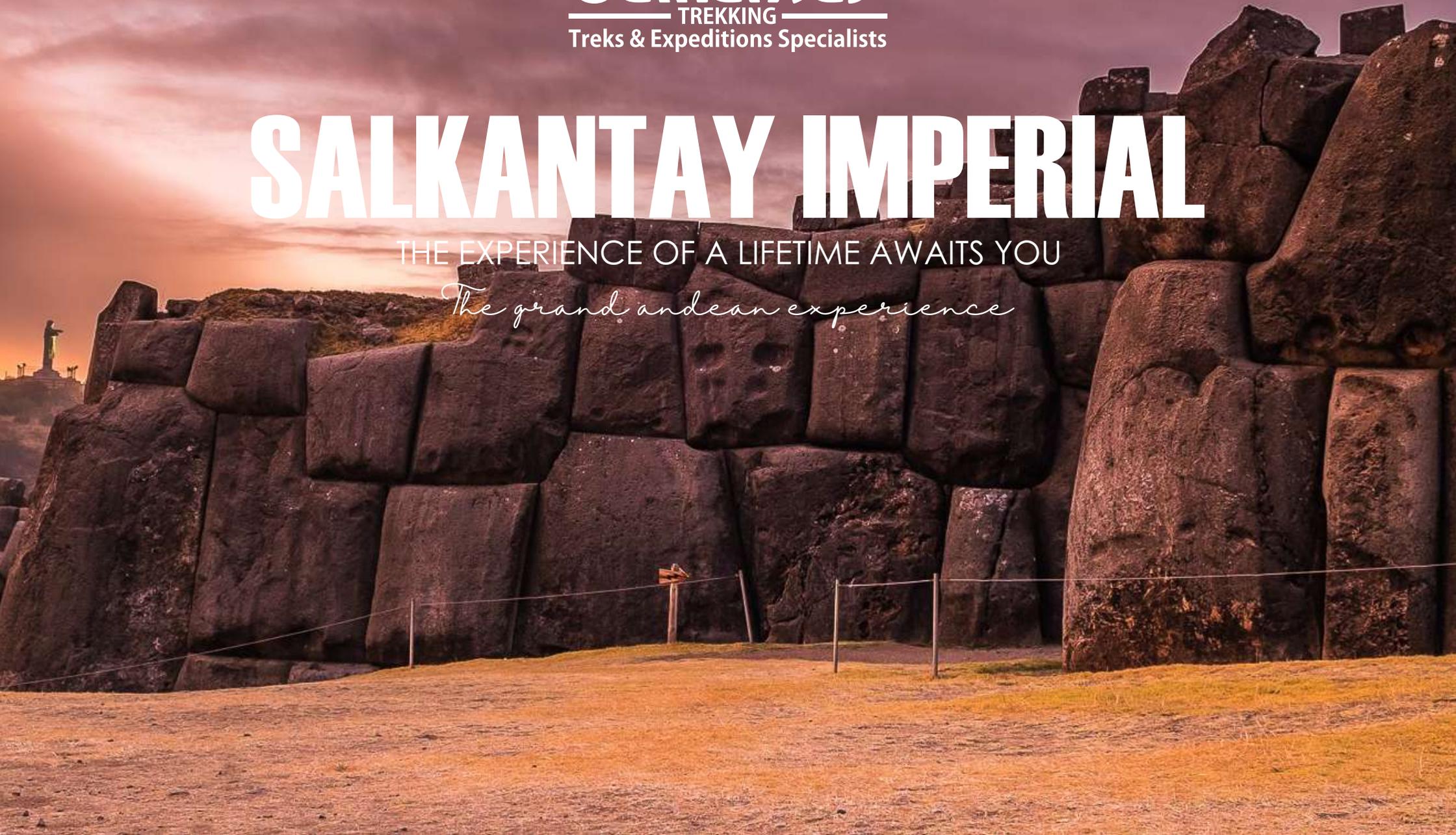




# SALKANTAY IMPERIAL

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME AWAITS YOU

*The grand andean experience*





# The experience of a lifetime awaits you

## DESCRIPTION

The **Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu** is an alternative to the **Inca Trail** and considered by most to be the best alternative route (and maybe even better!). This magnificent trail is perfect for adventurers who wish to become personally integrated in changing ecosystems from one day to the next. You will walk through sweeping, magical landscapes of a snowy mountain paradise to a tropical jungle where you will find a wide range of animals and medicinal plants and flower varieties. Witness with your own eyes a living, but ancient, culture in remote villages hardly ever seen by foreigners!

The **Cordillera Vilcabamba** is an impressive mountain range

extending over 260 km. The snow-capped mountain Salkantay rises to 6271 MASL– 20574 FASL in height. It is an outstanding snowy peak, located less than fifty miles northwest of the city of Cusco in south-central Peru. Because of its proximity to the city, it is easily accessible by car and it has been climbed by professional mountaineers since 1952.

