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The Inca Luxe Trail



You could elbow your way through [Machu Picchu](#) or hoof the [Inca Trail](#), but [Aqua Expeditions](#) has a new way to see [Peru](#): onboard the [Amazon](#)'s first modern luxury cruiser. With only 12 suites, the [M/V Aqua](#) is small enough to reach the remote headwaters of the Amazon basin where rare [pink dolphins](#) play. Embarking Saturday on its maiden journey, the riverboat will make three, four and seven-day excursions from [Iquitos](#) — the largest city in the Peruvian rainforest — to the outskirts of the five-million-acre [Pacaya Samiria Reserve](#) (that's twice the size of [Yellowstone](#)). When you're not watching the Amazon glide by your window-walled suite, you can fish for piranha, take guided jungle walks, or sample a menu by one of [Lima](#)'s [premier chefs](#).



Of course, you don't have to be on the water to experience all of Peru's liquid beauty. Next month, eco-tourism specialist [Inkaterra](#) opens an upscale 18-suite refuge along [Lake Titicaca](#), the world's highest navigable lake and the birthplace of the Incas. Guestrooms at [Inkaterra Titilaka](#) (and yes, we've tried saying it fast) all feature waterviews, infinity bathtubs and heated floors — not to mention portable oxygen tanks if 12,500 feet above sea level makes you a tad woozy. In addition to its lakeside retreat, Inkaterra also debuts a new boutique hotel in February in the southern colonial city of [Cusco](#). [La Casona](#) is a 16th-century, frescoed mansion in the [World Heritage](#) historic quarter and offers 11 suites kitted with their own massage tables. And, if you insist on [muscling through](#) nearby Machu Picchu, private cars and guides are at your service. 📍

Written by [NICOLE COTRONEO](#)