



Presents

"Mystical Machu Picchu + Hiking the Enchanted Galapagos Islands"



This is a combined – destination trip where you can make one visit to South America and take one of the above mentioned tours or both of these “once in a lifetime” adventures. Since I went with a group of 16 to the Galapagos Islands in June, 2008, I will only be going on the Machu Picchu segment. However, I am using the same tour company that I used in 2008 for the Galapagos Islands and due to numerous requests, am arranging another opportunity for more people to experience this most remarkable journey.

Machu Picchu was discovered by Yale historian, Hiram Bingham, in July, 1911, exactly 100 years ago. It is known as the lost city of the Incas, and sits at 8,000 feet high in the Andean mountains of Peru. Ruins of homes, palaces, temples and storehouses have fascinated historians, archaeologists and travelers for a century. All seem to be searching for answers to questions concerning the engineering of this impressive site, which dates back to the 1530’s at the height of Emperor Pachacuti’s Inca Empire. The Incas did not have carts, oxen, or level roads to move the massive stones which are made of beautiful white granite and form the walls of the site’s structures. These walls contain blocks of Cyclopean size, higher than a man, and weighing tons. The only way to get there is to hike the ancient Inca Trail (4 days duration) or to take the train from Cusco, Peru, which sits at 11,000 feet in the Andes.

This trip will offer an optional day hike on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. After acclimating to the altitude in Cusco for 2 days, we will take the train to the

ruins. Those who want to do the 5-6 hr. hike into MP can do so with a guide. They will depart the train earlier and head off on their trek. The rest of us will continue on the train to MP. There is a \$100 fee to do the day hike and the hiking pass on the Inca Trail has to be pre-paid 5-7 months in advance to secure this opportunity. Please read the attached information about the logistics of this trail before making a commitment to hike it.

We will have several optional hiking opportunities while in Cusco and at MP. Info is included about these hikes. I know some of you will want to hike the sacred peak of Huayna Picchu, while others may want to hike to the Sun Gate and others may just want to explore more of Machu Picchu and forego the hikes. This trip is for the curious adventurer in all of us. Read and enjoy!!!

### **Peru – Macchu Pichu/Cusco Tour**

#### **Machu Picchu by Train Summary:**

May 27: 2012: Arrive Lima

May 28: Fly Lima - Cusco - Afternoon walking tour of the city

May 29: Sacred Valley

May 30: Train to Machu Picchu with optional day hike to MP. - Overnight in Aguas Calientes

May 31: Explore Machu Picchu - OPTIONAL hike to Huayna Picchu - Return to Cusco

June 1: Explore Cusco

June 2: Fly Cusco-Lima-Home or If continuing on to the Galapagos you will fly to Quito, Ecuador

#### **Tour Cost Summary**

\$1,525 Machu Picchu by Train Tour cost

\$100 Day Hike on the Inca Trail on May 30

\$425 Flights Lima-Cusco-Lima (estimate only - price subject to change based on fare availability)

-----  
\$2,050 Total trip cost per person

Below is more information about our hotel accommodations (*price based on standard hotels*)

Lima: <http://www.adventure-life.com/lodging/lima-228/>

Cusco: <http://www.adventure-life.com/lodging/cusco-226/>

Sacred Valley: <http://www.adventure-life.com/lodging/sacred-valley-229/>

Machu Picchu: <http://www.adventure-life.com/lodging/machu-picchu-318/>

## **Machu Picchu by Train**

Tour the great ruins of Machu Picchu, and wander through village markets where ancient traditions live on in the hearts of the Andean people. We visit the important Inca ruins of Sacsayhuamán, Pisac and Ollantaytambo, and we spend two days exploring the Lost City of Machu Picchu in this tour. Along our journey we explore the witches' market in Cusco, bargain over tapestries in Pisac, and walk off the beaten path in the rural Andes.

### **May 27: 2012: Arrive Lima**

Overnight.

### **May 28: Fly Cusco (B)**

Andean history comes alive in Cusco. Quechua speaking descendants of the Incas fill the streets and markets, colonial churches sit atop bases of smooth stonework laid centuries before the Conquistadors, and campesinos (Peru's rural farmers) in colorful dress move busily back and forth across the plazas. In the afternoon, you'll tour Cusco's largest open market and the adjacent witches' market. After tasting a few unique local foods, you will visit the Center for Traditional Textiles in Cusco, a local organization committed to preserving the region's weaving traditions. Watch weavers demonstrate their craft and learn about the history and processes of Peru's most well-known art form.

