

## Motorcycle Safari Checklist – Inca



**Congratulations!** You've chosen to join our Incredible Inca Motorcycle Safari. Thanks for your booking. In addition to the itinerary you have already received, you should take careful note of the following information for your maximum comfort and enjoyment.

Please retain this checklist, as you will probably need to refer to it several times before we depart.

The first thing you should do now is **Book your Airfares !** Please don't leave this until 'a little bit later' or you may be very disappointed. In the aftermath of terrorist attacks, subsequent company collapses and corporate rationalisations, the airline industry is in a state of disarray. Schedule changes are frequent, overbookings are commonplace and it is critical that you book as far ahead as possible – and this will also secure you the lowest possible price. So, please get onto your agent as soon as you finish reading this! Or feel free to use our local agent, Press & James Travel Associates, Ph 02 9979 5235, email [Natasha\\_Dann@travel-associates.com.au](mailto:Natasha_Dann@travel-associates.com.au)

Visit your doctor or **Travellers Medical Centre** and ask their advice on which immunisations are currently recommended for South America. **Yellow Fever** vaccination in particular is **mandatory**, (sighting of Certificate required upon re-entry to Australia) and there are five or six others to consider; typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis ABC, meningitis and polio. Malaria is not identified as a high risk in any of the areas we visit and we therefore recommend **against** taking anti-malarial medication which can cause unpleasant side effects. We do however spend some time at considerable altitude and suggest you acquire some **Diamox** tablets, specifically designed to counter the discomfort of mild altitude sickness.

Australian clients will receive an **insurance** application booklet from us. We'll need the completed form sent back to Ferris Wheels at least eight weeks prior to departure; the official Certificate will then be processed and sent back to you. International clients, we regret, you'll have to arrange your own travel insurance, and please note that this is mandatory. We cannot accept any uninsured participants.

You obviously need to have a valid **passport**. Visas for Peru and Bolivia are issued without fuss upon arrival. Please take **photocopies** of your passport title page and your driver's licence, etc. to take with you as a security in the case of loss whilst overseas – carry these photocopies separately. Take a few spare **passport photos** *just in case* we need to apply for a special permit or something bureaucratic. An **International Driving Permit**, whilst not actually a legal document, can make life a lot simpler if stopped by police in Peru or Bolivia, so it's best to have one – easily attained from the motoring association in your state, ie RACV, NRMA, AA, etc.

Please be aware that our motorcycle supplier in Peru will require you to leave a **US\$1,000 deposit** for your motorbike, as security against damage. This may be in the form of a credit card imprint or cash, which will be refunded upon return of an undamaged motorcycle.

For your spending money, traveller's cheques are no longer popular, as auto-teller machines (ATM's) are now widely available at airports and pretty much everywhere else. ATM's are connected worldwide via the Maestro or Cirrus networks; they dispense local currency and the converted equivalent is simply debited to your bank account back home. If you do not have an ATM card you'll need to take US\$ cash or TC's and find a change bureau, which can be a bit of a hassle. Best to get an ATM card! Unless you're a big souvenir hunter, you'll probably spend less than \$500 for the whole trip -- remember all of your meals are already included.

Bring a protective **jacket**, gloves, boots and sturdy jeans. **Wet weather gear** is always advisable. Bring an **old helmet** rather than a brand new one, as it might get knocked around a bit. An open-face versus a full-face is purely personal choice, and some may even choose to do some riding without it up in the remote hills.

Anywhere in the semi-arid altiplano, at any time of year, can get quite hot. Make sure you have a **hat** or **cap** of some sort for when you're not wearing a helmet, as well as **sunglasses**, sunscreen and a couple of light long-sleeved shirts. But equally so, the Andes can get bitterly cold; bring **thermal underwear** if you're susceptible to the cold – and, most useful, a **polar-fleece neck ruff**. Two different weights of bike gloves are a good idea and a thin **bandanna** is good for keeping diesel and dust off your face and preventing chafed lips. T-shirts, in fact all clothes, are best in *earthy* colours – whites don't stay white for very long. Bring **plenty of socks**; there's nothing worse than trying to put on yesterday's wet, dirty socks to start a new day. But having said that, each rest day on our itinerary gives us an opportunity to have some laundry done so don't go overboard with *too* many clothes. A week's worth should be fine. Please also bring some decent evening clothes and shoes, as we'll be dining in restaurants where shorts and t-shirts are less than ideal and flip-flops a definite *faux pas*.



