


The Path of the **SUN**




THE EXPLORER'S PASSAGE
Where History Becomes Your Adventure!



Redefining Adventure Travel

At The Explorer's Passage, we define adventure as immersing ourselves in the world's most spectacular scenery, while walking in the footsteps of history's greatest explorers and visionaries – with the comforts, of course, of expert guides, highly personalized service and all the amenities you would expect from modern-day travel.

Join us as we peel back the curtains of time and dive head first into some of the most beautiful places on the planet. We can undoubtedly say that wherever your adventure leads, you'll return home invigorated, enriched and inspired – by the land, its people and its storied past.

WHY EXPLORE WITH US?



Exceptional Service

- Small group sizes (average 10, max 16)
- 6:1 average guest-to-guide ratio (one of the lowest in the industry)
- Personalized experiences, no two trips are the same



Insider's Access

- Local guides (the world's best) with ~20+ years tenure
- Intimate immersion into culture, history, people & land
- The Story: unfolds with historical insights & deep local knowledge



Creative Itineraries

- No cookie-cutter tours
- Itineraries custom-crafted for each destination
- Structured activities, with room for spontaneity



Adventurers at Heart

- Exciting activities showcase the beauty of the region
- Flexible pace/level of difficulty
- Wrap up every day with a sense of accomplishment



Sleep Well. Eat Well.

- The best accommodations each region has to offer
- Tented camps with full support on remote excursions
- Emphasis on local fare, authentic to the region



Responsible Tourism

- Low impact to the environment
- Utmost respect for the local people and culture
- Leave No Trace principles incorporated into each adventure

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THE PATH OF THE SUN: 8 DAY TOUR

Countries:	Peru
Host City:	Cusco, Peru (CUZ)
Duration:	8 Days/7 Nights
Accommodations:	4 Nights Hotel/3 Nights Tented Camps
Adventure Activities:	Trekking
Duration of Adventure:	4 days
Adventure Activity Level:	Moderate
Maximum Group Size:	12
Guest to Guide Ratio:	8-1 (Porters & Cooks accompany guides on the trek)

Day	Primary Activities	Lodging	Rest City	Meals
1	Arrive in Cusco	Palacio del Inka	Cusco	D
2	Morning city walking tour, Afternoon free time to explore	Palacio del Inka	Cusco	B, D
3	Begin Inca Trail trek, Visit Wayna Q'ente (Old Hummingbird Village)	Tented Camp	Llactapata	B, L, D
4	Continue Inca Trail trek, Follow the Kuschaka River to a cloud forest of Polylepis trees	Tented Camp	Llulluchapampa	B, L, D
5	Continue Inca Trail trek, Climb to Warmiwanusquar (Dead Woman Pass), Visit thef Sayaqmarca (Steep-Place Town)	Tented Camp	Phuyupatamarca	B, L, D
6	Arrive to Machu Picchu though door of the Sun (Inti Punku)	Inkaterra	Machu Picchu	B, L, D
7	Optional Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain hike, Afternoon train back to Ollanta station, Private car to Cusco	Palacio del Inka	Cusco	B, L
8	Closing breakfast, Transfer to airport, Connect with flight to Lima, Assistance on arrival at Lima airport	-	-	B

THE PATH OF THE SUN: *THE STORY*

The Story unfolds along the mythical Path of the Sun as you step back in time and follow in the footsteps of the Incas on their holy journey to honor Inti, the God of the Sun. Travel through the Sacred Valley en route to the world wonder of Machu Picchu, all the while enjoying hearty meals, endless cups of coca tea, mysterious lore amidst the majestic Andean mountains.

Your journey begins in Cusco, first following a lesser-traveled segment of this ancient path over the Urubamba River before linking into the classic Inca Trail beginning at the revered ruins of Llactapata. Breathtaking scenes of misty peaks, verdant terraces and imposing archaeological sites fill the scenes as you make your way to Inti Punku, the Sun Gate, entering the Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, one of the most magnificent wonders of our world. Explore over 200-buildings of these incredible grounds, as perhaps you, too, will get drawn into the power of the sun, the Inca tapestry of belief unraveling a bit more with every new discovery. Truly an adventure of a lifetime.



