



NOMADIC
ROAD

ROAD TO UNCHARTED PERU

Overland Journey across Peruvian Deserts, Canyons and Andes

OCT 2023

ABOUT NOMADIC ROAD

Nomadic Road is an award winning experiential travel company that bridges dream and routine. We are the pioneers when it comes to organizing motoring expeditions to far ends of our planet. With our extensive experience, each expedition is carefully crafted wherein you'll be driving legendary expedition vehicles, taking on adventurous and unprecedented journeys that guarantees to go well beyond the guidebook and offering unique insights about the places you go to.

FEATURED IN

Forbes

CONDÉ NAST
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ICELAND
SPECIALIST

ABOUT THE EXPEDITION

OVERLAND JOURNEY ACROSS UNCHARTED SOUTHERN PERU

Filled with incredible landscapes and stories that make myth seem to be reality, Peru is a country like no other. Born from a great civilization and evolved to house a multicultural population. It is home to: the world’s most arid desert, the world’s deepest canyons, the rugged Andes from where the world’s largest river originates – the Amazon and the world’s highest navigable lake. To explore such a country with such natural superlatives, you need a superlative adventure that encompasses all of this. That’s exactly why we create this motoring motoring expedition across Peru. You get to traverse through places that will take you back in time and some that will take your breath away. It does get mysterious, when you fly over the world’s largest collection of geoglyphs – The Nazca lines. And, you will also be tracing some of the treacherous routes that were used during the Dakar Rally. If you are someone who likes to transcend the usual holidays and explore beyond the ordinary, then this journey should be right up your alley.



Country
Peru



Group Size
Max. 10 Pax



Weather
Max 30° C | Min 10° C



Expedition Vehicle
Toyota Hillux 4x4 or similar



Distance
± 2500 kms



Driving Terrain
Sand Dunes + Dirt Tracks
+ Mountain Roads +
Tarmac



When
Oct 2023



Duration
12 Days



Accommodation
Mix of Luxury + Comfort +
Basic Hotels



EXPEDITION

ROUTE

- 01 DAY FLY INTO LIMA
- 02 DAY PARACAS & ANTANA
- 03 DAY NASCA
- 04 DAY PAUSA
- 05 DAY COTAHUASI
- 06 DAY ANDAGUA
- 07 DAY CABANA CONDE
- 08 DAY CHIVAY
- 09 DAY PUNO
- 10 DAY LAKE TITICACA & PUNO
- 11 DAY CUSCO
- 12 DAY DEPART FROM CUSCO



DAY 01: ARRIVAL AT LIMA

Accommodation: Casa Andina Premium Miraflores or Similar

Popularly known as 'El Pulpo' (The Octopus) or the 'The City of Kings', Lima is gonna be the gateway for your epic adventure before we head deep into uncharted Peru. Unlike the barren desert on all its sides, this hustling bustling capital city is well alive. This is the most civilization you will see until towards the end of our journey.

You will be received at the Lima Airport and transferred to the hotel. We suggest you arrive by early afternoon, so you have enough time to rest or briefly explore this melting-pot city before we all get together for the wonderful welcome dinner. This is also a great opportunity to meet all the fellow expedition members before we start our journey.

P.S: For those travelling from the far east, you might need some time to acclimatise to the new time zone. So, you can fly in a day or two early to rest and explore the town. And since our expedition culminates in Cusco and you may end up flying back to Lima as very few international flights operate out of Cusco. This way, you can also explore Lima before you fly back home.

DAY 02: PARACAS AND ANTANA

Accommodation: Private Camping

Driving Distance: 350 kms | Driving Time: 6-7 hrs | Driving Terrain: Tarmac + Dunes

Today we begin your motoring journey with initial stretch on simple tarmac as we head towards the coastal town of Paracas. The area around Paracas has much to offer. Famous for its expansive National reserve, astounding views of rocky cliffs, pristine beaches and fascinating geological formations. The word Paracas itself derives from the Quechua word 'para-ako' which means "raining sand". This probably refers to the sandstorms that whip through the bleak pampa terrain that dominates this region.

