



THE MONASTERIO RIDE



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3D/2N, Private ride.

Join us on our 3-day horse riding adventure in the Peruvian Andes. Ponchos, sombreros, delicious meals, Pisco Sours, excellent accommodation, with a combination of spirited purebred Peruvian Paso horses and the good company of passionate and experienced Peruvian horsemen make this ride an experience hard to forget. You will visit the salt pans of Salinas and other impressive Inca sites, pass through picturesque mountain villages, enjoy delicious picnics and ride through miles and miles of stunning Andean landscapes. The ride includes visiting the Village of Maras, Chinchero and Racchi and the Inca storehouses at Cheqoc. A 4WD vehicle serves as a backup to the ride. The Monasterio Ride is a private tour with no set departures (contact us for availability).



MARIA ZANS
HORSE RIDING HOLIDAYS

Itinerary

Day 1.

Pick up at 9 AM from your hotel in the Sacred Valley by private car and transfer to the ranch. Our riding operation is close to Urubamba, in the heart of the Sacred Valley, between Cusco and Machu Picchu.

Upon arrival you become familiarised with our beautiful Peruvian Paso horses and traditional Peruvian riding gear. To enjoy the journey, you should be a competent and experienced rider and be happy to ride a forward-going horse. Try a new way of riding, Peruvian style, and discover what makes the Peruvian Paso horse unique and special. You will be given a display of Peruvian Equitation by your host, Eduard (you will soon get to know him as Eddy), and by his Peruvian chalan (horse trainer). After riding instructions in the Classical Peruvian Equitation, we will evaluate your riding ability and match riders to their mounts, considering your horse preference. Your guide will also give a short briefing about safety instructions on the trails.

Around 12:30 pm, we will enjoy a typical Peruvian barbecue at the ranch. A Pisco Sour (our national cocktail) is part of the Peruvian tradition and, of course, included. After lunch, we will mount our horses and climb almost 800 m (2,600 ft.) to reach the Andean high plateau. The climb takes about two hours and at a slow pace, if possible (some horses like to rush too much with all their enthusiasm). Once at 3600 m / 11,800 ft., the stunning scenery and the snow-capped mountains of Chicon, Veronica and Pumahuanca are impressive. On our way up, we pass Salinas, the salt pans from Inca times, still used by the locals to extract salt from a mountain spring water. The salt pans consist of a series of platforms where the salty water is channelled through an impressive irrigation system and left to evaporate in the sun. Take plenty of films to capture this unique sight. We will ride to Maras, a typical Andean mountain-village where we meet our backup car and staff. We will leave our horses with our grooms at a safe place near Maras for the night. Our driver will bring you back to your hotel in the valley. You will spend the night at the Hotel Sonesta Posada del Inca in Yucay. After some rest and a hot shower in your hotel, we'll enjoy dinner at one of Urubamba's local restaurants.

Riding time: 4 to 4,5 hours approx., including the riding course.

Day 2.

Today we depart at 9.30 am to return to our horses that have spent the night with our grooms. We ride along mountain paths once part of the old Inca road and reach the village of Racchi around midday. The scenery atop the mountain trails is spectacular, but while we climb to even higher elevations today, we keep a slow pace to save our horses energy. Today the horses feel the change in altitude. We will meet our back-up team with a delicious picnic lunch at the village near Chinchero. After lunch, we continue our ride and cross the plains of Chinchero to Lake Huaypo. Because of the flat terrain we will have the opportunity to enjoy a faster pace of riding. You will be surprised how much ground the horses cover in the Paso Llano gait, the smooth and natural gait of the Peruvian Paso horse that equals the speed of a trot. At Lake Huaypo we climb again with the horses, pass some small mountain villages and see the lake from high above. We descend and ride along the lakeside to reach today's final destination, a small farmer's community where we will leave our horses in the caring hands of our grooms. Our back up vehicle will bring you to your hotel where you can freshen up and relax before we take you out for dinner in one of Urubamba's famous restaurants.

Riding time: 5-6 hours approx.

Day 3.

After breakfast, we will transfer you back to where you left the horses the previous day. Today we ride along beautiful trails high up in the mountains through agricultural lands and pass small farming communities. You will see women with their children herding their sheep and enjoy a glimpse of real Andean country life. The locals here usually speak Quechua, and though they have a hard life, they are very friendly and smile when they see us. We ride towards the agricultural terraces of Moray, where we meet our backup team again with our picnic lunch and food and water for the horses. Moray is an enigmatic Inca site where, hundreds of years ago, people in this region took four huge natural depressions in the landscape and sculpted them into levels of agricultural terraces that served as an experimental agricultural station for developing different crop strains. There are no other ruined structures in Moray to impress, except some foundations of constructions that might have served as storage. A visit to Moray is optional and if time permits.

From our lunch spot, we continue our ride and descend to the valley floor arriving at the ranch before it gets dark to enjoy a refreshing Pisco Sour or cold beer together.

