



## PERU

### FAMILY ANDEAN DISCOVERY

An experiential and fun tour of Cusco, the Sacred Valley and magnificent Machu Picchu



**DURATION:** 9 days, 8 nights  
**SEASON:** April through December  
**DEPARTURES:** Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 participants  
**TRIP RATING:** Moderate cultural, educational and family-friendly Tour, Grade (II): This first-class soft adventure is an activity-oriented program featuring optional daily walking tours through villages and Inca sites (2-3 hours in duration at elevations above 8,000').

Although the trip reaches a high point of 12,150' while touring, the itinerary has been designed to allow gradual adjustment to the altitude.

**2025 DATES:** On request any week of the year during the travel season.

#### INTRODUCTION:

Machu Picchu, the "lost city of the Incas." It sparks the imagination of kids and adults alike. All members of the family will find "wow" moments and make lifelong memories with this colorful family-oriented itinerary. You'll find experience-rich interactive fun for the kids and fine dining and creature comforts for parents – all combined with active easy-to-moderate outdoor adventure and eye-opening cultural exchange that everyone can share.

#### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Get up-close with woolly llamas, vicuñas and alpacas and learn to tell them apart
- Practice counting in Spanish as you bargain for handcrafted souvenirs in lively local markets
- Learn about a day in the life of young Peruvian students at a village school visit
- Get hands-on with clay at an artistic ceramics workshop
- Watch the ancient citadel of Machu Picchu emerge from the clouds
- Find out *why* the Incas chose this spot for building Machu Picchu at the Manuel C. Ballón Museum
- Get creative in the kitchen with a Peruvian demo cooking class
- Dance and play inside the enchanted water fountains in Lima's "magic water circuit" park

## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

<b>DAY 01</b>	<b>HOME / LIMA</b> Families arriving this evening to Peru's coastal capital city, <b>Lima</b> . Clear customs and walk on your own short distance to the hotel adjacent to the International Terminal. Meals are on your own today. <b>Note:</b> some flights from the USA are overnight to Lima, arriving early in the morning on Day 02.  <a href="#">Wyndham Costa del Sol Hotel</a> – 1 night
<b>DAY 02</b>	<b>LIMA / CUSCO / SACRED VALLEY</b> For those staying at the airport hotel in Lima, you will be picked up early this morning to check in for the scenic, one-hour flight over the Andes to Cusco (11,150'). You are met at the airport and we drive one-hour to the lower elevations of Pisac in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We stop to visit <b>Awana Kancha textiles</b> center en route, here we learn about the South American camelids (llamas, alpacas, vicuñas and guanacos) and admire their woolly coats. Watch weavers craft the wool the same way their ancestors have done for generations!  Descending into the warm valley, our next stop is at the town of <b>Pisac</b> (9,708') where we walk among typical houses and artists' shops offering colorful handicrafts. Kids can trade their Peruvian <i>sol</i> coins for handmade jewelry, watercolor paintings, carved gourds, key rings and small musical instruments.  We enjoy a delicious Andean lunch at a family own restaurant and stretch our legs on a panoramic walk through Pisac's <b>impressive Incan ruins</b> , perched spectacularly on a ridge overlooking the town and countryside. The walking tour is about two miles along a wide stone-paved trail high above the valley, dotted with lookout points. We visit the main sections of the site including the religious center <i>Intihuatana</i> , or Hitching Post of the Sun. We'll see dozens of agricultural terraces whose formations were built to follow the contours of the hillside rising from the Urubamba River valley. Afterwards, we continue driving down the valley to the community of Urubamba and check-in to the colorful, private <i>casitas</i> (bungalows) of our hotel (9,430'), a charming Andean hacienda style Relais & Chateaux property. Dinner is on your own this evening to try the top-quality cuisine of the hotel's Killa Wasi restaurant.  <a href="#">Sol y Luna Hotel &amp; Spa</a> – 2 nights (B,L)
<b>DAY 03</b>	<b>CHINCHERO / OLLANTAYTAMBO</b> After breakfast this morning, kids will have a unique chance to meet their Peruvian peers with a <b>primary school visit</b> at Harin or Sillacancha. Practice your greetings in Spanish, visit a classroom and have an exchange with children and teachers. Share school supplies that Southwind donates to the school on behalf of our guests. Roll up your sleeves for crafts time at the nearby <b>Yawarmaky ceramic workshop</b> , where you can watch the masters and learn about the process of creating beautiful pieces, then try your hand at sculpting a small pot with clay. Next, we'll reach the nearby town of <b>Ollantaytambo</b> , where we visit the main plaza of this unique community whose streets and foundations were originally designed by the Incas. We'll be <b>welcomed into a local home</b> to gain insight into a traditional and simple lifestyle. Then, we'll make a quick visit to the lower section of the ruins complex to look for "the bath of the princess", a fountain at the base of the impressive, terraced remains of the Sun Temple.  A <b>special traditional lunch</b> awaits us at Wayra restaurant, buffet-style with options for all kinds of eaters. Here we have a chance to sample a variety of native delicacies including several types of potatoes (tubers such as oca); quinoa (sacred to the Incas, referred to as the "mother of all grains"); fava beans; and corn. While we enjoy lunch, the <b>Paso Fino horse show</b> will amaze us. You'll see fine specimens of this national breed demonstrate the elegance of their lilted gait to the rhythm of the <i>Marinera</i> , an emblematic Peruvian dance. After a short scenic ride up the valley, we'll scratch our curiosity about where salt comes from at the <b>Salt mines</b> , a fascinating patchwork of white and water. A series of over 2,000 terraced mountainside pools fed by a natural spring are still being worked by local families today. Return to the peaceful comfort of the hotel where dinner is on your own at leisure this evening.

