



THE WALKING CONNECTION • SIGNATURE ADVENTURE

Peru - Inca Traditions

Culture | Cuisine | Connection | Discovery

10-DAY: AUG. 24–SEPT. 2, 2027

8-DAY: AUG. 26 – SEPT. 2, 2027

MAXIMUM 12 GUESTS

8-Day from \$6,498 USD | 10-Day from \$7,398 USD
per person, based on double occupancy

Journey to the heart of the Andes:
through food, living traditions, ancient landscapes.

A JO ANN TAYLOR SIGNATURE ADVENTURE
HOSTED BY WALKING CONNECTION TRIP DIRECTOR, SYLVIA BERNARDI

THE JOURNEY

Machu Picchu may be the headline, but it is not the whole story.

Peru reveals itself gradually in the ingredients piled high in a Lima market, the ancient terraces carved into the Andes, the water still flowing through the streets of an Inca town, and the traditions preserved by Quechua families who have lived in these mountains for generations.

Our journey begins in Lima, one of South America's great culinary capitals. From there, we fly into the Andes and descend into the Sacred Valley, where we explore Moray, Maras, Pisac, Ollantaytambo and a Quechua community before continuing to Machu Picchu and Cusco.

Those prepared for the challenge may follow the one-day Inca Trail from Km 104 through Wiñay Wayna and the Sun Gate. Guests who prefer a less strenuous arrival will continue by train to Machu Picchu Pueblo in Aguas Calientes with a dedicated guide. The following morning, we return together for a deeper exploration of the citadel.

This is not simply a visit to Machu Picchu. It is a journey into one of the world's great civilizations, told through its landscapes, food, living communities, and the people who continue to carry its traditions forward.

Journey at a Glance

DAY	EXPERIENCE	OVERNIGHT	MEALS
1	Arrive in Lima; settle into Barranco	Lima	—
2	Lima market, Barranco, cooking experience and colonial center	Lima	B, L
	The 8-Day Journey BEGINS HERE		
3/1	Fly to Cusco; Pisac and the Sacred Valley -or- Arrive Lima Transfer to Cusco	Explora Valle Sagrado	B, L
4/2	Moray, walk toward Maras, salt ponds and Andean tasting	Explora Valle Sagrado	B, L
5/3	Quechua community immersion	Explora Valle Sagrado	B, L
6/4	Ollantaytambo living Inca town and Alqa Museum	Explora Valle Sagrado	B, L
7/5	Inca Trail via Sun Gate OR alternate guided Machu Picchu route	Machu Picchu Pueblo	B, L, D
8/6	Return to Machu Picchu; train and transfer to Cusco	Cusco	B, L
9/7	Cusco, Sacsayhuamán, Qoricancha and farewell dinner	Cusco	B, L, D
10/8	Departure transfer	—	B

WHAT MAKES THIS JOURNEY SPECIAL

Lima Through Food, Art and People

We do not treat Lima as an airport stop. A local chef introduces us to a neighborhood market, Barranco's creative streets and a hands-on cooking experience in a private home overlooking the Pacific. Later, we explore the city's colonial center and some of its most important historic buildings. **(10-Day ONLY).**

Four Nights in the Sacred Valley

Our Sacred Valley stay gives us time to settle in, begin to acclimatize to the altitude, and explore without continually packing and moving. The landscape becomes part of the story: mountains, farms, archaeological sites, villages and communities that have been connected for centuries.

Walk the Landscapes of Moray and Maras

At Moray, enormous circular terraces descend into the earth. From there, we walk through open Andean countryside toward Maras and visit thousands of salt pools still harvested by local families. The day ends with a tasting devoted to native tubers and regional flavors.

Spend Time With a Quechua Community

Our activities depend on the season and what is actually happening in the community that day. This is not designed as a staged performance. It is an opportunity to listen, participate respectfully, share a meal, and better understand a way of life rooted in the Andes.