DAY 1: CUSCO, PERU

Bienvenido a Cusco! Upon arrival, a TEP representative will greet you at the airport. Experience the scenery and history of the ancient capital city of the Inca as you are transported to your hotel. Get settled in before gathering in the lobby for a late afternoon orientation and the opportunity to get to know your fellow explorers. Following your adventure briefing, a special guest will take you back in time as we introduce you to the history of the Inca Empire at a festive meal at one of our favorite Cusco restaurants. Wrap up your evening over a toast of Pisco Sours and take in the budding excitement as you prepare to set off on your great adventure to the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

Max Elevation: 11,152 ft ▪ **Accommodation:** Palacio del Inka ▪ **Meals:** Dinner

DAY 2: CUSCO

Rise and shine for an energizing breakfast. This morning, stretch your legs on a walking tour of Cusco, a UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site and the historic capital of the Inca Empire. Find strength from a cup of coca tea as your body acclimatizes to Cusco's lofty elevation of 11,200 feet. In the afternoon, you will have free time to relax and explore the city. This evening, sample the local fare of this agricultural region and perhaps taste one of the 3,000 varieties of potato that are cultivated here. You'll get your fill of this popular crop before the week is over!



Max Elevation: 11,152 ft ▪ **Accommodations:** Palacio del Inka ▪ **Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 3: CUSCO TO LLACTAPATA

Enjoy a hearty breakfast before a scenic drive your first steps on the Inca Trail. Our journey begins on a little-traveled portion of this classic trek, offering plenty of opportunity for inspiration from the sun and the lively landscape. Break for lunch at Q'oriwayrachina and prepare to cross the Urubamba River at Q'ente with an option to visit the Wayna Q'ente, roughly translated as "old hummingbird village," archaeological site. Our campsite this evening rests above the Inca ruins of Llaqtapata overlooking a spectacular backdrop of terraces and mystical mountains. Keep your eyes peeled for the smooth flight patterns of the Andean Condor soaring overhead as your guide spins tales of the oftentimes spooky Inca rituals.

Max Elevation: 11,152 ft ▪ **Accommodation:** Tented Camp ▪ **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner ▪ **Trekking:** 5 - 6 hours, 6.5 miles

DAY 4: LLACTAPATA TO LLULLUCHAPAMPA

Wake up to a steaming cup of coffee or coca tea and trail-worthy breakfast before we embark again on the Path of the Sun. Our trek continues up the Cusichaca Valley eventually reaching the small village of Huayllabamba, which means "grassy plain." Enjoy a warm welcome from the roughly 400 residents who call this section of the trail home. Follow a tributary of the Kusichaka River on a steady climb up this narrow hanging valley as it opens to a cloud forest of *Polylepis* trees and ultimately a large Pampa, where you're invited to kick off your boots and rest for the evening at the idyllic campsite of Llulluchapampa nestled at 3,800 meters (12,500 feet). Enjoy awe-inspiring views of Mt. Huayanay as you sip a cup of coca tea awaiting a savory meal and another setting of the sun that so inspired the Incas to walk this way.



Max Elevation: 12,598 ft ▪ **Accommodation:** Tented Camp ▪ **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner ▪ **Trekking:** 6 hours, 5.5 miles

DAY 5: LLULLUCHAPAMPA TO PHUYUPATAMARCA



Fuel up on a hot breakfast for the big climbs we face today. Breathtaking vistas along the way give you energy, as you head into the heart of the Andean mountains. Upon reaching Warmiwansuqa, or “Dead Woman,” Pass at 13,692 feet, you’re awarded with a magnificent panorama. Take a minute to capture some photos before descending to the Pacaymayo River before beginning another climb to the ruins of Runkuraqay. From here, the trail passes through a high cloud forest while the scenery grows more and more dramatic. Reach the site of

Sayaqmarca (aptly named “steep-place town”) at 12,551 feet, and sit back to enjoy views of the Aobamba Valley or take a leisurely walk through the grand structures before continuing along the ridge under the watchful summit of Mt. Salkantay to the west and Mt. Pumasillo to the north. Follow the rolling stone trail, eventually arriving at Phuyupatamarca, our campsite for the evening, and spend the remainder of the afternoon exploring the five fountains and an altar that might have been used by the Inca for ritual purposes.

