

Exploring the Textile Traditions of the Peruvian Highlands



With a 7 Day
Optional Extension:
Lake Titicaca,
Colca Canyon
& Arequipa!

See Page 10



*A Weaving & Cultural Odyssey
In the Sacred Valley, Cusco & Machu Picchu*

May 14 – 24, 2012



Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

"Weaving Together Uncommon Journeys with Hands-On Experience"

Explore with us...



Peru, the Land of Legendary Enchantment

Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

*"Weaving together uncommon journeys
with hands-on experience"*

Dear Fellow Adventurer,

As an avid explorer and a weaver, I feel there is a timeless connection between these two passions. For the past 19 years, with my adventure travel company, NatureQuest, we have shown countless travelers the many treasures of this planet. I decided to combine my travel industry expertise with my love for, and appreciation of, weaving to create affordable hands-on weaving workshops around the world.

Each odyssey focuses on, and explores in depth, the various weaving centers of the world. These journeys offer the discovery of colorful destinations combined with an opportunity for a "hands on" weaving experience in the style and tradition of that country with a master weaver. These are small group, intimate travel experiences limited to just a handful of weavers. I will lead each odyssey so I invite you to join me for the weaving experience of a lifetime!

In the Spirit of Adventure and Creativity,

Cari Ann Sample Malver
Director



Meet Our Local Weaving Guide...

Nilda Callañaupa is a master Andean weaver and Director of The Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco, dedicated to preserving the textile heritage of the region. Nilda grew up in the high valley of Chinchero, an important Inca center not far from Machu Picchu.

As an expert weaver, Nilda has traveled to the United States and elsewhere on a number of occasions to teach and give presentations at Harvard, Cornell, the University of Vermont, Brown, the Textile Museum in Washington, DC, and other institutions. Her expertise is recognized by international scholars of Inca textiles and culture. She is the renowned author of *"Weaving in the Peruvian Highlands: Dreaming Patterns and Weaving Memories."*

She has appeared on television documentaries as a spokesperson for her culture. Nilda's weavings have been exhibited in Peru, the US, and elsewhere. Nilda lives in Cusco, Peru with her husband and two children.

Perfect Itinerary for Non-Weavers, too!

Additional activities are available for those not participating in the textile workshops...

**Horseback Riding,
Whitewater Rafting,
Cooking Classes,
Archeological Visits
and more!**

The Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1: Arrive Lima

Day 2: Cusco, the Ancient City of the Incas

Day 3: Sacred Valley Exploration: Ruins, Markets and Weaving Villages and demonstrations

Day 4: Backstrap Weaving Workshop, Chinchero

Day 5: Natural Dyeing Workshop, Chinchero

Day 6: Tubular Eye Border Workshop, Chinchero

Day 7: Chinchero Market and Ollantaytambo

Day 8: Machu Picchu; Luxury Hotel

Day 9: Machu Picchu & Cusco

Day 10: Exploring Cusco

Day 11: Lima: Textile Museum, Colonial City and more



Monday, May 14

To Peru

Fly from your home to Peru. We would be happy to help you arrange your air travels. Flights typically arrive in Lima either very late at night or early the next morning (May 15). If you arrive in the late evening, you will stay overnight in Lima close to the airport (hotel included).

Meals Provided: On flights only

Tuesday, May 15

Arrive Cusco

This morning, you fly to Cusco. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the Marqueses Boutique Hotel. Located just one block from the Plaza de Armas (the Main Square of the City of Cusco), this hotel is a beautiful Colonial house built at the end of the 16th century that has recently been restored and refurbished. It's central location is close to all of the most important attractions in this the famous capital of The Inca Empire. After time to relax for a bit, we will embark on a tour of this fascinating city including visits to several key weaving enterprises in the city: Casa Ecologica and Manos Amigos (Centro Bartoleme de las Casas). We hope to wind up with a visit to world famous Centre of Traditional Textiles of Cusco and enjoy a short talk by Nilda Callañaupa, its founder and our guide in the countryside over the next few days. We will end the tour around 5:00 - 6:00 PM, and your evening is free to dine and rest at your leisure. Overnight at Marqueses Boutique Hotel. (B) <http://www.hotelmarqueses.com>