A private car will bring you back to your hotel in the Sacred Valley late in the afternoon.

Riding time: c. 5 hours

The itinerary is flexible. Changes may occur due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances.

Dates & Pricing

Price

US\$ 1.450,00 (Price per person, 2 or more participants)

US\$ 190,00 (Single supplement, if applicable)

Price includes:

- Two nights at the Hotel Sonesta Posada del Inca in Yucay (based on double occupancy) with breakfast.
- Lunch, on day 1, 2 and 3. Dinner on day 1 and 2 (alcoholic beverages at restaurants are not included)
- All land transfers, including to and from your hotel located in the Sacred Valley.
- Two experienced trail guides and support team & 4WD back up vehicle.
- All tack including saddlebags, poncho, snacks and water bottle
- Entrance fee to the salt mines

Price does not include:

- Single supplement (if applicable): US\$ 190.

The trip price is based on shared occupancy of the hotel room, the so called 'Double Room' (two persons). The single supplement fee covers the extra cost for a 'Single Room' (one person)

- Alcoholic beverages at restaurants
- Entrance ticket to the archeological site of Moray (included in the Tourist Ticket or so called 'Boleto Turistico', valid for 2 or 10 days).

Dates and availability:

The 3-day Monasterio Ride is a 'private tour' and has no set departure dates. Please contact us for availability. Minimum group size: 2 riders.

Lodging

The Monasterio ride includes two nights hotel accommodation at the Hotel Sonesta Posada del Inca in Yucay.

The Hotel is only 5 miles from our stables, has comfortable rooms with private bathrooms and plenty of 'local colour'. The Hotel is a former 18th century colonial-style monastery and is surrounded by beautiful gardens.

Trip Details

Meeting Point

Clients will be met at their hotel in the Sacred Valley. You will be taken to the Maria Zans ranch by private vehicle. At the end of the ride (day 3) our car will bring you back to your hotel in the Sacred Valley.

Riders Requirements

Be comfortable in the saddle for four to five hours Be comfortable at the walk, trot and short canters. Be able to ride up and down steep hills. Be physically able to hike at high altitudes (9,000 - 12,000 ft)

Weight Limit

There is a strict rider weight limit of 85 kg / 13,4st. / 187 pounds. There are scales at the stables and riders will be weighed prior to the ride setting off. Riders exceeding our weight limit may be excluded from the ride and no refund will be made.

Age Limit

16 or older.

Horses and Tack

The horses are locally bred Peruvian Pasos. This breed dates back to the colonial era of Peru and originates from the Spanish Andalusians. Peruvian Paso horses are bred for their grace, spirit, and intelligence and are a symbol of their historic and noble past. These horses like to amble, moving fore and hind limbs on the same side at the same time, unlike other equine races that typically move diagonal limbs at the

same time. During the ride you will experience traveling on horseback at the smooth Paso Llano gait (4-beat lateral gait, between 8 to 10 Km. per hour). The horses are well cared for, strong, and even-tempered. The tack utilised is very traditional and demonstrates refined Peruvian craftsmanship. The hardwood hex stirrup and the guarnición, or tailpiece, are unique elements of the Peruvian tack. The saddle is a box saddle and has a deep seat.

Responsibilities

All care will be taken, but we assume no responsibility for injury, loss or damage in any way. Guests are responsible for having an adequate, valid insurance policy including coverage for all the sporting activities that they are likely to participate in. Appropriate medical insurance is obligatory.

Guests will be required to sign a waiver of liability at the start of the tour.

Single supplement

The price for each ride is based on shared occupancy. If you are traveling solo and wish to share accommodation, we will make every effort to find a roommate (always of the same gender). If you are willing to share and no roommate materialises, then the customary single supplement will apply. A single supplement is always applicable for participants who specifically request single accommodation.

Suggested Packing List

You will be riding at elevations between 2800 and 3750 metres (9,200 and 12,300 feet) therefore lightweight, warm clothing worn in layers is highly recommended. Dinner is casual; there is no need to bring special attire.

- Comfortable riding trousers
- T- shirts
- Long sleeved cotton shirts.
- Wind-bloc Fleece or jacket (for cold evenings especially at these high altitudes).
- Hat. We recommend a hard hat for riding and something with a wide brim is advisable as protection against the sun (baseball caps work well). Your hard hat must be secure on your head.
- Good sunglasses with a neck cord. Your eyes will become bloodshot if you do not wear sunglasses.

- Sunscreen and Lip Balm, essential because of the altitude and dry air. Suggest at least Factor 30, if not total block.
- Scarf/bandana, useful for protection against the sun.
- Leather saddlebags are provided for you. Each person has a set of saddlebags and carries what they need for the day. Jackets and ponchos can be tied behind the saddle so it is easy to put them on and take them off. We provide each rider with a warm Alpaca poncho on request.

