CHOQUEQUIRAO & MACHU PICCHU ROUTE

8 DAYS | 7 NIGHTS

THE CHALLENGING ROUTE OF THE INCAS

DESCRIPTION

This exhilarating expedition will take you to two of Peru's most famous and significant archeological sites: Choquequirao e Machu Picchu. Both of these ancient cities were considered towns of nobles and priests, and this meant that they were of great importance to the Incas.

On this epic adventure, you'll get the chance to learn about the legends and treasures left behind by the Inca and listen to the stories the majestic mountains are aching to share with you. These towns marked the beginning of the end of the Inca empire and were abandoned before the Spanish conquerors were able to follow them there and exploit their treasures. Join us on this trek to experience untouched beauty, revel in fascinating history, and hike in the final steps of one of the world's most influential ancient cultures—the Incas.

Overview

Do you like the idea of traveling back in time to a moment when we were at one with nature? Does the sound of visiting two incredible archaeological complexes excite you? Then join us on this amazing 8-day expedition to Choquequirao and Machu Picchu—the two most important Inca sites that ever existed. You can come along with a large group or just as a couple. We can accommodate you and plan every last detail.

The journey to Choquequirao is along one of the many pretty ancient trails that snake their way through the Amazon cloud forest. Many travel magazines around the globe list it as one of the top ten hikes in the world for the great variety of biodiversity and wildlife. Along the way, you'll hike through both tall mountains and deep jungle valleys. Unique doesn't even begin to describe this experience! Choquequirao is rarely visited and off-the-beaten-path for those who love to escape large crowds.

Your next stop is Machu Picchu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. You'll be joined by lots of other hikers on this trail, but this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you don't want to miss out on.

Due to the remote and challenging nature of the trek, it's essential to only travel with the most qualified tour operators. Our highly qualified staff members are well trained and eager to make your trip as enjoyable as possible. So what are you waiting for? Join us today for this incredible adventure you'll never forget.

DAY BY DAY

1 DAY

Cusco | Capuliyoc - Chiquisca

- Spend the day hiking through pretty scenery into the Apurimac valley and enjoy a view of the canyon. Spend the night by the river.

2 DAY

Chiquisca | Playa Rosalinas - Marampata

- You have a long ascent today to your lunch spot. This afternoon, hike down to Choquequirao and then explore the site a little before a beautiful sunset.

3 DAY

Marampata | Choquequirao - Pinchaunuyoc

- Enjoy the sunrise behind Choquequirao before exploring the site more. You'll then leave and hike into the mountains to spend the night in Pinchaunuyoc.

4 DAY

Pinchaunuyoc | Maizal - Minas Victoria - San Juan Pass - Yanama

- Hike uphill to the Yanama Pass for stunning views. Drive through the cloud forest and spend the night in Yanama.

5 DAY

Yanama | Mountain Range - Yanama Pass - Totora - Collpapampa (Mountain Sky View)

- See more mountains and the majestic Salkantay. Continue through snow-capped peaks and descend to a warm zone to camp in our exclusive Mountain Sky View in Collpapampa.

6 DAY

Collpapampa | Wiñay Pocco - La Playa - Lucmabamba (Jungle Domes)

- You'll trek deeper into the jungle today and observe stunning wildlife all around. You can relax this afternoon in the Cocalmayo hot springs. Sleep in the jungle village of Lucmabamba.

7 DAY

Lucmabamba | Llactapata - Hidroelectrica - Aguas Calientes

- Visit the Llactapata archaeological site this morning and see Machu Picchu in the distance. This afternoon, hike to Aguas Calientes and enjoy a free afternoon before dinner in a restaurant and sleeping in a hotel.

8 DAY

Aguas Calientes | Machu Picchu - Ollantaytambo - Cusco

- Spend all morning exploring Machu Picchu and enjoying a guided tour. Eat lunch in Aguas Calientes before taking the train to Ollantaytambo and then our private transport to your accommodation in Cusco.

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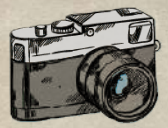
CHOQUEQUIRAO TO MACHU PICCHU

8 Day Trek

PUMASILLU
5994 m. / 19665 Ft.



