DAY 1 – Thursday, March 12: We depart the Stillwater airport and fly to Dallas-Fort-Worth, and then overnight to Lima, Peru.

DAY 2 – Friday, March 13: We'll pass through Perú Immigration and Customs in Lima, and then fly to Cusco, the historic center of Inca culture in the Andean highlands at 11,150 feet elevation, now a bustling city that has retained its authentic character. After meeting our guide, checking in at our hotel, and enjoying a nice lunch, we'll stroll around the central Plaza de Armas and tour its grand cathedral. Then we will tour Sacsayhuamán, the remains of an imposing Inca fortress situated on the heights above the city. The splendid Inca stone masonry constructed with massive hand-carved blocks of rock is astounding. We'll lodge tonight in Cusco and begin to acclimate to the thin air.

DAY 3 – Saturday, March 14: We depart Cusco and head to Chinchero a quaint town built upon remnant Inca walls. Here we'll have a memorable experience at a traditional weaving center where local women demonstrate their craft and sell beautiful alpaca sweaters, scarves, blankets, and coveted Andean hats. After lunch at a nearby hacienda, we’ll visit Salineras, an expanse of evaporation salt terraces that have been in use for centuries and still provide most of the salt used today by the people of Perú. Afterwards we’ll examine the restored Inca site of Moray, an artfully designed set of concentric agricultural terraces that in essence served as an Inca agricultural experiment station with several microclimates. Then we'll head to our evening lodging at Ollantaytambo.

DAY 4 – Sunday, March 15: This morning we’ll climb the rock stairways and terraces of Ollantaytambo, a dramatic Inca temple and fortress, and we’ll hike up to the Inca colcas or warehouses perched on the steep mountainside across the valley. We'll also visit a traditional Inca kancha townsite still in use today. After lunch, we’ll board the Vistadome train for a relaxing journey down the scenic Urubamba River valley to Aguas Calientes situated in the cloud forest at 8000 feet beneath Machu Picchu, the fabled “lost city of the Inca,” and our quest for tomorrow! We’ll lodge in a riverside hotel, have a delicious gourmet dinner, and shop at the crafts market.

DAY 5 – Monday, March 16: We will experience the legendary “lost city” and wander among its regal residences, temples, and plazas while we wonder about the industrious and imaginative Inca. Their stone masonry was meticulous and artful, and is virtually still intact, as the Spanish never found Machu Picchu during their 1500s Conquest. We will marvel at the engineering and architectural prowess of the Inca people, and gaze at the enigmatic Intihuatana stone, the Royal Tomb, Sacred Rock, and the Temples of the Sun, the Condor, and the Three Windows, and speculate about life in Machu Picchu during its zenith. In the afternoon, we’ll take the train back to Ollantaytambo where we will lodge for the night and have an opportunity to shop at the crafts market.

DAY 6 – Tuesday, March 17: After breakfast, we’ll travel through some beautiful Andes scenery to Pisac where we will tour majestic Inca agricultural terraces situated on the steep slopes in the highlands above town. From here, we will begin our journey further southward and away from Cusco and the Scared Valley, stopping first at Oropesa, a quaint community renowned for its delicious bread. We’ll stop to buy a few loaves for a delicious snack. As we leave the greater Cusco region, we will come to Rumicolca, the major gateway into the Scared Valley from the what historically had been the southern quarter of the Inca kingdom during the height of their dynasty. The Inca used Rumicolca as a checkpoint for everyone moving into and out of the Sacred Valley. Further down the highway we will arrive at Andahuayillas and its famous “Sistine Chapel of the Andes,” a remarkable Spanish colonial church with incredible ornate paintings, tapestries, and wood carvings gracing its altars, naves, walls and ceilings. Then after a pleasant lunch at a country buffet, we will tour Raqchi with its Inca Temple of Viracocha and a bustling...
crafts market. Ultimately we will pass over La Raya, the highest elevation pass along the south highway. A bit further on, we will come to the community of Santa Rosa high on the Andean altiplano where we will lodge for the night at a working dairy farm. Expect a crisp evening here with a vibrant starry sky.

