

BESPOKE PERU JOURNEYS

11-Day Aqua Nera Amazon River Cruise s The Inca Empire Luxury Journey

Ref.: 6858



Sail the Aqua Nera on a 5-day Amazon River Cruise, then explore the mystique of the Inca Empire. Uncover ancient wonders and vibrant cultures on this extraordinary adventure.

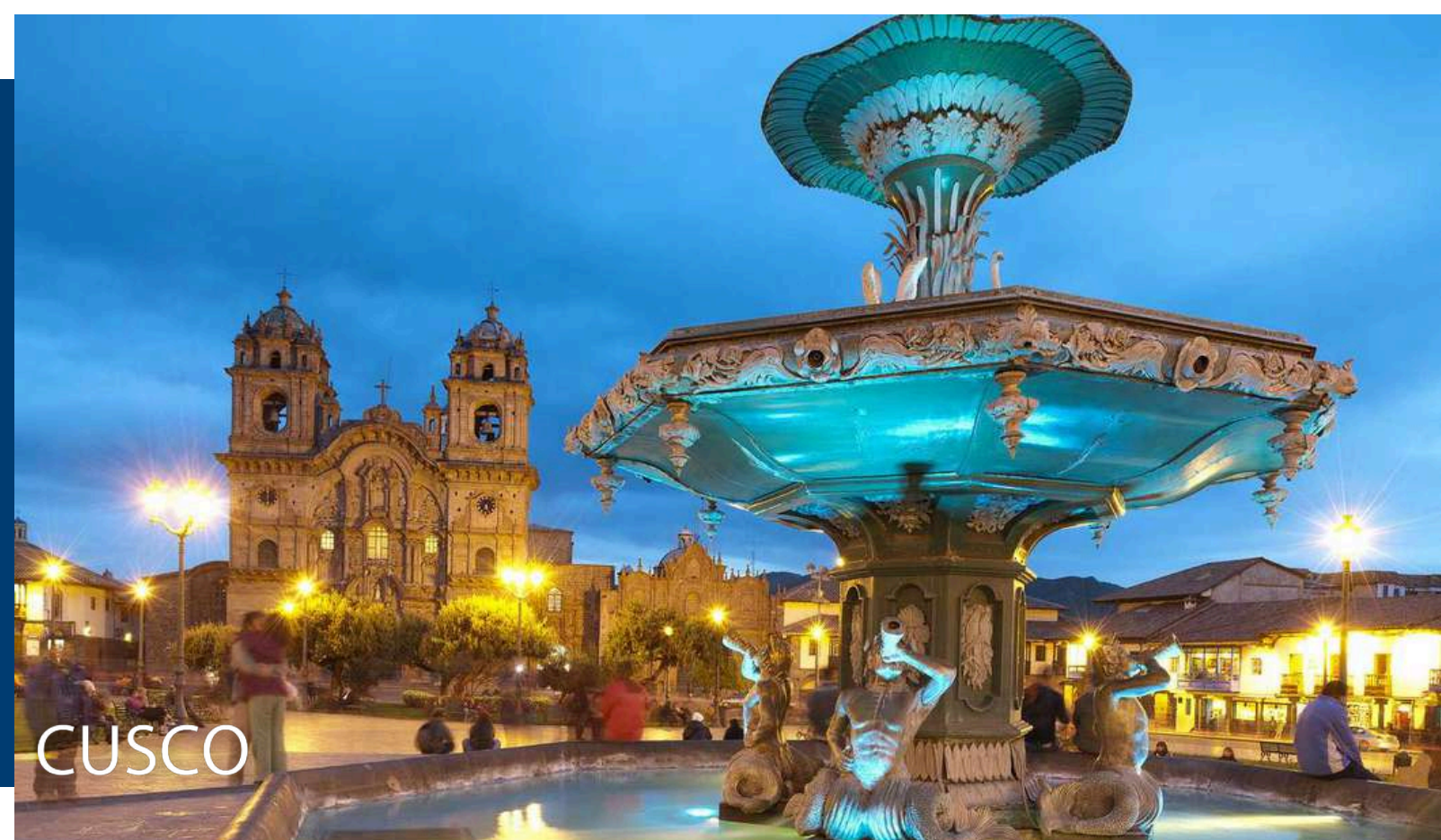
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Embark on a mesmerizing 10-day journey aboard the Aqua Nera Amazon River Cruise, where a lush rainforest meets a mighty river. Then, delve into the rich tapestry of the Inca Empire, discover ancient ruins, vibrant markets, and local cultures. From the depths of the Amazon to the heights of Machu Picchu, this immersive adventure offers a blend of natural wonders and historical marvels, promising an unforgettable exploration of Peru's diverse landscapes and heritage.