Wednesday, May 16

To the Sacred Valley

Today we venture into the Urubamba Valley, also known as "*El Valle Sagrado de los Incas*," or the Sacred Valley of the Incas. It lies between Cusco and Machu Picchu, essentially connecting the two. It has an extraordinarily rich history of the Inca culture. Remarkable ruins and other remnants of that indelible legacy



lie in all directions. The fertile valley is home to the Urubamba River and majestic Andes mountains, charming villages, and stunning examples of Inca stonemasonry. This morning, our private guide and van will pick us up and drive us to the Sacred Valley and the town of Pisac with its incredible Pisac Archaeological site that sits high above the Indian Market town. Here some of the Incas finest structures comparable to Machu Picchu can be visited. There is an Intihuantana group of temple structures known as *Reloj Solar* or "Hitching Post of the Sun." You can also view the

"military area" known as *Q'Allaqasa* and *Kanchiracay* where the land workers were housed. The view of the surrounding valley is so incredible that on clear day it seems you can see to the edge of the earth.

Following this visit, we'll proceed to the Ancient Pisac Market where many of the local Indians sell & barter their hand-made textiles, home grown fruits and vegetables. After a brief time shopping, we'll drive further into the Sacred Valley or stay in Pisac and enjoy a lunch at a nearby local hacienda restaurant.

After lunch, we will meet up with our guide Nilda and visit the famous weaving village of Chayhuatire. Supported by the CTTC (Centre of Traditional Textiles of Cusco), Chayhuatire has been developing and improving their weavings for the past 30 years. Chayhuatire weavers will give us a dying and weaving demonstration and you will have the opportunity to buy some of these spectacularly woven items. The quality of the products offered is superb. From Chayhuatire we will travel to our hotel in Sacred Valley, Qawana Boutique Lodge. Qawana means "look out point" in the Quechua language spoken by the Incas. The hotel lives up to its name with the beautiful views that surround it, especially the snow peak Pituisiray. Differing from larger, more commercial hotels, Qawana is designed to be in total harmony with nature. The rooms are perfectly located, some with a frontal view to Vilcanota River and the others to the fields. The exclusive restaurant provides excellent fare that will delight the most exquisite palate while staring at the beautiful river view from its majestic balcony. For any non-weavers in the group, we can arrange outdoor activities from Qawana such as horseback riding, trekking, mountain biking, cooking classes, and river rafting. Overnight at the Qawana Boutique Hotel. (B, L)

<http://www.qawana.com/>

Thursday, May 17 Backstrap Weaving Workshop

Today we begin the first of our three textile workshops with the locals. With our guide Nilda, we drive by private van (1 hour) to Chinchero where we learn the ancient art of backstrap weaving. This charming village will be the setting for each of our workshops. Chinchero is a small Andean Indian village located





high up on the windswept plains of Anta. There are beautiful views overlooking the Sacred Valley of the Incas, with the Cordillera Vilcabamba and the snow-capped peak of Salkantay dominating the western horizon. Chinchero is believed by the Incas to be the mythical birthplace of the rainbow. The village mainly is comprised of mud brick (adobe) houses, and locals still go about their business in traditional dress.

The village may have been an important town in Inca times. The most striking remnant of this period is the massive stone wall in the main plaza which has ten trapezoidal niches. The construction of the wall and many other ruins and agricultural terraces (which are still in use) are attributed to Inca Tupac Yupanqui who possibly used Chinchero as a kind of country resort. In the main plaza an adobe colonial church, dating from the early seventeenth century, has been built upon the foundations of an Inca temple or palace. The ceiling and walls are covered in beautiful floral and religious designs. In this idyllic setting, we will learn the ancient technique of pattern pick-up on a backstrap loom. The Peruvian girls have been learning in this way for centuries. We will weave a narrow band called a *cinta* or *jacima*. In the afternoon, we will return to Qawana where we can relax by the river. Overnight at Qawana. (B,L)

