



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# PERU'S INCA TRAIL

2026 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY



## BUCKET LIST TRAVELER

Optional Lima Pre-tour US Departure: **October 8, 2026**

Main Tour US Departure: **Oct 10, 2026** | Cusco Return: **Oct 16, 2026** | US Arrival: **Oct 17, 2026**

Optional Rainbow Mountain Post Tour Cusco Return: **Oct 17, 2026** | US Arrival: **Oct 18, 2026**

Land package from: **\$2198**

Visit our website [www.aesu.com/osu](http://www.aesu.com/osu) for more details and to book.



# START YOUR ADVENTURE

## Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow Ohio State University Alumni?

The Ohio State University young alumni travel program, designed for recent grads ages 21 – 40, 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.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning, enrichment and enjoying a connection back to Ohio State. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 48 years of experience in the young travel market.

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](mailto:alumni@aesu.com).

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page [www.aesu.com/osu](http://www.aesu.com/osu) and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Best regards,

Debbie Vargo  
Director, Alumni Tours  
The Ohio State University Alumni Association  
[ADV-AlumniTours@osu.edu](mailto:ADV-AlumniTours@osu.edu)

Visit our website at [www.go.osu.edu/travel](http://www.go.osu.edu/travel)

We highly recommend travel insurance. You will receive insurance information directly from Ohio State.

For more information visit: <http://my.travelinsure.com/ohiostate/>

# PERU'S INCA TRAIL

Get ready for the ultimate adventure in Peru! Explore Lima's vibrant Barranco district, and lively Surquillo Market. In Cusco, dive into history with the sacred Koricancha temple and the artistic San Blas neighborhood. Hike through the Sacred Valley to Ollantaytambo's Inca fortress, then discover the surreal Moray terraces and Maras salt pans. Trek the Short Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, soak in epic views from Inti Punku, and wander through ancient ruins. Thrill-seekers conquer Rainbow Mountain's stunning colors and capture breathtaking Andean vistas. Adventure, culture, and unforgettable moments await.

## 8-DAY TOUR OF CUSCO, THE SACRED VALLEY, OLLANTAYTAMBO, MACHU PICCHU, AND AGUAS CALIENTES

### Transportation and Lodging

- 5 nights at 3 or 4-star hotels, 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

- 5 buffet breakfasts
- 3 lunches including: 2 box lunches on full day excursions and 1 lunch buffet at local restaurant in Aguas Calientes
- 2 dinners including: Welcome dinner with dance entertainment in Cusco and Farewell dinner in Cusco

### Activities & 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

### Sights

Imperial City of Cusco | Sacred Valley | Village of Ollantaytambo with its impressive Inca Fortress | Moray archaeological site | Maras salt pans | Expedition train | Chachabamba and Inti Punku archeological complexes | Inti Punku '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

### PLUS

A private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour  
All service charges and local taxes

## OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR TO LIMA (3 DAYS)

### Transportation and Lodging

- 2 nights at 3 or 4-star hotels, 2-share accommodations with private bath/shower
- Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

### Meals

- 2 buffet breakfasts
- 1 dinner of Peruvian specialties

### Activities & Admissions

- Half-day private walking tour of Lima with local historian

### Sights

Surquillo Market | Plaza Mayor (Plaza de Armas) | Cathedral of Lima | Calle Capón (Lima's Chinatown) | Barranco District

## OPTIONAL POST-TOUR TO THE RAINBOW MOUNTAINS (2 DAYS INCLUDING OVERNIGHT FLIGHT)

### Transportation and Lodging

- 1 night at 3 or 4-star hotel, 2-share accommodations with private bath/shower
- Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

### Meals

- 1 buffet breakfasts
- 1 lunch during hike

### Activities & Admissions

- Round-trip transportation from Cusco to the trailhead
- Scenic 3-hour drive with views of the Ausangate Mountain and charming villages
- Experienced guide to lead the hike and provide insights
- 1.5-hour guided hike to Vinicunca Rainbow Mountain (16,498 feet)
- 4 miles of trekking through stunning Andean landscapes
- All entrance fees to the Rainbow Mountain area
- Photo opportunities with alpacas, llamas, and dramatic mountain scenery

### Sights

Ausangate Mountain | Charming mountain villages | Vinicunca Rainbow Mountain | Alpacas and Llamas

## EXPERIENCES

This trip has been carefully designed for young travelers and features fantastic inclusions and highlights. For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: [www.aesu.com/aspects-awt](http://www.aesu.com/aspects-awt)



## ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE/ACTIVE

This trip features a full and active itinerary sometimes at a fast pace and offers activities with higher intensity. For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>



## HOTELS

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 \$475 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.



