

An aerial photograph of the ancient Inca city of Machu Picchu, showing the stone ruins of buildings and terraces nestled in a valley. The city is surrounded by steep, forested mountains, with the prominent peak of Huayna Picchu visible in the background. The sky is clear and blue.

TREK

# IMPERIAL SALKANTAY TREK

*8 days / 7 nights*

**Salkantay**  
TREKKING  
Treks & Expeditions Specialists





# DESCRIPTION

## *The Ultimate Cusco Tour*

Cusco is a beautiful city that was once the capital of the Inca empire, which means it has a lot of history and many interesting sites to visit to learn all about ancient cultures. The city boasts an eclectic mix of Inca and European architecture, and you'll want to see as much as possible while you're here. Most visitors come to Cusco to visit Machu Picchu, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. If you have the time, an adventurous trek to the ancient citadel will make your trip to Peru one to remember for a lifetime.

Are you looking to visit the Imperial city of Cusco and struggling to plan your itinerary? Well, our Salkantay Imperial 8-day tour is the perfect choice! Not only do you get to visit all the important spots in the city, but you'll also take a day trip to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Once you've acclimatized, it's time to set off on the Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu for the ultimate experience. This is the best tour to see everything Cusco and the surrounding area have to offer, plus go on an adventure to Machu Picchu.

# CONTENT



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Itinerary



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Packing List



# Imperial Salkantay Trek 08 Days

## Imperial Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu 08 Days Itinerary

**Day 01:** Cusco's Cathedral - Qoricancha - Saqsayhuaman - Genqo - Puka pukara - Tambomachay  
**Day 02:** Cusco - Ccorao - Pisac Market - Pisac - Urubamba - Ollantaytambo - Chinchero  
**Day 03:** Cusco - Mollepata - Challacancha - Soraypampa - Humantay lake - **Soraypampa (Sky Camp)**  
**Day 04:** Soraypampa - Salkantaypampa - Salkantay Pass - Wayracmachay - **Collpapampa (Mountain Sky View)**  
**Day 05:** Collpapampa - Loreta - Playa Sahuayaco - **Lucmabamba (Super Jungle Domes)**  
**Day 06:** Lucmabamba - Llactapata - Aobamba - Hidroelectrica - **Aguas Calientes (Hotel)**  
**Day 07:** Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu - Ollantaytambo - Cusco  
**Day 08:** Cusco - Cusco Airport (or Bus Station)

Distance	Time	highest Elevation	Difficulty
--	--	3,800m   12,467ft	Easy
--	--	3,762m   12,343ft	Easy
10km   6.21mi	5-6 hrs	4,200m   13,780ft	Challenging
23.5km   14.6mi	10 - 11 hrs	4,630m   15,190ft	Challenging
18km   11.18mi	5-6 hrs	2,950m   9,678ft	Moderate
25km   15.53mi	8-9 hrs	2,800m   9,186ft	Challenging
--	2-3 hrs	2,430m   7,972ft	Easy
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# FULL ITINERARY

## HIGHLIGHTS

- » Visit the most important sites in and around the city of Cusco – the capital of the Inca empire.
- » Learn all about the fascinating culture of the Incas and their influence on society today.
- » Enjoy the best alternative route to the Inca Trail, the Salkantay Trek – one of the 25 best treks in the world, according to National Geographic.
- » Hike up to the astounding Humantay Lake, the jewel in the mountains, surrounded by a white, snowy background.
- » Stare in awe at the imposing Salkantay Mountain and surrounding snowy peaks.
- » Spend nights amid beautiful nature, letting its sounds send you into blissful slumber.
- » Soak up the stunning Andes and the Amazon landscapes and pot unique regional flora and fauna.
- » Explore the magical Machu Picchu and discover its secrets.



# DAY 01

Cusco Cathedral – Temple of Qoricancha and  
Convent of Santo Domingo – Sacsayhuaman –  
Qenqo – Puka Pukara – Tambomachay – Cusco

## Enjoying the most important sites in the city of Cusco.

Welcome to the imperial, Andean Inca city of Cusco, the cultural capital of Peru! Upon arrival, we will take you to your hotel to drop off your luggage and freshen up. After lunch and when you are ready, we will take a leisurely half-day tour of this amazing place as you acclimate to the high altitude (3,400 m – 11,155 ft).

