

# Peru Up Close

Weavers Awards Celebration



Plus extensions to Lake Titicaca & the Amazon

AS FEATURED IN



Honoring Traditions  
Celebrating Culture

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# PERU UP CLOSE:

*A Cultural & Culinary Expedition  
Into the Living Heart of Peru*



**2014 Departure: August 8 for our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Weavers Awards Celebration**

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9 day core journey exploring Lima, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu & Cusco  
Plus optional extensions to Lake Titicaca and / or the Amazon

## Trip Overview

For nine days engage in the vibrant living culture of Peru through a farm-to-fork, community-based lens. Make a lasting and positive impact by sustaining endangered indigenous traditions. Meet organic farmers, master weavers, Andean chefs and other friends and local hosts who invite us into their lives and their homes, giving us an unparalleled access into the vibrant, cultural heart of Peru.

Of course no trip to Peru would be complete without spending time meandering up and down the ancient cobblestone streets of Cusco, exploring deep into the splendid Sacred Valley and of course embarking on an in-depth pilgrimage to the breathtaking Inca sanctuary of Machu Picchu.

For those who have time to extend the experience, dramatic Lake Titicaca leaves an indelible impression for both its starkly beautiful terrain and for the colorful traditions of its indigenous inhabitants. The days we spend there not only expose us to the stunning beauty of the highest navigable lake in the world, but also to its residents and their weaving, farming and mask-making traditions.

## Signature Experiences

- **Farm Fresh Fun.** Meet organic producers & sample the tasty fare at Lima's weekly market.
- **Ceviche Seminar.** Delve into the fine art of ceviche -- from boarding a fisherman's skiff to exploring the city's fresh fish market to a chef-led ceviche demonstration and gourmet lunch.
- **Behind the Scenes at the Larco.** Enjoy a guided tour of the highly lauded Larco Museum, and savor a pre-dinner cocktail afterwards overlooking their shady garden.
- **Sustaining Textile Traditions.** Learn how the 2,000 year old Peruvian textile arts play a key role in Andean life, rituals & festivals, Join Nilda Callañaupa, director of Peru's most successful weavers' cooperative, in her decades-long effort to rescue this millennial tradition.
- **Andean Cooking.** Roll-up your sleeves alongside a chef in the Sacred Valley for a private, hands-on culinary workshop. Enjoy the fruits of your labor over a leisurely lunch.
- **Magical Machu Picchu.** Explore the mysterious Inca citadel at the measured pace it deserves, for two days and one night at one of South America's most breathtaking lodges.
- **10<sup>th</sup> Annual CX Weavers Awards.** Participate in this annual celebration as dozens of indigenous weavers from ten Andean communities are honored with medals, certificates of achievement and a share of a yearly prize pool that has grown to more than \$6,000.
- **Fine Folk Art.** Enter the home & private gallery of one of Peru's pre-eminent folk art experts. Hear stories & share insights from her 40 years of collecting.
- **Strengthening Schools.** Meet the headmaster & students at a rural elementary school. Learn about education in the Andes while contributing needed school supplies. (*Titicaca extension*)
- **Community Bonds.** Stay overnight on one of the islands of Lake Titicaca with a local family who share their home, hearth and traditions. (*Titicaca extension*)

# Thumbnail Itinerary



## Friday, August 8: **Arrive Lima**

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Most flights arrive in the evening into Lima. You're met at the airport by our locally based, bilingual trip leader and taken to your hotel in a quiet corner of the bohemian art enclave of Barranco to settle in.

Lodging for two nights in Lima is at the luxuriously re-imagined, 17-room boutique *Hotel B* (or similar) a national historic monument in Barranco. For a preview please visit: [www.hotelb.pe](http://www.hotelb.pe)

## Saturday, August 9: **Farm Fresh Fun & Ceviche Stroll + Behind the Scenes at the Larco**

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Meet the farmers and taste the healthy fare at Lima's weekly organic market. Learn about the growing organic movement in Lima while being introduced to the producers who are making organic fare in Peru a cultural phenomenon.