Day 2

Camping
2900 m. / 9514
10 Km. - 7:30 Hrs.

Choquequirao
3050 m. / 10006 ft.

Maizal
3000 m. / 9842 ft.
15 Km. - 9 Hrs.

Day 3

San Juan Pass
4200 m. / 13779 ft.

Yanama Pass
4600 m. / 15091 ft.

Totora
3360 m. / 11023 ft.

Collpapampa
2800 m. / 9186 ft.
15 Km. - 9 Hrs.

Day 5

Yanama
3600 m. / 11811 ft.
11 Km. - 7 Hrs.

Day 4

Llactapata
3360 m. / 11023 ft.

Capuliyoc
2900 m. / 9514

Marampata
2900 m. / 9514

Machu Picchu
2430 m. / 7972 ft.

Day 8

Playa Sahuayaco
2060 m. / 6758 ft.

Chiquisca
1900 m. / 6233 ft.

Apurimac River

Sta. Rosa
1970 m. / 6463 ft.

Rio Blanco

Rio Blanco
1900 m. / 6233 ft.

01:20 Hrs.

Hidroelectrica
1800 m. / 5905 ft.

Pinchainuyoc
2420 m. / 7939 ft.

Playa Rosalina
1500 m. / 4921 ft.
11 Km. - 7 Hrs.

Day 1

Cusco
3400 m. / 11155 ft.

JUNGLE DOMES

Lucmabamba
2000 m. / 6561 ft.
17 Km. - 6:30 Hrs.

Day 6

COFFEE EXPERIENCE

Aguas Calientes
2040 m. / 6692 ft.
25 Km. - 8:20 Hrs.

Day 7

QORIWAYRACHINA
5350 m. / 17552 Ft.

PADREYOC
5750 m. / 18864 Ft.

Distance / Hours

Camps

Lunch & Rest Area

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FULL ITINERARY

Choquequirao & Machu Picchu 8 Days

Why Take

- Make your way to two of the most important Inca sites around: Choquequirao and Machu Picchu.
- You'll trek along ancient paths and retrace Inca footsteps as you visit other small archaeological complexes.
- Hike through biodiverse climates that constantly change around you and enjoy the drastic changes along the route.
- On the trek to Choquequirao, enjoy all the peace and quiet you can and explore the site in peace.
- Join other trekkers on the trail to Machu Picchu—one of the most popular trekking routes in the world.
- Immerse yourself in stunning landscapes and get to know Apurimac and its beautiful canyon, river, and valley.

1
DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

CHIKISKA

Landscape

1 DAY

Cusco | Capuliyoc - Chiquisca

Highlight of the Day: Witnessing the views of the stunning Apurimac Canyon.

Begin Your Adventure Descending Into the Valley

Today we will pick you up to begin the adventure of a lifetime. We will travel in our private transportation for four hours from Cusco to Cachora, where we will stop to walk through its picturesque streets. Here we will have lunch and meet the rest of the team that will accompany us along the route: the muleteer and the chef. They will help make the logistics of our trip perfect and comfortable. We will begin our adventure at the Capuliyoc Pass (2,890 m / 9,482 ft).

We will descend for three hours to our campsite at Chiquisca (1,900 m / 6,234 ft), on the way, we will have a great view of the Apurimac Canyon and we will be able to experience the lush microclimate of the valley. Finally, we arrive at Cocamasana, where we will stop for a while to rest, hydrate and enjoy the exquisite natural beauty offered by the impressive Apurimac Canyon, one of the deepest in South America, perhaps we can also appreciate the majestic flight of the condor.

After a break, we will descend on the road until we reach the warm hamlet of Chiquisca, a beautiful place that is characterized by its warm temperature and lush vegetation, especially for its rich plantation of the tropical fruit of the guanabana. We will spend the night in this green place full of natural life.

Meals
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.

Accommodation
Camp

Difficulty
Moderate

Walking Distance
10 km / 6.21 miles

Highest Elevation
2,890 m / 9,482 ft

Altitude of the camp
1,500 m / 4,921 ft

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2
DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

MARAMPATA

2 DAY

Chiquisca | Playa Rosalinas - Marampata

Highlight of the Day: Watching the sunset behind Choquequirao.