Lima, the vibrant capital of Peru, is a captivating blend of ancient history and modern urban life. Situated on the Pacific coast, this sprawling metropolis boasts a rich colonial heritage, evident in its stunning architecture and UNESCO World Heritage-listed historic center. Lima is also a culinary hotspot, renowned for its diverse gastronomic scene, from traditional cevicherias to world-class restaurants. With its lively atmosphere, cultural attractions, and a unique mix of old-world charm and contemporary energy, Lima offers an unforgettable experience for every traveler.

Cusco, Peru, is a city that seamlessly blends its rich Inca heritage with Spanish colonial influence. Situated high in the Andes mountains, it was once the capital of the mighty Inca Empire. Today, it's a captivating destination where you can wander through cobblestone streets, marvel at impressive Inca walls and foundations, and explore stunning colonial architecture. The city's vibrant culture is reflected in its colorful festivals, traditional crafts, and delicious cuisine. As the gateway to Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley, Cusco is an essential stop for any traveler seeking to immerse themselves in the fascinating history and natural beauty of Peru.



The Sacred Valley of the Incas, nestled amidst the breathtaking Andes Mountains in Peru, is a must-see for any tourist. This fertile valley, once the heartland of the Inca Empire, is dotted with fascinating archaeological sites like Pisac, Ollantaytambo, and Chinchero, showcasing impressive Inca stonework and terracing. Beyond the ruins, the valley offers stunning natural beauty, from snow-capped peaks to vibrant green fields, and opportunities for outdoor activities like hiking, rafting, and mountain biking. Charming villages like Urubamba and Aguas Calientes provide comfortable accommodations and delicious Peruvian cuisine, making the Sacred Valley a perfect blend of history, culture, and adventure.

Nestled high in the Andes Mountains of Peru, Machu Picchu is an awe-inspiring ancient Inca city. Built in the 15th century, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is renowned for its sophisticated stonework, intricate terraces, and breathtaking panoramic views. Machu Picchu's precise purpose remains a mystery, but it's believed to have been a royal retreat or a sacred ceremonial site. Abandoned centuries ago, it was rediscovered in 1911 and has since become a top tourist destination, drawing visitors from all over the world to marvel at its architectural wonders and soak in its mystical atmosphere.



Bespoke Peru Journeys: 11 Days / 10 Nights

Day 1: Welcome to Lima

Sunday

Meet and greet at Lima International Airport. Our guide will escort you, providing details about this wonderful Peruvian journey.

Accommodation at the **Belmond Miraflores Park** hotel in an **Ocean View Junior Suite** for 2 nights.

Day 2: Lima: City of Kings, Larco Museum s Welcome Dinner at Casa Moreyra Restaurant (B/D)

Monday

This morning, enjoy an exclusive and intense tour of the Historical Center of Lima will take us to know and admire the architectonic relics that are part of the old Lima, which has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The **Convent of Santo Domingo** is the beginning of this magnificent experience. It was built during the foundation of Lima. The Universidad Mayor de San Marcos (University of San Marcos) was founded on this site, the oldest in America. Inside, the choir with the oldest stalls in the country and the library, with 25,000 books, some printed in the XV century, has an invaluable historical value. The mortal remains of San Martín de Porres, San Juan Masías and Santa Rosa de Lima lie inside. Crossing the Plaza Mayor, the Government Palace and the Municipality, going into the **Cathedral**, a jewel in the history of Lima, with artworksthat will make us feel closer to colonial Lima. Leaving downtown Lima and heading to the **Larco Museum**, where we will get a clear vision of the cultures that inhabited ancient Peru. We shall admire the gold pieces, textiles and erotic ceramics that are part of the collection which will introduceus to the cosmovision of the ancient Peru. The warehouse of this museum will be open during our visit to appreciate the expressions of art that were reflected in their ceramics.

