

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips



INSIDER TIP ▶ The city from a different perspective

Get a glimpse behind the scenes of Lima with the German guide, *Alois Kennerknecht*, on his fascinating alternative city tour → p. 41

INSIDER TIP ▶ Tremendous contrasts

Against the backdrop of a city with a population of 9 million, one can see and even snorkel with seals. It may sound crazy but, in Lima thanks to several small *islands*, it's possible (photo above) → p. 43

INSIDER TIP ▶ Wild water

Nearby Caraz, close to the city of Hueraz, the Rio Santa's great mass of water squeezes through the 15 m/49 ft wide narrow gorge of the *Cañon del Pato* – a phenomenal natural wonder → p. 56

INSIDER TIP ▶ Everything organic

In the store of the organic farm *Sa-maca*, in Ica, you can find preserves, oils, herbs, fruit and even textiles in organic quality → p. 78

INSIDER TIP ▶ A lot of fauna for your money

Chaparrí, the first privately run wildlife sanctuary in Peru near Chiclayo, is not only returning the Andean bear back to the wild but features many other animals as well → p. 52

INSIDER TIP ▶ Learn Quechua

If you want to see inside the heart of the Inca (-descendents) and want to experience something about their culture and mindset, you can learn their language – e.g. at the cultural institute *ACUPARI* in Cuzco → p. 74

INSIDER TIP ▶ The Moche priestess-queen

Pay your respects to the mummified Moche priestess-queen, La Dama de Cao, at *El Brujo*, the archaeological excavation museum north of Trujillo → p. 60

INSIDER TIP ▶ All the way down

Traverse, by mountain bike, the green netherworld of *Manu* National Park: This is a pure thrill and an incredible amount of fun → p. 94

INSIDER TIP ▶ Animal orphanage

Weather Jaguar, capybara or sloth: Gudrun Sperrer tends to the well-being of orphaned animals and butterflies at the *Pilpintuhasi Butterfly Farm* in Iquitos → p. 91

INSIDER TIP ▶ Over seven hanging bridges...

...take a walk through the treetops of the Amazon rainforest, possible on the *Inkaterra Canopy Walkway* at the *Reserva Amazonica Lodge* in Puerto Maldonado → p. 95

INSIDER TIP ▶ At home with the nuns

Nuns operate the restaurant *L'Eau Vive* in Lima, which is adored due to its old fashioned charm → p. 38

INSIDER TIP ▶ Nothing but desert

Weather up and down them in a 4-wheel-drive dune buggy or straight down on a sandboard: you are guaranteed fun and adventure on the sand dunes of the *Huacachina* oasis → p. 78

INSIDER TIP ▶ Water giant

Near the province of Chachapoyas in Northern Peru, massive amounts of water from the *Cocahuevco* plunge almost 800 m/2625 ft over two cliffs, ranking *Gocta* one of the highest waterfalls in the world. You can observe this spectacle from the foot of the first or second level (photo below) → p. 49

INSIDER TIP ▶ Sweet surprise

In La Paz you should be sure to visit the store of the small farmers association in *El Ceibo*. Here you may treat yourself to a taste and of course buy the organic chocolate made from fair trade cocoa → p. 100

INSIDER TIP ▶ Surfers' paradise

The *perfect waves*, along Peru's endless Pacific beaches, have broken all the records: the longest, the fastest and the second highest in Latin America. Surfing enthusiasts and professionals from all over the world value this treasure → p. 129



BEST OF...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

● **Public event in the park**

On the weekends, in the late afternoon, in the amphitheatre of the *Parque Kennedy* in Miraflores, a district of Lima, you can dance to lively music (photo). In addition, free WiFi is available in the Park area → p. 37

● **Sweet temptation**

Everything you have ever wanted to know about chocolate but have never dared to ask. In the *Chocomuseo* in Cuzco, which is free of charge, there is a small factory which processes fair trade organic cocoa from Quillabamba into delicious chocolate → p. 71

