FESTIVAL

Discover Corps

Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

FAMILY TRAVEL ASSOCIATION MEMBER

PERU: INTI RAYMI FESTIVAL

Experience Peru's biggest festival in honor of the god Inti, the most powerful god of the Inca civilization

MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Discover Machu Picchu, one of the Seven Wonders of the World
- Walk in the footsteps of the Incas during the daylong Festival of the Sun (Inti Raymi)
- Experience a private Pachamama Ceremony in the Sacred Valley
- Engage with local children, weavers and farmers in the Andean village of Ccorccor
- Meet Manuel Choqque, the world-famous "Potato Whisperer" who is revolutionizing Peruvian gastronomy

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Day 1 - Arrive in Cusco, Peru and visit both a llama farm and the Pisac Market en route to your hotel

Day 2 - Meet one of Peru's most famous hat makers followed by lunch with Manuel Choqque, a revolutionary in Peruvian cuisine. Spend the afternoon at a village meeting local weavers and experiencing their rich culture

Day 3 - Experience a private Pachamama Ceremony in the Sacred Valley before taking a train to Machu Picchu. Your guide will take you on a tour of the Citadel of Machu Picchu, following in the footsteps of the ancient Incas

Day 4 - Leisure time at the hotel before embarking a return train to Cusco, complete with incomparable panoramic views

Day 5 - Spend the morning getting to know Cusco with stops at the Coricancha Inca Temple, Cusco Cathedral and Sacsayhuaman Fortress

Day 6 - Walk in the footsteps of the Incas with your Discover Corps Guide during the daylong Festival of the Sun (Inti Raymi)

Day 7 - Depart for home or extend your trip to the Amazon Rainforest

OPTIONAL EXTENSION - AMAZON RAINFOREST

Day 7 - Arrive in Puerto Maldonado in the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest by plane. Venture by boat to our boutique eco-lodge. Enjoy a night hike around the forest

Days 8 & 9 - Join your local guide on a range of activities in the jungle including visiting a macaw clay lick, spotting monkeys, taking a boat to a small island to spot parakeets, and taking a sunset river cruise

Day 10 - Take a boat back to Puerto Maldonado and onwards to your flight home

PERU: INTI RAYMI FESTIVAL

OUR PURPOSE

Tucked deep in the Andes Mountains, the Sacred Valley is a magical land of green hills, distant snow capped peaks and calm lakes. We'll follow the river that snakes through the valley to Machu Picchu then onwards to the historic city of Cusco. This is an unparalleled journey that will introduce you to the wildlife, gastronomy, culture & history of this epic corner of the world!

The areas around Cusco and the Sacred Valley are home to some of the most well-preserved traditional communities and innovative conservation projects. Meet the cheerful farmers, weavers and children in the village of Ccorccor where we'll learn about the colorful fabrics used for weaving and play games with the kids. Visit one of the area's most famous hat makers, Elvira Argandano, whose family has made over six hundred thousand hats for residents of the Andes. We'll also enjoy a special lunch prepared by Manuel Choqque, the world-famous "Potato Whisperer" who is revolutionizing the field of gastronomy.

Our trip will culminate in the ancient Festival of the Sun (Inti Raymi) in the city of Cusco. Experience the phenomenal, daylong celebration honoring the God of the Sun with multiple ceremonies and historic, celebratory presentations. With Discover Corps, you'll experience a Peru that few get to see in a journey combining nature, culture, and celebration in one of the most pristine environments on the planet!

INTI RAYMI FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

SACRED READING OF THE COCA LEAVES

The Sacred Reading of the Coca Leaves is a deeply spiritual Andean ritual in which shamans or priests use coca leaves, a sacred plant in Andean cosmology, to commune with the spirits and seek divine guidance. The coca leaves will be spread, examined for patterns, and read to gain insights on the coming year, especially concerning health, agriculture, and spiritual balance.

CELEBRATORY MASKS

Participants in the ancient rituals would often wear masks as part of ceremonies and sacrificial rituals. The brightly colored, double-sided Aya Huma mask played an important role in Festival of the Sun proceedings. Masks of all types can be seen during the festival, often representing animals and deities important to the Incan culture.

