GEEO ITINERARY

Peru 6/27/2027

Day 1: Lima Arrive in Lima at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The nearest airport is Lima's **Jorge Chávez International Airport (LIM)**.

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting
Hotel check-in is normally between 2–3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6–7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions.

Lima Cooking Class: If you book this optional activity, we highly recommend booking a pre-trip hotel night. Participants will be picked up from the group hotel at ~10:00 a.m. and taken to a local market and restaurant to prepare a traditional Peruvian meal. They will return to the group hotel around 1:00 p.m.

> **Joining Instructions**
> Taxi: (~$27 USD | ~45min) Getting a taxi from the airport is very easy and the most affordable option. Use the official taxi stand immediately after customs and immigration as you head toward the exits. Pay the set rate at the stand to avoid the more chaotic situation outside the airport with competing drivers.
> Pre-Booked Arrival Transfer: If you purchased a transfer with us, a G Adventures representative will meet you at the airport arrivals area with a sign displaying your name. If you're not met or cannot make contact, call the emergency number on your trip voucher or take a taxi/shuttle to the hotel (save your receipt).

– Currency exchange offices are available in the airport Arrivals area and open 24 hours a day.

– The starting hotel offers free luggage storage for excess bags if you need to leave a suitcase in Lima during your program.

Day 2: Lima/Cusco Fly to Cusco. Free time to shop and explore. Choose to pre-book the Cusco Cooking Class. Opt for a city tour, or visit museums or archaeological sites.

This morning, transfer to the airport for the flight to Cusco, where you will spend the rest of the day relaxing and exploring this fascinating city, and – most importantly – getting used to the altitude. Please take it easy on your first day as strenuous activity can exacerbate symptoms of altitude sickness. You will be returning to Cusco for a full free day later on in the trip, which will give you more time to explore.

Please note: If you pre-book the Cusco Cooking Class you will be picked up from your hotel at approximately 12:30 and taken to a local market and restaurant to prepare and enjoy a traditional Peruvian meal. Return back to your hotel around 4 p.m.

Approximate travel time: 1-1.5 hrs by flight
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Cusco/Ollantaytambo Inca Trail and Lares trekkers enjoy a full-day Sacred Valley tour with the weaving co-op, pottery community, and Parwa Restaurant. Non-hikers enjoy a walking tour of Cusco followed by free time in the evening.

Inca Trail and Lares Trek Itineraries

Depart Cusco for a full-day guided tour of the Sacred Valley. You may leave your large suitcase at the hotel in Cusco—or at the hotel in Ollantaytambo where you will stay tonight—since you will only be able to carry your backpack/duffle during the hike.

Visit the Ccaccaccollo community center, where local women sell traditional textiles to travelers. See local weaving and dyeing techniques used to create garments and souvenirs, and learn how the Planeterra weaving co-operative has impacted the community and those who visit it.

Next, visit the rural village of Cuyo Chico, where a group of families joined together to create a small business based on their traditional adobe ceramic crafts. Using clay from their surroundings, they mold bowls, plates, and all manner of decorations. Learn about the ceramics process as well as the traditional adobe brick-making that is used for constructing houses throughout the valley, all while taking in a spectacular view of the Pisac Ruins.

Have lunch at the G Adventures-supported Parwa Community Restaurant. Learn how the resident-run restaurant was kickstarted by G Adventures and the Multilateral Investment Fund to become a successful farm-to-table program that boosts the local economy and several spin-off microenterprises.

After lunch, opt to head out on a hike to the Ollantaytambo storehouses and look out over the ruins. Or, wander around the cobblestone streets and visit a local Chicheria (corn beer bar).

Approximate travel time: Full day by private vehicle with many stops

Non-Hikers Itinerary

After breakfast, walk over to the Cusco Cathedral, where a guide will meet your group and lead you on a walking tour focused on Cusco’s colonial history. During the tour, you will see colonial and Inca architecture visible throughout the city and visit the Sapantiana colonial aqueduct. Lunch near the main plaza is included. The tour will end back at your hotel, and you will have some free time in Cusco that evening.

Some suggestions for your free time:

Cusco Tourist Ticket (Boleto Turístico del Cusco) 130 PEN per person This ticket allows admission to 16 sites in and around the City of Cusco, including several museums, Inca ruins, and archaeological parks. ***Some museums and archaeological sites in Cusco only accept this ticket—there is no option to pay individually at the door***.

