

INTI RAYMI FESTIVAL

For the Incas, the winter solstice sunrise marked the beginning of a new calendar year and was celebrated throughout the land, especially at their most sacred sites. Inti Raymi, Quechua for 'Sun Festival', was borne from these celebrations, and has become the most important festival in Cusco, especially since the sun was one of the most revered Inca deities. Although the celebration lasts for a week, the opening day of colorful processions and elaborate re-enactments of revered Inca ceremonies draws a crowd of thousands from the city, as well as Andean people from the highland communities and visitors from every corner of the planet.

During the Inti Raymi Festival Program, not only will you join the celebration, but you will also journey through sacred temples throughout Cusco. Archaeologists believe that the Incas regarded Cusco as the 'sun center' of their empire, and that these temples were constructed in four separate directions along imaginary lines originating in the heart of the city, much like rays that emanate from the sun, also aligned with notable constellations like the Milky Way and the Southern Cross. Join us and explore this ancient architectural 'code' to learn how and why traditional Andean communities maintain the traditions of their Inca forebears.

2023 DEPARTURE DATE



ITINERARY

JUN 16 WELCOME TO CUSCO

- Pick-up at Cusco airport and transfer to hotel.
- Lunch and afternoon at leisure.
- **06:00 pm** Pre-trip briefing

Overnight: MLP Hotel in Cusco

JUN 17 EXPLORING CUSCO

- Breakfast at hotel
- **09:30 am** Tour of the Ancient Temples of Cusco: Koricancha, Hatunrumiyoc, Calle Intikijllu, and Plaza de San Cristobal
- **01:00 pm** Lunch at local restaurant
- **03:00 pm** Guided tour of the Sacsayhuaman archaeological site
- **06:00 pm** Lecture: 'The Sacred Architecture of Cusco' – led by Andres Adasme, Archaeoastronomer and MLP Director of New Program Development
- **07:30 pm** Dinner at Kion in Cusco

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: MLP Hotel in Cusco

JUN 18 INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL ANDEAN CEREMONIES

- Breakfast at hotel
- **08:00 am** Depart hotel for a scenic drive to Quillarumiyoc
- **09:30 am** Guided tour of the Quillarumiyoc archaeological site
- **11:30 am** Traditional ceremony at the main temple in honor of *Pachamama* (Mother Earth) and to celebrate Winter Solstice – led by a traditional Andean Q'ero (shaman)
- **12:30 pm** Picnic lunch at the temple
- **02:00 pm** Downhill walk back to the base and drive back to Cusco
- Late afternoon at leisure
- **07:00 pm** Dinner at *Pachapapa* in Cusco

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: MLP Hotel in Cusco

JUN 19 INTO THE SACRED VALLEY

- Breakfast at hotel
- **08:00 am** Depart hotel for a scenic drive into the Sacred Valley
- **10:00 am** Arrival in Viacha and exploration into traditional Andean farming with the local community
- **11:30 am** Picnic brunch in Viacha
- **12:30 pm** Downhill hike to the PISAQ archaeological site
- **01:30 pm** Guided tour of the site
- **03:00 pm** Scenic drive to Lamay Lodge—light snacks included
- Late afternoon/early evening at leisure to rest or relax in the outdoor hot tub and lush Lamay garden (*Massage service available – subject to additional cost*)

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: Lamay Lodge

JUN 20 INTO THE HEART OF LARES

- Breakfast at lodge
- **10:00 am** Scenic drive to a remote village
- **01:00 pm** Lunch followed by a lesson in Andean medicinal plants plus a coca leaf reading by local healer Valentín
- **03:00 pm** Walking visit to the town square and scenic drive to Huacahuasi Lodge
- **06:30 pm** Folkloric Andean dancing exhibition by the locals of Huacahuasi
- **07:00 pm** Dinner at lodge

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: Huacahuasi Lodge

JUN 21 PATACANCHA AND PUMAMARKA

- Breakfast at lodge.
- **08:00 am** Scenic drive to Marcacocha in the Patacancha Valley
- **11:00 am** Traditional Andean ceremony with the locals of Marcacocha to honor Pachamama and her blessings for the health of the community livestock
- **12:00 pm** Drive to Pumamarca and lunch on site
- **01:45 pm** Guided tour of the Pumamarca archaeological site
- **02:45 pm** Drive to Ollantaytambo
- **03:30 pm** Guided walk around the town of Ollantaytambo
- **05:30 pm** Arrival at lodge in the Sacred Valley
- **07:00 pm** Farm-to-table dinner at lodge and evening at leisure

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: Willka Tika Lodge

JUN 22 KM 104 TO THE MACHU PICCHU SUN GATE

- Early breakfast at hotel
- **06:30 am** Drive from lodge to Ollantaytambo train station*
**Non-hikers are welcome to stay in Ollantaytambo for a guided tour of the archaeological site in the morning, followed by a midday train ride to Aguas Calientes*
- **07:20 am** Train to rail marker KM 104
- **09:30 am** Begin all-day hike from KM 104 to the Sun Gate at Machu Picchu (picnic lunch en route)
- **03:00 pm** Walk downhill along the perimeter of the Machu Picchu citadel to catch the shuttle bus to Aguas Calientes
- **04:00 pm** Arrival and check-in at hotel
- **07:00 pm** Dinner at hotel

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

JUN 23 MACHU PICCHU

- **06:30 am** Early breakfast at hotel
- **07:15 am** Board shuttle bus in Aguas Calientes
- **08:00 am** Guided tour of the Machu Picchu citadel
- **12:30 pm** Board shuttle bus back to Aguas Calientes
- **01:15 pm** Lunch at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel
- **04:00 pm** Train departs for Ollantaytambo
- **05:30 pm** Meet driver at Ollantaytambo train station for scenic sunset drive back to hotel in Cusco

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: MLP Hotel in Cusco

JUN 24 INTI RAYMI FESTIVAL

- Breakfast at hotel
- **08:30 am** Depart hotel for a walk to the Koricancha
- **09:00 am** Inti Raymi opening ceremony at Koricancha and processional to Sacsayhuaman for the grand celebration—box lunch included
- **02:00 pm** Walk back to Cusco
- Afternoon and evening at leisure

Meals: B, L, D

Overnight: MLP Hotel in Cusco

JUN 25 FAREWELL

- Breakfast at hotel
- Transfer to Cusco airport

ADDITIONAL NOTES | INTI RAYMI FESTIVAL

- **Extend Your Stay:** Combine MLP Trip Extensions with your MLP Adventure to create your own customized travel experience. Contact your MLP Travel Specialist for more details and help with securing reservations for your extended itinerary.