# PERU'S INCA TRAIL PRE-TOUR

Arrive a few days early to discover Lima's incredible blend of history and modernity, where ancient ruins like Huaca Pucllana coexist with contemporary art and vibrant street life. Its culinary scene is world-renowned, offering a diverse array of flavors that reflect the city's rich cultural heritage. With its stunning coastal views, bustling markets, and historic neighborhoods, Lima provides an unforgettable urban experience that captures the essence of Peru.

- DAY 1 FLIGHT TO PERU (pre-tour)**  
Board your overnight flight to Lima today.  
**Meals:** In-flight
- DAY 2 LAND TOUR START DAY: LIMA**  
Welcome to Lima, Peru's vibrant capital and a city that's as full of life as it is rich in history. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel in the center of Lima and enjoy a free afternoon to explore on your own or relax before the adventure begins.  
**Meals:** In-flight  
**Inclusions:** Airport transfer included with purchased AESU group airfare
- DAY 3 LIMA**  
Whether you are wandering through the colorful streets of Barranco, savoring world-renowned Peruvian street food, or taking in the coastal ocean views, Lima has something for everyone. This buzzing city is a dynamic mix of old and new—where pre-Incan ruins stand beside trendy coffee shops and cutting-edge art galleries. With its incredible food scene, picture-perfect spots, and endless adventures, Lima is the perfect starting point for your Peruvian journey. After breakfast, we immerse ourselves in the vibrant atmosphere of the Surquillo Market, where the textures, colors, and aromas of local life come alive. This bustling market offers a true taste of Lima's daily rhythm and a chance to connect with its people. Continue via Plaza Mayor and the cathedral of Lima to one of the oldest Chinatowns in the Americas, Calle Capón—an energetic enclave showcasing the rich Chinese influence on the city. The afternoon is yours to continue exploring iconic sights like the Larco Museum, known for its fascinating pre-Columbian art, or the Barranco district's street art scene. We'll end the day with a dinner of delicious Peruvian specialties at a local restaurant.  
**Meals:** Breakfast | Dinner  
**Inclusions:** Guided walking tour of Lima, led by a local English-speaking guide | Dinner of Peruvian specialties at a local restaurant
- DAY 4 LIMA – CUSCO (DAY 2 of base land package)**  
This morning, transfer to Lima's airport to continue your journey to Cusco.  
Please note: If you are booking the Lima add-on, your international flight must include a stopover in Lima before arriving in Cusco. The domestic flight is not included in the package. If you have questions, contact an AESU reservations expert for details.  
Upon arrival in Cusco, transfer to your hotel in the city. Continue itinerary day 2 of base land package.



# PERU'S INCA TRAIL MAIN TOUR

● 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 morning at leisure to explore the city. Start adjusting to the altitude in preparation for our trek, join our local English-speaking expert 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. In the evening, join us for a welcome orientation and dinner with fellow young alumni travelers while being entertained by local dance performances.

**Inclusions:** Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare | Guided tour of the Imperial city of Cusco with a local historian | Welcome orientation and dinner of local specialties

**Sights include:** Koricancha, ancient sacred Incan space | Main Square with cathedral and Jesuit church | Neighborhood of San Blas, artists' district

**Meals:** In-flight | Dinner

**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.

**Inclusions:** Guided excursion and hike, led by a local expert | Ollantaytambo Inca temples and ruins | Sacred Valley of the Incas | Temple of the Sun

**Meals:** Breakfast

**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 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.

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

**Meals:** Breakfast | Box lunch

**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 box 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 hermes- medicinal hot springs.