It is valid for 10 days and includes highlights such as:
* Sacsayhuaman Archaeological Park – A must-see Inca complex just outside the city.
* Q’enqo, Puka Pukara, and Tambomachay
* Museo Histórico Regional (Regional History Museum)
* Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (Contemporary Art Museum)
* Museo de Arte Popular (Folk Art Museum)
* Tipón and Pikillacta in the South Valley
* Several archaeological sites in the Sacred Valley, including Ollantaytambo, Pisac, and Chinchero

Your tour leader or the hotel can help arrange a taxi to reach these locations.

Other Museums (do not require the Cusco Tourist Ticket)
* Inka Museum – 10 PEN per person. This museum is run by the National University and does not accept the Cusco Tourist Ticket. It features an impressive collection of Inca artifacts, including mummies, ceramics, jewelry, and skulls.
* Museo Machu Picchu – Casa Concha
* Museo de Plantas Sagradas, Mágicas y Medicinales

Evening Cultural Performances: There is a small theater located close to the hotel that offers traditional dance performances on select evenings. Ask the front desk for current schedules and assistance with tickets.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 4: Inca Trail, Lares Trail, or Non-Hiking Hikers begin their respective treks. Non-hikers enjoy a full-day guided Sacred Valley tour, including the women's weaving co-op, pottery community, and Parwa Community Restaurant.

This morning, the group will split into three: Inca Trail trekkers, Lares trekkers, and Non-Hikers.

Inca Trail Itinerary

The 3.5-day Inca Trail to Machu Picchu is physically challenging but worthwhile, and the excursion is within the ability of most reasonably fit. It is a 40-km (25-mi) hike, with three high passes to be crossed, one of which reaches an elevation of 4,200 m (13,776 ft). The trail is often steep, and it may rain even during the dry season. The temperatures at night may fall below zero, so it is important to come prepared.

Depart Ollantaytambo for “Km 82,” where you will begin walking in the footsteps of the Incas. Our local crew of porters, cook, and guide will look after you for the duration of the hike. Porters carry the majority of the gear for the hike, so those passengers doing the hike only carry a small daypack with water, rain gear, snacks, a camera, etc. As you walk the trail that linked this ancient empire, admire breathtaking views at every step as you move from high plateau areas to dense cloud forest. Depending on the season, you may see a great variety of flora, including miniature and large orchids and fiery rhododendron bushes.

Today the trekking is fairly easy and serves as good training for the next few days. Pass meandering streams, stunning Andean scenery, and ancient Incan ruins.

Start point Km 82 to Wayllambama
Approximate distance: 11 km (6.8 mi)
Approximate hiking time: 5–6 hrs

Lares Trek Itinerary

Those who wish to hike but register after Inca Trail permits sell out can hike the Lares Trek instead. Equally as difficult as the Inca Trail, the Lares allows you to hike on a more off-the-beaten-track route that winds through remote Andean villages. The hike is 2.5 days long. You will have similar camping and porter services as the Inca Trail hikers.

On day one of the trek, have an early morning start and will take a van (3 hrs) to the town of Lares, where the hike will start with a leisurely pace through the valley of Cuncani. Hike 4 km (2.5 mi) to Chancachaca, where you will stop for lunch. Altitude here is around 3,480 m (11,417 ft). After lunch, continue to Cuncani, where you will camp for the night at 3872 m (12,703 ft). The camp is a International Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Planeterra supported project.

Lares town to Cuncani
Approximate distance: 9 km (5.59 mi)
Approximate hiking time: 4.5 hrs

Non-Hikers Itinerary

Depart Cusco for a full-day guided tour of the Sacred Valley. You may leave your large suitcase at the hotel in Cusco—or at the hotel in Ollantaytambo where you will stay tonight—since you will only be able to carry a backpack/duffle to Aquas Calientes and Machu Picchu.

Visit the Ccaccaccollo community center, where local women sell traditional textiles to travelers. See local weaving and dyeing techniques used to create garments and souvenirs, and learn how the Planeterra weaving co-operative has impacted the community and those who visit it.

Next, visit the rural village of Cuyo Chico, where a group of families joined together to create a small business based on their traditional adobe ceramic crafts. Using clay from their surroundings, they mold bowls, plates, and all manner of decorations. Learn about the ceramics process as well as the traditional adobe brick-making that is used for constructing houses throughout the valley, all while taking in a spectacular view of the Pisac Ruins.

Have lunch at the G Adventures-supported Parwa Community Restaurant. Learn how the resident-run restaurant was kickstarted by G Adventures and the Multilateral Investment Fund to become a successful farm-to-table program that boosts the local economy and several spin-off microenterprises.

After lunch, opt to head out on a hike to the Ollantaytambo storehouses and look out over the ruins. Or, wander around the cobblestone streets and visit a local Chicheria (corn beer bar).

