



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS
Tentative Schedule – May 2025

WELCOME TO PERU

Cuzco & Machu Picchu

THE IMPERIAL CITY OF CUZCO

"According to the stories passed down through generations of Quechuas, the mythical monarch Manco Capac founded the city of Cuzco at the beginning of the 13th century B.C. with the help of his three brothers and four sisters. Under Inca rule, the empire grew and developed: the systems of past cultures were improved; magnificent structures were built, such as roads and stone bridges; crop production increased, thanks to the construction of irrigation channels and aqueducts; and huge fortresses were built. But, just like in every great empire, the struggle for power and personal ambitions led to its downfall. When Francisco Pizarro began to colonize Peru, the Inca empire had already been weakened due to a disagreement between Atahualpa and his half-brother Huascar over who would succeed their father as leader.

Nevertheless, the great city of Cuzco still conserves remnants of that ancient age of splendor. These have become obligatory stops on tourist itineraries, along with the city's important buildings from the colonial period. Any journey through this beautiful city should begin in the Plaza de Armas, the heart of Cuzco, where you will find the venerable cathedral. Its construction was begun in 1556, but design changes and the earthquake of 1650 delayed its completion.

It was finally completed in 1654. The imposing temple was designed in the Renaissance style and laid out in the form of a Latin cross. Some of its most important chapels include the Señor de los Temblores, the Virgen de lo Remedios, and the Capilla de la Inmaculada Concepción, also known as La Linda.

Jesuit priests began construction of La Compañía de Jesús, another one of Cuzco's important religious structures, in 1576. It was also delayed by design changes and the earthquake of 1650, but it was finally completed in 1668. Its façade and interior are designed in the Baroque style and the retablos are made of cedar detailed with gold leaf. Every narrow lane of this city emanates history. This is why you can travel in any direction and discover

fascinating spots where the past and the present converge, giving Cuzco a unique, evocative character.

The culture's identity is represented and personified by its most notable warrior, government official, and statesman, the Great Inca Pachakuteq, founder of the Tawantinsuyo Empire. One of the tallest (113 feet) and most spectacular monuments in Latin America is the one erected in his honor, located in the Pachakuteq traffic circle. To experience one of the most beloved traditions of the Peruvian community, you must see the Inti Raymi, a celebration held every June 24 in honor of the sun god of the fortress, or "Fortaleza del Halcon" located in the northern zone of the city of Cuzco about 836 feet above the Plaza de Armas or 12,000 feet above sea level. The city gathers around the fort on that day, and delegates from the four zones of the ancient Inca empire parade by in their traditional costumes to the rhythm of ancient music. Finally, the great Inca appears transported on a litter - which during the imperial era was made from gold and silver- accompanied by an entourage of dignitaries who follow at a respectful distance. While the pututos (indigenous instrument made from an animal's horn), bugles and Indian flutes are sounded, the Inca stands up and pays homage to Inti, the sun god, with outstretched arms, promising obedience, respect, and adoration. This tradition reflects the deep admiration that the people of Cuzco have for the ancient culture of the Incas. In the minds of the newer generations, that a time period is synonymous with prosperity and unequalled greatness and is considered by many as the Andean utopia. The city of Cuzco sits perched amidst the clouds and the lush Andean greenery 11,000 feet above sea level, an everlasting legacy to Peru's rich history.

Many international tourists are drawn to Cuzco for its proximity to the famous Machu Picchu ruins and the Inca Trail. Due to the high elevation, it is cool at night and sunny but cool during the day year- round. However, this can be a great excuse to seek out the many markets selling the beautiful wool sweaters and textiles for which the country is renowned. Surrounded by the wealth of its Inca history and offering the comforts of an internationally known town, Cuzco truly is an exciting place to live, learn, and enjoy."

MSUB

Peru, South America – May 2025

Includes:

Half board with host families (breakfast and dinner)
40 contact hours of Spanish classes at all levels
Full weekend trip to Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu
Visit to tourist attractions described on itinerary
Teaching material, evaluations and certificate
Academic and immigration assistance
Peru land tour as it is described on the itinerary
All entrances and tickets
English-Spanish speaking guide
Laundry depends on host family and their machine availability (local laundry shops are very available and affordable)

Does not include:

Tips
Most lunches
Beverages
Airplane ticket from USA – Cuzco – USA

3. Application

The Latino Cuzco Admissions Office must receive your completed application form and non-refundable deposit of \$1000 (per person) dollars no later than The deposit will be applied to the final cost of your tour.

4. Late registration

Registration after this date will be subject to an additional \$100 late fee.

5. Refunds

No portion of the deposit will be refunded at any time for any reason. Your final payment for the trip is due in full no later than

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PERU 2025

Monday

Arrival to the city of Cuzco. Your host family will be waiting for you at the Cuzco airport holding a sign with your name on. Free time in the afternoon...perfect time to sleep, relax and adjust to altitude, 11,000 feet above sea level.

