TREK

AUSANGATE AND SIBINACOCHA LAGOONL

7 days / 6 nights

Salkantay TREKKING
Treks & Expeditions Specialists

DESCRIPTION

Ausangate Through the Backdoor

Awaken all of your senses on this alternative route that's incredibly special and unique. You'll walk on impressive trails alongside the immense, sacred mountain of Ausangate (6,372 m / 20,900 ft). You'll also visit authentic Andean towns, hot springs and crystal clear lagoons. This alternative circuit to the classic Ausangate route offers you the most amazing views of this sacred glacier before deviating off toward the amazing Sibinacocha Lagoon, leaving behind the hordes of tourists and entering a practically uninhabited area where you can connect with nature.

Our excursion ends in Phinaya, a small, middle-of-nowhere Andean community with horses and bicycles as the only means of transportation. Without a doubt, it's an unforgettable excursion for mountain lovers who are looking for something completely different and far from the traditional tours crowded with visitors. Join Salkantay Trekking, and get ready to live an unforgettable adventure.

CONTENT

Map

Itinerary

Inclusions

Packing List

Ausangate & Sibinacocha Lagoon

Ccampa Pass
5,000m / 16,404ft

Day 2: 16km/9.9mi
Ausangate Camp
4,100m / 13,451ft

Kinsacocha
4,630m / 15,190ft

Day 4: 15km/9.3mi
Sibinacocha
4,873m / 15,988ft

Day 5: 12km/7.4mi
Ccasccara Lagoon
5,000m / 16,404ft

Day 1: 12km/7.4mi
Pacchanta
4,100m / 13,451ft

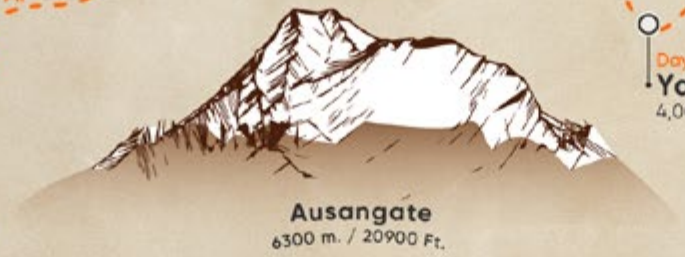
Condor Pass
5,400m / 17,716ft

Day 6: 9km/5.59mi
Phinaya
4,700m / 15,419ft

Trekking Starting Point
Tinke
3,800m / 12,467ft

Day 3: 15km/9.3mi
Yanamayo Camp
4,000m / 13,123ft

Ocongate
3,500m / 11,842ft



Ausangate
6300 m. / 20900 Ft.

Santa Bárbara
4,100m / 13,451ft

Cusco
3,400m / 11,155ft

Cusipata
3,310m / 10,860ft

Checacupe
3,446m / 11,360ft

Sicuani
3,549m / 11,644ft

Urcos
3,150m / 10,334ft

- Distance / Hours
- Lunch & Rest Area
- Pass Point
- Lagoon
- Footpath
- Major Road
- Minor Road

Ausangate & Sibinacocha Lagoon Trek
07 Days Itinerary

Day 01: Cusco | Ocongate - Tinke - Pacchanta
Day 02: Pacchanta | Jampa Pass - Ausangate Camp
Day 03: Ausangate Camp | Wayraqmachay Lagoon - Yanamayo Camp
Day 04: Yanamayo Camp | Cóndor Pass - **Sibinacocha Lagoon**
Day 05: Sibinacocha Lagoon | Ccasccara Lagoon
Day 06: Ccasccara Lagoon | Phinaya
Day 07: Phinaya | Santa Barbara - Cusco

Distance	Time	Highest Elevation	Difficulty
12 km / 7.4 mi	5 hrs.	4,100m / 13,451ft	Moderate
16 km / 9.9 mi	6 hrs.	4,800m / 15,748ft	Moderate
15 km / 9.3 mi	- hrs.	--m / --ft	Moderate
15 km / 9.3 mi	- hrs.	--m / --ft	Moderate
12 km / 7.4 mi	- hrs.	--m / --ft	Moderate
9 km / 5.59 mi	--	--m / --ft	Moderate
--	--	--	Easy

