



# **BEST OF PERU'S ARCHAEOLOGY & ART**

LEGACY OF THE MOCHE, CHIMÚ, & INCA

**SEPTEMBER 1-11, 2026**

WITH ARCHAEOLOGIST WILLIAM SATURNO





Machu Picchu

## DEAR TRAVELERS,

In the company of archaeologist Bill Saturno, engage with Peru's dazzling natural beauty, rich cultural traditions, and the legacy of a pre-colonial empire. Begin in Lima with a visit to the Larco Herrera Museum's extensive pre-Columbian collections before lunch on the museum's terrace. Stop at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Torre Tagle Palace, which houses rotating exhibitions on art, history, and current issues shaping the country.

Fly north to the coastal city of Trujillo to learn about the Moche and Chimú civilizations through visits to Huacas del Sol y la Luna, the adobe city of Chan Chan, and the intricate murals of El Brujo. Then travel to the Sacred Valley of the Inca to focus on traditional weaving in Chinchero, Andean agriculture at the Urubamba farmers' market, and the region's native orchid species.

Ascend to Machu Picchu, the 15th-century citadel set among dramatic mountain scenery and consider its enduring role in Peru's cultural identity. Conclude in Cuzco, the oldest continually inhabited city in the Western Hemisphere, where Inca foundations support Spanish colonial structures and daily life still reflects centuries of living tradition.

Throughout this journey, archaeology, art, and living heritage come together in a vibrant and memorable itinerary led by one of the field's most knowledgeable and passionate guides.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristina Nemeth".

Kristina Nemeth  
Travel Director



# STUDY LEADER



Archaeologist **William Saturno** served as the director of the Proyecto San BartoloXultun at the Instituto de Antropología e Historia in Guatemala. He received numerous National Geographic grants to support his excavation of ancient Maya murals and artifacts. His breakthrough discovery at San Bartolo in northwest Guatemala, of the oldest intact Maya murals yet found, became the focus of the January 2006 National Geographic magazine article ‘The Dawn of Maya Gods and Kings,’ and the June 2012 issue described his recent unearthing of murals at Xultún. Bill has also served as the Field Director of the Río Amarillo Archaeological Project in Western Honduras, examining the relationships of Maya cities around Copán. Since 2013, he has directed field work in Northern Peru, using remote sensing techniques like Landsat and ASTER to find archaeological features. Bill can discuss how ancient Peruvians adapted to their coastal desert environment and how ancient land use has had lasting effects on environmental functions.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Savor Lima’s culinary and cultural renaissance at the city’s renowned restaurants and museums.
- Visit the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, housed in the magnificent Torre Tagle Palace, which hosts compelling exhibitions on art, history, and contemporary issues.
- Visit the archaeological sites of Huacadel Sol y la Luna, Chan Chan, El Brujo, and Ollantaytambo, with a grand finale at Machu Picchu.
- In the Andean highlands, observe traditional weaving techniques demonstrated by an expert artisan in the old Inca city of Chinchero. Visit the Urubamba farmers’ market and gain insight into Andean agriculture and Peru’s remarkable orchid diversity.
- Tour the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cuzco, the oldest continually inhabited city in the Western Hemisphere.



Causa—A Traditional Peruvian Dish



Painted Wall Details—El Brujo Archaeological Site, Trujillo



Ollantaytambo



Lima

## ITINERARY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

### DEPART U.S. / LIMA, PERU

Depart home on flights to Lima, with most arrivals in the evening. Settle into the Westin Lima and enjoy dinner on your own.