Meals included:
Inca Trail – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner
Lares Trek – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner
Cusco Stay – Breakfast | Lunch

Day 5: Inca Trail, Lares Trail, or Non-Hiking Inca Trail and Lares trekkers continue their hikes. Non-hikers will visit the sites of the Maras Incan salt mines and Moray ruins, go on a scenic drive, and visit the Chinchero ruins.

Inca Trail Itinerary

Start early to trek over progressively more spectacular and steeper terrain on our way to Warmiwañusca (or Dead Woman’s Pass), the highest point of the trek at 4,198 m (13,769 ft). Be prepared to face strong Andean weather (blazing sun or cold winds) around the pass. Take the hike slow and drink lots of water along the way – amazing views are waiting as a reward. Finally, enjoy ample time to rest and relax after reaching the camp. Most campers arrive around early afternoon.

Wayllabamba to Paqaymayo
Approximate distance: 12 km (7.5 mi)
Approximate hiking time: 6–7 hrs

Lares Trek Itinerary

Today, hike from the foothills of Sicllaccasa Mountain 12.2 km (7.6 mi) to its high pass at 4,800 m (15,748 ft), providing scenic views of lagoons and the snow-capped Chicon Mountain. After reaching the highest point, celebrate by making an offering of coca leaves to the Andean gods. Following a short descent, hike another 2.2 km (1.3 mi) to Queuñapata for lunch and to take in the amazing view. Close out the day by hiking downhill another 2.6 km (1.6 mi) to our second campsite near a stream. You will spend the night at an elevation of around 4,114 m (13,497 ft).

Cuncani to Kuyoc
Approximate distance: 17 km (10.5 mi)
Approximate hiking time: 9 hrs

Non-Hikers Itinerary

Enjoy a Sacred Valley tour with your Cusco group leader today. Drive about an hour to get to the Moray archaeological site and tour the unique Inca ruins, consisting of circular terraces and a sophisticated irrigation system located at 3,500 m (11,483 ft) in elevation. Learn about the history of this fascinating site. Its purpose is uncertain, but it may have served as an agricultural laboratory where the Inca tested how different climates affected crops.

Next, visit the impressive Maras Salt Mines and see thousands of individual ancient salt pools spilling over a hillside. Learn about the different varieties of salt, and try the renowned pink salt, famous worldwide.

Continue on a scenic drive through small villages and stunning views of the Andean countryside before visiting the Chinchero ruins. Known to the Incas as the birthplace of the rainbow, this site offers stunning views of the Andean countryside.

Return to Ollantaytambo for the evening.

Approximate travel time: 3 hrs by private vehicle (with stops)

Meals included:
Inca Trail – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner
Lares Trek – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner
Cusco Stay – Breakfast | Lunch

Day 6: Inca Trail, Lares Trail, or Non-Hiking Inca Trail trekkers continue their hike. Lares trekkers finish their trek and travel to Ollantaytambo. Non-hikers visit the Ollantaytambo ruins. Lares trekkers and non-hikers board the train to Aguas Calientes.

Inca Trail Itinerary

Today, cross two more passes and more ruins along the way. The first pass is at 3,998 m (13,113 ft) where, on a clear day, you can catch a glimpse of the snow-capped Cordillera Vilcabamba. You'll hike through a cloud forest on the gentle climb to the second pass of the day, where you walk through original Incan constructions. The highest point of this pass is 3,700 m (12,136 ft). On a clear day, enjoy the views of the Urubamba Valley. At 3650 m (11,972 ft), you'll reach the ruins of Phuyupatamarca, the "Town Above the Clouds." Camp here or 1.5 hours further along, near the Wiñay Wayna ("Forever Young") ruins.

Paqaymayo to Wiñaywayna
Approximate distance: 16 km (10 mi)
Approximate hiking time: 9 hrs

Lares Trek Itinerary

This morning, follow the trail, passing by typical Andean flora and fauna, llamas, and alpacas. Descend through the valley of Pumahuanca, meet friendly local Quechua people, and explore some Inca storehouses along the way. This trek will take 3-4 hrs to reach the town of Pumahuanca, where you will enjoy lunch before hopping in a van to Ollantaytambo. Continue by train to Aguas Calientes.

Kuyoc to Punta Carretera

Approximate distance: 10.5 km (6.5 mi)
Approximate hiking time: 3.5 hrs

Non-Hikers Itinerary

After breakfast visit the Ollantaytambo ruins where you'll walk up the 200 stone steps to reach the top. Then, catch the scenic train to Aguas Calientes. After enjoying a quick orientation walk around the town of Aguas Calientes the group will have free time for optional activities. Opt to visit the Machu Picchu Museum, the Mandor Waterfalls, and the butterfly garden. Or consider taking a dip in some thermal baths to relax those muscles.