**DAY 7 – Wednesday, March 18:** We’ll rise to chilly morning and a hearty breakfast at the dairy farm where we will experience the daily chores of tending a dairy cow herd and elaborating dairy products. We will make our own cheese and then go on a horseback ride with some of the ranch hands through the stark, high elevation country.

After lunch, we’ll travel further south to Pucara to visit a pre-Inca archaeological site with sunken plazas and temples, and also shop for delicious coffee that is processed and distributed from here. We’ll also have the opportunity to shop for *toritos*, the colorful ceramic bulls that adorn the rooftops and doorways of many rural homes in southern Peru. Eventually we will arrive at Puno, nestled in a bay on the shore of Lake Titicaca, the world’s highest elevation navigable lake, situated at 12,500 feet. We’ll spend the night in Puno.

**DAY 8 – Thursday, March 19:** Today we cruise across the vivid blue Lake Titicaca to the “floating reed” Uros Islands for a cultural program with a community. We’ll learn how people created and maintain the islands and have established a lake-bound lifestyle here. Then we’ll cruise on to Amantani Island and meet our hosts who will lead us from the harbor up to their community at 13,000 feet. This will be a step back in time, as there are no modern conveniences on this and other Lake Titicaca islands. We’ll slow down and have a taste of a simpler way of life. After lunch, we’ll walk up to a pre-Inca shrine atop a summit of the island to take in a majestic sunset. Then after a nice traditional evening meal, we’ll enjoy some Andean music and fellowship with our hosts under a vivid Milky Way. We’ll lodge in guest rooms provided by our hosts. The night air will be cold, but there will be plenty of wool blankets available.

**DAY 9 – Friday, March 20:** We’ll greet a brisk Andean morning with cup of zesty tea and a simple but delicious island breakfast. Pre-dawn risers will have an opportunity to learn the traditional way of fishing by casting a net from a small boat. Ultimately, we’ll gather up some implements and head out to the community farm terraces—pre-Inca terraces that still are in use today—to learn about traditional Andes Mountains agriculture. We will get our hands a little dirty as we work the soil and harvest some hearty fresh vegetables for our lunch which we will assist in preparing with our host family. As the afternoon comes on, we’ll bid adios to our hosts, head down to the harbor, and board our boat for a relaxing cruise back to Puno on the mainland where we will have a delicious dinner complete with a cultural music and dance program, some time for souvenir shopping, and comfortable hotel stay.

**DAY 10 – Saturday, March 21:** We depart Puno after breakfast and head to Fundos Chincheros, and old hacienda on the northwest shore of Lake Titicaca. Here we will hike through the *ichu* grassland of the altiplano and among the old rock walls of an antiquated settlement. We’ll duck through a dense forest of cactus on the way to the old home of the hacienda where we will enjoy a hearty outdoor country lunch after touring the grounds. From here we will head to Atuncolla, a community of livestock herders. We’ll visit a family to get a glimpse of the traditional herder lifestyle and get up close to alpacas, llamas and guanacos. Nearby, we will end our travels in Peru with a memorable experience at Sillustani, a sacred ceremonial site dating back to pre-Inca times, with awe-inspiring stone *chullpas* or funerary towers crafted by the Colla and Inca people to entomb their noble families. The vista of nearby Lago Umayo is spectacular. Finally, we’ll head to the airport at nearby Juliaca for our domestic flight to Lima, and then our overnight flight back to the USA.

**DAY 11 – Sunday, March 22:** We arrive at Dallas-Ft. Worth airport in the early morning. After passing through US Immigration and Customs, we’ll catch some breakfast and then head to our connecting flight to Stillwater. We will be back home by mid-afternoon…in time for classes the next day on Monday, March 23!