Travel with The Met

Peru: Machu Picchu & the Royal Estates of the Incas
with Joanne Pillsbury, Andrall E. Pearson Curator of Ancient American Art

September 3–11, 2023
Photos clockwise from top right: Casa de Aliaga, Lima; Ollantaytambo; Llamas, Cusco; Basílica y Convento de San Francisco de Lima; Master Weavers, Yucay Museo de Cultura, Chinchero; Regional map. Front cover: Machu Picchu. Back cover: Peruvian weaving (top); Archbishop’s Palace, Lima (bottom).
Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

In Peru, the Incas’ royal estates, including the glorious winter palace, Machu Picchu, stand as testaments to their aesthetic vision, craftsmanship, and ingenuity. Masterpieces of architecture and landscape design, these monuments are among the great legacies of Inca emperors, indigenous American versions of the great Roman villas.

As a scholar of ancient American art, I’m excited for you to join me in Peru in September 2023. We will go behind the scenes at some of my favorite places, including the lush Sacred Valley, home to Machu Picchu and other lesser-known but equally astonishing sites such as Ollantaytambo, an unfinished estate that became a fortress at the time of the Spanish Conquest. A private guide will reveal Machu Picchu’s secrets, from its exquisite stonework, achieved without iron tools or mortar, to the brilliant engineering undergirding its graceful terraces. As we’ve learned so much about Machu Picchu recently, our tour will offer revelations even if you’ve traveled here before.

In Lima, Peru’s modern capital, a highlight will be a private look at the Museo Larco’s superb collection of pre-Inca ceramics and goldwork, all housed in a mansion perched on a seventh-century pyramid. A flight over the majestic Andes will take us to Cusco, the Incas’ ancient capital. Throughout this program, you will be introduced to the gifted artisans who are keeping centuries-old Andean traditions alive, as well as Peru’s thrilling contemporary arts scene. The founder of the Centro de Textiles Tradicionales del Cusco will privately lead us through her textile workshop and collection, reminding us of why the Incas considered this art form the most precious of all. We’ll also discover Cusco’s Spanish colonial monastery built atop the ruins of the Incas’ most lavish temple. Upon return to Lima, we’ll conclude with a curator-led tour of the Museo Pedro de Osma, an Art Nouveau mansion displaying colonial treasures and Peruvian art dating to the 16th century.

Don’t miss this exclusive look into Peru’s glamorous past and vibrant present. I hope you will join me.

Sincerely,
Joanne Pillsbury
Andrall E. Pearson Curator of Ancient American Art
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Traveling with You
Joanne Pillsbury

A specialist in the arts of the ancient Americas, Joanne Pillsbury is Andrall E. Pearson Curator of Ancient American Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is the author, editor, or co-editor of numerous publications, including the three-volume Guide to Documentary Sources for Andean Studies, 1530–1900, and Past Presented: Archaeological Illustration and the Ancient Americas and the Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Award-winning Ancient Maya Art at Dumbarton Oaks. Her 2017 exhibition catalogue, Golden Kingdoms: Luxury Arts in the Ancient Americas (prepared with Timothy Potts and Kim Richter), was the winner of a PROSE Award for Excellence.

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**Trip Highlights**

— Enjoy a scenic train ride to awe-inspiring Machu Picchu, where you will have a guided exploration of this royal Inca retreat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, over two days. Plus, join a curator at Cusco’s Casa Concha to see treasures excavated from the site

— Go behind the scenes of less-visited Inca palaces and fortresses that rival Machu Picchu, including the fortress of Ollantaytambo, with its spectacular maze of cobblestone streets in Peru’s Sacred Valley; and the vast, astonishing Sacsayhuamán, a citadel built with enormous stones, some up to 200 tons

— Delight in special, curator-led tours at Lima’s Museo Larco, with its pre-Hispanic collection of ceramics, gold, and silver objects housed in a beautifully restored mansion built on a seventh-century pyramid; and the Museo Pedro de Osma, with its private collection of viceregal art housed in a splendid Art Nouveau mansion

— Join the founder of the Centro de Textiles Tradicionales del Cusco, a friend of The Met, for an exclusive tour of its traditional Andean textiles created by master weavers

— Attend a Cusco art workshop led by local artists who will touch on traditional techniques and materials
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Arrival in Lima, Peru  
Sunday, September 3  
Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the deluxe Miraflores Park, a Belmond hotel set on the Pacific Ocean in one of the city’s most stylish neighborhoods.

Lima  
Monday, September 4  
Attend a morning lecture, followed by an exploration of Plaza Mayor, whose history predates the arrival of the Spanish. Then, visit Casa de Aliaga, a colonial mansion that Francisco Pizarro originally gifted to one of his captains, Jeronimo de Aliaga. The property has remained in the same family for 17 generations. In Lima’s UNESCO-listed historic center, view several important colonial buildings, including the Basílica y Convento de San Francisco de Lima. Transfer to the Pueblo Libre district, where you will visit the Museo Larco, housed in a beautifully restored mansion built on a pre-Columbian pyramid from the seventh century. Admire its extensive pre-Hispanic collection of metalwork and superb pre-Inca pottery. After lunch at the Café del Museo, return to the hotel. This evening, attend a welcome reception and dinner at a local restaurant showcasing Lima’s renowned cuisine.