Friday, May 18

Natural Dyeing Workshop

Following breakfast we drive once again to Chinchero for a day of learning the ancient process of natural dyeing of wool. The vibrant colors so typical of Andean weaving come from a variety of native plants and insects. The weavers of Chinchero have spent the last decade learning to recapture the dyeing traditions of their ancestors using lichens, leaves, flowers and insects. In our workshop, they will share their secrets with us and we will have the opportunity to dye a virtual rainbow of colors in this legendary process. In the late afternoon, we will return to our oasis at Qawana. Overnight at Qawana. (B,L)



Saturday, May 19

Tubular Eye Border Workshop

Again after breakfast, we will return to Chinchero to learn an interesting finishing technique found in some of the finest textiles of the Peruvian Highlands. These creative tubular edgings are both functional and decorative. We will learn this interesting combination of pattern pick-up and crossing warps from the local weavers. Overnight at Qawana. (B,L)

Sunday, May 20

Chincho Market & Ollantaytambo

Today is a real treat as we visit the famous indigenous market of Chincho held only on Sundays. Local farmers come from miles around to sell their agricultural goods and livestock. The market is a sensory overload with all its colors, sounds and sights. Not only is the market a wonderful cultural experience, it is also a great opportunity to buy Andean handicrafts. Many consider this market to be the most authentic in the Sacred Valley and an experience not to be missed.

In the afternoon, we will drive in our private van to the charming town of Ollantaytambo. This attractive little town is located at the western end of the Sacred Valley and has been built on top of original Inca foundations. It is the best surviving example of Inca town planning. The town is divided in *canchas* (blocks) which are almost entirely intact. Each *cancha* has only one entrance (usually a huge stone doorway) which leads into a central courtyard. The houses surround the courtyard. The town is located at the foot of some spectacular Inca ruins which protected the strategic entrance to the lower Urubamba Valley. The temple area is at the top of steep terracing which helped to provide excellent defenses. Stone used for these buildings was brought from a quarry high up on the opposite side of the Urubamba River - an incredible feat involving the efforts of thousands of workers. The complex was still under construction at the time of the conquest and was never completed.

We will stay in this town tonight so we are only two minutes to the train station to catch an early morning train to take us toward Machu Picchu in the morning. Our accommodations are at Hotel Pakaritampu. Considered by many to be the best lodging in town, our hotel has a Quechua name that translates as "house of dawn." It is one of the coziest places around with fireplaces and reading rooms with Cusqueño art that invite you to settle in with a good book and a hot cup of coffee on a chilly evening. The on-grounds orchard supplies the fruit that ends up on your breakfast plate, and as accompaniment for the Peruvian cuisine served in the restaurant. (B) <http://www.pakaritampu.com/en/>



Monday, May 21

Aguas Caliente and Optional Machu Picchu Visit

This morning, we will be assisted to the Ollanta train station for the train departing midday bound for Aguas Caliente and the Pueblo Lodge arriving at around 2:00PM. Once here, you have a choice. If you are anxious to

get to the wonders of Machu Picchu ahead of the group's tour tomorrow, you may take the bus on up to Machu Picchu on your own for the afternoon. Or you may wait to do that trip with the group tomorrow. For those that choose to wait, the remainder of the day is at your leisure to enjoy this spectacular property. A sprawling Andean-style village, the Pueblo Hotel is located on 12 acres of exquisite beauty existing a world apart far from the hectic masses of Aguas Caliente. Guests follow stone pathways to their rooms, located in comfortable one or two-story whitewashed casitas. These luxurious whitewashed bungalows are nestled into terraced hills. The experience is complete with spa services using sublime natural essences, and a first-class restaurant boasting stunning views of the rushing Vilcanota River. Overnight at the Inkaterra Pueblo Hotel. (B,D) *(If you choose to visit MP today, this extra trip's entry fees to Machu Picchu not incl. – approx. \$50 pp)*
www.inkaterra.com/en/machu-picchu

