

Cuzco Cultural Tour - Half Day



Cuzco

The Andean city of Cuzco was once the foremost city of the Inca empire, and is the continent's oldest continuously inhabited city. At the heart of the city is the Plaza de Armas. Colonial arcades surround the plaza, while alleyways leading away from the plaza are bordered by Inca walls. On the plaza's northeastern side is the imposing Cathedral, flanked by the churches of Jesus Maria and El Triunfo. On the southeastern edge is the ornate church of La Compania de Jesus.

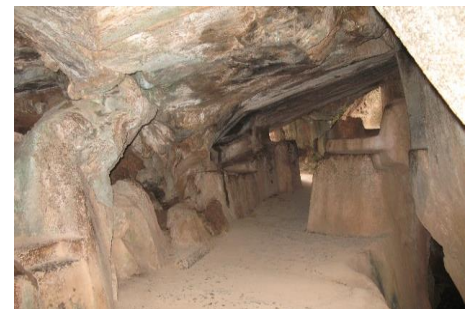


Sacsayhuaman

Situated on a mountain overlooking Cuzco, Sacsayhuaman is a huge, stunning ruin of both religious and military significance. The most striking part of the site is the magnificent three-tiered zigzag fortifications. Some stones weigh more than 360 tons but were still carefully cut to fit together tightly without mortar.

Q'enqo

Also known as the Labyrinth, this temple dedicated to Mother Earth is a unique center of celebrations and astronomical studies and has numerous ceremonial carvings, holes and zigzagging channels cut into the rock. Q'enqo is thought to have been used for ritual sacrifices – letting the blood flow and determining whether they were intended for heaven or hell depending on which direction it flowed.



Puca Pucara

Puca Pucara, or the Red Fort, is a smaller Inca site, thought to have been used as a resting place for guards. The complex contains several rooms, inner plazas, aqueducts, and has some great views over the surrounding jungle.



Tambomachay

The archeological site of Tambomachay is thought to have filled an important altar function linked to water and the regeneration of the land and closely linked with Puca Pucara. The site consists of large terraces, canals, and aqueducts which carry water – presumed to be from an underground spring further up the mountain.