Cusco

A practical guide for visitors











Cusco





Capital



Elevation

Min.: **532** meters (Pilcopata)

Max.: 6384 meters (Ausangate Mountain)



Climate

Temperature

Max.: **20** °C

Min.: **1** °C





June - Sept Sept - Nov



Mar - June

Arriving



By land

Lima (vía Arequipa): 1650 km / 26 hr.

Lima (vía Abancay): 1105 km / **21 hr.**

Areguipa: 610 km / **10 hr.**

Puno: 389 km / **7 hr.**



By air

Lima-Cusco 1 hr. 15 min Puerto Maldonado-Cusco **55 min** Arequipa-Cusco 1 hr.



By rail

Puno-Cusco: 384 km 10 hr.



- Departmental capital
- Provincial capital
 - District capital
 - Town
- Tourist attraction
- Interesting place
- Airport

----- Provincial border

Main road

--- Asphalted road

Non-asphalted road

----- By rail

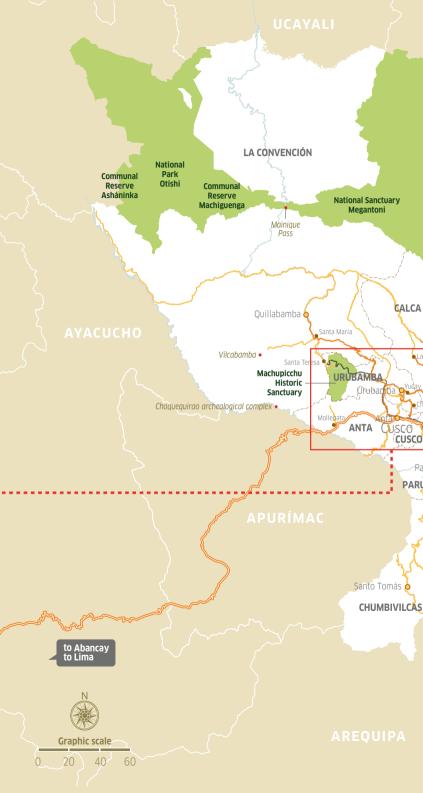
Natural Protected A

Lake or lagoon

--- River









Distances

By private travel from the city of Cusco to the cities of:

DESTINATION	DISTANCE	TIME
Anta (Anta Province)	26 km	30 min
Urcos (Quispicanchi Province)	46 km	1hr.
Calca (Calca Province)	51,70 km	1hr. 15 min
Urubamba (Urubamba Province)	62,3 km	1hr. 25 min
via Chinchero		
Paruro (Paruro Province)	64 km	2hr.
Sicuani (Canchis Province)	138 km	2hr. 45 min
Acomayo (Acomayo Province)	104,5 km	3hr.
Yanaoca (Canas Province)	133 km	3hr.
Paucartambo (Paucartambo Province)	109 km	3hr.
Quillabamba (La Convención Province)	210 km	6hr.
Yauri (Espinar Province)	241 km	5hr.
Santo Tomás (Chumbivilcas Province)	240 km	10hr.

Tours



½ day

- City Tour: Cathedral, Qorikancha, Saqsaywaman, Q'enqo, Puka Pukara, and Tambomachay
- Southern Valley: Tipón, Pikillaqta, and the Temple of San Pedro de Andahuaylillas
- Maras and Moray
- Tarawasi Killarumiyoc

1 day

- Sacred Valley: Písac, Ollantaytambo, and Chinchero.
- Huchuyqosqo
- The Andean Baroque Route: the Company of Jesus, Andahuaylillas, Huaro, and Canincunca temples
- Humantay lagoon
- Q'eswachaka bridge
- Chonta Condor lookout
- Palccoyo mountain range

2 days

- -Machupicchu with an overnight stay in Machupicchu village
- Vinicunca
- -Suykutambo

5 days

- -Trek to Salkantay
- -Ausangate
- -Choquequirao (via Cachora)

6 days -Manu









The city of Cusco was declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1983. It's 3399 meters above sea leve and it was the Tahuantinsuyo hegemonic center.

1 Jan	Passing of the baton (Chinchero, Urubamba)	
20 Jan	San Sebastián Patron Saints Day	
3 Feb	San Blas Patron Saints Day	
Feb-Mar (movable)	Carnival festivals	
Mar-April (movable)	Easter (Cusco)	
14-16 May	San Isidro Labrador festival	
	(Tinta, Canchis, Ollantaytamno, Urubamba)	
May-June (movable)	Señor de Qoyllor Riti (Quispicanchi)	
May-June (movable)	Lord of Torrechayoc (Urubamba)	
	Lord of Choquekillka (Ollantaytambo)	
May-June (movable)	Corpus Christi (Cusco)	
June (movable)	Q'eswachaka bridge festival	
24 June	Inti Raymi (Cusco)	
29 June	Ollantayraymi (Ollantaytambo)	
15-18 July	Nuestra Señora Virgen del Carmen	
	(Paucartambo, Písac, Huarocondo)	
25-29 July	Quillabamba festival (La Convención)	
1 Aug	Pachamama Raymi or Mother Earth Day	
	(entire region)	
15-18 Aug	Virgin Asunta festival (Coya, Calca)	
7-9 Sept	Natividad Virgin (Cusco)	
14 Sept	Lord of Huanca (Calca)	
Sept (movable)	Warachicuy (Cusco)	
30 Sept	San Jerónimo festival	
6-9 Oct	Virgen del Rosario de	
	Huallhua (San Salvador)	
24 Dic	Santurantikuy (Cusco)	

Cusco Province

Main Square

During the Inca period the square functioned as a ceremonial site for the annual Inti Raymi (Sun God Festival). It was here that Francisco Pizarro proclaimed the conquest of Cusco. This event led to a transformation in the architecture, with the construction of stone arches and buildings that still stand today.