### **May 29: Sacred Valley (B, L)**

This morning journey into one of the most beautiful areas of Peru. You'll test your bargaining skills with the locals while visiting one of the great textile markets in the area. You may hike to the inspiring ruins of Pisac, or take a short walk through the countryside to the seldom-visited town of Maras and its pre-Columbian salt mines (still in use today with salt being collected in traditional fashion) as well as the Inca agricultural terraces of Moray, thought to have been a nursery to experiment with and modify different varieties of crops. Eventually, you will make your way to the living Inca city of Ollantaytambo where you can relax for the night.

### **May 30: OPTIONAL Day Hike to Machu Picchu (B)**

We will board the train at about 7:05AM. We will ride the train for about one hour to kilometer marker 104. At this stop, those who are going to do the optional hike into Machu Picchu will disembark the train. They will hike for about 3 hours (5 miles) to Wiñayhuayna located at 8,366 feet altitude. Here, they will stop for a picnic lunch. In the afternoon they will visit the archaeological site Wiñayhuayna. After exploring the site, they will join the famous Inca trail and walk about 2 hours (2.5 miles) to the famous Sun Gate (Inti punku) located at 8,850 feet altitude. Here you can stop and enjoy the beautiful view. They will continue down to the site of Machu Picchu for our

guided tour.

Details of the trail:

- The total distance is about 8 miles and takes about 5 hours depending on the speed of the group
- The one day Inca Trail hike has a steep uphill climb -- you will go up in elevation about 2,310 feet on the first part of the trek. The second part of the trek levels off a bit and is not as steep -- you will go up and down a bit in elevation before descending into Machu Picchu.
- The trail is narrow, steep at times, and there are some precipices/drop offs alongside the trail in places.

### **May 31: Explore Machu Picchu – OPTIONAL Hike Huayna Picchu (B)**

Today is your chance to watch the sunrise at Machu Picchu and listen to the spirits of the city's past inhabitants. Later you can hike the sacred peak of Huayna Picchu or take a walk through the lush cloudforest to the Temple of the Moon. In the late afternoon you'll return to Cusco.

### **June 1: Explore Cusco (B)**

Today is free to relax and explore with your guide or on your own. Travelers can go on a city tour of the churches and surrounding ruins, such as the enormous Sacsayhuamán ruins that overlook Cusco (these ruins showcase building blocks the size of SUVs). You can also wander through the bustling Plaza de Armas in the heart of Cusco, shop for love potions in the local markets, or people watch from the cafes and restaurants that line these lovely streets. For those bursting with energy, horseback riding, mountain biking, or even whitewater rafting (Class III-IV) can be arranged. The evening is yours to take in some of Cusco's varied and exciting nightlife.

### **June 2: Fly to Lima and Fly Home or if continuing on to the Galapagos fly to Quito. (B)**

#### **Includes:**

All Nights hotel accommodations  
Airport transfers  
Estimated internal flight costs  
Meals as indicated by B, L, D above  
English speaking guide service

#### **Excludes:**

Travel Insurance  
Gratuities

International Flights

**Recommended Budgeting (per person):**

\$120 Meals not Included

\$45 Airport Departure Tax

**GALAPAGOS ONLY TOUR**

**Hiking Galapagos Summary:**

June 2, 2012: Arrive Quito - Transfer to hotel

June 3: Private Quito City Tour

June 4: Fly Galapagos and hike Frigate Hill

June 5: Hike in El Junco - Snorkel at Leon Dormido

June 6: Charles Darwin Research Station and El Chato Tortoise Reserve

June 7: Santa Cruz Cloudforest Hike

June 8: Explore Isabela

June 9: Sierra Negra Volcano Hike

June 10: Fly Quito

June 11: Transfer to airport - Return home

**Tour Cost Summary**

\$2,750 Hiking Galapagos Tour cost per person

\$45 Extra night in Quito on June 2

\$65 Private Quito city tour on June 3

\$50 International arrival and departure transfers in Quito

\$435 Flights Quito-Galapagos-Quito

-----  
\$3,345 Total trip cost per person

Below is more information about our hotel accommodations (*price based on standard hotels*)