See Choquequirao for the First Time

Every day, after breakfast, you will be given a bag of snacks to snack on during the day. This will help you maintain your energy levels until the next meal. The first part of our hike consists of a descent of almost an hour and a half until we reach the banks of the Apurimac River.

We will arrive at Rosalinas Beach located at the lowest point of the hike (1,500 m / 4,921 ft). There we will have in front of us the pedestrian bridge that we will cross to then start with a six-hour ascent through a narrow path to the top. After three hours, we will arrive at Santa Rosa (2,900 m / 9,514 ft), a small town where you can rest, enjoy a snack and visit a hacienda house where you can taste Cambray, a traditional liquor of the area, a product resulting from the distillation of sugar cane.

After savoring a delicious lunch, we will continue our ascent through a path that winds through the mountain until we reach the community of Marampata (2,900 m / 9,514 ft.). You will undoubtedly be amazed with the first views of the Choquequirao archaeological complex.

Once settled in our campsites, we will visit the village to learn a little more about the history, culture, and customs. We will enjoy the sunset views of the canyon which is truly spectacular. You may also have the opportunity to see the Andean condors flying among the mountains, considered the largest flying bird in the world. Tonight, we will enjoy another delicious dinner at the Marampata camp.

Meals
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.

Accommodation
Camp

Difficulty
Challenging

Walking Distance
11 km / 6.83 miles

Highest Elevation
2,900 m / 9,514 ft

Altitude of the camp
2,900 m / 9,514 ft

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3
DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

CHOQUEQUIRAO

Archaeological Complex

3 DAY

Marampata | Choquequirao - Pinchaunuyoc

Highlight of the Day: Discovering more about Choquequirao and observing the sunrise.

Explore the Last Post of the Incas

We recommend that you get up early to appreciate the magnificent sunrise from a picturesque spot not far from the camp. It will be the highlight of your trip if you go the extra mile. We have breakfast at 6:00 a.m. and then begin our adventure, hiking for an hour and a half until we finally reach the magnificent citadel of Choquequirao (3,050 m / 10,007 ft.). Your expert guide will tell you everything he knows about this incredible site and you will discover many secrets of the Incas.

Later, we will explore all the important sections that are allowed: palaces, ceremonial temples, fountains where spiritual water ceremonies were performed, the incredible usno (ceremonial platform) and agricultural terraces; in addition, we will descend to explore the section of the terraces where the sun flames are, we will enjoy a picnic lunch that our cook will make us reach. Finally, we will head to the canal sector, from where we will begin our ascent to the next camp.

We will ascend through cloud forests, mountains and valleys to reach the Choquequirao Pass (3,270 m / 10,782 ft). It is a very scenic route. After a few hours of hiking, we will arrive at Pinchaunuyoc which means "water jumping forward" (2,420 m / 7,940 ft). This place is a system of ancient agricultural terraces that will surely fascinate you.

Once at our campsite in Pinchaunuyoc, you will be able to relax surrounded by the beauty of the nearby canyons. We will explore this fascinating place, before enjoying a cup of coffee contemplating the beautiful scenery.

Meals
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.

Accommodation
Camp

Difficulty
Moderate

Walking Distance
8 km / 4.97 mi

Highest Elevation
3,270 m / 10,728 ft

Altitude of the camp
2,420 m / 7,940 ft

4
DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

SAN JUAN

Pass

4 DAY

Pinchaunuyoc| Maizal - Minas Victoria - San Juan Pass - Yanama

Highlight of the Day: Hiking along original Inca trails and hiking up into the mountains.

A Change of Scenery

After recharging our energy with another nourishing breakfast, we'll continue our way down to the bottom of the canyon until we reach the Blanco River. Then, we´ll ascend to where the landscape becomes lush and full of green vegetation. If the sky is clear, we´ll be able to enjoy the beautiful snow-capped mountains that surround us. Otherwise, we will see the clouds falling down the valley below us. In both cases, the view becomes incredibly beautiful, so don't worry too much about the weather.

Later, we´ll continue ascending until we reach the summit. One of our favorite parts of the fourth day is waking up to the rhythmic sounds of the forest and birds. It is a truly fantastic experience that will strengthen your bond with mother nature.

