

## **Titicaca Lake experience 3 days (or 4 days, optional homestay visit)**

Lake Titicaca is one of the natural wonders of Peru and largest mainland lake on the South American Continent. It is shared almost equally between Peru and Bolivia and you can see wonderful views of each country from either side. It's altitude is almost 4000m so nights are cold and days are sunny. Sunsets and sunrises are simply spectacular!!!!

### **ITINERARY**

#### **Day 1 Cusco - Puno**

You shall be picked you up at 6.15am and take you to the Turismo Mer terminal. The bus departs at 7.00am and the trip to Puno takes about 10 hours - it's a seven hour drive without stops - and includes lunch and a guide. Most of these sites are truly spectacular and this is a really worthwhile day.

The first stop is at comes Pikillacta (a pre-Inca city whose name means 'Place of the Flea' in the Inca language, Quechua!) and on to the colonial church of Andahuaylillas. Known as the 'Sistine Chapel of the Americas, it has to be seen to be believed! The spectacular Inca ruin of Raqchi are another highlight, and the incredibly ancient remains of Pukara round out the day. Accommodation: Puno 2 star hotel double room. Option to upgrade

#### **Day 2 Puno to Amantani Island**

At 13,500 feet, Lake Titicaca is the world's highest commercially navigable body of water. The Incas believed it was the cradle of civilisation - the place where all life began. It's a very special place dotted with islands that have unique living cultures and traditions, two of which we'll visit today.

Pick up in Puno at around 7-45am then transfer to Port around 5 minutes.

The first Island is the famous manmade Uros Reed Islands, where we'll have a tour and an explanation of the unique way of life of the people who live here.

Then we'll head for Amantani Island, where we'll spend the night. Our hosts, members of the indigenous Quechua community, will meet us at the lake's edge and are always up for a game of high-altitude soccer! When the game is over, we'll hike to the Pachamama (Mother Earth) temple at the summit of Amantani Island for unforgettable views of the sun setting over Lake Titicaca. Later we'll return to the homes of our hosts for a home-cooked meal. The Quechua people have maintained their traditional way of life for centuries, weaving wool, keeping cuy (guinea pigs), and farming their smallholdings. It's very quiet here - no streetlights, no cars, no dogs even!

Accommodation: homestay on Amantani Island – families normally take up to no more than 4 guests in each home

Note - accommodation style is a basic rustic experience with family!

### **Day 3 Amantani Island to Taquile to Puno**

After breakfast with our hosts we'll get back on the boat and head to Taquile Island, where we'll hike to the highest point of the island for breath-taking 360° views of Lake Titicaca, the Capachica Peninsula, Amantani Island and the Bolivian Andes. On the way we'll visit an isolated village and have the chance to meet the local people and learn about their famous textiles and culture. Then we'll head back to Puno, arriving late afternoon.

Accommodation in Puno Hotel or express/luxury night bus back to Cusco.

### **Day 4 Puno - Juliaca - onward travel**

Depending on the time of your flight, you might like to visit a couple of Puno's attractions or visit the chullpas of Sillustani. (extra cost)

Transfer to airport in Juliaca at extra cost

**PRICES 2016 EXPRESSED IN AMERICAN DOLLARS PER PERSON  
TRIP IS IN GROUP AND NOT PRIVATE, HOMESTAYS ARE FOR UP TO 4-6  
PEOPLE**

<b>Pax</b>	<b>USD/Pax 3 day trip with homestay</b>	<b>USD / Pax 3 day trip without homestay</b>
1	250	230
2	185	165
4	175	155
6	170	150
8	165	145
10+	155	140

#### **The price includes:**

- Tourist bus across the alti-plano according to the turismomer itinerary, guide refreshments + buffet lunch on day 1
- Transfer from Cusco hotel to bus terminal Cusco on day 1 (add \$30 USD to be transferred from the Sacred Valley)
- Transfer from bus terminal to the hotel Puno
- 2 nights in Puno Hotel 2\* based on a twin share for day 1 in Puno
- Boat and captain for duration of any tour.
- English/spanish speaking guide on boat.

- Tour of Uros Islands and Taquile Island and lunch for one day tour without homestay for **non-homestay package**
- Tour of Uros, Amantani and Taquile Islands + homestay accommodation with 1 lunch, 1 dinner 1 breakfast with local families for **2 day homestay package**
- Tour of Uros,
- Entry fees, boat taxes, for the Lake and island communities
- Transfers to/from Puno downtown to port

### **Costs Do Not Include:**

- Meals, hotels and transportation outside the regular itinerary.
- Optional lunch on day 2 of homestay package (5 USD)
- Personal gear, on islands bedding/blankets will be provided
- Single-room supplement for hotels (Around \$20 USD for Puno 2\* accommodation)
- Water/snacks/souvenirs.
- Transfer to the airport near Puno (Juliaca)
- Optional activities where time permits
- Return transport to Cusco (although if taking a night bus on day 3 back to Cusco with prior notice we can swap your 2<sup>nd</sup> night in Puno for an express luxury bus back with Cruz Del Sur bus. Leaves at 10pm and arrives Cusco 4.30am next morning)
- Any flights to from Juliaca airport
- Early check in or late check out
- Medical/Evacuation trip insurance
- Charges incurred as a result of delays and itinerary changes beyond our control
- We recommend travel insurance to cover any unforeseen costs.
- Tips and gratuities
- Alcohol and/or bottled drinks
- All expenses for early departure from tour (such as non-scheduled transfers, meals and hotel rooms).