Cathedral

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10:30 am - 6:00 pm. Ticket entry.

Renaissance in style, the Capilla del Triunfo (Chapel of Triumph) and the Cathedral were built over the top of Inca structures: the Suntur Wasi temple and the Inca Wiracocha's palace, respectively. The treasures they hold include embossed silver objects and an important collection of paintings from the Escuela Cusqueña.

Natural History Museum

Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 1:30 pm / Sat 8:30 am - 2:00 pm. Ticket entry.

The museum exhibits geological and paleontological specimens from Cusco and its surroundings, as well as representative samples of the region's biological diversity. An immense fang from a mastodon is notable for its antiquity and size.

Church of the Company of Jesus

Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm / Sun 9:00 am - 11:30 pm, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Ticket entry.

The church's facade resembles an altarpiece and the carved stone walls define it as an imposing example of Andean Baroque architecture.

Cusco Chocolate Museum

Cl. Garcilaso N°210, two blocks from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9:00 am - 7:30 pm. Free entry, although chocolate making and other workshops have a fee.

In this museum visitors can learn about cocoa and chocolate and, if time permits, enjoy a wide range of other activities.

Minor Basilica and La Merced Convent

Cl. Mantas 121, one block from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sat: 8:00 am -12:30 pm / 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm. Ticket entry.

The most valuable piece in the collection displayed in this complex is a gold custodia, 1.3 meters high. Adorned with precious stones, it is crowned by what is considered to be the world's second largest pearl.

House of Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (Regional Historic Museum)

Cl. Heladeros s/n. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Entry with tourist ticket

It was the house of the author of the Royal Commentaries of the Incas. Today exhibits paleontological and archaeological objects from pre-Hispanic times; as well as pieces from the colonial, republican and contemporary era.



Santa Catalina Temple and Monastery

Cl. Santa Catalina Angosta s/n, one block from the Main Square. Open during mass.

It was built on the original Inca construction Acliahuasi or "House of the Chosen" (the aclias were women dedicated to special work for the Inca). Its architecture corresponds to the last stages of Renaissance and characterizes by its arches of Roman style.

Santa Catalina Monastery

Cl Santa Catalina Angosta N $^\circ$ 190, one block from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. Ticket entry.

The monastery holds colonial art works, textiles, and altarpieces. The highlights are the paintings by Diego Quispe Tito and the carpet in the Arcade Gallery.

Machupicchu Museum in the Concha Mansion

Cl. Santa Catalina Angosta s/n, two blocks from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 7:00 pm / Sat 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Ticket entry.

The museum displays ceramics and funerary contexts, as well as objects made from stone and metal found by Hiram Bingham and returned by Yale University in 2013.

Museum of Religious Art and the Twelve-angled Stone

Cl. Hatunrumiyoc, two blocks from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. Museum: ticket entry.

Built on the foundations of the ancient palace of Inca Roca, it houses more than 200 paintings from the Escuela Cusqueña, highlighting the Corpus Christi collection and a series of the Zodiac by Diego Quispe Tito. On the outside there is the famous 12 angles stone, as part of an old inca wall.

Inka Museum (Almirante Palace)

Cl. Cuesta del Almirante 103, one block from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 6:00 pm / Sat 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Ticket entry.

This colonial mansion exhibits a collection of ceramic, gold, and textile items, as well as mummies that still remain from the cultures which developed across the territory occupied by the Tawantinsuyu.

Pre-Columbian Art Museum

Plazoleta Nazarenas 231, two blocks from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 10:00 pm. Ticket entry.

The 11 rooms contained in this old mansion exhibit 450 pieces that cover the period 1250 B.C. to A.D. 1532.

Contemporary Art Museum

Plaza Regocijo, one block from the Main Square.

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. Entry with tourist ticket. The museum is located in the City Hall and displays works by renowned 20th century and contemporary artists from Peru and overseas.

Popular Art Museum

Av. El Sol 103, one block from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. Entry with tourist ticket.

The most notable item in this museum is the collection of dance and devil masks by Santiago Rojas, from Paucartambo. There are also works by other well-known regional artisans. It also has a photographic collection of ancient Cusco.

Museum and catacombs of San Francisco de Asís

San Francisco square s/n 3 blocks from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. Ticket entry.

Founded in 1645, it has two facades and a unique Spanish-style stonework tower. A monumental canvas by Juan Espinoza de los Monteros stands out inside the convent. It measures 12x9 m and portrays the genealogy of the Franciscan family.

San Cristóbal Temple

San Cristobal Square 3 blocks from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. Ticket entry.

This temple was the first to be built in Cusco. Located in the area called Qolqampata, was conceived at the initiative of Christopher Paullo, a member of the Inca nobility and owner of these lands. The first construction was built in the 16th century, being rebuilt in the 17th with the auspice of Bishop Mollinedo, It has a collection of paintings from the Escuela Cusqueña and was declared Cultural Heritage of the Nation in 1972.

Santo Domingo Temple and Convent (Oorikancha)

Plazoleta Santo Domingo, three blocks from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8:30 am - 5:30 pm / Sun 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Ticket entry.

As an important center for worship of the Sun God (Inti), the inner walls of the Qorikancha were covered with gold. The church and the convent were built in 1534 over the existing structure. An art gallery holds canvases from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Oorikancha Site Museum

Av. El Sol, Qorikancha basement, 3 blocks from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. Entry with tourist ticket. The museum's collection consists of objects unearthed during archaeological works in the temple. It also includes representations of the Qorikancha during the period of the Inca Empire.