After three and a half hours of pure ascent, we´ll arrive at Maizal (3,000 m / 9,843 ft), a beautiful hamlet in the middle of beautiful valleys. We´ll continue ascending, and this part of the trail is historically significant due to the large presence of Inca trails. We´ll pass by the impressive Inca mines, called Minas Victoria, from which silver used to be extracted. Next, we´ll head towards the San Juan Pass (4,200 m / 13,780 ft). We´ll have lunch while enjoying the views of the snow-capped peaks of Choquetakarpo and Padreyoc. If you were not able to see the condors before this point, you may have the opportunity here, depending on the season.

Finally, we´ll descend to our campsite at Yanama (3,600 m / 11,811 ft), a small settlement at the bottom of a long valley surrounded by mountains. Another delicious dinner and a well-deserved night's sleep awaits you.

Meals
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.

Accommodation
Camp

Difficulty
Challenging

Walking Distance
18 km / 11.18 miles

Highest Elevation
4,200 m / 13,780 ft

Altitude of the camp
3,600 m / 11,811 ft

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5
DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

MOUNTAIN SKY VIEW

Campsite

5 DAY

Yanama | Yanama Pass - Totora - Collpapampa

Highlight of the Day: Trekking through different climates and seeing Salkantay.

Spot Sacred Salkantay in the Distance

Yanama, where you slept last night, is a remote indigenous community that's nestled in the hills of the Andes. You'll find that when you start your day this morning, we're joined by excited local children and serenaded by the sounds of the jungle and a rushing waterfall.

After breakfast, we'll begin hiking uphill for 5 hours to the highest part of our entire trek, the Yanama Pass (4,650 m / 15,256 ft). As we walk, we'll be able to observe Andean villagers farming their potatoes in the terraced valley hills. Potatoes are native to this part of the world, and it shows with the many varieties on offer and the diverse ways of cooking them. Here, we'll have a fantastic view of the Saqsarayoc and Padreyoc mountain ranges.

The morning's climb will bring us into a new environment—depending on the season, and we could be walking through snow at this point of the trek. It's here that we'll get the first view of the Salkantay Mountain, one of the ancient Inca gods, also known as an Apu.

Afterward, we'll descend on a long, foggy path through grassy fields, bushy areas, and crossing bridges on the way to the community of Totora. Along this stretch, we'll have a break for lunch and rest to recuperate. Then, we'll continue for one hour more until we reach our campsite in Collpapampa. In total, we'll descend for 4 hours. We'll spend the night in tents, surrounded by this warm and welcoming community and outstanding natural beauty.

Meals
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.

Accommodation
Camp

Difficulty
Challenging

Walking Distance
15 km / 9.32 miles

Highest Elevation
4,650 m / 15,256 ft

Altitude of the camp
2,800 m / 9,186 ft

6
DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

JUNGLE DOMES

Campsite

6 DAY

Collpapampa | Wiñay Pocco - La Playa - Lucmabamba (Jungle Domes)

Highlight of the Day: Exploring the jungle and the unique fruits and wildlife there.

Immerse Yourself in the Peruvian Jungle

You'll wake up to another tasty breakfast this morning. Today's trek is mainly downhill, continuing along an original Inca trail. We'll walk through dark woods and appreciate the depths of the cloud forest—a really fascinating part of the hike.

We'll walk for around 6 hours today as we head back into the heat of the jungle. We'll get to see wildlife, such as hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and many species of wild orchids and begonias, which are common in this region.

As you hike along a trail on the left side of the Santa Teresa River, you'll spot small plantations of bananas, passion fruit, and coffee, which you can taste if you would like. On the way, we'll also stop at small waterfalls for refreshment. The climate and vegetation are very different here from the other days of our trek. La Playa is the biggest village on the route, and after a rest there, we'll continue walking for 30 minutes to Lucmabamba, where we'll enjoy a delicious lunch and settle into our campsite.

Since you'll have free time this afternoon, we recommend you visit the relaxing thermo-medicinal waters of Cocalmayo that are nearby. It's the best way to recover after so many days of walking and will help to relax your muscles. This evening, you'll head back for a filling dinner before heading to bed in your jungle accommodation for the night.