Post lunch, we drive straight into the Peruvian dunes. For those who aren't familiar driving a 4x4 of the sand dunes, don't worry, we have planned a detailed technical briefing and a practical training. Be ready for a lot of action, emotion and adventure right off the bat. Some expert navigation will be required as we head towards Barlovento beach where the dunes meet the rough sea. However, the day doesn't end here. If you thought the descent into Barlovento was tough, you must prepare yourself for the challenging uphill back onto the desert. The beautiful scenery of the coastline along with strong winds coming your way will be the backdrop of this ascent. From there on, we will have some real fun on the dunes and then head to our exclusive private camp set under the twinkling Peruvian night sky and call it a day.

DAY 03: NASCA

Accommodation: Majoro Hotel or Similar

Driving Distance: 200 kms | Driving Time: 4 hrs | Driving Terrain: Desert + Dirt Road

Another exciting day full of adventure with a mix of driving along the beach and on the desert. Our biggest challenge will be crossing the famous 'Dune of Beyond'. Deriving its name from old fishermen, this dune has been a part of many editions of the Dakar rally. Every choice is a gamble so be sure to closely follow us as we navigate through clouds of sand thrown up against the wind as we drive through. The 'Dune of Beyond' has an added layer of difficulty as it ends in the sea so be wary, alert and most of all enthusiastic as we get across.

We'll take a break for lunch at one of the endless desert beaches of the area. Sand, sand, and more sand is the theme here. After our break overlooking the blue sea and even bluer skies, we will continue our off-road adventure till we reach Puerto Caballas beach from where will head to the town of Nasca. At the end of the day, the sense of achievement overcoming daunting terrain will be well worth it.

DAY 04: NASCA AND PAUSA

Accommodation: Basic Hotel

Driving Distance: 400 kms | Driving Time: 7 hrs | Driving Terrain: Mostly Tarmac

Today, fly back in time as we take the first flight out over one of the world's biggest mysteries, the Nazca lines. Across a land so dry that it rains less than an inch every year, you'll get a bird's eye view of the geometric designs and lines that cover the Nazca landscape. These geoglyphs that are more than 2,000 years old have mystified researchers ever since their discovery in the 1920's. Covering an area of about 500 km², these detailed designs depicting geometric and zoomorphic figures are best viewed from above.

After exploring Nazca, we will continue our journey further by taking the South Pan-American highway towards the Yauca Valley which is known for its beautiful olive plantation and is a sharp contrast to the monotonous desert landscape. Along the way, we will stop at the Parinacochas Lagoon, another welcome respite from the barren desert. It's a great spot for flamingo sightings! Heading on, we'll pass close to the prominent Nevado Sara Sara, a 5,500 m tall volcano and Apu, the guardian of the sea. The long day will conclude once we arrive at the simple town of Pausa. The accommodation for today will be basic, but will help you get some decent rest before we head into the high Andes during the coming days.

DAY 05: COTAHUASI

Accommodation: Valle Hermoso or Similar

Driving Distance: 320 kms | Driving Time: 6-7 hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Road | Altitude: 2,500 masl

Today we will advance towards some of the remotest parts of Peru. It's gonna be a challenge climbing the...

...Andean mountains, with multiple switchbacks and dangerously steep cliffs and not to forget the thin air because of the altitude. You'll navigate nerve-tingling mountain passes with panoramic views of the snow-topped Andes. This bumpy, dizzying and winding route to the heart of the Southern Andes can only be traversed by 4x4 vehicles and will eventually lead us to Cotahuasi - 'The Canyon of Wonders' or more simply known as Cotahuasi Canyon. It is one of the deepest canyons in the world and twice as deep as the Grand Canyon.

Along the way, you can see condors glide silently between the mountains, stop at sleepy traditional villages and sip Pisco with a valley view, you'll see llamas, alpacas and Andean foxes grazing in the long wisps of grass. Very few travellers come this far due to the arduous journey and thus the town of Cotahuasi has no more than the basic amenities. But even these basic accommodation means a lot especially when we need to break the long journey before we continue further into the mountains.

DAY 06: ANDAGUA

Accommodation: Basic Hotel

Driving Distance: 150 kms | Driving Time: 3-4 hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Roads | Altitude: 3,500 masl

We enter the 'Valley of Volcanoes' today. Remarkably, moon-like, the Andagua area is spotted with dwarf cones of different times, shapes and height. Generated by intense volcanic activity in the past, this lava field is an ideal place to explore the landscape of Peru away from the crowds of tourists. Getting here is no easy task and can take hours despite the relatively short distance of 150 kms. We'll be getting a chance to see the traditional rural way of life on the Peruvian altiplano, which is relatively untouched by outside influences. The picturesque countryside dotted with giant cacti, crops of potatoes, olluco, broad beans, geese, etc. rest on ashes and lava. It provides a pleasing backdrop for the strenuous journey today. The people in Andagua are very friendly, and almost everyone you meet will offer a pleasant greeting or delight you with a chat as well. Post traversing across the captivating lava and ashen landscape, we will stop for the night at Andagua for a good night's rest.

