JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

SIGNATURE PERU AND CHILE: MACHU PICCHU AND EASTER ISLAND

15 days from **£5,930pp**

PERU / LIMA / MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO / SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS / CHILE / SANTIAGO AND THE VINEYARDS / EASTER ISLAND



WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE, NO-ONE KNOWS LATIN AMERICA LIKE WE DO

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

A passion for the region runs through all we do

All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America

Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

Fully bonded and licensed

ATOL-protected

On your side when it matters

Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks

We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions

Let us show you the Latin America we know and love

OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

There's not really any argument: in terms of cultural magnificence, enigmatic history, uniqueness and stunning human creativity, Machu Picchu and Easter Island are respectively Peru and Chile's most divine highlights.

DAY 1	**Arrive in Lima. Transfer to hotel in Miraflores.**
DAY 2	**Guided tour of the capital.**
DAY 3	**Fly to Cusco and continue to the Sacred Valley of the Incas.**
DAY 4	**Full day guided tour in the Sacred Valley: Maras, Moray, Chincheros**
DAY 5	**Visit Ollantaytambo temple fortress, on to Machu Picchu.**
DAY 6	**Return to Ollantaytambo by rail and proceed back to Cusco.**
DAY 7	**Guided walking tour of Cusco.**
DAY 8	**Fly to Santiago de Chile and transfer to your hotel.**
DAY 9	**Full day guided walking tour to Valparaiso and a vineyard.**
DAY 10	**Fly to Easter Island and your hotel in Hanga Roa town.**
DAY 11	**Introduction to Easter Island.**
DAY 12	**Further explorations of the island.**
DAY 13	**Day at leisure to relax or discover the hidden gems of Easter Island.**
DAY 14	**Fly back to Santiago.**
DAY 15	**Fly home**

ITINERARY

The Incas and the indigenous people of Easter Island couldn't be more diverse, reflected in their history and worldviews. But now you can combine the two, along with other stunning sights, on one, or two-week holidays to **Peru** and **Chile**. What seem to be isolated and remote places are in fact remarkably accessible: there are even direct non-stop flights to and from the UK.

Experience it all on our exclusive Peru and Chile tours

Start your trip in Lima, the City of Kings and certainly the most regal capital in **South America**. Fly up into the Andes and continue to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, Peru's bucolic paradise, peppered with the vestiges of Inca civilisation. From there it's a train journey through a dramatic canyon to Machu Picchu, where you spend the night close to the ruins so that you can benefit from a second visit to fully appreciate this extraordinary mountain-top site. From Imperial Cusco, you fly to **Santiago**, Chile's cosmopolitan and dynamic modern capital, and then fly across the Pacific Ocean to isolated, Polynesian Easter Island, famed for the remarkable stone statues of huge heads standing guard over the rugged scenery and lonely beaches.

DAY 1

Arrive in Lima. Transfer to hotel in Miraflores.

Fly into Lima, set on the coastal desert strip between the Pacific and the Andes. Colonial Spain's City of Kings is now a modern, bustling metropolis. The colonial centre, which is gradually being renovated, has many historic churches and buildings famed for their traditional intricate balconies. There are also several excellent museums. In recent years a number of world-class restaurants have opened, and the city is fast becoming the gastronomic capital of the western hemisphere.

DAY 2

Guided tour of the capital.

Your guided walking tour offers an excellent overview of a city which is full of contrasting neighbourhoods, from the upmarket Pacific-side residential district Miraflores to the colonial magnificence of the historic centre. The walk starts on the clifftop overlooking the Pacific Ocean and beaches, including the romantic Parque del Amor, with its sculpture of two lovers embracing.

Continue to 'Huaca Pucllana', a pre-Inca adobe pyramid built over 1,500 years ago, before arriving at San Isidro, an elegant residential and commercial district with a beautiful olive grove and some super-smart hotels and restaurants surrounding its leafy well-tended squares. You'll be ready for a snack at Tanta Restaurant, owned by the famous Peruvian chef Gastón Acurio where you can sample a typical Peruvian dish.