Walk Through a Living Inca Town

Ollantaytambo is more than an archaeological site. Its original Inca street plan remains intact, ancient water channels still flow beside cobblestone lanes, and families continue to live within a town whose fundamental design predates the Spanish conquest.

Two Options to Experience Machu Picchu

Strong walkers may follow the one-day Inca Trail from Km 104, climbing past Chachabamba and Wiñay Wayna before arriving through Inti Punku, the Sun Gate. Guests who prefer not to hike can take the train to Aguas Calientes and the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel with a dedicated guide. Enjoy exploring the town, a complimentary orchid walk from the hotel, or visit the spa. Both groups reunite at the hotel that evening.

In Depth Machu Picchu

Rather than making Machu Picchu a rushed visit, we experience it over two days. The second morning gives us time to look beyond the famous viewpoint and better understand the architecture, engineering, agricultural terraces, spiritual ideas, and surrounding landscape.

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 OF 10

Welcome to Lima

Arrive at Jorge Chávez International Airport, where our local representative will meet you and accompany you to our hotel in Barranco.

Barranco is Lima's artistic and bohemian district, known for restored historic homes, galleries, cafés and small shops. Our home for the next two nights is Villa Barranco by Ananay Hotels, a carefully restored 1920s mansion. Depending on your arrival time, settle in, explore the neighborhood or enjoy the rooftop terrace.

Meals: None

Accommodation: Villa Barranco by Ananay Hotels

DAY 2 OF 10 A Taste of Lima

Our host-chef meets us at the hotel and introduces us to a local market filled with fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices and ingredients drawn from Peru's remarkable biodiversity. We continue on foot through Barranco, wandering past galleries, colorful homes, artisan shops and quieter corners of the neighborhood.

Our walk ends at the chef's private apartment overlooking the Pacific. Here we take part in a hands-on cooking experience using fresh seasonal ingredients. Those who would rather not cook are welcome to relax on the terrace with Peruvian snacks and a Pisco Sour while lunch is prepared.

After lunch, we explore Lima's colonial center, including the Plaza Mayor, Santo Domingo Monastery and Casa Aliaga, a historic residence occupied by the same family for nearly five centuries.

Activity Level: Moderate walking

Terrain: Generally flat city walking

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Villa Barranco by Ananay Hotels

DAY 3 OF 10 Lima to Cusco to the Sacred Valley

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for our flight to Cusco. Although Cusco sits above 11,000 feet, we do not stay there today. We immediately descend into the Sacred Valley, where the lower elevation provides a more comfortable place to begin our Andean acclimatization.

Following a picnic lunch, we visit Pisac. Its sweeping terraces, ceremonial areas, residences and mountainside tombs provide our first introduction to the scale and sophistication of the Inca world. Time permitting, we also explore the traditional market before continuing to Explora Valle Sagrado, our home for four nights.

PLEASE NOTE

The domestic flight from Lima to Cusco is not included in the land price.

Activity Level: Light walking

Altitude: Acclimatization begins

Meals: Breakfast, Picnic Lunch

Accommodation: Explora Valle Sagrado

DAY 1 OF 8 Welcome to Lima AND on to Cusco/Sacred Valley

Arrive in Lima for your flight to Cusco and transfer to the Sacred Valley to meet the rest of the group.

Following a picnic lunch, we visit Pisac. Its sweeping terraces, ceremonial areas, residences and mountainside tombs provide our first introduction to the scale and sophistication of the Inca world. Time permitting, we also explore the traditional market before continuing to Explora Valle Sagrado, our home for four nights.

PLEASE NOTE

If you choose to come into Lima a day earlier, we are happy to make arrangements at an airport hotel so you can fly to Cusco the next day.

Altitude: Acclimatization begins

Meals: Picnic Lunch

Accommodation: Explora Valle Sagrado

DAY 4 OF 10 DAY 2 OF 8 Moray, Maras and the Flavors of the Andes

We begin at Moray, where enormous circular terraces descend into the earth. Each level creates a slightly different microclimate, leading many researchers to believe the Incas used the site to study crops and growing conditions.