**In order to complete the Salkantay Trek, you need to have a reasonable level of fitness, but age shouldn't be a barrier. The most important thing is to be well-acclimatized to the altitude. The highest you will trek the entire time is (4650 MASL – 15092**

**FASL). Two days of acclimatization before the trek is ideal for visiting the city of Cusco, plus the four the nearby Incan ruin sites and the Sacred Valley of the Incas.**

# ITINERARY

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## SALKANTAY IMPERIAL TREK TO MACHU PICCHU

8 Days | 7 Nights

### DAY 1

CUSCO | TRANSFER AIRPORT - CUSCO HOTEL & HALF-DAY CITY TOUR (AFTERNOON)

### DAY 2

CUSCO REGION | FULL-DAY SACRED VALLEY TOUR

### DAY 3

CUSCO | MOLLEPATA – CHALLACANCHA – SORAYPAMPA (HUMANTAY LAKE)

### DAY 4

SORAYPAMPA | SALKANTAY PASS - WAYRACMACHAY - CHAULLAY

### DAY 5

CHAULLAY | COLLAPAMPA - LA PLAYA - LUCMABAMBA

### DAY 6

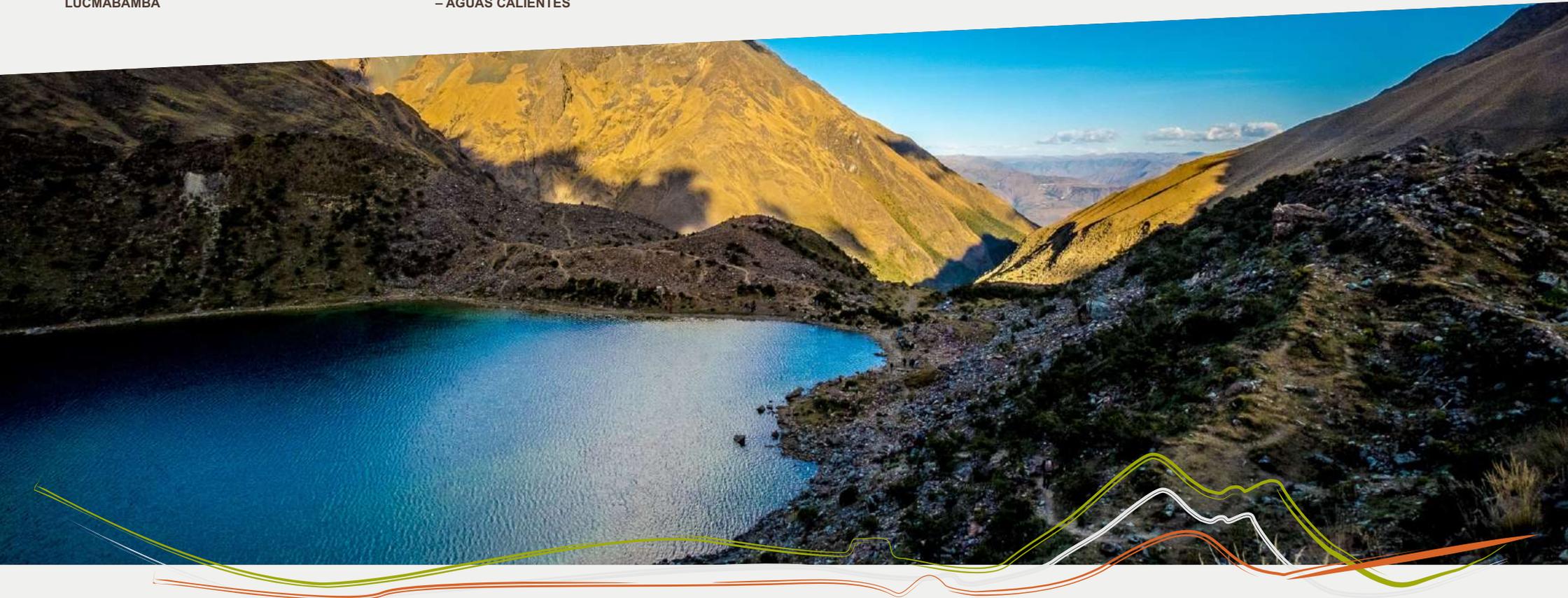
LUCMABAMBA | LLACTAPATA – HIDROELECTRICA – AGUAS CALIENTES

### DAY 7

THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY – MACHU PICCHU!

### DAY 8

TRANSFER



## CUSCO | TRANSFER AIRPORT - CUSCO HOTEL & HALF-DAY CITY TOUR (AFTERNOON)

Welcome to the imperial, Andean city of Cusco, the cultural capital of Peru! Upon arrival, we will take you to your hotel (included in the price of your tour) to drop off your luggage and freshen up. When you are ready, we will take a leisurely half-day tour of this amazing place as you acclimatize to the high altitude (3399 MASL – 11151 FASL). Cusco has a long history and is the oldest continuously inhabited city in all the Americas! Since about 1000 B.C. people have lived in Cusco and regarded it as a center of the surrounding culture (then called Qosqo). It has been an important part of every civilization that has lived in the area throughout history, starting with the native people of Peru long before the famous Incan people. On arrival of the Incan Empire to Peru and beyond, Cusco (then called Cuzco) became of the naval of their far-reaching and powerful empire! Of course the Incans were then conquered by Spaniards who also used Cusco as a colonial, regal capital for the area.

### The attractions visited on this tour include:

- **Cusco's Cathedral:** Located in Cusco's Main Square, the cathedral is a colonial monument of great artistic value.
- **Koricancha Temple and Santo Domingo Convent:** This religious center was built to worship the Sun, the most revered deity during the Inca Empire.
- **Saqsayhuaman:** Located 2 km from Cusco City, this fortress was built using enormous carved rocks joined with compelling precision.
  - **Q'enqo:** Located 1 km from Sacsayhuaman, this complex was an Inca ceremonial cult center. The most prominent feature of this complex is an open space called the amphitheater.
    - **Puca Pucara:** This complex is known as the "red fortress" due to its reddish tints resulting from the vast amounts of iron in its rocks.
    - **Tambomachay:** This complex is made up of a combination of finely carved stones, waterfalls, and aqueducts to carry water coming from nearby springs and hot springs.



