water and the multicoloured mist is natural beauty at its best. It is undoubtedly one of the world's most impressive sights. Later see the mighty Devils Throat Cataract. We then transfer to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel</p> <p>Accommodation: Intersur Recoleta Hotel  <a href="http://intersurrecoleta.com.ar/en/">http://intersurrecoleta.com.ar/en/</a></p>	Buenos Aires (B)



26	Mon	<p><b><u>Buenos Aires</u></b></p> <p>This morning our tour will allow us to discover the city of Buenos Aires. We will visit its Civic Centre, the impressive National Congress and May Square (Plaza de Mayo) surrounded by Government House (Casa Rosada), the Metropolitan Cathedral and City Hall from colonial days (Cabildo). We will visit the Colon Theatre (Teatro Colón), one of the world's best known opera houses and the cultural pride of the Porteños+ (Buenos Aires natives). Next, we will tour the traditional barrio of San Telmo where the magical atmosphere of the district will take you back in time. We will then stop at La Boca, home of the first Italian immigrants and you will observe its picturesque and colourful architecture. We will then continue to the residential neighborhood of Palermo and many parks. Finally, we will go to Recoleta, the city's most exclusive district, with its famous cemetery where Evita Peron is buried, elegant boutiques, gourmet restaurants and side walk cafés under ficus trees (gomeritos).</p> <p>Tonight get into the Argentine mood with a juicy steak and Tango show</p>	Buenos Aires (B,D)
26	Tues	<p><b><u>Buenos Aires</u></b></p> <p>There is still time to explore the city further or perhaps enjoy an optional trip across to Colonia in Uruguay. district.</p> <p><i>If departing on Air NZ you will be transferred to the airport for your midnight departure</i></p>	Buenos Aires (B)
27	Wed	<p><b><u>Buenos Aires</u></b></p> <p>You will be transferred to the airport</p>	(B)

### **Inca Trail Description & Distances**

*Please note you will be given a duffel bag in Cusco to pack the items you need on the trail. Your main baggage will be stored for you while you are on the Trail. Sleeping bag, sleeping mat & sheet included*

**Day 1 (12km):** You will be picked up from your hotel in Urubamba for the short trip to Km 82 where you will begin the trail.

Cross the Vilcanota River and follow the trail to the right as it climbs steeply up from the river. After passing through a small village, the ruins of the Inca hillfort of Huillca Raccay come into view high above the mouth of the river Cusichaca ('happy bridge'). It is a simple descent down to the Cusichaca river.

For a further 4.5-hour, 08- to 10-kilometre-walk the path follows the left bank of the river up to the village of Wayllabamba (3,000m). The name in Quechua means 'grassy plain'. You will spend the first night here – depending on everyone's fitness.

**Day 2 (11km):** Rising early (around 6am), today begins with a gradual climbing up from Wayllabamba for about 3 hours through steepening woods and increasingly spectacular terrain brings you to the treeline and a meadow known as Llulluchapampa (3,680m). It is another 1½ hours climb to the first and highest pass of the trail (Abra de Huarmihuañusca or 'Dead Woman's Pass') at 4,200m. During this part of the trail hikers are exposed to the Andean elements: first scorching sun and then, closer to the pass, freezing winds. Once at the top hikers can celebrate having completed the most difficult section of the trail.

The descent from the pass is steep although not difficult, following the trail on the left side of the valley to the valley floor and to the 2nd night's campsite at Pacaymayo (3,600m). There are toilet facilities here.

**Day 3 (16km):** From Pacaymayo it takes about an hour to climb up to the ruins of Runkuracay. These small circular ruins occupy a commanding position overlooking the Pacaymayo valley below. Another 45 minute hike will bring you to the top of the second pass: Abra de Runkuracay (4,000m). At last you'll feel that you are walking along the trail of the Incas with paving, for the most part, being original. The descent down the steps from the pass is steep so take care. This section of the trail, up till the 3rd pass, is particularly beautiful as the path crosses high stone embankments and skirts deep precipices. After about 1 hour from the 2nd pass you'll arrive at Sayacmarca by way of a superbly designed stone staircase. The name Sayacmarca means 'Inaccessible Town' and describes the position of the ruins perfectly, protected on three sides by sheer cliffs. No one knows the exact purpose of these ruins.

You have to backtrack a little to rejoin the trail as it passes Conchamarca, a small Inca dwelling situated in the shadows of Sayacmarca, which was probably a *tambo* for weary travellers on their way to Machu Picchu.

From then on the path descends into magnificent cloudforest full of orchids, hanging mosses, tree ferns and flowers, passing through an impressive Inca tunnel, carved into the rock, on the way.

The trail then climbs up to the 3rd pass (3,700m). The view from the pass offers excellent views of several snow-capped peaks including Salkantay (6,271m) and Veronica (5,750m). A few minutes after the pass is Phuyupatamarca (3,580 metres), the most impressive Inca ruin so far. The name means 'Town in the Clouds'. Access to the ruins is down a steep flight of stairs passing six 'Inca Baths' probably used for the ritual worship of water.

Leaving the site via an impressive Inca staircase leading from the west side of the ruins (the far end from the baths) you descend a thousand or so steps. Be careful with your knees which will feel the strain by the end of the day. After about an hour of walking through cloudforest you may just be able to see the archaeological site of Wiñay Wayna (2,650 metres),

The campsite at Winay Wayna is a welcome sight and your efforts can be rewarded with a deserved cold beer, as well as hot showers (\$1.5) and toilets. Trekkers on the Classic 4-day trek will camp here.

A short trail leaves from the southern end of the ruins of Wiñay Wayna. The name in Quechua means 'forever young' and is named after a variety of pink orchid which grows here. The ruins comprise magnificent agricultural terraces set in an impressive location. There are also many buildings of good quality stonework and a sequence of 10 baths, suggesting that the site was probably a religious centre associated with the worship of water. Ritual cleansing may have taken place here for pilgrims on the final leg of the trail to Machu Picchu.

**Day 4 (6km):** On the last morning we rise before dawn (4am) to begin the final section of the trail, after a light breakfast you will say goodbye to our porters as they pack up the camping equipment and head back to Cusco. Most people attempt to wake up early so that they can leave Wiñay Wayna to get to Machu Picchu before sunrise. The sky starts getting light by 6am and the first rays of the sun reach Machu Picchu at about 7am. The trail contours a mountainside and drops into cloudforest before coming to an almost vertical flight of 50 steps leading up

**Suddenly the whole of Machu Picchu is spread out before you in all its glory -  
a fantastic sight for all – pure magic.**

Around 7am, our guide will take you on a full guided tour. You will then have plenty of free time to explore this mystical Inca city, later in the afternoon descend by bus down to Aguas Calientes, you may decide to have lunch in one of the many restaurants (not included) then catch the train to Poroy and transfer by bus to our hotel in Cusco to rejoin the group

#### **Some Comments from previous clients on this tour**

*Very enjoyable trip with Tour Leader Ed. It was educational with very many activities included. I came home feeling like I had done a lot on the tour . Margaret M , Wanganui*

*Wonderful adventure exploring Peruvian history & culture. Loved the choice of boutique accommodation-great locations . Jim & Jenni, Whangaparoa*

*The planning & organisation could not be faulted delivered beyond expectations. We were shown a greater depth of culture than expected. Steve& Fiona ,Wanaka*

*The whole tour was a wonderful experience, would highly recommend it. Robyn & Kay, Wanaka*

*It was a brilliant trip and I enjoyed every moment . Loved the contrasts . Lesley, Auckland*