Cusco has a long history and is the oldest continuously inhabited city in all the Americas! Since about 1,000 B.C., people have lived in Cusco and regarded it as a center of the surrounding culture (then called Qosqo). It has been an important part of every civilization that has lived in the area throughout history, starting with the native people of Peru long before the famous Inca people.





On the arrival of the Inca Empire to Peru and beyond, Cusco became the navel of their far-reaching and powerful empire. Of course, the Incas were then conquered by Spaniards, who also used Cusco as a colonial, regal capital for the area.

The attractions visited on this tour include:

- The Cusco Cathedral
- Qoricancha Temple and Santo Domingo Convent
- Sacsayhuaman
- Q'enqo
- Puka Pukara
- Tambomachay



## DAY FACTS

» MINIMUM ELEVATION:  
**3,390 m / 11,122 ft**

» HIGHEST ELEVATION:  
**3,800 m / 12,467 ft**

- 
1. Cusco Main Square
  2. Cathedral of Cusco
  3. Qoricancha
  4. Sacsayhuaman
  5. Q'enqo
  6. Tambomachay



# DAY 02

Cusco – Qorao – Pisac Market – Pisac Archaeological Site – Urubamba – Ollantaytambo Archaeological Site – Chinchero – Cusco

## Tour the Amazing Sacred Valley of the Incas

Today, you will have the opportunity to visit some of the most beautiful and historically rich towns of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We begin the day by picking you up from your hotel in Cusco at 8:30 a.m. and heading toward the town of Pisac. Before reaching Pisac, we will stop at the Qorao and Taray lookouts, so you can admire the Sacred Valley's beauty from afar and take pictures.

Once in Pisac, we will visit the archaeological site and its famous traditional market. Then, we will drive to the town of Urubamba for lunch, where you will enjoy a delicious buffet lunch of traditional Peruvian dishes.

Continuing, we will drive to the classic Inca town of Ollantaytambo and visit its unique archaeological site with its royal sources of water, high terraces, temples, etc., surrounded by towering mountain peaks





and colorful valleys plus the view of the faraway Veronica glacier.

Ollantaytambo is the most well-preserved layout of a typical, Inca-built city with its narrow, cobbled streets and stone walls. Its conservation allows for the enduring legacy of the Incan people to live on for us today.

To finish our day, we will visit Chinchero and meet some of the town's talented women in a textile-making presentation. The Cusco region is known for its superb, colorful textiles, and here you will learn how each color of wool is naturally dyed, how the intricate cloths are woven, and the symbolism held by the traditional designs you find in their beautiful creations. Here, you will also visit an archeological site and a colonial church.

After your tour, you will be brought back to Cusco and dropped off at your hotel at 6:45 pm to rest up for tomorrow's exciting activities!



## DAY FACTS

» MEALS:  
**Lunch**

» DIFFICULTY:  
**Easy**

» MINIMUM ELEVATION:  
**2,792 m / 9,160 ft**

» HIGHEST ELEVATION:  
**3,762 m / 12,343 ft**

1. Pisac Archaeological Center
2. Pisac Handicraft Market
3. Panoramic view of the Sacred Valley
4. Archaeological Center of Ollantaytambo
5. Archaeological Center of Ollantaytambo
6. Chinchero



