



UConn ALUMNI

THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT FOUNDATION, INC.

PERU'S INCA TRAIL THE SACRED VALLEY

2024 RECENT GRADUATE JOURNEY

US DEPARTURE DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2024

LAND TOUR START DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2024

RETURN DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2024

ARRIVE US: OCTOBER 12, 2024

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$1,998

START YOUR ADVENTURE.



Dear UConn Alumni and Friends,

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow UConn Huskies?

Join us in October 2024 for an unforgettable journey to discover Peru's Inca Trail. 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, then visit the Moray archaeological site with its series of concentric agricultural terraces. Discover the ancient terraced salt ponds known as Salineras de Maras that have been used for salt extraction since pre-Inca times. This journey will take your breath away!

This trip is part of our Recent Graduate Travel program, which is designed with UConn graduates from the classes of 2013 – 2024 in mind. These journeys provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to UConn.

Our travel partner, AESU Alumni World Travel, has over 46 years of experience, and they have curated a quality journey at a great value. In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates, and pricing. If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator AESU Alumni World Travel by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com. To book online, please visit our alumni tour landing page at www.aesu.com/uconn and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are happy that you are part of our growing family of more than 280,000 alumni worldwide. Please remember that the UConn Foundation Office of Alumni Relations is here to help you stay connected – Huskies Forever.

In UConn Spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marinda Reynolds".

Marinda Reynolds
Senior Associate Vice President for Stakeholder Engagement
UConn Office of Alumni Relations
2384 Alumni Drive, Unit 3053
Storrs, CT 06269
1.888.822.5861

Visit our website www.aesu.com/uconn for more details and to book.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory.

(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 visit this link:

<https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/get-a-quote.html?partner=AESU3922>

PERU'S INCA TRAIL



8 DAYS | 5 NIGHTS

CITIES VISITED:
AGUAS CALIENTES | CUSCO

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

8-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 5 nights at superior tourist class hotel or better, 2-share accommodations with private bath/shower
 - Inca Trail by Expedition Train
 - Private motor coach service as per itinerary
- Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals

- 10 meals: 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

Activities and Admissions

- 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
- Full-day Inca Trail with professional bi-lingual guides, incl. Chachabamba and Intipunku archeological sites, Inti Punku 'Sun Gate' with views of Machu Picchu
- Full-day Inca Trail with professional bi-lingual guides, incl. the citadel of Machu Picchu and Mount Huayna Picchu
 - Entrance fee to short Inca trail
 - Admission to Machu Picchu and Huayna Picchu

Plus

- Private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour
- All service charges and local taxes

Optional Activities (not included in land package price):

- Day 2: Afternoon half-day visit to archaeological sites

Tour Highlights

- Welcome orientation and dinner with musical entertainment in 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



PERU'S INCA TRAIL ITINERARY

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, then visit the Moray archaeological site with its series of concentric agricultural terraces. Discover the ancient terraced salt ponds known as Salineras de Maras that have been used for salt extraction since pre-Inca times. This journey will take your breath away!

- DAY 1** **FLIGHT TO PERU**
Board your overnight flight to Cusco today.
Meals: In-flight

- DAY 2** **LAND TOUR START DAY: 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 and consider joining an optional excursion to the nearby archaeological sites. In the evening, join us for a welcome orientation and dinner. Meet your tour director and fellow travelers while being entertained by local dance performances.
Meals: In-Flight, Dinner
Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare, Cusco, gateway to Machu Picchu, Welcome orientation and dinner of local specialties
Optional activity: Excursion to archeological sites, Sacsayhuaman Fortress and Puca Pucara, guided by a local expert (Elevation: 11,152 ft)

- 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 two hundred 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. After some free time to visit the town and market, we continue to our hotel for the overnight stay in the Sacred Valley.
Meals: Breakfast
Inclusions: Guided excursion and hike, led by a local expert, Ollantaytambo Inca temples and ruins, Sacred Valley of the Incas, Temple of the Sun

Duration of excursion: approx. 4 hours
Elevation: 9,160 ft



DAY 4

SACRED VALLEY | MARAS | MORAY | PICHINGOTO

Today we explore the “Sacred Valley of the Incas.” We first reach the Moray archaeological site, where giant Incan circular and semicircular 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 ecosystem. 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 (box)

Inclusions: Guided excursion, led by a local expert, Sacred Valley of the Incas, Moray archaeological site, Maras ancient Incan salt pans, Village of Pichingoto

Duration of excursion: approx. 6 hours

Elevation: 10,500 ft

DAY 5

SACRED VALLEY | SHORT INCA TRAIL BY EXPEDITION TRAIN | MACHU PICCHU | AGUAS CALIENTES

We check out of our hotel this morning and board our private motor coach to the Ollantaytambo train station. 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 an upwards climb, we arrive at the Incas site Wiñay Wayna called “Forever Young,” an impressive complex made up of an agricultural center with terraces, a religious sector and an urban sector. After a boxed lunch, we will then continue for about one hour further onto “Inti Punku” – “The Sun Gate” with an amazing view of Machu Picchu. Return to Aguas Calientes by motor coach and enjoy free time to explore the thermo-medicinal hot springs.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (box)

