



TRIP ITINERARY

PERU: UNFORGETTABLE ANDES

TYPE: ALL-MOUNTAIN

QUITE POSSIBLY THE BEST ALL-MOUNTAIN BIKE TRIP ON THE PLANET – 9 NIGHTS, 10 DAYS

TRIP DETAILS

Unforgettable rides, massive descents, endless fast flowy singletrack, challenging technical trails, spectacular scenery, unique terrain and topography, majestic Andean peaks, magnificent ancient Inca sites and ruins, day trek excursion to Machu Picchu, delicious food, amazing hospitality and the warmest friendliest people imaginable – simple!

2012 DATES

Friday, May 4 to Sunday, May 13

Friday, September 28 to Sunday, October 7

Friday, November 2 to Sunday, November 11

2012 LAND COST

\$2595 USD

JOINING IN

Lima, Peru

What sets us apart in Peru?

Our guides and shuttle drivers are skilled professionals. Former national Peruvian DH and XC champions, dedicated trail builders and developers, expert mechanics and passionate riders. They are caring, fun, easygoing and helpful. They are fluent in English and Spanish. Our guides treat our travelers like friends, showing visitors both the major highlights and the local treasures.

We are pioneers in the Peru. We are proud to say that our Peruvian partners are first to explore and develop the best singletrack rides in the Andes, the world's longest mountain range.

We know good singletrack and terrain. We design our trips with the ultimate riding experience in mind. The terrain and trails are amazing and varied. Some of the most sustained stretches of super flowy fast singletrack you will ever experience, and some exceptionally technical rocky sections. You'll ride a 10-mile stretch of "huayco" - quite possibly the most unique and incredible "trail" anywhere. The bottom of a dried riverbed - eroded so that 10-15 foot walls on either side, gradual descending grade, fast hard packed dried mud, and about 1,000 natural booters along the way. One of our rides will descend gradually for just over 30 miles. Miles. 30. You'll start at around 11,300 feet above sea level – and end at the ocean. Many of the rides pass through remote Andean villages which are only accessible by trails. Frequently, kids will line the narrow streets - high-fiving or chasing after us as we pass through. You'll ride a section of the Inca Trail - built over 500 years ago. Pass countless ruins and monuments that are as impressive as Machu Picchu. Probably more so because you'll get to enjoy it

all to yourself. You'll "shuttle" a ride using horses and porters to get to the start. Pretty much everyday is an unforgettable adventure.

We take care of the little things. There is almost nothing that we won't do to make sure that your trip runs smoothly.

ITINERARY

The following is a general outline for the Unforgettable Andes trip.

Big Mountain reserves the right to make alterations and substitutions to the itinerary as weather or terrain conditions dictate or as necessary to improve the trip quality or to accommodate the comfort, convenience, and well-being of our guests.

DAY 1 – ARRIVE IN LIMA

Upon arrival in Lima Peru, you'll be greeted by your Big Mountain guides and meet the rest of your group. Tonight we stay in the Miraflores, a beachfront neighborhood in Lima featuring great restaurants, shops and other attractions.

DAY 2 – RIDE PACHACAMAC HUAYCO

Today we'll set up our bikes, review riding skills and go for a short warm-up ride on some singletrack about an hour outside of Lima. Tonight we return to our Miraflores hotel.

DAY 3 – RIDE VILLA QUIPAN

This trail is one of the most amazing trails in the Andes near Lima. Even though it's an all-mountain trail we end up descending 3000 m over approx 5 hours of riding. The trail is very narrow and flowy singletrack at the beginning while the last section is rocky and technical with some exposure. Total distance 38 km. We will return to our Miraflores hotel for a final night.

DAY 4 – FLY TO CUSCO. RIDE SAQSAYHUAMAN

Early this morning, we will take the one-hour flight to Cusco, located at 3,350 m (10,991 ft.). After a morning relaxing and re-assembling our bikes, we climb from the hotel to the lower Saqsayhuaman trail above Cusco and finish down narrow cobbled streets and alleyways of the city back to our hotel. Tonight's hotel is on Cusco's main square – epic!

DAY 5 – RIDE HUCHUY CUSCO

This is another demanding Inca trail for mountain biking in Peru. Our bus will leave us near the Inca site of Chinchero at an altitude of 3,900 m (12,795 ft.) and we will start climbing this amazing Inca trail until we reach the mountain Pass of Coricocha at an altitude of 4,200 m (13,779 ft.). From Coricocha starts a long and impressive downhill that will take us to different Inca locations and then to the Inca site of Huchuy Cusco. Finally, we will reach the Sacred Valley and the Urubamba River, at an altitude of 2,800 m (9,186 ft.). The views on this ride are impressive. Tonight we stay in Ollantaytambo, the gateway town to Machu Picchu.

DAY 6 – OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

After the past intensive week, we will take a break from the bikes. But there's too much to do and see to rest. Options? A private guided tour of Machu Picchu, recently designated as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World? Or, rent dirt bikes and explore the surrounding Vilcanota Mountain Range? Or visit the artisan market in Pisac? Maybe soak in the hot springs in Calca?