Tuesday, May 22 Machu Picchu & Cusco

Early this morning, we will transfer by auto wagon train winding into the Andean Mountains passing through several small villages where the local Indian farmers manage their farms and reside just as they have for hundreds of years. After a scenic ride (1½ hours), we arrive into the final stop at Aguas Calientes. Here the temperatures will have changed to that of tropical and an abundance of plants typical for this region of the Amazon basin thrive. We board the tourist bus and travel up an incredible winding road that leads to the fabled site of Machu Picchu. Upon our arrival, our private guide will explain the history & the myths that surround this archaeological wonder. Thousands of people from around the world frequent this magnificent ancient site to pay homage and grasp the spectacular views of Machu Picchu's 7,800 ft. plateau that reaches into the clouds and heavens above. (Entrance fee to Machu Picchu included). In the late afternoon we will bid farewell to the lost city of Machu Picchu and proceed to the Aguas Calientes train station where we board the 3:00PM Vistadome train for bound for Cuzco. We'll arrive at the Cusco train station at around 6:45PM where we will be met and transferred to the now familiar Marqueses Boutique Hotel. Overnight at the Hotel Los Marqueses. (B)

Wednesday, May 23 Free Day in Cusco

Today you are on your own to explore Cusco. You may wish to visit some of the sites that you didn't see on the first visit. Or you might opt to shop for the wonderful Andean handicrafts that you haven't bought yet. The choice is yours. Tonight is your chance to sample one of the fine restaurants on your own in Cusco. Overnight at Marqueses Hotel. (B)

Thursday, May 24 To Lima

We will be picked up at the hotel this morning and transferred to the Cusco airport for Star Peru Airlines flight #1118 departing at 10:55AM, arriving Lima at 11:55AM. Upon arrival, we'll will be met and transferred to the Hotel Colon located in Miraflores. Once settled in, we embark on a guided tour of Colonial Lima visiting the Main Square, the site of Spanish foundation by Francisco Pizarro. We'll continue to the Cathedral, built in 1625. Next, we visit the Government Palace, with its traditional & colorful changing of the presidential guard, then to San Francisco Church and Monastery: Lima's biggest religious complex with a convent, museum of colonial art, cloisters and catacombs. Later you may choose to visit any of the many museums where priceless pre-Columbian ceramic, weavings, gold, silver & copper artifacts from previous civilizations can be viewed. In the early evening, you'll return to the Hotel Colon where you can relax for the remainder of the evening. Later, you will be met and transferred to the Lima airport for your late night flight back to the United States.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Most airlines depart Lima just before midnight. However, American Airlines and several others depart early the next morning. This day of the itinerary will be adjusted to accommodate your flight schedule with a possible overnight in Lima (included).

Land Costs Include:

- Hotels as shown based on double occupancy; single accommodations available with supplement
- Meals as designated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- 3 Days of Textile Workshops including all materials and equipment; Visits to traditional weaving communities
- Airport transfers as indicated
- All transfers to and from hotels as indicated or planned
- Private sightseeing tours with bilingual guide—entrance fees including weaving villages visits
- Domestic permits
- All applicable service charges and taxes (excluding some international or domestic airport departure taxes)
- Pre-departure materials including a customized Travel Guide containing destination information, travel tips, and cultural primer

Land Costs Exclude:

- International air transportation and domestic air transportation (Flights within Peru will range from \$280 - \$320: Lima/ Cusco / Lima. We can ticket these flights in Peru as this is typically a less expensive option. However, if you are using frequent flier miles for your international ticket, you can often add the domestic flights on at no extra charge/mileage.
- Any item not specifically included in your program including all snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages
- Excess baggage fees, laundry, phone calls, internet and any other items of a personal nature not specifically indicated
- Tips for your guide, ground staff, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional Insurance of any kind: including trip cancellation/interruption/delay, air ticket cancellation, additional medical, and lost baggage insurance; any and all expenses resulting from delays arising beyond our direct control due to bad weather, trail, river, sea, and/or road conditions, sickness, civil unrest, government action; or any other transportation delays for any reason beyond our direct control; optional activities, free-day activities, including any additional stopover arrangements not specifically included in the itinerary. We can make additional arrangements for you. Extra charges will apply.