Oosgo Native Art Center

Av. El Sol 604, five blocks from the Main Square. Shows. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 18:30 - 8:00 pm. Entry with tourist ticket and according to theater capacity.

Regional music performances and folk dance displays can be enjoyed on a visit to this center. The entrance fee includes access to a museum of typical costumes and musical instruments.

Monument to Pachacuteq

Óvalo Pachacuteq. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. Entry with tourist ticket.

Built in 1991, it is a cylindrical building of 9 levels which explains the Inca's history. Serves as a pedestal for the bronze statue of 11.5 meters. From the top you have a panoramic view of the city.

San Blas Neighborhood

3 blocks from the Main Sauare.

San Blas is a traditional neighborhood with steep and narrow streets. Many of its colonial houses are home to the workshops of local artisans who open their doors for visitors and show their work.

San Blas Temple

Plazoleta San Blas, three blocks from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. Ticket entry.

The temple's colonial pulpit was carved in wood by the indigenous artist Juan Tomás Tuyru Tupac.

San Pedro Market

Plazoleta San Pedro, five blocks from the Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 6:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Built in 1925 by Gustave Eiffel, the market is the city's oldest and occupies an entire block. Colonial in style and with a single rectangular floor, the hallmarks of its design are the columns and the metal roof. In the interior, the visitor can find all the fresh products typical of the region, such as meats, cheeses, breads, coffee, chocolate, dried fruits, nuts, flowers, and handcrafts.

Cusco Planetarium

2 km (20 min by car) to the northeast of the city of Cusco. Ticket entry, reservation required.

At this private planetarium, located in a small typically Andean house, the visitor can learn about the universe from the perspective of the Andean world view, and discover one of the seven most important civilizations of the ancient world.

Sagsaywaman Archaeological Site

2 km to the northeast of the city of Cusco (15 min. by car or 30 min. on foot). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7:00 am - 5:30 pm. Entry with tourist ticket.

Etymologically it means "saciated hawk" or "mottled head". In the complex you can see zigzagging walls of megalithic type, tower bases, aqueducts, tunnels (chincana), slides of stone (suchuna) and the plain, where the Inti Raymi or Festival of the Sun is performed.

O'engo Archaeological Site

3 km to the northeast of the city of Cusco (20 min. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7:00 am - 5:30 pm. Entry with tourist ticket.

This stone construction is adorned with sculptures and carvings representing felines, birds, and snakes. It was a ceremonial center in which the sun, the moon, and the stars were worshiped. Agrarian rituals took place in the semicircular cavern.



Puka Pukara Archaeological Site

7 km to the northeast of the city of Cusco (30 min. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7:00 am - 5:30 pm. Entry with tourist ticket.

Paths, plazas, aqueducts, watchtowers, and sleeping quarters give shape to this fortress that served as a tambo (inn). It was a resting place for the Inca and the delegation that would accompany him on his visits to Tambomachay.

Tambomachay Archaeological Site

7.5 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (30 min. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7:00 am - 5:30 pm. Entry with tourist ticket. This religious center built with limestone was the site of rituals to invoke plentiful rain and soil regeneration.

Wanakaure Mountain

10 km to the south of Cusco (25 min. by car) until Huillcarpay community (San Sebastián), then 5 km on foot.

At an elevation of 4100 meters this is the highest mountain in the area. According to the Spanish chroniclers and Andean mythology, it was the Inca culture's most important *huaca* and oracle. The archaeological remains here are of religious significance. The pathways that surround the area were of high symbolic value for the Incas

Anta Province

Salkantay

96 km from the city of Cusco (2 hr. by car) until Mollepata, then start the trek for 5d/4n approximately. Ticket entry.

The access route through the village of Mollepata leads to one of the region's most beautiful valleys. Visitors must acclimatize and prepare for long treks so as not to feel the effects of altitude. The travel time can vary from four to six days.

Humantay Lagoon

109 km to the south of Cusco (3 hr. 20 min by car) to Soraypampa and then 3 km on foot (1 hr. 30 min). Ticket entry.

The lagoon forms from the melting snow of the eponymous mountain (whose elevation is 5902 meters). This gives it a turquoise green color. Humantay derives from the Quechua prefix 'huma', meaning head, an indication of its importance. It was probably the main source for the irrigation channels of the agricultural areas located below. It may also have been a place for ceremonies. A visit to the lagoon can be undertaken as part of a trek to Mount Salkantay. A day trip to the lagoon is also possible.

Chonta Condor Lookout

98 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (2 hr. 30 min by car) and then 3.2 km on foot (1 hr). Ticket entry.

Nestled between mountains which give form to a fantastic canyon, this lookout is located on the puna ecological floor. From here the visitor can view a wonderful landscape of forests, lakes, rivers, as well as the flight of the condors, its principal attraction. Chonta, now known as the Sanctuary of the Condors, is a small town whose population is primarily engaged in agriculture and livestock raising. It is a highly recommended destination for nature lovers and birdwatchers.

Tarawasi

75 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (1 hr. 40 min by car). Ticket entry.

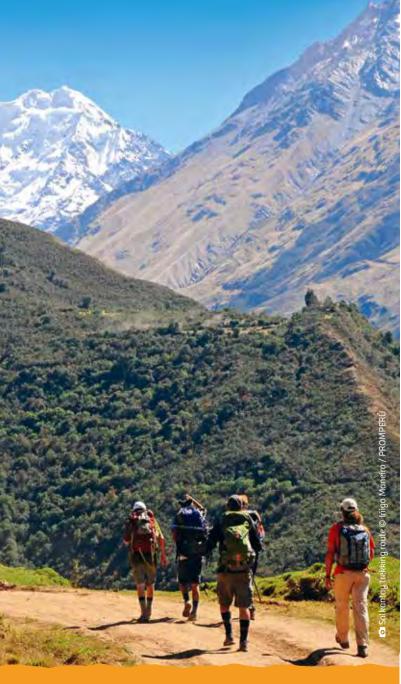
Located in the district of Limatambo, this tambo (inn) was built during the government of Pachacuteq. In addition to the buildings, a ceremonial ushnu and terraces are features.