# DAY 03

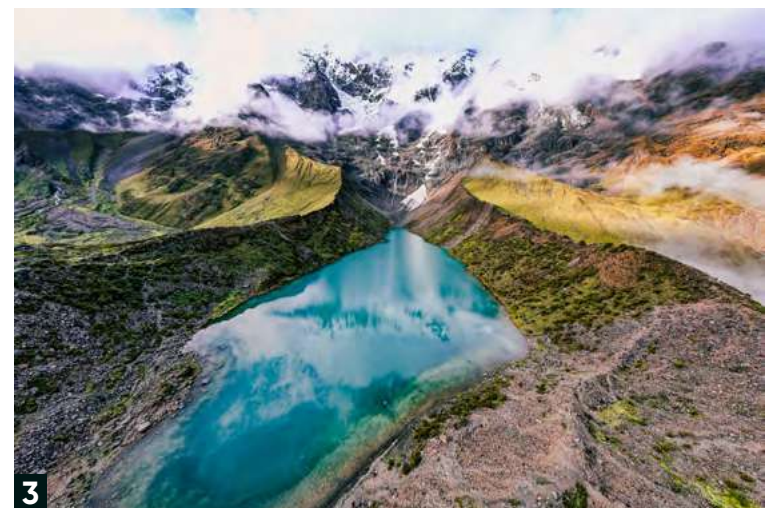
Cusco – Mollepata – Challacancha –  
Soraypampa – Humantay Lake – Sky Camp

## Hike to the Jewel in the Mountains - The Stunning Humantay Lake

We start the day with a pickup at your hotel around 04:00 a.m. We will drive for around 3 hours, crossing Mollepata and ending at Challacancha. Through the bus windows, you can clearly see the white, snow-capped mountains of Salkantay and Humantay: two colossal gods of the Incas (Apus). You will also see the spectacular scenery of high peaks and low valleys in a colorful and contrasting panorama filling every direction you turn your eyes!

After the first 2:15 hours of driving from Cusco, we will stop in Mollepata to use the toilet facilities and souvenir shops and have an optional breakfast. We will then continue to Challacancha, the starting point for the trek. There, we will meet our support staff, who will organize all the equipment and cargo mules.

At around 09:30 a.m., we will begin trekking to Soraypampa (3,900 m / 12,795 ft), the first campsite on our journey. This section of the path takes us over a few deep valleys along the side of a mountain. Along the trail, we'll follow an ancient Inca canal that still supplies water to farmers in the following valleys.





we will hike 7 km (4.35 mi) for 3 hours to Soraypampa, where lunch awaits at our famous Sky Camp.

After lunch and a short rest, we will climb the unforgettable Humantay Lake (4,200 m / 13,780 ft). This is a 3 km (1.86 mi) round-trip hike, which will take around 2:30 hours. Humantay Lake is one of the most beautiful locations in the Andes, with unbelievably blue-green water reflecting the mountain glacier of Apu Humantay. It's truly like something out of a fairy tale! Later, we'll enjoy tea time and then dinner at our campsite. The valley's background at sunset creates the most peaceful scene with an energy that can only be felt and not described.

Because Soraypampa is far from the hustle and bustle of any city lights, the pitch-black sky lights up with thousands of stars and constellations at night. Be overcome by feelings of peace and tranquility while you lay gazing at the expanse unfolding before you.

Our dazzling SKY CAMP is located in front of the impressive mountains Humantay and Salkantay. This campsite creates the perfect union of sky and earth. It allows you to sleep calmly under a clear sky starred with an exceptional view of the constellations. At the same time, you can enjoy all the comforts of a first-class vacation home.

- » 26 igloos
- » 2 person per hut
- » Dinning room and kitchen
- » Toilets
- » **Optional:**
  - Wi-Fi



## DAY FACTS

- » MEALS:  
**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**
- » ACCOMMODATION:  
**Sky Camp**
- » DIFFICULTY:  
**Moderate to Challenging**
- » WALKING DISTANCE:  
**10 km / 6.21 mi**
- » WALKING TIME:  
**5-6 hours**
- » STARTING ELEVATION:  
**3,800 m / 12,467 ft**
- » MINIMUM ELEVATION:  
**3,800 m / 12,467 ft**
- » HIGHEST ELEVATION:  
**4,200 m / 13,780 ft**
- » CAMPSITE ELEVATION:  
**3,900 m / 12,795 ft**

- 
1. Humantay Lagoon
  2. Sky Camp
  3. Sky Camp Dining Room
  4. Interior of the Sky Camp domes



# DAY 04

Soraypampa – Salkantay Pass –  
Huayracmachay –  
Collpapampa (Mountain Sky View)

## Defeat the Trek to the Salkantay Pass and Descend Through the Cloud Forest

After an early wake-up with the first daylight and an energizing breakfast, we will start trekking up to the highest point of the trail, the Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft). A 7 km (4.34 mi) difficult ascent awaits us for 4 hours between the rocky valley base and the magnificent Salkantay Mountain (6,271 m / 20,574 ft).