Cost: \$2,495 Per Person Based on Double Occupancy
For those wishing single accommodations:
Single Supplement \$750 (limited to four single travelers)



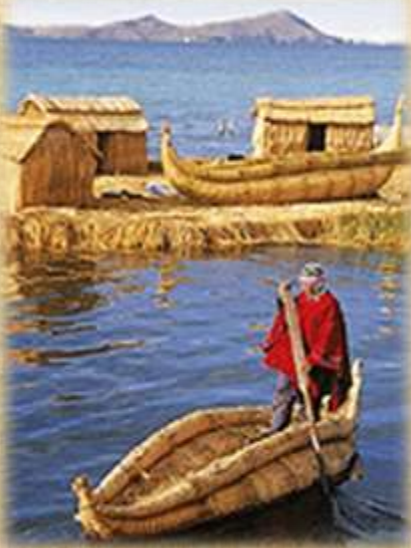
Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

does not believe in large group, bargain or “ordinary” tours. Instead, we strive to immerse the discerning and adventurous traveler into the wondrous world of global fiber arts with quality cultural encounters. Our typical group size is limited to 10-12 participants to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

We invite you to join us;
be a traveler, not a tourist.



Optional Extension to Lake Titicaca, Colca Canyon and Arequipa



Maximum of 10 participants

Thursday, May 24 To Puno / Lake Titicaca

Early this morning you will be met and transferred by tour bus from Cuzco to Puno (approx. 8 hrs.). Puno is located at the edge of Lake Titicaca, the world's highest commercially navigable lake, at 3,860 m (12,421 ft) above sea level, on the Peruvian Altiplano. En route, to break up the trip, the bus stops at the colorful local villages of Pikillaqta, Andahuaylillas, Rachi & Sicuani with guided tours at each. (If you prefer to fly to Puno, we can arrange a flight [1 hour] at extra cost. If the group prefers a private van and guide, there is an additional cost of \$75 per person). We arrive in Puno in the late afternoon and transfer to our hotel, the Posada del Inca. The remainder of the evening is on your own to relax by the shores of Lake

Titicaca. Puno is particularly interesting as the area surrounding the city was where the Aymara civilization started. Puno has been named the "Capital Folklórica del Perú" (Folklore Capital of Peru) from its wealth of artistic and cultural expressions, particularly dance. Knitting and textile arts have been practiced for thousands of years by both the men and women equally on the island of Taquile, (Isla Taquile) in the middle of Lake Titicaca. Overnight at Posada del Inca which hugs the shores of Titicaca and boasts splendid views, but fits sensitively into its surroundings. The hotel is imaginatively designed, with warm colors and Peruvian touches, including bright modern art and folk artifacts. Rooms are large and comfortable, and bathrooms are also large and nicely equipped. The restaurant and many rooms look over the lake; other rooms have views of the mountains. The relaxed lobby has a cozy fireplace. <http://www.sonesta.com/laketiticaca/> (B)

Friday - Saturday, May 25 & 26 CHOICES! Uros & Amantani Island or Isla Suasi

Today you have a choice to make between two very special experiences...

Option 1 Friday, May 25

Early this morning, we depart by boat on beautiful Lake Titicaca to experience the magic and desolate beauty of the lake. Seeing the scenery around you, breathing the clean air, and marveling at the magnificent greenish-blue colors of the lake will give you a unique perspective of this region and the body of water that has played such a key role in it's history. Lake Titicaca has some 41 floating reed islands on it that are a fascinating experience for any traveler. For thousands of years, the Uros people have lived on and maintained these unique Peruvian islands, depending on the lake for their survival. They are a pre-Incan people who live on forty-two self-fashioned floating islands in Lake Titicaca, Puno, Peru and Bolivia.



We'll head for Uros Island where we will have time for mingling with the locals and shopping for local hand-made items.