Killarumiyoq

45.5 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (1 hr. by car).

Located in the Ancahuasi district, it was a ceremonial and astronomical center, from which can be observed the winter solstice every June 21st. It receives its name from a symbol carved on stone that adorns one of its huacas and means "moonstone".











A land of trails
Its trekking paths—many of them Inca roads—lead to cultural and

Urubamba Province

Chinchero

28 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (45 min. by car).

The village's main attractions are its Sunday fair and its colonial church Nuestra Señora de Monserrat o Natividad decorated with paintings from the Escuela Cusqueña.

Chinchero Archaeological Park

28 km northwest of the city of Cusco (45 min by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7:00 am - 6:00 pm. Entry with tourist ticket.

Chinchero was an important urban center that presents exceptional lithic expressions due to the monumentality and development of its architecture. It was built by Tupac Inca Yupanqui in 1480 and is made up of a set of architectural spaces: pre-Columbian mural structures, enclosures, terraces, staircases, shrines, among others. There are also the remains of three temples called Titiqaqa, Pumaqaqa, Chincana, which are huge limestone outcrops carefully carved in the form of seats, stairways, cupboards and ducts.

Poc Poc Waterfalls

28 km northwest of the city of Cusco to Chinchero (45 min by car), then 4 km on foot (1 hr. 30 min) from the Chinchero Archaeological Park by the Inca trail that connects the town of Chinchero with Urquillos in the Sacred Valley.

This waterfall has approximately 20 meters of fall and the surrounding area is suitable for bird watching and flora observation. During the trek it is possible to see part of the Qhapaq Ñan that unites Chinchero with Urquillos.

Huaypo Lagoon

38 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco, local community of Eggecco (55 min. by car).

The lagoon is home to a wide variety of fish and birds. Its waters are also ideal for water sports.

Piuray Lagoon

 $27~\rm{km}$ to the northwest of the city of Cusco, along the highway to Chinchero (40 min. by car).

The Incas built underground aqueducts to supply the imperial city with the waters of this lagoon. Today it is a good place for trout fishing and for certain water sports. Crops of barley, wheat, potato, and tarwi grow in the surroundings. There are also eucalyptus trees..



Maras Village

48 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (1 hr. by car).

The church and mansions in Maras still display crests of the indigenous nobility, demonstrating the importance of this locality during colonial times.

Maras Salt Mines

58 km from the city of Cusco (1 hr. 30 min by car). Ticket entry. Salt has been extracted here since pre-Columbian times. The mines consist of approximately 3000 pools fed by saline water that is filtered from the ground by the Qoripujio spring. The salt is obtained by means of evaporation. Enjoy the beautiful white landscape.

Moray Archaeological Site

9 km to the northwest of the village of Maras (25 min. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7:00 am - 5:00 pm. Entry with the tourist ticket.

The site consists of slightly elliptical terraced galleries known to locals as muyus. The main gallery has a depth of 45 meters and the average height of each terrace is 1.8 meters. Moray was an important agricultural research center for the domestication, acclimatization, and hybridization of wild species to adapt them for human consumption.

Pichingoto

patron saint.

70 km from the city of Cusco, in the Rumichaka sector on the highway to Ollantaytambo. / 4 km from the Maras salt mines (1 hr. on foot). This is a Quechua community not far from the Maras salt mines and whose homes are anchored to the same mountain. They have a small chapel and on June 24th celebrate the feast day of San Juan, their

Yucav

68 km to the north of the city of Cusco (1 hr. 45 min. by car).

Yucay was a hydraulic and agricultural technology center during the Inca Empire. The palace of the Inca Manco Sayri Túpac remains standing to this day.

Willoc

107,2 km to the north of the city of Cusco (3 hr. by car).

The inhabitants of Willoc preserve ancient customs through their agricultural techniques and their weaving using looms.

Urubamba

75 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco via Písac (2 hr. by car) / 62,3 km via Chinchero (1 hr. by car).

This town is located in the heart of the Sacred Valley at an elevation of 2871 meters and still preserves its pre-Hispanic agricultural traditions. The climate and beautiful landscapes make it a refuge for those who seek to relax in the midst of nature.

Ollantaytambo Archaeological Park

82,2 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco via Chinchero (1 hr. 45 min. by car). Opening hours Mon-Sun: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm. Entry with tourist ticket.

This Inca fortress is surrounded by walls and towers. Araqama Ayllu has a temple and is presumed to have been a sector set aside for worship and religion. Qosqo Ayllu was an urban sector with houses and terraces. The town of Ollantaytambo is renowned for the way in which its inhabitants preserve the traditions of their ancestors.

Inka Trail to Machupicchu

This road starts at 82 km (hike of 4 days / 3 nights) or at 104 km (hike of 1 day) of the railroad from Cusco to Machupicchu. For the tour, it is necessary to hire the services of an authorized travel agency: www.machupicchu.gob.pe.

The famous Inka Road to Machupicchu is part of the road network of the Qhapaq Ñan, which integrated and articulated the empire of the Incas or Tawantinsuyu. It is considered the best trekking route in Peru. During the route you will see important archaeological monuments and impressive landscapes and diverse ecological levels that allow the development of a great diversity of species of flora and fauna.