## CUSCO REGION | FULL-DAY SACRED VALLEY TOUR

Today, you will have the opportunity to visit some of the most beautiful and historically rich towns of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We begin the day by picking you up from your hotel in Cusco at 8:30 AM and heading toward the town of Pisac. Before reaching Pisac, we will stop at both the Qorao and Taray lookouts so you can admire the beauty of the Sacred Valley from afar and take pictures. Once in Pisac, we will visit both Pisac's archaeological site and famous market. For lunch, we will drive to the town of Urubamba, where you will enjoy a delicious buffet lunch of traditional Peruvian dishes.

Continuing on, we will drive to the classic Incan town of Ollantaytambo and visit the town's amazing and extensive archaeological site with its royal baths, high terraces, temples, etc. surrounded towering mountain peaks and colorful valleys (plus a view of a faraway glacier)! This town is the most well-preserved layout of a typical, Incan-built city with its narrow, cobbled streets and stone walls. Its conservation allows for the enduring legacy of the Incan people to live on for us today!

To finish our day, we will visit Chinchero and meet some of the town's talented women in a textile-making presentation. The Cusco region is known for its amazing, colorful textiles, and here you will learn how each color of wool is naturally dyed, how the intricate cloths are woven, and the symbolism held by the traditional designs you find in their beautiful creations. Here, you will also visit an archeological site and a colonial church. After your tour, you will be brought back to Cusco and dropped off at your hotel at 6:45 PM to rest up for tomorrow's exciting activities!



## CUSCO | MOLLEPATA – CHALLACANCHA – SORAYPAMPA (HUMANTAY LAKE)

**Walking Distance** – 12km / 7.45 miles

**Starting Elevation** – 3350 meters ASL / 10990 feet ASL

**Highest Elevation** – 4600 meters ASL / 15091 feet ASL

**Campsite Elevation** – 3920 meters ASL / 12861 feet ASL

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Meals:** Lunch and Dinner (Plus snacks and afternoon tea time)

**Accommodation:** Glass-Topped Sky Camp

**Adventure:** Moderate-High! (Especially the trek to Humantay Lake!)

**Today's Highlights:** Walk from Challacancha to Soraypampa with very few tourists. Relish in an afternoon visit to the absolutely whimsical Humantay Lake nestled at the base of Apu Humantay mountain. Take in your first views of the enigmatic Apu Salkantay. Spend the night in our glass-topped Sky Camp, and stargaze from your bed in our exclusive campsite!

We start the day by picking you up at your hotel at approx 04:00 AM. We will drive for around 4 hours, crossing Anta and Mollepata and ending up at Challacancha. Through the windows of the bus you can clearly see the white, snowcapped mountains of Apus Salkantay and Humantay: two colossal gods of the Incas. You will also see spectacular scenery of high peaks and low valleys in a colorful and contrasting panorama filling every direction you turn your eyes! After the first two hours of driving, we will stop quickly in Mollepata to take advantage of the toilet facilities, souvenir shops, and an optional, short breakfast. We will then continue to Challacancha, the starting point for our trek. We will meet our support staff, and they will organize all of the equipment and cargo mules. Around 09:30 AM, we will begin trekking to Soraypampa (3850 MASL – 12631 FASL), the first campsite on our journey.

The first section of the path takes us over a few deep valleys along the side of a mountain. At some parts of the trail, an old aqueduct can still be seen which still supplies water to farmers in the lower valleys. We will travel 7 km (4.35 miles) in 3 hours to Soraypampa where we will have our lunch at the base camp of Salkantay. After lunch and a short rest, we hike up to the unforgettable Humantay Lake (4200 MASL – 13779 ft). This is a 5 km (3.1 miles) round-trip which we will walk in a total of 3 hours. This place one of the most beautiful sights in all the Andes with unbelievable blue-green water reflecting the mountain glaciers of Apu Humantay. It seems like something out of a dream or fairy tale! Back at our camp, the background of the valley at sunset creates the most peaceful scene with an energy that can only be felt and not described! Because Soraypampa (our camp) is located in the middle of the glacier valleys, the sky is so immensely clear at night that you can truly appreciate the stars, constellations, and even comets shooting across the pitch blackness, uninterrupted by the hustle, bustle, or lights of the city. Take a moment this night to re-center your spirit and consider all the deep things of life in the profound silence and tranquility of Soraypampa!



## SORAYPAMPA | SALKANTAY PASS - WAYRACMACHAY - CHAULLAY

**Walking Distance** – 22 km / 13.7 miles

**Starting Elevation** – 3800 meters ASL / 12467 feet ASL

**Campsite Elevation** – 2750 meters ASL / 9022 feet ASL

**Maximum Altitude:** 4650 meters ASL / 15255 feet ASL

**Difficulty:** Challenging

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (Plus snacks & afternoon tea time)

**Accommodation:** Wooden Camping CHOZAS (Andean Huts)

**Adventure:** Absolutely, 100%! The raw and breath-taking beauty of this day's hike along with its challenging nature will quench any wanderlust you've been trying to cure!

