

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES: PERU



Clockwise from top: family fun at Machu Picchu; historic church in Cusco's Plaza de Armas; Peruvian locals on the trail; sunrise at Machu Picchu.



Peruvian Wonders

Inca Capitals, Modern Artists, Colonial Mansions, a Hat Maker

Trek to the Top: Feel the sacred ground of the Incas under your feet on a seven-day walking tour of Peru's ancient wonders. In Cusco, the center of the Inca empire, you'll visit the Pre-Columbian Museum and meet a Quechua shaman to learn about the *Pago a la Tierra* ceremony. While the highlight of this journey for most will be the three days spent hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, you'll visit vibrant towns, markets, and a remote weaving community; meet children at a local school; and take a Peruvian cooking class.

Flavors of Cusco: Learn culinary secrets of Peru in a Cusco cooking class. The Andes gave the world such modern staples as potatoes and quinoa, and Peru's cuisine is renowned for its innovative fusion of native ingredients and cooking methods with international influences. In this half-day culinary immersion, join a local chef for a visit to the bustling San Pedro market to choose your ingredients, and then return to the kitchen to learn to make dishes like *ceviche*, *choclo con queso* (corn with fresh cheese), *saralawa* (turmeric-spiced creamy vegetable soup), and more.

Exertion and Ease: Walk the ancient Inca Trail in a sublimely modern fashion. This 10-day tour kicks off with two days in the Sacred Valley, visiting markets and villages and enjoying activities such as horseback riding and river rafting. Then you'll spend four days hiking to Machu Picchu with private guides and porters; in the evening, you'll wind down with fine food and restorative massage and sleep in deluxe tents. At Machu Picchu, spend one night in a lodge adjacent to the ruins, which enables you to visit after everyone else has left for the day. Finally, ride the world-renowned Belmond Hiram Bingham train to Cusco for two days of city exploration.