Inclusions: Guided excursion, led by a local expert, Ollantaytambo train station transfer, Expedition train to KM 104, Trekking to Chachabamba site, Chachabamba waterfall, Wiñay Wayna Inca ruins, Admission to Machu Picchu, Inti Punku ‘Sun Gate’, Amazing views of Machu Picchu, Aguas Calientes

Duration of excursion: approx. 8 hours

Hike distance: 15 km

Elevation: 8,695 ft

DAY 6

AGUAS CALIENTES | MACHU PICCHU | CUSCO

This morning, after a short bus ride, we will hike up to the Machu Picchu ruins, a national sanctuary, a 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, 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: Guided excursion, led by a local expert, Citadel of Machu Picchu, UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, Mount Huayna Picchu trek, Temple of the Moon, Lunch of Peruvian fare, Imperial city of Cusco

Duration of excursion: approx.: 5 hours

Elevation: 8,835 ft



DAY 7

CUSCO – TRAVEL HOME

After we checkout 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, Koricancha, ancient sacred Incan space, Main Square with cathedral and Jesuit church, Neighborhood of San Blas, artists' district, Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

DAY 8

ARRIVE HOME

Arrive home with memories of one of the world's most intriguing destinations and plans for your next exciting adventure!

PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS



Hey Bucket List Traveler!

If you're an adventurer, Peru is a country that should be at the top of your travel bucket list! The ancient city of Cusco is a cultural and historical gem, with a buzzing atmosphere that will leave you feeling energized. Embark on unforgettable hikes and reach the majestic Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, then explore the spectacular ruins of Ollantaytambo in the Río Urubamba Valley, surrounded by breathtaking views. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the trek to Moray and Maras to see the stunning salt flats and agricultural terraces that have been in use for centuries. With its combination of history, culture, and natural beauty, this vibrant country is sure to leave you with unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime.

This trip has been carefully designed and features fantastic inclusions and highlights.



Culinary



Culture & Heritage



Leisure & Free Time



Landscapes & Wildlife



Outdoor & Adventure



Educational



Eco Friendly

For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/aspects-awt



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE/ACTIVE

For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show you the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime for you 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.

HOTELS

Our hotels offer superior tourist class accommodations, with private bathrooms. Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$375 applies. 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 the single supplement will apply.

“

THIS WAS AN AMAZING, TRIP OF A LIFETIME. I WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT.

”

- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

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 \$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; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, 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. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 120 days prior to departure will result in a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 119-90 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 89-60 days 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 30 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

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. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. **PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.**

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND 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. 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, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, 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, 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 the Operator's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. **TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator's control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant's land booking. 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. The Operator 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.

UCONN FOUNDATION DISCLAIMER

The UConn Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation") is not the travel program tour operator. The Foundation does not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this travel program. Providers of transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and any other goods or services for this program are independent contractors not under the control of the Foundation. The Foundation is not liable for any wrongful, negligent, willful, arbitrary or other acts or omissions of any independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives or of any other third party. The Foundation is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay or damage to person or property whatsoever arising from or related to the travel program or the provision of any goods or services thereunder whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God, acts of government, acts of war, riot, civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, strikes or other labor activities, flood, cyclone, hurricane, fire, earthquake or other natural occurrence, weather event or disaster, animals, food poisoning, illness, pandemic or disease, mechanical or other failure of aircraft, vessels or other means of transportation, failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely, termination or cancellation of services by suppliers for any reason, missed carrier connections, overbooking or downgrading of services or accommodations, substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, without or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. The Foundation shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right is reserved to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's health, actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. By paying the deposit or participating in this travel program applicants and participants accept in full all of the terms and conditions set forth herein and on the tour operator's website at www.aesu.com.

For and in consideration of the benefits received in connection with the travel program, participants, individually and on behalf their dependents, hereby agree and grant to the Foundation a limited, non-exclusive, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual, royalty-free right, license and release, with right to sublicense, to exhibit, publish, display, and promote the photographs, images, visual depictions, and reproductions recorded in digital or other format during the program ("Photos") for use by the Foundation in its sole discretion. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the license granted herein includes the right, without limitation, to reproduce the Photos in digital or other form, to edit such materials, and to publicly display, publish and/or distribute such reproductions on proprietary websites and in such other digital media and print materials as the Foundation may elect.

Payment Plan: pay a little at a time and make your trip more affordable.

After paying a deposit of \$500 online to reserve your spot, you can pay your balance in as many installments as you like, with a minimum of \$100 for each transaction. Please indicate booking number on your check payment. If you prefer to pay by credit card, please call us at 800-638-7640 for details. (All prices reflect a cash discount. There is a 4% processing fee for any payments made by credit card after initial deposit.) The total tour cost (land, and air if applicable) must be paid in full at least 90 days before departure.