**Today's Highlights:** Hike along the winding Salkantay trail with the mountain's tallest peak in front of your eyes all morning! Challenge yourself as we make our way up some steep slopes while looking out on the valley far below until we reach the base of Apu Salkantay. Around midday, you will be standing in the middle of the Andes mountain range! In the afternoon, we make our way into the incredible cloud forest and tropical jungle around Chaullay. This is your most challenging day but also your most rewarding!

After an early wake-up with the first daylight at 05:30 AM and a quick but energizing breakfast, we will start trekking up to the highest point of the trail: the Salkantay Pass (4650 MASL – 15255 FASL). The distance is a 7 km (4.34 miles) of difficult ascent in 3 hours between the rocky valley base and the magnificent Salkantay Mountain (6271 MASL– 20574 FASL). When we reach the top of the pass, we will appreciate the spectacular views of the surrounding valleys and the imposing snowy peaks of Salkantay, Humantay, Tucaruay and Pumasillo mountains. Salkantay Mountain is the second highest mountain in the Cusco region and one of the Inca gods called "Apu". Continuing from this climax of today's trek, there is a 5 km (3.1 mile) downhill walk to the site for lunch. The walk downwards is on a serpent-shaped, rocky, gravel path which leads to the Huayracmachay lunch campsite. To rest on the way down, there is a perfect valley outlook that is absolutely stunning! In the afternoon after our meal, we will enter the upper part of the Amazon jungle, which is also called "the cloud forest". This is a 10 km (6.2 mile) hike completed in 3 hours on a wide trail in the thick and magical tropical forest. During this part of the trek, you will notice a dramatic change in landscape and the earth's energy as we move from Andes to Amazon! This hike is truly beautiful; the hills are decorated with colorful scenery, wildlife, and native plants. The forests are warm and tropical most of the year with temperate climates. At the end of this outstanding hike, we arrive at Chaullay Village (2900 MASL – 9514 FASL) for a much-deserved reward of rest from our long day of trekking! This is our base camp in the jungle as we continue to make our way to Machu Picchu.



## CHAULLAY | COLLPAPAMPA - LA PLAYA - LUCMABAMBA

**Walking Distance** – 18km / 11.2 miles

**Starting Elevation** – 2750 meters ASL / 9022 feet ASL

**Campsite Elevation** – 2400 meters ASL / 7874 feet ASL

**Difficulty:** Easy

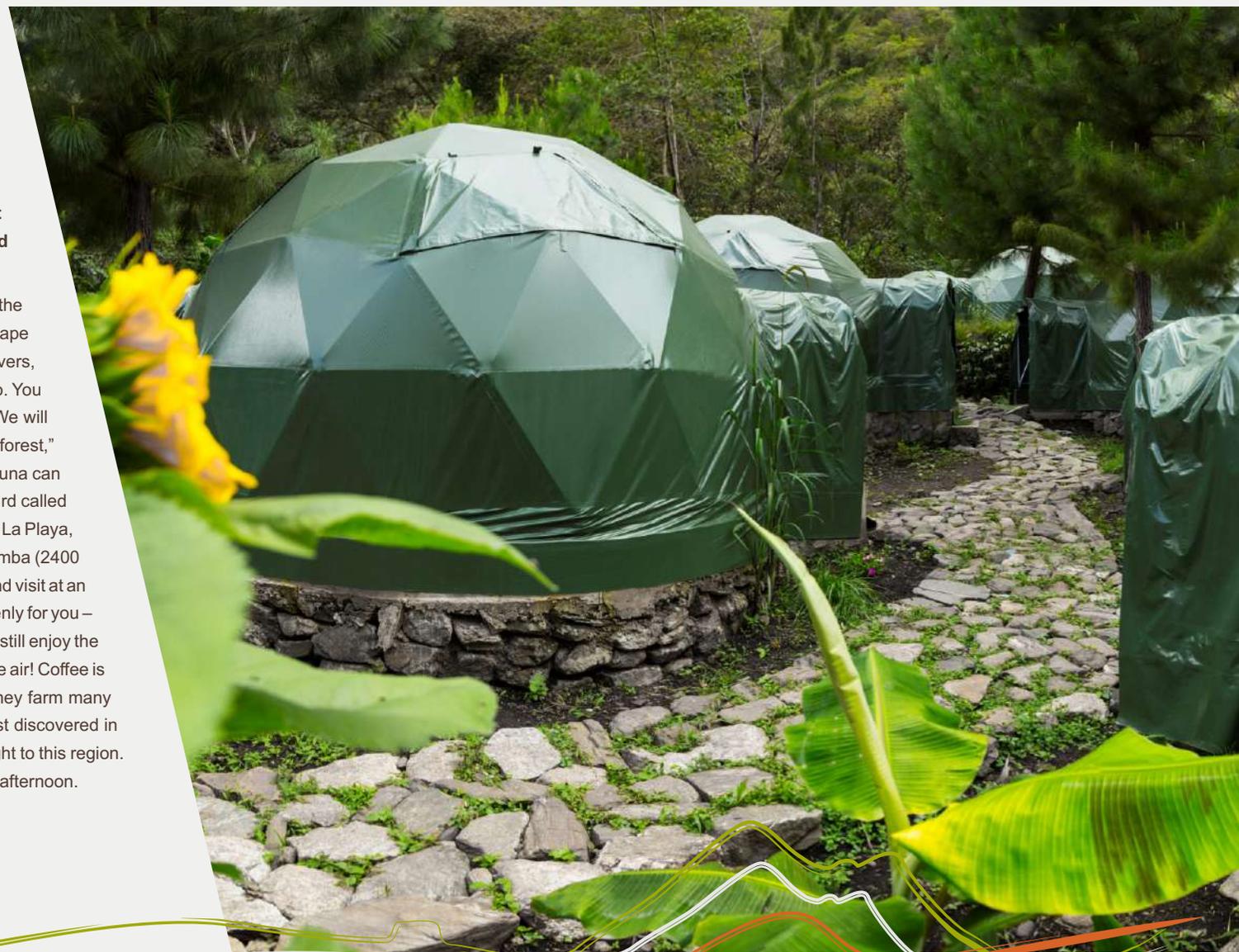
**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (Plus snacks & afternoon tea time)

