

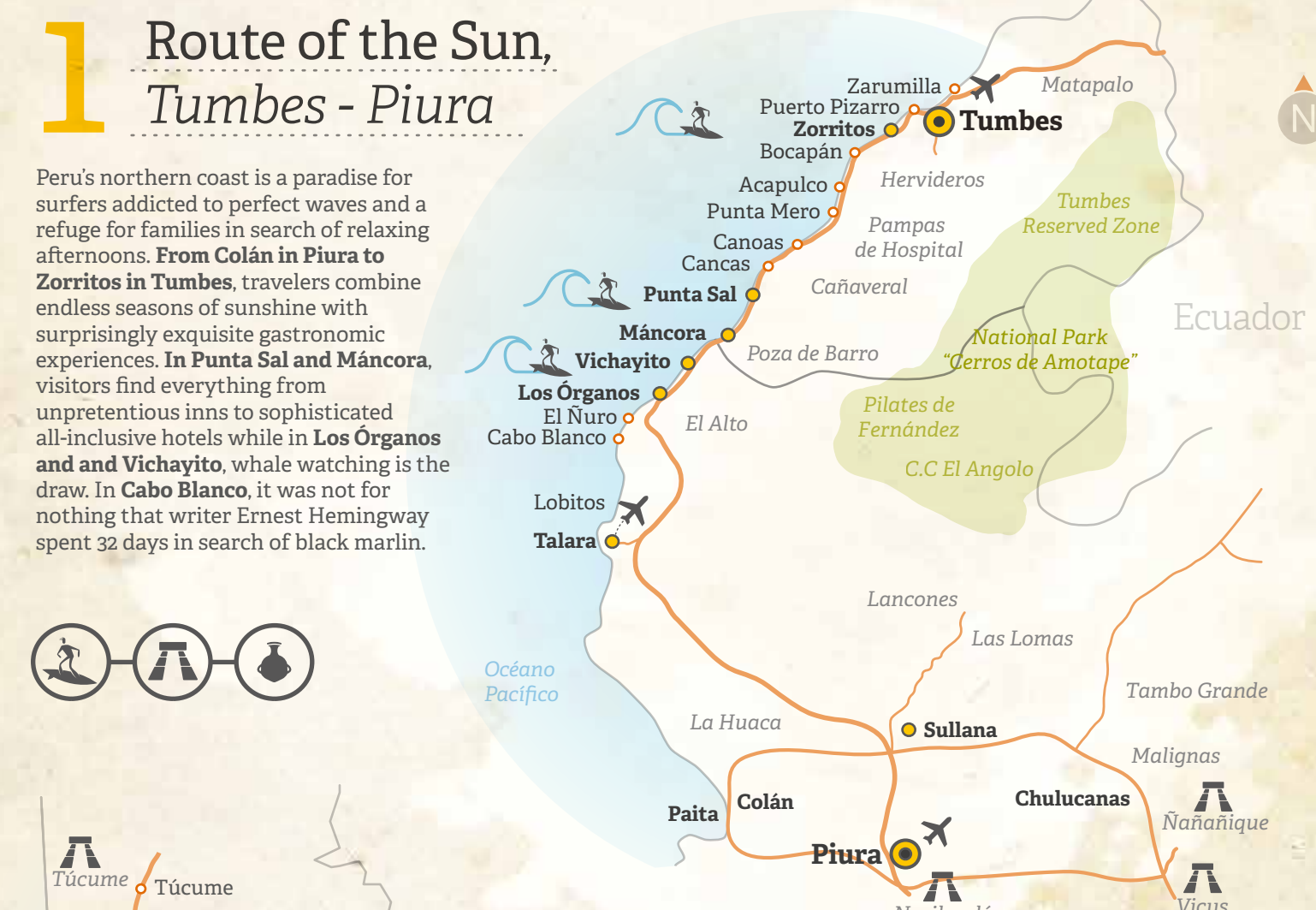
Peru, a country to discover

In Peru, it's possible to explore a wide range of coastal, mountain and rainforest routes. Travelers can head to northern beaches or enjoy the marvels along the path of the Colca Canyon in Arequipa. They can explore the islands of Lake Titicaca near Puno or, outside Cusco, roam through the incredible citadel of Machu Picchu. Whatever they choose, the experience will be unforgettable.