Tasting menu dinner in the restaurant of the famous chef Gastón Acurio, **Casa Moreyra**, an old house of a San Isidro estate that today houses this iconic Lima restaurant. Gastón is one of the chefs of the worldwide fame of our cuisine. Private assisted hotel/restaurant/hotel transfers are included.

Day 3: Iquitos / Amazon River (B/L/D)

Tuesday

Transfer to the airport to take your flight to the city of Iquitos.



After arriving on a noon flight, receive a warm welcome at Iquitos International Airport by our crew. Board ourprivate transfer (togetherwith other Aqua Nera guests) to downtown Iquitosfor a city tour and welcome lunch. Next, we head to Nauta port to board **Aqua Nera**. Settle into your generously sized **First Deck Design Suite** as you begin one of life’s greatest adventures. Following an introduction to our naturalist guides and a routine safety drill, gather at the restaurant for the first of many Amazonian cuisine experiences created by Aqua Nera's renowned consulting chef, Pedro Miguel Schiaffino.

Day 4: Marañón River / Yanayacu Pucate River (B/L/D)

Wednesday

Rise with the sun for an early morning birdwatching session along the Marañón River. After breakfast, head out for a morning wildlife excursion with the possibility to see sloths, great egrets, parrots, and Taricaya turtles. Later, we explore the Yanayacu Pucate River and go fishing for Amazonia’s notorious piranhas.



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Next, enjoy biking through the natural landscapes along the riverbanks in the Pacaya Samiria Reserve. After lunch, tap into your spirituality if you'd like, under guidance from a Kukama Kukamiria healer with expertise in connecting with nature. Finally, head out on skiffs again after dinner to cruise along the Yanayaquillo River for stargazing and searching for nocturnal wildlife.

Day 5: Samiria River / Pacaya Samiria National Reserve (B/L/D)

Thursday

The rewards for our early start today are plentiful: a full day excursion including a picnic lunch orchestrated to the tune of the jungle symphony, fishing along the black waters of the Samiria River, and an option to go canoeing, kayaking, swimming, or on a jungle walk inside the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. On the way back to the Marañon River after lunch, we venture out by skiff keeping an eye out for pink river dolphins.

Day 6: Puerto Prado / Amazon River (B/L/D)

Friday

As the day begins, embark on a morning wildlife excursion on the Pahuachiro River. After breakfast, visit Puerto Prado Village where there'll be an opportunity to ride a bike all the way to Santa Cruz Village along the riverbank. You could also visit an experienced beekeeper in the community of San Francisco. In the afternoon, head out for a boat ride to the majestic Amazon River. Before dinner, meet the incredible crew who've been working behind the scenes to ensure your exceptional experience aboard Aqua Nera.

Day 7: Nauta town / Manatee Rescue Center / Iquitos / Lima / Cusco / Sacred Valley (B)

Saturday

In the morning, take a guided visit to the local market. Marvel at the regional produce of the Peruvian Amazon and sample exotic snacks if you wish. Return to Aqua Nera for breakfast and to pack up. Before saying goodbye, we will visit the Manatee Rescue Center, a sanctuary for orphaned Amazonian manatees to rehabilitate before their release back into the wild.

Notes: Disembarkation time: 09:00AM. Group transfer between airport and port if booked on our recommended flights. This is a sample low water season (June to October) itinerary. All itineraries are subject to change, due to weather and other conditions. Aqua Nera transfers and tours are shared with other cruise passengers.

