

## **A Solo Traveler's Guide to Attending Tinkuy**

Andean Textile Arts is sponsoring two tours to Tinkuy (one before and one after the event—see [www.andeantextilearts.org](http://www.andeantextilearts.org)), and a few other individuals and entities have put together tours to the event. But if you're short on time or long on independence, here are some tips for going on your own.

### **Signing up**

You can register for Tinkuy and special workshops [here](#).

### **Getting there**

Cusco is a high-altitude city (over 11,000 feet), so plan to arrive a day or two early to rest and acclimate. When you enter Peru you will need a U.S. passport **with at least 6 months remaining before it expires**.

### **Airlines That Fly to Lima Direct From the United States**

Delta Airlines  
American Airlines  
United Airlines  
LATAM Airlines  
Avianca Airlines  
JetBlue Airlines  
Spirit Airlines

Most flights arrive and leave between 9 pm and 1 am. Be cautious when booking your return flight. If it departs after midnight, be sure you are flying on the right date.

### **Airlines That Fly Lima to Cusco**

LATAM Airlines (formerly LAN Peru) has 17 flights a day, and has been the top airline to Cusco. Tickets as of now (January 2017) are around \$138 round trip. You can fly to Lima on LATAM from New York, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, or Orlando and book all the way through to Cusco.

Peruvian Airlines has five flights a day at around \$128 round trip.

StarPeru Airlines has three flights a day at around \$103 round trip.

Avianca Peru has five flights a day around \$140 round trip.

LCPeru has six flights a day at around \$100 round trip.

### **Staying Overnight in Lima**

Because of the late arrival time of most flights from the United States, it may be necessary to spend the night in Lima. The best bet is the hotel at the airport, Wyndham Costa del Sol. When booked on-line through [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) or one of the other sites, a double is around \$160. Book early to be sure you get a room. As you depart the Lima airport customs area, turn left and take the escalator up to the second level. Turn left again, and follow the hotel signs across the skywalk to the hotel lobby. While there are a number of suitable hotels in Miraflores, getting there and back will take at least a half hour each way, and taxi fare is expensive.

### **Visas/Immigration**

No prearranged visa is required for U.S. citizens. You will be handed a visa form to fill out on your flight to Peru. You will pass through immigration upon arrival in Lima, your passport will be stamped, and you will receive a tourism visa called TAM (Tarjeta Andina de Migraciones). Do not lose it! Keep it with your passport and keep them safe. We recommend making a copy of both that you can keep on your person at all times, just in case.

### **Climate/Weather**

November is late spring in Peru, and the weather is generally mild and wet, with daytime temperatures in the high 60s and nighttime lows in the 40s. It frequently rains and we recommend bringing along a raincoat and sturdy shoes.

### **Altitude/Geography**

The elevation of Cusco is 11,152 ft. It's important to give yourself time to acclimate—a day or two—and to drink lots of water. Most hotels and all restaurants offer coca tea; it is very beneficial in mitigating the effects of the altitude. If you plan to go to a workshop in Chinchero, be aware that the altitude there is even higher—12,300 ft.

### **Local transportation**

Taxis are plentiful and cheap in Cusco. From the airport to downtown, go outside the airport to hail a cab, and ask the fare before you get in. It shouldn't be more than 8 or 9 Soles (about \$3.00 U.S.) Taxis around town for one person are 3 Soles (\$1.00).

### **Speaking of money**

The exchange rate of U.S. dollars to Nuevo Soles is generally 1:3, but check before you go. Change some money in the airport at least to cover taxi fare into the city, but be aware that the exchange rate in the airport and in banks is not as good as in "Casas de Cambio." You will find these Exchange Houses along Avenida del Sol. Many banks have ATMs where you can withdraw money. It is better to withdraw US dollars from your account and then go to an Exchange House to change it to soles as the banks have famously atrocious exchange rates. The best bank to withdraw from is Scotiabank as they do not charge you a fee to withdraw money from their ATMs. The Global ATMs you see in many tourist locales charge exorbitant fees to withdraw money. Take good care of your money, credit cards, and passport! Never carry anything in back pockets and carry your bag or backpack in front, not on your back!

### **Hotels**

Use a trustworthy website such as [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) to find accommodations. Rates range from around \$25 U.S. per night for a basic hostel to \$60+ for a 3-star rated hotel (en suite bathroom, breakfast included) to much higher for more amenities. Book a room near the Plaza de Armas or the Convention Center located on Plaza Riegocijo, for convenient access to Tinkuy. (If you look up the Convention Center it doesn't appear on Google maps, but that plaza is easy to locate).

## **Visiting Cultural Sites**

The Boleto Turistico, or Cusco Tourist Ticket, is a paid ticket that allows you admission to many of the most popular attractions in Cusco and the surrounding region including archaeological sites and museums. The complete tourist ticket is valid for 10 days, costs 130 soles for adults (Approx. \$US46) and 70 soles (Approx. \$US25) for students with i.d., and includes entry into the following sites in and around Cusco:

### In the city of Cusco:

- Religious Art Museum
- Church of San Blas
- Museum of Regional History
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Koricancha Museum (but not the site itself)
- Museum of Popular Art
- Pachacutec Monument (out of the way and not worth visiting)
- Performance of Andean dance and live music

### Just above Cusco and accessible by cab:

- Sacsayhuaman (accessible by foot for the fit via the street Pumacurco near San Blas)
- Qenko
- Puca Pucara
- Tambomachay

### In the Sacred Valley

- Pisac ruins
- Ollantaytambo ruins

### In the Chinchero altiplano

- Chinchero
- Moray

### Other Tourist Ticket Options:

If you are short on time and won't be able to visit all these sites you can also purchase any of the following three partial tickets (boletos parciales) for S/.70 (Approx. US\$25) per adult, or pay individually for each venue:

- 1 Sacsayhuaman, Q'enko, Tambomachay and Puca Pucara. Valid for 1 day.
- 2 Museum of Regional History, Museum of Contemporary Art, Koricancha Museum (but not Koricancha itself), Museum of Popular Art, Native Music and Dance Centre, Pachacutec Monument, Pikillacta & Tipon (these two are located an hour to the south). Valid for 2 days.
- 3 Pisac, Ollantaytambo, Chinchero & Moray (which is in the Chinchero Valley). Valid for 2 days.

### Where to Buy Your Tickets:

Buy your tickets when you arrive in Cusco at the COSITUC office on 103 Avenida del Sol in the center of Cusco. You can also pick up a good map there. Open Monday – Friday 08:00 – 12:30 and Saturday from 08:00 – 2:00. You can also buy the ticket at any of the sites included in any of the tickets.

Not included in the Tourist Ticket

The *boleto turístico* does not include the following: Machu Picchu, the Cusco Cathedral, the Pre-Columbian Art Museum (M.A.P), the Inka Museum, the main Incan temple Koricancha or the Casa Concha the Machu Picchu Museum in Cusco. Koricancha and these three museums are all well worth it.

The *boleto turístico* does not include transportation or guides.

**Machu Picchu**

For day trips or overnight trips to Machu Picchu, consult with a local travel agent. We will add a few suggestions soon.