

# Grand Tour of Peru: Machu Picchu to Lake Titicaca

Pre-departure information for your tour



## Passport, visa & entry requirements

- In order to enter Peru (and Bolivia on the tour extension), U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport with an expiration date extending at least six months beyond the date of reentry.
- We recommend having at least two blank passport pages for entry stamps.
- Upon arrival in Peru, you will receive an Andean Immigration card which you will need to present when visiting Machu Picchu. In order to secure your entrance to Machu Picchu, travelers are required to confirm their full passport details with Go Ahead Tours no later than 45 days prior to your departure date.
- There is no visa required for U.S. or Canadian citizens to enter Peru.
- A visa is required for U.S. citizens to enter Bolivia on the tour extension. While it is possible to obtain a visa at the border, we strongly recommend purchasing your visa in advance as wait times upon arrival can exceed 2 hours. You may submit a request for a paper visa by visiting your local embassy or consulate, or purchase your visa in advance by using a visa provider, such as our partner [VisaCentral](#). You will need to have your visa receipt with you upon arrival in Bolivia. There is no visa required for Canadian citizens to enter Bolivia.
- If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact each country's consulate for your specific entry requirements.
- Entrance tickets into Machu Picchu require full passport information. Travelers must enter these details via your online account, mobile app, or by giving the Traveler Support Team a call by your Tour Finalization Date or risk being denied entry into Machu Picchu due to scarcity of tickets and daily entrance restrictions.
- You can see the most up-to-date entry requirements for the destination(s) you'll visit on tour by going to [goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements](https://goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements) and searching the code PEU.

## Tour pacing & mobility

- You will walk for about 3 hours daily across

moderately uneven terrain, including rocky ground and unpaved or slippery trails, at high altitudes.

- Travelers should be healthy enough to participate in all included walks without assistance. Adding optional excursions may increase the total amount of walking on your tour.
- You should feel comfortable managing your own baggage at times, as well as getting in and out of trains and boats.
- Go Ahead Tours and the Tour Director who accompanies your group are unable to provide special, individual mobility assistance to travelers on tour. The responsibility of the Tour Director is to ensure the group as a whole enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing, individualized assistance to any one traveler.
- If you have any mobility concerns or physical restrictions, please contact our Customer Experience Team.

## Transportation & arrival information

- Round-trip flights booked through Go Ahead Tours arrive and depart from Lima (or La Paz on the tour extension). A representative from Go Ahead Tours will meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel. Please remain in the arrival lounge, as the representative might be escorting one of your fellow travelers to the bus at the time of your arrival.
- Transfers to and from the airport at your destination are included for travelers who have purchased their flights through Go Ahead Tours. Travelers who purchase their own flights may request airport transfers with Go Ahead Tours for an additional cost.
- PeruRail transit and flights from Lima to Iquitos, Iquitos to Cuzco, and Juliaca to Lima are included in the price of your tour. (The tour extension also includes a round-trip flight between Uyuni and La Paz.)
- All other included transportation on this tour is by private motor coach.

## Baggage allowance

- Please note that our travelers are limited to one checked bag and one carry-on bag per person due to storage limitations on motor coaches and other transfers, which may include train connections or flights.
- Contact your airline(s) for baggage size and weight restrictions for your flights, which may include on-tour flights in addition to your round-trip flights to and from tour. Please note that your included on-tour flights may have more restrictive baggage limits.
- Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage or exceed baggage size and weight restrictions. Be advised that you are responsible for any baggage fees incurred on all flights.
- Make sure you label your baggage and keep valuables, medication, and documents in your carry-on bag.
- You will need a small overnight bag, such as a backpack or duffel bag, for your one-night stay at Machu Picchu. The overnight bag must be smaller than 62 inches total (length + width + height).
- When visiting Machu Picchu, there are restrictions in place for backpacks, food, umbrellas, and camera tripods

## Clothing & packing tips

- Peru's diverse geography means temperature and climate vary widely across the country. A sun hat, sunglasses, and rain gear can help you stay comfortable in all types of weather.
- We recommend packing lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that can be easily layered, as well as a light jacket or rainwear.
- A sturdy pair of walking shoes or sneakers is recommended for sightseeing. Hiking boots are highly recommended, especially in the rainy season, as the terrain can be tough and muddy.
- Binoculars will let you get a closer look at local wildlife and scenery.
- A small flashlight is helpful during night walks.
- Insect repellent is recommended for outdoor activities.
- We recommended bringing or purchasing

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snacks that you can easily bring with you each day to eat in between meals.

- A small bottle of hand sanitizer may be helpful when other facilities are not readily available while on the road.
- You may want to pack dressier attire if you plan to visit a high-end restaurant or attend a special performance.
- It is preferable not to visit churches or other religious sites with bare legs and shoulders (and entrance may be denied on this basis).

