

AUSANGATE & RAINBOW MOUNTAIN

3 DAYS | 2 NIGHTS
THE EPIC MOUNTAINS OF CUSCO TREK

DESCRIPTION



The Rainbow Mountain of Peru, Vinicunca, has grown increasingly popular with visitors over the last few years. This great spectacle of nature is located in the Vilcanota mountain range, near the highest snow-capped peak in the Cusco region, Ausangate (6,372 m / 20,905 ft), which is considered an important sacred deity for the Andean cosmovision. From pre-Inca times until today, this mountain has been a place of worship and offering.

If you want to visit the colorful mountain of seven colors but love the idea of a 3-day trek to maximize your experience, then the Ausangate and Rainbow Mountain 3-day trek is for you. You'll enjoy trekking through some of the most stunning Andean mountain scenery and get to visit the highest mountain in the Cusco region as well as the colorful Rainbow Mountain, all in one epic trip!

Overview

The Ausangate and Rainbow Mountain Trek 3D offers you an unforgettable experience in just three days! If you like to get off the normal tourist routes and are excited to explore some unique, rural parts of the Andes, this trek is for you.

Book now as a couple, with a group of friends, or as a family. Let yourself be enveloped by this surreal landscape in the Andes of Peru in the company of the best adventure travel specialists in the city.

You'll travel deserted roads and deep valleys on this route. You'll enjoy the company of herds of alpacas and llamas while you gaze across crystalline lagoons at the foot of the imposing sacred mountain Ausangate. You'll also challenge your physical resistance to reach the majestic Rainbow Mountain—a destination that so many travelers wish to visit.

You can picture it now: Hiking among glaciers and barren landscapes to suddenly see a mountain covered in many different colors appear in front of you! It's not a dream; it's a true natural wonder!

You'll also be able to get up close and personal to small communities in these faraway regions of Cusco and see how they go about their daily lives and live off the land. So get ready for an amazing trip on a route not yet saturated by travelers.

DAY BY DAY

1

DAY

Cusco | Upis - Arapa Pass - Hatun Pucacocha

- ✓ This morning, hike through glorious landscapes and observe the Ausangate mountain. This afternoon, you can enjoy a visit to a crystal clear lake before spending the night at the foot of the mountain.

2

DAY

Hatun Pucacocha - Puca Pass - Anantapata - Warmisaya Pass - Surinecocha

- ✓ Hike to Puca Pass and witness stunning lakes before lunch. This afternoon, ascend to Warmisaya Pass before coming downhill to our camp in Surinecocha.

3

DAY

Surinecocha | Rainbow Mountain - Llacto - Cusco

- ✓ This morning, make your way to Rainbow Mountain to witness stunning landscapes and learn all about the region. You'll descend to our lunch from there, and then catch our private transport to continue on to your accommodation in Cusco.

AUSANGATE TREK TO RAINBOW MOUNTAIN

3 Days Trek





FULL ITINERARY

Ausangate & Rainbow Mountain 3 Days

Why Take

- This area is simply stunning, with sparkling lagoons, Mars-like red valleys, and dramatic landscapes that'll feel like something from a dreamland.
- If you enjoy hiking, this region will whisk you off of your feet with the outstanding beauty of Rainbow Mountain and Ausangate.
- Wander away from the traditional tourist routes and discover some of Peru's most beautiful hidden gems.
- Hike among herds of llamas and alpacas in remote native Quechua villages and appreciate the local inhabitants' colorful clothing and daily rhythm.

1

DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

ARAPA

Pass



1

DAY

Cusco | Upis - Arapa Pass - Hatun Pucacocha

Highlight of the Day: Being accompanied by the enormous Ausangate Mountain all day.

*Wander at the Majesty of the Ausangate Glacier*

Your exciting experience begins today at 5:00 am. We'll stop by your hotel to pick you up and transfer you in our private transport for 3 hours to the starting point of our trek in the small town of Upis. There you'll enjoy the first breakfast prepared by our talented chef, and you'll be able to look out in wonder at an amazing landscape. This meal will give you all the nourishment and energy you need to get hiking.

After a short time, we'll be on our way, and the adventure begins. We'll gradually ascend over 3 hours towards the place where we have lunch. During this part of the journey, we'll be able to observe the majestic Ausangate Mountain in the distance, so be sure to have your camera to hand. Our team will be waiting for you at our first stop with a hot herbal tea before you indulge in a delicious lunch. You'll have time to enjoy a short rest and recuperate your energy before continuing the day's hike.

After lunch, we'll start a two-hour uphill

hike towards the Arapa Pass (4,800 m / 15,748 ft). Then we'll descend for three and a half hours to Hatun Pucacocha lake, where our camp is located. On the way, we'll appreciate Yanacocha Lake as well. You'll be at the very foot of the mighty Ausangate Mountain! You'll be amazed at the size and sheer beauty of this icy peak.