Salkantay TREKKING
Treks & Expeditions Specialists

FULL ITINERARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Savor beautiful views of some of Peru's most marvelous snow-capped peaks, glaciers and lakes.
- Visit stunning mountain passes, lagoons and hot springs.
- Take advantage of an authentic trekking experience in the remote Andes.
- Walk among Andean villages of llama herders and farmers where time seems to slow down.
- Remote trek with few other tourists.
- Enjoy splendid views of the Ausangate mountain (6,384 m).
- See unique fauna such as chinchillas, condors (the largest Andean bird), vicunas (the only non-domesticated animal of the llama family) and many others.
- Hiking in Peru is a life-changing experience. Breathtaking views, exciting physical challenges and an excellent support staff make this an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

DAY 01

Cusco | Ocongate - Tinke - Pacchanta

The start of something new

We'll start the day today at 5:00 a.m. We will pick you up from your hotel and head toward the town of Tinki (3,700 m) by private transportation. Along the way, we'll stop at the Huacarpay Lagoon viewpoint so that you can take some incredible photos of this colorful landscape. We'll continue our journey to Ccatcca where we'll fill our stomachs with a delicious breakfast while we observe, in the distance, the perpetual snows of the sacred mountain of Ausangate.

An additional 1-hour drive awaits us to arrive at the starting point of the trek where you'll meet our horsemen and porters. We'll begin the hike in front of the spectacular glaciers of Ccolque Cruz and Caracol. We'll stop along the way for lunch in the company of our team and, perhaps, some local children.

We'll continue the route, and, coincidentally, meet some residents who still dress traditionally in the colorful way of the Andes. You can also see herds of llamas and alpacas. Finally, at approximately 5:00 pm, we'll arrive at our first campsite.

Don't worry about a thing, the tents and your luggage will be ready and waiting. Before dinner, we'll visit the famous Pacchanta hot springs where you can relax and enjoy a beautiful view of the night sky that opens up for you without reservations.

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DAY FACTS

- MEALS: **Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner, and snacks**
- ACCOMMODATION: **Camp**
- DIFFICULTY: **Moderate**
- WALKING DISTANCE: **12 km / 7.4 mi**
- CAMPSITE ELEVATION: **3,950 m / 12,959 ft**
- CLIMATE: **Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight**

DAY 02

Pacchanta | Jampa Pass - Ausangate Camp

A day of cultural awareness and connectivity

After breakfast, we'll start our trek uphill for 4 hours to the place where we'll have lunch. On the way, we'll be able to see amazing glacier landscapes adorned by crystalline lagoons. Among them is Ccomerccocha, which is characterized by its green waters.

During the month of August, special rituals are performed and dedicated to the Apu Ausangate and the Pachamama (Mother Earth), where Andean priests ask for their energy to heal the surrounding communities. At approximately 1:00 pm, we'll arrive at a place called Puka Mocco or Red Knee, where we'll have lunch surrounded by immense snowy peaks. Feel the love of the mountains that embrace you from all directions. Once we have all recharged, we'll continue our journey through the heart of the Andes.

Open your mind and spirit to nature. Extend your arms to the sky and release any pain you may have brought here. Finally, we will reach the Jampa Pass (5,000 m / 16,404 ft), where we'll perform an Andean ritual ceremony with coca leaves in honor of these majestic, sacred mountains. Later we'll begin the descent to our campsite located right on the slopes of the Ausangate Mountain.

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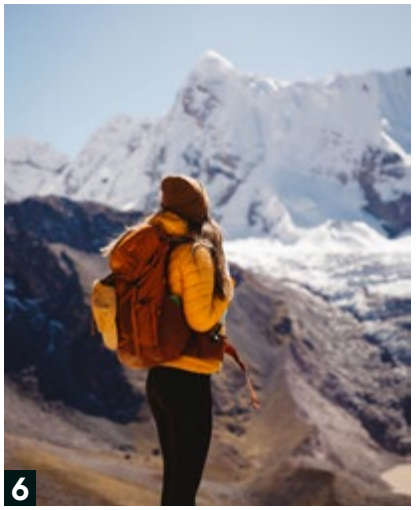
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DAY FACTS

- MEALS: **Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner, and snacks**
- ACCOMMODATION: **Camp**
- DIFFICULTY: **Moderate**
- WALKING DISTANCE: **16 km / 9.9 mi**
- CAMPSITE ELEVATION: **4,100 m / 13,451 ft**
- CLIMATE: **Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight**

DAY 03

Ausangate Camp | Wayraqmachay Lagoon - Yanamayo Camp

Take a walk in wonderland

After enjoying a nutritious breakfast, we'll say goodbye to the campsite with a spectacular view of the valley, the river and the falls. You'll also be able to feel the imposing presence of the mountains and see small groups of turquoise lakes, as well as local birds: geese, seagulls and different types of ducks.