Discover one of Peru's acclaimed culinary treasures during our *ceviche seminar*. Visit Lima's fresh fish market and board a fisherman's skiff, then enter the kitchen for a delicious demonstration of the art of ceviche by one of the city's outstanding seafood chefs. (Meals: B, L)

This afternoon, visit the beautifully appointed *Larco Museum*. With over 45,000 pieces of ceramics, sculpture, textiles and jewelry, the museum is the ideal place for an overview of Peru's ancient civilizations. Enjoy a pre-dinner cocktail overlooking the museum's shady garden.

**Optional evening:** opt for dinner (at extra cost) at an atmospheric restaurant overlooking the ruins of *Huaca Pucllana*, a 1,500-year old construction of the original inhabitants of Lima.

## Sunday, August 10: **Sustaining Textile Traditions**

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Transfer for a morning flight to Cusco. After a coca leaf tea and a light lunch to help acclimatize to the altitude, drive to Chinchero to meet our good friend Nilda Callanaupa, director of the CTTC. Nilda is a master weaver from Chinchero and a *National Geographic* grantee. She has worked tirelessly for two decades to rescue the endangered 2,000 year old art of Peruvian weaving and in that time, has been an invited speaker at over a dozen top museums & universities world-wide.

Take time to explore Chinchero's colorful indigenous market and admire its Inca ruins and colonial church. Arrive to Urubamba, nestled in the heart of the Sacred Valley. (Meals: B, L)

Lodging for three nights in the Sacred Valley is at the newly built, secluded and understated Inkaterra Villa near Huayocari (or similar). For a preview please visit: [www.inkaterra.com](http://www.inkaterra.com)



### Monday, August 11: Andean Culinary Workshop, Ollantaytambo + Chicha & Sapito

Our friend Pio, the owner & highly regarded chef of *El Huacatay*, leads a private gastronomic workshop focused on fresh Andean herbs and regional, seasonal produce. Start at the nearby organic farm of a local produce supplier, then move to Pio's peaceful garden workshop, where you'll craft fresh presentations of classic Andean dishes. Enjoy the fruits of your collaboration over a delicious, leisurely lunch. (Meals: B, L)

Explore the idyllic market town of Ollantaytambo this morning. Marvel at the enormous stone Inca-designed fortifications and explore them in-depth. Visit with ceramic artists at the clay studio *Seminario*, which is making efforts to revitalize the ancient art of ceramics for which Ollantaytambo was once renowned.

**Late afternoon visit:** step into a local *chichería*. These local pubs are extremely rustic, serving *chicha*, a fermented drink made from corn, along with small plates of food. However, we're not here to eat, but rather to enjoy a fun game of *sapito* with the pub's regulars. Sapito is a game involving heavy metal coins, a wooden box with slots and a shiny metal toad!

### Tuesday, August 12: Crop Circles, Surreal Salt & 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Weavers Awards

This morning Nilda hosts us back in Chinchero for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Weavers Awards, inaugurated in close collaboration with Culture Xplorers in 2005. To watch a short (3 minute) documentary on the growing impact of these awards, please see: <http://vimeo.com/36357469>

Dozens of indigenous textile artists from across the Sacred Valley arrive in Chinchero, the winning representatives from each of ten participating communities. They receive cash prizes, gold medals and certificates of achievement. We are invited to share in their joy and to help celebrate their achievements, along with a community-hosted lunch. (Meals: B, L)

After lunch with the weavers visit Moray, home to a series of cascading agricultural terraces, each forming its own unique microclimate. Later, walk alongside hundreds of crystalline salt pans at Maras and witness salt being collected by hand under the potent sun, much in the same way it has been done for hundreds of years.

### Wednesday, August 13: On the Orchid Trail

Transfer to board the panoramic *Vistadome* train for the 90-minute ride this morning to *Agua Calientes*. Continue to the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, nestled in its own nature reserve below Machu Picchu. Enjoy an exploration of South America's largest orchid garden and a nature walk accompanied by an expert naturalist guide. (Meals: B, L, D)

Lodging for one night is at the stunning, peaceful & pristine *Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel*, one of South America's most awarded eco-lodges. For a preview: [www.inkaterra.com/en/machu-picchu](http://www.inkaterra.com/en/machu-picchu)