Lima / Cusco / Chinchero / Sacred Valley  
Tuesday, September 5  
On a morning flight to Cusco, enjoy a condor’s-eye view of the dramatic Andes. Upon arrival, transfer to the village of Chinchero, and tour its 17th-century colonial church built on top of the remains of an Incan palace. In Cusco, join the founder and director of the Centro de Textiles Tradicionales del Cusco for an inside look at its collection of exquisite Andean textiles. Then, venture to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, home to a lush and rugged landscape, charming Andean towns, and Inca terraces still farmed in the traditional manner. Check in for a two-night stay at the Tambo del Inka Hotel, where you’ll enjoy dinner this evening.

Sacred Valley / Chinchero  
Wednesday, September 6  
This morning, explore the Incan fortress of Ollantaytambo. In 1536, Manco Inca and his band of rebels defeated Pizarro’s soldiers here in one of the few battles lost by the Spanish; the village below the ruins retains its original Inca layout and character. Return to Chinchero, and transfer to the Yucay Museo de Cultura Viva, where works in textile, adobe, clay, and silver are created using traditional Andean techniques. Make your way to Casa Hacienda Orihuela, a family-owned estate with a varied collection of ceramics, paintings, weapons, photography, ceremonial vessels, and the ceramic bulls of Pucara. While here, enjoy a hosted family-style lunch amid a grove of eucalyptus trees. Return to the hotel with dinner at leisure.

Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu / Aguas Calientes  
Thursday, September 7  
Depart by train for a scenic morning journey to Machu Picchu, “the Lost City of the Incas.” This royal summer retreat, untouched by the conquistadors, was unknown to archaeologists until American explorer Hiram Bingham rediscovered it a century ago. Formed with granite blocks without the aid of iron tools, Machu Picchu’s expertly crafted, marvelously beautiful structures were planned to harmonize with the spectacular landscape. Ascend to Machu Picchu and, after lunch, there will be time to explore the site before checking in for an overnight stay in Aguas Calientes.

Machu Picchu / Cusco  
Friday, September 8  
This morning is at leisure to further explore Machu Picchu. You may wish to rise early to hike the short distance to Inti Punku, the Inca “sun gate,” to witness the sun rise through the mist over Machu Picchu. Alternatively, climb to Huayna Picchu, the rocky peak offering panoramic views of this magnificent site. Following lunch, descend to Aguas Calientes and depart by train for Cusco. Upon arrival, transfer to the elegant Monasterio for a two-night stay, with dinner at the hotel.
Cusco  
Saturday, September 9
Discover Cusco, ancient capital of the Incas, on a tour that includes the Plaza de Armas and its strikingly ornate cathedral. A special highlight is the Convento de Santo Domingo, built atop the ruins of the legendary Coricancha, once the Inca Empire’s most lavish temple. Before lunch, visit Casa Concha, a colonial house that now houses archaeological finds from Machu Picchu. Stop to see the ancient maze of Kenko before viewing the Inca ruins of Puca Pucara (Red Fortress). Then, venture to the amazing fortress of Sacsayhuamán, constructed with enormous stones held together without mortar. Later, you may choose to attend an art workshop highlighting traditional techniques including painted ceramics and gold-leaf application led by local artists. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

Cusco / Lima  
Sunday, September 10
Depart on a short flight to Lima, where, upon arrival, you will continue to the chic Barranco district. Take a special tour of the Museo Pedro de Osma, a private collection of viceregal art housed in a splendid Art Nouveau mansion. After a farewell lunch, transfer to the Miraflores Park hotel, where dayrooms have been reserved. Later, drive to the Lima airport for an overnight flight to the U.S. B,L

Lima / Return  
Monday, September 11
After your late-night departure, arrive home in the U.S. in the mid-morning on Monday.

Walking Activities Note: On this splendid journey in Peru, you will visit high-altitude historical sites with unevenly paved pathways and steep staircases without handrails. Guests should be in good health, be able to stand unassisted for more than an hour at a time, and capable of walking up to a mile without stopping. Broken-in walking shoes are a must.

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

Program Rate
$7,149 per person, double rate
$9,249 single rate

Rate Includes
— Seven nights accommodations as per itinerary
— Day rooms prior to evening departure from Lima on final day (September 10)
— Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine with lunches and dinners
— Enrichment program of lectures and talks
— First-class seats on the Vistadome train (Sacred Valley-Machu Picchu / Machu Picchu-Cusco)
— One way, internal, economy-class flights (Lima-Cusco / Cusco-Lima)
— Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
— Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
— Taxes, service, and porterage charges

Not included in rates
International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Accommodations
Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, Aguas Calientes
Miraflores Park, A Belmond Hotel, Lima
Set in Lima’s most fashionable district, this luxury hotel combines personalized service, exceptional dining, marble bathrooms, and marvelous facilities to create the perfect base from which to explore.

Tambo del Inka, Urubamba
Featuring a private train station to Machu Picchu, the Tambo del Inka includes rooms with mountain or river views, free Wi-Fi access, and flat-screen TVs. Some rooms offer oxygen enrichment systems, with oxygen tanks available upon request.

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, Aguas Calientes
Located in an intimate Andean village, surrounded by cloud forest, terraced hills and waterfalls, this hotel features 83 whitewashed adobe casitas. Explore its exquisite 12-acre landscape hosting the world’s largest native orchid collection (372 species).

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco
A centuries-old monastery, this hotel boasts interiors rich with art and antiques and dining by candlelight among the cloisters.

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Reservation Form
To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); email: met@arrangementsabroad.com, or complete this form and return it with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

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