**Accommodation:** Newly constructed Jungle Domes

**Adventure:** Absolutely! You will be in the middle of the tropical forest you have dreamt about!

**Today's Highlights:** We leave our camp early today to enjoy a serene and empty trail and appreciate landscape, scenery, and wildlife, including the roaring river below us in the valley us for much of the day. While trekking through the luscious jungle, you will find countless wild fruits such as banana, avocado, passion fruit, and granadilla. There are also waterfalls and streams where you can refresh your feet and cool off! After having lunch in the small town of La Playa, we will take a short hike to our base camp at Lucmabamba and visit organic plantations of coffee, oranges, and avocados!

At 06:00 AM, we will start our trek to the small town of La Playa through the Santa Teresa valley. You will be able to soak up this new, lush landscape during our 6 hours of hiking today! During the hike we will see rivers, waterfalls, wild orchids, and plantations of coffee, banana, and avocado. You can taste the famous passion fruit and granadilla fruit along the way! We will see a village called Colpapampa, also called the "brow of the cloud forest," where waterfalls, birds, hot springs, fruit-bearing trees, and flora and fauna can be observed. If we are lucky, we will even be able to see the beautiful bird called "The Cock of the Rocks," the national bird of Peru! After a hearty lunch at La Playa, we will hike for approximately 1 hour to our base camp called Lucmabamba (2400 MASL – 7874 FASL). We will explore the tropical forest for a little while and visit at an organic coffee farm. If you are a coffee lover, this will be especially heavenly for you – you can taste coffee freshly prepared by the local people! If not, you can still enjoy the decadent aroma of freshly roasted and ground coffee wafting through the air! Coffee is the main farming industry of the local people here in the jungle, and they farm many acres of coffee to export to the USA, Asia, and Europe. Coffee was first discovered in Ethiopia, but it wasn't until the Spanish invaded Cusco that it was brought to this region. We will also explore an orange plantation and an avocado plantation this afternoon.



## LUCMABAMBA | LLACTAPATA – HIDROELECTRICA – AGUAS CALIENTES

**Walking Distance** – 18 km / 11.2 miles

**Starting Elevation** – 2450 meters ASL / 8038 feet ASL

**Campsite Elevation** – 2000 meters ASL / 6561 feet ASL (Aguas Calientes hostel)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner (Plus snacks & afternoon tea time)

**Accommodation:** Comfortable Hostel

**Adventure:** Moderate-High! How could it not be an adventure travelling back in time to visit with the Incan people?!

**Today's Highlights:** Today something particularly special happens – we get to travel along part of the famous Inca Trail! On this path, we will come to the impressive archeological site of Llactapata right in front of its more well-known big brother, Machu Picchu. You will meet some of the native people who live their day-to-day lives in the area. Along the path you will have the opportunity to harvest several fruits while relishing in one of the best views of the Urubamba valley! Don't forget to turn around and see Apu Salkantay again in the background before you look forward to have your first glance at the glorious Machu Picchu!

Like previous mornings, the chef of the trek will wake you up early with a hot cup of coca tea served in your bed. You will get ready for today's activities while enjoying your last prepared breakfast by the talented trek chef. We will begin the hike early, and you will have the opportunity to enjoy a small part of the famous and highly-acclaimed Inca trail! After a climb of 2 hours with amazing views of the Santa Teresa valley we will arrive at the Llactapata Inca site right in front of Machu Picchu. This will be the first archaeological site we will see of the mysterious Lost City of the Incas! It is a very special place to enjoy together and spend time learning a bit more about this land's roots and history. We will be able to see not only the ruins of Machu Picchu from this spot, but also Huayna Picchu and Machu Picchu Mountain. We will explore this Inca site with the guide, and he will continue telling the history of the Incas who used and worshipped this land. Of course, you will have plenty of time to take as many photos as you want to capture these memories and share with your friends back home!

After the Llactapata ruins, we will continue our trek with a 2-hour downhill hike. On this part of the trail, you are always able to view Machu Picchu until we arrive at the Hidroelectrica train station to have lunch. One of the most impressive sites in this area is the 300-meter-tall natural waterfall which generates electricity for the entire region of Cusco! After lunch, we will arrive at Intiwatana, a famous ancient rock used as a sundial in the Incan era. According to history, Intiwatana worked together with the famous sundial stone in the Machu Picchu site. The people used these two stones to measure and read the winter solstice, which was the beginning of the new farming season for the Incas. After passing this interesting Inca site, we will reach train tracks which lead to the town of Aguas Calientes. Here you will have two options: 1) If you are exhausted, you may take the train to Aguas Calientes (\$31.00 extra). 2) If you are still eager to hike, you may walk from Hidroelectrica to Aguas Calientes for about 3 hours along the train track. Next to the tracks, there is a nice path we will through the warm paradise of the cloud forest. This is the same trail used by the American professor Hiram Bingham who rediscovered Machu Picchu after centuries of it being lost to the outside world!