- Surfing
- Archaeological Sites
- Art and Cultur
- Sports and Adventure
- Living Cultures
- Adventure Tourism
- Flora and Fauna

1 Route of the Sun, Tumbes - Piura

Peru's northern coast is a paradise for surfers addicted to perfect waves and a refuge for families in search of relaxing afternoons. From Colán in Piura to Zorritos in Tumbes, travelers combine endless seasons of sunshine with surprisingly exquisite gastronomic experiences. In Punta Sal and Máncora, visitors find everything from unpretentious inns to sophisticated all-inclusive hotels while in Los Órganos and Vichayito, whale watching is the draw. In Cabo Blanco, it was not far nothing that writer Ernest Hemingway spent 32 days in search of black marlin.



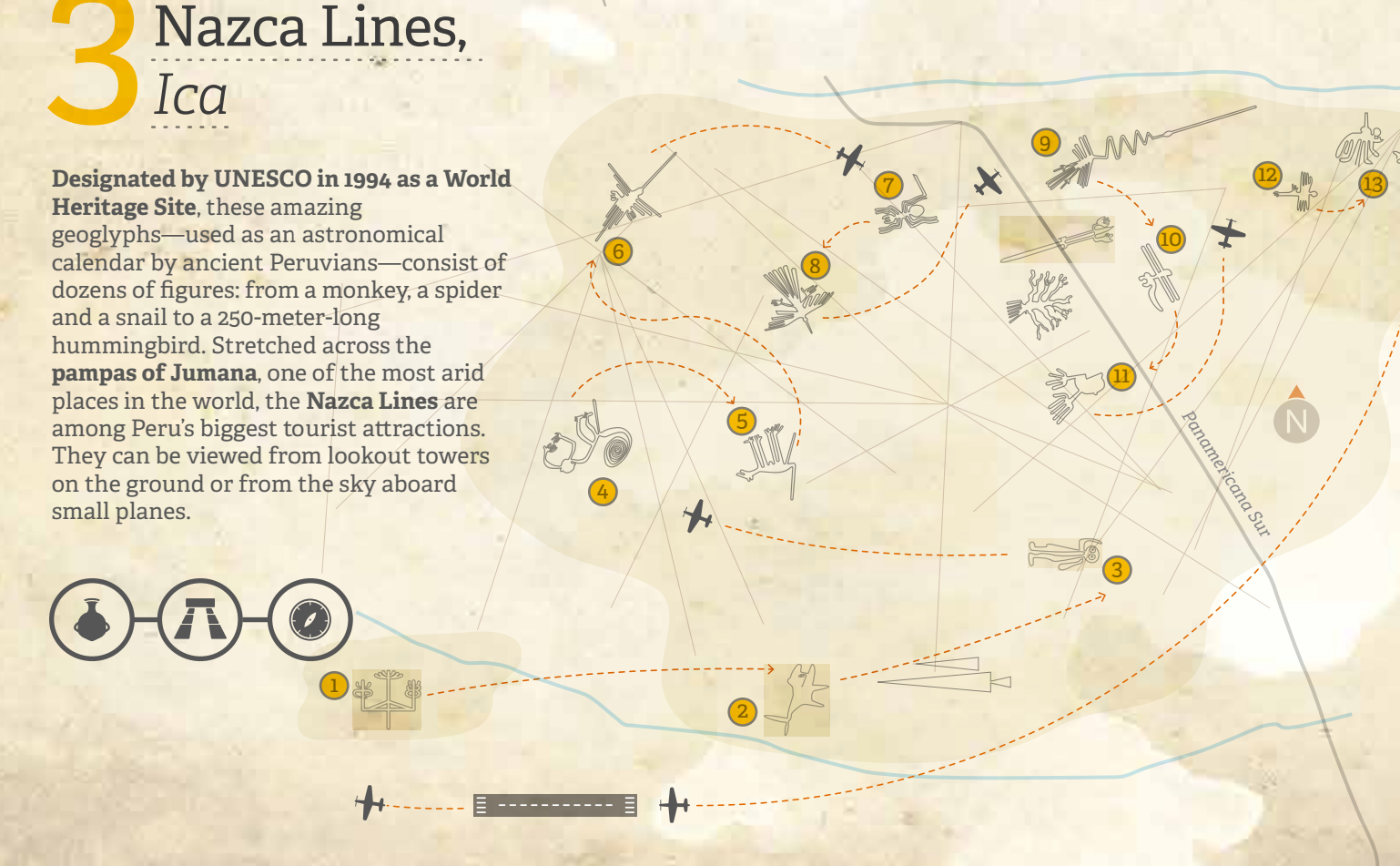
2 Northern Treasure, Lambayeque - La Libertad