	<a href="#">Sol y Luna Hotel &amp; Spa – 2 nights</a> (B,L)
<b>DAY 04</b>	<p><b>MACHU PICCHU</b></p> <p>Rise early to meet your private guide and head back to Ollantaytambo to board the <b>Vistadome train</b> for a 1.5 hour ride to the village of Machu Picchu. Ascend to <b>Machu Picchu</b> (7,973') by shuttle and continue with your expert guide for a private tour of this superb archaeological site. Perched atop a crest high above the meandering Urubamba River and surrounded by rugged, green Andean hillsides, Machu Picchu stands as more than just the jewel of Inca architecture. It represents the perfect union of human engineering and the natural environment, a city in harmony with its surroundings. Never reached by the Spanish, this magical place was brought to the world's attention in 1911 by the American historian, Hiram Bingham. Our explorations of <i>The Lost City of the Incas</i> include most of the sectors of the ruins; the industrial area, Temple of the Sun and Royal Tomb, the ceremonial water fountains and baths and Sacred Plazas.</p> <p>We take a break for lunch at the Tinkuy buffet restaurant just outside the gates which serves a variety of hot and fresh selections. There should be time today for the 30-minute walk to the <b>Inca Drawbridge</b>, an ingenious construction. Ride the shuttle down to the village of Machu Picchu and check-in to the hotel, a former National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, set at 6,627' among lush orchid gardens. Dinner is included this evening at the hotel's restaurant known for its creative fusion cuisine.</p> <p><a href="#">Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel – 2 nights</a> (B,L,D)</p>
<b>DAY 05</b>	<p><b>MACHU PICCHU</b></p> <p>Rising very early to beat the crowds, those who wish can head to the ruins (gates open at 06:00) to see the early morning light as the sun comes over <b>Intipunku</b>, or the Gateway of the Sun.</p> <p>There are several optional guided hikes in and around the site to suit the group's experience and energy level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Huchuy Picchu</b>, departing from an access gate, an easy and family-friendly gradual uphill hike on a newly cleared trail takes us after 30 min to a lookout point at 8,193 ft.</li> <li>• The moderate option is a 1.5 hour up-and-downhill hike on a shaded trail ending at the mysterious, partially excavated <b>Temple of the Moon</b> (7,220'), a natural cave where carved rocks have been fitted perfectly to form a wall of doors and windows. This passage is a fun off-the-beaten-path alternative to the Huayna Picchu hike. Recommended for kids age 7 and up.</li> <li>• <b>Huayna Picchu</b>, or Young Peak, looms over the citadel at 8,836'. The strenuous one-hour climb follows a very steep and exposed trail, ending at terraces and ruins on the mountain's top, where you'll earn a thrilling bird's-eye view of Machu Picchu. The route ascends steadily uphill approx 1.5 hours (850 ft) on a winding and sometimes exposed trail requiring hands for balance and to hold handrails on steeper sections. Recommended for kids age 12 and up.</li> </ul> <p>Today the schedule will be planned in advance according to weather and group's inclinations. Those who prefer may simply choose an overlook to meditate, photograph, or continue personal guided explorations of this archaeological wonder at your own pace. Lunch is on your own. In the afternoon, the guide may lead the way to the <b>Temple of the Condor</b>, where a carving of the head of a condor can be seen on the ground, with the rocks in the temple forming the outstretched wings of the bird. From there, we may head over to the hidden <b>Intimachay</b>, which lets in a magic window of light on the two solstice days of the year, and other special spots within Machu Picchu including the "perfect wall". When everyone is ready, we'll return to the familiar hotel for a restful evening and gourmet dinner.</p> <p><a href="#">Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel</a> (B,D)</p>
<b>DAY 06</b>	<p><b>MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO</b></p> <p>Get out your binoculars! Early this morning we'll go on a birdwatching excursion and have a chance to spot as many as 18 different hummingbird species on the hotel grounds. Look for the torrent duck and the white-capped dipper or the silver-beaked and blue-necked tanagers. The wildlife fun</p>