#### Thursday, August 14: **Magic Machu Picchu**

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Rise early to catch the bus up the zigzagging road to Machu Picchu in order to be amongst the first to arrive at the ruins around sunrise. Our Andean specialist guide explains the history of this magical complex, unveiling the nature of its most important structures. After a few hours guided, enjoy a few more hours on your own to explore secret corners of the site or just meditate and feel the energy of this special place. Board the late afternoon *Vistadome* train in Aguas Calientes for the approximately three-hour trip to Cusco, arriving this evening. (Meals: B, L)

Lodging for two nights in Cusco will be in *El Mercado Tunqui*, a fresh, polished 4-star boutique hotel bursting with local flavor and built on the grounds of a former market. For a preview visit: [www.elmercadohotel.com](http://www.elmercadohotel.com)

#### Friday, August 15: **Cusco Unveiled**

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Cusco is, simply put, one of the most beautiful Spanish colonial cities of the Americas. Today is dedicated to an in-depth exploration of this charming city on foot. Delve into one of Cusco's boisterous, fragrant open markets to see and taste some of Peru's exotic fruits and produce.

Continue your urban explorations with historical visits including: Santo Domingo, built directly on the Inca stone base of the Koricancha temple (the Temple of the Sun), the Plaza de Armas, the Cathedral, the artists' neighborhood of San Blas and the monumental ruins of Saqsayhuaman, with stunning views over Cusco. (Meals: B, L, D)

Gather this evening for a celebration dinner at one of Cusco's most atmospheric restaurants.

#### Saturday, August 16: **Cusco at Leisure, Fine Folk Art & Homeward Bound**

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Enjoy a last, unstructured morning in Cusco. Wander its narrow, cobblestone streets and its shady plazas, or visit the small, finely displayed *Museum of Pre-Colombian* art, or simply relax and people watch from a café overlooking *San Blas*. Transfer to the Cusco airport your short afternoon flight to Lima. (Meals: B, L)

Our driver will be waiting in Lima to take you to the restored colonial villa of Mari Solari, who awaits our visit. A resident of Peru for over 40 years, Mari is amongst the country's foremost folk art experts & collectors. Hear stories & insights on the deep-rooted folk art traditions of Peru as well as a glimpse of Mari's private collection.

Return to Lima's airport in plenty of time to check-in for your overnight flight back to the U.S.

-- or --

Join our Lake Titicaca extension to explore the starkly beautiful terrain surrounding the world's highest navigable lake as well as to delve into the vibrant, ancient traditions of the region's indigenous inhabitants (see next page for extension details).

# Titicaca Xplorers

Optional Post-Trip Extension  
(Minimum two travelers)



## Saturday, August 16: **Strengthening Schools & Arrive Lake Titicaca**

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En route to Puno, visit a rural elementary school where you'll meet Cupertino, the school's tireless headmaster. Make a positive impact through the donation of much needed school supplies and learn about plans for a community greenhouse, to be built in collaboration with, and supported by, Culture Xplorers.

Other memorable visits en route include the frescos of San Pedro Andahuaylillas in the town of the same name and the languid, picturesque colonial town of Lampa, nicknamed the "pink" city for its many buildings painted in shades of ochre, maroon & salmon. (Meals: B, L)

Lodging for two nights in Puno (today & Monday) is at the lovely, lakeside Casa Andina Private Collection, in a room with a lake view. For a preview, visit: [www.casa-andina.com](http://www.casa-andina.com)

## Sunday, August 17: **Community Bonds on Amantani & Earth Offering**

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Experience the best of community-based travel one of Lake Titicaca's most breath-taking islands. En route visit the floating island communities of Uros. Our local specialist guide grew up on these islands and still has family there, giving your visit a distinct insider's flavor.

Continue by boat to Amantani and met by your local hosts, Amadeo and Julita, a warm family who invite us for lunch in their home. After a home hosted meal, hike to the pre-Inca ruins at the top of the island affording astounding views of the changing light on the lake as sunset approaches. Participate in a centuries old earth offering ceremony (*pago a la tierra*), a ritual that remains an integral part of daily life in the Andes.