After walking for 5 hours, we'll arrive at the Pampaccawa viewpoint, where an appetizing lunch awaits us accompanied by a tea of Andean herbs that will help you with digestion. Later, we'll have time to fish in a beautiful river and hike through a fantastic valley where we'll observe hundreds of llamas, alpacas and sheep returning from the mountains to their pens. Also, you will be dazzled by the bright colors of the famous Rainbow Mountain in the distance.

Finally, we'll arrive at our campsite at approximately 5:00 p.m. It is near the most amazing waterfall on the route, always under the watchful eye of the gigantic glaciers. After dinner, we'll organize a campfire to enjoy some mulled wine and sangria while we contemplate the immensity of the night sky of the Andes.

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DAY FACTS

- MEALS: **Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner, and snacks**
- ACCOMMODATION: **Camp**
- DIFFICULTY: **Moderate**
- WALKING DISTANCE: **15 km / 9.3 mi**
- CAMPSITE ELEVATION: **4,000 m / 13,123 ft**
- CLIMATE: **Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight**

DAY 04

Yanamayo Camp | Cóndor Pass - Sibinacocha Lagoon

Shoot for the sky

Prepare your body and your spirit because today, we'll reach the highest point of our excursion. After breakfast, we will start our walk at 7:30 a.m. with a gentle ascent for 2 hours. At that time, llamas and alpacas will already be grazing. You can approach and touch them if you wish.

We will continue our ascent for 1 hour on soft sand and snow. If you're lucky, some wild vicuñas will cross your path! Later, we'll reach the Condor Pass (5,400 m / 17,716 ft). You'll have enough time to enjoy the incredible scenery of the other surrounding mountains. It's a strategic place to get the best photos and awaken your senses! Our team will provide you with a hot tea of coca leaves that will help you withstand the extreme altitude.

Before continuing, we'll thank the mountains with a brief ritual. Some people leave jewelry or clothing to receive the protection of the mountains and to enjoy an excellent climate. Please participate with respect and affection.

During this section, we'll also see herds of llamas, alpacas and vicuñas. We'll have lunch right next to a beautiful waterfall and close to the famous Sibinacocha Lagoon. Here, we'll have time to take a short nap to recover from the day. We'll continue for two more hours until we reach our campsite at 4:30 p.m. On the way, we'll see traditional Andean houses and the funny chinchillas, Andean animals similar to squirrels.

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DAY FACTS

- MEALS: **Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner, and snacks**
- ACCOMMODATION: **Camp**
- DIFFICULTY: **Moderate**
- WALKING DISTANCE: **15 km / 9.3 mi**
- CLIMATE: **Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight**

DAY 05

Sibinacocha Lagoon | Ccasccara Lagoon

Cold hands, warm heart

We'll wake you up with a delicious hot tea of coca leaves to warm the body and start the day in the best way. Take the opportunity to contemplate the beautiful sunrise over the lake and the glacier from your tent. After a tasty breakfast, we'll start the trek at 8:30 a.m. We'll walk along the banks of the Sibinacocha Lagoon, which is the most famous and most extensive body of water in the area. We'll make several stops to watch the birds that you'll find around there. You will also have the opportunity to fish with the permission of local people.

We'll arrive at a place to have lunch where, after satisfying your stomach, you can take a short rest. We'll continue with a slight ascent for 2 hours to the Vicuña Mountain (5,350 m / 17,552 ft). The weather changes dramatically from here. The wind blows very strongly, so it's necessary to take some precautions. It's essential that you don't leave the group. From there, you can see the abundant potato crops of local farmers and strange rock formations. They enjoy a calm and full life in deep connection with nature!