To know Peru's ancient past is to understand its priceless culture. One circuit starts in Chiclayo with the history of the Lord of Sicán and, later, the Lord of Sipán—both immortalized in the Museum of the Royal Tombs, one of the world's greatest treasure troves—and ends in Trujillo, home to Chan Chan, the largest adobe metropolis in Latin America. Trujillo is also the gateway for visits to the Huaca del Sol and the Huaca de la Luna, pyramidal religious sanctuaries anchoring the capital of the Mochica civilization, as well as El Brujo complex where the mummified remains were found of an ancient female ruler, the Lady of Cao.



3 Nazca Lines, Ica

Designated by UNESCO in 1994 as a World Heritage Site, these amazing geoglyphs—used as an astronomical calendar by ancient Peruvians—consist of dozens of figures: from a monkey, a spider and a snail to a 250-meter-long hummingbird. Stretched across the pampas of Jumana, one of the most arid places in the world, the Nazca Lines are among Peru's biggest tourist attractions. They can be viewed from lookout towers on the ground or from the sky aboard small planes.



5 Kuélap, Amazonas

Build by the ancient Chachapoyas civilization, this impressive fort sits at the peak of a mountain 3,000 meters above sea level. It was one of the last holdouts against the expanding Inca empire. The complex is marked by impressive structures, including El Castillo, La Atalaya and El Tintero. Kuélap was erected in the 9th century to protect the palaces, temples and 400 houses of the area's ancient residents. Its walls embellished with complex geometric designs can still be appreciated today.



1 Tumbes



4 Colca Canyon, Arequipa

Colca is the second-deepest canyon in the world after Yarlung Tsangpo in China. Its northern zone descends more than 4,000 meters, and along its sides are pre-Incan farming terraces of quinoa, corn, barley and wheat. In the Colca Valley, churches reflect the cross-pollination of local and European architecture: at the Cruz del Cóndor, visitors can appreciate the magnificence of condors in flight. The canyon is a destination for fans of trekking, mountain biking, canoeing and other adventure sports.