Lodging for one night is with a local family (very basic lodging) on Amantani. (Meals: B, L, D)

## Monday, August 18: **Mask-Making Workshop &/or Museums in Puno**

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Depart Amantani late morning, returning by fast boat to Puno. Visit the *Museo Etnológico del Altiplano* and if time permits, the Dreyer Museum. After learning about the rich historical past of Peru's folklore capital, meet one of the torchbearers of the region's still thriving traditions at an artisan mask-making workshop. Javier's family makes some of the brilliant masks and colorful costumes worn by the city's thousands of dancers during the annual 'Virgen de la Candelaria' and other regional festivals. (Meals: B, L)

## Tuesday, August 19: **Fly to Lima, Fine Folk Art & Homeward Bound**

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Transfer to the Juliaca airport for a late morning flight to Lima. Our driver Sr. Martin will be waiting in Lima to take you to the restored colonial villa of Mari Solari, who awaits our visit. A resident of Peru for over 40 years, Mari is amongst the country's foremost folk art experts & collectors. She shares stories & insights on the deep-rooted folk art traditions of Peru as well as a glimpse of her private collection. (Meals: B, L)

Return to Lima's airport in plenty of time to check-in for your overnight flight back to the U.S.

# Amazon Xplorers

Optional Post-Trip Extension  
(Minimum two travelers)



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Travelling to the Tambopata National Reserve offers the opportunity to discover an impressive biodiversity of birds, mammals, reptiles, insects and trees. Record-setting numbers of animal species are concentrated within small areas, and the variety of plant life is overwhelming.

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## Saturday, August 16: **Shihuahuacos, Strangler Figs & Twilight River Ride**

Transfer to the Cusco airport for your AM flight to Puerto Maldonado. You are met by Inkaterra staff upon arrival at the Puerto Maldonado airport and driven to the river port for a 45-minute boat ride to the beautiful *Reserva Amazonica*. (Meals: B, L, D)

After lunch, it's time to explore the nearby trail system in the company of the seasoned naturalist guides. Observe bird life, forest fauna and unforgettable trees such as the Shihuahuaco and the strangely seductive strangler fig. An optional twilight boat ride is highly recommended to observe the changes in the environment as twilight gives way to darkness in the Amazon.

Lodging for three nights in double cabañas at the upscale eco-lodge, Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica. For a preview visit: [www.inkaterra.com/inkaterra/reserva-amazonica](http://www.inkaterra.com/inkaterra/reserva-amazonica)

## Sunday, August 17: **Canopy Walk & Oxbow-Lake Navigation**

After an early breakfast, take a short boat trip (6 am) to experience one of the most impressive jungle canopy walks in the world. View endemic flora and fauna with terrific bird watching opportunities, while suspended more than 100 feet above the forest floor.

After lunch and a 40-minute boat ride upriver, you arrive to the Tambopata National Reserve. Walk the 2-mile trail through the wildlife-rich reserve to arrive at the breathtaking oxbow Lake Sandoval. Switch to a private paddleboat to observe life in this protected microclimate. Amongst the highlights are viewings of capuchin and squirrel monkeys, playful river otters and caimans. Enjoy dinner back at the lodge. (Meals: B, L, D)

## Monday, August 18: **Gamitana Creek Exploration & Nighttime Jungle Excursion**

Enjoy a trip to Gamitana Creek, located 25 minutes by boat from the lodge. Explore the rainforest along the banks of a winding, dark-water creek that is home to piranha, caiman, turtles and birds. Navigate your way back downstream, observing the abundant flora and fauna along the way. Return to Gamitana Farm to see how farmers grow local fruits and vegetables. After lunch back at the lodge, learn about the uses and benefits of local flora.

Consider an optional 2-hour nighttime excursion to experience the mystery of the animal activity that awakens in the rainforest after dark. Listen to nocturnal forest sounds and spot species that only emerge at night. (Meals: B, L, D)

## Tuesday, August 19: **River Ride, Butterflies & Homeward Bound**

Enjoy a last opportunity to reflect upon the scale & natural spectacle of life in the Amazon basin as you return by boat to Puerto Maldonado. Transfer for your afternoon flight to Lima in plenty of time to check-in for your overnight flight back to the U.S.

