

ONE DAY TOUR  
**CITY TOUR CUSCO**

HALF DAY

EXPLORE THE BEST THAT CUSCO HAS TO OFFER



# DESCRIPTION



Welcome to Cusco, the navel of the world! Join us on this spectacular half-day tour of all the most important historical sites in the city. You'll feel inspired as you walk through ancestral streets and the pretty plazas of Qosqo.

You'll go back in time as you walk through each era in the royal city's past—it's the oldest continuously inhabited city in the Americas! We can trace time through history from Native Americans to Incas and Spaniards and finally to modern-day citizens of Cusco.

Besides the historical importance of this grand city, Cusco is breathtaking with a buzzing culture and a cuisine highly-acclaimed on the world stage! We're sure this majestic city will go above and beyond any expectations you have.

## Overview

As you touch down in the imperial city of Cusco, you'll be greeted by our friendly team who'll help you get settled in. Whether you're visiting by yourself, as a couple, or as part of a larger group, you can join us any day of the week to

explore the magical city's magnificent past.

The half-day city tour is a perfect way to spend your first day in Cusco. It's a relaxing trip consisting of visits to nearby archaeological sites and admiring the surrounding landscape. There's only light walking involved, and you don't need to worry about the logistics as we've got it all covered.

Cusco holds amazing cultural richness. This tour is highly recommended for those who would like to know more about our culture and the city's past—which made it what it is today. You'll enjoy a visit to the Main Plaza (Plaza de Armas), where you'll find the Cusco Cathedral. We'll also stop at Qoricancha (Temple of the Sun) & Santo Domingo Convent. Later on, we'll head out of the center and drive to the archaeological sites of Sacsayhuaman, Qenqo, Puca Pucara, and Tambomachay.

Cusco maintains its customs, traditions, mysteries, and tales of its legendary past as a city. So make your first day in the imperial capital of the Inca empire one to remember.



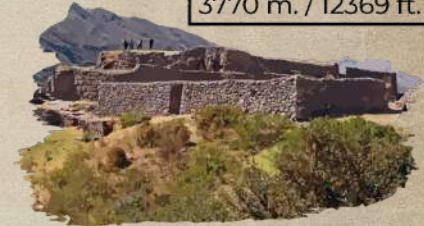
# CITY TOUR CUSCO

## Half Day Tour



**Tambomachay**  
3800 m. / 12467 ft.

**Puka Pukara**  
3770 m. / 12369 ft.



**Qenqo**  
3600 m. / 11811 ft.



**Sacsayhuaman**  
3580 m. / 11745 ft.

**Qoricancha**  
3390 m. / 11122 ft.



**Cusco**  
Main Square  
3400 m. / 11155 ft.



----- FOOTPATH  
—— MAJOR ROAD

### CITY TOUR CUSCO - ITINERARY

DAY 01: Cusco | Cathedral - Qoricancha - Sacsayhuaman - Q'enqo - Puca Pucara - Tambomachay



# FULL ITINERARY

## City Tour Cusco - half day tour

### Highlights

- Soak up the rich culture and traditions as you touch down in the city of Cusco.
- Cusco holds various titles, including UNESCO World Heritage Site, Archaeological Capital of America, Historical Capital of Peru, and Navel of the World. Come and see why for yourself.
- Take a tour of the most historically important sites in the whole city to welcome you in the best way possible.
- During the Viceroyalty in Cusco, houses, colonial churches, and convents with magnificent art pieces were built on top of Incan walls and foundations. You'll get to witness this and more.
- As you head out of the center, you'll be blown away by the incredible views of the surrounding mountains as well as the expansive city below, right in the middle.
- Sit back and relax as every last detail of your trip is taken care of by our friendly team.

1

DAY

FEATURED DESTINATION OF THE DAY

# SAQSAYHUAMAN

*Archaeological Site*





Highlight of the Day: Learning all about the ancient Inca culture and observing their incredible craftsmanship.



### *Touch Down in Cusco City and Explore the Sites*

Your exciting day out begins when we pick you up between 12:40 and 13:00 to begin the city tour. First off, we'll visit the Cathedral in the Plaza de Armas—the main square of Cusco. Inside, you'll enjoy a wide range of incredible paintings from Cusco's School of Art—famous in all of South America—and gold leaf and embossed silver works.

Our next stop will be at Qoricancha, or Temple of the Sun, to appreciate its architecture and perfect stone constructions only seen in Inca temples of high importance.

We'll then board our transport and head out of the city center to visit four highly significant Inca archaeological sites: Sacsayhuaman, Q'enqo, Puca Pucara, and Tambomachay.