Historical Sanctuary - National Archaeological Park of Machupicchu

The llaqta or inka city of Machupicchu is located to the northwest of the city of Cusco, 2 hr by bus and 2 hr by train, then 8.5 km by bus. You have to buy your ticket entry in advance and check availability at www.machupicchu.gob.pe

Openina hours: Mon-Sun 6:00 am - 5:30 pm.

The Historical Sanctuary - National Archaeological Park of Machupicchu (SHM - PANM) is a cultural and natural area inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. With an extension of 37 302 hectares (92 174 acres), it is one of the areas with the greatest biodiversity in Peru and contains more than 60 archaeological monuments articulated through a complex network of pre-Hispanic roads.

The most important monument of the SHM-PANM is the llaqta or inka city of Machupicchu, which was been planned and built around 1400 A.C., during the government of the Pachakuteq inka. This construction demanded the participation of specialists in architecture, engineering and astronomy, as well as a large amount of labor. More than 50% of the effort required for its construction was been used in the preparation of the land, foundation and drainage system. The construction of Machupicchu responds to the need of the Inca State to have a religious, political and administrative center within a sacred space considered the link between the Andes and the Amazon. The nuclear part of the city has two zones: agricultural and urban.

In 1911, the Professor Hiram Bingham visited the inca city and was impressed with beauty and majesty of the place. The next year, he returned with a multidisciplinary team of professionals who carried out excavations and investigations in the area. Since the 1930s, the Peruvian Goverment has been promoting research, conservation and enhancement of the SHM-PANM.

Malaga Pass

150 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (3 hr. by car).

This area of small Polylepis tree forest at an elevation of 4230 meters is not-to-be-missed by bird watchers, who can observe the puna thistletail, the crested spinetail, and the thrush-like wren.





La Convención Province

Choquequirao Archaeological Site

Via Cachora: 167 km northwest of the city of Cusco (3 hr by car) to the district of Cachora, then 30 km on foot or 10.5 km by car until Capuliyoc (25 min by car) and 20 km on foot.

Via Huanipaca: 200 km northwest of the city of Cusco (4 hr 30 min by car) to the Tambobamba, district of Huanipaca (Apurimac), then 17 km on foot. Ticket entry.

Choquequirao means 'cradle of gold' in Spanish and was one of the last holdouts of the Incas in the Vilcabamba Valley, who took refuge there from 1536. The park is at 3033 meters above sea level on a green mountain. This place impresses with the majesty of Inca architecture with platforms, squares, enclosures, large walls with niches and other constructions.

Due to its rich flora and fauna, Choquequirao is considered a Regional Conservation Area by the National System of Protected Areas by the State (SERNANP), with an extension of 103,814.39 hectares.

Cocalmayo Hot Springs

212 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (6 hr. by car), and then 10 min. by local bus from Santa Teresa (or 30 min. on foot). Ticket entry.

Groundwater filters form four pools here reputed to have therapeutic properties against rheumatism. There are tourist services such as camp sites and restaurants.

Ouillabamba

210 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (6 hr. by bus).

The provincial capital bases it economy on the cultivation of coca, coffee, cacao, and fruits. Located in a valley and boasting a warm climate. it attracts lovers of adventure sports.

Vilcabamba

239,3 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (8 hr. by car).

The town's surrounding geography is marked by the contrast between the high peaks of the Vilcabamba mountain range and deep canyons and valleys that carry water to the jungle.



Megantoni National Sanctuary

492 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (13 hr. by car and then 2 hr. by boat). Visits are only possible through prior arrangement with SERNANP.

The sanctuary's territory ranges in elevation from 400 to 3800 meters and so contains a diversity of climates and ecological floors. Its rich biodiversity includes approximately 1400 species of flora, 378 species of birds, 32 species of amphibians, 32 mammals species, and 19 reptile species. The Urubamba River forms a narrow canyon called the Mainique Pass in the heart of the sanctuary (34 km from the town of Ivochote, and then 2 hr. by boat). It is regarded as the gateway between the Andes and the Amazon and is sacred for the Machiguenga community. Here nature lovers find beautiful scenery and waterfalls.

Machiguenga Communal Reserve

434 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (8 hr. 30 min by car) and then 8 hr. by boat to the Paquiria checkpoint and one day by boat along river tributaries. Visits are only possible through prior arrangement with SERNANP.

One of the country's few untouched areas, the reserve is located in the transition zone between montane and tropical forests. It is inhabited by the Machiguenga, Asháninka, Kaquinte and Yine-Yami ethnic groups, who have long had the role of custodians of the forest.

Asháninka Communal Reserve

2 hr. from Satipo towards Puerto Ocopa (Junín) and then between 2 and 8 hr. by boat to the northwest of Cusco. Visits are only possible through prior arrangement with SERNANP.

The reserve is located on the border between the regions of Cusco and Junín and is inhabited by Machiguenga and Kaquinte communities and the Asháninka, the most numerous native group in the Peruvian jungle.

Otishi National Park

Urubamba rivers.

2 hr. from Satipo towards Puerto Ocopa (Junín) and then 8 hr. by boat along the Cutivireni river as far as the Pavirontsi natural bridge and then 10-12 days hiking to the northwest of the city of Cusco. Visits are only possible through prior arrangement with SERNANP. The park is located between the regions of Cusco and Junín, close to the Machiguenga and Asháninka communal reserves. Its purpose is to preserve the soils and watersheds of the Apurímac, Ene, Tambo, and

Calca Province

Písac

33 km to the northeast of the city of Cusco (50 min. by car).