**Note:** During the rainy season, the hike up the Llactapata Trail is not 100% guaranteed due to safety concerns. When heavy rains are frequent, this trail becomes very dangerous.



## THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY – MACHU PICCHU!

**Activity Overview:** Touring Machu Picchu with optional hike

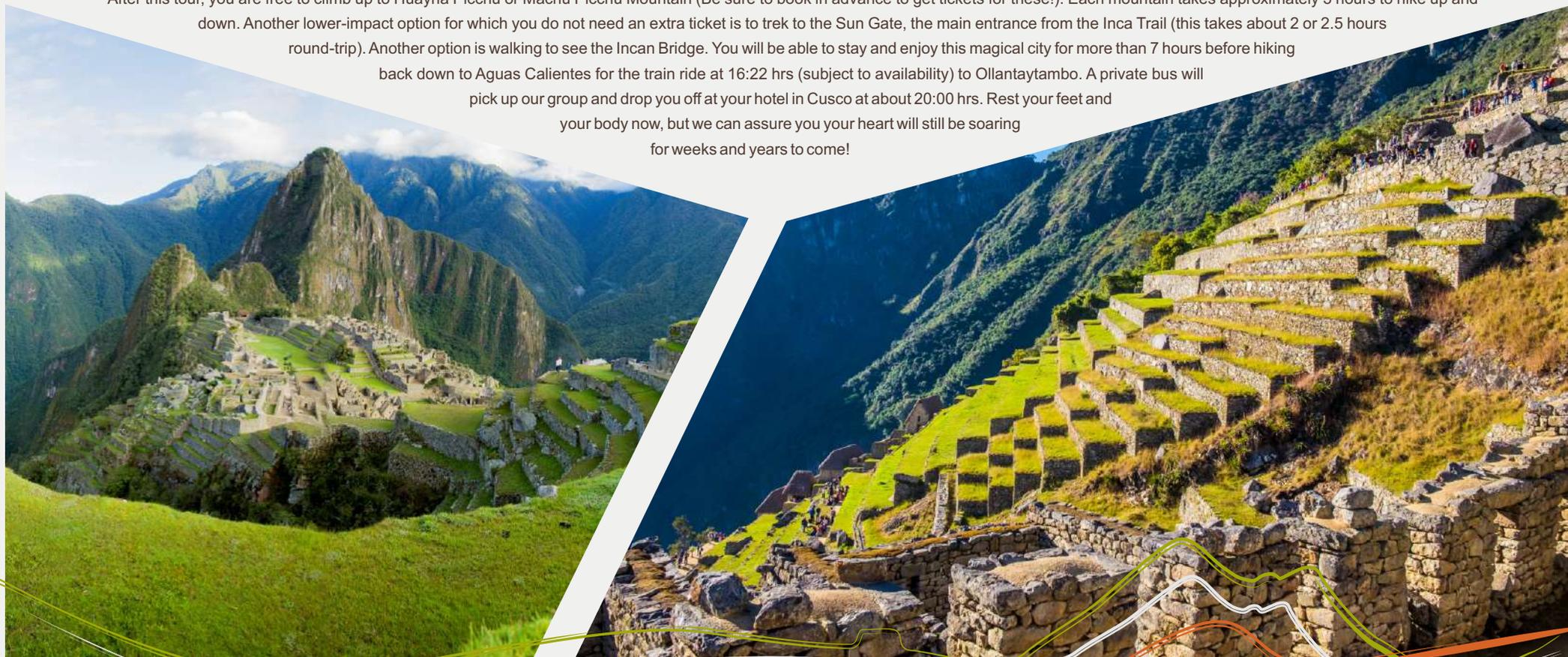
**Activity Level:** Touring: easy, hike: strenuous

**Activity Length:** 2-5 hours exploring and optional 2-3 hour strenuous hike; Machu Picchu is at 7,972' elevation

**Today's Highlights:** Your excitement for our rendezvous at Machu Picchu will rise as we are hiking early in the morning through the forest to reach the site before most other tourists – even the Inca Trail trekkers!! You will have plenty of time to explore this truly magnificent World Wonder while you enjoy the beautiful sunrise from this once-in-a-lifetime viewpoint. Your group will learn about this mystical place in a two-hour guided tour of the ruins. Afterwards, you can opt to climb Huayna Picchu or Machupicchu Mountain (if you have pre-booked tickets) or walk to the Sun Gate (without extra tickets).

Today we arrive at the long-awaited finale of our trek, one of the New 7 Wonders of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site – Machu Picchu! We will wake up early after a refreshing night at our hostel to beat the crowds to the top of Machu Picchu and enjoy its serenity in the soft morning light. The Machu Picchu entrance check point is open from 06:00 AM until 17:00 PM. We will hike up to Machupicchu (a bus ride is optional for \$12.00) and enter the hidden Royal Citadel of the Incas. Here we will have a 2-hour guided tour through this incredible ancient city to visit temples, terraces, palaces, priest's houses, the sundial, the industrial sector, and the farming fields. Be amazed at the engineering ingenuity of the Incas which was so far ahead of their time and still partially a mystery today! Without having modern tools or even steel and iron to work with, the people who built this city were genius in organizing this community in a sustainable and beautiful way on the side of a mountain, even bringing water in canals through its streets for the people to use. When a Peruvian guide showed this site to Hiram Bingham, it was almost unrecognizable, covered in thick vegetation and in a state of disrepair. It has since been cleaned and restored and is now protected and treasured by the world at large!