WESTIN LIMA HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

### LIMA

Begin the day with a welcome orientation and lecture. Visit Huaca Pucllana, a pre-Inca adobe pyramid in the heart of Miraflores, offering insight into the ingenuity of Peru's coastal civilizations. Continue to Larco Herrera Museum, housed in an 18th-century vice-royal mansion, where a remarkable collection of pre-Columbian ceramics, textiles, and gold artifacts vividly illustrates Peru's ancient history. Enjoy lunch on the museum's terrace before continuing to Casa Aliaga, the oldest continuously inhabited private residence in the Southern Hemisphere. Granted to conquistador Don Jerónimo de Aliaga in the 16th-century, the home has remained in his family for seventeen generations. Later, take a leisurely walk through downtown Lima beginning at the Plaza de Armas, the city's historic center. View the Government Palace, the Municipalidad de Lima, and the majestic Cathedral of Lima. Then, visit the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Torre Tagle Palace, an architectural gem. Adjacent to the palace, view contemporary exhibitions on art, history, and social issues. End the day with a welcome dinner at one of Lima's renowned restaurants.

WESTIN LIMA HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

### LIMA / TRUJILLO

Early this morning, transfer to the airport for the flight to Trujillo. Upon arrival, continue to the Moche Valley and visit the archaeological site of

Huacas del Sol y la Luna. Set against the sacred Cerro Blanco, this Moche ceremonial complex features adobe pyramids with colorful friezes portraying deities, natural elements, and rituals. Enjoy lunch at a seaside restaurant in Huanchaco, where you can observe traditional caballitos de totora—reed boats still used by local fishermen. In the afternoon, visit Chan Chan, capital of the Chimú Kingdom. As the largest pre-Columbian city in the Americas, this UNESCO World Heritage Site reflects advanced social organization, urban planning, and sophisticated irrigation systems. Its adobe walls are adorned with intricate carvings and motifs.

WYNDHAM COSTA DEL SOL TRUJILLO (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

### TRUJILLO / LIMA

Today head north of Trujillo to visit the El Brujo Archaeological Complex, an extraordinary site that showcases the ingenuity and artistry of the Moche culture. The highlight of this complex is the Huaca Cao Viejo, where the tomb of the Lady of Cao was discovered in 2005. This groundbreaking find reshaped the understanding of Moche society, revealing that women could hold positions of power—challenging the previous belief that only men occupied high-ranking roles. Next, visit the pyramid where she was buried. This impressive temple is adorned with vibrant murals depicting intricate rituals and ceremonies. From its summit, take in sweeping views of other Moche pyramids and Huaca Prieta, a significant pre-ceramic site excavated in the 1940s. Conclude the day with a transfer to Trujillo's airport for an early evening flight back to Lima.

WYNDHAM COSTA DEL SOL LIMA (B, L)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

### LIMA / SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCA

Fly to Cuzco this morning and transfer to the Sacred Valley. Along the scenic journey, stop for lunch at Hacienda Sarapampa. Here, learn about

Miraflores Park—Lima, Peru



Chan Chan







Trujillo

the rich legacy spanning three generations of one of the Sacred Valley's most esteemed families. Gain insight into the experiences and dedicated work behind the production of Cuzco's giant white corn, a unique crop exclusive to this region. Immerse in a unique culinary experience, featuring traditional cooking with locally-sourced, organic products, a testament to the farmers' profound connection to their land. Continue to Pisac, a town where Inca and colonial influences intertwine. Browse its well-known craft market, offering ceramics, textiles, and jewelry. Arrive in Yucay and check into the hotel situated on a charming plaza. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are yours to relax and enjoy.

SONESTA POSADAS DEL INCA YUCAY (B, L)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

## SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCA

Begin the day at the vibrant Urubamba farmers' market, then visit a mountain community in Lamay. Learn about the local agricultural calendar, traditional crops, and food processing techniques. Stroll through the fields gaining insight into traditional farming techniques. Then, participate in seasonal activities that align with the agricultural calendar such as harvesting corn, cleaning quinoa, or making chicha de jora, a traditional Peruvian beverage. Afterward, visit Hacienda Huayoccarí, the expansive country home of the Lámbarri Orihuela family. Enjoy a private lunch, followed by a viewing of their Pre-Columbian, colonial, and republican art collection. Ana María Barberis's extensive orchid garden adds another highlight, featuring a wide array of native species.