Many travelers come to this traditional Andean village attracted by its handcrafts market. The visit also provides an opportunity to discover the Pisac Archaeological Park, with its irrigation system, astronomical observatory, solar clock, and terraces built by the Incas.

Písac Archaeological Park

41 km to the northeast of the city of Cusco (1 hr. 20 min by car). / From the town of Písac, 7 km (1 hr. 30 min on foot or 30 min by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. Entry with the tourist ticket.

Built in the period of the Inca Pachacutec, the construction is thought to have been one of his retreats. Its location is strategic, since, perched atop a mountain, it affords a view of the entire valley that led to the Antisuyo. It consists of the following sectors: Intiwatana, Inka Qonqorina, Kallaqasa, Kantursraqay, and Hospitalniyoq, among others. There is also a network of roads and agricultural terraces.

Potato Park

33 km to the northeast of the city of Cusco (50 min by car) until Písac town / 17.3 Km to the first community of the park (40 min by car). The park is managed by the agricultural communities of Sacaca, Chawaytire, Pampallaqta, Paru Paru, and Amaru. Its objective is to protect and celebrate the diversity of native potatoes, as well as other traditional Andean crops.

Awanakancha South American Camelid Theme Park

23 km to the northeast of the city of Cusco (35 min by car) in the district of Taray (Cusco-Pisac Highway). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 5:30 pm.

Llamas, vicuñas, and alpacas can be observed here in their natural habitat. The visitor can participate in weaving activities using natural fibers.

Calca

50 km to the north of the city of Cusco (1 hr. 15 min. by car).

This town was an important center during the Inca empire, as is evident from the presence of pre-Hispanic walls along the streets and squares. It is also notable for its cuisine, customs, and festivities.

Lares Valley Hot Springs (Q'oñiunu)

114 km (3 hr. 30 min by car) to the northeast of the city of Cusco. The three pools here have yellowish waters due to their high mineral composition. They are located at an elevation of 3250 meters. The water temperature oscillates between 36 and 44 °C. In addition to enjoying the relaxing baths, the site is a good place visitor to observe birds.

Inkariy Museum

55 km to the north of the city of Cusco (1 hr. 30 min. by car). Opening Hours: Mon-Sun 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Ticket entry.

This museum displays cultural expressions from pre-Hispanic Peru. The



hyper-realistic scenes transport visitors to magical places in the past. **Huchuy Qosqo - Qaqyaqawana Archaelogical Zone**

43 km to the northwest of the city of Cusco (1 hr. by car) and then 4.8 km (2 hr. on foot from Lamay). Ticket entry.

This site is known as Huchuy Qosqo (little Cusco) because of the similarity of its layout to that of the principal Inca center. Its terraces, which facilitated optimal utilization of the soil, are testimony to the engineering and architecture knowledge of the culture that constructed it.

Ooricocha Lake

1 hr. 45 min by car from the city of Cusco, or 4 hr. on foot from Tambomachay (via the communities of Q'enqo and Patabamba). The lagoon is an interesting attraction because its black color enables the Andean sky to reflect in its waters. Local fauna includes the wild

the Andean sky to reflect in its waters. Local fauna includes the wild duck and the Andean goose (huallata). This lagoon is an ideal place for hiking, fishing, boating, and standup paddling.

Urgo Archaeological Site

51.5 km to the north of the city of Cusco (1 hr. 20 min. by car). / 3 km from the city of Calca (10 min. by car).

A visit to this site allows the visitor to learn about the Inca irrigation system. The system of terraces was part of the domain of the Inca Urqo, brother of Pachacuteq, and was irrigated by a canal from a *huaca*.

Ankasmarka Archaeological Site

73 km to the north of the city of Cusco (2 hr. by car).

The site is characterized by its qolqas, stone and mud constructions used by the Incas to store food.

Paucartambo Province

Paucartambo

109 km from the city of Cusco (2 hr. 30 min by car).

Located next to the Mappacho river at an elevation of 2906 meters, this town retains its colonial style architecture. Its name comes from the Quechua phrase pawqar tampu (colorful tambo). It was a military supply center for the Inca Titu Cusi Yupanqui. Its main attractions are the colonial bridge Carlos III and the Virgen del Carmen temple, better known as Mamacha Carmen.

Ninamarca Chullpas

83 km to the northeast of the city of Cusco (2 hr. by car) above the Cusco - Paucartambo highway.

This site consists of 30 funerary structures from the pre-Inca period with a cylindrical and regular shape. They belonged to the Lupaca people.

Watogto Archaeological Group

112 km to the northeast of the city Cusco (2 hr. 40 min by car). This site consists of a large rectangular temple located beside rectangular and quadrangular enclosures of varying sizes. It has been restored and visitors can fully appreciate the architectural details.

Tres Cruces Viewpoint

154 km to the east of the city of Cusco (4 hr. by car). Ticket entry. The Tres Cruces (Three Crosses) natural lookout offers a privileged view of the Manu Biosphere Reserve. In addition, during the winter solstice (June or July) it is the scene of the unusual white ray phenomenon that sees three suns appear in the sky at dawn.

Manu National Park

224 km (8 hr. by bus and 137 km - 7 hours by boat), to the northeast of the city of Cusco. Visits are undertaken with registered travel agencies.

The park's territory includes high Andean habitats, cloud forests, and tropical forests that extend across the regions of Cusco and Madre de Dios. On tour of its trails the visitor will be amazed by the rich biodiversity, which includes 10% of the world's plant species.

Quispicanchi Province

Tipón Archaeological Park

25 km to the southeast of the city of Cusco (1 hr. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Entry with tourist ticket. According to legend, this site was one of the gardens that Wiracocha ordered be built. From the 12 terraces—with platforms, canals, and waterfalls—the view is spectacular.