Meals
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.

Accommodation
Camp

Difficulty
Moderate

Walking Distance
22 km / 13.67 miles

Highest Elevation
2,800 m / 9,186 ft

Altitude of the camp
2,000 m / 6,562 ft

7 DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

LLACTAPATA

Archaeological Site

7 DAY

Lucmabamba | Llactapata - Hidroelectrica - Aguas Calientes

Highlight of the Day: Touring the Llactapata archaeological site and seeing Machu Picchu in the distance for the first time.

Follow the Tracks to Aguas Calientes

The last day of actual hiking has arrived. We'll walk 3 hours after breakfast uphill on a section of the original Inca Trail. Along this stretch, you can see the incredible landscape of Santa Teresa valley and some coffee and passion fruit plantations below.

Once we reach the top of that mountain, we'll find the fabulous Inca site of Llactapata, from where you'll get to enjoy your first views of the Inca city of Machu Picchu. You'll also tour the site and learn all about it from your guide.

Afterward, we'll descend for an hour and a half to our lunch place in Aobamba. Once you're full and refreshed, we'll continue to Hidroelectrica from where we'll follow the railway for three more hours to the small town of Aguas Calientes (2,040 m / 6,693 ft). If you're tired at this point, you can also take the train for this last part.

When you get to the town, you'll check into a comfortable hotel and have some time to relax. Before dinner, you'll have the option to visit the thermo-medicinal waters, the reason why the town is known as Aguas Calientes. This is another fantastic chance to rest your tired muscles.

Tonight, we'll have dinner in a restaurant. Then a night of well-deserved rest awaits you because the next morning, you'll need to wake up before dawn to go to the incredible archaeological complex of Machu Picchu.

Meals
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.

Accommodation
Hotel

Difficulty
Challenging

Walking Distance
25 km / 15.73 miles

Highest Elevation
2,800 m / 9,186 ft

Accommodation Altitude
2,040 m / 6,693 ft

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8
DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

MACHU PICCHU

Archaeological Site

8 DAY

Aguas Calientes | Machu Picchu - Ollantaytambo - Cusco

Highlight of the Day: Wandering around the UNESCO World Heritage Site Machu Picchu and learning all about its history.

Discover the Hidden Secrets of Machu Picchu

Your excitement for our visit to Machu Picchu will be huge this morning as we awake bright and early in the morning. After a nourishing breakfast at your hotel, we'll take one of the first buses to Machu Picchu entrance checkpoint which is open from 6:00 am until 17:00 pm.

You´ll arrive when the sun rises and shines its beautiful morning light on the huge rocks. After enjoying the spectacular view, you´ll have time to explore this Wonder of the World while touring the citadel on a guided tour of approximately two hours to some of the important sectors: temples, terraces, palaces, houses, fields, among others. You´ll be impressed by the engineering of the Incas, which was far ahead of its time and to this day remains a mystery.

Then, you can choose to climb Huayna Picchu mountain or Machu Picchu mountain (if you have tickets booked in advance). You´ll be able to get an incredible view of the whole site. Don't forget to take good pictures in this sacred place.

Once back in the town, you'll have time to find a restaurant you want to have lunch in before you have to catch the train at 4:22 pm (subject to availability) to Ollantaytambo. There, our private transport will pick up your group and drop you off at your accommodation in Cusco at around 8:00 pm. Rest your feet and your body now because we can assure you your heart will still be soaring for weeks and years to come with the rhythm of the Andes.

Meals
Breakfast

Difficulty
Easy

Walking Distance:
3 km / 1.86 miles

Highest elevation
2,430 m / 7,972 ft

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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 so you don't miss 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. All our equipment like tables, chairs, cooking equipment, etc., will be 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).

- **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 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 tranquillity 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.

Accommodation

- **6 Nights Accommodation in 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.

- **Hostel in Aguas Calientes**

  Day 7: 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.

Meals

- **8 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, and 7 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 trek. For this, you need to bring a camel bag or an empty bottle (we recommend a capacity of 2 liters).

