

# Pack Paddle Ski Corp.

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**440801**

## **PERU PHOTO EXPLORER**

**Saturday, August 24th - Wednesday, September 4th, 2024**



### ***Highlights:***

- Wonderful opportunities for photography of Incan ruins, local people, towns, markets, trains, boats, mountains, pampas, alpacas and more.
- Visit Machu Picchu, one of the Seven Wonders of the World.
- Tour the Sacred Valley, a mix of cultures both current and ancient.
- Efrain, our local guide and ranked as one of the world's best, shares the history of this land, and opens doors to the local people.
- Lake Titicaca with reeds, boats, and islands.
- Photograph the diverse ethnic groups that make up this part of the Andes.
- Relax on a lovely train ride along the Sacred Valley.
- Socialize in exotic settings while reviewing your day's work.

- Half-day tour of Lima
- Personal guidance and instruction from professional photographer Reed Hoffmann, who's led this trip many times already. From portraits to landscapes, ancient sites to nature, you'll find this land has limitless potential.



***Trip style:***

- Short to medium-distance walks to photographic locations. Transportation by plane, bus, train and boat.
- Lodging ranges from luxury 5-star lodging to local accommodations, selected for their nearness to important photographic sites.

***Description:***

This trip is ideal for adventurous photographers looking to experience the best of southern Peru in just 10 days. It's designed to be comfortable and yet allow us to visit wonderful, photogenic locations. Although comfortable, this is not a cruise ship experience. We will be immersed in the natural world, surrounded every day by the local culture. Each photo is sure to have a story to tell. Use your experiences to help create photos that truly speak to your viewers. Show the world what it's like to share chicha at a local restaurant, barter for a handmade alpaca sweater, buddy up to a llama and experience the beauty of this exotic locale. We'll sit on a floating island, watch butterflies dance, sense the ancient Incan presence as a condor lifts off a cliff and glimpse the mystery of the sun-lit Inti stone.



Start the trip with a diverse tour of Lima, then fly up to the Andes and Cusco, the former Inca capital. From there your private bus will take you on a tour of the Sacred Valley, including Machu Picchu, before returning to Cusco, a vibrant place full of culture, history, good restaurants and fun nightlife. After that, continue this incredible vacation by sitting back and enjoying one of the most scenic bus rides in the world. Then board your boat to explore the amazing reed islands of Lake Titicaca. With the help of our photography expert and local guides, you'll capture the images you've dreamed about.

Trip starts and ends in Lima, Peru.



### ***Tentative Itinerary -***

#### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH - Arrival**

Arrive Lima and transfer to hotel. Stay at Hotel Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport. (-,-,-)

#### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH - Lima**

From modern and cosmopolitan Lima, Peru's Capital City, you will go back in time through the Colonial and Pre-Hispanic stages of Peruvian History. Drive through Lima's first freeway, built during the 1960s and 1970s to arrive in downtown Lima, a historic site



per UNESCO, where you will appreciate its impressive monuments and imposing architecture from colonial times. Here you will visit Convento de Santo Domingo (circa 16th century), one of the best-preserved monasteries in the whole of Lima where you will be able to see the old Lima from its tower. Next we visit the Larco Museum. This features the finest gold and silver collection from Ancient Peru and the famous "erotic" archaeological collection. Finally, you will be able to try a dessert based on an endemic Peruvian fruit, "lucuma," at the Cafe del Museo. Return to Hotel Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport. (B)

### **MONDAY, AUGUST 26TH - Cusco**

AM transfer back to airport and flight to Cusco. Our guide and driver will meet us there, where we'll then drive down into the Sacred Valley to overnight at Lizzy Wasi Hotel. By dropping down into the Sacred Valley first, we'll put off the higher altitude of Cusco until later in the trip, after we've better adjusted to the altitude. (B,L,D)



### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 27TH - Sacred Valley, Pisac**

Dawn at Pisac: We get up before dawn this morning to enjoy the delights of the Sacred Valley market town of Pisac as it awakes.