Quito: <http://www.adventure-life.com/lodging/ecuador/quito-238/>

San Cristobal: <http://www.adventure-life.com/lodging/san-cristobal-122/>

Santa Cruz: <http://www.adventure-life.com/lodging/santa-cruz-island-103/>

Isabela Island: <http://www.adventure-life.com/lodging/isabela-110/>

**Hiking Galapagos Tours**

Hike through the archipelago's remarkably surreal landscape on this unique land-based Galapagos adventure. The Hiking Galapagos tour is perfect for the

traveler that prefers his or her tours active, while also allowing for plenty of flexibility and time to explore the various sites. The tour begins in San Cristobal, exploring Frigate Hill, Isla Lobos and Leon Dormido, where the waters teem with fascinating marine life -- rays, sea turtles, and yikes! Is that a shark? Travels continue onto Santa Cruz with a hike through El Chato Tortoise Reserve -- here's where we're likely to spot the Galapagos's gentle giants. Finish your Galapagos tour discovering the beauty of Isabela Island. We'll hike to the rim of the Sierra Negra volcano and admire the stunning views. This tour offers the best that Galapagos travel has to offer: scintillating waters, world-renowned snorkeling and, best of all, wildlife that is truly wild! And all while you're working those legs...

### **June 2, 2012: Arrive Quito (B)**

Arrive Quito - private transfer to your hotel.

### **June 3: Private Quito City Tour (B)**

Drive north to visit "El mirador de Guápulo" (view point), from where we can admire its church and Quito's nearby valleys. We'll go south towards Quito's colonial center - one of the world's cultural heritage sites, where we can see many historical buildings; including churches, museums and monuments. From here we'll continue to El Panecillo - the small, rounded hill which dominates the old town. From its summit we'll see marvelous views of the whole city stretching out below, as well as magnificent views of the surrounding volcanoes. \$3 entrance fees not included.

### **June 4: Fly Galapagos and Hike Frigate Hill (B, L)**

In the morning, we pick you up from your hotel to transfer you to the airport for your flight from Quito to San Cristobal Island. Once in the Galapagos, we welcome you with lunch and a pre-trip briefing at a local restaurant. After lunch, our adventure begins with a hike to the San Cristóbal Interpretation Center, where we learn about the volcanic formation of the Galapagos archipelago and the evolution of life on the islands. We continue our hike towards Frigate Hill along trails of lava rock featuring splendid views of the coastline and Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, while we explore dry forest and observe cacti, acacia, palo santo, Galapagos cotton, and other endemic vegetation. This is also a good time to enjoy our first encounters with local wildlife, since Frigate Hill is often visited by Galapagos species such as the magnificent and great frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, brown pelicans, gulls, herons, and numerous other land birds, including Darwin finches, warblers, and mockingbirds. On our way back we can stop for a refreshing swim at Carola Beach or Mann Beach. In the evening, we explore town and dine at a waterfront restaurant. Accommodations on San Cristobal Island.

### **June 5: Hike in El Junco, Snorkel at Leon Dormido (B, L)**

The day begins with a hike to El Junco Lagoon, a freshwater lake located in a collapsed caldera at 2,300 feet (700 meters) altitude on the San Cristobal Island highlands. The lake and its surroundings comprise a beautiful Miconia forest landscape, where we will find frigate birds washing off salt from their wings, Darwin's finches, and mocking birds. We continue on to La Galapaguera in Cerro Colorado, a new facility operated by the National Park to breed and protect the subspecies of giant turtles endemic to San Cristobal (*Geochelone chathamensis*). In the afternoon, visit Leon Dormido, the jagged remains of an old tuff cone and home to thousands of sea birds. We enjoy excellent snorkelling; there is a good chance of seeing Galapagos sharks, eagle and golden rays, as well as dozens of species of tropical fish, clams, starfish, and marine invertebrates. If we are lucky, we may spot hammerhead and white-tipped sharks as well. From here, we return to port where we enjoy dinner and our last evening on San Cristobal Island.

### **June 6: Charles Darwin Research Station and El Chato Tortoise Reserve (B, L)**

This morning we take a 3-hour boat ride to Santa Cruz Island. Stretch your legs visiting the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about conservation and management projects in the archipelago. Afterwards, drive to the highlands and hike through El Chato Tortoise Reserve. Along with the gentle giants we're likely to also come across pintail ducks, egrets, flycatchers, finches and frigate birds. Continue your exploration of the islands as we venture into lava caves and unique volcanic tunnel formations. Tonight, we'll relax in the hotel on Santa Cruz.

### **June 7: Santa Cruz Cloudforest Hike (B, L)**

After a satisfying breakfast, we'll hike into the amazing Santa Cruz cloudforest. Reaching Cerro Crocker, the highest summit on the island, we'll search the area for unique vegetation like the vermilion flycatcher. There's also an excellent chance that we'll encounter more Galapagos tortoises. We'll stop for lunch before taking an easy hike to the white sandy beaches of Tortuga Bay. This serene area is named for the sea turtles that frequent the beach to lay their eggs. We'll spend a relaxing afternoon enjoying the enchanting wildlife. Don't forget your binoculars -- there are plenty of pelicans, finches, doves, and marine iguanas to view. Overnight Santa Cruz.