## Health

- At least 60 days prior to departure, check with your doctor or healthcare provider for the latest updates and entry requirements, or visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).
- The Peruvian government strongly recommends that travelers receive a yellow fever vaccination before visiting certain areas of Peru. Consult your doctor or healthcare provider with any questions or concerns around receiving the vaccination. Visit [cdc.gov/yellowfever](https://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever) for more information.
- Please be aware that you will be traveling at altitudes as high as 12,000 feet above sea level. These high altitudes can sometimes cause breathing difficulties for travelers who have heart problems or respiratory ailments. If you suffer from any of these conditions, please speak to your doctor regarding any potential health risks.
- Even healthy travelers may sometimes experience altitude sickness, a temporary condition featuring symptoms of headache, fatigue, nausea, and light-headedness. Until your body acclimates to the higher altitudes, we suggest that you drink plenty of fluids and limit your intake of caffeine and alcohol.
- Many hotels on this tour do not keep the electricity running throughout the night. Please contact Go Ahead Tours if you will be traveling with a CPAP machine so we can inform the hotels that the electricity in your room will need to stay running throughout the night.
- Be sure to take proper care for sun exposure, as the sun can be more intense at higher altitudes.

- We recommend drinking bottled water and refraining from drinking tap water, even while brushing teeth. Bringing a backpack that has an interior pocket to hold water will help you stay hydrated.
- Avoid eating fresh fruits and vegetables unless they are cooked or washed in clean water and peeled.
- If you have medication that you take daily, be sure you have enough for each day of the tour as well as any possible delays encountered.
- If you have dietary restrictions and/or food allergies please notify Go Ahead Tours at least 30 days prior to your departure by logging in to your account and updating your traveler info. To update this information closer to your departure date, please call our Customer Experience Team.
- You can see the most up-to-date entry requirements for the destination(s) you'll visit on tour by going to [goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements](https://goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements) and searching the code PEU.

## Cuisine

- Peruvian cuisine reflects both the country's indigenous cultures as well as European colonial and Pacific Rim influences. Staples include grains, like quinoa, maize and rice, as well as beans, potatoes, and meat. Ceviche, traditionally raw sea bass marinated with lime and chilies, is a national dish. Adventurous eaters may want to try cuy, or roasted guinea pig, that's cooked over an open fire. You can also raise a toast with Peru's famous pisco, the delicious (and sour) white-grape brandy.
- On the tour extension, lunch like a local in Bolivia with the *almuerzo*, a leisurely afternoon meal featuring courses of soup, rice, and potatoes, a main dish and dessert. Bolivians also enjoy a late-afternoon tea with pastries, much like the British. You'll find many Bolivian dishes traditionally feature staples of corn, potatoes, and beans, reflecting the influence of indigenous cultures, as well as Spanish and Eastern European styles.

## Electricity & air conditioning

- Peru (and Bolivia on the tour extension) operates on 220 volts and uses Types A or C plugs with two flat pins or two round pins, respectively.
- We recommend packing a universal adapter, as well as a voltage converter if you plan on using your own hairdryer or other device without a built-in converter.
- The strength of the air conditioning in Peruvian hotels is often not as strong or as cool as what you might be used to in the U.S. or Canada. When air conditioning is available, it is usually regulated seasonally and controlled centrally by the hotel.
- Your hotels may provide hairdryers, irons, and other small appliances. However these amenities cannot be guaranteed.

## Connectivity

- Wi-Fi is available in most hotels, though some charges may apply.
- There is no Wi-Fi on any of the motor coaches.
- Please contact your mobile service provider for information on roaming charges.

## Time zones

- Peru (and Bolivia on the tour extension) falls on the same time as Eastern Time (ET) but does not observe daylight saving time, so is five hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) year-round.
- During daylight saving time, when it's noon in New York, it's 11am on tour.

## Currency

- You will use the Peruvian sol in Peru (and the Bolivian boliviano in Bolivia on the tour extension).
- Better rates of exchange are usually available overseas, although it's worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive.
- We strongly advise that you take debit/bank cards and credit cards, which can be used to withdraw cash at local banks as needed.
- You can use most debit/credit cards at ATMs on the international networks Cirrus and Plus, but make sure to check with your

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home bank about withdrawal fees.

- Inform your bank and credit card company of your travel plans so that they won't confuse your international purchases for fraudulent charges.
- International banks and businesses primarily accept debit and credit cards that work with the EMV chip system. If you do not already have at least one debit or credit card with a chip in it, we strongly recommend requesting one from your bank prior to your tour.

## Tipping

- At the conclusion of your tour, it's customary to offer your Tour Director and driver a gratuity in local currency. Please keep current exchange rates in mind.
- We recommend tipping the equivalent of \$10USD to \$12USD per person per day for your Tour Director and the equivalent of \$3USD per person per day for your driver.
- If applicable, we also recommend the equivalent of \$2USD per local guide.
- Tips can only be paid in cash.

## Purchasing excursions on tour

- Most optional excursions will be available for purchase while you are on tour.
  - Your Tour Director will only accept cash (in USD only), Visa, or MasterCard as payment for excursions.
  - Please be advised that if you pay for an excursion by credit card while on tour, it may take up to three months for your card to be charged.
  - Some optional excursions may only be purchased in advance. See page four of your tour itinerary for more information.
- International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary, without advance notice, to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to our website for Terms & Conditions, dates, and prices.