When we reach the top of the pass, we will appreciate the spectacular views of the surrounding valleys and the imposing snowy peaks of the Salkantay, Humantay, Tucurhuay, and Pumasillo mountains. Salkantay is the second-highest mountain in the Cusco region and one of the Inca gods called "Apu."

After the climax of today's trek, there is a 7 km (4.35 mi) downhill walk on a serpent-shaped, rocky gravel path that leads to our lunch spot in Huayracmachay (3,850 m / 12,631 ft). There is a stunning valley outlook





to rest on the way down!

After our meal, we will enter the upper part of the Amazon jungle, also called "the cloud forest." This is an 9.5 km / 5.9 mi hike completed in three and a half hours. During this part of the trek, you will notice a dramatic change in landscape and the earth's energy as we move from the Andes to Amazon. This hike is wonderful; the hills are decorated with colorful scenery, unique wildlife, and native plants. The forests remain green most of the year, with temperate climates.

At the end of this hike, we arrive at the small village of Collpapampa (2,950 m / 9,678 ft) for a well-deserved rest from our long day of trekking. The Mountain Sky view are our camp for the night, surrounded by valleys, rushing rivers, and lots of vegetation.

Like in the times of our ancestors, our commitment is to our Pachamama (Mother Earth) and the Apus (sacred Mountains). Our campsite Mountain Sky View is adapted to the natural environment without generating any audio-visual impact, constructed with elements found in the same area, and located in a place surrounded by tropical mountains and rocky rivers under the shining stars.

- » 16 huts
- » 2 people per hut
- » Dining room and kitchen
- » Toilets and Hot shower
- » **Optional:**
  - Wi-Fi



## DAY FACTS

- » MEALS:  
**Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner**
- » ACCOMMODATION:  
**Mountain Sky View**
- » DIFFICULTY:  
**Challenging**
- » WALKING DISTANCE:  
**23.5 km / 14.6 mi**
- » WALKING TIME:  
**10-11 hours**
- » MINIMUM ELEVATION:  
**2,900 m / 9,514 ft**
- » HIGHEST ELEVATION:  
**4,630 m / 15,190 ft**
- » CAMPSITE ELEVATION:  
**2,950 m / 9,678 ft**

1. Salkantay Pass
2. Salkantay snow-capped mountain
3. A moment of rest at the foot of the majestic Apu Salkantay.
4. Mountain Sky View
5. Comfortable Andean-style cabins
6. Interior of the Mountain Sky View



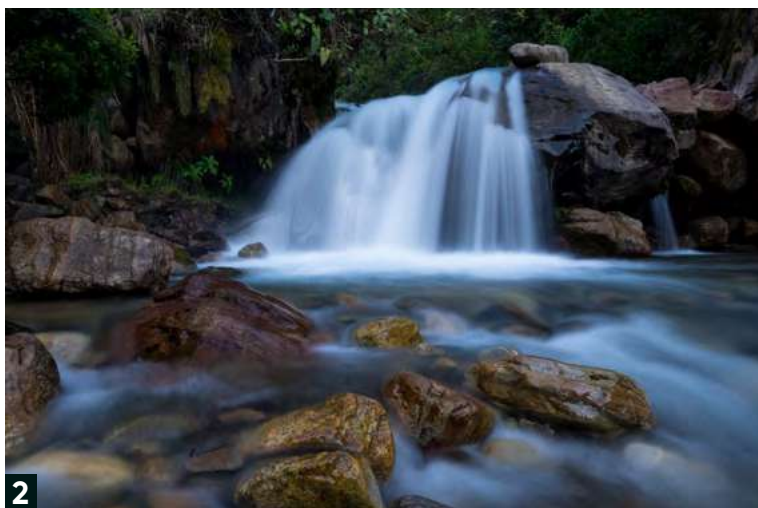
# DAY 05

Collpapampa - La Playa -  
Lucmabamba (Jungle Domes)