**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

**Meals:** Breakfast | Box lunch

**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, 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 impressions of the last days with fellow explorers during our farewell dinner of local specialties.

**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

**Meals:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**Duration of excursion:** approx.: 5 hours

**Elevation:** 8,835 ft

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**THIS TRIP WAS THE MOST AMAZING AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE.**

”

● **DAY 7**

**CUSCO – TRAVEL HOME**

On your final day in Cusco, soak in the charm of the cobblestone streets, visit the local markets for some last-minute shopping, or simply reflect on the incredible journey we had. Later, catch your flight back home, with new memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. As you reminisce about your adventures in Peru, from the heights of Machu Picchu to the bustling streets of Cusco, you might already find yourself planning the next trip with your fellow travelers. The connections you've made and the experiences you've shared will surely inspire more adventures to come.

**Inclusions:** Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

**Meals:** Breakfast | In-flight

● **DAY 8**

**ARRIVE HOME**

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



● [continue to post tour on next page >](#)

# PERU'S INCA TRAIL POST TOUR

Stay an extra day and explore the breathtaking Rainbow, where vibrant hues of red, turquoise, and gold create a surreal, multicolored landscape. Standing at an impressive altitude of 16,498 feet, these natural wonders offer a stunning panoramic view that's both awe-inspiring and Instagram-worthy. The challenging trek to reach them adds to the adventure, making the journey to see these incredible mountains a truly unforgettable experience.

- DAY 1 (Day 7 on base itinerary) – CUSCO**

Rise and shine early for an unforgettable adventure. Your day begins with a scenic 3-hour drive to the trailhead, passing through the charming village of Cuscata. Along the way, be enchanted by herds of alpacas and llamas, and catch a glimpse of the majestic Ausangate Mountain—an incredible opportunity for those perfect snapshots. Upon arrival, we'll begin a 1.5-hour hike to the breathtaking Vinicunca, the famous Rainbow Mountain, towering at 16,498 feet. As you reach the iconic red hill, you will be greeted by the vibrant, natural colors of turquoise, orange, red, and brown sedimentary rock that paint this mesmerizing landscape. It is a view like no other, where the layers of colorful rock unfold into a surreal Andean dream. At the summit, take a well-deserved break to soak in the panoramic views and capture the moment. After reveling in the beauty of this natural wonder, we begin our descent, with the Andean vistas accompanying us along the way. Enjoy a hearty lunch before heading back to Cusco on a relaxing 2-hour drive. In total, this epic journey covers 4 miles (about 3 hours) of hiking and around 10 hours in total, combining driving and trekking. After a full day of adventure, rest up and reflect on the awe-inspiring experience with plenty of photos to post to keep everyone at home feeling just a little bit jealous.

**Meals:** Breakfast | Lunch

**Inclusions:** Round-trip transportation from Cusco to the trailhead | Scenic 3-hour drive with views of the Ausangate Mountain and charming villages | Experienced guide to lead the hike and provide insights | 1.5-hour guided hike to Vinicunca Rainbow Mountain (16,498 feet) | Time at the summit for photos, rest, and panoramic views | Lunch after the hike | 4 miles of trekking through stunning Andean landscapes | All entrance fees to the Rainbow Mountain area | Photo opportunities with alpacas, llamas, and dramatic mountain scenery
- DAY 2 CUSCO – TRAVEL HOME**

On our final day in Cusco, take time to soak in the charm of the cobblestone streets, explore the local markets for last-minute treasures, or simply reflect on the unforgettable journey we've had. Later, catch your flight home, carrying with you memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. As you reminisce about your adventures in Peru—from the heights of Machu Picchu to the vibrant streets of Cusco—you might already be dreaming of your next trip with your fellow travelers.

**Meals:** Breakfast | In-flight

**Inclusions:** Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare
- DAY 3 ARRIVE HOME**

Arrive home with unforgettable memories of one of the world's most captivating destinations, already dreaming of your next adventure.

## TOUR DIRECTORS

Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel. Show the tour director and driver your appreciation with a tip. We suggest \$6-7 per person/per day for your tour director. To learn more visit [www.aesu.com/tour-directors](http://www.aesu.com/tour-directors)

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