At approximately 4:00 p.m. we'll arrive at our campsite near the Ccasccara Lagoon (5,000 m / 16,404 ft). You can relax after five days of the excursion! Some local people will come to our camp and invite you to fish alongside them. Break down the barriers of your mind, make new friends and enjoy fresh fish for dinner. This is the best camp on the route because you will sleep in front of the lagoon and the glacier. Pure magic in the middle of the Andes!

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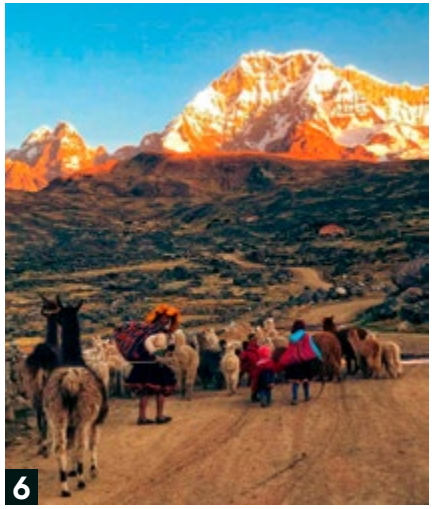
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DAY FACTS

- MEALS: **Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner, and snacks**
- ACCOMMODATION: **Camp**
- DIFFICULTY: **Moderate**
- WALKING DISTANCE: **12 km / 7.4 mi**
- CAMPSITE ELEVATION: **5,000 m / 16,404 ft**
- CLIMATE: **Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight**

DAY 06

Ccasccara Lagoon | Phinaya

Just another day in paradise

Today we'll wake up at 7:30 a.m. We'll have breakfast and visit the home of local families to appreciate and understand their lifestyle at 5,000 meters above sea level: mud and stone walls, guinea pigs in the kitchen and an intimate relationship with nature. Generally, the boys and girls in this area have restricted access to education due to the remoteness of their community. Therefore, it would be a nice gesture to bring them small gifts: colored pencils, markers, paints, toys or any item that can brighten their day.

Textiles are one of the main sources of income for local people due to the number of llamas, alpacas and sheep that they own. The fiber they produce is of high quality, and they use natural dyes to obtain beautiful color tones. Take this opportunity to buy beautiful hand-woven garments. In this way, you will not only take away a unique souvenir but also help the community move forward.

Once the visit is finished, we will continue our downhill hike for 3 hours to where we'll have lunch. You'll see the last glaciers, rivers, waterfalls and red and green mountains that were once covered in white. Unfortunately, climate change is to blame for the disappearing of those perpetual snows. Perhaps when you appreciate with your own eyes the terrible impact of global warming, you'll understand the gravity of the matter.

Your heart will be filled with gratitude to the Andean people who still practice ancestral rites in honor of the mountains and the Pachamama, or Mother Earth. Finally, at 3:30 p.m. we will arrive at our last campsite in the small community of Phinaya (4,000 m / 13,123 ft) where we will have the rest of the day as free time. We'll organize some activities such as cooking classes with our chef or a visit to the community.

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DAY FACTS

» MEALS:
Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner, and snacks

» ACCOMMODATION:
Camp

» DIFFICULTY:
Moderate

» WALKING DISTANCE:
9 km / 5.59 mi

» CAMPSITE ELEVATION:
4,700 m / 15,419 ft

» CLIMATE:
Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight

DAY 07

Phinaya | Santa Barbara - Cusco

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All good things come to an end

Today concludes our exciting excursion through the realms of the Apu Ausangate. In the morning, we'll take an extra hike to a viewpoint from where we can see the town of Phinaya. You can decide to stay there, walk through its streets, make new friends among its residents or visit the school where boys and girls learn in their mother tongue: the ancient Quechua language. Don't forget to bring some gifts for them!

Around 10:30 a.m. we will perform a brief ceremony for you to say goodbye to our muleteers and porters, and you will share your last lunch with them. At around 11:00 a.m. you will board our private transportation to return to the city of Cusco. Don't worry about anything, we will leave you at the door of your hotel and you can rest with the best memories of this trip in your memory.

