Amazon and Machu Picchu

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES, NATURAL WONDERS

September 4 to 17, 2017
Ever since I was a child, I wanted to visit Machu Picchu. When I finally did, not only did I find the site spectacular and mystical, but I was also quite fascinated by the story of its accidental discovery. Even today, scholars do not agree on its purpose or why it ended up deserted. Some less scientifically inclined visitors call it a “power spot” or evidence of “extraterrestrial intervention!” When you visit the site with popular Stanford faculty leader John Rick, you’ll get as close to the real story as possible, with John’s expertise aiding your understanding of one of the world’s most enigmatic places. We’ve paired this ancient human-made wonder with one of natural history, the almost impossibly verdant Amazon River Basin, which contains more plant and animal species than any place on earth and still today contains many unknown parts. Come explore with us!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

CLIMB pre-Inca terraces at the Maras salt pans and ancient steps at the archaeological site of Ollantaytambo in the Sacred Valley.

HEAR the history of Machu Picchu and explore the ruins of this 15th-century mountaintop citadel mysteriously abandoned a century later.

CRUISE one of the largest tributaries of the Amazon River, the Marañón, for four nights amid the intimate comfort of Aria Amazon.

EXPLORE Lima and examine the finest collection of pre-Columbian art in Peru at the Larco Herrera Museum.
JOHN RICK, associate professor of anthropology at Stanford, fell in love with archaeology at the age of six while tagging along with his parents on a plant-hunting expedition to South America. His explorations of desert mud-brick cities and visits to sites such as Machu Picchu inspired a lifelong archaeological career. He has studied early hunter-gatherers of Peru’s high grassland plateaus and is currently working in the Peruvian highlands at the monumental early site of Chavin de Huantar. His research focuses on prehistoric archaeology and anthropology of hunter-gatherers, stone tool analysis, animal domestication and digital methodologies. One of our most popular faculty leaders, Professor Rick has led numerous Stanford trips to the Near East; Africa; and North, Central and South America, including 15 previous programs to Peru.

— Joined the Stanford faculty in 1978; associate professor, department of anthropology
— Has participated in archaeological excavations in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Illinois, Michigan, Mexico, Peru and France
— MA and PhD, anthropology, University of Michigan

“Machu Picchu ranks with other great treasures of nature and man’s endeavor to shape it. Professor Rick was authoritative, approachable and fun.”

MARY ORD, ‘71, MA ‘72, AMAZON AND MACHU PICCHU, 2015

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?amazon2017
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093

STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
U.S. / LIMA, PERU
Depart the U.S. on independent flights to Lima and transfer to our hotel upon arrival. WYNDHAM COSTA DEL SOL LIMA AIRPORT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
LIMA / CUSCO / SACRED VALLEY
Fly from Lima to Cusco after breakfast. Drive to the Sacred Valley, stopping along the way to enjoy lunch at a ranch that exhibits Peruvian Paso horses. Marvel at the flowing gait of these beautiful horses and watch a horse show accompanied by live music and traditional dancing. After checking in to our hotel, spend the evening at leisure. ARANWA SACRED VALLEY HOTEL (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
SACRED VALLEY
Travel to the pre-Inca Maras salt pans this morning to observe the traditional method of drying and collecting salt that has been practiced for centuries, and take an optional hike if so desired. At the archaeological site of Ollantaytambo, climb its terraces and learn about the methods of stone-carving and mortar-free construction that were used by the Incas. Enjoy the evening independently. ARANWA SACRED VALLEY HOTEL (B,L)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
SACRED VALLEY / AGUAS CALIENTES / MACHU PICCHU
Ride the train to Aguas Calientes, located at the base of the mountain atop which sits Machu Picchu, viewing spectacular scenery along the way. Once in Aguas Calientes, a bus takes us up to the iconic mountaintop citadel, abandoned by the Incas in the 16th century and rediscovered by Hiram Bingham in 1911. Learn about its history from our guides as we walk through the ruins. Return to Aguas Calientes, check in to our hotel and gather for dinner. INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
AGUAS CALIENTES / MACHU PICCHU
Today is at leisure and our options are abundant: travel back to Machu Picchu for more exploration and hiking or stroll down the streets of Aguas Calientes for picture-taking and shopping, visit the natural hot springs or enjoy the amenities of our hotel, including the extensive orchid garden located on the property. INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL (B,L)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
AGUAS CALIENTES / CUSCO
Take time to relax this morning before embarking the train that takes us back to Cusco. Arrive late this afternoon and check in to our centrally located hotel. Dine independently at one of the city’s top restaurants for a taste of fine Andean cuisine. ARANWA CUSCO BOUTIQUE HOTEL (B,L)
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
CUSCO
Begin with a morning at leisure to explore Cusco independently. This afternoon take a guided walking tour of the old town, visiting the Plaza de Armas, the cathedral and Koricancha, the Incas’ Temple of the Sun. Enjoy a relaxed evening for independent exploration.