REENACTMENT AT SACSAYHUAMÁN

The final portion of the festival is the re-enactment performed in Sacsayhuaman, the ancient archeological site where it's believed the festival took place in ancient times. The event's Sun King delivers a speech in praise of the sun before being carried by pallbearers in a golden chariot to the temple. The Sun King delivers his final prayer in the traditional Quechua language before the faux sacrifice of a llama, ensuring the next harvest will be bountiful.

INTI RAYMI CEREMONY

The festival is full of energy! Learn from your guide about the significance in the community, the history of the festival and how the tradition has been preserved for generations. See the colorful performances that will happen in the city. A truly once-in-a-lifetime experience only with Discover Corps!

HIGHLIGHTS

THE FESTIVAL OF THE SUN

The ancient Festival of the Sun (Inti Raymi) is one of the most important celebrations of the Incan Empire, dating back to the fifteenth century. Hundreds of musicians, actors, and dancers recreate this festival every year across three historic sites in Cusco. You will walk in the footsteps of Incans through several sacred rituals including the ceremony of fire, the sacred reading of the coca leaves, and the final evening performance with over 800 participants honoring the sun in prayer and sacrifice.

MACHU PICCHU

An archaeological icon and World Wonder, this Incan citadel is an awe-inspiring site to see. We'll embark on a train following the winding Urubamba River starting in the high Andes and descending into the thick equatorial cloud forests. Enter the World Heritage Site and you will be greeted with arguably the most iconic view on the planet, the ruins of Machu Picchu set amongst the soaring mountains and lush vegetation of the surrounding landscape.

PERUVIAN GASTRONOMY

In the last decade, Peru has emerged as one of the world's best culinary destinations. The mix of flavors and dishes reflects both the eclectic array of cultures that have inhabited Peru in the last 500 years along with the varied landscapes that make up this country. We'll dive headfirst into some of the best cuisine in the region. Enjoy an unforgettable culinary experience alongside the Sumar family at Hacienda Sarapampa overlooking the Sacred Valley. Taste the traditional flavors of Peruvian cuisine during a gourmet picnic lunch in the mountains.

AMAZON RAINFOREST EXTENSION

Peru is arguably the most geographically diverse country on the planet. Extend your adventure with a 4 day/3 night extension to Peru's Amazon Rainforest. Based at the iconic Tambopata Research Center, stay in pure comfort at one of the Amazon's most pristine stretches of wilderness. We'll spot macaws, go scouting for monkeys, take guided boat rides along the Malinowski River and go on adventurous night hikes to uncover the nocturnal side of the rainforest. If you love nature & wildlife, this the perfect complement to your journey in the Sacred Valley.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Welcome to the Sacred Valley

Arrive in the Andean mountain town of Cusco and journey together to the magical Sacred Valley. Start the trip with a stop at a local llama farm before enjoying a stunning 3-course lunch at Hacienda Sarapampa, a third-generation farm with the freshest food in the valley. Stop at the Pisac artisan market before settling into our charming 5-star boutique hotel overlooking the mountains. Finish the day with a warm welcome dinner together (L,D)

DAY 2: Maras Hat Workshop, Lunch at Manuel Choqque's home, and a Visit to the Ccorcor Community

After breakfast, we'll head to the small village of Maras to meet with Elvira Argandaño who, along with her father, have made over six hundred thousand hats in the traditional way of the Andes. The hats are formed individually from a mold, ironed for shape and hand painted. The journey will continue to the home of Manuel Choqque, also known as the Potato Whisperer. We'll learn about how he's become one of the most sought-after individuals in the Peruvian culinary world and try his iconic potato dishes (and potato wine!) which are featured in the world's top restaurants.

In the afternoon, we'll visit the welcoming residents of the Andean village of Ccorccor, who will be awaiting our arrival with music & dance. We will immerse ourselves in daily life and have the opportunity to go back to our childhood, sharing in traditional games alongside local children, including hoop rolling, spinning tops, and a game children call "plic - plac". (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Participate in a private Pachamama Ceremony and Venture to the World Wonder of Machu Picchu

After breakfast, we'll transfer to the Andean Ceremonial place where we will participate in a private Pachamama Ceremony. Each participant will receive three coca leaves that represent the Andean trilogy, part of the Andean Cosmo-vision of life. During this hour-long ceremony, you'll be asked for a wish to Mother Earth and blow air onto the coca leaves before the Pako asks Mother Earth to make real every wish.

