



Northern Nevada REAL ESTATE

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Peru: Land of legend, color, tradition, scenic beauty

Colorful Peru is not usually on the top 10 list of most American's travel bucket lists but should be. It's a country full of fascinating culture and wonderous sights.

It's a country that still reveres the ancient traditions and legends of the 50 recognized groups of indigenous people called Amerindians, many of whom are descendants from the Inca Empire that ruled from 1438 to 1533 until the Spanish conquered Cuzco, the capital of the Empire. Think of all the amazing DNA passed down through the centuries.

As in most of South America, you won't see or tour the perfunctory crumbling castles, ornate palaces, towering Gothic cathedrals, and magnificent museums that are a must-see in every European country.

What you will see in Peru is a land of dramatic nature at it's very finest. You'll meet humble indigenous people dressed in colorful traditional garb who still follow age-old traditions. You'll see colorful fields and majestic mountains, and yes, there are the magnificent ancient ruins to climb and explore, none resembling feudal castles.

The magnificent Andes, the longest mountain range on earth with peaks reaching almost 23,000 feet, run through the central and western parts of Peru, dwarfing our Rocky Mountains. Within the Peruvian Andes is the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the spiritual home of Inca tribes, and important archeological sites where you will rest for two nights.

Here, quinoa has been farmed for thousands of years tended by farmers wearing colorful native



**Ronni
Hannaman**

garments made of alpaca or llama wool. You will see all of this.

The Chamber Travel Club will be visiting this magnificent country, departing July 9, 2026. This is a Collette Vacations Explorations small group tour – no more than 24 passengers – featuring nine nights in lovely hotels, 15 meals, and all sightseeing, internal air, and air from Reno with all transfers and free parking at the chamber.

July is the dry season in Peru and their winter and one of the best times to travel. Your tour starts in beautiful Lima, situated on the Pacific Ocean. Your hotel is just outside historic downtown Lima located in the Miraflores district within walking distance of El Malecon, or the ocean walk, home to famous sculptures and the perfect place to stretch your limbs after a long journey.

Although my opening lines indicted that you will not see the same basic sites seen on almost every European tour, you will see Spanish architectural influence in old Lima, once a great political, economic, and culturally important city then known as the City of Kings, today a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On day three, your trip to the Andes begins with a flight to Cuzco, the heart of the Inca civilization. Cuzco sits at 11,200 feet, one of the highest cities in the world.



LINDA RITTER

Carson City resident Linda Ritter (right) and her daughter Stephanie Zane of Minden contemplate the majestic view of Machu Picchu, one of the seven new wonders of the world.

So that you gradually adjust to the elevation, you immediately board a bus for the 1.5 hour transfer to the Sacred Valley, where you will stay for two nights in the town of Pisac at 6,730 feet — roughly the altitude of Lake Tahoe.

Here is where the immersion into the Andean people and culture begins at a home-hosted farm lunch. Day five finds you on a 1.5-hour panoramic journey through the Andes on the luxury domed train operated by Inca Rail whisking you to the crown jewel of this trip, Machu Picchu.

The afternoon is spent exploring this new seventh wonder of the world. Machu Picchu sits at almost 8,000 feet and is considered the most spectacular sight in South America. Day six, it's back on the scenic train to Sacred Valley for your 1.5-hour motorcoach journey to Cuzco where you will spend two nights in this lovely

walkable city.

It's here you will see and tour what is called a cathedral. Do stop before the Andean version of the Last Supper as was painted in 1753. Do notice the apostles are about to dine on a Peruvian delicacy instead of lamb.

On day eight, you board an internal flight to Puno for your two-night stay on one of the Uros Floating Islands on Lake Titicaca, a freshwater lake on the border of Bolivia and Peru. Known as the birthplace of the Inca Empire, Puno is the highest elevation you will experience at 12,507 feet.

Mingle with locals and enjoy a home-hosted meal while enjoying storytelling. Your day ends with a tour of a 13th century graveyard where the stone tower funerary hold the mummified remains of indigenous nobles.

Since flights out of Lima to the U.S. leave around midnight or later, there will be time on your last day in Lima for a tour and dinner at the fascinating Lanco Museum, a former mansion built on the site of a pre-Columbian temple.

A wonderful way to end this wonderful tour before boarding the long flight home. A word of caution: This tour is not for those with breathing problems – although the hotels all have oxygen available, and the cocoa leaf tea does seem to work.

You also should not be mobility challenged to be able to really enjoy the marvelous sights. Since this is a Collette Explorations tour of no more than 24 people, you will have the time to take it all in. Want to explore even more?

Extend your vacation for an additional four nights on a Peruvian

Amazon Cruise. The per-person double cost for this great tour is \$4,999 if booked prior to Dec. 8. Cost includes everything mentioned above plus more. See the itinerary by logging on to https://carsoncitychamber.com/spotlight/details/chamber_travel_club, stopping by the Chamber at 1900 S. Carson St. to pick up a free brochure or by calling 775-882-1565.

If you need affirmation from actual travelers, here's what Linda Ritter and daughter Stephanie Zane (pictured) have to say:

"What a wonderful experience exploring this fascinating country with my daughter. We logged so many wonderful memories - watching the sun come up at Machu Picchu, hiking around Incan ruins, sipping on wine over some fantastic meals and sitting among the people living at Lake Titicaca. Traveling by plane, train and bus, the country offered such diverse landscapes - a feast for the eyes!"

Daughter Stephanie chimes in: "The culture, the history, the amazing structures built by ancient peoples - Peru did not disappoint. And the food was beyond expectations!"

Join us for this fascinating tour of a fascinating country. In Peru, you will walk at a slower pace – partly because of the altitude – allowing you to absorb the sights and sounds around you. In one sentence, Peru is visually, culturally, and emotionally powerful and will never leave your soul. I have traveled far and wide over many years. Peru captured my heart. As shown in the lovely and awe-inspiring photo, a picture can be worth a thousand words especially when with a loved one.

Rentals



618 Kathy Court, Gardnerville, NV 89460

This single-story home in a cul-de-sac location has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a 2-car garage with approximately 1540 sq. ft. of comfortable living space. The rental includes AC, a fireplace, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer+dryer hookups, granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances in the kitchen, updated bathrooms, and vinyl plank flooring. It comes with full landscaping, a fenced backyard, and RV parking with a separate driveway. Tenants responsible for all utilities, pets will be considered upon approval, no smoking is permitted in the home or garage, a 1-year lease is required, and the property does not take section 8.

Rent: \$2,500/month

Available: December 8, 2025



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Rentals



774 E. Cottage Loop, Gardnerville, NV 89460

Welcome Home to this Single Story home in a gated community. This home has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car garage with approximately 1930 sq. ft. This home is fully fenced and landscaped. It includes refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, oven, washer & dryer, AC, Fireplace. No Smoking, No Section 8, Pets considered upon approval. Tenant pays all utilities including gas, electric, water, sewer, and trash. 1-year lease required

Rent: \$2,750/month

Available: November 14, 2025