Andean Textiles: From Ancient Traditions to Living Arts

A Special Journey through Peru with Andean Textile Arts and the Boundary End Archaeology Research Center

June 7–20, 2027





Trip Highlights

Join Andean Textile Arts and the Boundary End Archaeology Research Center for an extraordinary journey through Peru exploring the remarkable textile traditions of the Andes, from the ancient civilizations of Peru's north coast to today's Indigenous weaving communities of the Cusco highlands.

This special tour brings together archaeology, ancient textiles, contemporary Indigenous textile arts, and the landscapes and communities in which these traditions have developed and endured. Traveling from Lima and the archaeological treasures of northern Peru to the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, and the highlands surrounding Cusco, participants will have exceptional opportunities to encounter Andean textiles in museums, at archaeological sites, and as a vibrant, living tradition practiced today.

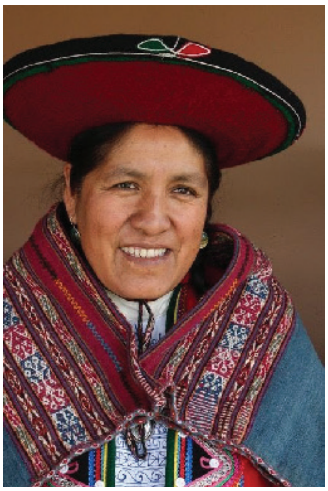
ATA ANDEAN TEXTILE ARTS

BOUNDARY END ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH CENTER www.boundaryend.com

Meet the Experts



Dr. Jeffrey C. Splitstoser is assistant research professor of anthropology at the George Washington University and vice president of the Boundary End Archaeology Research Center. He has studied ancient Andean textiles for over 20 years, having recently discovered (with Tom Dillehay, Jan Wouters, and Anna Claro) the world's earliest known use of indigo blue in a 6,200-year-old cotton textile from the prehistoric site of Huaca Prieta. Dr. Splitstoser specializes in Wari "khipus," colored and knotted string devices that Andean peoples used to record information. He co-curated (with Juan Antonio Murro) the exhibition *Written in Knots: Undeciphered Records of Andean Life* at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. Dr. Splitstoser's research includes reproducing the khipus and textile structures he encounters: processing, spinning and dyeing the fibers, as well as growing cotton and dye plants. Dr. Splitstoser received a Ph.D. in anthropology from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.



Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez is an internationally recognized authority on traditional Andean textiles. Born in Chinchero, Peru, her lifelong connection to the fiber world began as a child while shepherding and learning the foundational arts of spinning and weaving. She studied at the National University of San Antonio Abad and has published several books. In 1996, Callañaupa Alvarez founded the Centro de Textiles Tradicionales del Cusco (CTTC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the revitalization and preservation of ancient Andean textile traditions. Under her leadership, the CTTC has grown to support 10 distinct weaving communities, ensuring that ancestral techniques are passed down to future generations.

Arabel Fernández López is a Peruvian conservator and scholar of ancient Andean textiles. She was a Fellow in Conservation and Scientific Research at The Met for two years (2018–2020). She has been a member of numerous archaeological projects, including the multiyear initiative at Huaca Cao Viejo, where she also participated in setting up the site museum.



Local Guide



Raul Jaimes Callañaupa grew up in the village of Chinchero, Peru, as the child and grandson of weavers, and received his degree in tourism from the University of San Antonio Abad. After 24 years leading tours in the Andes, he opened his own agency, Day Hikes and Self-Guided Tours Peru (D.H.S.G), in 2014. In 2004 he was named one of the "Best of the Best" tour guides by Overseas Adventure Travel. As a Quechua person, leading tours in the Andes is close to his heart: "My people are descendants of the Incas, a great civilization. But globalization is killing our culture. So I love to share my culture now."

Trip Details

Registration

Trip Price: $6,184 (16-20 people)/$6,772 (12-15 people) per person double occupancy

PLUS an $800 per person tax deductible donation to ATA and BEARC.

A **$1,250 deposit** is required at the time of reservation. This includes the $800 tax-deductible donation.

Trip Duration: 14 days, 13 nights

Group Size: 20 participants maximum

How to Reserve

Email us at tours@andeantextilearts.org to express your interest and we will send you:

- Registration and Trip Information
- Registration Form
- Conditions and Responsibilities
- Liability Release

Please review the Conditions and Responsibilities, including the physical requirements for this trip, before submitting your deposit.