Thus refreshed, continue to the outskirts of central Lima where you will stroll through the baroque Torre Eagle Palace, and the Plaza de Armas, Lima's grandiose historic main square – home to the cathedral and the presidential and Archbishop's palaces. The appeal of the delicate wooden balconies and monumental colonial baroque architecture, is enhanced by the recent refurbishment of the area: the squares are now squeaky clean, lined with little artisan shops and modern cafés.

DAY 3

Fly to Cusco and continue to the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

The Urubamba river carves its way across the raw plains of the altiplano before dropping down to the rainforested Amazon basin. Here, just beyond Cusco, the mature river is bordered by fields bulging with vegetables, fruit and cereals. This was the breadbasket of the Incas, and as such attracted the building of many temples, administrative centres and barracks; at the peak of the empire it was home to tens of thousands of inhabitants. Nowadays the oft well preserved, abandoned ruins share the beautiful rural landscape with modest Spanish colonial settlements and modern upstarts including a clutch of top quality hotels.

It's a delightful scenic drive, a lovely introduction to the Andes, and along the way you will call in either at an animal sanctuary, llama and alpaca farm, or the artisan market at colonial Pisac.

DAY 4

Full day guided tour in the Sacred Valley: Maras, Moray, Chincheros

Travel by road through the stunning countryside against a backdrop of the snow-capped Andes to Chinchero, an attractive market village with both a colonial and Inca heritage. The central square has a splendid Inca wall while on its upper level is the town's adobe colonial church, decorated internally with beautiful floral designs. Watch a demonstration of the weaving of traditional Peruvian textiles. Continue to the Maras saltpans, a series of blinding white terraces which look a bit like a wedding cake: a natural source of saline water is evaporated by the strong Andean sun. In use since Inca times, the saltpans continue to be worked by the local community.

The tour also visits Moray, a grand Inca site pitting a windswept grassy plain which was an experimental agricultural centre at the apogée of the empire. It comprises numerous circular terraces carved into a large, natural amphitheatre, each one with a different microclimate from those above and below.

DAY 5

Visit Ollantaytambo temple fortress, on to Machu Picchu.

Rising above the community of the same name, the walled terraces and fortress of Ollantaytambo provide some of the finest examples of Inca architecture, with the six monoliths of the Temple of the Sun an outstanding feature. The colonial village was built on top of an existing Inca settlement and the original Inca town blocks – known as canchas – can still be seen. It's a rustic, atmospheric place where you can really get a sense of how life was lived in both the Inca and Spanish eras.

It is here where you join the train for your thrilling ride through the Urubamba canyon to Machu Picchu. The route passes through some of Peru's most exquisite and dramatic scenery. From the fertile valley floor, rimmed by rugged brooding mountains, the track enters an ever-narrowing gorge: the river froths over water-smoothed boulders and vertical cliffs, increasingly draped in dripping tropical vegetation, tower skywards.

Machu Picchu, the world-famous terraced Inca citadel, sprawling across a mountain saddle where the Andes fall towards the Amazon basin, is the most magical of South America's pre-Columbian archaeological sites. The city was founded in the 14th century as an important ceremonial centre. Undiscovered by the Spanish conquistadors and untouched by looters for 400 years, the site was very well preserved when the archaeologist, Hiram Bingham, stumbled upon it in 1911. The lush slopes of the forested mountains, swirling clouds rising up from the Urubamba valley, and the distant snow-capped peaks of the Andes all provide a stunning backdrop.

The majestic ruined city is reached by bus up a sinuous road, or on foot up a near vertical rocky path. You will have a guided tour of the ruins along one of the set trails, before heading back down to spend the night in Machu Picchu village.

DAY 6

Return to Ollantaytambo by rail and proceed back to Cusco.

