

Cusco & Machu Picchu, Andes, Peru

The Inca heartland is not a port — it is a pilgrimage. A multi-day overland journey takes cruise passengers from the Pacific coast into the clouds, past colonial Cusco, through the Sacred Valley, and finally to the stone citadel that has awed the world for centuries.

Overland excursion (not a pier/tender stop)

Minimum 2 nights / 3 days required

Currency: Peruvian Sol (PEN); USD widely accepted

Language: Spanish & Quechua

Requires domestic flight Lima–Cusco

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:

Arrive:

All aboard:

Excursion:

Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Getting There: Fly from Lima (LIM) to Cusco (CUZ) — ~1 hr 20 min; then train + shuttle bus to Machu Picchu

Altitude: Cusco: 11,152 ft (3,400 m); Machu Picchu: ~7,972 ft (2,430 m) — acclimatize carefully

Best For: Bucket-list Inca ruins, Andean culture, Sacred Valley villages, train scenery

Don't Miss: Machu Picchu citadel, Qorikancha in Cusco, train ride through Urubamba gorge, Ollantaytambo fortress

Getting around: Taxi S/12–S/25 (~\$3–\$7 USD) · Rideshare Uber, Cabify, inDrive

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Machu Picchu Citadel — Classic Circuit** — The 15th-century Inca estate perched on a cloud-forest ridge.
 - Cusco City — Inca & Colonial Highlights** — Walk the Plaza de Armas, enter Qorikancha (Temple of the Sun, partly destroyed to build the Santo Domingo Convent on top), and climb to Sacsayhuamán...
- Sacred Valley — Ollantaytambo & Pisac** — The fertile Urubamba Valley between Cusco and Machu Picchu.
 - Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain Hike** — Add-on hikes with separately ticketed access.
 - Luxury Hiram Bingham Train Experience** — PeruRail's premium Belmond Hiram Bingham train departs Poroy (near Cusco) for Aguas Calientes with gourmet meals, live Andean music, cocktails, and a...

BEST WALKS

- Cusco Old City Centre Walk** 1.5–2 hrs | Easy (mostly flat) | Altitude: 11,152 ft — Stroll Cusco's historic core: begin at the Plaza de Armas, duck into the Cusco Cathedral (free exterior), cross to Qorikancha, then wander the Inca stone lanes of...
- Aguas Calientes Town Wander** 30–45 min | Very easy | Altitude: 6,700 ft — The base town for Machu Picchu is compact and lively.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		61°	45°	19d
Jun		62°	41°	2d
Aug		64°	41°	7d
Sep		64°	44°	12d
Oct		65°	45°	20d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:54AM–5:41PM · Jun 6:08AM–5:28PM · Aug 6:02AM–5:42PM · Sep 5:42AM–5:43PM · Oct 5:21AM–5:45PM

