

# Finding the Sacred in Machu Picchu

## Experience Peru

The Sacred Valley of the Incas sounds, smells, looks, and feels like Narnia, Neverland, and the garden of Eden all wrapped in one. It is imagination realized. And overlooking this great valley—in all its magic and magnificence—is Machu Picchu. Photographs do not do Machu Picchu, or the Sacred Valley, justice. One must see it the way the architects of Machu Picchu intended it to be seen, and as it's been seen for centuries—by foot. In the Sacred Valley, you will think your senses are being fooled. You will hear music in the air, you will see llamas walking freely about. But your senses are not being fooled—trust them. Trust also your B&R guides: they will take you where you need to go, show you what you need to see.

### THE B&R DIFFERENCE

“The unique opportunity we had to interact with local people and go really deep into their culture is something we will never forget.”

*Leandro Taga,  
Peru Walking*

### WHY TRAVEL WITH B&R?

Arriving at majestic Machu Picchu we couldn't think of staying anywhere else than the Belmond Lodge. This fabulous hotel is the only property adjacent to the ancient ruins. As the day ends and the mass of visitors disappear we sit back with a cocktail and watch the sun set over this sacred place.



**Other questions?**  
**Call Distinctive Journeys**  
at 770 888 6677

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# the journey

## Day 1, 2 & 3

### The Sacred Valley of the Incas

WE RENDEZVOUS IN CUSCO AND DEPART EARLY FOR the Pisac ruins, famous for its temples, agricultural terracing, and Inca tombs. We'll enjoy a picnic lunch of local delicacies in the private courtyard of a heritage home, before visiting the famous Pisac market. We'll wind down the day with a special afternoon performance by a paco—a guardian of Inca religious traditions. Dinner tonight will be in our hotel and home for the next three nights, the wonderful Sol y Luna.

This morning we have the opportunity to visit a B&R Fund supported primary school; this is an excellent chance to interact with local children and discover a little about growing up in the Sacred Valley!

#### HOTEL

##### *Sol y Luna, Urubamba*

Sol y Luna is a perfect blend of charm and tranquility. The stylish bungalow-style cottages are decorated with local ceramics and indigenous woods, and the hotel is surrounded by lovely gardens, and features a fully-equipped spa.

#### THE ACTIVITY

**Day 1:** A 4 km (2.5 mi.) morning walk, mostly flat, with a few short climbs on the way to the ruins.

**Day 2:** A stunning 6 km (4 mi.) walk from Maras to Moray, with an optional 6 km (4 mi.) in the afternoon.

**Day 3:** Today is all about options. Choose to walk to Urubamba, take a challenging hike to Pumamarca, visit Ollantaytambo, or go mountain biking or horseback riding.

After a short drive we'll enjoy a pleasant walk from the town of Maras to the experimental Incan agricultural terraces in Moray. The walk is slightly uphill as we head towards the mountains and should take us a couple of hours but the rewards are well worth it! The Incans chose this location to experiment with different crops and the subtly differing micro climates that these pits create. Lunch will be in a private, secluded location before we set out on our afternoon walk. We will stop by our friend's workshop, who has been manufacturing traditional Peruvian hats here all his life, before walking on the valleys ancient salt mines. Visually these are stunning and importantly still represent a significant part of the local economy as the pans area cooperative and the salt is sold. From here we will return to our hotel. In time to freshen up before heading out to dinner at a local friends home in town. Get ready for a fun evening!



We'll begin our final day in the Sacred Valley on the cobblestone streets of Ollantaytambo. This town was built by the Incas, and the style of life here remains quite unchanged from those ancient times. This morning there will be the option of undertaking a challenging but stunning hike to the ruins at Pumamarca—a lesser known but very important Inca site. Alternatively, you can enjoy the hotel and its facilities, along with the village of Urubamba. We will reconvene for lunch in Ollantaytambo for a Pachamanka! That is, a feast of pork, chicken, lamb, fava beans, potatoes, corn and plantains, prepared Peruvian style—buried together and cooked with heated rocks. Herbs are piled on top of everything and when all is unearthed, the result is simply unearthly (and delicious! After this we'll have the time to explore the beautifully preserved ruins in town.



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## Days 4 & 5

### The Lost City of Machu Picchu

This morning we'll drive to Ollantaytambo in time to board the Belmond Inca Train. This is one of the most enchanting rides in the world, and the views get successively better as we approach our destination: the most spectacular archaeological site in South America—Machu Picchu. As our train has limited space, B&R will provide you with a proper sized duffle bag for the train ride and overnight stay at Machu Picchu. Don't forget to bring a camera bag or handbag, as the remainder of your luggage will be transferred to Cusco. Highlights of the day include: our well-deserved and delicious fresh picnic lunch, the stunning array of orchids, and of course the ruins themselves. After bearing witness to an ancient civilization's genius, we'll stroll just beyond the ruins to our incredibly located hotel. Dinner tonight is at our leisure in the hotel's lovely dining room. Massages available upon request!

