

4. PUNO & LAKE TITICACA



Puno was founded in 1668 and has been nicknamed the “Capital of Folklore.” The city is situated at the shores of the highest navigable lake of the world, Lake Titicaca. The “ocean of the Andes” provides food for many inhabitants of the region, as the lake creates a milder climate for crops and livestock. According to the legend, the Sun God’s children, Manca Capac and Mama Ocllo, emerged from the lake into the world to found the empire of the Incas. The lake remains mystical, full of secrets and leaves a lifelong impression on its visitors.

Puno & Lake Titicaca - Excursions

Transfer airport Juliaca – hotel or vv: on the way visit of Sillustani (3h)

From the Juliaca airport, drive to the archaeological site of Sillustani, located 35km (21mi.) from Puno. The impressive necropolis offers fantastic views on the shores of Lake Umayo. Sillustani is a pre-Inca cemetery with chullpas. These aboveground burial towers can reach up to 12m (39ft.) and are distinguished by a base that is narrower than the top. The Colla culture and following cultures like the Incas mummified and buried diseased noble families inside.

Transfer Puno - La Paz: en route visit the ruins of Tiwanacu

Transfer to the Desaguadero, where you say goodbye to your Peruvian guide and cross the border to Bolivia.

Welcome at Desaguadero (Bolivian-Peruvian border). Assistance with immigration formalities. Overland transfer to Tiwanacu located at 72 km northwest from La Paz.

The remains have been a very important ceremonial center between 1.600 and 1.200 prior to Christ. Admire the Akapana pyramid, the half-subterranean temple, the Kalasasaya palace and the well-known sun gate as well as the monoliths Ponce and Fraile with their carvings. Listen to the origins of the Tiwanacu and the importance of this culture for the whole region of the Andes. After the visit of a small local museum, you continue to your hotel in La Paz with new impressions.

Excursion to the Floating Islands of the Uros (3h)

Discover the uniqueness of the Uros, islands that literally float on Lake Titicaca, the world’s highest navigable lake. Meet resident families dressed in traditional and colorful outfits who will welcome you and show you their homes, boats, and islands made of reed. Every year, they replenish the islands with a new layer of reed and continue to maintain the Aymara language and other traditional ways of living.

Excursion to the necropolis of Sillustani (3h)

Drive to the archaeological site of Sillustani, located 35km (21mi.) from Puno. The impressive necropolis offers fantastic views on the shores of Lake Umayo. Sillustani is a pre-Inca cemetery with chullpas. These aboveground burial towers can reach up to 12m (39ft.) and are distinguished by a base that is narrower than the top. The Colla culture and following cultures like the Incas mummified and buried diseased noble families inside.

Excursion to the Floating Islands of the Uros and Taquile Island (8h)

Depart from Puno's dock towards the unique Uros islands that literally float on Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake. Meet resident families dressed in traditional and colorful outfits that will welcome you and show you their homes, boats, and islands made of reed. Every year, they replenish the islands with a new layer of reed and continue to maintain the Aymara language and other traditional ways of living. Continue your journey towards the island of Taquile. Be amazed by the elaborate pre-Inca terraces, unpaved roads where there are no cars, no electricity nor pollution. Learn about the people's unchanged lifestyles for thousands of years and their unique traditions based on community collectivism. On the island, men are taught to knit and women weave and yarn, blending these crafts into their unique social arrangements.

Excursion to the Floating Islands of the Uros and Taquile and Amantani Islands (10h)

Depart from Puno's dock towards the unique Uros islands that literally float on Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake. Meet resident families dressed in traditional and colorful outfits that will welcome you and show you their homes, boats, and islands made of reed. Every year, they replenish the islands a new layer of reed and continue to maintain the Aymara language and other traditional ways of living. Continue your journey towards the island of Taquile. Be amazed by the elaborate pre-Inca terraces, unpaved roads where there are no cars, no electricity nor pollution. Learn about the people's unchanged lifestyles for thousands of years and their unique traditions based on community collectivism. On the island, men are taught to knit and women weave and yarn, blending these crafts into their unique social arrangements. End your excursion on the east side of the Capachica peninsula. Amantani Island's highest point is at 4,150m (13, 615ft.) and the terraced hills provide space to grow wheat, quinoa, beans, and potatoes. There are approximately 800 families living on the island, and they are all very friendly and hospitable. Amantani artisans are renowned for hand-woven textiles and stone carving.

Excursion to Taquile Island (10h)

Take a boat ride from Puno and ride for about 45km (28mi.) to the remote island of Taquile. Be amazed by this matchless island with elaborate pre-Inca terraces, unpaved roads where there are no cars, no electricity nor pollution. Learn about the people's unchanged lifestyles for thousands of years and their unique traditions based on community collectivism. On the island, men are taught to knit and women weave and yarn, blending these crafts into their unique social arrangements.

Excursion to Amantani Island (8h)

From Puno, take a boat ride to the island of Amantani, located about 40km (25mi.) away, on the east side of the Capachica peninsula and north of Taquile. The island's highest point is at 4,150m (13, 615ft.) and the terraced hills provide space to grow various crops like wheat, quinoa, beans, and potatoes. There are approximately 800 families living on the island and they are all very friendly and hospitable. Artisans are renowned for hand-woven textiles and stone carving.

City Tour (2h 30min)

Start your city tour by visiting the Cathedral in Puno's "Plaza de Armas". Completed in 1757 by the Jesuits, the baroque style cathedral boasts a beautifully carved facade, a silver plated altar, and art from the Cusco School. Then, learn about the pre-Spanish invasion period in Peru as you visit the Dreyer Museum. The collection includes artifacts and art from the region, mummies, and a full-scale fiberglass chullpa (funerary tower). Head to the top of the cliff, to the Huajsapata viewpoint, and appreciate the views of the city and Lake Titicaca. End your tour at the Deustua arch, several blocks north of the main square. The stone arch was built in honor of those who fought in the battles of Junin and Ayacucho.

Excursion to an Aymara market (3h)

Head to a traditional Aymara Market where you will find a large variety of fruits and vegetables, as well as handicrafts. Stroll around and admire the colorful stands and the lively bustle of people's daily activities. Don't forget to follow typical bargaining customs with the stand owners, using trade rather than money.

Visit of the temple of Aramu Muru (6h)

Located near the city of Jaycu Marca, explore the temple of Aramu Muru, a carved portal made of gigantic flat stones, which is believed to be the entrance to another dimension. Discovered in the 1990s, the site dates back to pre-Incan times and offers spectacular scenery and a vibrating energy.

Excursion to the necropolis of Sillustani and Pomata (4h)

Drive to the archaeological site of Sillustani, located 35km (21mi.) from Puno. The impressive necropolis offers fantastic views on the shores of lake Umayo. Sillustani is a pre-Inca cemetery with chullpas. These aboveground burial towers can reach up to 12m (39ft.) and are distinguished by a base that is narrower than the top. The Colla culture and following cultures like the Incas mummified and buried diseased noble families inside. Afterwards, drive to the old Aymara town of Pomata. Listen to the town's many legends and admire the colonial church and the panoramic views of Lake Titicaca.

Excursion to Chimu and Chucuito (3h)

The tour will start with a visit to the native town of Chimu, where its inhabitants are experts in knitting totora (reed), which is harvest on the lake. After this visit of Chimu we will head to the historic town of Chucuito. In the Pre-Incan ruins, like in the Observatory Temple of Inka-Ullo, there where fertility ceremonies held in the ancient time. After a sightseeing tour with your guide, you will be transferred back to Puno to your hotel.