From Moray, we walk through open farmland and high Andean countryside toward Maras, with broad views across the Sacred Valley and toward the snowcapped peaks. After lunch in a mountain setting, we continue to the Maras salt ponds, where thousands of shallow pools are still harvested by local families.

Our exploration concludes with a tasting devoted to Peru's extraordinary native tubers—including potatoes, oca and mashua, paired with local sauces, regional flavors and varieties of oca wine.

Walking: Several hours

Activity Level: Moderate

Terrain: Open highland paths and farmland

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Explora Valle Sagrado

DAY 5 OF 10 DAY 3 OF 8 Ollantaytambo: The Living Inca Town

Ollantaytambo occupies a rare place in the Andes. While the monumental terraces and archaeological complex above the town are impressive, the village below offers something equally unusual: an original Inca street plan that remains intact and inhabited.

We walk narrow cobblestone lanes beside water channels that have flowed for centuries. Surrounded by steep mountains, agricultural terraces and ancient granaries, Ollantaytambo allows us to see how history continues to function within everyday life.

We also visit the Alqa Museum, where our experience centers on a conversation with its curator. Through textiles, ceramics and other forms of popular art, we explore the stories, techniques, beliefs and symbolism that continue to shape Peruvian creativity.

Activity Level: Moderate

Terrain: Cobblestone and uneven streets

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Explora Valle Sagrado

DAY 6 OF 10 DAY 4 OF 8 Life in a Quechua Community

Today we travel into the highlands of the Sacred Valley to spend time with members of a Quechua community. After a warm welcome, we learn how local families work together, cultivate crops at altitude, care for animals, and preserve the techniques and symbolism found in traditional Andean textiles.

Our activities will depend upon the season and what is taking place in the community that day. We may help with farming, learn about weaving, meet families and participate in everyday activities before sharing lunch together.

The purpose is not to watch a performance. It is to listen, participate respectfully and gain a better understanding of the people who continue to call these mountains home.

Activity Level: Light

Pace: Community-paced activities

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Explora Valle Sagrado

DAY 7 OF 10 DAY 5 OF 8 Two Paths to Machu Picchu

Early this morning, we board the Vistadome train at Ollantaytambo and follow the Urubamba River through the Vilcanota Canyon toward Machu Picchu. From here, guests have two choices.

Option One: The Inca Trail Through the Sun Gate

At Km 104, our walkers leave the train, cross the Vilcanota River and begin the one-day Inca Trail. We visit Chachabamba before climbing through cloud-forest landscapes toward Wiñay Wayna, an extraordinary Inca complex of terraces, ceremonial baths and stone structures built into the mountainside.

Following lunch on the trail, we continue toward Inti Punku—the Sun Gate. From here, Machu Picchu appears below us for the first time. We descend along the royal Inca road and arrive above the citadel in the late afternoon.

Walking Distance: 13.8 km / 8.6 miles

Walking Time: Approximately 7 hours

Start: 7,037 ft / 2,145 m

High Point: 8,964 ft / 2,732 m

Activity Level: Strenuous

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

Option Two: The Alternate Route to Machu Picchu

Guests who prefer not to hike can take the train to Aguas Calientes and the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel with a dedicated guide. Enjoy exploring the town, complimentary hotel activities including an orchid walk, tea tasting, or birding walk from the hotel. Of course, you can relax with a visit to the spa. Both groups reunite at the hotel that evening.

INCA TRAIL PERMITS

Access to the one-day Inca Trail is controlled by the Peruvian government and subject to a daily quota. Passport information is required in advance, and permits cannot be guaranteed until issued.

DAY 8 of 10 DAY 6 OF 8 Machu Picchu and the Journey to Cusco

This morning, we return to Machu Picchu together with our guide. Rather than racing from viewpoint to viewpoint, we take time to explore the citadel's sacred spaces, agricultural terraces, temples, residences and precisely fitted stonework.

