

Premium Tour Trekking

PERU



Tour description and elevations

Day 0	3,360m / 11,201 ft
Cusco overnight	
Day 1	3,869m / 12,690 ft
Cusco to Salkantay Lodge	
Day 2	
Acclimatization Day	
Day 3	3,906m / 12,812 ft
To Wayra Lodge	
Day 4	2,870m / 9,414 ft
To To Collpa Lodge	
Day 5	2,135m / 7,003 ft
To Lucma Lodge	
Day 6	1,900m / 6,232 ft
To Aguas Calientes	
Day 7	3,360m / 11,201 ft
Machu Picchu - Cusco	
Day 8	
Trip ends	

Lodge to Lodge Trek to Machu Picchu

Come and join us on this unique adventure of a lifetime. This trek combines all the ingredients to make this a special journey, taking in the culture all the while challenging yourself on this high-altitude trek.

The spectacular route in the Cordillera Vilcabamba Range takes in the snow capped peaks, then an incredible rainforest, and finally our ultimate destination, to the spiritual pinnacle of Machu Picchu. This less travelled route gives us an extraordinary view of the Andes.

We spend our nights in luxurious backcountry lodges, featuring fine Peruvian cuisine, cozy fireplaces and very comfortably appointed rooms. Certainly this trip combines the best of both worlds.

Tour Details 2020

Daily Departures:
March 1 to December 31

Cost: per person
USD \$2995 low season
March 1-31, November 1-December 14

USD \$3995 high season
April 1-October 31, December 15-31

Cusco hotels: 2 extra nights
El Retablo fr \$60 per person per night
El Mercado fr \$100 per person per night

Single Room: Add 50% trip cost
Single willing to share: Add 25%

Length: 7 days / 6 nights

Grade: Challenging



Fast Facts

Includes:

- 6 nights accommodation, all breakfasts, all meals on trek, fully supported, and guided
- Very comfortable accommodations throughout the tour
- Gratuities for lodge staff, mule drivers and chefs (excluding guides)

Highlights:

- Trekking to Machu Picchu while staying in well-appointed rooms each night
- Fine cuisine each day.
- Knowledgeable and friendly guides to lead you

ITINERARY

DAY 0 Arrive Cusco

DAY 1 CUSCO to SORAYPAMPA (3,869 m/12,690 ft) 6 hrs. hiking

After an early breakfast, we pick up guests starting at 07:00 at their hotel in Cusco and transfer to the Salkantay Lodge (about 3.5 hours' drive). En route we will take a short break to visit the Quillarumiyoc archaeological site on the way to the town of Mollepata. (approx. 1.5 hrs from Cusco). After leaving Limatambo, we pass through the mountain village of Mollepata where we stop for a short coffee break before ascending a winding mountain track to the spectacularly situated valley of Soraypampa. Optional: Guests have the option of choosing to trek from Mollepata to Soraypampa, on an old route called the "Camino Real" (Royal Path). This is a good opportunity for guests to acclimate and enjoy a mild & beautiful 3-4 hour trek on their first day. After a warm welcome by our friendly staff, the guests will be shown to their rooms and have time to wash up. The first afternoon is spent at leisure to adjust to the altitude. An evening briefing by the fire is followed by aperitifs and dinner.



Day 2 SORAYPAMPA / HIKE TO LAKE HUMANTAY 4 hrs. hiking

This day is spent at leisure for rest or activities, depending upon guests' level of acclimatization. The most popular activity at Soraypampa is a half-day hike to a turquoise water glacial lake where the more adventurous might take a very short swim! This activity is excellent for acclimatization and a first immersion into high-mountain trekking. In the afternoon, guests may choose to trade the glacial swim for a relaxing soak in our outdoor jacuzzi. In the evening, the guide will brief the trekking party on gear and the itinerary for the next four days. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are taken at the Lodge.



DAY 3 SORAYPAMPA / CROSSING THE SALKANTAY PASS (4,636 m/15,213 ft) 6-8 hrs. hiking

This is the big day: the start of the four-day trek to Machu Picchu. After an early start we will hike up the Rio Blanco valley, circling Humantay Peak across from the Salkantay. The highest point on the trek is a pass at 4,638 m (15,213 ft). At the pass we stop to take in views of snow-capped peaks of the Vilcabamba Range in every direction, the south face of Salkantay towering above us. We will keep our eyes out for Andean condors, often visible in this area. From the pass we continue our descent toward the Wayra Lodge ("Wayra": wind; "the place where the wind lives") our destination for the evening. A hot lunch is taken en route. The most remote of our lodges, Wayra sits on a promontory that offers a spectacular view of the "other" side of Mt. Humantay, a reminder of how far you have journeyed that day.



