
Our Lady of Candelaria Celebration 2016
(Dance, Music & Folklore)

Among the devotions to Mary, veneration to her as the Virgin of Candelaria is popular in many countries including the Peru, Philippines, Cuba, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico, and the Canary Islands.

In Peru, Puno, 12,770 feet above sea level (3,870 meters), is famous as the jumping off point for excursions to Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. Puno is also famous for hosting one of the biggest Catholic feasts in Peru, the "Candelaria." During 16 days, from the 2nd to the 18th of February, Catholic devotion and the carnival spirit mix in the streets, with thousands of dancers and musicians moving around the city in an endless parade. The feast starts before dawn on February 2nd, when the authorities go to the top of a hill to make homage to the Virgin Mary, patron of Puno. Then, with the first rays of light, they descend to the city among firecrackers, bands and dancers, toward the San Juan Bautista Church, which is the sanctuary of the image of "Virgen de la Candelaria". After the mass, the first procession of the image of "Virgen de la Candelaria" takes place. In the afternoon, people from the countryside enter the city on horses accompanied by the "yachiris" (shamans and witch-doctors) who also present their honors to the image.

The real party starts on the 8th day of the feast, and during the next 8 days hundreds of people take to the streets. Huge parades with as many as 300 people, all dressed up in outfits of devils and demons, will fill the city with music and magic. There is another competition between the neighborhoods of the city who organize these parades and perform in the last 8 days of the feast. The prize goes to the parade with the best outfits and performance. The outfits include heavy masks and dresses with mirrors and jewels. Most of it has been prepared especially for the feast.

Cusco - Puno
6 Days/5 Nights**Feb 4, Wed - Day 1: Cusco**

At your arrival you will be assisted and transferred to your hotel in Cusco. The afternoon is at leisure to rest for activities of your interest. Accommodation in Cusco.

Feb 5, Thu - Day 2: Cusco, Machu Picchu, Cusco

Live one of the most fascinating and extraordinary experiences of the world: Machu Picchu! The adventure begins by embarking on one of the most beautiful railway routes, passing through picturesque Andean landscapes and enjoying the amazing lush jungle until you arrive at the City of Aguas Calientes; here you'll take the bus for a 30 minute drive along a zigzagging path leading to the marvelous citadel. Machu Picchu may have been home to Pachacutec, the first Inca emperor. Walk through passageways and alleys of the citadel and enjoy taking in this unique place in the world. Take free time to enjoy the mystic energy and natural beauty of the site before returning to Aguas Calientes for lunch. In the afternoon you'll take your train back to Cusco for overnight. (B, L)

Feb 6, Fri - Day 3: Cusco, Puno

Embark on a comfortable tour bus and go through beautiful Andean landscapes up to the city of Puno in the Altiplano (plateau). On the way you'll see several touristic attractions such as Church of Saint Peter of Andahuaylillas, also known as the Sistine Chapel of America, and the archaeological center of Raqchi, an enormous building in honor of the Wiracocha God. The bus will stop for lunch at the village of Sicuani before continuing to La Raya, the village at the highest point on the route (14,223 ft.). Here you can enjoy a few minutes to admire the landscape and take some photos before continuing to Pukara, the last stop en route for a guided visit of the museum that shelters archaeological remains of the Andean cultures who lived on the high plateau. Upon arrival you will be transferred to the hotel for overnight. (B, L)

Feb 7, Sat - Day 4: Virgin of Candelaria Festival – Dance Competition

The festivities start in the Stadium of "Enrique Torres Belón" with a competition of typical dances where a lot of citizens make their own choreography and moving around the stadium forming different figures and expressing its devotion to the Virgin. This is a wonderful day full of lights and colors that will make you feel part of this spectacular tradition in the folkloric capital of Peru: Puno. After the event you will return to the hotel on your own. Overnight in Puno. (B, S)