DAY 07: CABANACONDE

Accommodation: Kuntur Wasi Hotel or Similar

Driving Distance: 300 kms | Driving Time: 6-7 hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Roads | Altitude: 3,200 masl

This day we will drive towards Cabaconde. It may seem close to Andagua by distance, but there is no direct route here. A significant land formation, blocks our way. Better known as Colca Canyon, this fascinating river canyon will make us go all the way around to get to our destination on the other side of the canyon...

...The area around Andagua and the Colca Canyon comprise of 119 geosites out of which Colca Canyon is one of the deepest; second only to the Cotahuasi Canyon. Mesmerizing in its own way, people have been living deep in the canyon ever since they arrived in the Andes. Its location near the Valley of Volcanoes marks it as a geologically active area. Also, home to a variety of interesting Andean animals such as llamas, alpacas, guanacos, vicuñas and pumas; Colca provides a unique ecosystem for these animals to flourish. We spend the night in a simple hotel that will help us get good night sleep.

DAY 08: CHIVAY

Accommodation: Casa Andina Colca or Similar

Driving Distance: 70 kms | Driving Time: 1-2 hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Roads | Altitude: 3,600 masl

Today, the drive is short so that we can explore the fascinating Colca Canyon. With an early start to Cruz del Condor, we will have the most magnificent sighting for the day, the endangered Andean Condor. Often called the 'Eternity Bird' due to it having a long life of 60-70 years, and a wingspan of over 7 feet, this majestic bird is one of the largest flying animals in the world. Believed to be one of the three Incan totems representing the sky, it is no wonder that the Colca Canyon is considered home to these soaring birds that are usually seen at dawn and dusk. We will head to Tapay from where you can observe the depth of this Canyon! From thereon, we'll pay a quick visit to Maca village where we can visit the Temple of Santa Ana. More importantly, we'll get a taste of the refreshing sankayo juice which is made from the sankyo fruit and cacti of the same name. Locals say, the messengers of the Inca empire would consume sankyo during their long-distance travels to benefit from its energy boosting properties. It is only right that we get a taste of it on our own long-distance journey as well. And we will call it a day at Chivay.

DAY 09: PUNO

Accommodation: Sonesta Posada Del Inca or Similar

Driving Distance: 300 kms | Driving Time: 6 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Tarmac | Altitude: 3,800 masl

After a few tough days of off-roading, taking the scenic route today will be a pleasant change. Get a chance to explore the different Andean landscapes on your journey to Peru's 'folkloric capital' – Puno. From stone forests to huge lagoons with a variety of birds, we'll be getting the opportunity to pass through some of the most charming and intriguing landscapes southern Peru has to offer. For nature and mysticism lovers, keep your eyes open as we drive through the expansive wastelands along our route that are covered with stones of great dimensions. These are imposing stones of various shapes and sizes that come together to delight your imagination with their formations. Enroute we will stop at Lake Lagunillas for some flamingo sightings...

This area of the Peruvian altiplano is also home to large herds of Llamas and Alpacas. One of the most exciting attractions for today would be the cemetery of priests from pre-Inca times. Considered to be burial for the elite, the 'Chullpas of Sillustani' are unusual cylindrical towers looming out of the ground on a hill overlooking a beautiful marshland lake. It was believed that the high-altitude location of the Chullpas aided in leaving the deceased closer to the gods and the sky.

Keep in mind, we'll be journeying through some of the highest altitude regions of our trip with some places over 4,000 m above sea level. However, you needn't worry as we will be simply driving through this region and have arrived at such high altitudes only after slowly ascending each day. We will be carrying oxygen cylinders in case someone feels uncomfortable with the altitude. Puno will be the start of our descent. This night we will be staying on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the planet's highest navigable body of water.