Pikillagta

30 km to the south of the city of Cusco (40 min. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Entry with tourist ticket.



This Pre-Inca city reached its height between A.D. 800 and 1100. A wall separates its rectangular buildings and its straight streets.

Andahuaylillas Temple - the Andean Barroque Route

41,4 km to the south of the city of Cusco (1 hr. by car) as far as the Andahuaylillas Temple. Ticket entry.

The first stop on this tour is the temple of San Pedro Apóstol de Andahuaylillas, also known as the Sistine Chapel of America for the mural paintings like frescos that adorn its walls and ceilings. The circuit is completed by the San Juan Bautista de Huaro temple and the Virgen de la Candelaria de Canicunca chapel, dating from the 17th and 18th centuries respectively. Together they house the oldest organs on the continent and works by the renowned artist Tadeo Escalante.

Lucre Huacarpay Wetlands

31,4 km (40 min. by car) to the southeast of the city of Cusco. This site is the favorite destination in Cusco for bird watching enthusiasts. Its biodiversity includes 120 bird species.

Oropesa Village

27,1 km to the southwest of the city of Cusco (30 min. by car). The village is known for its chutas—large bread products prepared in homemade ovens. One of its attractions is the church of San Salvador de Oropesa, built in stone.

Huasao Village

20 km to the southwest of the city of Cusco (30 min. by car). Visitors from neighboring communities come to the "village of the sorcerers" to receive cures from the pacos (Andean priests), to make requests to the apus, or to express gratitude for the granting of their wishes

Huasao Wetland

19 Km southeast of Cusco (30 min by car). Opening hours: Mon 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm / Tue-Sun 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. Ticket entry. Conformed by four water mirror, in this wetland you can see an unique ecosystem along a cobbled path of 1120 meters.

Ausangate Mountain

120 km to the southeast of the city of Cusco (3 hr. by car) to the community of Tinke, from where the trekking route of 5 days/4 nights beains.

Each August the inhabitants of the Andes make offerings to this mountain, which they consider sacred. At other times of the year, it attracts trekking and mountaineering enthusiasts who take advantage



of the adventure to discover beautiful lagoons such as Sibinicocha and to appreciate camelids and condors in the midst of their natural habitat.

Acomayo Province

Waqrapukara Archaeological Site

115 km from the city of Cusco (2:20 hr by car) to Sangarara, then 40 min by car until "Punta Carretera", then 5 km hike (2 hr). Other routes for Wayki, Santa Lucia and Campi.

Known as the Waqrapukara Fortress, this was a strategic place in the ideological order of Andean sacred topography because it receives the first rays of the sun in the morning and the last at sunset. In 2017, the site was declared Cultural Patrimony of the Nation.

Four Lagoons Circuit

107 km to the southeast of the city of Cusco (2 hr. by car) until Pomacanchi Lagoon.

This circuit that enables the visitor to appreciate four lagoons thanks to the efforts of 40 communities who offer meals, lodging, and guided tours. The first stop is Pomacanchi lagoon, a habitat for huitas, as well as trout, Peruvian silverside, ccarachis, ch'iñis, and carp—making it suitable for fishing. Acopia is the next lagoon and has similar flora and fauna. The name of the third lagoon, Asnaqocha, means "lagoon with an unpleasant odor". The final lagoon, Pampamarca, lies at the highest point of the route—3750 meters. Its abundant bulrushes are home to Andean flamingos and wild ducks. The route can also be toured on bicycle.

Canchis Province

Checacupe Colonial Bridge

94 km from Cusco (2 hr. by car). Ticket entry

Built in the 17th century, this structure is made of lime and quarried stone, and has the shape of a semicircular arch mounted on the solid walls of natural crags. The bridge crosses the Pitumarca river. The bases of an Inca bridge and the rails of a republican era structure are also visible

Virgen Inmaculada de Checacupe Temple

99.6 km from Cusco (2 hr. by car). Ticket entry.

This colonial temple of a single nave holds the oldest image of the

Immaculate Conception in Cusco and probably in the Americas. It was built in adobe over an Inca palace. It also houses old murals, paintings from the Cusco School, and a baroque altar decorated in gold leaf.

Palccoyo or Rainbow Mountain range

At 128 km from the city of Cusco, then a walk along a 3 km pedestrian path to the last viewpoint. Ticket entry.

The colorful mountains of Warsayani, Calle Calle, Yuraq Q'aqa, Apacheta and many more are known as the Rainbow Mountain range, which corresponds to a series of colorful lithological sequences that owe their tones to their mineral and organic components, as well as to superficial alteration. They are of lacustrine and marine sedimentary origin deposited millions of years ago and were affected by compressive tectonic processes during the formation of the Andes mountain range. Erosion has exposed these layers obliquely and even subvertically, as they are seen today.

Vinicunca or Rainbow Mountain

Via Pitumarca: 128 km to the southeast of the city of Cusco, with the final 2 km undertaken hiking towards the mountain. Ticket entry. Via Cusipata: 101 km to the southeast of the city of Cusco, with the final 4 km undertaken hiking towards the mountain. Ticket entry.

The Vinicunca Mountain, in the Vilcanota Mountain range and next to Ausangate snowy peak, has a colorful and natural coloration by the presence of sedimentary rocks.

Ragchi archaeological park

119 km (2 hr. by car) to the southeast of the city of Cusco. Ticket entry.

The complex includes the Wiracocha temple, made of adobe walls on a base of volcanic stone. There are dozens of qolqas and evidence of a residential area for the nobility.