Transfer to Iquitos airport to take your flight to Lima City. Arrival and connection to your next flight. We will transfer you to the airport for your flight to Cusco. Upon arrival, experience a warm welcome and transfer to your hotel, located in the beautiful Sacred Valley of the Incas. Accommodation for 2 nights at **Belmond Rio Sagrado** in a **Deluxe Terrace** room.

Day 8: Moray Terraces, Maras Salt Mines and Inca Village of Ollantaytambo (B/L)

Sunday

Today, we will embark on a journey through the most extraordinary sites of the Sacred Valley. Our adventure begins with a visit to **Maras**, home to the stunning salt mines that have been in operation since pre-Inca times. These thousands of shimmering salt pools offer a fascinating glimpse into ancient methods of salt extraction, still used by local families today.

Next, we continue to **Moray**, an impressive Inca archaeological site featuring concentric agricultural terraces. This site served as a sophisticated laboratory for the Incas to recreate diverse microclimates and study crop cultivation.

Lunch will be served in a unique and picturesque setting, offering a chance to relax and take in the surrounding beauty.

After lunch, we visit **Ollantaytambo**, the last living Inca village. Here, we will explore the awe-inspiring Temple of the Ten Windows, the Ñusta's Baths, and the iconic Temple of the Sun. From the heights of Ollantaytambo, the panoramic views of the valley will leave you breathless, a perfect conclusion to a magical day in the Sacred Valley.

Your evening will be spent at accommodations in the area, allowing you to rest and reflect on the day's unforgettable experiences.

Day 9: Journey to Machu Picchu on Belmond Hiram Bingham train (B/L/D)

Monday

From the Rio Sagrado (January through April) or Ollantaytambo (May through December) station, we will embark on one of the most spectacular train journeys in the world aboard the **Hiram Bingham luxury train**. The experience within the train is top-notch. Its incredible classic style is well complemented by the train's dining car setup, making it easy to indulge in the delicacies that the chefs will prepare for us onboard.



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The route is imposing. Following the course of the Urubamba River as it delves into the canyon, we will reach the town. From there, we will transfer to minibuses that will ascend to the Sacred Citadel of the Incas: Machu Picchu. In this incredible archaeological monument, we will be touched by an indescribable magic and energy. We will explore terraces, passageways, temples, and see other sacred places, all in the midst of a special atmosphere and with experienced guidance. After a «cocktail in the mountains» served at the Sanctuary Lodge, we will descend by shuttle bus and embark on a return Hiram Bingham train to Rio Sagradoor Poroy (depending on season) to return to Cusco, entertained by onboard entertainment and a sophisticated gourmet dinner. Arrival and transfer to the Cusco hotel, where you will spend the next 2 nights at the **Belmond Monasterio Hotel** in a **Deluxe room**.

Day 10: Cusco, Capital of Inca’s Empire s Sacsayhuaman Archaeological Park (B)

Tuesday
In the morning,immerse yourself in our exclusive city tour, beginningat the **Archaeological Park of Sacsayhuaman**. Explore the majesticfortress, marveling at the towering rocks used in its construction. Discover the ancienttemple of **Q'enqo** andthe sacred fountainsof **Tambomachay**. Enjoy panoramic views from Puca Pucara before visiting the legendary Temple of the Sun, **The Korikancha**, and the historic Main Square.Delight in the colonial art and treasures of the **Cathedral**.
Free afternoon to continue exploring this fascinating and vibrant town on your own. Your overnight staypromises unforgettable momentsin Cusco.

Day 11: Farewell Day (B)

Wednesday
Transfer to the airport. Departure to Lima to connect with your return flight home.