	<p>continues with a nature talk and learning about Inkaterra’s <b>spectacled bear conservation project</b>, South America’s only bear species, now critically endangered. The goal of the non-profit organizations involved in this project is to rescue injured bears and reintroduce them into their natural habitat.</p> <p>Next, we’ll hop on a bus for a short ride to visit the <b>Manuel C. Ballón</b> museum, considered a great hidden secret of Machu Picchu by National Geographic. The excellent museum fills in many of the blanks about how and why Machu Picchu was built, and why the Inca chose such an extraordinary natural location for the citadel. From here, a 25-min walk will take us back into town for an exquisite lunch at the Sumaq Hotel restaurant, one of the finest in town.</p> <p>That afternoon, we’ll follow a 1.5 hour scenic journey back to Ollantaytambo via <b>Vistadome train</b>. Tracing the course of the Urubamba River, we wind our way past Incan terraces and Quechua communities as we leave the lush cloud forests behind and make our way back to the highlands. Reception upon arrival and transfer by private vehicle to <b>Cusco</b> (11,150'). Enjoy panoramic views of the snow-capped Urubamba range en route, including Mount Veronica and Pitusiray peak - both over 18,000 feet high!</p> <p>Arriving around 7:30pm, there’s time to check into the hotel centrally located near the main plaza. This Luxury Collection hotel by Marriott is the restored palace of the first governor of Peru, Francisco Pizarro, built over the Inca’s <i>Aclla Huasi</i> foundation. In the evening, for convenience after a full day of touring, we recommend the hotel’s excellent Inti Raymi restaurant.</p> <p><a href="#">Palacio del Inka Hotel</a> – 2 nights (B,L)</p>
<p><b>DAY 07</b></p>	<p><b>CUSCO</b></p> <p>This morning we’ll explore Cusco by van and by foot in a way that kids can get into. We’ll start at the colorful and lively <b>San Pedro open air market</b>, where we can observe indigenous people selling a variety of fruits, typical foods, breads, vegetables, herbs, clothing and much more.</p> <p>Next stop is the <b>Casa Concha Museum</b>, which displays a variety of artifacts from Machu Picchu and brings the citadel to life with a scaled model and energetically guided imaginings of what it was like during its prime. Heading towards the historical Main Square, we contemplate the Cathedral and other colonial buildings, stopping for photos by the fountain and gardens. Walking along a nearby original Inca street called <i>Hatunrumiyoc</i>, everybody can hunt for the famous <b>12-angled stone</b> and other large stones cut and fitted with exceptional precision. Then we’ll come across <b>Coricancha</b>, the Inca-Sun-temple-turned-Catholic-Church. Its walls and floors were once covered in sheets of solid gold!</p> <p>For a special farewell lunch, join your guide and a chef at Casa Del Medio Restaurant for a Peruvian cuisine demo cooking class. Savor the <i>tiradito</i> (King fish rolls) or <i>ceviche</i> (a marinated fish appetizer) you’ve helped to prepare, along with other native delicacies.</p> <p>Afterwards we drive up for about 15 minutes above town to see the mighty <b>fortress of Sacsayhuaman</b>, a spectacular Incan complex with commanding views of the Cusco valley. The rest of the afternoon is free to tie up any loose ends you may have in Cusco, a friendly city well-known for its great shopping and cultural opportunities. Dinner is on your own to scout out options along the cobbled streets of Cusco, where gourmet, vegetarian, and international restaurants have something for everyone.</p> <p><a href="#">Palacio del Inka Hotel</a> (B)</p>
<p><b>DAY 08</b></p>	<p><b>CUSCO / LIMA / OVERNIGHT FLIGHT</b></p> <p>We’ll be picked up at the hotel mid morning for the drive to the airport in <b>Cusco</b> to catch the flight back to <b>Lima</b>. Lunch is on your own. Upon arrival, we join our local guide for a special private tour of colonial Lima. In 1988, UNESCO declared the historic center of Lima a World Heritage Site for its originality and high concentration of Spanish colonial monuments. Named the “City of Kings” and founded by the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535, downtown Lima charms with its main square, cathedral and the Archbishop’s Palace, plazas, churches, mansions, and balconies.</p> <p>Then, we’ll head over to a favorite spot of local children in Lima, the <i>Circuito Magico del Agua</i> or</p>



