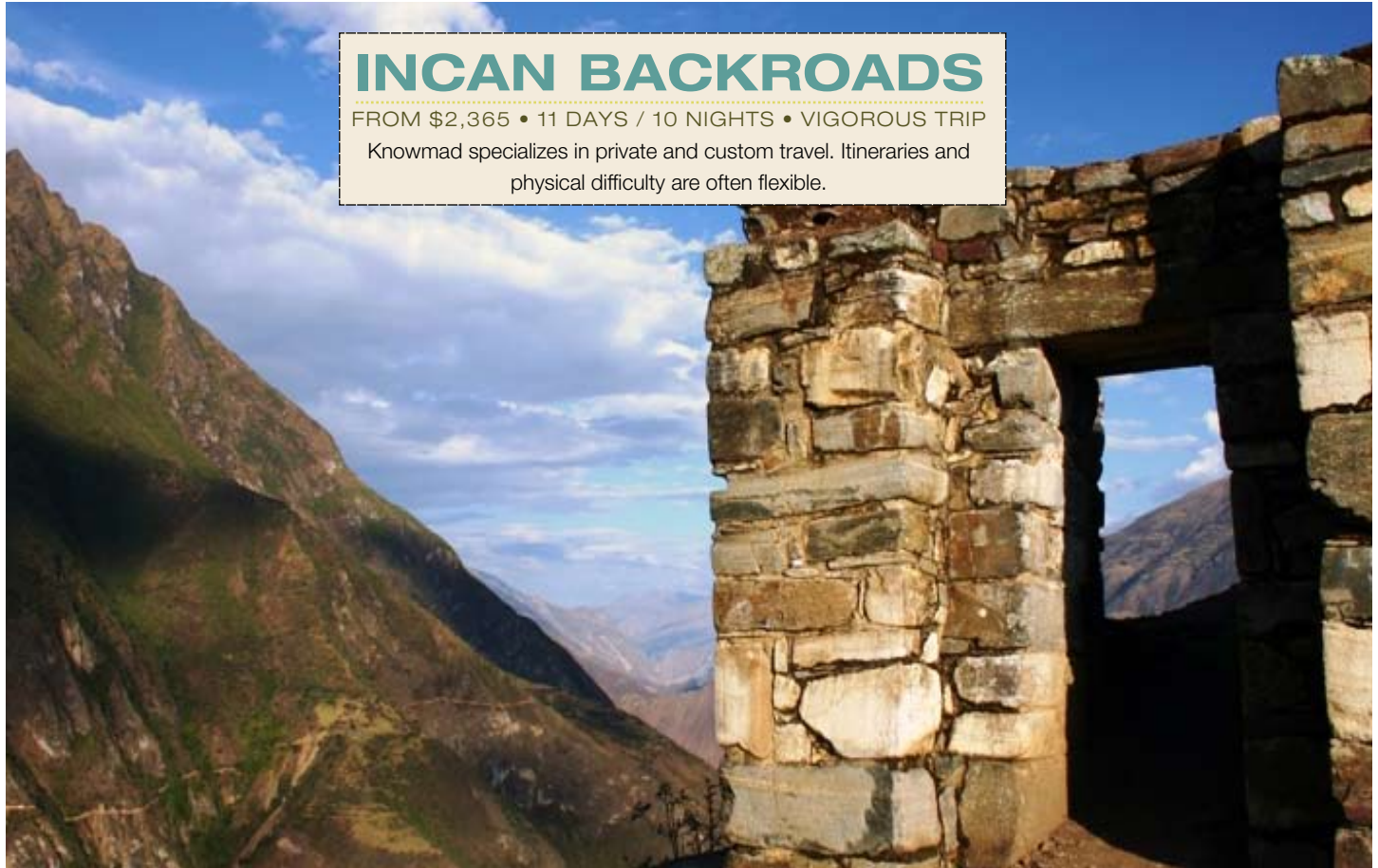


## INCAN BACKROADS

FROM \$2,365 • 11 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS • VIGOROUS TRIP

Knowmad specializes in private and custom travel. Itineraries and physical difficulty are often flexible.



### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike off the beaten path and explore the massive Incan complex of Choquequirao, a marvel few others in the world have witnessed
- Discover the ancient ways of Amaru villagers and bargain for colorful, hand-woven textiles in traditional Pisac market
- Meander the cobblestone streets of Cusco – former center of the Incan empire
- Ride the rails in a historic train car along the Inca Trail
- Explore the famed Lost City of Machu Picchu and the Sun Gate

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### DAY 1 Lima

Upon arrival you'll be met at the airport by a Knowmad Adventures representative and taken to your accommodations centrally located in the Miraflores neighborhood. Explore Peru's diverse and delectable cuisine and visit some of the city's many sights and museums on your own or, depending on your time, we can arrange a guided exploration of the city or you can learn to make ceviche with a local chef on a culinary discovery.\*

- No meals - Casa Inca

#### DAY 2 Cusco

After a short morning flight to Cusco – former capital of the Inca Empire - where Andean cultures come alive (don't be surprised when the language doesn't sound like Spanish – it could be the native Andean tongue Quechua), you'll be met at the airport and taken to your accommodations. Enjoy lunch on your own before meeting your guide for an afternoon exploration of Cusco's most interesting sites

including Incan architectural jewels such as Korikancha – the temple of the sun. Also shop at Andean markets, enjoy incredible Peruvian cuisine, and see the colonial cathedrals around the Plaza Central. After exploring the city you'll enjoy the evening on your own relaxing or exploring Cusco's bustling night life.

- B – Quinoa Villa Boutique

#### DAY 3 Sacred Valley Villages and the Weavers of Amaru

After breakfast you'll head by van along the Sacred Valley past the communities of Calca, Coya, Lamay and Pisac. From here the van goes completely off the map winding up a small dirt road, which takes you through remote Andean villages and arrives to the community of the Amaru people. This isolated community holds strongly to their ancient customs and practices a largely subsistence lifestyle on the slopes of the Andes. The Amaru will proudly open their village to you where you will learn of their lifestyle and traditions. Among other things, take part in gathering plants used as natural dyes, learn of their medicinal and culinary properties, and see how Peru's world-renowned textiles are woven and brought to life.

Stay for lunch with the Amaru or enjoy a picnic amongst the Pisac ruins that sprawl down the mountainside towards town. Afterwards, hike along the high-mountain terraces and through the ruins before descending to Pisac – one of Peru's largest and most vibrant markets – where you can bargain with Andean campesinos for handcrafted wares. Return to Cusco for a relaxing evening.

- B, L – Quinoa Villa Boutique

#### DAY 4 Hike to Choquequirao

Depart Cusco and begin your four day hike amongst the Salkantay Mountains above the Apurimac River, taking you along Incan footpaths and impressive ruin complexes that few visitors get to witness before arriving to Choquequirao. This complex rivals Machu Picchu in size and stature, only you're likely to have it mostly to yourself!

After being met at your hotel you will head north by van ascending into Limatambo and visiting the Inca site Tarawasi. Reaching the Apurimac River at an impressive gorge you pass the village of Carawasi and reach the Sayhuite stone – it is said this is an ancient carved map of the Inca empire.

Arriving to Cachora you will meet the rest of the field crew and start hiking with your day pack along the edge of the mountain. At Capuliyoc you get your first view of the Apurimac Canyon and the snow-capped Andes Mountains. After a steady ascent you'll arrive to your camp at Chikiska.

Hike details: 11.5 miles, approximately 6 hours

- B, L, D – camping

#### DAY 5 Hike to Choquequirao

After a hearty camp breakfast you'll cross a footbridge over the river and begin a steady ascent until reaching an open meadow where lunch is served. After lunch the trail flattens some and the vegetation gets more lush on both sides of the Apurimac Canyon as you approach massive Choquequirao which sits atop a hanging valley. You'll find camp at Marampampa with multiple isolated Inca sites in the surrounding cloudforest. Find your solitude in the evening as you catch sunset from the Choquequirao main plaza.