You may choose to add an optional morning visit to the ruins before your train back to Ollantaytambo. From here, take a scenic drive to Cusco. Cusco – ancient capital of the Inca Empire and UNESCO World Heritage site – is an architectural and cultural jewel high up in the Andes at 3,399m. Many of the walls in the centre still incorporate Inca masonry and have stood the test of time far better than the colonial builders' handiwork. But that's not to belittle the craftsmanship of the Spanish: the blissful colonial churches, arcades and huge, imposing squares from which radiate tiny cobbled alleys, are impressive to say the least.

The city is a busy place thronging with visitors from across the world, giving it a real international buzz. But it is surely one of the most Peruvian cities – this in a country where so much of the cultural identity is intact -and your enjoyment of its discovery will be enhanced by the excellent food, drink and shopping opportunities. Browse the vast indoor market at San Pedro, with its towers of fruit and vegetables alongside alpaca wool sweaters, traditional jewellery and wood carvings, and observe the bustle of contemporary life while you explore the magnificent vestiges of the past.

DAY 7

Guided walking tour of Cusco.

Much of the pre-Columbian stonework now serves as foundations for modern dwellings. Your private guided tour explores the magnificent Plaza de Armas, the 16th century cathedral and the church of Santo Domingo – distinguished from the many other churches in Cusco by its construction on the site of Qoricancha, Cusco's major Inca temple.

Glowering over the northern outskirts of Cusco are the ruins of Sacsayhuamán, believed to have served the Inca Empire both as a fortress and ceremonial centre. There are some magnificent Inca walls, immaculately erected from huge rocks, some of which weigh as much as 130 tons. The visit also includes the nearby ruins of Tambo Machay, with its ceremonial fountains and bath, Puka Pukara – a staging post – and the temple of Q'enko.

DAY 8

Fly to Santiago de Chile and transfer to your hotel.

Take advantage of a direct flight from Cusco to Santiago, Chile's cosmopolitan capital. The city is a vast mélange of architectural styles reflecting an eventful history and immigration from many countries with contrasting cultural traditions. Modern high-rise buildings dominate the skyline but at street level Santiago retains some fine historic buildings alongside eye-catching contemporary structures.

DAY 9

Full day guided walking tour to Valparaiso and a vineyard.

Visit Valparaiso, Chile's principal port and seat of the Chilean parliament, located around 2 hours' drive from Santiago. Very little remains of the colonial city that Drake plundered in 1578, or that Darwin saw in the 1830s, much having been destroyed by an earthquake in 1906. Present day Valparaiso retains a certain tumbledown charm and plenty of character, making it one of Chile's most interesting and photogenic cities and, although there are some steep streets and steps to negotiate, it is a delight to explore on foot. The city can be divided into two areas: the lower part is the gritty commercial centre and port with narrow streets facing the bay; and above, covering the hills, are fine mansions and clapboard houses. These are brightly painted, continuing the legacy of the days when spare paint from ships in the docks would find its way up the hill. Steps, winding lanes and a series of funicular railways connect the upper and lower city.

After a stop for lunch (payable locally), drive back towards Santiago via the attractive, rolling countryside of the Casablanca Valley. With its pleasant Mediterranean climate tempered by the Pacific Ocean, the Casablanca Valley has become one of Chile's premier wine-producing regions with a reputation for good quality Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir. Visit one of the vineyards for a tour of the winery accompanied by wine tasting, before continuing your return journey to Santiago

DAY 10

Fly to Easter Island and your hotel in Hanga Roa town.

Easter Island (Isla de Pascua or Rapa Nui) is surely one of the most mysterious places on earth. Rising from the Pacific Ocean 3,790km west of the Chilean mainland, its nearest neighbour is Pitcairn Island 1,921km away and, although it forms part of Chilean territory, its culture is more Polynesian that Latin American. It is thought that the original inhabitants arrived by canoe from Polynesia or Marquesas and about half the population descends from the Rapa Nui people, the rest being immigrants from Chile.