### **June 8: Explore Isabela (B, L, D)**

Take a morning boat to Puerto Villamil on Isabela Island. Isabela is the largest and the most volcanically active island in the Galapagos. This island has six volcanoes and it is well known for the 5 subspecies of giant tortoise that live in the cloudforests. Spend the afternoon visiting the Tortoise Breeding Center and follow a trail along the coastline in search of Galapagos penguins and sea lions. Isabela's salty lagoons are also home to a wide range of sea birds, offering more

spectacular birding. Our afternoon is spent relaxing along white sandy beaches. Overnight in Puerto Villamil.

**June 9: Sierra Negra Volcano Hike (B, L, D)**

We'll begin our day with a 6-mile hike to the very rim of the Sierra Negra volcano. The view from this 6x5 mile-wide caldera is sensational. From here we'll hike to the puffing Chico Volcano on the northeast side of the caldera. During our hike we have a good chance of seeing Galapagos hawks, short-eared owls, finches and flycatchers. Tonight we'll spend our last evening in this quiet port town before saying farewell to the Enchanted Islands in the morning.

**June 10: Return to Quito (B)**

This morning we return to Santa Cruz and catch our return flight back to the mainland. Tonight, enjoy the sights and sounds of Quito -- toast your travels and the remarkable Galapagos Islands!

**June 11: Return home (B)**

**Includes:**

- All Nights hotel accommodations
- All airport transfers
- Estimated internal flight costs
- Meals as indicated by B, L, D above
- Snorkeling Gear
- 8 days private guide service

**Excludes:**

- Travel Insurance
- Gratuities
- International Flights

**Recommended Budgeting (per person):**

- \$160 Meals not Included
- \$45 Airport Departure Tax
- \$100 Galapagos Park Entrance Fee
- \$10 Galapagos Park Tax

**Combined Tours.**

**Machu Picchu + Hiking Galapagos Summary:**

- May 27, 2012: Arrive Lima
- May 28: Fly Lima - Cusco - Afternoon walking tour of the city
- May 29: Sacred Valley

May 30: Optional day Hike to Machu Picchu - Overnight in Aguas Calientes  
May 31: Explore Machu Picchu - - Optional hike Huayna Picchu - - Return to Cusco  
June 1: Explore Cusco  
June 2: Fly Cusco - Lima - Quito - Transfer to Hotel or Fly home.  
June 3: Quito, Ecuador Guided City Tour  
June 4: Fly Galapagos and hike Frigate Hill  
June 5: Hike in El Junco - Snorkel at Leon Dormido  
June 6: Charles Darwin Research Station and El Chato Tortoise Reserve  
June 7: Santa Cruz Cloudforest Hike  
June 8: Explore Isabela  
June 9: Sierra Negra Volcano Hike  
June 10: Fly Quito  
June 11: Transfer to airport - Return home

### **Tour Cost Summary**

\$2,750 Hiking Galapagos Tour cost per person  
\$1,525 Machu Picchu by Train Tour cost  
\$100 Optional Day Hike on the Inca Trail on May 30  
\$50 International arrival and departure transfers in Quito  
\$1,250 Flights Lima-Cusco-Lima-Quito-Galapagos-Quito (estimate only - price subject to change based on fare availability)  
-----  
\$5,675 Total trip cost per person

To make a reservation for one or both tours please call Mark Gerling with the Gerling Travel Group at 888-838-2930 or email [mark@gerlingtravel.com](mailto:mark@gerlingtravel.com)

Feel free to email questions to me, Judy Gerling, at [judykaygerling@gmail.com](mailto:judykaygerling@gmail.com)

If you have traveled with Adventure Life in the past you will receive a 5% discount off the above quoted rates. Gerling Travel sells a very comprehensive travel insurance product and is highly recommended for all international travel.

Deposit Requirements for those wishing to reserve your spot. Space is limited...

Single tour - \$400 per person Combined tours - \$800 per person

Gerling Travel Group Worldwide  
301 S. Central Ave.  
Flagler Beach, FL 32136  
888-838-2930 – Toll Free

[mark@gerlingtravel.com](mailto:mark@gerlingtravel.com)  
[www.gerlingtravel.com](http://www.gerlingtravel.com)