- **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'll be picked up from your hotel in the morning and will travel in our private transportation to Capuliyoc, the trek's starting point.
  - **Day 8:** Private transport from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.
- ✓ **Train Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo (Day 8)**

  PeruRail Expedition Service

- ✓ **One-Way Consettur Bus Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu (Day 8)**
- ✓ **Cargo Mules**

  Cargo mules will carry all the camping equipment and your baggage allowance (7 kg / 15.4 lb). Our muleteers will be responsible for your duffle bag and personal items, and they'll hand them to you when you get to each camp.

Permits & Entrance Tickets

- ✓ **Entrance Ticket for Choquequirao Trek**
- ✓ **Entrance Ticket to Machu Picchu Archaeological Site**

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

✓ **Extras and important equipment**

All our travelers need a sleeping bag to camp. Inflatable mattresses and walking sticks (with rubber tips) are optional but highly recommended. If you do not have them, don't worry, you can rent them with Salkantay Trekking.

- **Sleeping bag:** US$ 40.00
- **Inflatable mattress:** US$ 40.00
- **Walking poles (pair):** US$ 40.00

✓ **Huayna Picchu Mountain**

You can climb the famous mountain you always see in the photos behind the archaeological site of Machu Picchu. It's 45 minutes uphill, and coming back down can be scary if you fear heights. You can take this excursion once your guided tour to Machu Picchu ends. The permit must be issued at least one month in advance due to high demand. Consider that there could be changes to protect your integrity, mainly due to weather conditions.

- *The ticket for Huayna Picchu Mountain has an extra cost of US$ 30.00 per person.*

✓ **Machu Picchu Mountain**

Machu Picchu Mountain is another of the mountains that surround the archaeological site of Machu Picchu. It offers less steep, wider, and visually less frightening trails than Huayna Picchu, and it takes 1.5 hours to reach the top. This walk requires an entrance ticket which we can secure for you if we have time in advance.

- *The ticket for Machu Picchu Mountain has an extra cost of US$ 30.00 per person.*

✓ **Lunch in Aguas Calientes and Dinner in Cusco (Day 8)**

✓ **Entry Ticket to Hot Springs in Machu Picchu - Aguas Calientes (Optional)**

✓ **Hiking Clothes and Gear**

✓ **Travel Insurance**

✓ **Tips for our staff**

Tipping is the norm 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, pandemia, government policy changes, political instability, strikes, act of God, etc.

Salkantay TREKKING
Treks & Expeditions Specialists

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?

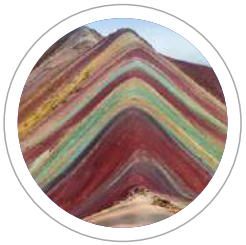
It's very important to be well acclimated to the altitude before exerting yourself on a trek. We recommend that you arrive in Cusco at least 2 or 3 days before the trek starts to help you adjust and avoid possible problems with altitude sickness while on the trek.

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



Rainbow Mountain

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 8% 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.

Return to Cusco

Returning from Machu Picchu requires quite a bit of logistics, but don't worry. Everything is included in your tour!

In Machu Picchu, you'll board a bus that'll take you for 25 minutes to the small city of Aguas Calientes. The buses are boarded according to arrival.

In Aguas Calientes, you'll board a train to Ollantaytambo (or Poroy). Your guide will give you the train tickets where the boarding time will be shown. Make sure you're on the platform 30 minutes early. The train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo takes 1:45 hours.

Once you arrive at the station, our representative, identified with the Salkantay Trekking clothing, will be waiting to transfer you to Cusco or directly to your hotel. The trip from Ollantaytambo to Cusco takes 1:30 hours.

In Cusco, depending on your hotel's location, we'll take you to a smaller car from our company (Hyundai H1) to transfer you faster to your hotel.

Note: Your tour includes a One-Way Consettur Bus Ticket Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu, so you can choose to use it from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu or from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes. If you want a round-trip bus ticket, you'll need to pay an extra of US$ 12.00.

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!

Salkantay TREKKING
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WWW.SALKANTAYTREKKING.COM

24 HRS. EMERGENCY CALL:

+51 958191179

[Opening hours – 9 am to 8 pm]

Phone: +51 958191179

Email: sales@salkantaytrekking.com

Skype: salkantay.trekking

Mailing Address:

Triunfo Street 346 - Main Square of Cusco