After this tour, you are free to climb up to Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain (Be sure to book in advance to get tickets for these!). Each mountain takes approximately 3 hours to hike up and down. Another lower-impact option for which you do not need an extra ticket is to trek to the Sun Gate, the main entrance from the Inca Trail (this takes about 2 or 2.5 hours round-trip). Another option is walking to see the Incan Bridge. You will be able to stay and enjoy this magical city for more than 7 hours before hiking back down to Aguas Calientes for the train ride at 16:22 hrs (subject to availability) to Ollantaytambo. A private bus will pick up our group and drop you off at your hotel in Cusco at about 20:00 hrs. Rest your feet and your body now, but we can assure you your heart will still be soaring for weeks and years to come!



TRANSFER

Transfer from your hotel in Cusco to the airport or bus station



- **Hotel:** 3 Nights Hotel in Cusco(2 nights before the hike and 1 night after the hike)
- **Day 1:** City Tour Half Day
- **Day 2:** Sacred Valley Tour full day
- **Pre-departure briefing:** You will meet your guide and group in our office for an orientation before your trek. At this time, we will provide you with the duffle bags which will be carried by our horses. The meeting will be at 6:00 PM the evening before the trip begins.
- **Transport:** You will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and will travel by private transportation to Challacancha, the starting point of the trek.
- **Experienced Guide:** English speaking, professionally educated, and official tour guide. Your guide will explain the culture and surroundings along the entire route, including leading your group in ancient ceremonies! He or she will keep you safe, sound, and comfortable on your trek so that you can enjoy your time worry-free!
- **Personal accommodation in private campsites:** Like our ancestors, we are very considerate of the Pachamama (Mother Earth). Therefore, our campsites and lodges are adapted to the environment to avoid generating negative impacts.
  - **Night 1:** Relax on your soft bed in our state-of-the-art Sky Camp under the watchful eye of Apu Salkantay on one side and Apu Humantay on the other. Spend as many hours as you would like star-gazing through your elegant glass ceiling! (Click here to see photo)
  - **Night 2:** Enjoy our camping huts, made of ichu (Peruvian feather grass) and wood to guarantee a pleasant rest with protection during cold nights in the mountains. (Click Here to see photo) 2 people will stay in each 4-person tent inside of each individual hut. We provide you with a thick camping mattress free of charge.
  - **Night 3:** Experience our Jungle Domes, brand new this year! In your dome, you will find a comfortable bed, twin or double (depending on your stated preferences). These domes have been ecologically designed to not interrupt the beautiful, raw surrounding landscape of the cloud forest. (Click here to see photo)
  - **Night 4:** Hostel in Aguas Calientes
- **Camping equipment:** Dining and kitchen tents, tables, chairs, and cooking equipment (all carried by the horses).
- **Entry ticket to Machu Picchu Archeological Site:** There are different schedules to visit Machu Picchu. It will depend of the season and the availability. If you do your reservation with the due anticipation, you will be able to visit Machu Picchu starting at 6 am but if this schedule is full, you will have a different ticket than the

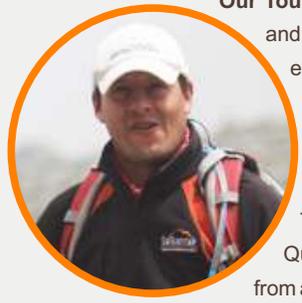
group.

- **Basic accommodation (hostal) in Aguas Calientes:** The last night of this trek is spent in a hostel in Aguas Calientes with a double or triple room, private bathroom, hot shower, wifi, breakfast, and luggage storage while you visit Machu Picchu.
- **1 Duffle Bag:** You can put your personal luggage, up to 7 kgs (15.4 lbs), including your sleeping bag, in this bag to be carried by our horses.
- **Cargo Mules:** On days 1 and 2, cargo mules carry the all camping equipment and your allowance of personal baggage (7 kgs/15.4 lbs). On days 3 and 4, your luggage will be carried by car or train to your destination.
- **Trekking Cook:** A chef specialized in cooking on the trail, with an assistant, will prepare all of your delicious meals along the journey to replenish your energy. You will never go hungry!
- **Meals:** 4 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 4 Dinners (Vegetarian, vegan, or special menus are available at no extra cost)
- **Wake up tea:** Every morning at the campsite, you will woken up with a cup of coca tea! Our staff will bring the tea to your tent so that you will be warmed from inside out before you start your day.
- **Tea time daily:** Every afternoon before dinner, the cooks will provide popcorn, biscuits, coffee, hot chocolate, teas, hot water, etc. After a long day of hiking, you will not have to wait until dinner to relax, warm up, and enjoy a bite to eat!
- **Snacks on the trail daily:** Our snacks consist of local fruits, biscuits, chocolate, caramels, etc. We will give this snack to you at the beginning of each day in your cloth bag.
- **One cloth snack bag per person:** To avoid the usage of plastic bags that contaminate our environment, we will give you a cloth bag for your snacks.
- **Products for hygiene:** You will be provided with a small towel before each meal to clean your hands.
- **Medical kit:** Our crew will bring a first-aid kit, including emergency oxygen bottle
- **Train tickets:** From Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo (“Expedition” service of Peru Rail and “Voyager” of Inca Rail, from 2:30 pm - 4:22 pm, subject to availability.)
- **Transport:** Private transport from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco (Day 5)
- **24-hour guest service:** We have telephone service available 24 hours/day for ease of communication and preparation with the agency leading up to your trek.
- We will create a **Memorable Lifetime Experience** for you.