Max Elevation: 13,779 ft ▪ **Accommodation:** Tented Camp ▪ **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner ▪ **Trekking:** 8 – 10 hours, 9 miles

DAY 6: PHUYUPATAMARCA TO MACHU PICCHU

This morning, we descend nearly 3,000 feet on a combination of trail and irregular staircase composed of 1,500 steps carved into the granite. The Willkanota River comes into view, and the jungle grows back around you as the songs of birds and butterfly wings fill the air, eventually joined by the sound of the river and train as we near the railroad tracks below leading to Aguas Calientes. Take a spur trail leading to the ruins of Winay Wayna to gain some energy from this ancient site, which translates to mean “forever young,” before we press on for the final push to our ultimate destination. The trail continues, leading us to a series of steep stairs that ascend to the Sun Gate, or Inti Punku. Congratulations! Relish this hard-earned vista from the crest of the ridge, the mighty citadel of Machu Picchu spreading below our feet. We’ll return tomorrow to explore more of this world wonder, but for now board a bus to Aguas Calientes for a well-deserved shower and meal.



Max Elevation: 11,975 ft ▪ **Accommodation:** Inkaterra ▪ **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner ▪ **Trekking:** 7 hours, 5 miles

DAY 7: MACHU PICCHU TO CUSCO



Awaken refreshed and ready to absorb the secrets of Machu Picchu. Before heading to the Citadel you will have the option to climb either Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain. In late morning we will head to the Sanctuary for a guided visit through the imposing architecture of the Temple of the Sun, the Room of Three Windows and of course the Inti Watana, as the sun washes over the aged terraces and dry-stone walls. Your imagination soars as your eyes, and perhaps your feet, investigate Huayna Picchu looming overhead while your guide

regales you with the fascinating mysteries of Andean life. Unanswered questions are yours to analyze this afternoon on your train ride return trip to Cusco which gives us one more opportunity to reflect on the majestic mountains, astounding folklore and the incredible feats of the innovative Inca people.

Max Elevation: 11,152 ft ▪ **Accommodation:** Novotel ▪ **Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 8: CUSCO, PERU

This morning, gather for one last group breakfast to say our goodbyes. Exchange emails, if you’d like, with your guides and fellow explorers before transferring to the airport. We bid you adieu and will be counting the days until we see you on your next TEP adventure!



Max Elevation: 11,152 ft ▪ **Meals:** Breakfast

ADVENTURE DETAILS

Our adventures are all-inclusive, crafted with the intent of providing you with an unforgettable adventure travel experience. From a detailed pre-departure information package to a complimentary cocktail upon your arrival, we've thought of everything – so all you have to do is show up.

During your trip, our knowledgeable guides and support staff take care of the details of your transportation, lodging, meals, and activities. We've even scheduled in a bit of free time for you to explore, relax, shop, or eat on your own.

For The Path of the Sun adventure, the following inclusions/exclusions apply:

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Comprehensive pre-departure information package that includes trip details, all applicable forms, and packing list
- All lodging (hotels in cities, lodges and tented camps in villages, and tented camps when on the trail)
- Most meals
- Experienced local trip leaders fluent in both English and Spanish (All guides are certified Wilderness First Responders)
- All support vehicles and ground transportation
- Airport transfers
- Most necessary activity equipment, such as Eureka (R) tents and Thermarest (R) sleeping pads
- Additional support guides, porters, and cooks when on the trail
- Private tours of museums, historic and religious sites, and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Complimentary alcoholic beverages on the first day of the trip
- Drinking Water - Water is boiled, treated and filtered by cook staff and guides and available to hikers throughout the trek.
- National Park and other site entry fees
- All local taxes
- All dining and housekeeping gratuities and some local expert gratuities

