

Iron Road Rides

Peru Andes Charity Ride – Detailed Riding Itinerary

May 15–24, 2026 8 Riding Days | Approx. 2,000 km

Distances in Peru are deceptive. These are not highway miles. Expect long days in the saddle, constant elevation change, variable road conditions, and unforgettable scenery.

Pre-Ride Travel & Acclimation

Friday, May 15

- **Travel:** U.S. → Lima
- **Notes:** Overnight at Lima airport

Saturday, May 16

- **Travel:** Lima → Cusco
 - **Activities:** Arrival in Cusco, acclimation, orientation, ride briefing
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Day 1 – Sunday, May 17

Cusco → Moray Ruins → Santa Teresa

- **Distance:** 203 km
- **Elevation Range:** ~11,150 ft (Cusco) → 4,000 ft (Santa Teresa)
- **Ride Difficulty:** ★★★☆☆ (Moderate)

Ride Description:

We leave Cusco riding through the **Sacred Valley**, passing terraced hillsides and traditional Andean villages before reaching the **Moray ruins**, an impressive Incan agricultural site. From there, the road begins with long descent, changing climates, and increasing vegetation as we drop from high-altitude Andes into the subtropical jungle.

Expect cool mountain air early, warming rapidly as we descend. Roads are mostly paved but narrow, with occasional rough patches and livestock.

Highlights:

- Sacred Valley riding
- Moray archaeological site

- Dramatic elevation drop
 - First taste of Peru's riding diversity
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Day 2 – Monday, May 18

Santa Teresa → Hidroelectrica → Santa Teresa

- **Distance:** 25 km (ride)
- **Elevation Range:** ~4,000–6,500 ft
- **Ride Difficulty:** ★★☆☆☆ (Easy riding day)

★ Machu Picchu Day Visit (Signature Highlight)

This is a **lighter riding day** paired with a **full cultural immersion experience**. We ride to Hidroelectrica, then transition to foot/train access toward Machu Picchu.

The day is focused on exploring **one of the New Seven Wonders of the World**—a once-in-a-lifetime experience set against cloud forests and ancient stonework.

Highlights:

- Machu Picchu guided visit
 - Jungle terrain
 - Active recovery day before longer ride days ahead
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Day 3 – Tuesday, May 19

Santa Teresa → Andahuaylas

- **Distance:** 331 km
- **Elevation Range:** ~4,000 ft → 11,000+ ft
- **Ride Difficulty:** ★★★★★☆ (Challenging)

Ride Description:

This is a **big mountain day**. We climb steadily out of the jungle, crossing back into high-altitude Andes terrain. Expect long ascents, sweeping mountain vistas, and stretches of remote riding where you may not see another vehicle for miles.

Weather can change quickly at altitude. Roads vary from smooth pavement to broken sections, with truck traffic in places.

Highlights:

- Major elevation gain
 - Vast Andean landscapes
 - Sense of isolation and scale
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Day 4 – Wednesday, May 20

Andahuaylas → Puquio

- **Distance:** 349 km
- **Elevation Range:** ~10,500–13,000 ft
- **Ride Difficulty:** ★★★★★☆ (Challenging)

Ride Description:

A long, demanding day through **high Andean plains** and ridgelines. This stretch is remote and rugged, with wide-open spaces, strong winds, and fewer services.

You'll ride through small Quechua communities, past herds of alpacas and llamas, and across exposed mountain passes. Altitude fatigue becomes noticeable here.

Highlights:

- High-altitude plateau riding
 - Cultural immersion in remote villages
 - Endless horizons
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Day 5 – Thursday, May 21

Puquio → Cotahuasi

- **Distance:** 355 km
- **Elevation Range:** ~13,000 ft → 8,800 ft
- **Ride Difficulty:** ★★★★★ (Very Challenging)

Ride Description:

One of the **hardest and most rewarding days** of the trip. We descend toward the **Cotahuasi Canyon**, one of the deepest canyons in the world—deeper than the Grand Canyon.

Expect sustained descents, sharp switchbacks, rough pavement, and incredible exposure. This is technical riding requiring focus and endurance.

Highlights:

- Cotahuasi Canyon
 - Massive vertical drops
 - Iconic Peru riding day
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Day 6 – Friday, May 22

Cotahuasi → Ichupampa

- **Distance:** 290 km
- **Elevation Range:** ~8,800 ft → 12,000 ft
- **Ride Difficulty:** ★★★★★☆ (Challenging)

Ride Description:

A stunning day weaving through canyon systems and high ridgelines. The road climbs again into the Andes, offering wide panoramas and flowing curves.

Cola Lodge provides a remote and peaceful overnight, perfect for rest and reflection after consecutive big days.

Highlights:

- Flowing mountain roads
 - Canyon-to-ridge transitions
 - Scenic lodge stay
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Day 7 – Saturday, May 23

Ichupampa → Cusipata

- **Distance:** 332 km
- **Elevation Range:** ~12,000 ft → 9,000 ft
- **Ride Difficulty:** ★★★★★☆ (Challenging)

Ride Description:

We begin the day with an **early morning visit to Condor Canyon**, one of the most awe-inspiring natural features of the region. As the sun rises and thermals begin to form, we'll pause along the canyon rim to watch **Andean condors**—the world's largest flying birds—soaring effortlessly on rising air currents. With wingspans reaching over ten feet, seeing these massive birds glide through the canyon is a humbling and unforgettable experience.

From there, we ride on through **remote mountain roads and deep valleys**, settling into the rhythm of long-distance adventure riding. The route is marked by constant elevation changes, sweeping vistas, and a sense of vastness that defines this region of the Andes.

The day concludes with a scenic approach to **Amaru TreeHouse**, where rugged riding gives way to a truly unique overnight setting.

Highlights:

- Morning visit to **Condor Canyon** with condor sightings
 - Remote mountain routes and deep valleys
 - Big-sky, high-Andes riding
 - Unique Amaru TreeHouse lodging experience (subject to availability)
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Day 8 – Sunday, May 24

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Amaru → Cusco (via Rainbow Mountain)

- **Distance:** 80 km (ride)
- **Elevation Range:** ~9,000 ft → **16,500+ ft (Rainbow Mountain)** → 11,150 ft (Cusco)
- **Ride Difficulty:** ★★☆☆☆ (Moderate riding | High-altitude horseback ride optional)

Ride Description:

We depart early for a meaningful final day, riding toward the high Andes for a visit to **Rainbow Mountain (Vinicunca)**—one of Peru’s most striking natural landmarks. Reaching elevations above **16,500 feet**, this stop offers a final physical and visual challenge, with vibrant mineral-streaked slopes set against snowcapped peaks.

After time at Rainbow Mountain, we descend and continue our ride back to Cusco. The familiar roads feel different now earned through days of endurance, shared challenge, and unforgettable terrain. We arrive in Cusco with a strong sense of completion and perspective.

- **Be at the trailhead by 6:00 AM**
 - Optional short hike at Rainbow Mountain (weather and conditions permitting)
 - Group debrief, farewells, and departures begin
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Overall Ride Profile

- **Total Riding Days:** 8

- **Total Distance:** ~1,888 km
- **Max Elevation:** ~13,000+ ft
- **Experience Level:** Confident street riders; adventure experience helpful
- **Daily Saddle Time:** 6–8 hours including stops