● **A look at the president's palace**

The *Palacio de Gobierno*, on the Northern side of the Plaza Mayor in Lima, is the official residence of the Peruvian president Ollanta Humala. There is no entrance fee but it can only be visited on Saturdays → p. 37

● **Swing your hips**

Live Cuban salsa music for free: In Peru, this can only be found in the bar and restaurant *Sabor y Son Cubano* in Chiclayo → p. 51

● **Not for the squeamish**

Next to the Peruvian Parliament is the *Museo de la Inquisición* in which the Catholic Church, for around 250 years, tortured and executed alleged heretics. Today the visit will not cost you in either money or pain → p. 36

● **Rich in ceramics**

In the *Museo Arqueológico Nacional Horacio Urteaga* in Cajamarca the interesting work of pre-Incan culture is on display – and admission is free! → p. 46

● **Art for free**

In the *Centro de Artes Mamani Mamani* in La Paz the now internationally known indigenous artist of the same name exhibits his folkloristic work → p. 99

●●● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

ONLY IN PERU/BOLIVIA

Unique experiences

● **For fish lovers**

Anyone who goes to Peru without eating Ceviche (photo) has not actually been there. This national dish- raw marinated fish- is a delicacy that when in Lima you should definitely try, for example in the restaurant *Punto Azul* → p. 38

● **To the vultures**

It is rare to come as close to the noble condor, the iconic bird of the Andes, as at the *Cruz del Condor* in the Colca Canyon. Other tourists know this as well though – one is seldom there alone → p. 68

● **Magnificent hiking**

A well preserved section of the *Capac Ñan*, the ancient Incan street that at one time connected Quito in Ecuador with La Paz in Bolivia, can be experienced in Peru by walking or rather by hiking it → p. 129

● **Soft, fluffy and warm**

Peru produces some of the finest Alpaca wool. In Arequipa it can be found in exclusive shops, such as the *Casona de Santa Catalina*, in the form of sweaters, blankets and scarves → p. 67

● **A trip to the desert**

The new trendy sport in Peru is referred to as *sandboarding*. Surfing the sand dunes on a synthetic board is great fun, you don't have to worry about falling in the water and there is no shortage of sand in Ica → p. 78

● **The salt of the earth**

Allow yourself an experience that will push your consciousness to its limits: a jeep tour on the Bolivian *Salar de Uyuni*, the largest expanse of salt in the world and suspend your perception of time and space → p. 111

● **Dance of the Devils!**

The former silver mining city of Oruro, is the centre of the Bolivian carnival where, among the hustle and bustle, one can watch the colourful parades and dances of the *Diablada* → p. 104



ONLY IN



DISCOVERY TOURS

1

PERU AND BOLIVIA AT A GLANCE



START: 1 Lima

END: 17 Parque Nacional Amboró

Distance:

→ approx. 4300 km/2672 miles

21 days

Driving/flight time
(without stops) approx.
75 hours

COSTS: 9260 S/. per person for overnight stays at mid-range hotels, transportation, admission fees and meals

WHAT TO PACK: Daypack with water, sunscreen and insect protection, rain and wind gear, good hiking boots and bathing gear

IMPORTANT TIPS: Book in advance: domestic flights, train tickets in the 7 Valle Sagrado, admission to 9 Machu Picchu, the jeep tour in 13 Uyuni. The market in Pisac is only open on Tue and Sun.



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You would like to discover the diverse landscapes of the Andean countries of Peru and Bolivia and their cultural highlights in only three weeks? That is quite an undertaking, but certainly possible! This tour begins in Peru's capital, leads you over classic trails across the Andes and ends in the lowlands of Bolivia.

Have the hotel call you a taxi and take it to the historic centre of 1 Lima → p. 32, the Plaza de Armas. Afterwards, visit the Museo Larco for a brief introduction to the country's Pre-Columbian and Incan history.