	<p><b>“magic circuit of water”.</b> In this impressive park, kids can hop, skip, and jump through a display of colored lights, laser rays and fountains. What makes some of these fountains magical? They dance according to the rhythm of the music and actually interact and respond to movement! Afterwards, if time allows, we’ll reward ourselves with a brief visit to the Choco Museum, where we can <b>learn how chocolate is made</b> from bean to bar, and even try some of their treats! Get your fix with delicious hot chocolate and other edible surprises. For dinner on your own, try a typical seafood meal at one of the several gourmet restaurants in Larcomar, overlooking the Pacific Ocean in the trendy Miraflores district. Families leaving tonight have a transfer to the airport this evening.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(B)</p>
<b>DAY 09</b>	<p><b>HOME</b></p> <p>Arrive in your gateway city this morning and make onward connections home.</p>



### NOTES ON THE ITINERARY:

Although we do our best to adhere to the above schedule, this itinerary is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control, including group pace and acclimatization, weather, road and trail conditions, flight delays or cancellations, as well as changes in plane and train schedules. This trip is suitable for healthy participants accustomed to outdoor activities, age 5 and up. A more active version of this trip is suitable for families with teens 12 and up, please contact Southwind for further details.

Changing the dates of the week on this itinerary may affect the flow of activities as some of the visits may not be available every day. Depending on final flight schedules, some of the activities on Day 2 and 8 may follow a different sequence. The Choco Museum visit may take place in Cusco instead of Lima. Distances and altitudes are approximate and travel times indicated do not include lunch breaks, rest or photo stops, etc.

**2025 LAND COST:**

4-6 participants:	from \$6,300 p.p.d.
7-12 participants:	from \$5,900 p.p.d.
Single Supplement:	from \$1,700

**Children’s Discount:** Kids 5-11 years old at the time of travel are entitled to a discount of \$500 ppd. Kids 12-17 years old at the time of travel receive a discount of \$250 ppd on the *Family Andean Discovery* Land Cost. Discounts are not combinable, nor can they be used in conjunction with other promotional offers unless specified.

**Notes:** We can also operate this trip **for 2-3 participants**, budget on a Land Cost from \$6,900 per person and call for specific pricing according to your travel dates.

End of the year or holiday departures could have a Land Cost surcharge of 10-20%. Please check with your personal Southwind Travel Consultant for more details.

**ESTIMATED AIRFARE:** The Land Cost DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Southwind’s ticketing partner can assist with all your air travel – providing an airfare quote to match your itinerary, personalized support for seating, monitoring schedule changes and coordinating directly with the airlines if any adjustments are needed. Business Class to Lima is often good value (Delta, United and Latam offer lie flat seats in Business). Non-stop flights to Lima are available from these US gateways: New York/JFK (Latam 8 hr flight time), Newark (United 8 hr), Los Angeles (Latam 8 hr 30 min), Miami (American & Latam 5 hr 45 min), Houston (United 6 hr 30 min) and Atlanta (Delta 6 hr 30 min). Estimated international economy fares are \$600-\$900/person and \$350/person for Lima-Cusco-Lima with Latam (SkyTeam

Alliance). You have the option to arrange your own flights or redeem award travel yourself if you wish. Tickets should only be purchased after Southwind notifies you that your trip is confirmed. The airlines request that tickets match your passport name. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind provides flight booking details for your travel dates.

## SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country transfers** as scheduled. Ground transportation in comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers.
- **First-class round trip Vistadome or similar train** from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu town. Machu Picchu bus shuttle service to/from town and the archaeological sanctuary.
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance**.
- All **accommodations in first-class (4-5 star) hotels** as listed (or at similar hotels) on a shared basis with private bath. Advanced bookings are recommended if you plan to customize the itinerary and arrive early or extend your stay. Triple/Quadruple rooms for families can be requested in advance, but cannot be guaranteed, as most hotels offer very few rooms with Triple/Quadruple beds. Also, very few connecting or adjacent rooms are available at certain hotels.
- All **meals** indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request (advance notification required). For other diets, consult your Southwind travel specialist before making a reservation.
- All **guided tours** (as listed) conducted on a private basis by knowledgeable, English-speaking native guides experienced with family travel (includes applicable entrance fees).
- An **English-speaking guide/escort** will lead the Sacred Valley/Machu Picchu segment of the trip (Day 02-07). An assistant guide is provided for groups with 9 or more participants. A separate English-speaking guide will lead the activities in Lima.
- Single Supplement provides single room accommodations in all hotels. Due to the limited number of rooms at the boutique hotels, if you require single accommodations, making reservations well in advance is recommended.

## NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, International flights, nor local flights within Peru.
- Tours, meals (at about \$35-50 each per person) or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Early check-in or late check-out at hotels.
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment, laundry and phone calls.
- Tips to the local staff.
- Expenses incurred in trip preparation such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets, travel insurance, and additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.

## OPTIONAL HOTEL UPGRADES:

According to interest, Southwind can quote and reserve these **upgraded accommodations**:

Lima: **JW Marriott Hotel** (overlooking Pacific Ocean in the Miraflores district).

Sacred Valley: **Tambo del Inka Hotel** (Luxury Collection) or **Belmond Rio Sagrado Hotel**.

Cusco: **Belmond Monasterio Hotel** (Cusco's original boutique historic hotel with oxygenated rooms, colonial arches & fine colonial artwork) or the luxurious **Belmond Palacio Nazarenas Hotel**.

Machu Picchu: **Belmond Sanctuary Lodge** (located at the entrance gate to Machu Picchu).

NOTE: Due to high demand, we recommend booking these upgrades at least 4-5 months in advance. Space is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. Please see the [Accommodations](#) tab on the trip page for details.

## CUSTOM TRIPS AND ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Family trip variations are also available and designed on request for a minimum of 3-4 participants. We can also provide options for shorter itineraries with a minimum recommended of 6 days. Below follows a list of additional family-friendly activities for those travelers with extra time or to serve as ideas for a customized trip.

- **Lunch with a local family in Chinchero:** Kids 5 and up. 2-3 hour activity. Morning scenic drive to Chinchero town (12,335') for a brief guided tour of this charming community characteristic of Andean towns in that it combines both Incan and colonial architecture. Then, we meet our host local family and enjoy a typical lunch inside their home.

- **Weaving demonstration and workshop in Chinchero:** Kids 5 and up. Half day from Cusco or the Sacred Valley. Join for an overview of the Andean weaving process and participate while wool is carded, spun, and dyed, learn about the different techniques used to create textiles such as wrist bands, belts (*fajas*) and shawls (*mantas*). Can be combined with lunch in a local family house.
- **Additional short hikes near the Sacred Valley:**
  - Pumamarca hike: Kids 7 and up. After a 45-minute drive from Ollantaytambo up along the Patacancha river valley to the trailhead, we'll take a 1-hour hike uphill to the Pumamarca ruins (11,140'). Explore this former Inca religious and agricultural center that features terraces and water channels. The ancient water system is still in use today to irrigate potatoes and wheat fields. We'll then descend to a nearby village where our vehicle awaits.
  - Chinchero to Urquillos hike: Kids 7 and up. From the Chinchero ruins (12,335'), we can observe a massive Inca wall with ten trapezoidal niches. After exploring the ruins of Inca Yupanqui's palace, we begin a 5.5 mile hike (approximately 3.5 hours) downhill to the village of Urquillos (9,595') in the Sacred Valley. We follow a trail on a narrow gorge with great views of the Urubamba range and Chicon peak.
- **Kayaking at Huaypo Lagoon:** Kids 7 and up. The tranquil and scenic Huaypo Lagoon (12,000') is set in the Chinchero highlands, just a 45' drive from Cusco. For this half-day excursion, we'll spend the morning learning the basics of sea kayaking and then paddling out for 2-3 hours around the lagoon. Afterward, a delicious picnic lunch will be waiting on the shore. Kayaking equipment and experienced kayak guide included.
- **Horseback ride in the Sacred Valley:** Kids 12 and up. After a short orientation at Sol y Luna Lodge, we'll mount Peruvian Paso Fino horses and set off on rural paths, reaching small villages and communities neighboring the hotel such as Palcaraqui, Rumichaca, San Jose de Media Luna, Pumahanca and Chichubamba. As we trot along, we are transported into a rural lifestyle, meeting and greeting villagers in their typical dress. Approximately 3 hours.
- **Biking in the Chinchero highlands:** Teens 12 and up. Explore the highlands to the Moray concentric terraces atop two wheels, following dirt roads and non-technical double-track routes. Approximately 3 hours riding. Elevations 11,000' to 12,500'.
- **Rafting in the Urubamba River:** Teens 12 and up. For a day of fun and adventure, we'll head to the village of Cusipata (11,200') about 1.5 hours' drive southeast of Cusco. We'll ride the Cusipata to Quiquijana section of the Urubamba River for about 2.5 hours, featuring class II and III rapids. Picnic lunch included. After this activity families explore the region with visits to the Pikillacta ruins and local villages. We'll end the day heading to our lodging in the Sacred Valley.
- **A day with an Andean community:** Kids 7 and up. Find out about Peru's most prized crop at the Potato Park! This fascinating ecotourism project takes visitors to six different indigenous communities. Here, not all potatoes are created equal – you'll see over 200 different varieties! Meet farmers, weavers, shepherds and cooks throughout the day, go for an optional 2-hour hike, and complete the trip with a feast of traditional dishes for lunch at the all-organic community restaurant Papamanka. Elevations between 10,500' and 12,500'.