Sacred Valley of the Incas including Pisac: You visit the picturesque Andean village of Pisac. The village is famous for its local market and superb artisan stalls throughout the week. Time can be spent shopping or, for the more energetic, visiting the extensive Inca



ruins at the top of the hill. Pisac ruins have much to explore, with a circular hike along well-defined Inca trail passing through royal buildings, look-outs, terraces, tunnels and irrigation channels. You can also visit a traditional bakery to try freshly baked bread and learn about the guinea pigs of Peru down in the village itself. And the handicraft market is a great place to buy souvenirs to take home. Return to Lizzy Wasi. (B,L,D)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28TH - Bus to Chincheros, Circular Ruins Walk/Drive to Maras**

Visit Chinchero, Moray and Maras (optional hike): We head towards Chinchero first. Home to old Inca ruins, a small church and an artisanal market, we visit the town and local market, famous for its weavings and colorful costumes before taking a dirt road to the incredible ruins of Moray. These rarely visited circular ruins are thought to have been agricultural experimental stations in the times of the Incas.

After visiting the ruins we follow an ancient mule trail with spectacular views of the snow capped Cordillera Vilcanota. We will also see examples of the finest Andean farming on our way. We head back across the plains to the interesting town of Maras for lunch nearby. In the afternoon we descend from Maras to the amazing Salineras, a series of salt pans that have been worked since Inca times.

We visit this impressive site then descend to the Urubamba river and our awaiting vehicle, which takes us back to our hotel for the night. Hotel Pakaritampu (B,L,D)



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 29TH - Train to Machu Picchu**

Ollantaytambo, lunch, then train to Machu Picchu for late afternoon in the ruins: In the morning we visit the Inca fortress town of Ollantaytambo: this was the site of the last big battle between the Incas and Spanish before the remaining Inca rebels fled into the jungles of Vilcabamba. In this lovely, well-preserved village and ruins you can still feel the true magic of the Incas. The hilltop Inca sun temple displays some of the finest stonework in the area. The site was unfinished and some magnificent stones still lie un-erected, providing important clues to the building methods.

After lunch we catch a train to Machu Picchu Town (formerly known as Aguas Calientes) and a bus to the ruins as the majority of day-trippers are leaving, leaving the mystical site much quieter for us. Later that evening (the ruins shut at 6pm sharp), we catch a bus down to our hotel for the night and dinner in the colourful Machu Picchu Pueblo. Hotel El Mapi by Inkaterra. (B,L,D)

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 30TH- Bus to Machu Picchu, Train back to Poroy, Bus to Cusco**

In the morning you return to Machu Picchu for a chance to capture it in the morning light. We can take some time to explore the markets and museum of the town before boarding the afternoon train for the lovely ride along the Sacred Valley of the Incas and transport to your hotel. Hotel Costa del Sol Ramada (B)



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST - Cusco**

A free day in Cusco to relax, or explore and photograph by yourselves in this spectacular colonial city and former Incan capital. Overnight again at Hotel Costa del Sol Ramada. (B)



### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST - Trail to Puno**

In the morning we'll board a private bus for the relaxing and scenic all-day ride from Cusco across the high plains to Puno. This is one of the mountain crossings of the unique alto plano, with wonderful photos to make on route. Arriving at Puno in the evening, to the Hotel Casa Andina Premium Puno. (B,L)



### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND - Boat on Lake Titicaca**

We'll leave in the morning for a cruise on Lake Titicaca. Our own private guide fully explains the local history, traditions and agricultural methods as we visit the unique floating reed islands of Uros and then onto Taquile island for lunch. Here, if you wish, you can take a hike over the top of the island and be rewarded by spectacular views of Lake Titicaca before returning to Puno and back to your hotel. (B,L)

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD - Departure**

Depending on the flight times, we may visit the circular pre-Inca burial towers of Silustani or the old lake steamer before traveling on to Juliaca airport for the flight back to Lima and late night departure to the US. (B)

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH - Arrival in the US**



### ***Detailed Services***

#### **Included Services**

- Personal photography instruction and reviews.
- Double occupancy lodging.
- Meals as listed in the itinerary.
- Entrance fees.
- Local transportation on buses, trains and planes.
- Local guides and experts.