## Jungle Adventure and Coffee Experience

At 06:00 a.m., we will start our trek to the small town of La Playa through the Santa Teresa Valley. You will be able to soak up this new, lush landscape during our 5 hours of hiking today. We will see rivers, wild orchids, and coffee, banana, and avocado plantations during the hike. You'll also be able to taste the famous passion fruit and granadilla fruit along the way.

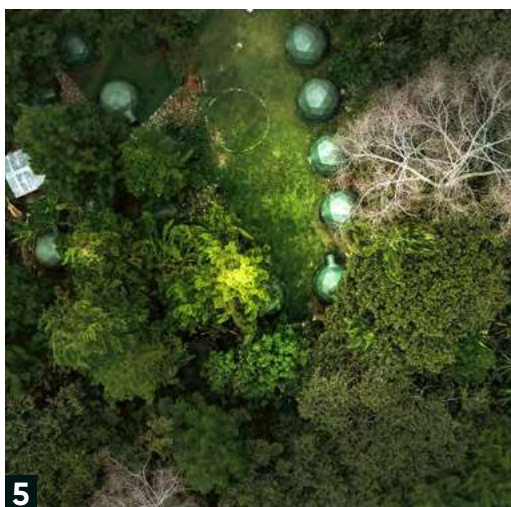
We will pass through the village of Collpapampa, then head to the bottom of the mountains to pass to the left side of the valley. Waterfalls, birds, fruit-bearing trees, flora, and fauna will be our mates on this tropical journey. Once in La Playa, we'll have a long time to rest. Later, thirty more minutes of walking await us to Lucmabamba (2,000 m /6,562 ft), our lunch place and campsite.





We will explore the tropical forest briefly and visit an organic coffee farm. If you are a coffee lover, this will be especially heavenly for you – you can taste coffee freshly prepared by the locals! If not, you can still enjoy the aroma of freshly roasted and ground coffee wafting through the air.

Coffee is the main farming industry here in the jungle, and they farm many acres of coffee to export to the USA, Asia, and Europe. Coffee was first discovered in Ethiopia, and it wasn't until the Spanish invaded Cusco that it was brought to this region. You'll also get the opportunity to explore orange and avocado plantations this afternoon before enjoying dinner and an excellent night's rest with the sounds of nature to send you off to sleep.



From the comfort of our domes, you get to be in intimate contact with the surrounding nature. As you hear the voices of the wind, rain, and flora and fauna in the area, immerse yourself in this green environment.

- » 16 domes
- » 2 people per dome
- » Dining room and kitchen
- » Toilets and Shower
- » **Opcionales:**
  - Hot shower
  - Wi-Fi

## DAY FACTS

- » MEALS:  
**Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner**
- » ACCOMMODATION:  
**Jungle Domes**
- » DIFFICULTY:  
**Moderate**
- » WALKING DISTANCE:  
**17 km / 10.56 mi**
- » WALKING TIME:  
**5-6 hours**
- » MINIMUM ELEVATION:  
**2,000 m / 6,562 ft**
- » HIGHEST ELEVATION:  
**2,950 m / 9,678 ft**
- » CAMPSITE ELEVATION:  
**2,000 m / 6,562 ft**

1. Hike through the lush Amazon rainforest
2. Beautiful waterfalls
3. Traditional coffee elaboration
4. Aerial view of the Jungle Domes
5. Domes mimicking nature
6. Comfortable interior of the domes



# DAY 06

Lucmabamba – Llactapata – Aobamba –  
Hidroelectrica – Aguas Calientes

## Explore Inca Sites and Catch a Glimpse of Machu Picchu

Like previous mornings, the trek's guide will wake you early with a hot cup of coca tea in your dome. You will get ready for today's activities while enjoying your last breakfast prepared by the talented chef. We will begin the hike early, with the chance to enjoy a small part of the famous and highly-acclaimed Inca trail.

