



**LAKE TITICACA & ISLANDS  
WEEKEND TRIP**

There are several amazing weekend trips to get involved in during your time with PMGY in Peru. Travelling over the weekends is a huge part of the experience as it gives you the opportunity to explore the country with fellow volunteers on the program.

With PMGY volunteers being based in the urban environment of Cusco, they are usually able to organise trips independently without the need for our team to travel with them. There are many travel agents based in the city who can provide affordable and reputable weekend trip options to our volunteers, and they also allow for you to meet other travellers in Peru. As a result, we have found participants to prefer the flexibility to explore all the opportunities available to them once they arrive in Cusco rather than pre-organising trips only for people to want to change these plans once they arrive. You can therefore book weekend trips locally based on your budget, travel preferences and once you have met other volunteers on the program.

We have outlined a couple of popular weekend trip options to give you an idea of some of the trips you can get involved in during your time with us. We recommend participants adopt a relatively flexible approach until they arrive in Peru as participants will usually travel in a group and our team are a great resource to help you make plans! Sometimes Machu Picchu and the Inca Trail itineraries need to be arranged in-advance so these may require additional planning before you arrive in Peru.

It is common for volunteers to make weekend trip plans for a 3 day period when travelling further afield. This will mean choosing to miss a day from your volunteer project. Subsequently, you should give as much notice as possible to the local team and staff at the project to ensure they can approve your plans before you make any trip commitments and make alternative arrangements if necessary.

For those looking to delve further into the Andes, then this weekend trip is for you! Straddled within the border of Peru and Bolivia is Lake Titicaca, the base for your weekend. Referred to as the birthplace of the Incas, it is one of South America's largest lakes and home to many ruins.

Across the weekend, we will explore a range of fascinating and historic Islands that encompass the famous bright and reflective waters of Lake Titicaca. Amantani Islands, Taquille Island and Uros Floating Islands will all be ticked off across a busy weekend schedule!

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - TRAVEL DAY

You will have the day to continue your project commitments as normal as we will not depart Cusco until the evening time. After your evening meal in your homestay in Cusco, you will then report to the main square in Cusco (Plaza de Armas) as we group together and make the short

journey to Cusco's bus terminal to take the overnight bus to Puno. It will be a bed-seat bus and Puno will act as the gateway to Lake Titicaca and the islands.



### DAY 2 - AMANTANI ISLAND

We will arrive into Puno at approximately 05:30am. You will be collected from Puno's bus terminal and get a chance to refresh and relax at a nearby partner hostel. After some downtime, we will head to the port of Puno to take a motorboat heading for Amantani Island located around 25 miles from Puno.

The island here is one of the most beautiful Islands that are home to Lake Titicaca. Preserving the traditions of the old empire, you will get the chance to soak up in one of the most important cultural heritages of South America as you take in climbing plants, cultural relics and large numbers of pre-Hispanic constructions. Amantani Island is home to around 800 indigenous families, one of which you will spend your overnight stay with to further embrace the traditions and customs the island basks in.



### DAY 3 - TAQUILLE ISLAND & UROS FLOATING ISLANDS

After a farewell breakfast at the local family house on Amantani Island, it is now time to jump back on the boat as we travel to Taquille Island for your guided visit. A remote island located in the middle of Lake Titicaca, it is inhabited by the indigenous Aymara people who have their own special traditions and customs as well as a range of ancient sites and picturesque views to take in. On the island, we will visit the infamous plaza on the island

and pop into some textile workshops for any traditional souvenirs you wish to pickup.

We will then finish the trip and tour with a trip across to the floating islands of Uros which are also part of the Titicaca National Reserve. The Islands are home to the Uros tribe which existed before the Incan civilization era and you will receive a guided tour of the island as you visit the Uros community and learn about the history and traditions of this unique indigenous race.

We will then return to Puno for the evening time as we take the overnight bus back to Cusco. Estimated arrival time back into Cusco will be around 5:30am where you can make your way back to your homestay and continue your rest and recovery from a busy weekend!



## ACCOMMODATION

You will spend two nights on an overnight bus between Cusco and Puno on a bed-seat bus. The middle night in between you will spend at a local family homestay on Amantani Island. The accommodation will be quite basic and authentic as you embrace the cultural experience so do not expect amenities like hot showers and Wi-Fi.

## MEALS

You'll be provided with one breakfast, lunch and dinner across the guided tours. You will have dinner at your homestay Friday night before departing for the trip and return to your homestay Monday morning for breakfast. Other meals are not included across the weekend and will need to be budgeted for. The trip guide will be on hand to recommend some good places to eat across the trip. Water or any soft drinks are at own expense.

## TRANSPORT

We will transport you by a comfortable and reliable tourist bus from Cusco to Puno. From Puno to the Islands on Lake Titicaca your boat transfers are included and arranged. You will have English-speaking tour guides to take you around the three Islands.