### **Dayhike on Inca Trail from Km 104 to Machu Picchu (Day 04):**

A private trekking guide accompanies participants who choose to disembark the Vistadome train at Km 104 and hike the classic stone-paved Inca Trail through the Gateway of the Sun to approach Machu Picchu as the Incas did centuries ago. The 7-mile hike is moderate/difficult but highly rewarding and takes approximately 6.5 hours. Extra costs apply for the required permit and logistics, advance planning is recommended (permits can sell out 3-4 months or more in advance). Please contact our office for details.

### **OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSIONS:**

Families with extra days may wish to extend their trip to the Amazon rainforest, Lake Titicaca, Northern Peru, Arequipa & the Colca Canyon or Paracas Reserve and the Nazca Lines on the Southern coast. Galápagos Islands is also another excellent choice. All extensions require a minimum of 2 participants. To view the extensions on our website, see ['Extend Your Trip'](#).

**WEATHER:** Much of the *Family Andean Discovery* trip takes place where atmospheric conditions can change suddenly. Guests must be prepared for all possibilities ranging from intense sunshine to rain, cold, and/or wind. April-May or September-October are ideal months in the Andes of Peru. January-March is the rainy (but less crowded) season in the highlands. Time is included in the cloud forests on the eastern slopes of the Andes, so

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**rain should be expected any month.** Brief hail, sleet or snowstorms might also occur at the highest elevations mostly during the rainy season, January through March. Andean nights are cold while the days are pleasant and springlike. **Cusco** has daytime highs in the mid 70's and nighttime lows in the upper 30's. The **Sacred Valley** is about 10-15° warmer. The daytime temperatures at **Machu Picchu** are hot (80-85°F) with mild nights (lows around 45-50°F) and the likelihood of rain is high. Expect showers or mist on most departures. The sun is quite intense at these elevations.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend purchasing coverage to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance is important in case of unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, natural events, medical reason, quarantine, local strikes, personal injury/illness (for you, your traveling companion or family members at home), could require itinerary interruption or changes. Missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or the need for medical attention or evacuation are also reasons why coverage is important. Southwind recommends **Travel Insured International** which offers coverage options at a good value. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you can still receive coverage if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip, but you do need to purchase a plan **within 21 days of your deposit**. Southwind can provide eQuote for insurance to review upon receipt of your deposit and Trip Reservation Form.

[Learn more about coverage offered by Travel Insured International](#)

**NEXT STEPS:** Please contact Southwind to speak with a personal Travel Advisor to help fine tune your travel plans and to receive a custom itinerary with a land cost quote based on your travel dates. You can reach us by completing our [Private Trip Request form](#), by email at [info@southwindadventures.com](mailto:info@southwindadventures.com), by phone at 800-377-9463 or by text to 303-972-0701.

Reservations can be made up to 60 days before departure, provided tour services and hotels are available. Due to the popularity of Machu Picchu and the limited number of visitors per day, we recommend making reservations at least 4-5 months in advance for non-holiday or about 1 year prior for holiday departures. Once your trip is confirmed to operate, you will receive pre-departure planning materials, flight booking assistance and advice to help prepare for your exciting vacation in Peru.

**We look forward to having you travel with us in Peru!**

**Southwind Adventures, Inc**

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