

## **4NT PRE-CRUISE: PUNO & LAKE TITICACA**

*Enjoy a day exploring the highest navigable lake in the world. Meet local villagers who make their homes on floating villages made of reeds. Visit the Sillustani tombs, whose construction has baffled experts for years .*

**Please note: Participants in this program should schedule their arrival flight into Lima, Peru.**

**Please check with your travel professional for details regarding Peruvian and Ecuadorian visas. It is the responsibility of each guest to obtain appropriate visa documents prior to cruising.**

### **DAY 1 - LIMA**

Upon arrival in Lima, you are met and transferred from the airport to the Westin Hotel. After check-in, the remainder of the day and evening are at your leisure. Lunch and dinner are on your own.

Overnight at the Westin Hotel - Lima, Peru

### **DAY 2 - LIMA / JULIACA / PUNO**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. A short flight to Juliaca lands you in the Peruvian highlands. En route to your hotel, stop and visit the Sillustani tombs. Sillustani comes from a Quechua word that means "fingernail" and refers to the peninsula on which the site is situated.

The highlight of this site are the chulpas (burial towers) of the Colla, an Aymara-speaking civilization that pre-dated the Inca occupation. Simple though these circular stone towers seem to be, the engineering that went into building them was quite complicated. In fact, to date, archeologists have been unable to rebuild one of the damaged towers. The consensus amongst the experts is that the Collas had a more sophisticated mortarless construction style than the Incas who invaded them in the 15th century. The towers, some of which are 40 feet (~12 m) tall, were used as burial chambers for the nobility, who were entombed with not just their worldly goods, but with their entire families.

Continue on to your hotel, located on a private island on Lake Titicaca. With a complete 360° view of the lake, this excellently located property connects you immediately to the stunning surroundings.

Dinner this evening is served at the hotel.

Overnight at the Libertador Isla Esteves - Puno, Peru

### **DAY 3 - PUNO (LAKE TITICACA)**

Enjoy a breakfast at the hotel this morning. Then, head out for a full day of sailing on Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. Depart early in the morning for the floating islands of Uros, where the

inhabitants still live as they did centuries ago. The artificial islands are made from the totora reeds that grow along the lake.

The name Uros was used to name a very particular ethnic group that coexisted in Lake Titicaca with the Incas, Aymaras and possibly with older civilizations. In fact, it is believed that the Uros were one of the first ethnic groups populating the Andean region. These people were simple fishers and bird hunters and preferred to remain isolated from the more advanced civilizations. Their search for isolation may be one reason why they decided to live in mobile houses on the lake. When the Spanish chroniclers encountered the Uros by the end of the XVI century, the Uros were still living on the lake in small reed-boats that they used as floating houses. Only in the early 60, did the Uros start to build small artificial islands with reeds for their homes. Nowadays, the reeds are still very important material for the Uros. They eat the reeds, build boats and houses with it, feed their few animals with reeds, and they use the reeds to make fire and cook.

Following your visit, continue sailing towards Taquile Island for a 30 minute hike toward a small town inhabited by Quechua speaking natives who have, over the generations, developed both an efficient and original social system as well as a refined hand weaving technique. In 2005, "Taquile and Its Textile Art" were honored by being proclaimed "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO. Taquileños are known for their fine handwoven textiles and clothing, which are regarded as among the highest-quality handicrafts in Peru. Knitting is exclusively performed by males, starting at age eight. The women exclusively make yarn and weave.

Lunch is served in a local house that serves as a restaurant. After lunch there's time to explore the island and appreciate the magnificent views of Lake Titicaca. After this trek, return to the boat and make your way back to the hotel.

Dinner this evening is on your own account.

Overnight at the Libertador Isla Esteves - Puno, Peru

#### **DAY 4 - QUITO**

Depart for the airport this morning for the flights (via Lima) to Quito.

**Please note:** LAN airlines made changes to their flight schedules after this program was published. You will now have a lengthy layover in Lima before continuing on to Quito. During this time, the local Silversea representative will provide you with a complimentary panoramic tour of the city, that will include a stop for dinner on your own.

Arriving in Quito very late this evening, you are met by Silversea's Ecuadorian representative and transferred to the hotel. For your convenience we recommend that you have a small overnight case for your immediate needs and check the balance of your luggage with the bell staff at the hotel.

Overnight at the J.W. Marriott Hotel - Quito, Ecuador

## **DAY5 - GALÁPAGOS**

After breakfast at the hotel early this morning, return to the airport for the onward flight to the Galápagos.

### **Program Inclusions:**

- ❖ One-night stay in a Superior Room at the Westin Hotel - Lima, Peru
- ❖ Two-night stay in a Superior Room at the Libertador Isla Esteves - Puno, Peru
- ❖ One night stay in a Deluxe Room at the J.W. Marriott Hotel - Quito, Ecuador
- ❖ Scheduled, Economy-Class flights: Lima / Juliaca / Cusco / Lima / Quito
- ❖ Meals: Daily breakfast; two lunches (one is a boxed lunch) and one dinner
- ❖ Transfers between airports and hotels in air-conditioned vehicles

### **Flight Details:**

Day 2 - Lima/Juliaca - approximately 1 hour 40 minutes

Day 4 - Juliaca/Lima - approximately 1 hour 30 minutes

Lima/Quito - approximately 2 hours

Flight durations may vary due to changes in flight schedules

### **Luggage Information:**

Luggage is restricted to a maximum of 44 pounds (20 kilograms) for domestic flights in Peru. Weight restrictions are very strict on domestic Peruvian flights; at the time of printing, overweight charges are US \$35.40 for overweight luggage/ \$70.80 per extra piece of luggage. Guests are responsible for any charges imposed by the airlines for excess or overweight luggage.

### **Visa Information:**

Please check with your travel professional for details regarding Peruvian and Ecuadorian visas. It is the responsibility of each guest to obtain appropriate visa documents prior to cruising.

### **Accessibility:**

This program requires participants to be physically fit and able to walk through uneven and/or slippery terrain. The sights visited on this program are not well-equipped for mobility-impaired guests; therefore, this tour is not recommended for guests with limited mobility and guests who utilise a wheelchair.

### **Vaccinations:**

Consult your physician for information regarding vaccinations or medications that may be appropriate for your state of health.

**Please note:**

Gratuities to guides, drivers and meals other than those noted in itinerary, are not included in the price of this program. Individual, personal expenses are not included in the price of this program.

This description is a general overview of this programme. Our local operator reserves the right to substitute other sites if local situations, including holidays and weather, require. The programme described in this brochure is provided by independent contractors. Silversea acts solely as ticketing agent. Silversea shall have no obligation or liability of any kind to guests for the business practices, acts or omissions in connection with or arising out of arrangements with independent contractors, including but not limited to airline carriers, ground-tour operators, and hotels since they are neither agents for nor employees of Silversea Cruises. Silversea's liability does not extend beyond the vessel.