

Inca Cycle



Duration: 11 days

Machu Picchu, the legendary Lost City of the Incas, is one of the most iconic sights in South America. Cycling through the heartland of the Incas, away from the crowds, is an unforgettable way to reach it.

We take quiet roads and wide tracks which undulate gently through farmland and colourful Andean villages, with the mighty Andes our backdrop. Our route is scattered with fascinating Incan ruins including Sacsayhuaman and Maras Salt pans, and many others relatively unknown and untouristed. You will be astounded at the rich culture and magnificent scenery of the Sacred Valley!

Time to explore Machu Picchu and Cuzco tops off a rewarding week in the saddle.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart London

Our route to Cuzco may involve a connection, depending on flight schedule. Night in flight.

Day 2: Arrive Cuzco

Morning arrival in Cuzco (3400m); transfer to our hotel. After some time to check in, we will meet up with our local guide for a short walking tour of Cuzco, to explore the beautiful historic centre and adjust to the altitude. In the evening, we meet for dinner and a detailed trip briefing. Night hotel.

Day 3: Acclimatisation Ride

Today's ride is designed to help us to adjust to the altitude, increasing our chances of conquering the Andean roads ahead of us, and giving us an introduction to the Inca heritage of Peru. Cycling mainly downhill, with a few gentle climbs, this half day acclimatisation ride gives us a relaxing and enjoyable chance to get to grips with the challenge ahead of us. After a short transfer to Abra Corao, just above Cuzco, we start our cycle heading for the ruins of Tambomachay, with its finely-preserved water features. From here, we continue onwards to the stunning ruins of Sacsayhuaman, with its distinctive zig-zag ramparts. Heading downhill by smooth road brings us to San Cristobal church, where we can enjoy fantastic views of Cuzco, then passing back through the Plaza de Armas (Cuzco's main square), and on to our hotel for the evening. Night hotel.

Cycle approx. 18km

Day 4: Cuzco - Pisac

Following a short bus ride out of Cuzco, our route takes us further into the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Heading first for Huambutio, we then turn to follow a beautiful and rarely-used road beside the Rio Urubamba, cycling on either smooth tarmac or dirt trails across gently undulating terrain. With an abundance of picturesque spots, we stop for a picnic lunch near the river, before continuing on to today's destination of Pisac (3100m), known for its colourful artesan market. Night hotel.

Cycle approx. 45km

Day 5: Pisac – Urubamba

Leaving Pisac, a short drive takes us to the amazing ruins, perched high above the town on an impressive promontory. We then drive the short distance to the small village of Taray, where we unload the bikes and set off on a dirt track. Our route undulates between local villages and haciendas, where we will see traditional farming methods still in use. Set against the beautiful backdrop of glaciated mountains and Inca ruins, it's impossibly scenic. We cycle through the villages of Qoya, Lamay and Calca, before continuing on into Urubamba. There is always something to see on today's ride – it's a great insight into the local way of life here in this beautiful and historic area. Night hotel.

Cycle approx. 45-47km

Day 6: Urubamba - Maras Saltpans - Urubamba

After breakfast, a short drive takes us to Lake Piuray, and we start riding along the shores of this emerald-green lake on a gently undulating, rarely-travelled dirt road. Our route takes us to Chinchero, a colourful Inca town famous for its traditional weavings; time permitting, we'll be able to visit a local weaving co-operative. The colonial church here sits on a large Inca site, and there's time to explore before we descend gradually across the plains to Lake Huaypo – perfect for a spot of lunch. Again riding mainly downhill, we come to the colonial village of Maras, where we ride to the famous salt-pans. These impressive workings have been mined since Inca times, and are a spectacular end to the day's ride. Night hotel.

Cycle approx. 40-45km

Day 7: Urubamba - Ollantaytambo

Today's route takes us along the shores of Lake Huaypo (known for its UFO sightings!) on a beautiful, rarely-used trail across the plains to the small town of Huaracundo. Built on top of Inca terraces, the village boasts an impressive colonial church – built, as many were, from Incan carved rocks – and a photogenic central square. Smooth tarmac then leads us down into the Sacred Valley of the Incas and Pacchar (home to an award-winning Craft brewery), before following a dirt road past some impressive Inca terraces. We finally come to Ollantaytambo (2800m), the site of a battle between the Incas and the Spanish. There are more striking ruins here and it's a pleasant place to explore. Night hotel.

Cycle approx. 40-45km

Day 8: Ollantaytambo – Machu Picchu - Cuzco

We can't leave the Sacred Valley without visiting iconic Machu Picchu, one of the highlights of South America! We start early for the beautiful train ride and a short bus journey to the famous and mysterious Incan site - this journey is a highlight in itself, with wonderful views as it winds its way up through the Andean valleys. We enjoy a guided tour around this extraordinary site, before meeting up in Aguas Calientes. In the afternoon we take the train back to Ollantaytambo and return to Cuzco by bus. Night hotel.

Day 9: Free Day in Cuzco

After a good night's sleep and a relaxing lie-in we have the remainder of the day free to explore Cuzco or do any last-minute shopping. Those looking for an adrenaline fix may wish to pre-book on to a White Water Rafting Activity (see website for details). Later this evening we all meet up again for dinner to celebrate our achievements. Night hotel.

(Lunch not included)

Day 10: Depart Cuzco

Free to explore or relax until it's time to transfer to the airport for our flight to Lima and connection on to the UK.

(Lunch not included)

Day 11: Arrive UK

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All transport from London to Cuzco return
- All meals except where specified, and accommodation
- Experienced leaders; doctor with a group of 15 or more participants; local guides/mechanics and drivers
- Local support and back-up equipment
- Entrance to sites visited as part of the itinerary

- Full Suspension Mountain Bike (e-bike upgrades are available at extra cost)

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- Any meals specified 'not included' in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Cycle helmet (compulsory) and water bottle
- Personal spending money, souvenirs and drinks
- Tips for local support crew
- Inbound airport departure tax (no tax applied at the time of writing)
- Fees for any optional sites, attractions or activities
- Airline taxes: we cap these so that £250.00 is the maximum you would pay
- Any applicable surcharges as per Terms and Conditions

GRADE | YELLOW

All our trips are designed to provide a challenge. Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trip lies within the **YELLOW** range.



The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a **spectrum** which reflects the difficulty of these factors. Trip duration, accommodation and living conditions are also taken into account. Some sections will feel more challenging than others, but the grade reflects the overall trip. Unusual weather conditions can also have a significant impact.

The Accommodation icon indicates the living conditions while trekking/cycling. While there are usually several factors that present a challenge, the Challenge icon indicates the trip's most challenging element, for most people.

[Trip grading explained](#)



Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Please note: This document was downloaded on 14 Jul 2025, and the challenge is subject to change.