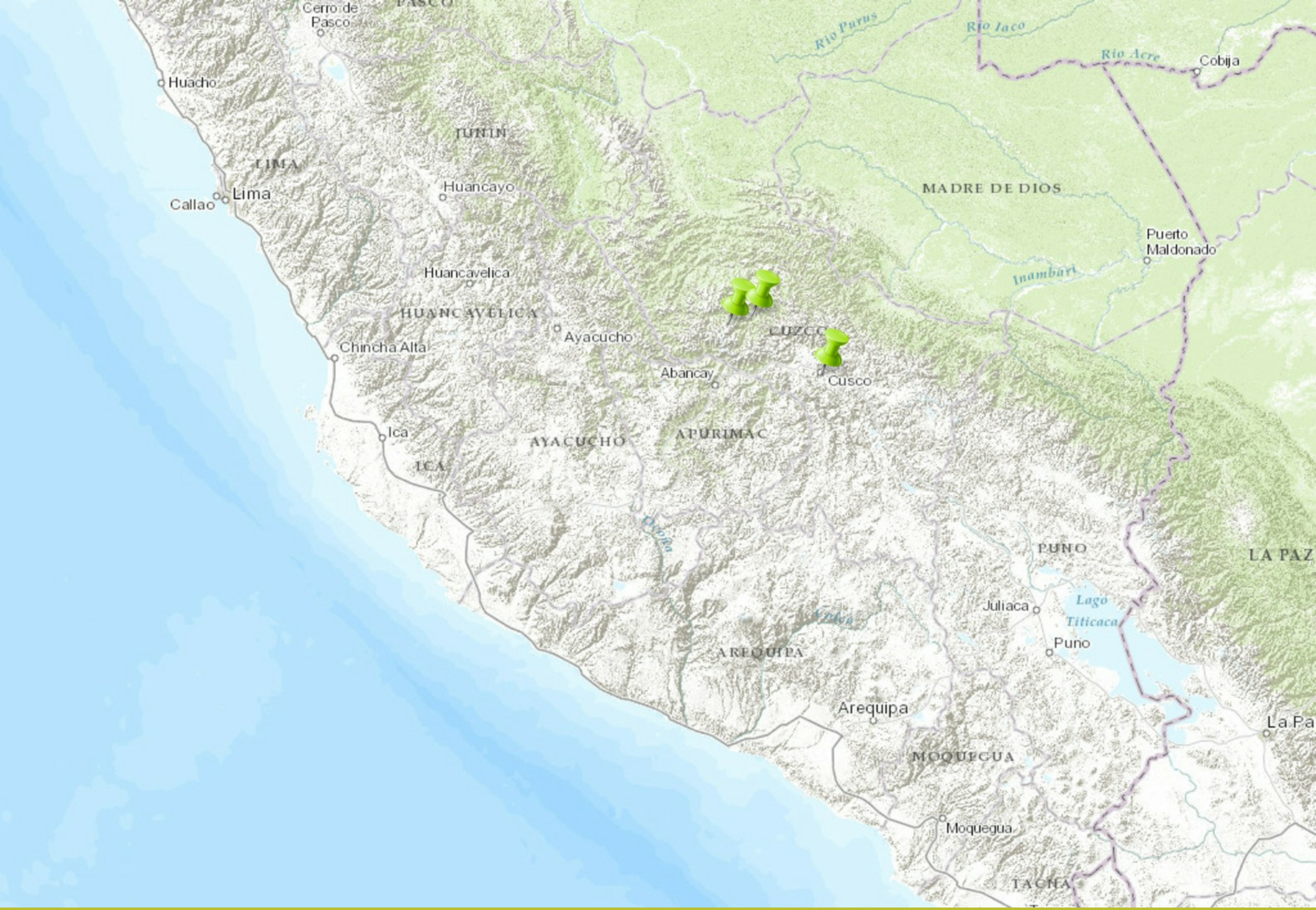
MOTE Peru 2023

From arriving to Machu Picchu after the crowds have gone, to discovering empty Inca ruins, and experiencing the ancient Inti Raymi festival in Cusco. This trip allows you to immerse yourself into the scenery, culture and history of the Peruvian Andes, and hike one of the world's most famous treks at your own pace and away from the crowds.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MADRE DE DIOS
Puerto Maldonado
Inambari
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DRAFT - exact dates TBA

23 Jun | Cusco
Arrive in Cusco today, where you make your own way for the short transfer to your hotel, tucked away in a peaceful corner of the artistic San Blas district, looking down over the heart of the city. Please note, flights to Cusco are not included.

