Chile & Peru

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANDES

with Chris Carter
20 September–10 October 2014 (21 days)
Delve deep into northern Chile and Peru’s fascinating ancient civilisations and archaeology on a journey that will take you from Santiago de Chile to colonial Cusco via coastal deserts, the magnificent Andes, the Altiplano, the high lakes and Machu Picchu.

The tour begins in Santiago before moving into the Atacama region of northern Chile. Travel along the coast through the driest region on earth following the Andes and the pathways of the Inca Empire into Peru. From Arequipa, climb to Lake Titicaca via Colca Canyon. Leave the Altiplano to enter the Valley of Cusco and explore Machu Picchu – that most mystical of sites.

Discover the region’s rich history – both pre-Columbian and colonial – as well as its vibrant modern cultures with influences from Spain and Africa and its archaeological sites, ranging from those of pre-Incan cultures through to the majesty of Tawantinsuyu, as the Inca Empire was correctly known.

At a glance

- The spectacular landscapes of the Atacama Desert
- The Chinchorro mummies of Arica – the oldest artificial mummies in the world
- The ‘White City’ of Arequipa and its magnificent churches, convents and colonial houses at the foot of El Misti volcano
- The floating islands of Lake Titicaca
- Cusco and the Sacred Valley of the Incas
- The intriguing UNESCO World Heritage site of Machu Picchu – the most significant legacy of the Inca civilisation

Tour Leader

Chris Carter

Chris Carter graduated from the Australian National University (ANU) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1995 and a Master of Arts in 2000. He has worked full time as an archaeologist since 1996, dividing his time between teaching, commercial archaeology and research in northern Chile. He is currently a PhD scholar at the ANU.

Since 1998, he has been involved with the design and implementation of study tours and has led over 40 tours during that time. Destinations include Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala and Belize but Chris has also worked in Spain, Morocco, Ireland, Turkey, Vietnam and Cambodia.
Sat 20 Sep 2014  Australia – Santiago de Chile

Suggested morning departure on Qantas. Late morning arrival in Santiago. Transfer to your hotel on arrival.

Optional afternoon walking tour of the city centre.

This evening, join Chris Carter and fellow travellers for a welcome briefing and dinner at a local restaurant.

Sun 21 Sep  Santiago de Chile

Your discovery of Santiago starts with a guided tour of the permanent exhibition of the National Museum of Fine Arts. Established in 1880, it is one of the major centres for Chilean and South American art and features numerous works by Luis Vargas Rosas, erstwhile director of the museum and a member of the Abstraction Creation group, and fellow Chilean Roberto Matta.

Journey out of the city for a wine tasting and lunch at a local winery. Chile has been producing wine for over 400 years. The central valley is one of the most important wine producing areas and Santiago has a number of vineyards within the city limits.

Mon 22 Sep  Santiago de Chile

Full day excursion to the coastal city of Valparaíso – the main port of Chile. Enjoy a walking tour of the old city centre, listed as an area of World Heritage, and take a ride on the funicular railways – the only way, apart from walking, to the top of the steep surrounding hills. Visit the former home of the Nobel Prize winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. Late afternoon return to Santiago.

Tue 23 Sep  Santiago de Chile – Iquique

Morning at leisure to further explore Santiago on your own.

Transfer to the airport for the 2.5-hour flight to Iquique, located on the north coast of the Atacama region of Chile. Dinner at a local seafood restaurant.

Wed 24 Sep  Iquique – Arica

Full day drive to Arica – Chile’s northernmost city. The coach journey through the Atacama Desert is an integral part of the tour, this region being unlike anything else in the world and containing a spectacular array of landscapes.

Stop at the village of Pisagua on the way for a picnic lunch. During the 19th century, Pisagua was a thriving nitrate port and part of Peru. It featured in the Battle of the Pacific in the 1890s when Chile took control of the area. It also has some very interesting archaeological sites. It was used as a political prison by the Pinochet regime during the 1970s. More recently, Amnesty International exhumed a number of burials associated with the prison and a memorial has been constructed at the site.

Thu 25 Sep  Arica

Arica is the official port of Bolivia and its economy centres around maritime trade and fishing. It is also an area of important archaeological research and is home to the largest collection of Chinchoro mummies – the oldest artificial mummies in the world. Today visit the local archaeological sites and both museums.