Currency: Peruvian Sol (PEN); USD widely accepted

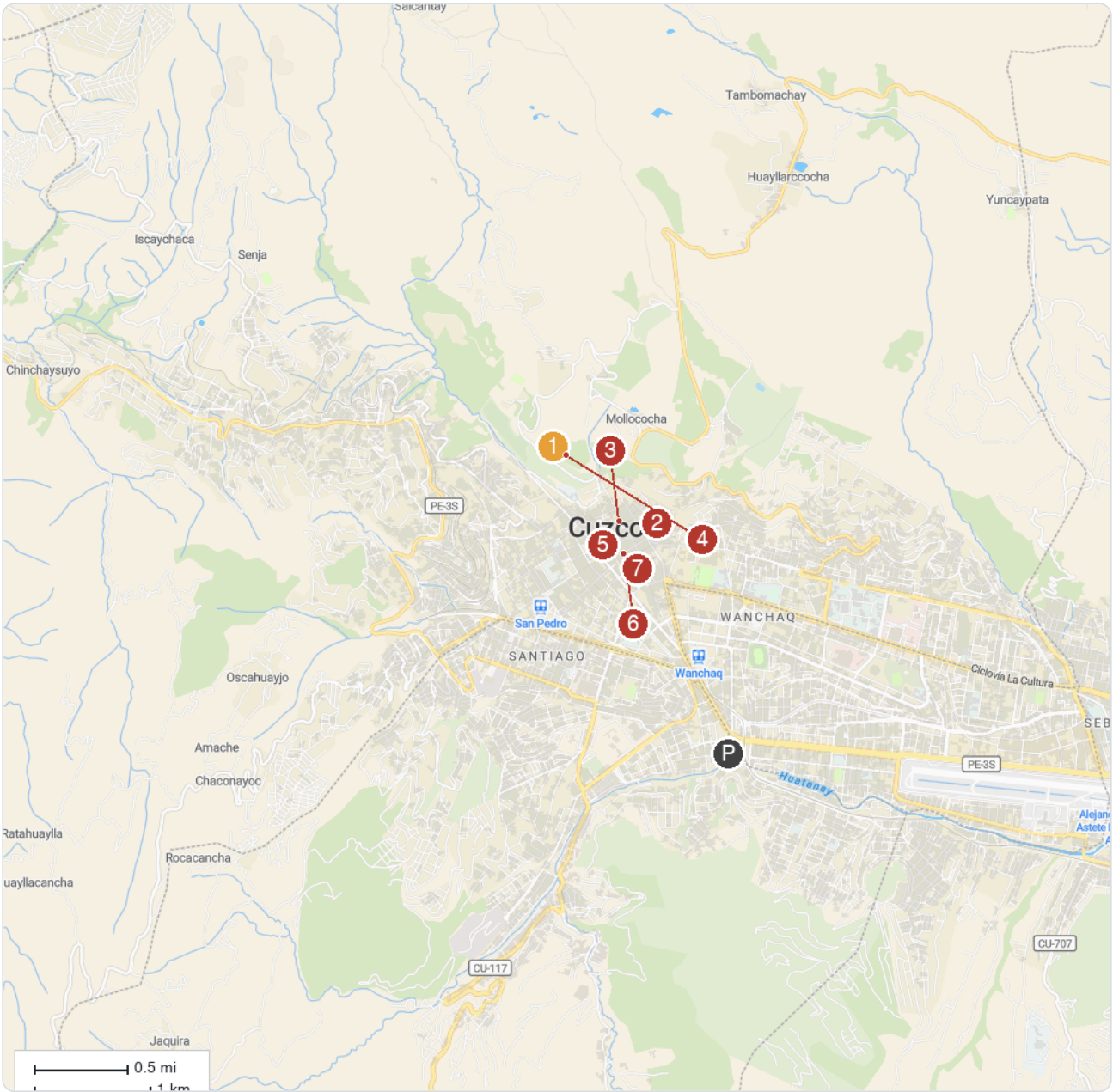
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Altitude sickness is real. Cusco sits at 11,152 ft — higher than the top of Whistler. Ask your doctor about Acetazolamide (Diamox) before sailing. Avoid alcohol your first 24 hrs in Cusco and drink extra water. Coca tea helps.
- Book Machu Picchu tickets months ahead. Entry is strictly capped by the Peruvian government. Peak season (May–September) tickets sell out 3–6 months in advance. Cruise line packages handle this — independent bookers must reserve on machupicchu.gob.pe.
- Book cruise-sponsored over independent. Peru is prone to domestic flight delays, rail disruptions, and transport strikes. If you miss the ship independently, you pay your own way to the next port. Cruise-line packages guarantee the ship waits — worth the premium.
- Pack a daypack only for the train. PeruRail and Inca Rail limit passengers to one carry-on bag of about 8 kg / 17 lb each (no separate baggage car). Leave large bags at your Cusco hotel — they're stored safely while you visit Machu Picchu.
- Rainy season: November–April. The site stays open but paths are slippery and mist can obscure views. Dry season (May–October) is best — bring layers regardless, as temperatures swing dramatically at altitude.
- Footwear matters. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes with grip — Machu Picchu's stone paths are uneven and can be extremely slippery when wet. Sandals and heels are not suitable.

Cusco & Machu Picchu, Andes, Peru — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Muyuq Marka | Circular tower ruins within Saqsaywaman fortress. | 2 Templo del San Blas | Historic church in Cusco, famous for its carved pulpit. |
| 3 Museo de Arte Precolombino Larco | Museum showcasing ancient Peruvian pre-Columbian art. | 4 Saqsaywaman | Massive Inca fortress and ceremonial complex near Cusco. |
| 5 Plaza de Armas | Cusco's main square, surrounded by historic cathedrals and arcades. | 6 Museo Maximo Laura | Museum showcasing contemporary Peruvian tapestry art by Maximo Laura. |
| 7 Dirección Desconcentrada de Cultura Cusco | Cusco's regional government office for cultural heritage. | P Cruise port / terminal | |