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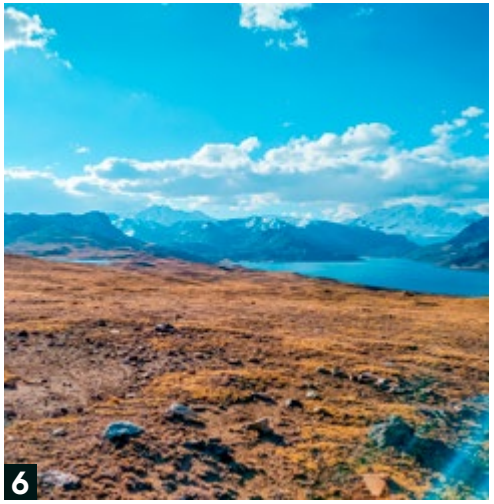
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DAY FACTS

» MEALS:
Breakfast and lunch; Dinner is not included.

» MEALS:
Breakfast and lunch; Dinner is not included.

INCLUSIONS

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

» Permits & Entrance Tickets

- Entry to the Ausangate Trek
- Entry to Pacchanta Thermal Baths

» High Quality Service & Safety

- Pre-departure Briefing

  You'll have an orientation meeting with your guide the evening before the tour. The meeting is at 5:00 p.m. in our office and, depending on the itinerary, in your hotel.

- Experienced Tour Guide

  Our official tour guides speak English and Spanish and are professionally trained and certified. We choose them for their experience, responsibility, unbridled passion for exploring, and pride in sharing our culture and history. In every experience, they will keep you safe and comfortable so you can enjoy your time worry-free!

- Private Camping Equipment
  - Tents: You'll have spacious dining tents to enjoy your meals worry-free.
  - Tables, chairs, and cooking equipment
  - Portable Travel Toilet
  - Sleeping Pad

  All equipment will be carried by our horses.

- One Duffle Bag

  For the trek, you'll receive a duffle bag to pack your personal belongings up to a maximum weight of 7 kg / 15.4 lb (this weight includes your sleeping bag). The horses will carry it on the route.

- Medical Kit or First AID Kit

  All Salkantay Trekking guides have specialized first aid training and attend mandatory training sessions every February. Your guide will always carry a first aid kit and oxygen to handle basic emergencies (altitude sickness, diarrhea, cuts, scrapes, etc.). If needed, we will evacuate you from the trail as quickly as possible and ensure 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 cover to protect your backpack on the trail and a rain poncho.

- 24/7 Customer Service

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

- Satellite Phone

  Your tranquility is our first priority. Although our guides are prepared for emergencies in the mountains, calling a doctor, hospital, or a friend can make you feel more secure. For that reason, each Salkantay Trekking guide carries a satellite phone to call any location worldwide and from anywhere on the mountain.

» Accommodation

- 6 Nights Accommodation in Campsites

  Salkantay Trekking uses the best camping tents to ensure your safety and comfort (e.g., Eureka Timberline or Mountain Hard Wear tents).

» Meals

- 7 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 6 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 boiled, filtered, and cooled water during your hike. For this, you need to bring a camel bag or an empty bottle, which you can refill during each meal (we recommend a capacity of 2 liters).

- Wake up tea

  You'll wake up every morning at the camp with a cup of hot coca tea! It'll be brought to your tent so you can warm up before you start the day.

- Tea Time or Happy Hour

  Every afternoon before dinner, the cooks will provide you with popcorn, cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, 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!

- Daily snacks on the trail

  Every morning we'll give you snacks so you can enjoy them during the walk. The snacks include local fruits, biscuits, chocolates, caramels, etc.

- One cloth snack bag

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

- Hygiene Products

  We'll provide you with a small towel and soap to clean your hands before each meal.

» Transportation

- Transport
  - Day 1: You will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and travel in our transport to Tinke, the starting point of the trek.
  - Day 7: Once you complete the tour, we will take you back to the door of your hotel in Cusco.
- Cargo Mules

  Cargo mules will carry all the camping equipment and your baggage allowance (7 kg / 15.4 lb). Muleteers will be responsible for your duffle bag and personal items.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

» Extras and important equipment

You will need a sleeping bag for camping. Trekking poles are optional but highly recommended. If you don't have them, don't worry; you can rent them from Salkantay Trekking.