Fri 26 Sep  Arica – Arequipa

Depart Arica, Chile, for the full day drive to Arequipa, Peru. Snow-capped volcanoes and a view of the Andes provide a stunning backdrop to Peru’s second largest city, which sits at an altitude of approximately 2,300 metres. Dinner at the hotel on arrival.

Sat 27 Sep  Arequipa – Chivay

This morning, visit Juanita, the ice maiden, an Incan child sacrificial victim whose remains were discovered after a volcanic eruption. Continue to the Santa Catalina Monastery, founded in the 16th century and World Heritage listed. This ‘city within a city’ once housed up to 500 nuns. Today, about 30 nuns still live in the convent.
Afternoon departure to Colca Canyon, arguably the world's deepest canyon — depending how you measure its depth! You will drive past the volcano of El Misti through spectacular scenery and past herds of vicuñas (a wild relative of llamas and alpacas). Late afternoon arrival in Chivay, at 3,600 metres over sea level.

### Sun 28 Sep — Chivay
Morning exploration of Colca Canyon. From several look-outs, admire its pre-Colombian terraced fields, still supporting agriculture and human life, and try to spot the mighty Andean condor — the largest flying bird in the world.

After lunch in Chivay, enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Why not relax in the hotel's thermal baths?

### Mon 29 Sep — Chivay — Lake Titicaca
Morning departure for the drive to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca. En route, visit the Inca ruins of Sillustani with its enigmatic funerary towers overlooking Lake Umayo.

### Tue 30 Sep — Lake Titicaca
Lake Titicaca is located between the Andean Cordillera and is not only the largest lake on the continent but the highest navigable lake in the world, at 3,810 metres above sea level.

Spend the day exploring a number of islands on the lake — the floating islands of Uros and Taquile. The cultures on these islands differ and it is interesting to compare the way tourism has affected these cultures and how each has chosen different ways to accept tourists into their societies.

Enjoy the wonderful views from the top of Taquile as well as a good lunch — well deserved after the steady 30-minute uphill walk.

### Wed 01 Oct — Lake Titicaca — Cusco
Today travel from the Altiplano over a high pass before entering the Umayo River Valley which flows all the way to the Amazon and on to the Atlantic. En route, stop at the Inca site of Raqchi, a complex of storehouses that were once an important trading centre. Late afternoon arrival in Cusco — the historic capital of the Inca Empire, declared a World Heritage Site in 1983 by UNESCO.

### Thu 02 Oct — Cusco
This morning is dedicated to Coricancha — the Inca Temple of the Sun — and the Baroque church of Santo Domingo. These two sacred sites vividly illustrate ancient Andean culture's collision with Western Europe: the temple of one culture sitting atop and enclosing the other.

Afternoon tour of the walled complex of Sacsayhuaman, an Inca citadel located above the city of Cusco.

### Fri 03 Oct — Cusco
Drive out of Cusco to the beautiful colonial church of Andahuaylillas, a beautiful Colonial church outside of Cusco often referred to as the 'Sistine Chapel of the Americas'. Stop at a local market on the way to see and sample the range of foods produced in this region and mingle with the locals.

After lunch at a rural restaurant, return to Cusco.

### Sat 04 Oct — Cusco — Sacred Valley
Early morning departure for the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Stop at the market town of Pisac and visit the ruins overlooking the valley. From Pisac, travel along the valley floor to Urubamba for lunch.

This afternoon, visit a local ceramics workshop, before checking into your hotel in Urubamba.

### Sun 05 Oct — Sacred Valley — Aguas Calientes
The colonial town of Ollantaytambo, built on Inca foundations, is overlooked by a spectacular set of ruins. Walk through the town before ascending to the site to see the Temple of the Sun.

After a casual lunch at a local café run by an NGO which helps local families, take an afternoon train and travel through mist-shrouded peaks to Aguas Calientes, your base for exploring Machu Picchu.