WHAT IS TYPICALLY NOT INCLUDED

- Air and land transportation to and from host city
- Charter and internal airfare
- Airport taxes (if any)
- Excess baggage charges
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations
- Optional activities and spa services
- Sleep Bags (available for rent)
- Personal items
- Insurance of any kind (other than basic medical and evacuation insurance)
- Cost of medical immunizations
- Most alcoholic beverages
- Optional gratuities for TEP trip leaders, guides, and local staff

HUAYNA PICCHU / MACHU PICCHU MOUNTAIN HIKE

On the morning of Day 7 you will have the option to hike either Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain, assuming permits are available. Permits must be purchased for each hike. Huayna Picchu is our default option. If permits are not available for your date then we attempt to secure Machu Picchu Mountain permits. You have the option to skip this hike and rest before your tour of the Machu Picchu Sanctuary.



HUAYNA PICCHU

Huayna Picchu means “Young Peak” in the quechua language. It is the mountain that surrounds the Urubamba River, and it rises over Machu Picchu. The Incas built a trail up the side of the Huayna Picchu and built temples and terraces on its top. The peak of Huayna Picchu is about 8,920 feet above sea level. The hike takes approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours. The top of the mountain was the residence for the high priest and the local virgins. Every morning before sunrise, the high priest with a small group would walk to Machu Picchu to signal the coming of the new day. The Temple of the Moon, one of the three major temples in the Machu Picchu area, is nestled on the side of the mountain and is situated at an elevation lower than Machu Picchu. Adjacent to the Temple of the Moon is the Great Cavern, another sacred temple with fine masonry.

HUAYNA PICCHU / MACHU PICCHU MOUNTAIN HIKE

MACHU PICCHU MOUNTAIN

Machu Picchu Mountain is the name of the highest mountain behind the Inca citadel, which means, in the local language quechua, Old Mountain. This amazing excursion, that will take 4 hours approx., starts at the Machu Picchu citadel and take us, through an Inca Trail hidden under the forest, to the top of this magic mountain. In the middle of the trail, surrounded by flowers as Orchids, Begonias, Ferns and beautiful hummingbirds, we will begin to enjoy the outstanding view of the Machu Picchu citadel, the Urubamba River that runs below and all the sacred mountains that surrounds Machu Picchu. This area is very particular because it is located in the High-cloud forest, which means that is the section where the Highland joints the Rainforest, reason why exists many eco-systems inside. The Machu Picchu Mountain has a special meaning for the Incas, because under this mountain comes together two rivers that comes from the two most sacred mountains for the Incas: from the south runs the Urubamba river that is born in the Ausangate area, and from the west comes the Aobamba river that is born from the Salkantay mountain. That is why the Machu Picchu Mountain becomes a mountain of veneration to the sacred water. On the top, almost uncrowded, we will be welcomed by the Tawantinsuyo flag and next to it a little shelter, to be safe from the sun and the wind. From there we will have the privilege to have a 360° panoramic view of the Machu Picchu citadel. To get to the Top you need to have a moderate level to climb, because there are parts where is very steep, but not dangerous. The trail is well maintained. It is a paved road; with many steps and in some parts the trail goes zigzagging. This excursion is amazing, and is a very good way to understand why the Incas selected this mountain to build the Machu Picchu citadel.