ARANWA CUSCO BOUTIQUE HOTEL (B)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
CUSCO / LIMA / IQUITOS / EMBARK
ARIA AMAZON
Following breakfast, travel to the airport for our flight to Iquitos. Arrive this afternoon and embark our ship to begin our cruise along the Amazon River. Enjoy a welcome dinner aboard ship this evening, designed by its internationally trained executive chef, Pedro Miguel Schiaffino.

ARIA AMAZON (B,D)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
CRUISING THE AMAZON RIVER
Board small motorized skiffs after breakfast and enjoy an up-close exploration of the river and its inhabitants. As our skiffs wend their way down the river and our guides point out wildlife along the way, we may spot monkeys, reptiles and a variety of bird species close to our boats—an ideal outing for photographers and nature enthusiasts. This afternoon we have the opportunity to explore the rain forest on foot and learn about subsistence farming at a local village.

ARIA AMAZON (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
CRUISING THE AMAZON RIVER
Choose a full- or half-day exploration of the rain forest today. Depending upon one’s chosen level of activity, see various species of monkeys, macaws and toucans. Return to our ship this afternoon and share our experiences over dinner aboard. After the sun sets, our guides will help us spot caimans, tree boas and frogs when the captain turns on the ship’s searchlight.

ARIA AMAZON (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
CRUISING THE AMAZON RIVER
Rise early this morning and enjoy a light breakfast aboard our skiffs as we observe the early-morning activities of the river’s wildlife and perhaps spot the river’s famous pink dolphins. This afternoon our ship navigates through the Huaysi Canal to the Tahuayo River. There we will have the opportunity to spot sloths, hawks and other wildlife and to observe the river’s other inhabitants—humans! Spend time at Lake Charo, where we may try our hand at fishing for piranhas and other fish species.

ARIA AMAZON (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
IQUITOS / DISEMBARK / LIMA
Enjoy a relaxing morning aboard ship as we cruise back to Iquitos. Disembark after lunch and tour the bustling town, including paying a visit to a house built by Gustave Eiffel and stopping at the Manatee Rescue Center, where we learn about these gentle creatures from the resident biologists. Travel to the airport for our flight to Lima late this afternoon. Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel and enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

EL PARDO DOUBLETREE HOTEL (B,L)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
LIMA
Today is devoted to an exploration of colonial and modern Lima. Begin with the historical center, passing Plaza San Martin, Plaza Mayor, the cathedral and the government palace. Visit the residential districts of San Isidro and Miraflores, stopping at el Parque del Amor for spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. Our farewell lunch is served in a Victorian mansion overlooking the ocean. Following lunch, visit the Larco Herrera Museum, which features the best private collection of pre-Columbian art in all of Peru.

EL PARDO DOUBLETREE HOTEL (B,L)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
LIMA / U.S.
Transfer to the airport after breakfast for independent flights to the U.S. (B)
The custom-built Aria Amazon was launched in 2011 and was designed by Peruvian architect, Jordi Puig. The intimate 16-cabin ship has a luxurious feel with spacious cabins and common areas while retaining an intimate atmosphere. Guests will enjoy floor-to-ceiling windows that provide unparalleled views of the river. All cabins feature en suite facilities, sitting areas and individually controlled thermostats. The ship features a Jacuzzi, exercise room, observation deck and small boutique. The dining room has been decorated with Peruvian art and the menu was created by award-winning executive chef, Pedro Miguel Schiaffino. Please note that there is no internet connection onboard the ship.

Flag: Peru / Length: 147 ft. / Beam: 29.5 ft. / Draft: 5 ft.

Program Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified.

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*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
**Single accommodations may be limited to as few as 2 cabins.
Information

DATES
September 4 to 17, 2017 (14 days)

SIZE
This program can accommodate 26 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

INCLUDED
9 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 4-night cruise aboard the Aria Amazon • 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 6 dinners • Bottled water on excursions • Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities • All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Air travel within Peru • Port fees and embarkation taxes • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines between San Francisco and Lima is approximately $700 as of September 2016 and is subject to change without notice.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this program to be moderately active. Much of our touring is done by motor coach and ship. However some excursions involve short walks while others involve hikes that range from one to three miles. Daily tours in Lima and Cusco involve walking, often over cobblestone streets. Hiking in Machu Picchu is at your own pace and can be strenuous or slower-paced based on your preference. In some instances stairs are a necessary part of the tour and may not have handrails, particularly at archaeological sites. Cusco and Machu Picchu are at altitudes ranging from 7,900 to 11,200 feet above sea level. Our busy days are contrasted with the relaxed pace aboard our ship and at our luxury hotels, where daily excursions are complemented by lectures and leisure time. Travelers should be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age or older on this program.

Terms & Conditions

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip/amazon2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not aboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

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“Suddenly we found ourselves standing in front of the ruins of two of the finest and most interesting structures in the ancient America. The sight held me spellbound.”

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