### Images
- Santa Catalina monastery, Arequipa
- Colonial Cusco
Mon 06 Oct  Aguas Calientes (Machu Picchu)
Today is entirely devoted to the enigmatic ruins of Machu Picchu – the UNESCO World Heritage-listed citadel also known as the ‘Lost City of the Incas’.
Scholars are still striving to uncover clues to the mysteries hidden high in the eastern slopes of the Andes; the complex of palaces and plazas, temples and homes may have been built as a ceremonial site, a military stronghold or a retreat for ruling elites. Whatever its function, Machu Picchu is tangible evidence of the urban Inca Empire at the peak of its power and achievement. After a guided tour, you will have time to further explore the ruins at your own pace.

Tue 07 Oct  Aguas Calientes – Cusco
Why not return to Machu Picchu early this morning and watch the sun rise over the ruins? You may also relax at the hotel, join a tour of the hotel’s gardens or shop in the village.
Return to Cusco by train in the afternoon.

Wed 08 Oct  Cusco – Lima
Free morning to explore the wonderful markets of Cusco. Your guide will be available to take you to see some of the museums or to shop for specific items.
Transfer to the airport for an afternoon 1.5-hour flight to Lima.

Thu 09 Oct  Lima
This morning embark on a city tour of Peru’s capital visiting the Plaza de Armas and the cathedral. Continue to the San Francisco Monastery and its catacombs.
Afternoon visit to the Museo de Arte de Lima. Known locally as MALI, it is Lima’s principal fine art museum, housed in a striking Neoclassical building. The museum presents 3,000 years of Peruvian art and has a large collection of pre-Columbian textiles and ceramics, pictures and furniture from Colonial and Republican times and a significant selection of paintings and photographic works from modern times.
Dinner with folkloric dance show.

Fri 10 Oct  Depart Lima
Morning at leisure. Why not join Chris for a tour of the Larco Hoyle Museum, which features the finest gold and silver collection from Ancient Peru and the famous erotic pottery collection?
Join Chris and fellow travellers for a special farewell lunch in Miraflores, before transferring to the airport for a late afternoon flight to Santiago (not included in tour cost), connecting with your Qantas flight to Australia.

Sat 11 Oct  Arrive Australia
Morning arrival in Australia.
Tour Prices

Per person twin-share  AUD 12,350
Single supplement*  AUD 3,650
Deposit per person  AUD 500
Final payment due  22 July 2014

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code  AG1414

Fitness level  Challenging

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Visas

Australian and New Zealand passport holders do not require a visa for Chile and Peru.

Suggested airline  Qantas

Please contact Renaissance Tours for current airfares and flight reservations.

Tour price includes

• Accommodation in centrally located 4- and 5-star hotels with daily breakfast (B)
• Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner) including welcome and farewell meals. Wines with dinners.
• Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on suggested flights
• Comfortable air-conditioned coach transportation
• Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
• Economy class domestic flights as per itinerary
• Lectures and talks with Chris Carter throughout
• Gratuities for local guides and drivers
• Hotel porterage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

• International airfares
• Transfers on arrival and departure if not travelling on suggested flights
• Airport porterage
• Drinks with lunches
• Items of a personal nature (e.g. telephone, laundry, minibar etc.)
• Travel insurance

Your hotels ★★★★ and ★★★★

• Santiago de Chile – Hotel Plaza San Francisco
• Iquique – Radisson Hotel
• Arica – Hotel Arica
• Arequipa – Libertador Arequipa
• Chivay – Casitas del Colca
• Puno – Libertador Lago Titicaca
• Cusco – JW Marriott Hotel
• Urubamba – Casa Andina Private Collection
• Aguas Calientes – Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel
• Lima – Country Club Hotel

NB: Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

La Raya crafts, Peru

Uros Islands, Lake Titicaca
Terms & Conditions

HOW TO BOOK
Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS
Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payments are accepted in cash and by cheque, bank transfer, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS
a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days 25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days 50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days 75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days 100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS
All travellers must be in possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

TOUR PRICES
Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION
Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor’s appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour; including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE
For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

• negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
• use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
• undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
• stand for long periods in museums and other sites
• embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
• handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE
In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

• Undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
• climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING
In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

• Handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
• handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

You can find the full terms & conditions on the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found at www.renaissancetours.com.au/booking-conditions/ or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.
TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2014

Your travel agent is

Alpaca in front of El Misti volcano

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