- **Entrance fee to Salkantay Trail (\$1.10 per person)**
- **Sleeping Bags:** (you can hire from our company), our sleeping bags are -18°C-comfort (0°F), mummy form and include a sleeping liner. They are cleaned after every use and have a maximum usage of 30 trips.
- **Walking Sticks:** you can hire from our company
- **Last Day:** Lunch and Dinner in Aguas Calientes.
- **Personal clothing and gear.**
- **Travel insurance.**
- **Tips for our staff:** please note that our agency staff is well paid so please feel free to tip or not as you wish.
- **Option:** If you feel tired after the trek to and from La Playa (Day 6), you have the option to take a train from Hidroelectrica to Aguas Calientes. (Cost: USD \$34.00)
- **Additional costs** or delays caused by management out of control like landscape, bad weather condition, in case of itinerary modification with a view to safety concern, illness, change of government policy, political instability raises strike, moment etc.
- **Entrance fee:** for City Tour & Sacred Valley Tour



OUR TOUR GUIDES



Our Tour Leaders are chosen for their professionalism, experience, responsibility and seriously. Unbridled passion to explore and a desire to share in the experience. They have hiked hundreds of miles of Salkantay trail on the Machupicchu Park, slept under the stars and done almost every activity there is, and are keen to introduce you to the places that they call home.

The tours Leaders are on top knowledgeable.... They all speak English and of course they also speak Spanish and even Quechua, the Incan Language. They are all able to communicate with natives from around the area and will have lots of history to share with you.

Check out the Meet Our Team page for staff bios..

OUR COOKS



After a challenging trek we know how important a good hot meal can be to prepare your body and warm you up. That's why on every trek with Salkantay Trekking we employ chefs with years of experience cooking on the trails so that they provide filling and nutritious meals using fresh ingredients and a variety of flavors.

Salkantay trekking has annual course to trained and getting better work and developed the cooking skill to create a new dish and caring the entire ingredient, let's remember the menu is made by the expert Andean nutritionist, the local dishes are very nutritive and have a lot of carbohydrate good for trek.

Every chef prepares different meals depending on what food is available as well using the families recipe to make more tasted and delicious each meal.

OUR MEALS



The food is one of the most important things on the trek, we bring balance and nutritive food along the trail, most of our meals are buffet with a lot of varieties of the local dishes to make special and unforgettable trips, who are responsible on the food preparing are expert mountaineers cooks, some of our customers rates the meals provided on the mountain is much better than meals of the traditionalist restaurants, the snacks for all our treks until the last dinner.

The food quality provided by Salkantay Trekking during the treks – are prepared by the Andean professional chefs in a small tent on a small stove adapting to the area and trip conditions? Check out our reviews and you will see that our trekkers say it is excellent! The entire cook staffs are trained on the chef school as well by the travel agency to make tasted and delicious food, the best consistent breakfasts because are the base meal of the day to start a good journey on the day, lunches, dinners and snacks – all served with a smile! delicious buffet dinner that will undoubtedly exceed all your expectations.

All food is prepared from fresh ingredients purchased in the Cusco local market and transported by the mules, then prepared by the chef. No canned or rehydrated food here! All fresh, healthy and delicious!

Special dietary needs? No problem! We cater to vegetarians, vegans and all food allergies.

How about water? We take water tap each group bring water filter and boil mostly for each meal. There is a lot of water provided during our food hot and cold, well if you looking to get water during the day trek you can buy along the route, kindly small shop with varieties of drinks and snack.

Coca tea is very helpful on the mountain mostly prevent altitude sickness as well is a stimulate for the hiking time and some infusion tea.

OUR HORSEMAN AND HORSES

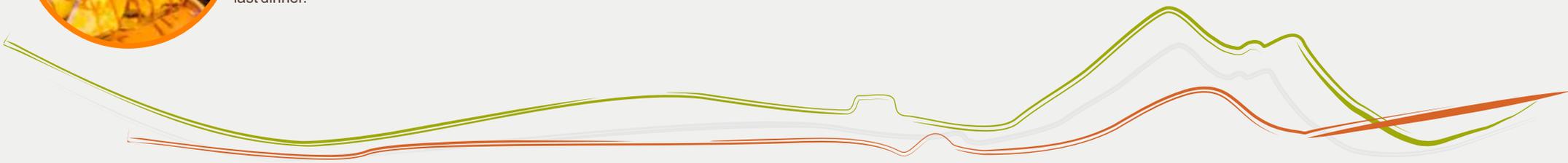


All the Horseman are from Mollepata town the starting point to the trek, we employed to the responsible and serious people to do a great job in transporting all the crew items along the trail using the mules are in charge of all our gear and will always await us within the safe and comfortable camp sites.

Our horsemen are happy working on the company with reasonable salaries and received benefits of the company on the end of the season, horseman can be very helpful on the emergency case because they know well the area and trail condition.

Besides trekking and camping gear every horse carries a total of 40 kg of guest's belongings, Salkantay trekking provide all the mountain gear like horseman uniform and cargo staff for horses.

You will have a personal allowance of 7kg/165lb for your gear.





**Salkantay**  
TREKKING  
Treks & Expeditions Specialists

# CUSCO

*Imperial city of the Incas*

