



Explore, Experience, Enrich™

PE003 Canyons & Lakes Extension 6 Days

Your “Taste of Volunteering” Project: Not Applicable



Trip Highlights:

- Arequipa’s beautiful volcanic rock buildings
- The 16th Century Santa Catalina convent
- Colca Canyon, its colonial villages and condor vantage points
- Juliaca’s pre-Incan and Incan necropolis
- Lake Titicaca and its floating reed “islands”



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UK: 0800 783 3554; NZ: 0800 426 3787; US 201 984 5372 ; RoW: +44 207 193 1062

Bookings@handsupholidays.com

Trip Description:**Day 1. AREQUIPA (Breakfast)**

Arrival to Arequipa. Transfer to your hotel. Afternoon private guided city tour visiting the Chilina valley and the old San Lazaro district. General view of the city from the Yanahuara Belvedere, with marvellous views including the imposing Misti Volcano overlooking the city.

A visit to the Plaza de Armas and its Cathedral, the cloisters of La Compañía Church, the Church and Square of San Francisco and the extraordinary Santa Catalina convent which is built from volcanic lava and dates from the 16th century. Return to your hotel.

Day 2. AREQUIPA – COLCA CANYON (Breakfast)

After breakfast, early departure, passing the thermal baths of Yura and climbing up towards the National Reserve of Pampa de Cañahuas at 3800m. Here groups of alpacas, vicuñas and sometimes guanacos can be seen. After driving several hours more, the descent to the Colca Valley begins.

The trip continues down the valley, passing next to several villages until you arrive at Chivay, the most important town of the valley. Accommodation at the fabulous Colca Lodge set in the Colca Valley itself. With its very own hot springs, relax in the fabulous surroundings of the Canyon.

Day 3. COLCA CANYON (Breakfast)

After breakfast an early departure to descend into the valley to visit some of the villages, all of which have beautiful, colonial-style churches. You shall also see the Inca terraces, some of which are still in use and can be seen all along the valley. Start the ascent up to the Cruz del Condor, a few kilometers before Cabanaconde. Here one can appreciate a fine view of the flight of the condors as well as of the depth of the canyon. A stop for lunch before returning to your hotel in Arequipa.

Day 4. AREQUIPA – JULIACA - PUNO (Breakfast)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport-bus terminal for the trip to Juliaca. Arrival and private excursion to the Sillustani towers. The pre-Inca Sillustani funeral towers lie next to the Umayo lake and form part of one of the largest and most important necropolis in the world. Used by both the Altiplano civilisation and the Incas and their wives “Collas” to honour their dead and in preparation for the after-life. They were abandoned when the first Spanish arrived. With over ninety chulpas (tombs), all built from volcanic rock, those for the Incas can be easily



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recognised by their finer detail. Transfer to Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca. Accommodation at your hotel.

Day 5. LAKE TITICACA ISLANDS (Breakfast & lunch)

After breakfast, early transfer to the port for the boat journey on Lake Titicaca to the floating islands of Uros. Made entirely of reeds and inhabited by the Aymara Uros people, they live in huts built on platforms of reeds, not more than 30-40 cms/1foot thick. Short hike on the islands, then the boat trip continues as far as the island of Taquile. Members of this self supporting Aymara community receive visitors in their colourful national costume and show them around the island. Taquile is also renowned for its fine, decorative weavings. A basic lunch on the island followed by an opportunity for some spectacular views over the haunting beauty of Lake Titicaca. Return to Puno and your hotel.

Day 6. PUNO (Breakfast)

Transfer to the railway station/bus terminal/airport.

Comfort Level: 4/5

Accommodation is in comfortable 4* hotels

Activity Level: 1/5

Min. Travellers per Group: 2

Max. Travellers per Group: 12

Police Check Required? No



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