

Peru 2011 Testimonials

"For me, this trip was not only perfect, but probably the best photo experience I have ever had. The trip was a great value, I would recommend it to anyone. The pace of the trip was perfect. Because of your efforts, anyone who did not get super images has only themselves to blame. I enjoyed the opportunity to take fantastic images that I could not have done on my own. The frequent unplanned stops that yielded wonderful surprises, and the small towns along the way that were a joy to see. I especially appreciated your aggressiveness in finding the perfect situation for us. This was the perfect photographic workshop. Jim, you were first class. As good as I have ever experienced. You ought to be very proud of yourself. I try to go on a lot of these trips, and yours was so far ahead of anything I have experienced before that there is no second place. The planning and execution were flawless, and each day seemed to be better than the previous one. The trip was so exceptional that I'm afraid any other leader will come out second rate." Aaron Teitel, Potomac, MD

"Jim, thanks again for another terrific photo tour! I liked the mix of accommodations. Cusco was so convenient to the plaza, restaurants, shopping. The visit to the school was one of the highpoints for me along with Machu Picchu. I really enjoyed the boat trip on Lake Titicaca and the train up to Aguas Calientes. The Pisac Inn was really fun and literally a step away from the market – couldn't have been a better location. My favorite was Hotel Pakaritampu in Ollantaybambo for the views...and the llamas trimming the grass! Overall, I appreciated the many 'unplanned' experiences you facilitated for the group – stopping to photograph the shepherd herding goats/sheep and the alpaca shepherd. Even the bus stuck in the mud turned into a unique experience! ☺ Yes and I really liked that you organized a slide show for the group to share images. Special thanks Jim for creating another exceptional tour filled with one-of-a-kind image making opportunities! You're the best!" Barbara Colbert, Boling Brook, IL

"I have done numerous photo tours with various professionals over the years and what I'm about to say may sound like it came from the Jim Cline Marketing department but it isn't. My wife, Jan, and I did a tour of Peru with Jim earlier in the year. This was our first tour with him. I can say without equivocation that he is the best photo tour leader I have ever had and would not hesitate to do another tour with him. In fact my wife and I signed up to go on his Vietnam tour (with Cambodia extension) in February of 2012. The fact that a large number of his participants are repeats speaks to this. So, you ask – what is it about Jim that rates him above others. Well:

- 1. For starters, he is priced very competitively, especially with what he offers (evening dinners were included in the tour price – not a small thing, logistically and money-wise)*
- 2. His groups are kept small and manageable. 8-12 people vs. 18 for example*
- 3. Even though we had a small group, he had a large bus (larger than needed) for our trips around and between locations. Leg room and overhead storage become pretty important, especially on the longer segments of the trips.*
- 4. He has always thoroughly scouted the locations he takes you to. The locals often know him by name and often run up to meet him when he arrives. In Pisac, Peru, for example, my wife and I got to meet his Godson, the son of a family that lives far up on the mountain above some ruins. And they had to trek down the mountain to meet us and then back up to tend their herds at the end of the day. AND they wanted him to be Godfather to a brand new baby we got to meet.*
- 5. One thing that endears him to the locals is that on each trip he promises to bring back photos of them when he returns. And he does. They flock around him and get real excited when they see the prints he made back in the States.*
- 6. He hires local guides when appropriate and all the ones on our trip were ones he had used before and they were all pretty good.*
- 7. A lot of the best shots of the trip were serendipitous. He won't hesitate to stop the bus if he sees something worth shooting. We were driving along between locations one day and we saw a shriveled old guy herding his goats across a field with a snow covered mountain in the background. STOP the BUS!. We get off and go out into the field and we all got some really good shots. He also doesn't rush you along, yet somehow manages to keep on schedule.*
- 8. You are guaranteed lots of close up and intimate portrait shots of locals. He often grabs an interesting looking local off the streets and convinces (bribes?) them to pose as a model for the group.*

9. *He is actually a good photo instructor. He will give you as much or as little attention as you want.*
10. *Not the least of all, he is laid back and very likeable.*

Rarely would I give an unqualified endorsement of anyone, but Jim is the exception.” Lew Lively, Lutz, FL

“What a wonderful adventure in Peru. All I can say is that it was AWESOME, MARVELOUS, TERRIFIC.....and I could go on and on. The trip was perfectly planned and perfectly executed. The hotels were very comfortable, and the restaurants we ate were all very very good. And, my photos are terrific. He took us to wonderful places and timed each visit with the right light for better photography. My photos would never have been as good without his guidance. Jim comes to Peru loaded down with photos he has printed to bring back to the people at places he visits. In Pisac, his god-son and family came down from their home in an outlying village to visit with him. Yes, he has a godchild there! That is a testament to the type of person he is! I'd go anywhere with Jim Cline!” Rita Florea, San Diego, CA

“My visit to Peru in 2011 was the first time I had an opportunity to go on a photo trip with Jim Cline. I have been on a number of photography trips & workshops (over 20) in the past 6-8 years. This trip – and Jim – rose to the top. Our journey to Peru was very well planned and executed. Jim had made previous connections with people (models) in almost every location we visited. As a result, he could easily "make" photo opportunities happen. Jim is quite flexible. We stopped several times for impromptu shots allowing serendipity to play its role. The bus he arranged was super — everyone had their own seat. There was plenty of room for our gear – a refreshing change from some other tours where seating can be quite cramped. Overall, this was an EXCELLENT trip. Jim Cline is at the top of my list for photo adventures!” Bob Newman, Gainesville, FL

“This was one of the best photo trips ever. I give it a 9.5 rating. The trip was well planned and everything seemed to always fall in place. Everything about accommodations was good. Better than I expected them to be. The food and restaurants were very good. Much, much better than I expected. Jim; You outdid yourself. I was sold on Jim after my trip with him to Oaxaca. when I had a particular problem, or needed technical help, Jim solved my problems. I'm glad I took the opportunity to go on this trip, and can't thank Jim enough for the people, places and things he made available for all the participants. This trip was my 14th photography trip/workshop in 7 years, and I must say that the photo opportunities were fantastic. Just unbelievable. THIS is the area where you really came through. The only trip I've made that even comes close is Oaxaca. I just can't say enough here.” Malcolm Rogers, Monticello, MS

“I thought the planning and the execution of the trip was superb! The organization and also the spontaneity - everything flowed well. My favorite places were Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca, and market day in Pisac , and.....loved it all! The food was wonderful throughout the country – even the buffets. I especially enjoyed the luncheon buffet we had somewhere on the road. I've been having a limited diet for a while now, but I ate really well in Peru! Thanks for your good taste and generosity.

Jim was very attentive to each person in the group. Traveling with a man who has 2 godchildren in remote villages in Latin America has to be a unique experience – each and every time. By bringing the photos of the people from previous trips back to them, it opened the door for warmer receptions everywhere. Small group, great planning – hotels/meals/sites – great stuff!” Rita Florea, San Diego, CA

“Jim, Thank you for all your help and comments. You sure work hard to make sure everyone had a good time. I enjoyed the mini-lectures - I can see the improvement in my pictures. I have been sharing my experience with my coworkers and friends. Thanks for a wonderful trip.” Janet Marsh, Daly City, CA

“Hi Jim. . . I loved, loved, loved the group pics you sent and indeed it does take me back to the great times we all had together. We made memories that will always bring a smile to my face. Thank you for sharing and for being such a great tour operator.” Jan Lively, Lutz, FL

“Thanks (for the group images) Jim. Just one more reason your tours are the best.” Lew Lively