Our guide helps us consider Machu Picchu not simply as an archaeological wonder, but as a place where engineering, astronomy, spirituality, agriculture and the natural landscape were inseparable.

After lunch, we return to Machu Picchu Pueblo and board the Vistadome train to Ollantaytambo. Our private vehicle then carries us through the Sacred Valley and into Cusco, where we settle into Antigua Casona San Blas in the historic artisan district.

Activity Level: Light to Moderate

Travel: Train and private vehicle in afternoon

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Antigua Casona San Blas

DAY 9 OF 10 DAY 7 OF 8 Cusco: The Inca and Colonial City

Our final full day begins at San Pedro Market, where produce, spices, medicinal herbs, flowers, textiles, prepared foods and daily life come together in a wonderful bit of organized chaos.

We continue to Sacsayhuamán, overlooking Cusco. Its enormous interlocking stones remain one of the most striking examples of Inca engineering. After lunch, we explore central Cusco on foot, including the Cathedral and Santo Domingo Convent. Beneath the convent are the remains of Qoricancha, the Inca Temple of the Sun.

Tonight, we gather for our farewell dinner and reflect on the landscapes we have crossed, the people we have met, and one very memorable journey into Machu Picchu.

Activity Level: Moderate

Terrain: Cobblestones and city walking

Altitude: About 11,000 ft

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Farewell Dinner

Accommodation: Antigua Casona San Blas

DAY 10 OF 10 DAY 8 OF 8 Depart Cusco

After breakfast, transfer to the Cusco airport for your onward flight or continue exploring Peru with a privately arranged extension.

Meals: Breakfast

PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

The Walking Experience

This is an active cultural adventure rather than a trekking expedition. Most days combine walking, sightseeing, cultural encounters and vehicle transfers and are best described as easy to moderate for experienced Walking Connection travelers. The one-day Inca Trail is the exception and is strenuous.

Much of the journey takes place at elevation and on uneven surfaces. Expect cobblestones, stone steps, archaeological sites, dirt paths, agricultural trails and irregular Inca stonework. Good walking shoes or light hiking shoes with dependable traction are important.

Regular walking before departure is strongly recommended. Guests planning to hike the Km 104 Inca Trail should train specifically for several consecutive hours of walking, climbing and descending on varied terrain.

Altitude

Altitude is a genuine consideration on this adventure, but the itinerary is intentionally sequenced to allow time to adjust. We begin at sea level in Lima. On Day 3, we fly into Cusco at approximately 11,154 feet and immediately descend into the Sacred Valley at roughly 9,000 feet, where we spend four nights before returning to the higher elevation of Cusco.

Everyone responds to altitude differently, regardless of age or fitness. Detailed altitude guidance and preparation recommendations will be provided in your Know Before You Go information.

Accommodations

Our accommodations are part of the journey: a restored mansion in Lima's Barranco district, a renowned exploration lodge in the Sacred Valley, a cloud-forest retreat surrounded by orchids and hummingbirds at Machu Picchu Pueblo, and an intimate colonial property in Cusco's San Blas artisan quarter.

- Villa Barranco by Ananay Hotels — Lima, 2 nights (10-Day ONLY)
- Explora Valle Sagrado — Sacred Valley, 4 nights
- Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel — Machu Picchu Pueblo, 1 night
- Antigua Casona San Blas — Cusco, 2 nights

Hotels are subject to availability. If a listed property becomes unavailable, a comparable or upgraded property may be substituted.

MEALS, LUGGAGE & TRAVEL DETAILS

Meals and Dietary Requirements

Food is an important part of this journey. Included meals range from a cooking experience in Lima to regional Andean cuisine, community meals, native-tuber tastings and our farewell dinner in Cusco.

Breakfast is included daily beginning on Day 2. Lunch is included on most touring days, and dinners are included where indicated in the itinerary. When dinner is not included, our team can assist with recommendations and reservations.