#### HOTEL

##### *Sanctuary Lodge, Machu Picchu*

The Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge embodies the three truths held sacred by the ancient Incas: "Location, location, location." Besides being the only hotel in the lost city's citadel (a mere three-minute walk from the main ruins!) this exclusive retreat also lives up to the standards of quality that B&R holds most sacred. And at 2,500 m (8,200 ft.), it has breathtaking llama's-eye views!

#### THE ACTIVITY

**Day 4:** The km 104 hike to Machu Picchu. This challenging 5-hour hike of a lifetime includes ups, downs and an elevation gain of about 1,000 feet. The option to reach Machu Picchu by train and bus will also be available.

**Day 5:** Several optional 2-5 hour hikes around the ruins, with variable levels of difficulty. A late afternoon walking visit of Machu Picchu with our local guide.

**Please Note: Inca Trail passes are not guaranteed. We will need your passport information several months in advance to reserve your pass and will notify you once it has been secured. Should your passport details change after booking, it is essential that you bring your old passport with you on trip. Please advise us of any changes.**

You can't go wrong with this morning's options: sleep late and enjoy room service or visit the ruins as the sun rises and before the crowds arrive. Join a challenging hike to Machu Picchu Mountain with its stunning vistas, or take a more leisurely walk and visit the Inca Bridge. Following lunch at the hotel, we'll dedicate the afternoon to delving into the mysticism of the Incas. And later, as the masses of tourists depart from Machu Picchu, we'll make our way back to the ruins with our local guide to enjoy them in peace—the way they were meant to be enjoyed. After a thorough exploration, we'll head back to the hotel for cocktails, and lively reminiscences of the wonders we have witnessed.

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### Day 6

#### Hacienda Huayocari & Cuzco

This morning we'll journey by train back to Ollantaytambo, and to the centuries-old Hacienda Huayocari, high in the hills above the Sacred Valley. Here we'll meet the women of the Chinchero Weaving Cooperative, considered the greatest weavers in Peru. After a delicious lunch in the Hacienda, we'll begin the journey back to Cusco, arriving by late afternoon, giving us time to shop, relax, or take in more sights. Tonight is our final night together, and we will spend it amidst the dancing lights of the great Incan capital. *Salud!*

### HOTEL

#### *Monasterio del Cusco, Cusco*

Situated in the heart of the city's old district, this 16thC monastery has been converted into a deluxe hotel, surrounded by Inca walls and Spanish colonial architecture, with beautiful inner courtyards. The Gregorian music, vaulted ceilings, and roaring fireplaces make the hotel lounge a particularly enchanting setting for enjoying a cup of tea.

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### Day 7

#### Homeward Bound

After breakfast we say adios to Peru. We will arrange transport for those heading directly to the airport for flights home or beyond.



**Other questions?**  
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# A journey which takes you rather than you taking it

By Tyler Dillon

One look at Machu Picchu quickly convinces you that—despite all our modern gadgetry—we can still learn a lot from the ancients. If nothing else, they certainly had a great eye for real estate!

The sacred valley and Machu Picchu have a very unique energy to them; and you feel this energy in Cuzco (a magnificent city that is laid-out in the shape of a puma), you smell it in the flora and fauna of the Sacred Valley, and you most definitely perceive it on your first approach to Machu Picchu.

It's hard to say what keeps this energy alive here. Perhaps it is the descendents of the Inca, who stubbornly insist on maintaining their traditional way of life. Perhaps it is their music, their culture, their love of living. Or perhaps it is something that comes from within us.

The Inca called it *Pachamam*, a word which means both mother earth, and soul. Whatever this strange energy is, it heals, and it exhibits itself both inwardly and outwardly. Everyone I have ever travelled with in Peru has invariably felt a spring of extra youthful energy in their step!



## B&R TRIP DESIGNER

*Tyler Dillon*

Born in California and raised in rural Georgia, Tyler has spent his adult life travelling and working around the world—largely in Ireland, China and Vietnam. Aside from being an ESL teacher, Tyler is also B&R's Regional Expert for Myanmar and Peru.

Other questions?  
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## the details

### 2017 Price:

From \$6,995  
(\$1,600 single  
supplement)

Single supplement is based on the most affordable rooms within B&R's allocation. Upgrades often available.

### Duration

7 Days / 6 Nights

Please see our website for list of departures.