Ragchi Village

119 km (2 hr. by car) to the southeast of the city of Cusco. Free entry. A visit to Raqchi is an excellent opportunity to practice experiential tourism and to learn more about the traditions of this community dedicated to agriculture and handcrafts.

Machupitumarca

107 km from the city of Cusco (2 hr. by car).

This archaeological site built by the Canchis culture was later occupied by the Incas. It consists of three sectors. The first houses a series of platforms. Another has walls that form an enclosure that probably served religious purposes. The third consists of small enclosures with more elaborate walls.

Canas Province

O'eswachaka Inca Bridge

180 km to the south of the city Cusco (3 hr. 30 min by car). Ticket entry.

Standing on this bridge the visitor can view the Apurímac canyon.









It is part of an important pre-Inca tradition: communities come together each year to weave a new bridge with ichu and chachacomo braided straw.

Languilayo Lagoon

166 km (3 hr. by car) to the southeast of the city of Cusco.

The lagoon is the habitat of fish species such as the suche, the chiñichallhua, and the carachi, as well as birds such as the wild duck, the Andean gull and the huallata. Its surroundings are used for growing potatoes and quinoa:

Espinar Province

Three Canyons of Suykutambo

241 km to the south of the city Cusco (5 hr. by car).

The Apurímac, Callumani, and Cerritambo rivers converge at this point to form the Great Apurímac, a destination for canoe and kayak enthusiasts. Its mountains, crowned by interesting formations produced from erosion, are ideal for rock climbing, downhill, and motocross.

Kanamarka Archaeological Zone

236 km to the south of the city Cusco (4 hr. 45 min by car).

This pre-Inca citadel consists of various precincts, golqas, passages, roads, reservoirs, and canals. It was built entirely in limestone and mud.

Mauk'allagta Archaeological Site

231 km south of the city of Cusco (4 hr. 40 min by car).

Stone and clay constructions give shape to this center divided into five sectors. One of them served as a burial place for members of the elite.....

Paruro Province

Mauk'allaqta Archaeological Site

36,5 km southeast of the city of Cusco to the district of Yaurisque (50 min by car), approximately 5 km truck trail (30 min) to Mollebamba, and then a 1,5 km walk.

The archaeological site of Mauk'allaqta was a small Inca city planned and symmetrically constructed with limestone, which shows better quality buildings, such as squares, streets, rectangular buildings, a ceremonial center, aqueducts, terraces and cultivation fields.

Tampu Togo Cave

64 km (1 hr. by car) to the southeast of the city of Cusco.

Cápac Toco. It is said that the Áyar brothers appeared here in one of the three windows of the Paqarektambo cave on Tampu Toqo mountain before departing for Cusco to create the empire.



In Cusco, gastronomy is history, knowledge, and the adaptation of mankind to the environment. It is also the authenticity of the local culture and its later fusion with the new. Behind each dish are ancestral agriculture, local products, and a regional recipe book. The city offers international and *criolla* options, as well as the chef's own creations—which are usually recreations of classic recipes that allow local ingredients to shine and gain exposure.

Local eating and drinking venues known as *chicherias* and *picanterías* remain to be discovered by the visitor. Tables are shared and a variety of food is served: fried *malaya* (steak), *zarza de patitas* (pig's trotter), *sara lawa* (cream of corn), *adobo* (marinade), *soltero de queso* (a cheese salad), fried trout, and *chicharrón con mote* (pork crackling with hominy). *Chicha* (a corn-based drink) is the essential beverage to accompany and enjoy the meal.





The region's traditional crafts include fine alpaca wool fabrics, ceramic pieces, carefully prepared images, and silver jewelry that displays Andean motifs. San Blas is the most representative neighborhood for these traditions in the city of Cusco. It is home to the workshops of renowned teachers such as Edilberto Mérida, Antonio Olave, Gregorio Béjar, and the Mendivil family. Outside the city craft fairs can be found in Corao, Písac, and Chinchero. They are well known for the sale of alpaca fiber and silver jewelry.

Cusco City Center





Urban area

+++ By rail

- (1) Cathedral
- Church of the Company of Jesus
- San Blas Temple
- Minor Basilica and La Merced Convent
- 5 Santo Domingo Temple and Convent (Qorikancha)
- 6 Museum and catacombs of the convent of San Francisco de Asís
- San Cristóbal church
- (8) Qorikancha site museum
- Museum of Religious Art and the Twelve-angled Stone
- (10) House of Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (Regional Historic Museum)
- 11) Pre-Columbian Art Museum
- (12) Almirante Palace (Inka Museum)
- (13) Natural History Museum
- (14) Popular Art Museum
- (15) Contemporary Art Museum
- (16) Santa Catalina museum
- Machupicchu Museum in the Concha Mansion
- (18) Oosgo Native Art Center
- (19) Cusco Municipal Theater
- Culture Directorate (ticket sales for Machupicchu)
- (21) COSITUC Tourist Ticket Office
- (22) Inca Pachacuteg monument
- (23) DIRCETUR
- (24) Office of Immigration
- 25) Banco de la Nación

IPERÚ

M City Hall

Medical attention

Post Office

Police

Bus stop







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The information in this brochure was updated in November 2019.

In developing it, PROMPERU has used official information sources, including the Cusco Regional Directorate of Foreign Trade, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Opening hours and telephone numbers are subject to change by any of the tourist attactions. Confirm opening hours and telephone numbers with IPERU.

Una publicación de la Comisión de Promoción del Perú para la Exportación y el Turismo - PROMPERÚ. Calle Uno Oeste n.º 50, piso 14, urb. Córpac, San Isidro, Lima - Perú Telephone: (+51-1) 616-7300

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