After a short time on Uros, we'll carry on again by boat to the Island of Amantani, another small island populated by Quechua speakers. About 800 families live in six villages on the roughly circular 15 square kilometres (6 sq mi) island. There are two mountain peaks, called Pachatata (Father Earth) and Pachamama (Mother Earth), with ancient ruins on the top of both peaks. The hillsides that rise up from the lake are terraced and planted with wheat, potatoes, and vegetables. Most of the small fields are worked by hand. Long stone fences divide the fields, and cattle, sheep, and alpacas graze on the hillsides. There are no cars on the island and no hotels. A few small stores sell basic goods, and there is a health clinic and school. We will visit, with our guide, some of the fascinating archeological sites. The island's main attraction, though, are the two lookouts atop the peaks, almost 300 metres over the lake. They offer beautiful sights of Lake Titicaca, particularly during sunsets. We'll have the chance to visit up to six different villages on the island. Here these humble and simple Amara Indians descendants have lived on this somewhat secluded island from the mainland, unchanged in their traditions, for hundreds of years. You will remain on the island and stay overnight at a local family home. This is an authentic experience and a chance to get away from it all with no electricity. Overnight at a local Indian family home. hotel in Puno. (B, D)



Saturday, May 26 **Amatani / Taquile / Puno**

After breakfast with your local family and a last visit in the area, we'll head by boat to the Island of Taquile. (If you opted stay in Puno last night, you will go to Taquile via boat from Puno or you may opt to relax and explore Puno). This island is a fascinating time capsule of wonderfully preserved Peruvian and Bolivian cultures, having stayed the same now for thousands and thousands of years. Taquile is a beautiful hilly island, narrow and long and parenthesis-shaped. Its inhabitants, the Taquile (about 3,000 of them) stand out for their very special, unusual culture. Taquiles, for example, wear different clothes according to their social status. Leaders wear black chullos (caps), married men red ones, singles red and white (and the same applies to women). Taquile textiles, which also reflect customs and beliefs, are colourful and exquisitely hand-woven, much sought out for their quality. Their traditional lifestyle is exemplified by the fact that there isn't electricity on Taquile Island nor cars. The men are devoted to the agriculture and the fishing, and the women to the weaving. During our visit, we will see pre-Inca and Inca archaeological ruins and terracing. Mid-day we'll depart by boat from Taquile with a late afternoon arrival into Puno. Here you will be met and transferred to the Posada del Inca. Overnight at the Posada del Inca. (CB)

Option 2 **Friday, May 25** **To Isla Suasi**

This morning you will be transported to a paradise like no other. You will transfer via motorized launch to the far shore of Lake Titicaca and its only private island. Enroute, you will stop at Uros Island (described above) and Taquile Island (described above), arriving at Isla Suasi in the early afternoon in time for a barbeque.

Tiny Isla Suasi— just 43 hectares – is a beautiful, serene place and is home to a solar-powered ecolodge featuring panoramic lake views from every room and surrounded by terraced gardens. Designed with native materials (stone, adobe and thatched roofs) to blend into the island, the lodge is committed to being “green.” Suasi is a magical, mystical place to disconnect from the world. You can spot rare vicuñas, hike to Itapilluni Hill to contemplate colorful high-altitude sunsets, paddle a canoe around the island, go on quiet nature walks,



or visit the massage room and steam saunas with eucalyptus leaves. With 24 well-appointed but appealingly rustic rooms, a candlelit gourmet restaurant, bar and game room, the lodge is the perfect place to relax after a day of doing plenty – or doing nothing at all. Overnight at Isla Suasi. (L,D)

<http://www.casa-andina.com/peru/hotels/isla-suasi-hotels/private-collection-isla-suasi/hotel.php>

Saturday, May 26 **Isla Suasi / Return to Puno**

You have this morning to enjoy the island and all its beauty. While it's a perfect place to kick back with a book and just relax and enjoy the remoteness and splendid vistas of the pristine blue expanse of Titicaca, it's also a place to explore; from its way of life filled with Andean beliefs, customs and cultural traditions, to its natural habitat and indigenous altiplano flora and fauna. Isla Suasi is part of the National Reserve of Titicaca. There are a multitude of activities offered on the island, most of which are included in the cost of a stay, though a few have additional fees. You can choose from nightly bonfires, nature walks, canoeing around the island, a visit to a cultural hut, and more. Midday, you will be transferred non-stop back to Puno by the hotel's private high speed launch, arriving back in the late afternoon. Overnight at Posada del Inca hotel. (B,L)

Important Note: There is an additional charge of approximately \$200 per person for this option.