Feb 8, Sun - Day 5: Virgin of Candelaria Festival – Great Folkloric Parade

Today you will enjoy the Great Folkloric Parade and admire the traditional dresses worn by all participants from up close. This festival is a unique opportunity to take fantastic pictures and be part of the "act of faith" where each dancer begins to venerate the patron saint of Puno: the Virgin of Candelaria. Return to the hotel on your own for overnight. (D, S)

Feb 9, Mon - Day 6: Puno

After breakfast at the hotel you will be picked up for your transfer to the airport to board your flight to Lima and connect with your international flight back home. (B)

(B): Breakfast – (S) Lunch box

The Tour includes:

- Transfers in Lima, Cusco and Puno
- 5 nights accommodation:
 - Cusco – 2 nights
 - Puno - 3 nights
- Meals
 - Breakfast daily
 - 4 lunches
- Full day excursion to Machu Picchu using Expedition Train Service
- Regular bus Cusco/Puno – “The Route of the Sun”
- Full day Festival with Dance Competition in Puno
- Full day Parade and Typical Dances in Puno
- Transportation as described
- Tour guides (English/Spanish)

Tour does not include:

- Optional VISTADOME, deluxe train ticket
- National or international air tickets
- Telephone calls, laundry, bottled water, sodas and alcoholic beverages or any expenses of personal nature
- Tips to hotel personnel, guides and drivers
- Peruvian Airport taxes must be paid directly by the passengers after receiving their boarding passes and before boarding the flight:
 - Domestic flights: \$8.50
 - International flights: \$32.00
- Additional nights or optional services in Puno.

Important Notices:

- We recommend that our passengers carry with them photocopy of their passports or identity document and keep the original safely in the hotel safe.
- It is assumed that all passengers have read our General Sales Conditions and Tour Conditions published on our website.
- Indicated pick-up times are approximate and for reference only. Definite pick-up times will be communicated in the afternoon or evening of the previous day of the transfer or excursion by fax, email or phone call to your hotel. If you do not receive confirmation please do not hesitate to call our offices.
- Our transfer assistants, drivers or tourism guides will always be waiting for your arrival at the airport, bus station or railroad station with your name written on a panel.

Hotels in your tour:

Category	Cusco		Puno	
	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
Budget	Casa Don Ignacio	4	Conde de Lemos	4.7
	Cusco Pardo	3.5	Balsa Inn	4.6
Tourist	Casa Andina Classic Catedral	4	Sonesta Posada del Inca Puno	4
	Casa Andina Classic Koricancha	4		
	Los Portales Cusco	4.5	Eco Inn Puno	4
	Terra Andina	4.5		
First Class	Sonesta Cusco	4.5	Casa Andina P.C Puno	4
	Costa del Sol Ramada	4		
	Andean Wings Hotel Boutique	4.5		
Deluxe	Monasterio del Cusco	5	Libertador Lago Titicaca	4
	Libertador Cusco	4.5		

Hotels will be confirmed at time of reservation and may be substituted by similar class or better.

Tour Prices:

Tour	Category	Dates	Double	Single	Triple
Lady of Candelaria	Budget	February 2016	\$915	\$1,189	\$859
	Tourist	February 2016	\$1,069	\$1,499	\$1,015
	First Class	February 2016	\$1,219	\$1,795	\$1,169
	Deluxe	February 2016	\$1,669	\$2,705	\$1,769
	Supplement Vistadrome			\$40	

All prices are per person in US Dollars and are subject to change without notice.

Notice:

- The prices above are exclusively for non-Peruvian nationals or Peruvian nationals residing permanently outside of Peru.
- When checking in at hotels, passengers must present their Passports, Andean Card or Identity Card together with the Immigration card, stamped by the Immigration Department at the arrival airport within 3 months of check-in. Non compliance with the above will result in a charge of 18% on the total hotel bill (including prepaid stay) corresponding to the General Sales Tax.

Tour code: PE15PUN15CM