TRIP ACTIVITY LEVEL INDEX

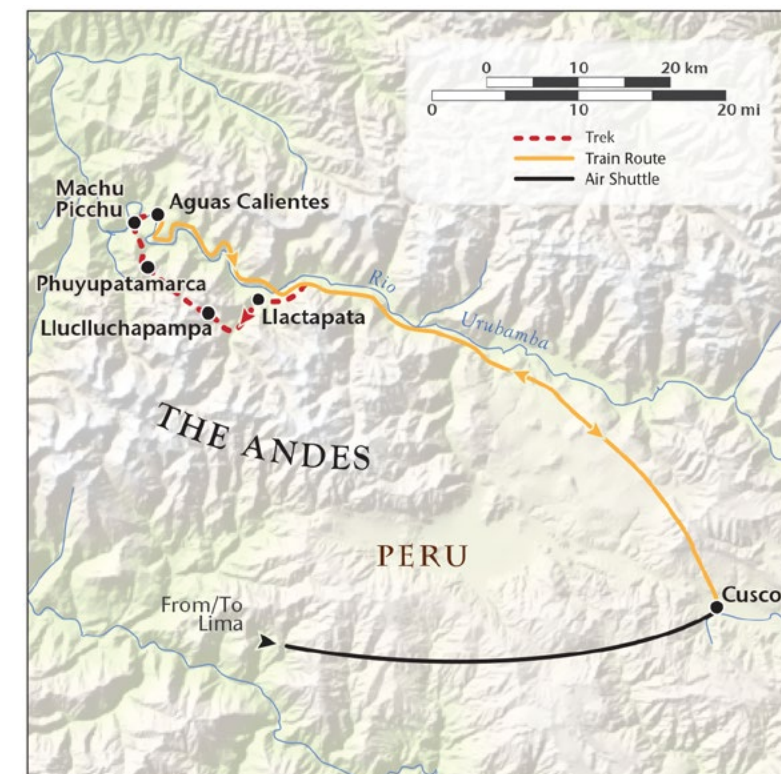
Moderate Level Adventure: This adventure includes trekking the Inca Trail in the Andes Mountain as you follow The Path of the Sun just as the Inca's did centuries ago. While the trip does not require technical climbing or mountaineering skills, excellent physical condition is a must, as terrain is varied, and days can be long. From start to finish we'll cover nearly 26 miles of trail over four days.

Days 1-2: On Day 2, we will have a light walking tour of Cusco.

Days 3-6: 4 days of trekking on the Inca Trail. Expect to walk 5-10 hours per day on this segment of the adventure, at a maximum elevation of 13,779 feet (training at a similar elevation is highly recommended). Terrain varies, and includes several steep ascents.

Day 7-8: On Day 7, you will have the option to hike Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain, afterwards you will spend the morning exploring the wonder that is Machu Picchu before your afternoon train ride to Cusco. Wrap up your time in Cusco, the former capital of the Inca Empire, with free time this evening to explore the sites.

*Note that 3 nights of your adventure are spent in tented camps, so prior camping experience is recommended, although not required. Our skilled Trip Leaders (8-1 guest-to-guide ratio) are here to support you throughout your journey, working tirelessly to make your Andean Mountain experience as seamless, memorable and comfortable as possible. Also note that temperatures can range from below 30 degrees (F) at night to 80 degrees (F) during the day and trails are often windy, so it's important to pack and dress accordingly.



OUR TRIP LEADERS

What truly sets The Explorer's Passage apart are our Trip Leaders. Simply put, they are the best in the industry, selected not only for their professionalism, contagious energy and deep-rooted expertise, but also for their ability to weave *The Story* behind the scenery seamlessly throughout your travels.

Below, meet one of our The Path of the Sun trip leaders.

WILFREDO HUILCA, TRIP LEADER

Wilfredo is an anthropologist, archeologist, historian, musician, and naturalist. His appreciation and deep respect for the Andean world have made him a specialist in many fields. He hypnotizes with his stories of the Inca Empire and will amaze you as you visit the various historic sites while playing his Andean flute in the background. With over two decades of experience, leading treks in the Andes Mountains, Wilfredo will expertly guide you as you follow *The Path of the Sun* through the Sun Gate to Machu Picchu just as the Inca did centuries ago.



ACCOMMODATIONS

PALACIO DEL INKA | CUSCO, PERU

One of the finest hotels in Peru and part of Starwood Resort's Luxury Collection, Palacio del Inka is a 16th century mansion built as the home of a Spanish conquistador. Located in the heart of Cusco, it is walking distance to shopping, restaurants, and museums and is located across from the Koricancha, the most sacred temple in the Inca Empire. The spacious rooms are exquisitely appointed, combining Peruvian art and handcrafted furnishings with state-of-the-art technology. The on-site restaurant, Inti Raymi, serves authentic Andean specialties, with ingredients organically grown from the Sacred Valley. Take advantage of the full service spa that draws on the ancient healing mysticism of the Andes.



