



ADVENTURE  
EDELWEISS TOURS

## ADVENTURE MACHU PICCHU

Andes, Incas and desert – a real Machu Picchu  
motorcycle adventure!

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# ADVENTURE MACHU PICCHU

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## RIDING DAY 1 : AREQUIPA - PUERTO INCA

### **Standard Route (416 km / 258 miles)**

We have to start early today, with 259 miles on the agenda! We follow the coast to the north, still on the Pan-American Highway. It is normally dry all year round, but sometimes it gets pretty foggy in the morning, so bring an extra layer with you.

In the afternoon we get to our hotel in Puerto Inca. The hotel is very simple, but sits on a beautiful Peruvian beach, next to the first Incan ruins we come to see. You can get a real "salt water shower" in that place, too, if you like.

### **Highlights:**

#### **#1: Puerto Inca**



Puerto Inca is the most important archeological site of the Peruvian coast. Between Nasca (Peru) and Copiapo (Chile), it is a pre-Inca settlement also called "Quebrada de la Vaca". This culture settled down on the seashore in a beautiful bay known as "Puerto Inca".

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## RIDING DAY 2 : PUERTO INCA - NAZCA

### Standard Route (165 km / 102 miles)

We will arrive in Nasca after a short and easy ride. We will be early enough for the unfrightened to book a (turbulent) flight at the local airport to see the Nasca Lines. For those who are less adventurous, or who easily get airsick, two of the lines can be seen from a little iron tower at the side of the Panamericana. This view is less impressive than the flight, but also less dangerous as long as you do not fall down the stairs.

If you do not care about the lines at all, you can take a walk through the city of Nasca. Our hotel is located downtown in this typically Peruvian city. The decision is yours ...

### Highlights:

#### #1: Nazca Lines



The Nazca Lines are a series of geoglyphs located in the Nasca Desert, a high arid plateau close to Nasca. There are hundreds of individual figures, ranging in complexity from simple lines to stylized hummingbirds, spiders, monkeys, fish, sharks or orcas, llamas, and lizards. The lines are shallow designs in the ground where the reddish pebbles that cover the surrounding landscape have been removed.

Many of those lines are simple lines or geometric shapes, and more than seventy of them show a natural shape or human figures. The largest are over 660 ft. across. Scholars differ in interpreting what the lines were for, but generally ascribe religious significance to them. The spiders, birds and plants could be fertility symbols. Other possible explanations include: irrigation schemes, giant astronomical calendars, or landings for spaceships.

#### #2: Nazca



Nasca (sometimes spelled Nasca) is a city and system of valleys on the southern coast of Peru. It is also the name of the largest existing town in the Nazca Province. The name is derived from the Nazca culture that flourished in the area between 100 BC and 800 AD. This culture was responsible for the Nazca Lines and the ceremonial city of Cahuachi; they also constructed an impressive system of underground aqueducts, named Puquios, that still function today.

## RIDING DAY 3 : NAZCA - CHALHUANCA

### Standard Route (365 km / 227 miles)

It's time to climb the Andes. We will start more or less at sea level and the road climbs fast to higher altitudes. In the first 62 miles we reach about 13,000 ft. above sea level! It might get really cold today...

The road will surprise us with a pretty good surface, which you generally cannot expect in Peru. Because of that we need to be careful and force ourselves to take some breaks. If we don't treat ourselves to the occasional break, we are likely to get headaches.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Reserva Nacional Pampa Galeras



The "Pampas Galeras" national park is situated at 13,780 ft. It's the homeland of the American camels – the really cute vicuñas. You can find them all over the place. In contrast to their relatives, the llamas and the alpacas, the vicuñas are wild animals – they cannot be domesticated. 70% of the vicuñas worldwide live in the area around Pampas Galeras.

#### #2: Hotel & Restaurante Tampumayu



Tampumayu – our hotel! Though we are riding the Andes, it looks like the Southern Alps from our hotel. Looking at the small houses, you might be tempted to think you are in the area around Lake Garda in northern Italy.

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## RIDING DAY 4 : CHALHUANCA - OLLANTAYTAMBO

### Standard Route (345 km / 214 miles)

Riding the Andes is always special. High pass roads, lonesome villages and the descent to the Urubamba River. Incredible views of high mountains with peaks around 18,000 ft. will be the main sight of our today's trip.

In the afternoon we will reach the typical old town of the Inca settlement of Ollantaytambo.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Route Chalhuanca-Ollantaytambo



Again we are riding up to high altitudes. To be able to climb up a mountain by motorbike you usually need to have a road. As a straight uphill-line would be boring for us, we prefer to have this road built with some nice curves... - so let's go!

On our journey through this fantastic landscape you will realize that the picture of the landscape is changing the closer we get to the Urubamba valley. Not only will the appearance of the buildings change but also the way the people look like.

#### #2: Ollantaytambo



Ollantaytambo is not as well known as the ruins of Machu Picchu, but has much to offer. The old village lies next to the Urubamba River, in a beautiful old town with historical walls. It's only a 5 minute walk from our beautiful hotel. Around the village you can see a lot of Inca ruins - let's go for a walk!

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## RIDING DAY 5 : OLLANTAYTAMBO

### Standard Route (65 km / 40 miles)

Wake up early - Machu Picchu awaits us! After an easy 2-hour train ride, we reach Machu Picchu Pueblo (formerly Aguas Calientes), the starting point for our visit of the Machu Picchu ruins. A shuttle bus takes us up the mountains, where a local guide is waiting for us. We will have a couple of hours to hike around this amazing place.