DAY 10: LAKE TITICACA & PUNO

Accommodation: Sonesta Posada Del Inca or Similar

Driving Distance: NA | Driving Time: NA | Terrain: NA |

Altitude: 3,800 masl

Today, we'll be taking a break from driving overland and getting onboard a boat to explore the beginning of the Peruvian world, Lake Titicaca. Filled with as much mystery as beauty, this sacred lake will bring us as close as possible to what many consider the birthplace of the Andean world. As legend goes, in the beginning all was darkness and nothing existed. Then emerged the supreme god of the Incas known as Viracocha out of the waters of Lake Titicaca. He created the land, the sky, a race of people and also the sun, moon, and stars. To those who believe in creation myths, we all come from this mystifying large body of water.

Lake Titicaca is dotted with culturally rich islands. We will be visiting one of the most interesting one – the floating Uros Islands. Picture this, we get on a boat that is made of totora to the island made of totora reeds! This engineering marvel is the life product of the indigenous people of Uros. The water-resistant totora plant grows right in the lake and is the lifeblood of the Uros community. After visiting one or more out of the many (over 40) Uros Islands, we'll continue our water journey towards Taquile Island. The remoteness of the island has kept a large part of the traditional culture intact. Weaving is an integral part of the local culture, and this will be evident no matter which bright red, purple, or multicolour woven product you choose to don. After being mesmerized by the dazzling panoramic view of the lake, we'll get back to the mainland and head to our hotel in Puno.

DAY 11: CUSCO

Accommodation: Jose Antonio Cusco

Driving Distance: 400 kms | Driving Time: 7-8 hrs | Driving Terrain: Tarmac |

Altitude: 3,800 masl

Today will be an early start after the relaxing day at Lake Titicaca. After days on dunes and off roads, it's going to be a pleasant but long drive along the Peruvian altiplano for the final leg of our epic journey. The altiplano between Puno and Cusco is one of the highest inhabited regions in the world at about 3,500 m above sea level. This will be our final test of endurance for the expedition. We'll be making a stop at the town of Pukara, the origin of the Andean culture of the altiplano before passing through Sicuani where we'll stop for a delicious lunch. Along the way, we will visit the archaeological site of Pikillacta, built by one of the most important cultures of ancient Peru, the Wari culture during 1100 AD. An immense citadel, where up to 10,000 people lived, this is one of the best-preserved pre-Inca archaeological sites in Peru. In fact, this site is so big that research continues on till this day. Pikillacta is a great opportunity to learn how the ancient people lived. With our visit to Pikillacta, we have now gotten to explore the multiple facets of Southern Peru, from its living breathing history, vibrant culture, ancient sites to most importantly its expansive landscape. Later in the evening, we will arrive at Cusco, the cultural capital of Peru and the oldest living city in the Americas. We have a special farewell dinner planned for today to relive some of the best stories of this great adventure.

DAY 12: DEPART FROM CUSCO

Accommodation: NA

Driving Distance: NA | Driving Time: NA | Driving Terrain: NA

It's time to say goodbye to what has been an expedition of literally ups and downs. Depending on the time of your flight, we will organize an airport transfer.

P.S: Cusco is the entry point to the world's most awe-inspiring sites of Machu Picchu. It's a symbol of national pride and national identity, and it's incredibly important. If you are interested and if you have time for a trip extension, we would recommend you spend another day exploring the cultural town of Cusco and we can help you plan a side trip to visit Machu Picchu. Having come this far, it's definitely worth your time.



NOMADIC
ROAD



EXPEDITION
SIGHTS & SOUNDS

INCLUSIONS



Price
\$ 8,633 USD
per person *

- Exclusive Expedition Vehicle for each team of 2 people
- Fuel for Expedition Vehicle
- Nomadic Road Expedition Management team throughout the trip
- Exclusive Expedition Photographer cum Filmmaker throughout the trip
- Local cultural expert and hospitality staff throughout the trip
- Expedition support vehicle with technical team.
- Oxygen Canisters for days we will spend at high-altitude
- Accommodation for all nights on twin share basis.
- All meals during the expedition prepared based on your preferences and restrictions if any
- Bottled water and refreshments.
- Welcome Dinner & Farewell Dinner.
- Entrance fee for entry into National Parks
- Third party liability insurance for the expedition vehicle
- Airport Transfers
- All excursions, entrance fees, and visits as described in the itinerary

EXPEDITION

EXCLUSIONS

- International Flights
- Visa
- International Driving Permit
- Comprehensive Personal Insurance(s)
- Personal medication
- Extras like room service, drinks, optional excursions and items of personal nature like laundry, tips, phone calls etc.





For the Love of the (un)Road



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