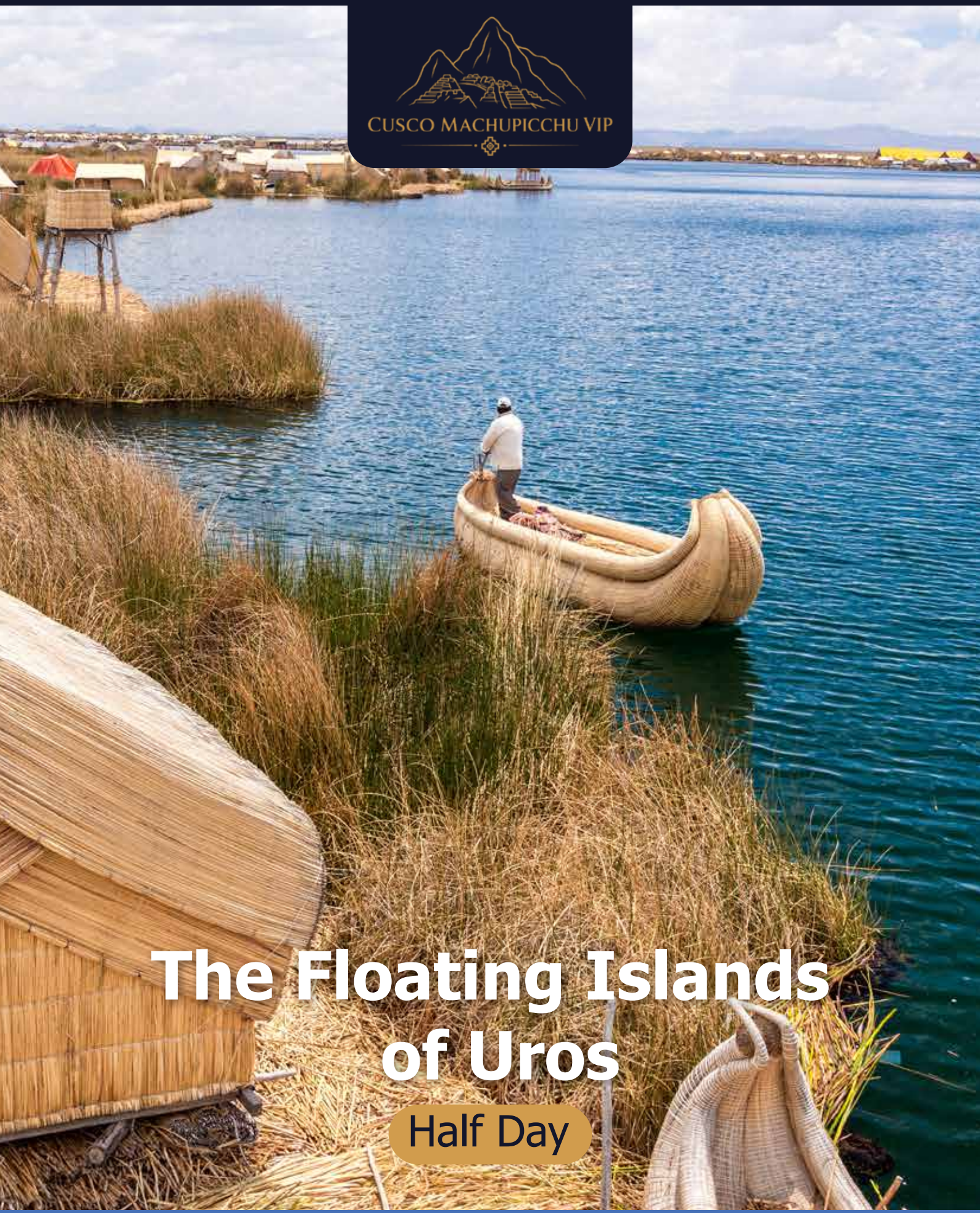
CUSCO MACHUPICCHU VIP



# The Floating Islands of Uros

Half Day

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## Package description:

The tour begins with a transfer from the hotels to the port of Puno, where we'll board a tour boat with panoramic windows. We'll sail approximately 10 km from the port of Puno to the floating islands of the Uros, located in Puno Bay. The Uros, one of the oldest ethnic groups in the Altiplano, depend entirely on totora, an aquatic plant found in the lake. They use totora to build their islands, houses, and rafts, as well as to obtain food and fuel.

The islands are made of large blocks of totora roots, which float due to the porosity of the reeds and the gases produced by their decomposition. Once the blocks are joined together, a layer of totora is placed on top, which must be replaced every 20 days. The islands are anchored in place with poles.

# Itinerary

- 8:45 a.m.: Pickup from your hotel.
- 9:15 a.m.: Boat departure from the main port.
- 10:00 a.m.: Visit to 2 floating islands.
- 12:30 p.m.: Return and arrival at the hotels.





**What to Bring.**

- A bottle of water.
- Cash in soles: It's very useful for buying handicrafts directly from local families, which supports them directly.
- A camera or cell phone with a fully charged battery—the views of the lake and the sunrise/sunset are beautiful.
- An extra jacket: The wind on the lake feels colder than it does on the shore.

**During the visit—customs and respect.**

- Ask for permission before taking photos: Many families prefer that you ask them first; some charge a small fee for photographing people or spaces—it's their way of life, so please respect that.
- Do not enter homes without an invitation.
- Do not throw trash into the lake: Lake Titicaca is their source of life—let's keep it clean.
- Listen carefully: they will explain how they build the islands and rafts, as well as their history and oral traditions—this is unique knowledge.
- If they invite you to sit down or try something, it's a gesture of hospitality; you can graciously accept.

**Useful Information.**

- The totora raft ride: There's usually an additional fee; it's a wonderful experience, and it's worth supporting the community.
- Tips: If you were treated kindly and the explanation was interesting, it's appreciated if you leave a voluntary contribution for the families.

**Special precautions.**

- Don't step heavily on the island's shores; the totora reeds wear down and must be constantly replaced.
- Don't pull up totora reeds without permission.

# Inclusions

## Includes:

- Pickup from hotel / port / hotel.
- Tourist boat.
- Guided tour (Spanish / English).
- Admission ticket.

## Not included:

- Ride on a traditional totora reed raft (optional activity); pay the local resident directly—approx. S/. 15.00 per person.

# Recommendations

**Clothing and Protection.**

- Sun protection is mandatory: You're on Lake Titicaca, at 3,800 meters above sea level. The sun reflects off the water and burns twice as much. Wear SPF 50+ sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, and a scarf.
- Layer your clothing: It can be very sunny one moment and then windy or suddenly cold the next. Bring a windbreaker, a light sweater, and a jacket.
- Flat, comfortable shoes: The islands are made of totora reeds; the ground is soft, slightly uneven, and sometimes damp. Avoid heels or very slippery soles.

**Altitude and Health.**

- Stay hydrated: The air is dry, and the effects of altitude are just as noticeable here as on the mainland.
- Walk calmly on the islands; do not run or jump—not only because of the altitude, but also to protect the island's structure.
- If you feel dizzy, breathe slowly and notify the guide or a local resident.



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