



Trip Itinerary

Peru: Unforgettable Andes

Type: all-mountain

Quite possibly the best mountain bike trip on the planet - 12 nights, 13 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!

Dates

Friday, June 6 to Wednesday June 18, 2008

Friday, September 12 to Wednesday, September 24

Land Cost

\$2295 Canadian

Joining In

Lima, Peru

(The last day of the trip is in Cusco. We have left this open in case you wish to make additional holiday plans in the Sacred Valley after the bike tour)

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 50 miles. Miles. 50. 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 ride the famous Megavalanche race course. 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.

Day 1 - June 6 / September 12 - 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 neighbourhood in Lima featuring great restaurants, shops and other attractions.

Day 2 - June 7 / September 13 - Pachacamac XC Trails

Today we'll set up our bikes, review riding skills and go for a short warm-up ride in Pachacamac, about 30 km outside of Lima. We will ride a total of 25 km in approximately 3 hours. Tonight we return to our Miraflores hotel.

Day 3 - June 8 / September 14 - Villa Quipan Downhill

Villa Quipan is located 180 km east of Lima on the Chillón Valley at an altitude of 3,650m (12,000 ft.). It takes approximately four hours to reach the start of this amazing trail. We will descend more than 3,000 meters (10,000 ft.) over 40 km. We will return to our Miraflores hotel for a final night.

Day 4 - June 9 / September 15 - Ride Olleros Downhill

We will pick you up from the hotel at 6:30 am and proceed towards the trailhead in the village of Buena Vista, about 230 km east of Lima. This is a full day tour to one of the most recognized DH / freeride trails in Peru. The last section of the trail is a 25 km traverse through a dried mud avalanche / riverbed, quite possibly one of the most unique and ridiculously fun sections of terrain you will ever experience. The ride ends at the beach. After a refreshing swim, some seafood ceviche and cervezas, we will proceed to our hotel in the Santa Eulalia Valley.

Day 5 - June 10 / September 16 - Marcahuasi Stone Forest

We will drive approximately 2 hrs to the town of San Pedro de Casta (3,150 m / 10,355 ft.). We will then continue with a 2-hour horseback "shuttle" to the Marcahuasi plateau. After visiting the pre-Inca graves, the fortress, the lake and all the rock formations at the top of the mountain, we start with the downhill trail. This trail has a vertical descent of almost 3,000 m (9,842 ft.) and will take us 5 hours to complete. We will return to our Miraflores hotel.

Day 6 - June 11 / September 17 - Transfer to Cusco. Saqsayhuaman DH
Early this morning, we will take the one-hour flight to Cusco, located at 3,350 m (10,991 ft.). After a morning spent relaxing and re-assembling our bikes, we will ride the Salkantay DH trail that starts near the top of the mountains above Cusco. It is an Inca trail that descends directly to Cusco crossing different attractions on the way including the famous Saqsayhuaman Fortress.

Day 7 - June 12 / September 18 - Chinchero to Maras and Moray Inca Trails

Today we will ride two different trails surrounded by fascinating landscapes and amazing Inca attractions. We will have time to visit the big colonial church and the Inca salt mines during the first ride. After lunch, we will start our second trail of the day descending from the Inca's round terraces in Moray to the Sacred Valley. At the end of this second ride, we will be close to Ollantaytambo where we will stay for our next days. For those who want to ride more, it's possible to get to Ollantaytambo on our bikes.

Day 8 - June 13 / September 19 - 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. Private guided tour of Machu Picchu, recently designated as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World? Rent dirt bikes and explore the surrounding Vilcanota Mountain Range? Visit the artisan market in Pisac? Soak in the hot springs in Calca?

Day 9 - June 14 / September 20 - Megavalanche Downhill Trail

Today we will ride the Megavalanche downhill course, where top ranked racers like Steve Peat, Cedric Gracia and Brian Lopes have raced in this famously chaotic mass start enduro downhill.

Day 10 - June 15 / September 21 - The Inca Trail & Pumamarca DH

This morning, we will ride a portion of the famous Inca Trail to Machu Picchu from the village of Ollantaytambo to the village of Chillca. We will start crossing impressive Inca terraces and then we will climb the mountain and have the Urubamba River at our right side that will give us impressive views of the valley and the Inca terraces of Ollantaytambo. We may encounter some trekkers that are going to Machu Picchu. After lunch in Ollantaytambo, we will shuttle to the upper part of the Patacancha Valley. We will reach the Inca site of Pumamarca, home of the first Inca: Manco Capac. Our ride ends in the streets of Ollantaytambo.

Day 11 - June 16 / September 22 - 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 have great views of this part of the Sacred Valley. We will find this trail just as the Inca's left it. After lunch in the town of Calca, we will return to Cusco and ride another Inca trail that ends on our hotel on the main plaza.

Day 12 - June 17 / September 23 - 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 masl (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 masl (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 masl (9,186 ft.). The views on this ride are impressive. At the end of the day we will return to Cusco for our last night together.

Day 13 - June 18 / September 24 - Airport Transfers

Details

Single Supplement
\$225

Group size: 10 maximum

What's Included?

- Hotel accommodation
- Breakfast, snacks and lunches (Lunch on day 8 is not included).
- Transfer from the airport to the hotel in Lima and Cusco.
- Private transportation and shuttles
- Expert leadership - two professional guides that will assist at all time
- One domestic flight from Lima to Cusco.
- Entrance fees to Marcahuasi Stone Forest, Moray, Maras and Huchuy Cusco
- Porters and horseback shuttle to Marcahuasi Plateau
- Detailed pre-departure information
- Big Mountain t-shirt

What's not Included?

- International airfare
- Return flight from Cusco
- Dinners and alcoholic beverages
- Optional excursions on Day 8
- Personal travel and medical insurance
- Tipping to leaders and local staff
- Airport taxes and excess baggage charges (if any)
- Your bike and related equipment needed to ride

Activity Level

The **technical ability** required for Peru's Unforgettable Andes trip is rated as 'strong intermediate and above.' In other words, the trails are technically challenging, with hiking sections and exposure. There are long descents each day. For **fitness level**, participants must be fit to 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 'freeride challenge' – the rewards are FANTASTIC.

Bike and equipment

The perfect bike for this trip is a 6-inch all-mountain dual suspension with disk brakes. 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.

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. All of our trips are designed in part by local riders and often guided with local riders and professional Big Mountain guides. 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

Big Mountain Bike Adventures
787 East Pender Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V6R 4R9 CANADA

Ph 604.730.2659
Toll Free 1.866.894.0220
Email info@ridebig.com
Web www.ridebig.com