DAY 7 – RIDE CHINCHERO, MARAS AND MORAY

A one-hour transfer will take us to 3750 m (12, 302 feet) and our first of three rides today. Each ride is on an old Inca trail and each one takes us down to the Sacred Valley, a beautiful verdant valley with interesting small towns and fascinating Inca attractions sites.

DAY 8 – RIDE PATACANCHA – PUMAMARCA

Today's ride is approximately 35 km long of super fun and narrow singletrack. We will stop for a locally prepared lunch in Patacancha Village.

DAY 9 – RIDE LARES INCA TRAIL

This is one of the best mountain biking trails in the Andes. This epic trail starts at an altitude of 4,350 m (14,271 ft.). We will pass different ecological zones and through a narrow canyon, and have great views of this part of the Sacred Valley. We will find this trail just as the Incas left it. Tonight we return to Cusco for our last night together.

DAY 10 – ADIOS!

We'll drive you to the Cusco airport if you choose to fly home today.

DETAILS

MAX GROUP SIZE: 10

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert local leadership
- Hotel accommodation (based on double occupancy)
- Breakfast, lunch and snacks
- Airport pick-up and drop-off in Lima and Cusco
- Private transportation and shuttling
- Domestic flight - Lima-Cusco return
- Detailed pre-departure info, trip planning assistance and Big Mountain t-shirt

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$250 USD

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

International airfare; personal travel and medical insurance; airport taxes and excess baggage charges; your bike and related equipment needed to ride; dinners and alcoholic beverages, personal items and expenses, optional excursions and lunch on Day 6, tipping to leaders and local staff. We recommend \$20-25 USD per day for dinners and extras.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

The **technical ability** required for Peru is rated as 'advanced and expert.' In other words, the trails are very technically challenging at times, with hiking sections and exposure. **There are long descents each day.** For **fitness level**, participants must be very fit. All participants must train accordingly to fully enjoy this trip. Even though we will be shuttling many of the rides and stopping quite often (to enjoy the view, take photos, eat and drink, wait for others, repair our bikes etc) – the altitude, jet lag recovery and accumulation of multiple, long days of riding will add up. **This trip is a true adventure with long to very long days** - the rewards are FANTASTIC.

BIKE AND EQUIPMENT

The perfect bike for this trip is a 6 inch all-mountain dual suspension with DH brake rotors. As we are doing lots of descending, make sure to ask us about tips on customizing your bike for this type of riding (shorter stem, fat tires etc). All participants are required to have their **bikes in excellent working order** before the trip begins. We will send you a detailed list of required equipment and clothing before departure.

LODGING AND FOOD

We stay in small locally owned hotels in Lima, Cusco and Ollantaytambo. All of our Peru hotels have and clean, comfortable rooms, private baths and hot water. We have tried to balance flexibility and convenience regarding meal options. For this reason, we include lunches as we are often traveling off the beaten path where restaurant choices are limited. In the cities and towns, there are a wide variety of restaurants – so we do not include dinners to allow our travelers the flexibility of choosing their own food preferences. Your guides will always recommend some great restaurant options and will usually offer to join any group members who would like to go out to eat together. Staple foods in the Andes include potatoes, corn, rice, and meat dishes, often with a spicy sauce. Please let us know if you have any dietary needs.

YOUR SAFETY

Our trips take place in remote to very remote regions with limited evacuation options available and there are always risks and hazards on the trails that we ride. If you choose to participate in our trips, it is up to you to ride well within your limits, to ride conservatively and to be safe as mountain biking is a dangerous sport. Participants must keep their bikes in good working condition, they must be hydrated and rested and alcohol and drugs are not permitted while riding. Our guides have basic first aid training and if a serious injury is suspected they will call helicopter search and rescue at the cost of the participant. Personal medical travel insurance is mandatory.

CLIMATE

As the equator runs through Peru, temperatures are quite warm. Altitude, however, will drop the temperature considerably. Expect temperatures of 25-30 degrees Celsius (78-86 Fahrenheit) in the towns and valleys, and temperatures of 5-15 degrees Celsius (41-59 Fahrenheit) at the highest altitudes. Temperatures can (infrequently) drop below 0 Celsius (32 Fahrenheit) at night in Cusco and Ollantaytambo.

THE NEXT STEP

Call us toll free at 1-866-894-0220, or email at info@ridebig.com to confirm that there is space on this trip. Then, fill out our secure online registration form on our website. Make sure that you have read and understand our Terms and Conditions and Waiver. Upon booking, we will send you detailed pre-departure information to make sure that you are well prepared for the adventure ahead.

WHY BIG MOUNTAIN IS YOUR CHOICE

Big Mountain Bike Adventures is the pioneer for performance XC, all-mountain, DH and freeride mountain biking adventures. We know that to find the very best trails, you have to ride with locals. We aim to provide safe, quality trips and the best customer service to our participants.

REFERENCES

We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travellers.

QUESTIONS

Feel free to call us at 1.866.894.0220 or email info@ridebig.com if you have any questions. We are here to help!

CONTACT Us

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