The island is triangular in shape, with an extinct volcano on each tip. The subtropical territory was originally carpeted in forest but is now almost bare: as society developed, the original luxuriant vegetation was chopped down for buildings and fishing boats. Much of the island now has protected national park status (the rest is livestock grazing) and is listed by UNESCO. But although the island is now dominated by river-less moorland the scenery is exceptionally beautiful, especially the pristine beaches which lie at the foot of cliffs around the coast.

DAY 11

Introduction to Easter Island.

Most visitors are attracted to Easter Island by the watchful presence of 600 giant moais (stone statues), set on altar-like pedestals, all facing inland and believed to be manifestations of ancestor worship. Sculpted from quarried stone they were transported over large distances without the help of wheels. The whole island is best regarded as an open museum. Over the next few days you will visit come of the most imposing sites.

Today's full-day guided tour introduces Easter Island's archaeological heritage, encompassing the highlights of the island's north and east coast. After a brief call at the restored platforms of Tahai (800 AD), drive to the white-sand beach at Anakena, said to be the arrival spot of the first Polynesians. There's time to swim in the South Pacific and admire restored moai with their turquoise oceanic backdrop. Continue to Te Pito Kura, site of the largest moai ever erected (10m), which is now found lying down having been thrown over during the tribal conflicts of the 17th Century.

Explore the extinct volcano of Rano Raraku, the quarry where all the moai statues were carved, and where almost 400 of them still lie silently in various stages of the carving process. There's plenty of time to explore the volcano, both inside and outside the crater. The tour ends at Ahu Tongariki with its 15 restored moai, Polynesia's largest and most impressive single archaeological structure.

DAY 12

Further explorations of the island.

The day begins with a visit to the unrestored site at Vinapu, with its 6 toppled statues. It is one of the best examples of close-fitting Rapa Nui stonework. Move on to Puna Pau, the quarry of the topknots, or 'hats', which adorned many of the moai. Continue to the inland ahu (ceremonial platform) of Akivi, one of Easter Island's iconic and most photographed sites.

In the afternoon, visit Rano Kau, a vast extinct volcanic crater and the island's most spectacular natural feature. Orongo, dramatically perched between the cliffs and the crater's edge, is the site of the long-standing Birdman competition, where competitors had to obtain the first egg of the migratory sooty tern – with the winner becoming chief of the island for the next 12 months. Finally, enjoy a short walk down to the coast and cave of Ana Kai Tangata, translated as the 'Cannibal Cave' and famous for the bird figures painted on its interior.

DAY 13

Day at leisure to relax or discover the hidden gems of Easter Island.

Enjoy a day at leisure to spend relaxing at the hotel, exploring the town, revisiting some of your favourite sites, or discovering some new ones on an optional excursion.

DAY 14

Fly back to Santiago.

In good weather, sunrise at Ahu Tongariki is extraordinary between October and April when the sun rises directly behind the 15-moai platform. Rise at dawn for the 30 minute drive to the east coast and be back in your hotel for breakfast, later departing for the airport and your flight back to Santiago.

DAY 15

Fly home

Depending on your flight time, either walk across the road to the terminal for your onward journey home, or squeeze in one last optional excursion.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Services of our team of experts in our London office

Services of Journey Latin America local representatives and guides

All land and air transport within Latin America

Accommodation as specified

Meals as specified

Excursions as specified, including entrance fees

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

Guided walking tour tour of Lima

Guided tour in the Sacred Valley of the Incas

Guided tour of Machu Picchu

Guided tour of Cusco and the surrounding Inca sites

Guided walking tour of Valparaiso and vineyard visit

Guided tours as described on Easter island

Sunrise at Ahu Tongariki, Easter island

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Tips and gratuities

Meals other than specified

International flights to Latin America

Airport taxes, when not included in the ticket

Optional excursions

ESSENTIALS

TRANSPORT
4 flights (3 domestic, one international); 2 scenic road transfers, 2 rail journeys (90 mins each).