Dietary requirements should be provided well before departure. We will make reasonable efforts to accommodate them, but highly restrictive diets may be more difficult in remote or community settings.

Luggage and the Machu Picchu Portion

Train regulations limit the size and weight of baggage carried into Machu Picchu Pueblo. A small duffle bag will be provided for the Machu Picchu portion of the trip, while your primary luggage is transferred separately according to the operating plan. Final baggage instructions will be included in the Know Before You Go materials.

What to expect from this trip

Expect an active, thoughtfully paced journey combining walking, archaeology, food, local communities and high-altitude landscapes. There will be early starts, uneven surfaces and some longer travel periods, but the pace is designed to give us time to understand the places we walk through and the people whose history and traditions continue to shape them.

WHAT YOUR TRIP INCLUDES

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
• A unique itinerary created by Jo Ann Taylor, Sylvia Bernardi and our resident team in Peru. • Hosted by Walking Connection Travel Designer and Trip Director, Sylvia Bernardi. • Professional English-speaking resident interpretive guides throughout the scheduled program. • Ten days / nine nights in carefully selected boutique and luxury accommodations. (OR Eight days/ seven nights). • Two nights in Lima, four nights in the Sacred Valley, one night in Machu Picchu Pueblo, and two nights in Cusco. • Private airport, hotel, train-station, sightseeing and activity transfers as detailed in the final itinerary. • Vistadome train transportation associated with the Machu Picchu program. • Dedicated guide and transportation arrangements for guests choosing the alternate Machu Picchu route. • Luggage transfers and a small duffle bag for the Machu Picchu portion, where train baggage restrictions apply. • All scheduled guided walks, cultural experiences, community visits, cooking activities, tastings and site visits described in the final itinerary. • Entrance fees and required permits for scheduled activities, including the one-day Inca Trail when permits are secured. • Meals as indicated in the final itinerary. • Access to purified-water refills during the journey. • Detailed Know Before You Go information, including altitude guidance, physical preparation, packing, footwear and weather guidance.	• International airfare to and from Peru. • Domestic airfare, including the Lima–Cusco flight. • Meals not specifically identified as included. • Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks except where specifically included. • Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and other incidental charges. • Travel insurance. • Gratuities for resident guides, drivers, hotel personnel and other local service providers. • Passport, visa or other personal travel-document expenses. • Activities or services not specifically identified as included.

TRIP PRICE, RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

GUEST PRICE

8-Day: \$6,498 USD | 10-Day \$7,398 USD
per person, based on double occupancy

Limited single occupancy is available. A \$1,500 deposit is due with registration.

Price per person

- Double occupancy 8-Day : from \$6,498 USD per person.
- Double occupancy 10-Day: \$7398 USD per person
- Limited single occupancy is available. Please contact Jo Ann Taylor or Sylvia Bernardi for current availability and the applicable single supplement.

Tour prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuations at the time of final payment and to changes in government fees, taxes, permits, sanctuary entry costs, or supplier-imposed surcharges.

Deposits

An initial deposit of \$1,500 USD per person is required to reserve your space. Space cannot be held without a complete deposit. Deposits from postponed trips can only be transferred and not refunded.

Payments

Payments must be made according to the schedule and are subject to the cancellation and penalty policy. Final payment is due on or before 90 days prior to the trip. We request that final payments be made by check, wire transfer, WISE or credit card. Credit card and PayPal payments for the final amount due are subject to a 3.5% surcharge of the total due. Canadian or other non-U.S. credit cards are subject to a 4.5% surcharge. Payments can be made by mail, online or by phone.

Price Variation

Prices are based upon current government fees, permits, entry charges and taxes at the time this information is published. Should government authorities impose new taxes or fees, raise current charges, or should suppliers impose fuel or other mandatory surcharges, the increase will be passed along to you. You will be notified if Walking Connection is notified of such an increase.