Meals included:
Inca Trail – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner
Lares Trek – Breakfast | Lunch
Cusco Stay – Breakfast

Day 7: Machu Picchu/Cusco Inca Trail hikers finish their trek at Machu Picchu. Lares trekkers and non-hikers join the Inca Trail group. Everybody tours the ruins on a guided tour and with free time. Travel back to Cusco.

Inca Trail Itinerary

The final day of the hike starts pre-dawn to reach the Sun Gate as early as possible.

Wake around 3:30 and walk to the checkpoint. Join the queue to wait for the gate to open. Catch your first views of the breathtaking ruins of Machu Picchu (and cross your fingers for a clear day). Hike down to Machu Picchu (about 45 mins) and join the rest of the group for a 1.5-hr guided tour of the site and some free time to explore

Wiñaywayna to Intipunku (Sun Gate)
Approximate distance: 4 km (2.5 mi)
Approximate hiking time: 1.5 hrs

Lares Trek and Non-Hikers Itinerary

Rise early to enjoy a guided tour of Machu Picchu, where you will join the Inca Trail trekkers.

Entire Group

Machu Picchu is both the most magnificent and the least understood of the Inca ruins. It is not mentioned in any of the chronicles of the Spanish conquistadors, and archaeologists today can do no more than speculate on its function. The local Quechua farmers in the area knew of Machu Picchu for centuries, but it was not until an 11-year-old boy led the American historian Hiram Bingham (who was in search of Vilcabamba) to the site on July 24, 1911, that the rest of the world became aware of its existence. At that time, the site was covered in thick vegetation, and Bingham and his team returned in 1912 and 1915 to clear the growth. Over the years, much work has been done on excavating and studying the site. Despite these efforts, many unanswered questions remain.

Follow the local guide to Machu Picchu to learn about its history at a leisurely pace. Gain local insight into the Inti Mach'ay cave, Inti Watana, the Temple of the Sun, the Temple of the Water, the Temple of the Condor, and the Room of the Three Windows. Take time to sit and feel the energy of this 15th-century site, now both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and voted one of the new Seven Wonders of the World (in a worldwide Internet poll).

Use any leftover energy from your Machu Picchu hike to visit the Inca Bridge site nearby, thought by some to be a secret back entrance to Machu Picchu. Trek up to the bridge that's cleaving to a 579 m

(1,900 ft) cliff and soak in amazing views of cloud forest along the way.

Please note about Huayna Picchu: Although this hike may be promoted by others, we cannot verify that this hike meets our minimum safety standards. We do not include the Huayna Picchu hike in any of our itineraries, and our tour leaders and support staff are prohibited from providing advice or assistance with booking this activity.

After exploring Machu Picchu, the group will take the scenic train back to Ollantaytambo, and then meet the van for the ride back to Cusco.

Approximate travel time: 1.5 hrs by train; 1.5-2 hrs by private vehicle
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8: Cusco/Lima Fly back to Lima and enjoy the last night in the city.

Fly from Cusco back to Lima, arriving around 5:00 p.m. The group may take the opportunity for a final night out for dinner or Pisco Sours.

Approximate travel time: 1.5-2 hrs by plane
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9: Lima Depart Lima at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Lima at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Lima, consider requesting post-trip accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

Meals included: Breakfast

Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive 10% off the lesser value program(s), up to 3 programs per year.
Interested in extending your time abroad? Beyond our educator programs, we can also help you book from G Adventures' extensive catalog of tours. These tours aren't tailored to educators the way our programs are, but booking through GEEO means you'll receive a discounted educator rate while supporting our nonprofit work.

Where you'll stay

The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:

Day 1 Lima (Jun 27): Ibis Budget Miraflores

Day 2 Cusco (Jun 28): Hotel Prisma

Day 3 (Jun 29):

Inca Trail & Lares Trek: Hotel Inka Paradise

Machu Picchu by Train: Hotel Prisma

Day 4 (Jun 30):

Inca Trail: Campsite Wayllabamba

Lares Trek: Cuncani Camp Site

Machu Picchu by Train: Hotel Inka Paradise

Day 5 (Jul 1):

Inca Trail: Pacaymayo Campsite

Lares Trek: Suttoq Pacchaq Camp Site

Machu Picchu by Train: Hotel Inka Paradise

Day 6 (Jul 2):

Inca Trail: Wiñaywanyna Campsite

Lares Trek & Machu Picchu by Train: Hotel Wiracocha Inn

Day 7 Cusco (Jul 3): Hotel Prisma

Day 8 Lima (Jul 4): Ibis Budget Miraflores

__Itinerary Disclaimer__: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.