

# PERU'S INCA TRAIL

YOUNG ALUMNI TOUR 2020



## BE PART OF THE TRADITION

APRIL 4 - U.S. DEPARTURE DATE

APRIL 5 - LAND TOUR START DATE

APRIL 10 - TRAVEL HOME (arrive U.S. APRIL 11)

BASE LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$ 1,875



**EXPLORERS**  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM



# START YOUR ADVENTURE.

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow University of Illinois young alumni? The University of Illinois Alumni Alliance young alumni travel program offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

Travel with young alumni and friends of peer institutions, ages 22 - 35. These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to the University of Illinois Alumni Alliance family. They are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 40 years of experience in the young professional travel market. In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about our young alumni travel program, please contact us by emailing our tour operator, AESU, at [alumni@aesu.com](mailto:alumni@aesu.com) or call 800-638-7640.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Dillavou  
President, University of Illinois Alumni Alliance  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations, UIUC



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ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM



## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend travel insurance. (Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you at a reduced rate.) If not, AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or click on this link:

<https://www.tripassure.com/main/?welcome=AESU3922MD>

# PERU'S INCA TRAIL

8 DAYS

## PLACES VISITED:

Cusco - Machu Picchu - Sacred Valley of the Incas -  
Ollantaytambo - Aguas Calientes

## ABOUT THE TRIP:

Considered one of the most famous archaeological sites on the continent, the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu exceeds every visitor's expectations. Set in a spectacular location, in the middle of a tropical mountain forest, it is likely the most amazing urban creation of the Incan Empire. Explore the spectacular ruins of Ollantaytambo in the beautiful Río Urubamba Valley, known as the Sacred Valley, and the Moray archaeological site with its series of concentric agricultural terraces. Discover the ancient salt pans known as Salineras de Maras, which have been used for salt extraction since Inca times. This journey will take your breath away!



## WHAT'S INCLUDED:

The 8-day land package includes:

5 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better,  
2-share rooms with private bath/shower \* Inca Trail  
by Expedition Train \* 5 buffet breakfast \*  
3 lunches: 2 box lunches on full day excursions and  
1 lunch buffet at local restaurant in Aguas Calientes  
\* 2 specialty dinners: Welcome dinner with dance  
entertainment in Cusco and farewell dinner in Cusco  
\* Half-day private walking tour of Cusco with local  
historian \* Half-day excursion to Ollantaytambo Inca  
fortress \* Full-day hiking, visits include the Moray  
archaeological site, the town of Maras, the village of  
Pichingoto \* Sun Gate with views of Machu Picchu. \*  
Admission to Machu Picchu.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Welcome orientation and dinner with musical  
entertainment in Cusco \* Imperial City of Cusco \*  
Sacred Valley \* Village of Ollantaytambo with its  
impressive Inca Fortress \* Moray archaeological site \*  
Maras salt pans \* Expedition Train \* Chachabamba,  
Winaywayna and Inti Punku archeological complexes  
\* Sun Gate \* Machu Picchu, UNESCO World Cultural  
Heritage site and one of the New 7 Wonders of the  
World \* Mount Huayna Picchu, the Young Mountain  
\* Temple of the Moon \* Guided tour of the Imperial  
City of Cusco ...and much more!



# PERU'S INCA TRAIL

## ITINERARY

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### DAY 1 - FLIGHT TO PERU

Board your overnight flight to Cusco today.

Meals: In-flight

### DAY 2 - CUSCO

Upon arrival at Cusco airport, transfer to your group hotel. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to explore the city. Start adjusting to the altitude in preparation for our trek. Consider joining an optional excursion to nearby archaeological sites. In the evening, join us for a welcome orientation and dinner. Meet your tour director and fellow young alumni travelers while being entertained by local dance performances.

Meals: In-flight, Dinner

Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare, Welcome orientation and dinner of local specialties

Optional activity: Excursion to archeological sites, Sacsayhuaman Fortress and Puca Pucara



### DAY 3 - CUSCO - SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS - OLLANTAYTAMBO

This morning, we board our private motor coach and start our journey to the Sacred Valley. Our destination, Ollantaytambo, is a small town built around an impressive Incan fortress and soaring peaks of the Andes. For an amazing view and a closer look, we climb up over 200 steps to admire the astonishing monoliths that make up the Temple of the Sun. This was the site of a rare Inca victory over the Spanish in 1538, led by Manco Inca. We continue to our hotel for the overnight stay.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Ollantaytambo Inca temples and ruins, Sacred Valley of the Incas, Temple of the Sun



### DAY 4 - SACRED VALLEY

Today we explore the "Sacred Valley of the Incas." We first reach the Moray archaeological site, where giant Incan circular and semi-circular agricultural terraces were constructed to be used as a botanical laboratory. Here they experimented on plant domestication and foreign crop acclimatization in the fascinating cloud forest eco system. In Maras, we hike down to the largest salt pans in the region, which have been mined continuously since the Incan Empire. Leaving Maras, we arrive at the village of Pichingoto, the top salt producer during the Spanish colonial era. We return to our hotel through the Sacred Valley, lined with corn fields and green prairies.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Inclusions: Sacred Valley of the Incas, Moray archaeological site, Maras ancient Incan salt pans, Village of Pichingoto



### DAY 5 - SACRED VALLEY - MACHU PICCHU - AGUAS CALIENTES

We check out of our hotel this morning and board our private motor coach to the Ollantaytambo train station.