Once in the camp, you can serve yourself some hot chocolate or coffee, and then a little later, dinner will be ready. It'll then be time to retire to your bed for some well-earned rest.

AUSANGATE TREK &
RAINBOW MOUNTAIN3 DAYS
2 NIGHTS**Meals**

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.

**Accommodation**
Camp**Difficulty**

Moderate to Challenging

**Walking Distance**
17 km / 10.56 miles**Walking Time**
9 hours**Starting Elevation**
4,250 m / 13,944 ft**Minimum Elevation**
4,250 m / 13,944 ft**Highest Elevation**
4,800 m / 15,748 ft**Campsite Elevation**
4,500 m / 14,764 ft

2

DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

PUCACOCHA

Lake



2

DAY

Hatun Pucacocha | Puca Pass - Anantapata - Warmisaya Pass - Surinecocha

Highlight of the Day: Observing the astoundingly beautiful lagoons among the snowy peaks.



Glorious Glaciers and Lavish Lagoons

We'll wake you up this morning with a hot cup of coca leaf tea to help you acclimatize and start the day in the best way possible. Did you know that this leaf has been used for centuries for the same purpose? As soon as you open your tent, you'll get to observe the magical lights of dawn on the huge glacier that glistens and sparkles in the sunlight. Then we'll enjoy a delicious and nutritious breakfast to help us on our way.

Our walk will start with a two-hour uphill climb towards the Puca Pass (4,870 m / 15,978 ft). Along the way, you'll be able to spot an amazing eroded mountain, beautiful high Andean valleys, and, if you're lucky, the majestic flight of the condor, the largest flying bird in the world. You'll also witness the beauty of several glacial lagoons, such as Huchuy Pucacocha and Hatun Pucacocha. Make sure you capture some memorable photos of these picturesque sights.

A little later, we'll descend for one hour and a half to Anantapata, our lunch

spot, for another delicious meal and then ascend for two hours to the Warmisaya Pass (4,985 m / 16,355 ft). From here, you'll be able to appreciate the sacred mountain of Ausangate from a new angle and the Rainbow Mountain, as well as the endless Vilcanota mountain range.

Then we'll descend for 1 hour to Surinecocha (4,800 m / 15,748 ft), where our camp is located. When we arrive, you'll be greeted with a hot drink to warm you up. Before a highly-deserved night of rest, you'll enjoy the dinner prepared by our chef and his assistant. You'll definitely be amazed at the delicacies they prepare so far up in the mountains!

AUSANGATE TREK & RAINBOW MOUNTAIN

**3 DAYS
2 NIGHTS**



Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner



Accommodation
Camp



Difficulty
Moderate



Walking Distance
10 km / 6.21 mi



Walking Time
6 - 7 hours



Minimum Elevation
4,500 m / 14,764 ft



Highest Elevation
4,985 m / 16,355 ft



Campsite Elevation
4,800 m / 15,748 ft

3

DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

RAINBOW

Mountain



3

DAY

Surinecocha | Rainbow Mountain - Llacto - Cusco

Highlight of the Day: Seeing the beautiful array of colors of Vinicunca appear for the first time.

AUSANGATE TREK &
RAINBOW MOUNTAIN3 DAYS
2 NIGHTS*Stare in Awe at the Astoundingly Beautiful Rainbow Mountain*

You're in for another early start today as our trek reaches a climax. After having an energizing breakfast, we'll head out to explore the famous Vinicunca or Rainbow Mountain. We'll start ascending for two hours to the pass located at 5,100 m / 16,732 ft. From here, you'll get a beautiful view of the spectacular Rainbow Mountain, which you're sure to feel as though you're in a dream when looking at this creation of Mother Nature!

Our guide will explain why these mountains are so special. Its impressive display of colors is all due to sedimentary layers of minerals that were exposed by erosion. Remember that this type of phenomenon can only be seen in two places around the world: Peru and China. Make the most of your time to connect with the energy of the mountains and enjoy this truly unique landscape.

After spending plenty of time looking out over the surreal landscape, we'll walk for an hour to Llacto, where a tasty

lunch awaits us. We'll finish our day and epic adventure with a 3-hour drive in our private transport to drop you off at the door of your accommodation in Cusco.

**Meals**

Breakfast and Lunch

**Difficulty**

Moderate

**Walking Distance**

6.5 km / 4.04 mi

**Walking Time**

3 hours

**Minimum Elevation**

4,630 m / 15,190 ft

**Rainbow Mountain Elevation**

5,100 m / 16,732 ft

**Highest Elevation**

5,100 m / 16,732 ft

INCLUSIONS

Included / Not Included

At **Salkantay Trekking**, we specify the included and non-included services under all the tour itineraries listed on our website. We take care of all the logistics, but please pay attention to the details to avoid missing anything. Some items may be different for specific programs, so please read carefully before booking with us.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

High Quality Service & Safety

✓ Pre-departure Briefing

You'll meet your trekking guide and group in our office for an orientation before your trek. There, we'll provide you with the duffle bags, which our horses will carry. The meeting will be at 5:00 pm the evening before the trip begins.