Hike details: 8 miles, approximately 8 hours

- B, L, D – camping

## DAY 6 Choquequirao

Enjoy a full day exploring this vast complex of Incan ruins taking in the central plaza, the different classes residential districts, the temple, and the vast terracing systems. With its isolation and location in lush cloudforest, Choquequirao retains its feeling of Indiana Jones, and the sort of adrenaline rush you hope for at ancient ruins is prevalent at every turn.

- B, L, D – camping

## DAY 7 Choquequirao to Villa Los Loros

Descend through cloud forest into the gorge and pass by the former Hacienda San Ignacio. Continue on to Villa Los Loros where you will enjoy a much-deserved shower and a relaxing evening toasting your amazing hike to Choquequirao.

- B, L, D – Villa Los Loros

## DAY 8 Sacred Valley to Machu Picchu

After breakfast you will head by van to Cusco and continue on to Ollantaytambo in the Sacred Valley where you'll enjoy a delicious meal. From here board the train that chugs along the Urubamba River and parts of the Inca Trail towards the Amazon arriving at Machu Picchu Pueblo where you spend the evening.

- B, L – Andina Luxury

## DAY 9 Machu Picchu

Early risers can revel at the sunrise from the Machu Picchu citadel. This incredibly vast archaeological site - lost to the world until well into the twentieth century – is perched amidst Andean peaks and lush cloud forest making it one of the most breathtaking sights in the world. You'll have the opportunity to get a complete guided tour as you begin to unlock the mystery of the Inca, and also have plenty of time to wander the site on your own. Lunch at the Sanctuary Lodge adjacent to the ruins means you'll be able to enjoy the whole day without leaving awe-inspiring Machu Picchu. With advance notice, you can also climb the adjacent sacred peak Huayna Picchu for a bird's eye view.\*

- B, L – Andina Luxury

## DAY 10 Machu Picchu to Cusco

Taking the train after breakfast, you'll have time to roam through Ollantaytambo town taking in the ancient ruins towering above. Continuing through the Sacred Valley you will head to Cusco by way of Chinchero, one of the most beautiful drives in the Andes. An afternoon arrival gives you time to enjoy Cusco and have a wonderful final evening in this very special place.

- B, L – Quinoa Villa Boutique

## DAY 11 Fly Lima and Return Home

Or with more time, extend your trip with a visit to the Amazon or Lake Titicaca.

- B



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2013 COSTS \$2,365 per person (4 or more travelers) / \$2,450 per person (3 travelers) / \$2,590 per person (2 travelers). Additionally, regional airfare is estimated at \$440 (Lima/Cusco & Cusco/Lima—subject to change). Knowmad Adventures is happy to book and issue these tickets for you.

\$525 single supplement – rates quoted are per person, based on sharing double accommodations. If you request single accommodations you are required to pay the single supplement.

### WHAT YOUR TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Personal pre-departure support
- Expert leadership & guiding
- Accommodations as indicated & based on double-occupancy
- Local excursions as indicated
- Airport transfers as indicated
- Backcountry field arrangements as necessary
- All necessary equipment for adventure excursions
- Ground transportation and support vehicles
- Additional guides and porters as needed
- Entrance fees and permits

### WHAT YOUR TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International and domestic airfare
- Visa, passport, departure/arrival and excess baggage fees
- Trip insurance (we strongly recommend you obtain trip insurance offered by Knowmad Adventures, including trip cancellation insurance)
- Activities listed as optional and/or denoted with asterisk
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Optional tipping to local guides and staff
- Personal items

**TYPE** Flexible Date Private Departures. You choose the date and your travel companions and we'll get you together with a group of fellow, like-minded travelers for the Choquequirao trekking portion of the trip. Private Choquequirao trek departures are also available; please inquire for pricing.