We'll then head to the train station to begin our journey to Aguas Calientes at the base of Machu Picchu. This is no ordinary train: the 2 hour ride will take us from the Andean highlands all the way down to the tropical cloud forests, following a meandering river with breathtaking views. Upon arrival to Aguas Calientes, we'll enjoy a relaxing lunch at Tinkuy Restaurant.

DAY 3: Continued

Unearthed for modernity by Hiram Bingham more than a century ago, Machu Picchu is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Its architectural beauty, spectacular natural setting, and the energy that radiates from its enigmatic buildings will take your breath away. We'll follow in the footsteps of the ancient Incas as we take a tour of the magical citadel led by an expert guide. Later in the afternoon, return to our 5-star hotel for a relaxing evening together. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: Free Morning and Return to Cusco

Enjoy a fresh breakfast overlooking the mist of the valley before a free morning to explore Inkaterra's famed Pueblo Hotel. A range of activities are offered on the hotel grounds - take a birding tour to uncover the 214 native bird species that visit the property, explore the world's largest orchid garden which happens to be on site, or learn the ropes of traditional tea making. Or, simply relax at the hotel spa!

We'll have lunch together before boarding the train for our journey back to Cusco. Upon arrival back in Cusco, we'll settle into our hotel, the iconic 5-star Palacio del Inka in the heart of the city. Tonight, we'll have dinner together at Cusco's famous Inka Grill Restaurant. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: Experience Cusco's Famous Sites

After breakfast, we'll join our guide on a journey through Cusco's most popular sites. We'll spend the morning visiting Qoricancha, a temple dedicated to the Sun God. Then, we will head to Cusco Cathedral, the city's main cathedral built with the walls of ancient ruins. Finally, venture outside the city to the Fortress of Sacsayhuaman, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and impressive ruins. Tour the colossal structure built with huge polygonal rocks and learn more about this historic location.

A gourmet picnic lunch in the hills overlooking the city will greet us before we take a guided visit of one of Cusco's popular art museums. This evening, enjoy an unforgettable dinner, a private multi-course dinner in the heart of the museum. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Retrace the Steps of the Inca as we Celebrate the Festival of the Sun

After breakfast, we'll embark on a full-day experiential tour celebrating Inti Raymi, the Festival of the Sun. This winter solstice celebration takes place in multiple historic settings in the Inca Imperial Capital of Cusco.

We'll start the day with a walk to the Temple of the Sun (Koricancha) to witness Willka Nina, or the sacred fire ceremony. Next, we'll walk to the Plaza de Armas for the ceremonial reading of sacred coca leaves that forsees the fate of the coming year. Finally, we'll venture to the Fortress of Sacsayhuaman for the main event of the Inti Raymi festival, with hundreds of actors, musicians, and dancers representing loyal subjects from throughout the empire. This will be an unforgettable experience that happens only once a year in this colonial Peruvian mountain city. We'll end the evening with dinner at our luxury hotel in the center of Cusco. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: Return Home or Continue your Trip to the Amazon Rainforest

Enjoy breakfast and a morning at leisure before heading to the Cusco Airport for our flights home. For those interested in continuing the adventure, we'll board a short flight to Peru's Amazon Rainforest for the post-trip extension. (B)

PREMIER LODGING

Start your trip in the Sacred Valley at the 5-star Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba. All rooms in the Casa Hacienda are stand-alone luxury casitas feature breathtaking views of the valley, immersing you in open space, serenity and relaxing solitude.

We'll continue on to the cloud forests of Machu Picchu where we'll base ourselves at the 5-star Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. This is an intimate property with terraced hills, waterfalls, stone pathways and 83 whitewashed adobe casitas tucked away in the cloud forest.

End the journey in Cusco at the 5-star Palacio del Inka, a five-century old mansion with original Incan walls that sits directly across from the iconic Koricancha, or Temple of the Sun. At your doorstep is the oldest living city in South America - Cusco.

Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

DAY 7: Venture to Peru's Amazon Rainforest

Board a short one hour flight to Puerto Maldonado in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest. After we touchdown, we'll board a bus to the Malinowski River and take a 2 hour boat ride directly to our eco-lodge.

