



Peru and the Galapagos



Machu Pichu ✪ Cusco ✪ Lima ✪ Galapagos Islands ✪

Tour Overview and arrival day

This tour combines two of the greatest wonders of South America, the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, and Machu Pichu in Peru. We arrive on Sunday in the tropical Ecuadorian city of Guayaquil, where we spend the night in anticipation of our Mon morning flight to the Galapagos.

We visit some of the most beautiful islands in the famous archipelago, and have the chance to see all of the main species of wildlife that this tropical paradise is famous for.

We enjoy a Shabbos with the Jewish community of Lima, the continent's third-largest mega-city, and enjoy the contrasts of this great ocean-desert metropolis, from its modern shopping malls to its colonial buildings.

We explore the Andean highlands, from the city of Cusco to the sacred valley, and take the train through the Urubamba Canyon to Aguas Calientes, the gateway to Machu Pichu, the legendary lost city of the incas, which we explore with great excitement. Of course, all this is done while enjoying the comforts of the luxury hotels and gourmet kosher cuisine that Kosher Safaris is famous for!

Monday: Galapagos Cruise- Santa Cruz Highlands



Today, we land on Baltra Island, and embark on our exciting cruise of the legendary Galapagos archipelago.

This afternoon, we explore the highlands of Santa Cruz, the central island of the chain, where short distances display immense scenic and climatic diversity, and also the best place to see the famous Galapagos giant tortoises.

We also climb into one of the island's incredible lava tunnels, lit up to display incredible geological formations.

Tuesday: Galapagos Cruise-Egas Port/Santiago and Bartholomew



Santiago Island is one of the most scenic islands in the Galapagos chain, and the black-sand beach at Egas Port, sandstone formations, and magnificent grottos, make for great back-drops for viewing its wildlife, including marina iguanas, sea-lions, and giant red crabs.

The nearby Bartholomew Island has a surreal, almost Martian, desert landscape, and the view of the surrounding from "The Pinnacle" is a great reward for the steep climb. Its also a great place to see the northern-most penguins in the world, the Galapagos penguins.

Wednesday: Galapagos Cruise- Dragon Hill and North Seymour



The climb to dragon-hill, a prehistoric nesting site for large, yellow, land iguanas, starts with a landing at a lagoon frequented by flamingos. This is the first chance to see both of these species, and is one of the highlights of this trip.

North Seymour Island is one of the most visited islands on the chain, and with good reason: this small piece of land is encircled by an absolutely stunning coastline, with some of the world's most magnificent waves, and hosts large colonies of sea-lions, marine iguanas, land-iguanas, as well as the famous blue-footed boobies and red greater Frigate birds. The wildlife is everywhere you look!

Thu: Galapagos- Lima

This morning, we enjoy a short excursion to Bachas Beach, where we might be lucky enough to see sea-turtles. We then travel to the airport, and board our flight back to Guayaquil and on to Lima, the massive Peruvian capital.



Fri: Lima



Today, we tour the massive Peruvian capital, which is also the third largest city in South America. Lima is also one of the largest desert cities in the world, and despite being on the Pacific Ocean, and having very high humidity, has a mild climate and gets hardly any rain. The desert, mountain, and ocean surroundings are spectacular, and the city boasts incredible colonial architecture, pre inca ruins, and ultra-modern shopping malls. After spending the day enjoying the contrast of this vast metropolis, we prepare for Shabbos.

Sat: Lima



Today we enjoy a lovely Shabbos in the upmarket suburb of San Isidro, home to Peru's small but vibrant Jewish Community. We enjoy a lovely morning at the lovely community centre which hosts the shul and a great Kiddush, and after a wonderful Shabbos lunch, enjoy a good walk through the neighborhood or/and a well deserved rest! After Shabbat, we visit one of Lima's night highlights, the world's largest fountain display!



Sun: Cusco to Urubamba



Today, we fly from Lima at the coast, to the Andean city of Cusco, at 3500m (+_ 11,000) feet above sea. We descend by road to Urubamba, in the heart of the "Sacred Valley" , where we check into our hotel. We enjoy the rest of the afternoon relaxing at the hotel, acclimatizing for our intense day at Machu Pichu.

Mon: Machu Pichu



Today, we take the train through the spectacular Urubamba Canyon to the village of Aguas Calientes. This village is the gateway to Machu Pichu – the lost city of the Incas- and is so remote it can only be accessed by this special railway. A magnificent drive takes us up the canyon where we embark on our exploration of this truly incredible site.



Tue: Cusco-Lima



Today, we drive up the Andes back to Cusco, where we enjoy a short tour of the historic city, which was once the capital of Inca empire, the largest empire in the Americas before Columbus. We also visit the local Chabad, which is not just a regular Chabad House, but the "home away from home" for the thousands of Israeli backpackers that fall in love with this region during their post-army trips.

After lunch in the Israeli fast-food restaurant in the courtyard of this historic building, we return to the airport and fly back to Lima, enriched with memories of the best scenery and wildlife in the region.

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