SONESTA POSADAS DEL INCA YUCAY (B, L)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

## SACRED VALLEY / MACHU PICCHU

Start the day in Ollantaytambo, one of the last living Inca towns, celebrated for its extraordinary archaeological complex and rich history. Visit its



Cuzco

fortress, an iconic site that showcases advanced engineering, religious significance, and strategic importance. Once a ceremonial center and royal estate, it also served as a stronghold for Inca resistance against the Spanish. Its terraces, temples, and urban layout offer a fascinating glimpse into Inca ingenuity and daily life. Continuously inhabited since the Inca period, the town seamlessly blends ancient traditions with modern culture, making it a must-visit destination in the Sacred Valley. Continue the journey while enjoying spectacular vistas from the train to Aguas Calientes, the town closest to Machu Picchu. Embark on a guided tour of the legendary Machu Picchu archaeological site. Discover the brilliance of its architecture, from intricately carved stone temples to agricultural terraces, while delving into the history and mysteries of this Inca masterpiece, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. After a day of exploration, check into the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, tucked away in Aguas Calientes, where terraced hills, waterfalls, stone pathways, and 83 whitewashed adobe casitas nestle in the cloud forest.

INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

## MACHU PICCHU / CHINCHERO / CUZCO

Early this morning, choose between revisiting Machu Picchu along an alternate route for a fresh perspective or embarking on the exhilarating Huayna Picchu hike, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding landscapes. Take the train down to Ollantaytambo for lunch. Continue by motorcoach to Cuzco, with a stop in Chinchero for a captivating Andean weaving demonstration led by Nilda Callañaupa, founder of the Center for Traditional Textiles. Gain insight into the intricate techniques and cultural significance behind these timeless creations. This evening, arrive at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cuzco, the capital of the Inca Empire. Check into Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, just two blocks from Cuzco's central square.



Traditional Peruvian Pottery



Machu Picchu



Reed Boats in Huanchaco, Peru



Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cuzco

The restored 16th-century former monastery combines old-world charm with luxurious accommodations and a colonial art collection. Enjoy time at leisure to savor Cuzco and its wonderful restaurants.

MONASTERIO, A BELMOND HOTEL (B, L)

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 **CUZCO**

Start the day with a visit to Koricancha, the “Enclosure of Gold,” a sacred Inca temple once dedicated to the Sun God. Marvel at the intricate stonework and learn about its significance as a spiritual and ceremonial center. Next, head to the Cuzco Cathedral for its stunning chapels and exceptional collection of colonial art from the Cuzco School, offering a glimpse into the city’s rich cultural and religious history. For lunch, enjoy a serene picnic in the idyllic countryside near Q’enqo, surrounded by the region’s breathtaking natural beauty. In the evening, take a short walk from our hotel to the Pre-Columbian Art Museum, home to a remarkable collection that celebrates ancient Peruvian art as timeless masterpieces and highlights their influence on artists through the ages. This evening’s memorable farewell dinner will be enjoyed on the museum’s elegant patio.

MONASTERIO, A BELMOND HOTEL (B, L, D)

### THURSDAY–FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10–11 **CUZCO / LIMA / U.S.**

Enjoy a free morning in Cuzco. Stroll through its charming streets, visit local markets, or simply relax and soak in the city’s unique atmosphere. Transfer to Cuzco airport for a late afternoon flight to Lima, then connect with an overnight flight to the U.S.

(B, MEALS ALOFT)

Incan Idol



## PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

Sharing Accommodations ..... **\$8,990**

Single Occupancy ..... **\$10,590**

**On-Tour Domestic flights: \$850 additional**  
Lima/Trujillo, Trujillo/Lima,  
Lima/Cuzco, Cuzco/Lima

*These will be booked by our tour operator  
and the cost added to your invoice.*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary including nine hotel nights • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Shared airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides, and drivers • Entrance fees • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Professional tour manager throughout the program.

