LAKE TITICACA
RITUAL AND PILGRIMAGE
**Surface:** 8,372 km²  
**Max. depth:** 284 m  
**Elevation:** 3.812 m asl  
**Population:** around 380,000 people in Bolivia and 500,000 people in Perú  
**Islands (41):** Sun and Moon (Bolivia). Taquile and Amantaní (Perú)

- Two nearly separate sub-basins that are connected by the Strait of Tiquina.
- Lago Grande or Lago *Chucuito* and Lago Pequeño or Lago *Huiñaimarca*.
- Origin of the name Titicaca is unknown: "Rock Puma", resemblance to the shape of a puma hunting a rabbit. Combining Quechua and Aymara translated as "Crag of Lead".
People and culture

- Aymara, Urus and “mestizos” (Today)
- Early Colonial (AD 1532-1572)
- Inca (AD 1400-1532)
- Aymara (AD 110-1400)
- Tiwanaku (AD 400-1100)
• People of the Andes revered mountains, caves, springs, lakes, rocks as well as human made sacred sites like temples, stone roads, royal gardens and agriculture platforms.
• These sacred objects (shrines) are known as “huacas” and people believe that endowed with powerful spirits
Terraces had a special design that maximizes the production avoiding soil erosion
Island of the Sun

- Fertile agro ecosystem maize and potatoes (>100 types)

- Traditional maize chicha (maize beer) was elaborated by chosen women (ñustas) for the consumption of the elite.

Ancient rituals

- “pagos” (payments) to the earth - Pachamama are offered by “yatiris” (ritual specialist) before plowing, house foundation, well digging, archaeological excavations and for call/stop rain.
• Pilgrimage to the Islands of Sun and Moon was common among the dominant class during Inca period.
• The most powerful shrines – altars, temples, rocks of the Islands were the final destinations of pilgrims and the places for ritual practices.
Nowadays ritual and pilgrimage are a syncretism of Catholicism and Andean culture beliefs.

“Modern pilgrims” (>100,000/year) through Andean rituals they are “negotiating” their relationships with natural, social and supernatural forces.
THANK YOU