This afternoon you can settle in and adjust to the higher altitude, before you take a stroll through the city in the company of your guide as the sun sets. Later you can head out to enjoy one of Cusco's fantastic restaurants for dinner.

Overnight: Tocuyeros Boutique Hotel / Antigua Casona San Blas. No meals included today.

24 Jun | Cusco
Today is dedicated to the Inti Raymi celebrations, an Inca tradition marking the winter solstice. Celebrations take place in Cusco and the streets become strewn with flowers, music and dancing. If you wish, you can get up early to join your guide and visit the Temple of the Sun where the procession begins.

At Sacsayhuaman, just outside the city, crowds throng to a theatrical representation of the original Incan ceremony, honouring the sun god Inti. As the sun sets, celebrants dance around stacks of straw lit in homage to Tawantinsuty, or the Empire of the Four Wind Directions. A colourful procession then makes its way back to Cusco where celebrations last long into the evening.

Overnight: Tocuyeros Boutique Hotel / Antigua Casona San Blas. Breakfast included.

25 Jun | Cusco
Today is spent on the first full day of the conference.

Overnight: Tocuyeros Boutique Hotel / Antigua Casona San Blas. Breakfast included.

26 Jun | Cusco
Today is spent on the second full day of the conference.

Overnight: Tocuyeros Boutique Hotel / Antigua Casona San Blas. Breakfast included.

27 Jun | Inca Trail
Set off early this morning to drive into the Sacred Valley of the Incas, to begin your trek along the Salkantay Trail, with views en route of the sacred snow-capped Salkantay mountain. Today's hike is around 4-5 hours as you gradually climb up to your first campsite at around 4,000m. Porters are with you to carry all camping equipment, food, dining & toilet tents etc, so you can walk with just a daypack.

Overnight: Salkantay Trek (camping). All meals included.

28 Jun | Inca Trail
A spectacular day's walking as you take the Salkantay pass close to the glacier. The zigzag path leads steadily north. En route you pass the terminal moraine, a large wall of scree left by the advancing glacier. Seeing the bulky mass of the ice it's rather incredible to think that this is one of the origins of the Amazon. Begin the descent through the Inca Canal valley towards Pampacahuana, your second campsite on the trek.

Overnight: Salkantay Trek (camping). All meals included.

29 Jun | Inca Trail
Walk along the Inca Canal into greener landscapes where you join the official Inca Trail. As the path descends into the relative warmth of the Cuischaca Valley the sparse

mountain vegetation mellows to rich scrub where snapdragons and orchids flourish. Arrive at Llulluchapampa, your first campsite on the 'official' Inca Trail, which is set in a grassy spot with spectacular views across the valley.

Overnight: Salkantay Trek (camping). All meals included.

30 Jun | Inca Trail
Today is the hardest day of the trail as you cross over two high passes, effectively hiking an 'm' shape. The morning begins with a steady and increasingly steep walk up to Dead Woman's Pass at 4,215m. From there, you head downhill through a deep valley before beginning another uphill section past the small Inca site of Runcurakay to Runcurakay Pass, at 3,900m. Shortly after you descend from the second pass, the scenery will begin to change from the sparse grassland of the high mountains to the cloud forest. Look out for butterflies, orchids and hummingbirds as the trail passes Inca ruins and winds around almost vertical cliffs, with stunning views of the Aobamba valley below.

Overnight: Salkantay Trek (camping). All meals included.

01 Jul | Machu Picchu
The final day of the trail is perhaps the most beautiful, starting with what can be the most stunning sunrise. You begin with a long downhill section of steps leading to the impressive Inca sites of Intipata and Winaywayna, where lunch is served. The final push around the mountainside and up a steep stairway brings you to the Sun Gate.

As you take in your first views of Machu Picchu, spend some time soaking up your achievement and, hopefully, watch the citadel bathed in the warm afternoon light. From the Sun Gate it is another 3km mostly downhill to Machu Picchu itself. You should arrive here at around 4pm, before you catch a shuttle bus down the hill to the ramshackle village of Aguas Calientes and spend the night.

