

ITINERARY

July 9–17, 2025

Cacao Origin Eco Adventure Tour: Marañon & Awaijun

Date	Day	Item	Overview	Details	Sleep In:	What's Included:
July 9th 2025	Day 0	Arrive in Lima	Everyone must arrive in Lima at minimum the day before the departure of July 10th. Evening meet and greet in the hotel with the expedition group.		Lima (San Isidro)	Airport transportation to the hotel in Lima. Accommodations.
July 10th 2025	Day 1	Depart Lima – Arrive Jaen	Fly to Chiclayo (depart Lima early morning). Drive from Chiclayo to Jaen through Paso de Porcuya (express stop at Sicán museum). Private tour of archeological wonder: Monte Grande (with <i>cacao ritual</i>).	We will drive through the Paso de Porcuya , the lowest crossing point in the Andes. Ancient coastal and amazonian cultures used this route for trade—this is how cacao was first brought out of the jungle and into Central America and then the world! Private tour of Monte Grande , an <i>active</i> archeological site where they have discovered ancient artifacts showing that this is where cacao was first domesticated over 5300 years ago! We will enjoy a private tour of the site and watch the sunset from its incredible view while partaking in a cacao ritual (like the ancient civilization of this region had at this very site).	Jaen	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. All transportation (airport transfers, flights, touring vans), guided activities, and event fees. Accommodations.
July 11th, 2025	Day 2	Stay in the Jaen area	Drive to Huarango. Visit the association that produces the Marañon cacao. Visit farmer fincas, including the finca of Don Fortunato, home of world-renowned "Fortunato No. 4" .	The tour will be led by Aurelio Loret de Mola , one of Peru's most renowned cacao experts. Private tour of the co-op that processes the illustrious Marañon bean (the same co-op that supplies Dan Pearson's <i>Marañon Chocolate Company</i>). And, of course, we will visit the fincas of various farmers that supply this co-op—including the finca of Don Fortunato , where the world-renowned "Fortunato No. 4" was discovered.	Jaen	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. All transportation (touring vans with drivers), guided activities, tours, and event fees. Accommodations.
July 12th, 2025	Day 3	Depart Jaen - Drive to Bagua	Visit finca and cacao collection of Mario Zuloeta . Visit the APROCAM Co-op , with special guests to perform an Awajun cacao ceremony . Visit CEPROA Co-op (time permitting).	We will visit the incredible finca of Mario Zolueta, the ex-president of the APROCAM co-op. Nestled in the jungle between streams and rice plains, it's a picturesque site that is hard to describe but unforgettable. Mario harvests cacao and also has an active genetic plantation for research purposes to showcase the many cacao genetics of that region . We will also visit the post harvest facility of the APROCAM co-op , where they ferment and dry the cacao. And... a special cacao ceremony event performed by the native tribal members of the Awajun community .	Bagua Grande	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. All transportation (touring vans with drivers), guided activities, tours, and event fees. Accommodations.
July 13th, 2025	Day 4	Depart Bagua – Arrive Gocta	Depart for the Kuelap Cloud City Fortress (early morning). Guided tour of the cloud fortress.	Peru has hundreds of incredible ancient sites, amongst them, in the northern jungle, exists the sacred Cloud City Fortress of Kuelap . This is the Machu Picchu of the north, but 3 times larger and at least 600 years older! It is still a relatively well-kept national secret. This cloud city was created by the Chachapoyas culture. It is an archeological wonder, and extremely unique compared to other building structures of the Americas. To arrive we will take a gorgeous 20-minute gondola ride (4 km) and small hike to finally reach this sacred site perched on top of the mountain at ~3000 meters above sea level. We will have a ~3hr guided tour of this incredible fortress with jaw dropping views. Here are some links to a short videos of this sacred and mysterious site: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89VOKbKsRdY&t=168s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KT1B4YVeUMM&t=155s After a wonderful day learning and connecting in this sacred site we will travel to Gocta, home of the 3 rd tallest free-leaping waterfall in the world (~1.5hr drive).	Gocta	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. All transportation (touring vans with drivers, gondola, etc.), guided activities, tours, and event fees. Accommodations.
July 14th, 2025	Day 5	Explore Gocta – Depart for Bagua	A day in Gocta . Trail to the world's 3rd tallest free-leaping waterfall and bathe in its water.	You will awaken in the scenic jungle of the Amazonas department—a close grasp away from the stunning waterfall Gocta, the 3rd tallest free-leaping waterfall in the world . A sacred site were ancient cultures performed rituals and bathed in its crashing waters. After an early breakfast, all who wish to immerse themselves in nature and bathe in the falls, can join a guided group on a scenic trail to the falls. It will be an early departure (~830 am), and the trail is about ~2 hrs. If you wish, horses are available for the trail ride (added cost). After some time in the falls, we will head back around 11:30 am to have lunch in Gocta around 1:30 pm. After lunch we will depart for a drive to Bagua (~2 hrs).	Bagua Grande	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. All transportation (touring vans with drivers [horses not included]), guided activities, tours, and event fees. Accommodations.