Don't forget your **camera** and plenty of **memory card**. Fresh or rechargeable **batteries** before leaving home should see you through the trip. Also bring a few pictures of yourself, your family, your dog, your bike, etc. because the locals are very friendly and curious people but rarely get a chance to see photos of life in other countries. You will win friends by showing them a little bit about yourself.

The towns can be **noisy** and the frenzied activity does not always die down with the sun, so bring some **earplugs** if you are a light sleeper. Besides, your roommate is guaranteed to snore. A small **torch** (flashlight) is always a useful thing to have, as is an **alarm clock**. One or two of our hotels may have a pool, so bring your swimsuit. Bring a couple of pens and a **diary** if you are so inclined. Bring all your friends' address details; the unofficial record for postcard writing on a three-week trip so far stands at 134.

Your luggage may cop some rough treatment, so **don't** bring an expensive new suitcase. A hiking backpack is not great because the harness and straps can be a pain. The best luggage is the softcover variety with wheels at one end. Bring a small **daypack** for holding your camera, sunscreen, etc. while you're riding. Some people like to wear a **moneybelt** or **bumbag** or you can use buttoned or zipped pockets as a safety measure. A couple of plastic bags are useful for dirty laundry or keeping your soiled boots off your clothes.

We will have emergency medical supplies with us for use in the case of an accident or severe illness, but you should bring your own simple **medicines** for headache, nausea, etc. and any regular medications. The cellphone network coverage is quite good in all but the most remote regions, so get International Roaming authorised and bring your phone with you. We'll also find internet / email facilities every so often.

You'll probably need an 'occy' strap or two, to tie your jacket on the back. Even better are those velcro 'Andy Strapz' or even a cargo net. And, just before you zip up your bag, throw in a couple of **mothballs** or some camphor to keep silverfish / cockroaches / mice / customs officials at bay.

Quite a lot to remember, isn't it? So, here's a checklist for you to begin with:

Passport	Daypack, bumbag?	Soft shoes, shorts	Alarm clock
International driving permit	Wet weather gear	Underwear, socks	Address book
Insurance certificate	Jacket, helmet	T-shirts, thermals?	Writing materials
Photocopies thereof	Boots, gloves	Plastic bags	Diary or notepad
Passport photos	Jeans, shirts	Swimsuit	Phone + charger
Family photos, etc?	Cap, sunglasses	Tank bag?	Your itinerary, & this checklist
ATM card	Scarf, sunscreen	Bike straps? Net?	
Some US\$ cash?	Camera, card, batteries	Guidebook?	
Credit card?	Toiletries	Insect repellent	Feed the cat & lock the door.
Immunisations	Medicines, earplugs	Flashlight?	

Please bear in mind that irregular power supplies will mean that a hot shower may not always be available. The standard of accommodation varies greatly on this trip by necessity; some hotels will be quite comfortable, but when we venture to remote areas we have to take what we can get and it is sometimes pretty basic. If there's no toilet paper/towel/soap in your room, you'll have to ask for it; don't take these little luxuries for granted! Likewise in these more remote areas, lunch will sometimes be where and when we can find it and don't expect *cordón bleu* cuisine.

So, grab a guidebook and read it from cover to cover, read anything on South America you can get your hands on, practice a few words and phrases of Spanish other than *Adios Amigos!* (Yes, they really do say that ....). If you possess the essential attributes of an adventurous spirit, a degree of tolerance and a good sense of humour, you will be more than amply rewarded on this trip.

Here endeth our sermon for today. We'll be in touch in due course with other bits of documentation and of course your exquisite **Ferris Wheels** Safari shirt.

*Mike & Denise*