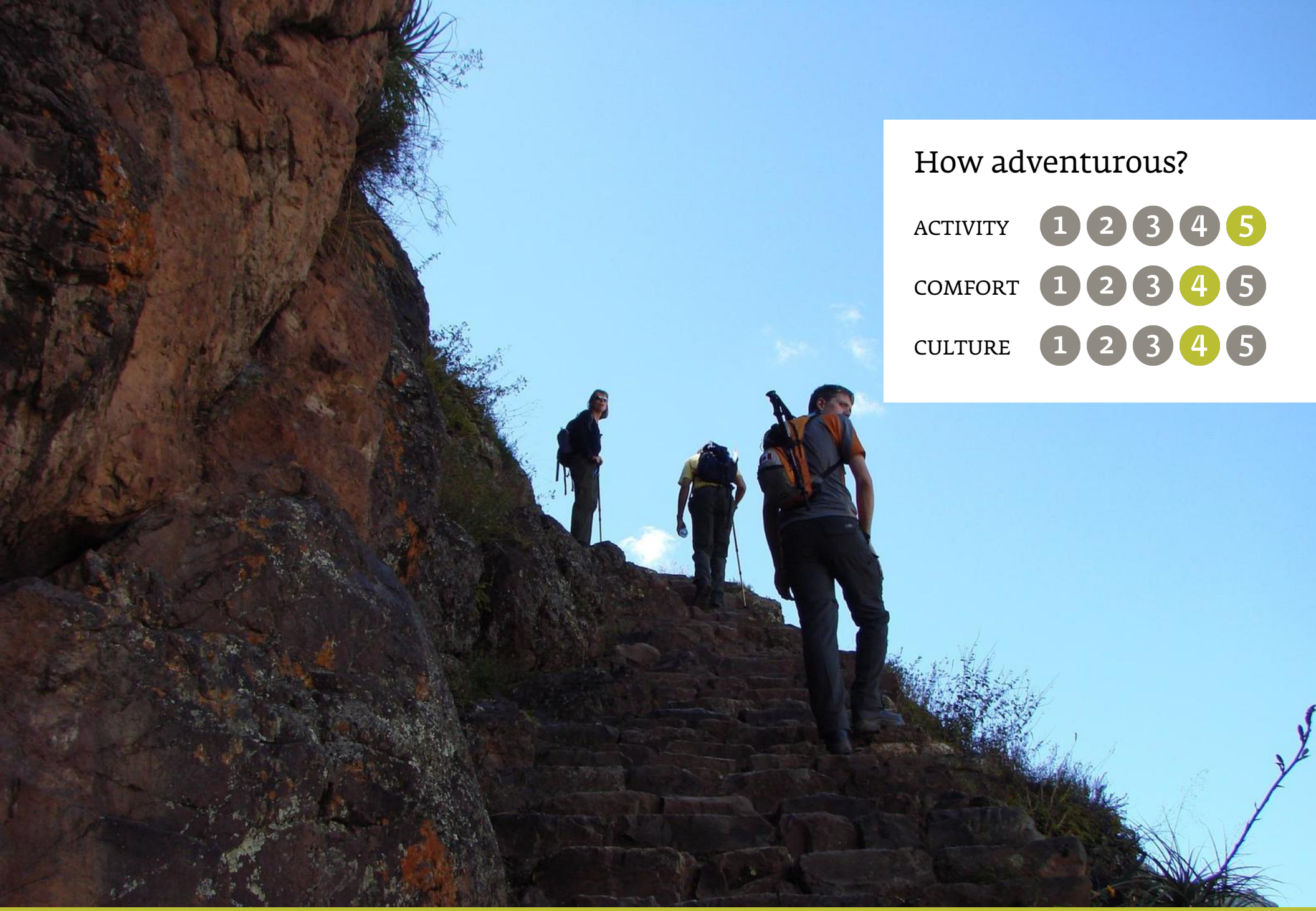
Overnight: El Mapi. All meals included.

02 Jul | Cusco
This morning you can catch one of the first buses up to Machu Picchu, heading to a higher point overlooking the citadel to catch sunrise over the mountains before you enjoy a full guided tour of the site. There may also be time, depending on your energy levels, to hike one of the trails around the citadel. Heading up to the peak of Cerro Machu Picchu offers wonderful 'condor's eye views' over the site! Return to Cusco by train this afternoon to arrive at your hotel some time after nightfall. For dinner once you get back, there is a good choice of restaurants within a short walk from your hotel.

Overnight: Tocuyeros Boutique Hotel / Antigua Casona San Blas. Breakfast included.

03 Jul | Travel
It's time to say goodbye to your fellow delegates and guides today, as you make your way to the airport for your departure flight. Alternatively, extend your travels in Peru, perhaps with a visit to the Amazon rainforest, Colca Canyon or elsewhere.

Onward travel. Breakfast included.



How adventurous?

ACTIVITY	1	2	3	4	**5**
COMFORT	1	2	3	**4**	5
CULTURE	1	2	3	**4**	5

PURA
AVENTURA
To travel is to live