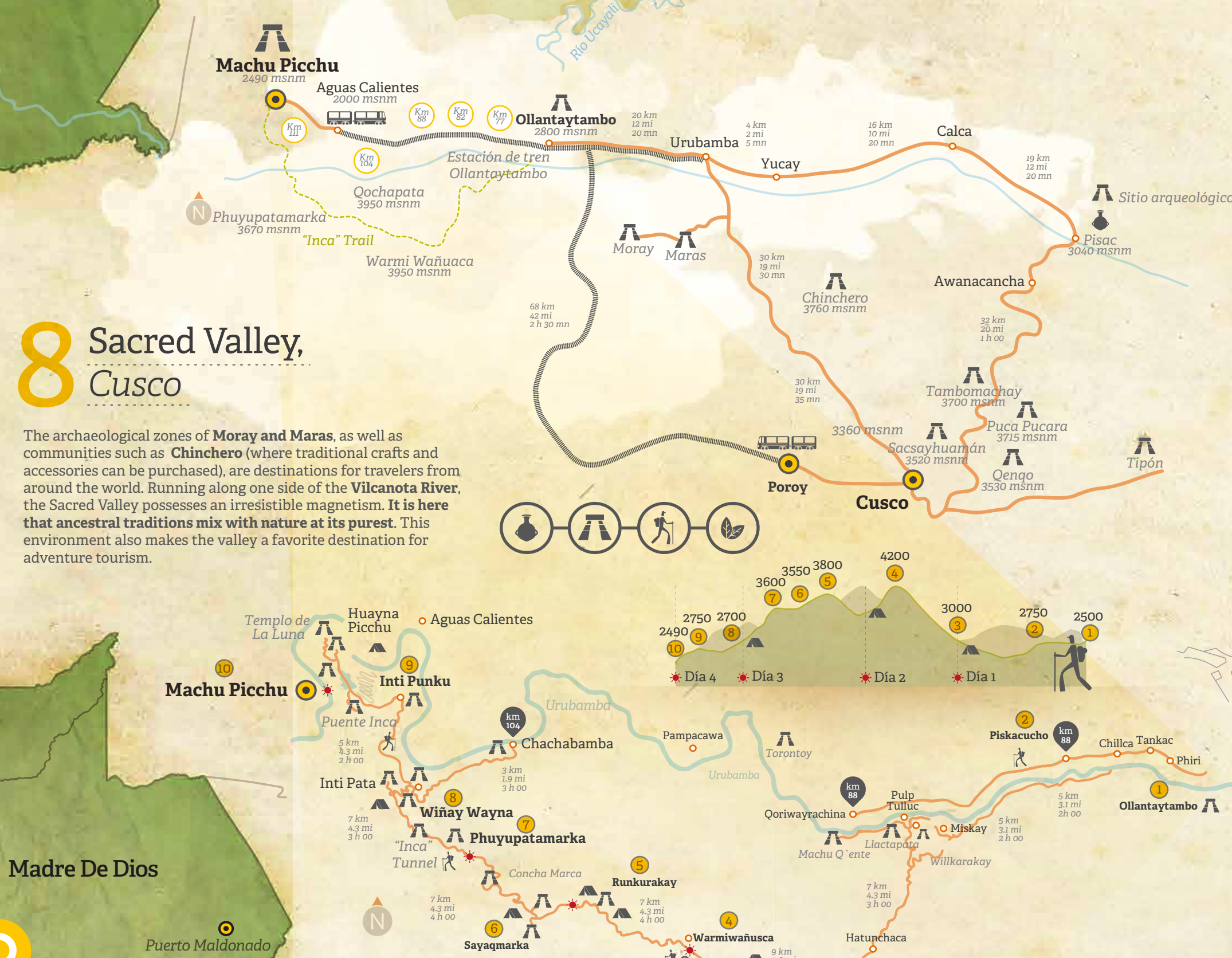
6 Pacaya Samiria, Iquitos

This expansive national reserve (2,080,000 hectares) covers 1.5 percent of Peru's territory, making it the most extensive protected area in the country. At 183 kilometers, it supports nearly 40,000 people spread among 208 population centers and is home to numerous species of plants and animals, many of which—such as the Charapa turtle, the giant river otter, the black caiman and the river dolphin—are in danger of extinction.



8 Sacred Valley, Cusco

The archaeological zones of Moray and Maras, as well as communities such as Chinchero (where traditional crafts and accessories can be purchased), are destinations for travelers from around the world. Running along one side of the Vilcanota River, the Sacred Valley possesses an irresistible magnetism. It is here that ancestral traditions mix with nature at its purest. This environment also makes the valley a favorite destination for adventure tourism.



9 Inca Trail, Cusco

It is the most famous trek in the Americas. Every day hundreds of people from all over the world walk along the 43-mile stone road built for the Incas and, after a three or four-day journey, they reach Machu Picchu. Along the way, the trail passes through a range of ecosystems and altitudes where a spectrum of flora and fauna can be seen.



7 Lake Titicaca, Puno

Tucked between Peru and Bolivia at 3,812 meters above sea level, this is the highest navigable lake on the planet. On boat trips that take less than 40 minutes, visitors can travel to the Uros, Taquile or Amantani islands. In addition to enjoying the area's gastronomic bounty, this is an outstanding birdwatching spot—frequented by migratory aquatic birds like the gullatlas and parihuana—and an area rich with fish, including suche and trout.



10 Machu Picchu, Cusco

Exploration of the citadel of Machu Picchu (which means "old mountain") is a journey to the center of history. But it is also a sensory trip. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983, Machu Picchu is one of the Seven Modern Wonders of the World. The thousands of visitors who ascend 2,490 meters above sea level to reach the citadel are motivated by a number of aspirations: to witness the majesty of its architecture and engineering, to experience its mystical—almost fantasy—ambience, to feel the energy of a place several centuries old or to simply visit a paradise that is literally in the middle of the clouds. Apart from the famous ruins, the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, a touristic area covering 32,592 hectares, contains nearly 10 percent of Peru's biological diversity: 401 species of birds, 19 of reptiles, 10 of amphibians, 13 of fish, 400 species of insects. In addition, more than 200 species of orchids have been found in the zone. It is truly a wonder of the world.

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Map of the citadel

Route through the citadel