ITINERARY Continued

DAY 4 WAYRACMACHAY / DESCENDING INTO THE CLOUD FOREST (2,870m/9,414 ft) 3-4 hrs. hiking

Following the long first day we enjoy a leisurely breakfast at Huayracmachay. We then begin our trek by hiking downhill above the Salcantay River, through increasingly verdant scenery. Our arrival at the lodge encounters a “Pachamanca”-style lunch (subject to availability; traditional underground stone cooking). The Colpa Lodge is located in an open promontory at the confluence of three rivers. The outdoor jacuzzi in this lodge has prominent views of lush green mountains and a small faraway local town. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.



DAY 5 COLLAPAMPA to LUCMABAMBA (2,135m/7,003 ft)

After an early breakfast we head down the Santa Teresa River Valley, through more populated rural areas with coffee plantations (said to be one of the best organic coffees in the world!), bananas, ‘granadillas’, and orchards. We stop along the river for a hot picnic lunch. A vehicle arrives to the lunch spot to pick us up for a short drive to the beginning of the “Llactapata Inca Trail”. From the head of the trail it is a short climb (30 min.) to the Lucma Lodge, set in an avocado orchard. We arrive in time to allow for exploration of the small village of Lucmabamba and possible meeting with members of the local community. (hiking time: 4-6 hours/total excursion time for day 5-7 hours).



Day 6 LUCMABAMBA to AGUAS CALIENTES (1,900 m/6,232 ft)

After an early start and a hearty breakfast, we tackle the last day of our trek. We head uphill for two hours towards Llactapata pass (2,736 m/8,974 ft), where we come upon a distant but quite special view of Machu Picchu from the southwest, a view few tourists ever glimpse; an added value are the Llactapata Ruins, which have recently been restored. Lunch is provided at the observatory, in view of Machu Picchu. We then begin our final descent to the Vilcanota River through lush bamboo forests and more orchards and coffee plantations (2-3 hours descent). Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu are a short, scenic train ride away. We then arrive in Aguas Calientes to check-in to the hotel. 4-6 hrs. hiking



Day 7 Machu Picchu (716m/2,350 ft) to Cusco (3,336m/11,021 ft)

We wake up at dawn to have breakfast at the hotel and then make our way to the bus station for the ride up to Machu Picchu (30 min). A complete guided tour of Machu Picchu will be provided. Guests will have about 4 to 6 hours to tour the ruins (there is a lot to do and see). Some may even choose a hike to Huayna Picchu, the iconic towering mountain often seen in photographs. Afterward, we will return by bus to Aguas Calientes for lunch and to go to the train station for the afternoon departure. The train will arrive in Cusco and we will drop passengers at the hotel. **End of services**



What to Expect

What will the weather be like?

Daytime temperatures range from 50 to 75 F (10 to 24C), but can dip quite low in the evenings (30's F or 0 C). In the mountains, the temperature can change quickly. Rainy season is from December to April, but there can be precipitation all year long. (Low season - March 1st - March 31st, November 1st - December 14th, High season - April 1st - October 31st, December 15th - December 31st).

How many hours of hiking a day?

You will walk for about 4 to 8 hours a day on this high altitude trek. Some previous hiking experience is very useful, but a fit individual will be able to do this trip. Training is essential, the fitter the better.

What are the accommodations like?

These are fine country lodges, with double and twin bedded rooms, always with private facilities. All of them have a dining room and lounge for you to enjoy. All of the lodges en route have an outdoor hot tub to soak those achy muscles.

There is an additional US \$50 per person Salkantay entrance fee collected in the town of Mollepata on Day 1 (instated July 2008).



Extra Services

Spend an Extra Day in Machu Picchu

Even though you have enough time to see the core of Machu Picchu Sanctuary during the regular guided tour, most of our guests realize that they would have liked to stay a little longer since there is so much to explore! Visit the town of Aguas Calientes and shop the local craft markets. Hike to the Inca Bridge or the Sun Gate.

US\$ 495 per person based on shared accommodation

- One additional night at the Inkaterra Pueblo Hotel with dinner and breakfast.
- Bus tickets to/from the site, entrance tickets to the Sanctuary, and transfer back to Cusco from Ollantaytambo (train ticket is included in your program cost).
- This extension cost does not include a guided visit of the Sanctuary or a climbing permit for Machu Picchu mountain. Both can be provided at additional cost.

How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and a pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is due 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us, for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.