Visit Hotel Website at: <http://www.palaciodelinkahotel.com>

INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO | AGUAS CALIENTES, PERU

Nestled into the mountainside on twelve serene acres of natural paradise, the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Resort was rated the #3 hotel in Central and South America in Travel and Leisure's 2015 World's Best Awards. Its Andean pueblo-style rooms are artfully designed for serenity and solitude serving as the ultimate Inca retreat. With a nod to modern culture, every room has complimentary Wi-Fi, plasma-screen satellite TV with DVD player, iPod speakers, and more. Their on-site restaurant offers daily tea and intimate dining options. This will be a dining experience to remember since it is overlooking the impressive Vilcanota River. So sit back, relax and take in the awe-inspiring beauty of the Andean Mountains. Need to relax even more? Take advantage of the on-site Una Spa & Sauna for a relaxing massage or a quiet moment in the sauna.



Visit Hotel Website at: <http://www.inkaterra.com/inkaterra/inkaterra-machu-picchu-pueblo-hotel/the-experience/>

ACCOMMODATIONS (CTD)

TENTED CAMPS (AKA MOVING VILLAGES)

Moving Villages are exactly as they sound: camps that move with you as you go. Full adventure teams support these impressive temporary accommodations and can consist of up to 15 porters, cooks, and guides for a 12-person trip. Dining tables, fresh food, beverages, your extra bags, and roomy, two-person tents with sleeping pads await your arrival. Other luxuries, such as toilet tents will be present on camp sites on The Path of the Sun adventure.



ADVENTURE TERMS & CONDITIONS

TRIP ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Our goal is to provide you with an unforgettable adventure. We take a lot of pride in our itineraries, as we have invested an enormous amount of time and energy into creating and organizing them. Sometimes, however, due to unexpected circumstances adventures don't always go according to plan. Because of this, we reserve the right to cancel or change aspects of the itinerary at any time, and for any reason. When necessary, we will substitute hotels, airlines, events, and activities. Each time we do so, we will on a best efforts basis keep the quality the same, ensuring that the category of service substituted is the same as what is in the itinerary.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Our adventure pricing is based on double occupancy. For individuals who would like their own room and/or tent, each of our itineraries have an additional single supplement charge. If you request a roommate and we are unable to accommodate then you will receive a private room and be charged 50% of the customary single supplement charge (on most trips). The Explorer's Passage will take care of the rest.

PRICE FLUCTUATIONS

We will make a strong effort to maintain price. As per industry norm, the adventure price is subject to increase based on unforeseeable changes beyond our control. The changes may include a change in the cost of airfare, currency fluctuation, taxes, fuel surcharges, security costs, or unavoidable charges imposed by our activity providers. These fees are to be paid upon notification if such a situation does arise. The per person cost increase to clients is \$100 for these increases and The Explorer's Passage will absorb the rest. In order to be as transparent as possible, on The Path of the Sun adventures we break out our internal flight costs on our itinerary page.

TEP CANCELLATION POLICY

If you must cancel your reservation, cancellation charges will apply. Please see our terms and conditions at www.explorerspassage.com.

FLIGHTS

TEP does not have an air department. When either booking your flights on your own or speaking to a travel agent, please note that our welcome dinner begins at 6 PM local time and our closing breakfast ends at 9:30 AM local time. TEP does provide airport transfers at the start and conclusion of your adventure.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Given the active, often remote and international nature of our adventures, and our strict refund policy, we require you to purchase travel insurance. We have made it easy for you to secure this peace of mind through the convenient services of MH Ross, one of the leading travel-insurance providers. Choose from a number of plan options that include evacuation, medical, and cancellation protection. To learn more, please visit www.explorerspassage.com/insurance, or call one of our adventure consultants at 1-855-208-6800.

TRAVEL VISA

There are no visa requirements for U.S. citizens visiting Peru for up to 183 days.

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR A TEP ADVENTURE?

To learn more or to sign up for The Path of the Sun 8 Day Adventure please call toll-free at 1-855-208-6800 or email us at info@explorerspassage.com. To reserve a space, an initial deposit of \$500 is required.

We Look Forward to Seeing You On the Trail!

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