REFERENTIAL NET RATE PER PERSON BASED ON 2 PEOPLE SHARING A DBL ROOM
Starting from USD 10,260.00 upon hotel and room category availability



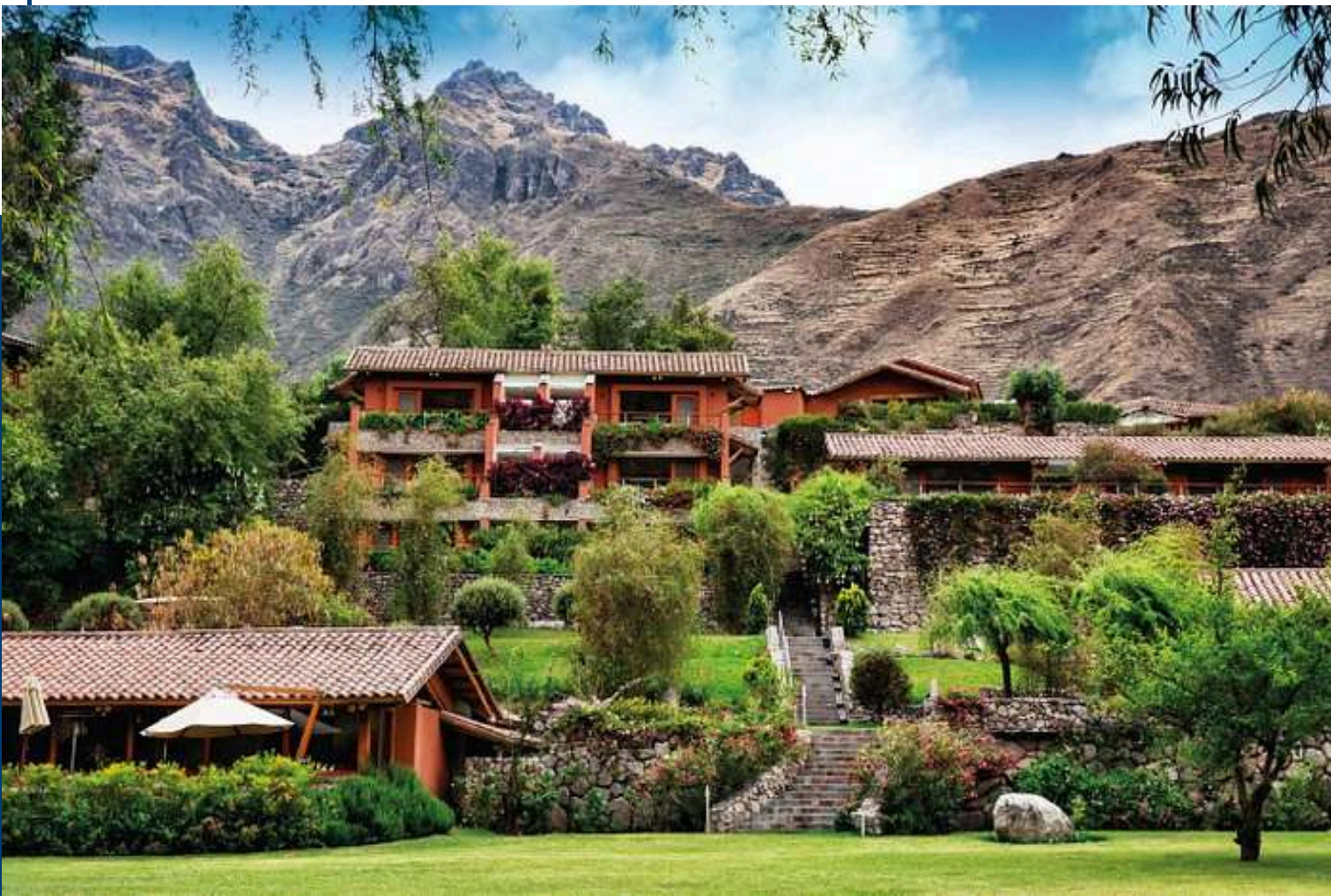
Belmond Miraflores Park (Lima)



Aqua Nera Cruise



Belmond Rio Sagrado (Sacred Valley)



Deluxe Terrace Room

Hiram Bingham Luxury Train



Belmond Monasterio Hotel (Cusco)



Deluxe Room



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