✓ Experienced Tour Guide

English and Spanish 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!

✓ Private Camping Equipment

You'll have spacious dining and kitchen tents where you can enjoy your food without problems. In addition, tables, chairs, and cooking equipment (all carried by our horses).

✓ Portable Travel Toilet

✓ One Duffle Bag

On the trek, you can carry your personal belongings up to a maximum weight of 7 kg / 15.4 lb (this weight includes your sleeping bag).

✓ Sleeping Pad

✓ Medical Kit or First AID Kit

All Salkantay Trekking guides have received specialized training in first aid. We hold mandatory training sessions with our guides every February. Your guide will always carry a first aid kit to face basic emergencies (altitude sickness, travelers' diarrhea, cuts, scrapes, etc.) as well as oxygen. If necessary, we'll evacuate you from the path as quickly as possible and ensure that you arrive at a clinic for treatment.

✓ Extras Included in our Service

We believe that attention to small details is what sets us apart from other local companies. You'll receive a small sleeping pillow, a cover to protect your backpack on the road, and a rain poncho.

✓ Customer Service 24/7

We have telephone service available 24 hours/day for ease of communication with Salkantay Trekking leading up to your trek.

✓ Satellite Phone

Our main priority will always be the tranquility of our clients. All of our guides are prepared for emergencies in the mountains; however, being a phone call away from any doctor, hospital, or friend helps you feel more secure. For this reason, each Salkantay Trekking guide has a satellite phone that can be used anywhere on the mountain to call anywhere in the world in case of an emergency.

Accommodation

✓ Best Sleeping Tents

Salkantay Trekking uses the best equipment to ensure your safety and comfort. Every 2 people will share Eureka Timberline or Mountain Hard Wear tents with a capacity for 4 people.

Meals

✓ 3 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, and 2 Dinners

Our chef prepares the best dishes in the middle of the mountain. Our passengers love our food! We respect all diets (vegetarian, vegan, or special menus are available at no extra cost), so let us know if you have any particular allergies or restrictions on your reservation form and remind your guide during the briefing. You'll enjoy breakfast, lunch, and dinner, in addition to hot drinks and snacks.

✓ Water on the trail

We'll provide you boiled, filtered, and cooled water during your hike. For this, you need to bring a camel bag or an empty bottle (we recommend a capacity of 2 liters). You'll be able to fill your bottles during each meal.

✓ Wake up tea

Every morning at the campsite, you'll be woken up with a cup of hot coca tea. Our staff will provide you the tea in your tent so that you will be warm from inside out before you start your day.

✓ Tea Time or Happy Hour

Every afternoon before dinner, the cooks will provide you popcorn, biscuits/cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, teas, hot water, etc. After a long day of hiking, you won't have to wait until dinner to relax, warm-up, and enjoy a bite to eat!

✓ Snacks on the trail daily

Before starting your trekking, your tour guide will provide you a cloth bag with local fruits, cookies, chocolate, caramels, etc. Every morning, we'll refill it so that you can enjoy your snacks during the walk.

✓ **One cloth snack bag per person**

To avoid the usage of plastic bags that contaminate our environment, we'll give you a cloth bag for your snacks.

✓ **Products for hygiene**

You'll be provided with a small towel and soap before each meal to clean your hands.

Transportation

✓ **Private Transport**

- **Day 1:** You will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and will travel by private transportation to Upis, the starting point of the trek.
- **Day 3:** Once you complete the tour, we will take you back to the door of your hotel in Cusco.

✓ **Cargo Mules**

On days 1, 2, and 3, cargo mules will carry all our camping equipment, from the personal tents, clothing, and sleeping bags, until extra dining and kitchen tents, food, water, tables, chairs, and a gas bottle stove; besides your baggage allowance (7 kg / 15.4 lb). Our muleteers will be responsible for your duffle bag and personal items.

Permits & Entrance Tickets

✓ **Entrance for the Ausangate Trek**

✓ **Entrance for the Rainbow Mountain**



WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

✓ Sleeping Bag

You can rent one from our company if you don't have your own. Our sleeping bags are effective and durable to protect you from temperatures as low as -18°C (0°F). They are mummy-form and include a sleeping liner. The bags are cleaned after every use and have a maximum usage of 30 trips.

- US\$ 15.00 per person

✓ Trekking Poles

Walking Sticks (with rubber tips) can be very useful on rough terrain and for ascending and descending. You can rent a set from our company if you'd like.