Sunday, May 27 **To Chullpas / Chivay – Colca Canyon**

After breakfast, we'll depart at 8:00AM by tourist bus from Puno and travel 45 minutes passing through Juliaca Cabanillas. Here we will gradually descend until we reach Lagunillas where time will be allowed to stretch our legs and take pictures. We then continue to Imata where we can appreciate from afar the impressive stone forest. We pass through Patapampa (Mirador of Volcanoes) with peaks rising some 4,800 meters above sea level. After 30 minutes, we descend to Chivay arriving at about 1PM. Chivay is a small town nestled in the hills at the base of the Colca Canyon and a base from which to explore nearby Colca Canyon. The River Colca runs from high in the Andes right down to the Pacific, and between Chivay and Cabanaconde, it flows through the bottom of a deep gorge, often claimed to be the deepest in the world. It is certainly spectacularly beautiful, with the vast Andean terraces that tower up over the canyon, dotted by tiny villages that haven't changed in centuries. Chivay is also home to some natural hot springs that provide a welcome relief from the cold night air high up here in the Andes. The springs are known as "La Calera" and are located just a short distance outside the town. Overnight at Casa Andina Colca Lodge. (B)

<http://www.casa-andina.com/peru/hotels/colca-hotels/classic-colca/hotel.php>

Monday, May 28 **Colca Canyon / Arequipa**

Today is a real treat! Colca Canyon is twice as deep as the Grand Canyon and is an area of astounding scenic beauty. The Rio Colca snakes its way through the length of this massive gorge. This part of Southern Peru was virtually unknown to the outside world until the 1970's. The canyon is also renowned as a haven for condors and they can often be seen here at quite close range as they float on the rising thermals and scan for carrion far below. Catching a glimpse of these magnificent birds as they rise from their nests, gliding high above you is a truly magical experience and one you will never forget.

We depart this morning at 7AM to "El Mirador de la Cruz del Condor" where the best possibilities of viewing the fabled Andean condor are available. Later, we will return to Chivay, where enroute we visit some pre-Inca tombs as well as several small traditional villages like Pichollo, Maca and Yanque. In the afternoon, we depart by tourist bus Chivay to Arequipa arriving around 8:00PM. Our accommodations are at Casa Arequipa (<http://www.arequipacasa.com/>), a Neo-classical mansión transformed into Arequipa's best boutique hotel. (CB)





Tuesday, May 29 Arequipa

After breakfast we will be picked up and taken for a guided tour of Arequipa, well known for its glistening white buildings made from sillar, a white volcanic rock, which gives the city its nickname “La Ciudad Blanca” or “The White City.” Arequipa is Peru's second largest city and was founded in 1540. Isolated in a fertile valley tucked between desert and mountains and crowned by turquoise skies, the site was chosen for its proximity to the coast, enabling settlers to trade the products of Cusco and the mines of Potosi (Bolivia) with Lima. The local cultivation of wheat, corn and grapes all contributed to the region’s economic growth. The city is surrounded by 3 volcanoes; El Misti, still active at 5822m, the higher and extinct Chachani 6075m and Pichu Pichu 5571m. The

Incas highly respected these volcanoes since the melt water from their snow-capped peaks form the headwaters of the mighty Amazon River, thousands of kilometers away.

We will visit the Museo de Altura where the Inca Ice Princess (Momia Juanita) is preserved for public view. In 1995, American archaeologist Johan Rienhards is credited for discovering this child mummy of the Inca civilization high above Colca Canyon’s Mt Ambato (2,070 ft.). Afterwards, we’ll continue to the Santa Catalina Convent, the most astonishing stop in Arequipa. Opened to the public in 1970, after four centuries of mysterious isolation, this site is extremely interesting. At one point there were over 450 nuns that lived in seclusion from the outside world. Contrary to what you would expect from the nuns who take vows of living in poverty, the convent has been beautifully remodeled with Colonial furniture and paintings from the Cuzco and Arequipa Schools of Art. The convent itself is literally a city in itself. With the traditional painted homes, cobblestone streets & plazas spread throughout, its massiveness will amaze. Afterwards we return to our hotel. Overnight at Casa Arequipa. (B)

