

Amistad

Homestay Language Study

Cusco



SATURDAY - International Flight to Peru

International flights arrive in the evening. Greeting by Interact's Foreign Representative in the airport lobby. Transfer to your Lima hotel.

SUNDAY - Cusco Flight ✈️ /Homestay

Early morning flight to Cusco, the archaeological capital of South America. At 11,000 ft. elevation, the Incas called this place "the Navel of the World." It's a picturesque location with all homes bearing red-tiled roofs by law. UNESCO has declared Cusco as a living monument to humanity.

YOUR MIDDLE CLASS HOST FAMILIES are carefully selected and monitored by EXCEL's native resident director. Participants normally share with one other group member of the same general language ability. Students share a private bedroom and a bathroom with the family. Because the nicer homes are not within the city center, students can walk - all homes are within a thirty minute walk - or learn how to take the frequent and inexpensive colectivos or microbuses to the language center. Everyone is expected to practice their Spanish in the home.

MONDAY-FRIDAY – Daily Language Classes:

EXCEL is accredited by the Ministry of Education of Peru. Their language programs are based on the Natural Approach, which focuses on the development of proficiency in the four basic communication skills. Small groups of 2-6 students meet for four hours daily with certified Spanish teachers.

Each participant receives a TOURIST TICKET, valid for the entire week, which allows entrance to many of Cusco's main attractions such as the Cathedral, San Blas Church, Regional History Museum, and Santa Catalina Museum.

The following ½ day activities are included:

- Monday: Conozca tour of the city and its nearby ruins. Visit Sacsayhuaman fortress with gigantic zig-zag walls of precise stonework, the mysterious carved rock of Kenko shrine, and the Tambomachay Inca Baths.
- Tuesday: **InterAction** at a local orphanage or school, where you'll help the children with their homework or play games. Please bring basic school supplies. Interact makes a donation to the local institution.
- Wednesday: Dance **InterAction** ¡Salsa!
- Thursday: **InterAction** to a rural school or orphanage. Interact provides roundtrip transportation and makes a donation to the rural institution.
- Friday: Each student receives an official certificate of participation, documenting the level achieved.

SATURDAY - MachuPicchu

A fascinating early morning rail trip and a bus ride up the mountain brings you to the wondrous outpost of MachuPicchu, a remote fortress city abandoned by the Inca, reclaimed by the jungle, and hidden from view until it was rediscovered in 1911. With altars, temples, staircases, and terraces, this is one of the world's most extraordinary sites and the centerpiece of everyone's visit. Lunch is included.

SUNDAY - Sacred Valley

Vilcamayo to the Incas, the Sacred Valley traces its winding, astonishingly beautiful course to the northwest of Cusco. It's easy to see why the Incas considered the valley as a special place. In the upper sector, the stupendous ruins of Pisac dominate the broad alluvial valley floor. Stroll through its famous native market before continuing to Ollantaytambo, a magnificent little town overwhelmed by a great temple-fortress that clings to the sheer cliffs across the river valley.

MONDAY - Lima Flight ✈️ / Return to USA

Early morning flight to Lima, City of Kings, and the center of Spanish power for three centuries following Pizarro's conquest. Guided city tour includes panoramic views of residential areas and the centro historico. Box lunch is included. Visit San Francisco Monastery where you'll descend into the 17th century crypts and it's Catacombs Museum. Then, on the brighter side, gaze in wonder at all the golden objects and jewelry from ancient Andean cultures in the Gold Museum. Evening transfer to the airport for your overnight international flight to the USA. Arrival in USA on Tuesday.



DEPARTURES
FRIDAY or SATURDAY
10 days/9 nights



NIGHTS
Lima Hotel 1
Cusco Homestay 8



MEALS
Host families provide all meals.