### Start

Cusco

La Monasterio  
Morning

### Finish

Cusco

La Monasterio  
At your leisure

### HOTEL TYPE

#### *Signature Hotels*

Hotels on our Signature trips are unique expressions of the region. Oftentimes that means they've had a previous life as a monastery or a castle, but in every case it means they offer both an exceptionally comfortable stay and a taste of the region's culture. Best of all, we're friends with our hoteliers. (Translation? Preferential treatment for you.)

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All hotel accommodation
  - All meals, including wine
  - Services of B&R guide(s) and support vehicle
  - All special events, private tours, guest experts and entrance fees
  - Access to km 104 of the Inca Trail. Please Note: We will need your passport information several months before the trip to reserve your pass
  - Use of two lightweight, telescoping walking sticks
  - All baggage transportation
  - All transportation from rendezvous to drop-off
  - Detailed maps, route suggestions and water bottle
  - All gratuities for baggage, porters and hotel service
- Pre-arranged pick-up from the airport

### LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

#### *Avid*

Our daily walks range in distance from 4 to 10 km (2.5 to 6 mi.), on cobbled city streets, grassy terraced hillsides and along the winding footpaths of the Inca Trail. We travel throughout the Sacred Valley at altitudes between 1,500 and 3,200 m (5,000 to 11,000 ft.). Apart from one challenging walk up to Machu Picchu, it's moderate going. You may find, however, that the effect of the altitude will make the walks require more effort than they would at lower elevations. Expect some uneven stairs on our hikes in the ruins as well as some sheer drop offs in places.

### HOTEL MONASTERIO, CUSCO

[www.belmond.com/hotel-monasterio-cusco](http://www.belmond.com/hotel-monasterio-cusco)

Originally built as a monastery in the 16th century, the Monasterio is now a beautiful, well-run Orient express property. The Monasterio lies in the centre of the historic city of Cusco, an ideal base to discover the nearby archaeological park area.

### MORE INFO

#### *Arriving in Cusco*

It is easy to arrange connecting flights to Cusco from Lima, where most international flights arrive. We recommend that you arrive in Cusco at least a day before your trip begins—the extra night will give you the opportunity to begin to adjust to the altitude. You will be much better prepared for your trip both mentally and physically if you've had the chance to make a smooth transition into vacation mode, especially if you've arrived directly from sea level.

Other questions?  
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The itinerary information may vary slightly for your specific departure as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather may also necessitate minor alterations. Prices are per person and in USD. © 2017 Butterfield & Robinson Inc.



## your next steps

At Butterfield & Robinson, the guiding starts while you're still at home. We make sure you know everything you need to know before you've even left your living room.

### READY TO BOOK?

- Call or email a Distinctive Journeys with any remaining questions, and to reserve your space. **1-770-888-6677 / Doug@Distinctive-Journeys.com**
- Reserve your flights to and from the region.
- Book your night before hotel.
- Make sure your passport is up to date.
- Enquire after travel insurance.

Once you are confirmed on a B&R trip, you will receive a Confirmation Email that links to tons of information to help you prepare for your trip. Then, about a month before you leave, we will send you a list of your fellow travellers, final rendezvous instructions and your hotel contact numbers.

### Weather: Cusco, Peru

month	high	low
Jan/Feb	66	44
Mar/Apr	67	42
May/Jun	67	36
Jul/Aug	63	34
Sep/Oct	66	41
Nov/Dec	68	43

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK

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Like B&R on Facebook and get the latest news



and photos from the road, updates from guides and more.

### INCA TRAIL

Inca Trail passes are not guaranteed. We will need your passport information several months in advance to reserve your pass and will notify you once it has been secured. Please contact a Travel Advisor to ensure you are able to take part in this portion of our trip.

### EXTENDING YOUR TRIP.

Although we do not visit the city as part of the trip, Cuzco is well worth your time! As South America's oldest continuously inhabited city, Cuzco is widely regarded as the continent's archaeological capital (not to mention offering the best selection and quality of products in Peru). There are several recommendations for where to stay, what to do and where to eat while in Cuzco, included in the Confirmation Email you will receive upon booking.

### STAY IN TOUCH!

Sign up to receive *The Slow Road* our newsletter that is full of travel news, unique offers and B&R insider info.

### PHOTO CONTEST

While on your trip, keep in mind you can win some great prizes with the B&R Photo Contest. We've created three categories that capture the true spirit of B&R adventure: Faces, Places and Moments. Submit your top shots and show us how you see the world with B&R. Full details are at [www.butterfield.com/photocontest](http://www.butterfield.com/photocontest).

In the meantime, if you have any questions about your B&R experience—big, small or downright quirky—please call a Travel Advisor, or contact your travel professional. We are always happy to help.

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