#### **Not Included Services**

- Round-trip airfare to Lima.
- Drinks/beverages.
- Meals not included in itinerary.
- Tips.
- Airport fees.
- Services not shown or detailed in the program.

***Background of the Area:*** Cusco is the hub of the South America Travel Network. It is also the archaeological capital of the Americas and the continent's oldest continuously inhabited city. Massive Inca built walls line the central streets. Throngs of Inca descendants pack the



streets as travelers to the area. It has about 300,000 citizens and is at about 10,000 feet above sea level. It was founded in the 12th century by the first Inca, Manco Capac, the son of the sun. After 3 centuries of Inca rule the Europeans appeared on the scene. Pizarro was able with only a few dozen men to capture Atahualpa, the recent victor in a divisive Inca civil war. After holding him prisoner and demanding a room full of gold as ransom, Pizarro killed his captive and marched into Cusco. He installed a puppet Inca ruler who after 3 years decided to try to oust the Spanish. He almost succeeded at Cusco after raising an army of a hundred thousand men. The Spanish, who were seafaring, then moved their capital to the coast. Cusco's importance declined after the severe sacking and looting was completed and it became a quiet colonial town. Yet the heart of Cusco is still Inca. With the re-discovery of Machu Picchu in 1911, Cusco once again became the center of international attention.

As school children, Lake Titicaca was drilled into our memories as the highest navigable lake in the world, at close to 12,000 feet. At this altitude, the clear sky and the blue waters are striking. Here you will be in the dazzling brilliance of Peru's altiplano. The horizon appears limitless. The altitude's brilliance reflects in the nut brown faces of the residents. Many interesting excursions occur here on the lake and among its islands. The area is famous for its folklore and dance.



**About Reed Hoffmann:** Reed Hoffmann's been a professional photographer for 40 years now. Working for newspapers in Indiana, Alabama and New York for over twenty years, he's currently freelancing out of Kansas City. Assignments have taken him from Australia and New Zealand to the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, Argentina's Patagonia region and the High Peaks of the Adirondacks. His clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, Nikon, Microsoft and Lowepro. If you're a fan of reality TV, you can ask him about photographing The Apprentice and

The Contender. He's taught photography workshops across the US and the world (over 100 so far), and taught the Nikon School of Photography around the U.S for over 15 years. You can find out more about Reed [here](#), and see photos from past trips [here](#). Feel free to contact Reed directly at [reed@reedhoffmann.com](mailto:reed@reedhoffmann.com).

**Travel Information:** We suggest that you coordinate your travel to arrive with us. We will let you know when it is time to book flights and tell you how. If you would like to meet us at our destination, try to arrange a time close to our flights. We suggest that you wait to book your flight until we let you know we have done so by letter to coordinate the flying as much as possible. We plan to book our airfare about 6 months in advance.

**Group Size:** Space is limited to 10 participants.

**Cost:** Cost: \$5,390/person based on double occupancy. \$1,000 nonrefundable deposit due to register. Balance due by cash or check on June 21st, 2024. Airfare to Lima is not included. Single supplement cost is \$900.

**When is more information coming out?** We will mail you an airfare letter once flights are booked for the instructor, and a final letter with balance due 60 days prior to departure. We will also try to call each person prior to departure. Once you register you will receive more information on packing and planning.

**Travel Insurance:** We highly encourage you to investigate this as a way to protect your investment. Details in the registration packet.





**PPS Refund Policy**

We understand that you may have registered well in advance of your trip. We appreciate that work schedules and plans may change and unforeseen emergencies do occur. Therefore, we have established the refund policy below to try to fairly accommodate such eventualities and yet maintain quality programs. Please realize that once you have registered for a course, we immediately incur expenses on your behalf. Because many people start planning longer trips a year or more in advance, it can be difficult to fill an empty spot at the last minute.

In order to receive a refund for a course, we require you to submit a written notice of cancellation. Your refund comes from your travel insurance. If you elected not to take travel insurance there is no refund. Rev. 1/09

***What Next?***

**Contact Reed Hoffmann at [reed@reedhoffmann.com](mailto:reed@reedhoffmann.com) if you are interested in joining him!**