Trip Costs Include

- 13 nights at hotels
- All breakfasts (at hotels), 12 lunches, and 5 dinners
- Arrival and departure assistance at Lima airport with hotel transfer
- Four domestic flights: Lima to Trujillo, Chiclayo to Lima, Lima to Cusco, and Cusco to Lima
- Private ground transportation
- Vistadome train to and from Machu Picchu
- Entrance fees for the sites mentioned in the itinerary (Amano Museum, Larco Herrera Museum, Huaca de la Luna site and museum, Chan Chan site, Huanchaco site, Archaeology Museum of Trujillo, MAM, Lady of Cao site and museum, Lord of Sipán, Sacred Valley sites, Machu Picchu, Cusco Cathedral, and Qorikancha)
- Local guides for Lima, and Trujillo to Chiclayo
- Tips for the assistant guide in Cusco
- Textile experts and tour leaders all along the trip
- Tips for included meals, drivers, hotel staff, and local guides
- Donations for the visited weaving communities
- Water throughout trip

Not Included

- International Airfare to/from Lima
- Travel and health insurance
- Meals not included as indicated in the day-by-day itinerary
- Visas and vaccinations
- Personal expenses such as alcoholic beverages and laundry services
- Tip for main guide

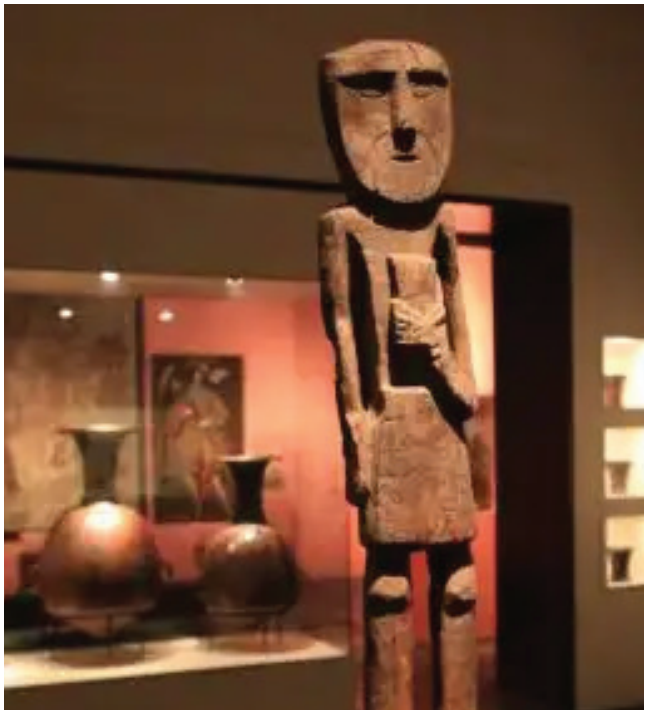
Physical Requirements

Due to the geography of Peru, from sea level in Lima and the coast to 13,340 ft. above sea level with an average altitude of 10,000 ft., the tour requires some physical preparation and ability. At times, we may be walking 1 to 2+- miles daily, often over uneven surfaces which you will need to be able to do independently. You will also need to carry your own suitcase and belongings at times (although there is porter service at hotels).

WELCOME TO PERU



"Huaca Cao Viejo, El Brujo" by BluesyPete, licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0



June 7: Flight to Lima

Flight times vary from your home city, so you may arrive on June 7 or early morning on June 8. You will be met at the airport and escorted to our hotel, Jose Antonio (or similar), in the Miraflores area of Lima.

Overnight at Hotel Jose Antonio or similar. Hotel check-in is after 3:00 PM.

June 8: Lima and Orientation

Our tour begins with a group briefing, and in the evening we'll gather for our welcome dinner at La Rosa Nautica, an elegant restaurant set on a jetty with views of the ocean and the city of Lima.

Includes breakfast, lunch, and welcome dinner. Overnight at Hotel Jose Antonio or similar.

June 9: Larco Herrera Museum and Amano Museum

We'll enjoy a guided visit to the Larco Herrera Museum, home to one of the world's finest collections of pre-Columbian art, including the famous galleries of Moche ceramics and pre-Hispanic gold and silver work. With a private guided visit at the Amano Museum, we will learn about and see the incredible pre-Columbian textiles that form the basis for much of the revitalization work of the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco. In the evening, we will enjoy a downtown walking tour.

Includes breakfast and lunch. Dinner on your own. Overnight at Hotel Jose Antonio or similar.



June 10: Trujillo and Museum of Modern Art

We'll take a mid-morning flight to Trujillo. After checking in to the hotel, we'll visit the Museum of Modern Art (MAM) to see its pre-Columbian collections and watch a demonstration of traditional spinning and weaving by weavers from San Ignacio de Loyola, a community located east of Trujillo, Peru, at roughly 11,000 feet in elevation, that practices an unbroken, complex backstrap weaving tradition using multiple heddle sticks—sometimes up to twenty-four or more—to create traditional patterned corn belts known as *faja sara*. In the afternoon, we'll visit either Huanchaco, an active excavation, or the University of Trujillo to see the archaeological textiles from Huaca Prieta, the oldest known textiles decorated with indigo blue.

Includes breakfast and lunch. Dinner on your own. Overnight at Hotel Casa Andina or similar.

June 11: Chan Chan and Trujillo

In the morning, we'll visit the expansive archaeological site and museum of Chan Chan, former capital of the Chimú Empire, ca. 900 to 1470 CE. The afternoon is free to either relax in Trujillo or visit the site and museum of Huacas de Moche, a massive archaeological complex built by the Moche civilization between the 1st and 8th centuries CE that likely served as the political and religious capital of the culture.

Includes breakfast and lunch. Dinner on your own. Overnight at Casa Andina or similar.



