



PERU

TREK THE INCA TRAIL BY FOOT 8-DAYS

Hidden under the dense foliage of a highland jungle, forgotten by the Incas themselves, Machu Picchu escaped the Conquistadors and eluded treasure hunters until Hiram Bingham brought "The Lost City of the Incas" to the world's attention in 1911. Further exploration uncovered an ancient highway, a royal road that connected Machu Picchu to Cuzco, the Inca capital. We follow in the timeworn grooves of centuries of footsteps. We camp with striking views of the high sierra and dense rainforest. There are two high passes we cross at 4,267 m / 14,000 ft before we arrive at Inti Punku, the Sun Gate, for our first view of Machu Picchu below us.

Day 1

CUZCO

ARRIVAL

Upon arrival into Cuzco, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to a comfortable hotel in the city. The remainder of the day is at leisure to acclimate to this high altitude colonial city located at 3,350 m / 10,988 ft. The streets of Cuzco are filled with artisans selling sweaters, pottery, and a variety of other handicrafts. Overnight in a comfortable hotel.

Meals: none



Day 2

CUZCO - SACSAYHUAMAN

HORSEBACK RIDING

This morning is at leisure to wander through the cobblestone streets of Cuzco exploring the cathedral, museums or shopping for local handicrafts. Later this afternoon we depart by horse, riding to the nearby ruins of Kenko, Tambomachay and Pucapucara. Our final destination is Sacsayhuaman, a spectacular mountaintop fortress overlooking Cuzco. We return to the hotel late afternoon.

Horseback Riding Duration: 2 hours

Horseback Riding Distance: 11 km / 7 mi

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

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Day 3

INCA TRAIL

TREKKING

This morning we are transferred to the village of Chilca. Our porters will be awaiting us here, ready to assist us for the next four days of trekking. The trail runs along the canyon-sculpted Urubamba River to the colorful village of Huayllabamba, where the locals are draped in their vibrant hand woven costumes. We soon reach the ruins of Llactapata, a former agricultural settlement, and have time to contemplate the history of this area. The day ends at 3,000 m / 9,840 ft, camping in the Andes.

Trekking Distance: 11 km / 7 mi
Trekking Duration: 5 – 6 hours
Ascent: + 255m (836 ft)
Accommodation: Tent
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

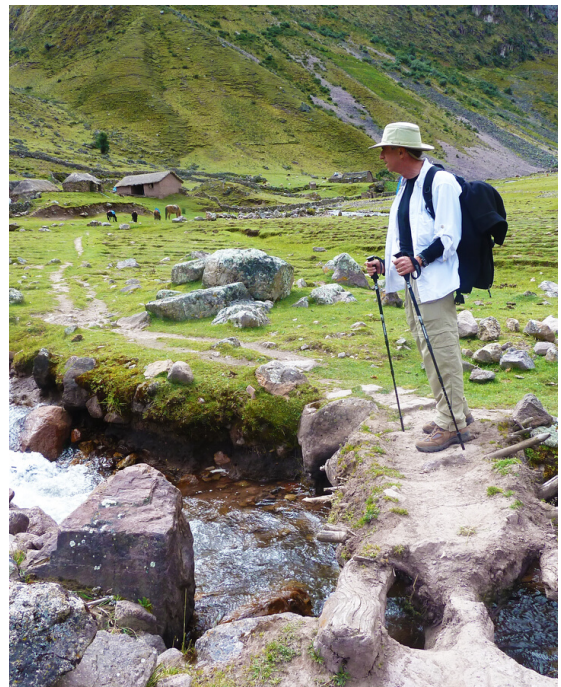
Day 4

INCA TRAIL

TREKKING

From Huayllabamba we climb towards the highest pass of our journey, Warmiwaousca (4,300 m / 14,000 ft). We are dwarfed by the impressive Urubamba mountain range surrounding us, especially Mt. Veronica - the largest and most spectacular of all the peaks. Our campsite is in the valley below, on the edge of the Pacaymayu River. Approximately 5-6 hours of hiking.

Trekking Distance: 10 km / 6 mi
Trekking Duration: 5 – 6 hours
Ascent: + 1,275m (4,182 ft)
Descent: - 700m (2,296 ft)
Accommodation: Tent
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5

INCA TRAIL

TREKKING

We pass the ruins of Runkurakay and cross our second and final pass this morning. There are fabulous photo opportunities here to capture the grandeur of the Vilcabamba mountain range. On the way to camp, we have our first view of Salcantay (6,100 m / 20,569 ft) - the sacred mountain of the Incas. There is time this afternoon to explore the Sayacmarca ruins. We end the day camping nearby the impressive ruins of Phuyupatamarca.

Trekking Distance: 14 km / 9 mi

Trekking Duration: 5 - 6 hours

Ascent: + 450m (1,476ft)

Descent: - 1,300m (4,264ft)

Accommodation: Tent

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6

INCA TRAIL - AGUAS CALIENTES

TREKKING

Continuing our descent, we pass the ruins of Winaywayna: a series of steep terraces and fountains carved out of the mountainside. Our trail passes through dense, hanging forest decorated with orchids and groves of bamboo. We arrive at Inti Punku: the famous sun gate, and there upon us is the mother of all Inca ruins - Machu Picchu (2,500 m / 8,118 ft). We descend to Aguas Calientes to check-in to our hotel. The evening is free to explore the town.

Trekking Distance: 6 km / 3.7 mi

Trekking Duration: 2 - 3 hours

Descent: - 250m (820ft)

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



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Day 7

MACHU PICCHU - AGUAS CALIENTES

HIKING

A full day dedicated to exploring the site. If you are keen to climb this, only a certain number of people can climb to Huayna Picchu a day, as permits are required. These permits sell out well in advance and are subject to availability at time of booking. The hike is a challenging one, but the views are well worth the effort! A much less busy alternative is the Sun Gate, where the Inca Trail finishes. We highly recommend this option. In the afternoon, we take the train through the Urubamba valley, destined for Cuzco. We are met at the train station and transferred to our hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 8

CUZCO

DEPARTURE

After breakfast you'll be transferred to the airport for your international flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

NOTE about Ascent/Descent numbers:

The ascent/descent numbers are usually generated using Ride with GPS. The numbers are TOTAL ascent/descent for the day and these numbers do not suggest altitude. There are usually multiple small ascents and descents added up throughout the day to reach this total ascent/descent for the day. (While our numbers are generally consistent with Ride with GPS, depending on the mapping technology used, numbers may vary).

TRIP INCLUSIONS

Trip Includes

Meals as indicated, all accommodation (twin shared), all internal transportation excluding internal flights Lima-Cuzco-Lima, camping equipment (except sleeping bag), airport transfers, porters and cooks, and English-speaking guides.

Not Included

International and internal airfares, airport taxes, meals not included, gratuities and items of a personal nature.

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