- US\$ 15.00 per person

✓ Day 3 Dinner

✓ Hiking Clothes

✓ Travel Insurance

✓ Tips for our staff

Tipping is the norm on any excursion in Peru. Although we pay good salaries to our entire team, something extra is always welcome, especially considering the hard work they do. Typically, group participants collect their tips to hand out to the horsemen and chefs together.

✓ Additional costs or delays beyond our control

Landslides, bad weather conditions, itinerary modifications due to a safety concern, illness, pandemic, government policy changes, political instability, strikes, act of God, etc.





BEFORE YOU GO

Is it for me?

We want to make your trip to Peru as memorable and as carefree as possible. In this section, you'll find the answers to all the questions you have about traveling with Salkantay Trekking in one place. Please read the following information carefully – it will help you with any questions about our services.

BEFORE YOU GO

How many days do I need to acclimate in Cusco before the Trek?

It's very important to be well acclimated to the altitude before exerting yourself on a trek. We recommend that you arrive in Cusco at least 2 or 3 days before the trek starts to help you adjust and avoid possible problems with altitude sickness while on the trek.

You might have already been in another area of Peru at a high altitude before arriving in Cusco. In that case, we still recommend you have a whole day in Cusco to rest, recover from your travel, and enjoy the sights and sounds of Cusco before departing for the trek.

Here some suggestions for activities to do in the Cusco vicinity before starting your adventure trek:



City Tour



Sacred Valley

Briefing or Informative Meeting

All information meetings and briefings are held in our main office in Cusco (or your hotel) at 5:00 pm, one night before the tour begins. These meetings last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. If you're unable to attend, you must coordinate another time by email, by phone or at the Salkantay Trekking office.

Trek Balance Payment (in Cusco)

The trek has to be paid for in full at most 7.30 pm one day before your departure (generally after the briefing).

It would be much appreciated if you pay the trek balance in cash US dollars or local currency at our office in Cusco. You can withdraw some money from several ATMs along Avenida Sol (either in US dollars or local Peruvian Soles). You can pay by credit card or PAYPAL online, but you will have to pay an 5% service charge, charged by VISA and PAYPAL. We do not accept bank checks or payment of the balance by traveler's checks.

Duffel Bag or Canvas Case

You'll receive a canvas case or duffel bag during your briefing. Our horses will carry them, and the horsemen will hand them to you when you get to each camp. They measure 60 x 24 x 22 cm (23.6 x 9.45 x 8.66 in).

A maximum of 7 kg / 15.4 lb is allowed for each duffel bag, including the weight of your sleeping bag, sleeping mat, clothes, and other personal items.

Can I store my luggage at your office?

Of course! During the trip, your main luggage can be stored at our office (you can organize it with us on the briefing day or by email) or at your hotel, both free of charge.

Any equipment that you won't need on the trek can be stored safely in your hotel. Nearly every hotel will provide this service. Don't leave items of value with your bags; put them in the hotel safe and obtain an itemized receipt (in the unlikely case of theft, many insurance companies require that you have a copy of the receipt itemizing everything). It's best to put items such as credit cards inside a sealed, signed envelope for extra peace of mind.

Pick up of guests

Salkantay Trekking can pick you up from your hotel, as long as it's in the Historical Center of Cusco. Your guide will coordinate the pickup time in the briefing session, but please keep in mind that the time may vary between 30 and 45 minutes due to traffic.

Cusco is an old city, meaning it has many narrow cobbled streets. Some hotels and Airbnbs may be located on streets without access to cars or on long, steep slopes, making it difficult to transport luggage. We strongly recommend that you book accommodation with good access.

Group tours

Group tours are made up of different types of people, then physical conditions and ages can vary. By agreeing to be part of a group tour, you also accept that some people may be faster or slower than you. Therefore, each person can go at their own pace on the route.

It may be the case that a group wishes to modify the tour; however, the guide will be the one who decides, after consulting with all the participants, if such modifications are possible.

Strikes and demonstrations

Strikes and demonstrations are usually common in Peru, and this may interrupt some of our tours. Roads can be blocked, and train tracks can be taken over. However, we will try to keep your trip as originally planned, even if it means leaving the night before the scheduled date. Under these circumstances, tours may also be canceled. In case of changes or cancellations, everything will be coordinated with you by our operations department. Your safety is our highest priority, and our decisions will be made to protect it.

Lost Objects

Please pay attention to where you leave your things and remember to take everything once you leave our transport, tents, or restaurants. You're the only one responsible for your objects during the tour.

Do you have another question that we haven't answered here? Get in touch, and we'll get back to you ASAP!





W W W . S A L K A N T A Y T R E K K I N G . C O M



24 HRS. EMERGENCY CALL:

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