"Chan Chan Archaeological Zone-110903" by Jim Williams, licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO

June 12: Chicama Valley

We'll travel to the Chicama Valley to visit the Moche archaeological site and museum of Huaca Cao Viejo (El Brujo), where we will see the extraordinary array of artifacts and offerings interred with the Lady of Cao, a powerful female ruler whose tomb, discovered in 2006, revealed her as one of the earliest known women to hold supreme political power in ancient Peru. Afterward, we'll drive to Chiclayo.

Includes breakfast and lunch. Dinner on your own. Overnight at Casa Andina or similar.



"Tomb of the Guardian, Sipán" by Bernard Gagnon, licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

June 13: Sipán and Túcume

We'll visit the archaeological site and museum of Sipán, a famous Moche civilization complex in the Lambayeque Valley. It is renowned for yielding the intact royal tomb of the Lord of Sipán, considered one of the richest burial finds in the Americas. We'll also see a demonstration of traditional, pre-Hispanic spinning and weaving techniques that were passed down through generations in the Lambayeque region, including the practice of spinning naturally colored cotton with a horizontal spindle. In the afternoon, we'll explore the archaeological site of Túcume, the former capital and major religious center of the Lambayeque (Sicán) culture, ca. 1100 CE.

Includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Overnight at Casa Andina or similar.

June 14: Flight to Cusco

After breakfast in the hotel, fly with our group to Cusco and enjoy your first aerial view of the Andes. After a short transfer from the Cusco airport and lunch, we'll continue to the magnificent Sacred Valley, our charming hotel in Urubamba, and an incredible dinner.

Includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Night at San Augustin Recoleta or similar.

Elevation: 9,700 ft. above sea level.

June 15: Ollantaytambo and Accha Alta



Explore this superbly preserved Inka town of Ollantaytambo with its unique Sun Temple built with pink granite boulders, an exquisite example of Inka fine stonework. From here, we drive to the Accha Alta center where the community members raise alpacas and use their fleeces for spinning, weaving and knitting. Nestled on a steep mountain slope close to the ruins of Ankasmarka, an ancient Incan citadel. Afterwards, we will descend back into the Sacred Valley.

Includes breakfast and community lunch. Dinner on own. Hotel San Augustin Recoleta or similar.

Elevation: 9,700 ft. above sea level.

June 16: Chinchero and Natural Dye Workshop

This morning we will travel to Nilda Callañaupa's hometown of Chinchero and the beautiful weaving center there. We'll participate in a natural dye workshop and create our own yarn palette using traditional plants, as well as the famed cochineal beetle known for its beautiful reds. We'll have an opportunity to visit unique textile exhibits, explore a recreated traditional Andean weaving home, and take time for shopping in their exemplary store. Our lunch today will be a traditional meal sampling the typical daily food of a weaver in the Andes, and the special opportunity to try guinea pig, which is served for special occasions.

Includes breakfast and traditional lunch. Dinner on own. Hotel San Augustin Recoleta or similar.

Elevation: 9,700 ft. above sea level.



June 17: Machu Picchu

Board the Vistadome train and travel along the Urubamba River as it tumbles down to the jungle. Catch a glimpse of the Inca Trail and snow-capped peaks. After arriving at the riverside town of Aguas Calientes, we check in to the 5-star Inka Terra Hotel for an early lunch, followed by an afternoon guided tour of Machu Picchu. Machu Picchu is the only major Inca site to escape 400 years of looting and destruction by the Spanish conquistadors due to its inaccessible location high above the Urubamba Gorge. It is an iconic site recognized and revered the world over.

Includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Hotel Inka Terra Pueblo.

Elevation: 7,200 ft. above sea level.

June 18: Train to Cusco

We leave Machu Picchu pueblo and wind our way to Cusco, once the capital of the Inca Empire, and now known for its archaeological remains and Spanish colonial architecture. In the afternoon, we will visit the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco, the heart of our weaving organization, next to the Qorikancha, or "Golden Enclosure," the most important temple in the Inca Empire.

Includes breakfast and lunch. Dinner on own. Overnight in Cusco at Hotel Novotel or similar.

11,000 ft. above sea level.



June 19: Sacsayhuaman

After breakfast, we start our day at Sacsayhuaman, the Inca fortress with its commanding view of the city of Cusco. Built of massive boulders, some weighing more than 100 tons, Sacsayhuaman is a testimony to the Inca's mastery of stonework. Descending into Cusco, we will walk through the spiritual and political capital of the Inca Empire. We'll tour important temples, including the Qorikancha, and the Cusco Cathedral.

Includes breakfast, lunch, and farewell dinner. Overnight in Cusco at Hotel Novotel or similar.



June 20: Return Home

On our last full day in Cusco, there will be time to discover more of Cusco's awesome museums, shops, and galleries. You can also take a hands-on workshop in weaving or knitting—these options will be shared beforehand. Late afternoon flight to Lima and/or overnight flight home.

Includes breakfast.



SEE YOU IN PERU

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For further information, contact us at
tours@andeantextilearts.org

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