In the evening we have enough time to stroll through Ollantaytambo.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Ollantaytambo



Ollantaytambo is not as well known as the ruins of Machu Picchu, but has much to offer. The old village lies next to the Urubamba River, in a beautiful old town with historical walls. It's only a 5 minute walk from our beautiful hotel. Around the village you can see a lot of Inca ruins - let's go for a walk!

#### #2: Machu Picchu



Built around 1460 AD, it was abandoned as an official site for the Inca rulers a hundred years later, at the time of the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire. Although known locally, it had been forgotten for centuries until Hiram Bingham, an American historian, brought the site to worldwide attention in 1911. Since then Machu Picchu has become an important tourist attraction. Later on, when we walk around the ruins, you will easily recognize why this city was built at this spot: it's almost invisible from the valley, easy to defend and just beautiful!

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RIDING DAY 6 : OLLANTAYTAMBO - PARKING DE ESTACIONAMIENTO,  
PATRIA, CUSCO

### Standard Route (100 km / 62 miles)

We start our day with a delicious and healthy breakfast before we start our engines. A short part of the morning ride (8 miles) is easy gravel with a small and easy creek crossing. A part of the stretch of road we came on our way to Ollantaytambo will be the same on our way back now. But today we take a little side trip to the salt mines of Moray.

After one or two hours we climb our saddles again and make our first real experience in the Peruvian city traffic - Cusco with a motorcycle group – for sure an interesting experience. To master city traffic as a group, showing team spirit, being considerate of others and at the same time being able to assert yourself is much asked for.

Once we are in Cusco everybody can glean the shopping qualities of this lively city or simply put up the feet.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Salineras de Maras (Maras Saltmines)



For centuries, salt has been excavated here the natural way. The little brook of brine has its source in the nearby mountain. With the help of skillfully manufactured channels, the workers lead the brine to multilevel fields. Consequently, the sun and the wind cause the water to evaporate, and as a result salt will remain on the fields. For sure an interesting and fantastic sight; even on our way through the Urubamba valley you can spot this

phenomenon.

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RIDING DAY 7 : CUSCO - LA TABLE DEL INCA, RESTAURANT, PUNO

## Standard Route (400 km / 248 miles)

We have probably heard a lot about Machu Picchu and the Amazonas during our lives. The last couple of days were just amazing - we have learned a lot about these places. But today we will see even more ruins along the road. In the afternoon, surrounded by seemingly surreal mountain scenery, we will reach the highest navigable lake of the world – Lake Titicaca.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Lake Titicaca



The lake is supposed to be the highest navigable lake with its altitude of 3,800 m (12,500 ft.). It is also the largest lake in whole South America and has got a surface of almost 8.400 km<sup>2</sup> (3,250 sq mi). The western part belongs to Peru (60%) and the eastern part to Bolivia.



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## RIDING DAY 8 : PUNO - CHIVAY

### Standard Route (300 km / 186 miles)

It was cold last night – at about 13,000 ft. First thing early in the morning, we will visit the floating islands of the Uros before we leave Lake Titicaca. To avoid having to ride through the chaotic town of Juliaca, we take the new road around it and follow the incredible mountain roads to Chivay afterwards. Please be especially attentive on the last riding part of the day, as this road is not very well maintained.

If we are lucky we will see some Peruvian alpacas and vicuñas again.

### Highlights:

#### #1: Uros Floating Islands



The small islands are made of totora reeds, growing in the lake. The plants develop dense roots that interweave to form a natural layer called Khili (about 3.3 to 6.6 ft. thick), which supports the islands. The islands are anchored with ropes attached to sticks driven into the bottom of the lake. The reeds at the bottoms of the islands rot away fairly quickly, so new reeds are regularly added to the tops, about

every three months. One island exists about 30 years.

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## RIDING DAY 9 : CHIVAY - AREQUIPA

### Standard Route (160 km / 99 miles)

The best time to see the Peruvian condors is early in the morning. The best spot to watch them is a place right at the edge of the canyon. If you're lucky, you might be able to take pictures of several condors flying at the same time!

Later, we will have an easy ride to another beautiful city, Arequipa. With its unique Plaza de Armas, Arequipa is one of the nicest sights of Peru!

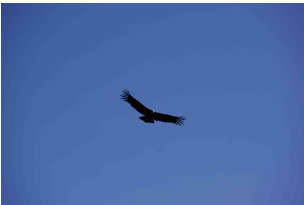
### Highlights:

#### #1: Colca Canyon



The Colca Canyon is located about 100 miles northwest of Arequipa. At 13,648 ft., it is more than twice as deep as the Grand Canyon in the United States. Even so, it is promoted as only the "world's 2nd deepest canyon"! The Colca Valley is a colorful Andean valley with towns founded in Spanish colonial times. The local people still maintain ancestral traditions and continue to cultivate the pre-Inca stepped terraces.

#### #2: Condors



The condors are about 43.3 inches tall and weigh around 26.4 lbs. The Andean Condor has the largest wingspan, which ranges from 110 to 126 inches. It can reach altitudes up to 22,966 ft.! The anticipated average life of a Condor is at 70 years!

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### #3: Arequipa



The so-called "Juanita" is a mummy of a little girl. She was found in the crater of the volcano Ampato at an altitude of over 16,000 ft.! Because of the icy conditions she was found frozen. At an age of only 14 years she was sacrificed by Inca priests in the 15th century. Juanita's story and all interesting facts about herself are represented in the "Museo Santuarios Andinos". Arequipa is maybe the best place to get an idea of today's life of the Peruvians. Ask

your tour guide if s/he can organize a special kind of guided city tour for you. This way you will get to see some really special places and maybe enjoy a typical Peruvian lunch not every tourist is able to do. A local guide will show you around and will explain about the little things you might not have recognized on your own. A visit of a typical market is also part of the tour.



**We wish you a wonderful tour.**

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guided motorcycle tours.



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