- **Sleeping bag: US$ 35.00**
- **Walking poles (pair): US$ 35.00**

» Day: 7 Dinner

» Personal Hiking Gear

» Travel Insurance

» Tips for our staff

Tipping is usual on any excursion to Machu Picchu. 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, acts of God, etc.

BEFORE YOU GO

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

» 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

Maras Moray

» Briefing or Informative Meeting

All briefing meetings are held at 5:00 p.m. in our main office in Cusco (or your hotel) the day before the tour. The meeting lasts between 30 to 45 minutes. If you're unable to attend, you'll need to arrange a different time by email, phone, or by visiting the Salkantay Trekking office.

» Trek Balance Payment (in Cusco)

"The tour has to be paid in full at most 2 days before your departure. Otherwise, your reservation will not be confirmed.

It would be greatly appreciated if you pay the tour balance (US dollars or Peruvian soles) at our office in Cusco. You can withdraw money from several ATMs located in the historical center. We also accept payments by CARD or PAYPAL online, but please note this is subject to a 5% fee (charged by Niubiz and PayPal). We do not accept bank checks or traveler's checks as payment methods."

» Duffel Bag or Canvas Case

The evening before the trek, we'll provide you with a duffle bag to pack your clothes and personal gear needed for the trip. Our horsemen will carry it on the route and hand it to you once you get to each camp. Please note that you will not have access to your items in the bag until the end of each day.

The maximum weight allowed is 7 kg / 15.4 lb, including the weight of your sleeping bag, clothes, and other personal items. They measure 60 x 24 x 22 cm (23.6 x 9.4 x 8.7 in).

» Can I store my luggage at your office?

Of course! During the trip, you can store your main luggage for free at our office (arrange it with us on the briefing day or by email).

You can also safely keep any equipment you won't need for the tour in your hotel. Almost every hotel offers this service. Please do not leave valuable items in your bags; put them in the hotel safe and ask for an itemized receipt (in the unlikely case of theft, many insurance companies require that you have a copy of the receipt). For extra peace of mind, place items like credit cards inside a sealed and signed envelope.

» Pick up of guests

Please note:

- All pickups are within Cusco City, but we recommend booking a hotel in the historic center for its convenient location.
- Our guide or staff will confirm the pickup time the day before the tour.
- Due to traffic conditions, the pickup time may vary between 30 and 45 minutes.
- Cusco is an old city and has many narrow cobbled streets. Some hotels and Airbnbs are located on streets without car access or on long, steep slopes, making it difficult to transport luggage. For such reasons, we strongly advise you to book accommodation with good access.

» Group Tours

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

In some cases, a group may want to modify the tour; however, the guide will be the one who decides, after consulting with all participants, whether such changes are possible.

» Strikes and demonstrations

Strikes and demonstrations are usually common in Peru, which may interrupt some of our tours. Roads and train tracks can be blocked or taken over. However, we will try to keep your trip as originally planned, even if it means leaving the night before the scheduled date.

In case of changes or cancellations, our operations department will coordinate everything with you. Your safety is our highest priority, and we will make our decisions to protect it.

» Lost objects

Please pay attention to where you leave your belongings and remember to take everything once you leave a place or a transport. You're the only one responsible for your objects during the tour.

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING?

» Valid Passport
» Extra money (recommended soles)
» Personal medication
» Water bottle or CamelBak - (optional water purifying pills)
» Sunblock: factor 70 or more
» Insect repellent
» Personal Care Products
» Hiking boots or shoes (preferably waterproof)
» Light footwear or sandals
» Trekking pants (*)
» Trekking socks
» Pair of thermal pants
» Shorts
» Waterproof gaiter
» Long sleeve t-shirts
» Warm jacket
» Waterproof jacket
» Raincoat or rain poncho.
» Waterproof or wool gloves
» Sun hat to protect neck and face
» Wool hat for the cold
» Neck gaiter or buff
» Sunglasses with UV protection
» Sleeping bag (-15°C)
» Trekking poles
» Medium trekking backpack (15 - 25 liter)
» Camera and charger
» Power bank
» Snacks: Energy bars, chocolate, candies, dried fruits, etc.
» Flashlight

*It is advisable to wear waterproof pants during the rainy season (September to March).

www.salkantaytrekking.com

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Arte Inka Handicraft Center - Cusco's Main Square

Monday to Saturday
9:00 am to 7:00 pm