Cancellation, Penalty & Refund Policies

Should you have to cancel your tour, the following terms will apply:

- A refund of your deposit, less a \$300 service fee, will be given if we are notified seven months or more prior to departure. If your deposit was a credit from a previous trip postponement, it will be applied as a future credit.
- For cancellations 91 days to seven months prior to departure, your \$1,500 deposit is nonrefundable.
- For cancellations 90 days or less prior to departure, and for no-shows, 100% of the trip price is nonrefundable.

No refunds will be made for any unused portion of the tour. All cancellations must be made in writing and delivered to Walking Connection via email. Your cancellation date is the date your notice is received and confirmed by Walking Connection, not the date sent.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Travel Roommates and Single Supplements

There is limited single-room availability, and a supplement will apply. If you have registered for double occupancy but do not have a travel roommate, you may be charged a single supplement for any portion of the trip where you will be rooming as a single.

Trip Minimum and Maximum

A minimum of 8 full-paying guests and a maximum of 12 guests is planned for this departure. Walking Connection specializes in small-group travel, and some trips require a minimum number of guests traveling together. If the minimum is not reached, an additional small-group surcharge may be assessed or the trip may be canceled at the option of Walking Connection. The trip will be guaranteed when the minimum has been reached or when Walking Connection makes a final operating decision. Please do not make nonrefundable international or domestic air arrangements until the trip is confirmed.

Passports and Entry Requirements

A valid passport is required for international travel to Peru. Entry requirements can change. Walking Connection will provide current guidance before departure, but each traveler is responsible for confirming that their passport and any required travel documents meet the requirements in effect for their nationality and itinerary.

Air Arrangements

Arrival airport: Jorge Chávez International Airport (LIM), Lima, on August 24, 2027. The trip begins at our host hotel in Lima. Optional pre-night stays may be arranged on request. No activities are planned on August 24 due to the possible late arrival of some flights.

Departure airport: Alejandro Velasco Astete International Airport (CUZ), Cusco, on September 2, 2027. The trip ends after breakfast and the scheduled transfer to the Cusco airport.

The Lima-to-Cusco domestic flight on Day 3 is not included in the published land price unless specifically stated in your final registration information. Before making international or domestic airline arrangements, contact Walking Connection to reconfirm the trip details and recommended flight timing.

MORE DETAILS

Gear & Personal Items

We will provide a detailed list of personal items to help ensure your journey is safe and comfortable. No specialized technical gear is required for the core itinerary. Recommended items will include supportive walking or light hiking footwear, suitable socks, layered clothing, sun protection, rain protection, a daypack and a hands-free hydration system. Guests choosing the one-day Inca Trail should pay particular attention to footwear, conditioning and trail-day gear recommendations.

Your Local Guides and Trip Host/Escort

At Walking Connection, our philosophy is simple: each trip is designed in partnership with locals and delivered by local experts. This adventure is designed by Jo Ann Taylor, Sylvia Bernardi and our resident Peru team. Sylvia Bernardi is scheduled to host the departure, supported by professional English-speaking resident interpretive guides.

Questions? Ready to Book?

If you would like to register or have questions about the trip, please contact Walking Connection. A deposit of \$1,500 USD per person is required at registration to secure space. If booking less than 90 days before departure, full payment is due with registration.

Walking Connection - Person-to-Person Guest Hotline: Info@WalkingConnection.com is the best way to request and receive information about departures. Voice and text: +1 623.800.3649.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Discover Peace of Mind with Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Walking Connection offers access to established travel-insurance providers and can direct you to information and quote options. Coverage, exclusions, pre-existing-condition provisions, cancellation benefits, medical evacuation and other terms vary by policy, so please review the plan carefully before purchase.

Because this journey includes high-altitude travel and an optional strenuous Inca Trail hike, confirm that the policy you select provides appropriate medical and evacuation coverage for your planned activities and elevations.



"We Know The Way"