#### PROGRAM RATES

##### DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. Domestic and international airfare • Four on-tour flights Lima/Trujillo, Trujillo/Lima, Lima/Cuzco, Cuzco/Lima valued at approximately \$850 • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry

cleaning • Telephone and internet charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS U.S.** Domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

#### WHAT TO EXPECT

This promises to be a memorable journey, but please be aware of the pace and activity level in advance. Some walking takes place in historic quarters, where streets are often cobblestoned and uneven, or on unpaved ground at the numerous archaeological sites. Some buildings will not have elevators and there will be steps without handrails; participants should be able to comfortably climb stairs without assistance. Please be aware that the second half of the program takes place at high altitude, ranging from approximately 7,970’ at Machu Picchu to 11,150’ in Cuzco. The tour is planned to minimize the risk of altitude sickness.

by allowing opportunities to acclimatize as much as possible. After landing in Cuzco at the highest elevation, there is an immediate transfer to the Sacred Valley for several days at lower elevations before returning to Cuzco. Even so, many participants may experience some symptoms of altitude sickness, including headache, fatigue, and insomnia; it is likely a few may experience more severe symptoms. All hotels in the highlands have oxygen available for travelers experiencing symptoms of altitude sickness. Please note that higher altitudes can exacerbate health issues you may already have. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Commonwealth Club World Affairs and Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply.

**A NOTE ABOUT RATES**  
Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**  
Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed “Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause” is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

**GROUP SIZE**  
This program is limited to 24 participants.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**  
Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

**ELIGIBILITY**  
We require membership to Commonwealth Club World Affairs to travel with us. People who live outside of the Bay Area may purchase a worldwide membership. To learn about membership types and purchase a membership, call 415-597-6720 or visit [commonwealthclub.org/Membership](http://commonwealthclub.org/Membership).

**RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS**  
A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. If you have questions, or to register using a credit card (preferred method), please call 415-597-6720 or email [travel@commonwealthclub.org](mailto:travel@commonwealthclub.org). Final payment deadline is May 4, 2026. For those who register on or after May 4, 2026, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, wire transfer or credit card (credit card payments will incur a processing fee of 2%).

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS**  
Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Commonwealth Club World Affairs. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the May 4, 2026 final payment deadline: payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. **NOTE:** Neither Commonwealth Club World Affairs nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

**ITINERARY CHANGES**  
The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Commonwealth Club World Affairs and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Commonwealth Club World Affairs and Criterion Travel reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel  
Program CST #2088800-40

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**RESERVATION FORM**

To reserve space, please call (415) 597-6720 (preferred method) or complete the reservation form and mail it With your check or credit card information to: Commonwealth Club World Affairs, 110 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94105. If you have questions, please call (415) 597-6720 or email [travel@commonwealthclub.org](mailto:travel@commonwealthclub.org).

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)DATE OF BIRTH

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

☐ Yes, \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person), payable to Criterion Travel, for \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on *Best of Peru's Archaeology & Art*.

☐ Please charge my deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) to my (circle one)

VISA MC AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

**ACCOMMODATIONS** (not guaranteed)

Bed Preference: ☐ King / Queen ☐ Twins

**SINGLE TRAVELERS** (choose one)

☐ I prefer single accommodations (limited availability)

☐ I plan to share accommodations with: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I'd like to know about roommates.

I am a ☐ non-smoker ☐ smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of May 4, 2026 I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE





110 The Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA 94105

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, close-up photograph of numerous rolled-up Peruvian textiles. These textiles, likely shawls or ponchos, are densely packed and feature a wide array of colors including red, blue, green, yellow, and orange. They are adorned with intricate geometric and traditional patterns, some of which are highlighted in the close-up on the right side of the image.

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