At Sacsayhuaman, you'll see the gigantic stones that have been perfectly carved. Q'enqo boasts areas of high religious importance. At Puca Pucara, you'll observe an ancient military construction, part of Cusco's ancient defense system. The final stop is

dedicated to a water cult and has working fountains where water still runs to this day.

At the end of your city tour, we'll take you back to your accommodation in the city at around 18:30. You'll then have the evening free to spend as you please.

Below is a little more info about each site you'll visit.

#### ✓ **Qoricancha Sun Temple and Santo Domingo Convent**

This hundreds of years old religious center was built to worship the sun, the most revered deity during the Inca Empire and what most of their culture was based around.

Inside the temple, you'll find smaller temples dedicated to the sun, moon, stars, etc. To construct the site, the Incas used ashlar masonry, constructing upon the placement of similarly sized cuboid stones that they'd cut and shaped for this very purpose.

Outside the building are beautiful, regal gardens and fountains on the grounds of the monumental temple. You'll find many pretty flowers as you walk along the paths. Here, the combination of the outstanding Inca architecture and the Spanish colonial architecture is what stands out the most.

#### ✓ **Cusco's Cathedral**

Located in Cusco's Main Square, the cathedral is a colonial monument of astounding artistic value. It was built on top of the Wiracocha Inca Palace and houses. Once inside, you'll be able to observe works of carved wood such as the choir, pulpit and altars, beautiful paintings from the Cusquenian School of Art (including a Last Supper painting in which Christ and his disciples eat cuy—guinea pig!), and works of embossed silver and gold leaf.

Among all the 13 churches located in Cusco Historical Center, the Cathedral is one of the most important because it represents the mix of the Andean and colonial civilizations. The grand cathedral sits at the head of the Plaza de Armas—the historical and cultural heart of Cusco.

#### ✓ **Sacsayhuaman**

Located 2 km from Cusco center, this archeological site was built using enormous carved rocks joined with compelling precision—it's almost unbelievable how they were able to engineer such incredible feats hundreds of years ago. From here, you can also enjoy a spectacular view of Cusco city along with the beautiful landscape formed by the surrounding mountains.

The site itself is composed of three overlapping platforms that stretch roughly 360 meters. In the construction, you can see stones as big as 9 meters tall. The most well-known part of Sacsayhuaman is its grand plaza and the adjacent three massive terrace walls. The stones used in the construction of these terraces are among the largest used in any building in pre-Hispanic America.

#### ✓ **Qenqo**

Another 1.5 km from Sacsayhuaman is Q'enqo. This archaeological complex was an Inca ceremonial cult center. The name may have derived after the small yet intricate network of underground passageways that make up the site. It's fascinating making your way through them all.

The most prominent feature of this site is an open space called the amphitheater. Hundreds of years ago, you would have found Inca mummies in the 19 trapezoidal niches found here. Today, the amphitheater is only half of its original height.

#### ✓ **Puca Pucara**

This site is known as the red fortress due to the reddish tints resulting from the vast amounts of iron in its rocks. Many experts believe that this fortress was perhaps an old Tambo that served both as a resting and guarding spot to protect Tambomachay. Here you can see some excellent examples of architecture, fountains, aqueducts, and several Inca enclosures.

#### ✓ **Tambomachay**

The final complex on your tour is made up of a combination of finely carved stones, waterfalls, and aqueducts that were constructed to carry water coming from nearby springs. Tambomachay is associated with the water cult for this reason. In front of this construction, there's a tower that's believed to have served as a guarding post and communication tower.



# 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 Phone Call

The evening before the tour, you will receive a phone call via WhatsApp from your guide, who will provide you with important information about your trip. To ensure that you receive all the necessary information, it is essential that you provide us with accurate and complete personal information.

### ✓ 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!

### ✓ 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.

### ✓ Customer Service 24/7

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

## Transportation

### ✓ Private Transport

All your transportation is included in this package. We will pick you up from your hotel to explore the city of Cusco. Once you complete the tour, we will take you back to the door of your hotel.





# WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

## ✓ Boleto Turistico or Cusco Tourist Ticket

This ticket is necessary and allows you admission to many of the most popular attractions in Cusco and the Sacred Valley, including archaeological sites and museums.

- From PEN 70.00 (US\$ 20.00) to PEN 130.00 (US\$ 40.00) per person.

## ✓ Cusco's Cathedral Entrance Ticket

- **Adult:** PEN 25.00 (US\$ 8.00)
- **Students and Children (11-17):** PEN 13.50 (US\$ 4.00)
- **Children (under 10):** Free

## ✓ Qorikancha Entrance Ticket

- **Adult:** PEN 15.00 (US\$ 5.00)
- **Students and Children (11-17):** PEN 8.00 (US\$ 3.00)
- **Children (under 10):** Free

## ✓ 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.

## ✓ 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.







# 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

## 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 or restaurant. 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



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