Wednesday, May 30 To Lima

This morning we will fly from Arequipa to Lima (1 hour). Upon arrival, we will be greeted and transferred to the Hotel Miraflores where a day room has been arranged. Once settled in, we embark on a guided tour of Colonial Lima visiting the Main Square, the site of Spanish foundation by Francisco Pizarro. We’ll continue to the Cathedral, built in 1625. Next, we visit the Government Palace, with its traditional & colorful changing of the presidential guard, then to San Francisco Church and Monastery. This is Lima’s biggest religious complex with a convent, museum of colonial art, cloisters and catacombs. Later you might opt to independently visit any of the many museums where priceless pre-Columbian ceramic, weaving’s, gold, silver & copper artifacts from previous civilizations can be viewed. In the early evening, we’ll return to the Hotel Colon where you can relax for the remainder of the evening. Later, you will be met and transferred to the Lima airport for your late night flight back to the United States. Overnight on flight. (B and meals on flight)

As with all true adventures, these itineraries are subject to change without notice based on a variety of factors. Although NatureQuest/Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys will do our best to adhere to the scheduled itinerary, we are all at the mercy of Mother Nature and varying weather conditions. As is the case with all true adventures, your itinerary should be considered an approximation of activities only. The itinerary or accommodations may be changed subject to unexpected and worthwhile opportunities, weather, group desires, and circumstances beyond our control, etc. NatureQuest/Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys and its guides reserve the right to alter the itinerary without prior notice. Also please be aware that any voluntary changes on your part to your itinerary while in Peru will be made at your own expense.

Land Costs Include:

- Hotels as shown based on double occupancy; single accommodations available with supplement
- Meals as designated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, CB = Continental Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Tour bus transportation from Cusco to Puno; Puno to Arequipa
- Airport transfers as indicated
- All transfers to and from hotels as indicated for planned
- Private sightseeing tours with bilingual guide—entrance fees including village visits
- Domestic permits
- All applicable service charges and taxes (excluding some international or domestic airport departure taxes)
- Pre-departure materials including a customized Travel Guide containing destination information, travel tips, and cultural primer

Land Costs Exclude:

- International and domestic air transportation (Flights within Peru will range from \$280 - \$320: Lima/ Cusco & Arequipa/Lima. We can ticket these flights in Peru as this is typically a less expensive option)
- Any item not specifically included in your program including all snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages
- Excess baggage fees, laundry, phone calls, internet and any other items of a personal nature not specifically indicated
- Tips for your guide, ground staff, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional Insurance of any Kind: including trip cancellation/interruption/delay, air ticket cancellation, additional medical, and lost baggage insurance; any and all expenses resulting from delays arising beyond our direct control due to bad weather, trail, river, sea, and/or road conditions, sickness, civil unrest, government action; or any other transportation delays for any reason beyond our direct control; optional activities, free-day activities, including any additional stopover arrangements not specifically included in the itinerary. We can make additional arrangements for you. Extra charges will apply.

Cost:

\$1,095 Per Person Based on Double Occupancy

For those wishing single accommodations:

Single Supplement \$395 (limited to four single travelers)

We highly recommend purchasing additional insurance, including trip cancellation. We provide an application with your Registration Packet. To be eligible for maximum benefits, you must purchase within 2 weeks of paying your initial deposit. Please call our office for details.



Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

does not believe in large group, bargain or “ordinary” tours. Instead, we strive to immerse the discerning and adventurous traveler into the wondrous world of global fiber arts with quality cultural encounters. Our typical group size is limited to 10-12 participants to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

We invite you to join us;
be a traveler, not a tourist.



IMPORTANT NOTES:

Most airlines depart Lima just before midnight. However, American Airlines and several others depart early the next morning. This day of the itinerary will be adjusted to accommodate your flight schedule with a possible overnight in Lima (included).



Please call us with any questions

800-369-3033



Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

A Division of NatureQuest®



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