

#### **Duration: 5 days**

Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake in the world, lying on the high altiplano at 3856m above sea level, straddling the Peru-Bolivian border. It is home to the legendary Uros Islands – floating reed islands where the Uros people have lived for centuries. We visit Amantani Island, with its mountaintop temples to Pachamama and Pachatata (earth mother and father), and stay overnight with local families. We then move on to Taquile, famous for its intricate, brightly-coloured weaving. The lake views are fabulous, but the highlight of the trip is the glimpse into the everyday lives of the local people, from cultures pre-dating the Incas by a thousand years.

Those with less time or not wishing to continue to the Colca Canyon will transfer from Puno to the airport at Juliaca (approx. 45 mins) for the flight to Lima; connect with international flight to UK (arriving Day 5). Please refer to the above itinerary for more details on this extension to include the Colca Canyon.

Contact the office for pricing and availability.

# **DETAILED ITINERARY**

#### Day 1: Cuzco – Puno

(main group departs Cuzco)

An early start for the long drive across the Peruvian altiplano (high plains). We break the journey at different sites along the way, making for a fascinating drive. We stop to see the baroque church of Andahuaylillas, whose frescoes have earned it the nickname of 'Sistine Chapel of the Americas'. We then stop at the Incan sites of Raqchi and Pukara. Entry to these sites are optional. After stopping for lunch at the small town of Sicuani, we continue on to Puno, enjoying the views over the high plateau, with its backdrop of mountains, known as the altiplano. We arrive in Puno late afternoon, check in and relax. Puno lies at 3830m, which after your time in Cuzco should pose no problems, but take it easy if you are feeling the effects of altitude.

Breakfast and lunch provided. Provide own dinner. Hotel accommodation.

NB: We can arrange flights to Cuzco (at additional cost) for those ending their trip in Puerto Maldonado

## Day 2: Lake Titicaca – Amantani Island

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An early transfer takes us to the port and, travelling by motor boat, we set off for the legendary Uros Islands, where we have an insight into the lives of the Uros people who live on these floating reed islands, some only 20 metres in length. After a beautiful 3-hour boat ride we reach Amantani Island. Here you have the opportunity to trek to the top of the mountain (4150m) to see the Temples of the Pachamama and Pachatata. We spend the night in homes on the island, as guests of local families, and can enjoy authentic food and music tonight. This glimpse of the traditional customs of the island people is a real highlight for most people.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided. Rustic accommodation in family home.

#### Day 3: Lake Titicaca – Taquile Island – Puno

After breakfast we take a short boat ride to neighbouring Taquile Island, where we can tour around the ruins and see how the local people live. The people on Taquile are famous for their intricate and fascinating weavings, and you'll get the chance to haggle for souvenirs and support their way of life. After lunch we take the boat back to Puno. Arrival in the afternoon and transfer back to hotel.

Breakfast and lunch provided. Provide own dinner. Hotel accommodation.

#### Day 4 - 5: Puno – Juliaca – Lima – UK

Those with less time or not wishing to continue to the Colca Canyon will transfer from Puno to the airport at Juliaca (approx. 45 mins) for the flight to Lima; connect with international flight to UK (arriving Day 13).

Breakfast provided.

#### Contact the office for pricing and availability.

NB: It is advisable to book early to guarantee availability and avoid any disappointment.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Flight from Juliaca to Lima, and locally-paid internal flight tax
- All transport from Cuzco to Puno
- Hotel accommodation in Puno; twin-share B&B basis
- Island accommodation in family home
- Entry to islands
- Meals as indicated
- Activities as detailed in itinerary
- English-speaking guide

# WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- Optional sites en-route to Puno (allow \$8-12)
- Meals as indicated
- Personal spending, drinks, etc

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# • Tips for guides/drivers CHALLENGE INFORMATION

# **DETAILED INFORMATION**

## Trip Safety

Your safety, and that of the rest of the group, is our highest priority. Our trips are designed and planned with safety in mind. Your crew will be equipped with communication devices (eg phones, radios and/or emergency satellite phones), medical kit and other safety apparatus appropriate to the destination. Our leaders always have access to our 24-hour emergency UK back-up. They are responsible for safety on the trip, and will make any changes to the itinerary they deem necessary, should local conditions dictate. Pre-trip administration - such as medical questionnaires and travel insurance as appropriate - is all done with your safety in mind.

# PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGE

#### Fitness Levels

This is designed to be a challenge, and it is vital that you train sufficiently for it. We will supply you with a thorough training guide once you have registered. We expect all participants to train hard in advance, but we respect everyone's limits and do not expect everyone to maintain the same pace. Inadequate training is likely to have an impact not just on your chances of completing the challenge, but enjoying it too - and we want you to have the time of your life!

Our challenges attract people of all levels of experience, fitness and ability as well as all ages and backgrounds. We design our challenges so that everyone can go at their own pace: this is not a race. If you have concerns about your fitness or if you have reduced mobility please do contact us for a confidential chat about whether this challenge is appropriate for you.

For logistical and safety reasons we sometimes need to re-group, so the front-runners may find themselves waiting for the slower ones. Please relax, and remember that this is a team effort that enables people to achieve their personal goals and earn sponsorship.

## Clothing & Kit

We plan our trips around the optimal weather conditions, but could still be exposed to bad weather at any time. It is vital you are prepared for all conditions. We provide you with a detailed packing kit-list on registration, with plenty of information, and we are always available if you need advice.

## Passenger Portal

We have a Passenger Portal which will give you more details of the challenge itself. It also enables you to see any outstanding information we need, the countdown to your challenge departure, see your outstanding balance, make payments and update your contact details. You can access this via the following link - <u>Passenger Portal Log in</u>.

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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 16 Apr 2024, and the challenge is subject to change.

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