**VIGOROUS TRIP** These trips typically require very good physical condition or pre-existing skills. Expect to be in challenging terrain for long durations. Activities include extended hiking, camping, cultural opportunities, history, train ride, shopping, wildlife viewing.

**DEPARTURES** March through November; can be set up to match your dates.

**LENGTH** 11 days – 7 nights comfortable hotels, 3 nights camping

**BEGIN | END** Lima, Peru

## SUMMARY

Want to trek Peru in solitude or can't get a permit for the Inca Trail? Get your hiking fix on this alternative Inca Trail trek, which takes you off the beaten path to little-known Incan complexes. The incredible hike is rounded out by visits to the Sacred Valley, Cusco, and Machu Picchu.

## AIR TRAVEL

### INTERNATIONAL

Airfare is not included in the land cost of our trips. You may arrange your international airfare independently, or we are happy to offer our feedback and assistance in helping you book it.

### REGIONAL

If booked by Knowmad Adventures, internal airfare for this trip (Lima/Cusco, Cusco/Lima) averages \$440, however this is an approximation and the airfare is subject to change upon booking. If you would like to arrange your own regional flights, please consult us prior so we can verify the departure and arrival times.

## WEATHER & WHEN TO GO

This trip takes place mostly in the Peruvian highlands. Throughout the year the average temperature is in the mid-50s °F (10-12 °C) and does not fluctuate greatly. Evenings are cooler. There are primarily two seasons: wet and dry. December through March sees much more

precipitation than other times of the year and is the less visited season. As Peru has three distinct climate zones, if you are interested in combining this trip with a visit to the jungle or the coastal areas please inquire for more weather details.

Prior to your departure, we provide you with a detailed pre-trip information packet, which includes a recommended pack list, information about the regions you'll be visiting, suggested readings, and up-to-date health information including any recommended vaccinations.

MONTH	AVG. TEMP. & RAINFALL	MONTH	AVG. TEMP. & RAINFALL
January	55°F 5.9"	July	50°F .1"
February	55°F 4.5"	August	52°F .3"
March	55°F 3.8"	September	54°F .9"
April	55°F 1.5"	October	56°F 1.9"
May	53°F .3"	November	56°F 2.7"
June	50°F .1"	December	56°F 4.3"



## EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE

### AMAZON JUNGLE

Just a short flight from Cusco, spotting troops of monkeys, colorful macaws and countless bird species, giant sloths, caimans, and maybe even a jaguar or puma in the Amazon Jungle is a traveler favorite. We have scoured the jungle lodges of Peru and can advise you on which experience fits you best while guaranteeing the best value.

### LAKE TITICACA

Besides being the highest navigable lake in the world, Lake Titicaca is home to diverse traditional cultures including the floating Uros civilization, the Quechua people of Taquile Island, and the Amaru peoples. Come and meet them at the top of the world.

### LIMA

Want to spend more time exploring this great city? Besides getting you a great value for hotels and airport transfers, we can line up a fantastic cooking lesson and culinary city tour, full and half day sightseeing adventures, surrounding ruin visits and much more.

## IS IT FOR ME?

Be prepared for six to eight hours on the trail during hiking days. This trip is ideal for active people looking for great hiking and remote ruins tied in with other Peru highlights.



Knowmad has vast knowledge and operating capacities in Peru: this is a private trip and we are happy to modify excursions, accommodations, and the flow of the itinerary to perfectly suit your travel style and interests.

#### REFERENCES

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

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Ready for the trip of a lifetime? Signing up is easy. Call us at 1-877-616-8747 or email [travel@knowmadadventures.com](mailto:travel@knowmadadventures.com) and reserve your spot. Or simply download our registration form from [www.KnowmadAdventures.com/contact](http://www.KnowmadAdventures.com/contact), fill it out, and send it back to us along with your trip deposit.

PLEASE REFER TO REGISTRATION FORM FOR TERMS & CONDITIONS