ACCOMMODATION
On this holiday, location and local character are the most important factors in our choice of accommodation. We use small mid- to upper mid-range properties throughout.

MEALS
Breakfast daily; lunch days 4, 5 and 11.

CLIMATE
The rainy season in the Andes runs between November and March when there are showers many afternoons. The dry season is May-Sept, when the sun is strong during the day, but at night the temperature drops dramatically (from freezing to 10°C). April and October are less predictable, with both rainy and sunny spells. Easter Island has a balmy, temperate climate. The most popular season for visits is Sep – Apr.

TRIP SUITABILITY
This trip is appropriate for all reasonably fit people including children.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS
15 days, 14 nights: Lima 2; Sacred Valley 2; Machu Picchu 1; Cusco 2; Santiago 2;. Easter Island 4; Santiago 1.

GUIDES
We carefully select our local partners, some of whom we have worked with for over 30 years. Their English-speaking guides understand the expectations of our clients very well, and are consistently singled out for praise by the latter on their return.

CURRENCY
The unit of currency in Peru is the sol; in Chile the Chilean peso.

HOW TO TAKE IT
Cash machines are available in all major cities and towns, including Lima, Cusco, Santiago and Hanga Roa (Easter Island),and so taking a debit or credit card with a PIN number is the most convenient way of withdrawing money while on your trip, and in most shops and restaurants you can also pay by card. However, since cards can get lost, damaged, withheld or blocked, you should not rely exclusively on a card to access funds.

We recommend that additionally you take a reasonable quantity of US dollars cash (no more than is covered by your insurance), which you can exchange into local currency. Dollar bills should be in good condition, ($100 bills should be the new format), soiled or torn bills may be refused. You can take sterling or euros, but the exchange rate is not always competitive or even available, restricting the number of places where you can change money.

DAILY SPEND
It is very difficult to give a guideline for essential expenses but a budget of around US$40-50 per day should cover the cost of meals not included in the holiday itinerary, drinks and the odd souvenir. Eat at the best restaurants and you will pay considerably more.

TIPPING
Tips are welcomed and local guides often rely on their tip as a significant proportion of their income.

Most service industry workers will expect a tip of some kind and so it is useful to have spare change for hotel porters, taxi drivers and the like. It is common to leave 10 – 12% in restaurants.

Tipping guidelines can be found in our Briefing Dossier.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is essential. Details of our recommended policy can be found on our Travel Insurance page.

AIRPORT TAXES

If you have purchased your flights through Journey Latin America, the international departure tax is usually included in the ticket.

ALTITUDE

Your stays in the Sacred Valley (2,800m-3,000m), and Cusco (3,400m), are at high altitude. Most people are only mildly affected and you are advised to drink plenty of water and allow your body to acclimatise. Symptoms vary: most common are mild headaches, slight nausea and breathlessness. If you don't recover in a day or two speak to our representatives; in very rare instances it is necessary to descend to lower altitudes.

CLOTHES AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

For day-to-day wear you should go prepared to encounter all seasons. Both warm clothing and a sun hat are essential at altitude; a light fleece jacket and a waterproof/breathable outer shell makes a good combination along with gloves, scarf and woolly hat. Trousers, skirt or shorts made from light, quick-drying synthetic materials are appropriate. If you plan to eat in smart restaurants in the cities, although clothing is not formal (no need for jacket and tie), something quite smart would be appropriate.

Strong, comfortable footwear is essential and you should bring insect repellant, sun block and sun glasses.

VACCINATIONS

Preventative vaccinations are recommended against the following: typhoid; polio; tetanus; hepatitis A. You should consult your GP for specific requirements.

You can also find helpful information on the Masta Health Travel website.

VISAS

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Anyone with a different nationality should enquire with us or check with the relevant consulate.

If flying to the US, or via the US you will need to fill in your online ESTA application.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

GIVE US A CALL

We'd love to chat

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

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