

**December Intensive 2020**

**When: December 5th-17th, 2020**

**Teachers: Leigh Anne and Jason**

**Highlights: 4-day hike on the Inca Trail\* ending in Machu Picchu, ecovillage stay in the Amazon, exploring Cusco.**

**Cost: $3700-$3400, depending on the number of students**

**What the cost covers:**

All transportation

All lodging (5 Nights in Hotels, 3 Nights Camping, and 2 nights in lodges)

Travel Insurance (Required)

**Registration and Payment Schedule**

**April 15th: $700 deposit**

**Aug. 25th: $1500**

**October 1st: Remaining Balance (approximately $1300)**

**To register, fill out the attached registration Checks can be made out to Steller Secondary or payment made through parent connect.**

**form.**

Guides

Entrance/Admission Fees

11 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 5 dinners

Excludes: Other Meals and Tips for Guides

**\*Passports are needed ASAP to insure permits for the Inca Trail. If we are not able to obtain passports, there is another trail, that is an Inca trail, that we can go on and then take a train to Machu Picchu**

**Travel insurance covers the cost if students cancel due to illness or injury, but for other reasons (school suspension) 50% of the cost will be refunded.**

**Intensive scholarships are available and are due March 5th to the office.**

**For More Information:** Parent Meeting February 20th at 6 PM in Leigh Anne’s Room

Email bonney\_leigh@asdk12.org with questions.

Check out information about the tour company we are traveling with (Intrepid) and look at the Inca Trail and Amazon Adventure trip that ours is based on.

**Itinerary**

**Day One**: Leave Anchorage the night of Saturday the 5th at 9:45-Arrive in the evening of the 6th into Lima

**Day Two:** Dec. 7th: Lima- After the meeting, go on a walking tour of downtown Lima, one of the most beautiful cities in South America, and an optional dinner with your group. Be sure to get your hands in Peru's national dish of ceviche during your stay.

Accommodation Tambo I Hotel 3\* or similar Website: http://www.eltamboperu.com/

**Day Three:** Dec. 8th: Lima to Cusco- You'll say goodbye to the Lima local rep. Take an included fight to Cusco. After you arrive in Cusco, get acquainted with this charming city's intriguing blend of Inca and Spanish culture on a guided walking tour with your leader. Check out some of Cusco's main attractions, as well as its lesser-known sights such as the Qoricancha temple, San Pedro market, the main square, the 12 Angled Stone, Regocijo Square and San Blas Square. End the walking tour with a visit to the Chocolate Museum where you get to sample hot chocolate made from local cacao beans. There’s also a small store where you can shop handicrafts and artisanal chocolate products. Don't miss the opportunity to sample mate de coca (coca tea) while here.

Accommodation Awkis Dream Hotel 3\* or similar Website: http://www.awkisdreamhotel.com/es/index.php

**Day Four:** Dec. 9th: Cusco/Sacred Valley- Travel by private bus through the Sacred Valley for about two hours. Known as Wilcamayo to the Incas, the valley has been a source of livelihood to the locals for hundreds of years. You’ll see maize crops covering the terraced valley walls and the sacred river beneath. Stop for lunch in a local community, where you'll also get the chance to learn about their traditional lifestyle and maybe wrap your tongue around a few words of the Quechua language. If it’s market day, you'll have time to browse the local handicrafts on offer, such as beads and ponchos. Continue your journey to the town of Ollantaytambo where we check out the town’s archaeological site – a magnificent example of Inca urban planning – which includes remnants of an Inca city and soaring views over the present-day settlement. Spend the night in Ollantaytambo.

Accommodation Tunupa Lodge Hotel 3\* or similar Website: http://tunupa-lodge.com/es/index.php

**Day Five:** Dec. 10th: Sacred Valley/Inca Trail- Today travel by minivan to the 82 kilometre marker and meet your crew of local porters, cook and guide. The first day includes uphill trekking to the campsite, which is at 3,100 metres above sea level. On the way, you’ll see the Inca sites of Ollantaytambo, Huillca Raccay and Llactapata, as well as incredible views of snow-capped Veronica Peak. In the evening, unwind at the campsite with a nourishing meal.

Notes: The Inca Trail is within the abilities of most reasonably fit people, but please come prepared, as the trail is 45 kilometres long and often steep. Each day's journey generally consists of seven hours of walking (uphill and downhill), with stops for snacks and lunch. Trekking usually begins at 7 am (except on the fourth morning) and you reach the campsite around 5 pm. Accommodation on the trek is camping (three nights). Double tents (twin-share) and foam camping mats will be provided. The porters will set up the tents while the cook prepares meals.

**Day Six:** Dec. 11th: Inca Trail- This is the most challenging day of the trek as you ascend a long steep path (approximately five hours) to reach the highest point of the trail. Colloquially known as 'Dead Woman's Pass', Warmiwanusca sits at a height of 4200 metres above sea level, providing amazing views of the valley below. The group will then descend to the campsite in the Pacaymayo Valley at 3650 metres.

**Day Seven:** Dec. 12: Inca Trail-Start the day with a climb through the Pacaymayo Valley to Runkuracay pass (3,980 metres). Enjoy views of the snow-capped mountain of Cordillera Vilcabamba before descending for around two to three hours to the ruins of Sayacmarca. Continue over the trail’s third pass to the ruins of Phuyupatamarca (3,850 metres), also known as 'Town Above the Clouds'. Start the two-hour descent down the Inca steps to the final night's campsite by the Winay Wayna archaeological site.

**Day Eight:** Dec. 13: Inca Trail/Cusco- This is the final and most spectacular leg of the trek to Machu Picchu. The day starts before dawn with breakfast at 4am. Say farewell to the porters as they descend to the train station and then begin hiking by 430am. One the final checkpoint opens at 5am, begin the final leg of the trek. The walk to Intipunku (the Sun Gate) takes around two-and-a-half hours. Weather permitting, enjoy unforgettable views over the ‘Lost City of the Incas’ as you enter Machu Picchu through the Sungate.

Accommodation Awkis Dream Hotel 3\* or similar Website: http://www.awkisdreamhotel.com/es/index.php

**Day Nine/Ten:** Dec. 14th/15th: Cusco/Puerto Maldonado- Say goodbye to your Cusco leader. This morning you will take an unescorted flight to the frontier town of Puerto Maldonado in the Amazon Jungle, where you'll be staying for two nights. Upon your arrival, the lodge staff will take you to their office in town. Pack a small duffle bag with clothing and other items needed for two days in the jungle, stow the rest of your luggage and then travel by private vehicle to the water. Here, board a motorized canoe and cruise deep into the jungle. The journey to your eco- lodge in the Madre de Dios region will take around three hours, and you'll be given a packed lunch on the way. Arrive and settle into your thatched-roof lodge before a short orientation walk of the immediate area and a briefing. Spend the evening getting acquainted with the sights and smells of the jungle and fall asleep to the sounds of nature.

Accommodation: Explorer inn Lodge or similar Website: http://www.explorersinn.com/es/tambopata

**Day Eleven:** Dec. 16th: Puerto Maldonado/Lima- Travel back to Puerto Maldonado before taking a short flight to Lima (approx 2 hrs). In Lima you will be met at the airport by one of our local representatives who will accompany us. Spend the day in Lima.

**Day Twelve:** Dec. 17th: Flight home to Anchorage arriving around 8PM