The Tambopata Research Center awaits – a spacious boutique eco-lodge, in the heart of National Reserve of Tambopata. As the only lodge inside the reserve, it is surrounded by dozens of macaw nests belonging to the Macaw Project. It also boasts a rainforest spa that is a nice respite from the humid jungle weather. This afternoon, a two to three mile hike will lead us to overlooks commanding magnificent views of the Tambopata winding its way into the lowlands. The forest here, consisting of old bamboo forest, is known for Howler Monkeys and Dusky Titi Monkeys. Return to the hotel and enjoy a relaxing dinner in the evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: The Rainforest Adventure Awaits

After breakfast, you'll have the chance to choose your own adventure from the nearly dozen activities that are offered through the lodge and their expert team of guides. Choose to head into the rainforest to set camera traps and learn about the data being collected by scientists in the region on birds, mammals and even big cats like jaguars! Or choose to set out on the lodge's iconic Monkey Search, scouting for red howler monkeys, spider monkeys and even the nimble capuchins!

In the evening, opt for a jungle night walk to witness the symphony of nocturnal creatures that inhabit this stretch of rainforest. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: Continue Exploring the Amazon Rainforest

We'll have breakfast together before heading out on yet another day of adventures. Choose to head out with the research team to identify insects (if you're lucky, you may even get to discover a new one and officially name it as part of the Wired Amazon Citizen Scientist program!). Visit the Chuncho Macaw Clay Lick where colorful parrots and brilliant macaws flock to. Take a canoe ride in search of frogs, turtles, and even the elusive caiman.

In the evening, opt for a sunset cruise winding through the dense jungle canopy - an experience you'll never forget! (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Return Home

Enjoy a final breakfast together at our boutique lodge and say farewell to our wonderful team of guides. We'll head back to Puerto Maldonado via boat and onwards to our flights back home. (B)

EXTENSION LODGING

Our home-away-from-home in the Amazon will be Tambopata Research Center, a boutique eco-lodge located in the heart of the national reserve. This 24 room hotel mixes pristine nature with upscale amenities including a spa in the middle of the jungle. At your doorstep are a range of wildlife from insects to monkeys to macaws. This is truly a one-of-a-kind experience that cannot be replicated anywhere else on the planet!

Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.

PERU: INTI RAYMI FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

PRICING

ADULT: $5,695 **CHILD: $5,395**

OPTIONAL EXTENSION	ADULT: $1,695	CHILD: $1,595

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are $995 per person for the trip and $500 for the extension. There is also a $300 one-way domestic flight supplement for the extension. This will guarantee you your own, single occupancy room for the entirety of the trip. If you are a solo traveler and would like us to match you with a roommate of the same gender, please book as double occupancy. See full details on the website page for the trip. You are required to pay the SRS for the extension.

SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT LIST OF DEPARTURE DATES

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 2 nights lodging at Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba in Valle Sagrado
- 2 nights lodging at Inkaterra Machu Picchu in Machu Picchu
- 2 nights lodging at Palacio Del Inka in Cusco
- All meals throughout the trip
- Roundtrip train ticket to Machu Picchu
- English-speaking local guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- $50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

RECOMMENDED FOR

- Adults & children ages 8+
- Travelers who are comfortable with EASY physical activity

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Tips for the Discover Corps Guide and Driver
- International airfare
- Most alcoholic beverages

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 16 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a $365 deposit and $30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

CUSTOM / PRIVATE GROUPS

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a $250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

PAYMENT PLANS

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.

Our Mission

Discover Corps' mission is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

Certified B Corporation

OUR DESTINATIONS

- ALASKA
- AUSTRALIA
- BALI
- BAJA
- BHUTAN
- COSTA RICA
- CUBA
- EGYPT
- GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS
- GREECE
- GUATEMALA
- JAMAICA
- JAPAN
- KENYA
- MOROCCO
- OAXACA
- PERU
- SOUTH AFRICA
- TANZANIA
- THAILAND
- UGANDA
- VIETNAM

FAMILY FRIENDLY ~ SMALL GROUPS ~ POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT ~ DISTINCTIVE LODGING ~ HANDPICKED GUIDES

Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

Visit discovercorps.com/register to place a $395 deposit to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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