# Making a Positive Impact



At Culture Xplorers, we insist on being not only responsible travelers, but on making a positive impact on the communities with which we come into contact. We work hand-in-hand with local leaders in the destination we visit to spend time as well as money in their communities, to ask questions and share views and to support the living traditions that make these destinations unique.

To that end we inaugurated, in close collaboration with the non-profit Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco (CTTC), the **CX Weavers Awards**, an annual awards celebration honoring the indigenous weavers of the Sacred Valley. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, over 600 weavers from nine participating communities compete for pride and prizes. Each year, more than 30 winners are honored with medals, certificates of achievement and share a prize pool, which has grown to over \$6,000 annually.

Culture Xplorers also works to strengthen arts education in Peru. At the Cucuya school near Lima, again in close collaboration with local partners and fellow sponsors, we have funded the art supplies for over 100 students as well as the university art education of an aspiring young artist, Lugo, who pays it forward by volunteering time to teach art classes to the kids at Cucuya.

As a catalyst to these and other deep-rooted partnerships in each of our destinations, the non-profit **Culture Xplorers Foundation** was created in 2008 with the goal of fostering the sustainability of local culture in indigenous communities worldwide. For more details on our ongoing, positive impact partnership, please visit the following page of our web site:

[www.cultureexplorers.com/positive-impact/cx-foundation](http://www.cultureexplorers.com/positive-impact/cx-foundation)

**YOUR PARTICIPATION IN A CULTURE XPLORERS PROGRAM HELPS FOSTER THE SUSTAINABILITY OF LOCAL CULTURE IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE**

## Cost & Details



**5 to 10 Travelers: Cost for 9 Day Journey = \$3,590/pp (single room add \$758)**

**2 to 4 Travelers: Cost for 9 Day Journey = \$3,990/pp (single room add \$758)**

**Lake Titicaca or Amazon Extension = \$1,095/pp (single room add \$258)**

Internal flights within Peru = \$385\*/pp (\$575\* for travelers on our Amazon ext.)

*\*Flight cost subject to change until purchased*

### Included:

- Our outstanding bi-lingual, locally based Peru trip leader will be with you throughout the core, 9 day journey and at Lake Titicaca for the extension.
- Specialist guides, farmers, Andean chefs, indigenous weavers, a master ceramicist, a rural headmaster & other cultural ambassadors join you throughout the course of this journey
- Culture Xplorers' *Signature Experiences* listed throughout the itinerary
- Lodging in distinctive 4 & 5 star hotels brimming with local character, including boutique urban properties, restored colonial mansions and upscale, secluded eco-lodges
- Meals: breakfast and lunch daily and (2) dinners during the 9 day core journey
- Ground transportation throughout the trip
- All entry fees (museums, trail permits, national parks, monuments, etc.)
- Emergency oxygen supply on-hand throughout our time in the Andes
- Purified water provided throughout the journey – each participant receives their own aluminum bottle to re-fill each morning, thus avoiding the waste of disposable plastic bottles
- Private airport pick-up and drop-off coordinated with group arrival & departure
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials, including: articles of interest, a recommended reading list, packing, weather & other tips to help you navigate smoothly in Peru

### Items not included and estimates:

- International airfare to Lima, Peru. Budget \$1,000 (coach)
- Domestic airfare within Peru. Budget \$385 for our core journey or \$575 for those taking our Amazon extension. *Note: CX will book these flights & add them to your trip invoice.*
- Approximately 5 meals on our core 9-day trip. Budget \$20+/pp per meal
- Single room upgrade - if you are traveling alone &/or opt for a single room, add \$758 for 8 nights, \$1,016 for 11 and \$1,274 for 14 nights. Note: to avoid this upgrade, ask us to assign you a roommate. *If none is available, the single room fee must be charged.*
- Tip to Culture Xplorers trip leader (\$5 to \$7/pp/day) and specialist guides (\$4 to \$6/pp/day)
- Traveler's medical and emergency evacuation insurance (recommended)

### Details:

- Max. travelers: 10 (2 travelers minimum)
- Length of trip: 9, 12 or 15 days, plus international travel time
- Activity level: Active. Participants must be able to walk comfortably and unassisted for up to 1 hour at a time and 2 total hours per day at high altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 feet