Dinner with host family

Tuesday

7:30 Breakfast in homestay

8:30 Homestay families accompany students to Latino Cuzco school

9:00 Welcoming, orientation session and placement exams (oral & written)

14:00 Walking orientation tour of Cuzco (San Blas, Plaza Nazarenas, Plaza de Armas, Plaza Regocijo, Av. Sol, etc)

12:30 Welcome lunch

Wednesday

9:00 to 12:40 Spanish classes

15:30 Cook lesson (causa rellena and arroz con leche)

Thursday

9:00 to 12:40 Spanish classes

14:00 Guided visit to the Cuzco Cathedral, well known for the magnificent architecture and also visit the tomb of the Inca Garcilazo de la Vega.

Afterwards visit the Qoricancha (Temple to the Sun), the most important and impressive example of Inca architecture in Cuzco. Due to its importance to the Inca, it was rebuilt during the colonial period as the Convent of Santo Domingo. Today we find a unique combination of Inca, Renaissance and Baroque architecture at one site.

Friday

9:00 to 12:40 Spanish classes

12:45 Briefing on weekend trip to the citadel of Machu Picchu

Saturday

Depart from Plaza Limacpampa and we will visit the Awanakancha (llama breeding project) with 14 indigenous cooperative group working on their textiles project (the perfect place to find the best baby llama weaving products).

We will continue to visit Pisac Indian market. All over the Andean highlands, scattered in the Sacred Valley of Urubamba and mountains, you will find numerous markets displaying everything from wool textiles, native fruits and fresh vegetables to jewelry, ceramics, baskets, wood carving, native paintings, embroidery, tools and even animals! The market in Pisac is one of the most well-known markets in the country. It is a rich cultural site where locals meet

with their friends and relatives to catch up on news and practice the ancient art of bargaining. It will capture your senses making you feel as if you've stepped back in time.

After lunch we will continue our visit to Ollantaytambo fortress, where the Inca fought their last battles with the Spanish invaders...just spectacular! We will visit a home of one of the residents of Ollantaytambo and discover how their living conditions and decoration hasn't change in centuries.

Arrival to hotel and overnight in Sacred Valley or Aguas Calientes, dinner on your own

Sunday

After breakfast early transfer to train station for our fabulous trip (2-hour train ride).

Arrival to Aguas Calientes

Take your bus to the Citadel of Machu Picchu

Exploratory visit to Machu Picchu, one of the 7 wonders of the world today, is an impressive Inca citadel with temples, platforms and water channels that is located at the top of a mountain in the Urubamba River Valley at 2,360 meters above sea level. The imposing Inca monument was built in the middle of the 15th century AD. C

Machu Picchu is the most outstanding Inca archaeological site due to its creative urban design, the beauty of its architecture and the fine stonework of its buildings. In its planning, the site was built to take advantage of the topography of the top of the mountain, which was transformed into an imposing landmark of the Incas.

Lunch in Aguas Calientes

Take our bus back to Aguas Calientes and then return to Cuzco by train.

Overnight with host families in Cuzco

Monday

9:00 to 12:40 Spanish classes

Tuesday

9:00 to 12:40 Spanish classes

14:00 Visit to Sacsayhuaman ruins, located just outside the city of Cuzco and considered one of the best examples of Inca military architecture. From the air, it appears as a Puma lying down; from the ground, it is an amazing construction of huge (5 meters in height) stones, stacked possibly 2- 4 stories high, precisely joined and brought from 20 kilometers away by a culture who did not have the wheel. Visit the ruins of Qenko and Tambomachay / Temple of the Water.

Wednesday

9:00 to 12:40 Spanish classes

16:00 Dance lesson. We will learn the joy of the Latino culture while learning andean and caribbean traditional dances and movements. Our dance teacher will teach students the basic steps to enjoy the rhythm and possibly be ready to go out at any opportunity for a night out with classmates. Dancing is a fundamental part of meeting Latino people.

Thursday

9:00 to 12:40 Spanish classes

17:00 – 20:00 Learn about Andean cosmology and astronomy. Night activity to learn about stars and constellation in the southern hemisphere.

Friday

9:00 to 12:40 Spanish classes
12:45 Breafing on your next day trip

Saturday

9:00 Day trip to Moray and Salineras
Heading northeast of Cuzco, we will visit Moray. A huge system of circular platforms in 4 holes of even 495 feet depth. It's believed that it was a center of agricultural experimentation where seeds were produced adapted to different ecological steps, every platform represents different weathers. Its watering and drain system are still functioning!
We will continue our trip and visit to and archeological explanation of the Salinas/Salineras site. Formerly Inca Salt pans. Still currently mined for livestock consumption.
After lunch return to Cuzco
Dinner and overnight with host family

Sunday

Transfer from host families to Cuzco airport
End of services