July 15th, 2025	Day 6	Drive to Chiclayo - Flight back to Lima	Departure for Chiclayo and flight back to Lima.	After an early breakfast, we will have an early departure for Chiclayo, once again passing through the Paso de Porcuya , and take a flight back to Lima in the evening.	Lima (San Isidro)	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. All transportation (touring vans with drivers, flight), guided activities, tours, and event fees. Accommodations.
July 16th, 2025	Day 7	Lima-Mala-Lima	Early departure to Mala - for a tour of Cacao Life's processing facility and farm grounds.	Early departure to Cacao Life's processing facility in Mala, where you will have a guided tour of our plant and the rest of our property, where we plant bananas, passion fruit, lucuma, and various other tropical fruits. You will have a look at how we make all the various cacao products, as well as other superfood derivatives. We will have a nice lunch in our large garden with our plant workers. Our last group dinner will be planned in a memorable restaurant in heart of the culinary capital of Latin America (Lima), where we will enjoy amazing food, ambiance, and conversation.	Lima (San Isidro)	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. All transportation (touring vans with drivers, flight), guided activities, tours, and event fees. Accommodations.
July 17th, 2025	Day 8	Stay in Lima	Visit the Salon de Chocolate y Cacao	We will be attending the 1 st day of the prestigious Salon de Chocolate y Cacao . This 4-day event has occurred every year since 2010 and is sponsored by the "Salon du Chocolate Paris". It will be like no other artisan chocolate event you have visited. Imagine Northwest Chocolate Festival, except bigger and most of the booths are from chocolate makers that are actual cacao producers and co-ops who have travelled from all over Peru to showcase both their cacao and their chocolate creations. You'll have a tour of the festival with Aurelio Loret De Mola – an International Awards Chocolate judge (for 6+ years), introducing you to many of the events' presenters, cacao producers/co-ops, and chocolate makers. You'll get to see all the different cacaos from different regions (fresh), and all the ingenious ways they are processed into amazing chocolate, but also syrups, wine, liqueurs, pulp sugars, and much more.	Lima (San Isidro)	Breakfast. All transportation to the Salon de Chocolate y Cacao, to the airport (if required), and event fees. Accommodations.
July 18th, 2025	Day 9	Depart Lima		Flight back home :(N/A	Breakfast. Transfer to airport.

Note: This is not a typical tour into the jungles of Peru. Because this trip is a little more off the beaten path, where planning in advance, can be trickier, itinerary is subject to change.

IMPORTANT: We are trying our very best to include absolutely everything in this package. We want you to land in Peru and worry about nothing else. Just sit back and enjoy every aspect of this experience. We will take care of everything. With that said, what is not included in the costs of this package are: flights from your respective country to Lima; travellers insurance; alcoholic beverages; gratuities for meals, drivers, and tour guides (gratuities are not mandatory, but if you wish to leave something for the services you were provided it is suggested to leave ~US\$2-4/meal; ~US\$10-20 to the driver (at end of the excursion); ~US\$2-5 for guided tours/performances.