# PERU'S INCA TRAIL

## ITINERARY

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The expedition train will take us on a scenic journey to KM 104 where we join the Camino Inca. From here we start our trek to the Chachabamba site, then ascend to a striking waterfall. After lunch our hike continues to the Inti Punku or 'Sun Gate' with an amazing view of Machu Picchu. Continue to Aguas Calientes by motor coach with some free time to explore the thermo-medicinal hot springs.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch](#)

[Inclusions: Ollantaytambo train station transfer, Expedition train to KM 104, Trekking to Chachabamba site, Chachabamba waterfall, Inti Punku 'Sun Gate', Amazing views of Machu Picchu, Aguas Calientes](#)

### DAY 6 - MACHU PICCHU - CUSCO

This morning, after a short bus ride, we will hike up to the Macchu Picchu ruins, a national sanctuary, UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, and one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. Our local expert shows us the breathtaking and mysterious ruins as we climb to the top of Mount Huayna Picchu (267 m), Quechua for 'Young Mountain,' on the eastern side of the Central Cordillera. This peak shelters another archaeological site, the Temple of the Moon, which is connected to Machu Picchu. We return to Aguas Calientes for a lunch of Peruvian fare before boarding our train back to Ollantaytambo. Our final destination today is Cusco, where we check-in to our hotel for our last overnight. Share your impressions of the last days with fellow explorers during our farewell dinner of local specialties.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner](#)

[Inclusions: Citadel of Machu Picchu, Mount Huayna Picchu trek, Temple of the Moon, Lunch of Peruvian fare](#)

### DAY 7 - CUSCO - TRAVEL HOME

After we check-out and store our luggage at the hotel, a local historian takes us on a tour of the impressive Imperial City of Cusco, an example of the harmonious coexistence of the Andean and Spanish cultures. We tour the Koricancha, an ancient sacred space the Incas dedicated to the worship of the sun and the moon. We continue to the Main Square with the imposing Cathedral, and the magnificent Jesuit church. The city's colonial buildings compose the most beautiful and captivating sceneries in Peru. We finish our tour with a visit to the bohemian neighborhood of San Blas, known as 'the artists' district' with narrow winding streets lined with popular arts and craft shops. Later we transfer to the airport for our overnight flights home.

[Meals: Breakfast, In-Flight](#)

[Inclusions: Guided tour of the Imperial city of Cusco with a local historian, San Blas, artists' district, Transfer hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare](#)

Your trip includes the services of a private tour director for the duration of the land tour. All services charges and local taxes are included. Thank your tour director with a gratuity at the end of the tour (suggested amount \$4-5 per day) He or she will do their very best to make this trip the most memorable and best time of your life.



# PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

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## HOTELS

Our hotels are superior tourist-class or better, with private bathrooms. They are centrally located or have easy access to public transportation. Many have great extra amenities such as pools, gyms and roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged a single supplement of \$199 will apply.



## ACTIVITY LEVEL 3: MODERATE/ACTIVE

This trip features some full-day excursions, and a full and active itinerary with a faster pace. It offers activities with higher intensity. Excursions require standing and walking for extended periods of time over more difficult terrain (e.g. cobblestones, city hills, stairs without handrails, limited or no access to elevators, muddy/slippery walking/hiking trails.) Appropriate for travelers who are physically fit, lead active lives and are comfortable participating in long days of activities.

Please Note:

Travel to and from the tour is not factored into our activity level ratings. You should take into account your stamina when traveling long distances and/or with multiple flight changes. Also, you must be able to handle your luggage independently throughout the itinerary.

## TOUR DIRECTORS

We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major European universities. They are eager to show the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.



**“THE TOUR WAS PERFECT...  
THE GROUP WAS ALL  
CLOSE IN AGE AND HAD  
SIMILAR INTERESTS...  
WE HAD A GREAT TIME  
TOGETHER. THANK YOU!”**

- past traveler

# BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

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**EXCLUSIONS:** These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$4-5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. All cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$500 per person cancellation fee. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. In addition to \$500, cancellation between 120-60 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost. Cancellation within 59 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Medical health and accident insurance is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS & BAGGAGE:** All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond AESU's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. Trip cancellation insurance should be purchased by the individual traveler in the event cancellation of the tour is compelled by circumstances beyond our control. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, AESU's liability shall be limited to a FULL REFUND of all payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. AESU reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at [www.aesu.com](http://www.aesu.com).