We'll climb for about 3 hours to the Llactapata Inca site (2,700 m / 8,858 ft), admiring the views of the Santa Teresa Valley. Llactapata is located right in front of Machu Picchu, so it's the perfect place to learn more about the Inca's roots and the history of those who used and worshiped this land. From this spot, you can see not only the Inca City of Machu Picchu but also the famous Huayna Picchu and Machu Picchu mountains. Of course, you will have plenty of time to capture amazing memories in photos.



1



2



3



After that, we will continue our trek for 1:30 hours downhill until our lunch place in Aobamba and then to the Hidroelectrica train station (1,800 m / 5,906 ft). If you feel exhausted, you have the option to take a train to Aguas Calientes (not included - US\$37.00) or continue the scenic walk to Aguas Calientes for about 3 hours.

One of the most impressive sites on this hike is the 250-meter-tall artificial waterfall, which generates electricity for the entire Cusco. Next to the railroad is a nice path through the warm paradise of the cloud forest. This is the same trail used by the American professor Hiram Bingham who rediscovered Machu Picchu after centuries of being lost to the outside world.

After 3 hours of walking, we'll arrive at Aguas Calientes. You'll check in at your hotel and have a private bathroom, hot shower, wifi, breakfast, and luggage storage while you visit Machu Picchu. You can also rest a bit before dinner or walk around this enchanting place. There are no cars in Aguas Calientes, so it is an especially peaceful place to be.

At around 7:00 p.m., we'll have dinner at a local restaurant and organize to be ready for the icing on our last adventure day: Machu Picchu!

**Note:** During the rainy season, and for safety reasons, the hike up the Llaqtapata Trail is not 100% guaranteed. When heavy rains are frequent, this trail becomes very dangerous.



4



5



6

## DAY FACTS

- » MEALS:  
**Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner**
- » ACCOMMODATION:  
**Hotel**
- » DIFFICULTY:  
**Challenging**
- » WALKING DISTANCE:  
**25 km / 15.53 mi**
- » WALKING TIME:  
**8-9 hours**
- » MINIMUM ELEVATION:  
**1,800 m / 5,906 ft**
- » HIGHEST ELEVATION:  
**2,800 m / 9,186 ft**
- » ACCOMMODATION  
ELEVATION:  
**2,040 m / 6,693 ft**

1. First view of the Imposing Machu Picchu from the Llaqtapata viewpoint
2. Archaeological site of Llaqtapata
3. Bridge over the Amazon forest in Aobamba.
4. Aguas Calientes
5. Hotel in Aguas Calientes
6. Comfortable rooms



# DAY 07

Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu –  
Ollantaytambo – Cusco

## Visit the Magical, Mystical Machu Picchu

Today we arrive at our trek's long-awaited finale, one of the 7 Wonders of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site – Machu Picchu! We will wake up early after a refreshing night at our hotel to beat the crowds to the top of Machu Picchu and enjoy its serenity in the soft morning light. The Machu Picchu entrance checkpoint will be from 6:00 a.m.

We'll board the morning bus to Machu Picchu and be one of the first to enter the royal city of the Incas. Here, you'll have a guided tour of about two hours through this ancient site, including a visit to its temples, terraces, palaces, priests' houses, and cultivated fields, among others. From the observatories, you'll also be able to snap some of the most memorable photos of your trip.





You'll be amazed by the engineering talent of the Incas, so advanced for their time and that today is part of the mystery. The Incas who built the citadel were geniuses in organizing this community sustainably and beautifully on the slope of a mountain. Furthermore, they worked without modern tools such as steel and iron, even carrying water through canals and aqueducts along their streets for people to use.

If you book your tickets in advance, you can climb Huayna Picchu Mountain (2,720 m / 8,924 ft) or Machu Picchu Mountain (3,000 m / 9,843 ft); these tours will take you two and three hours between ascent and descent, respectively.

After the excursions, we'll return to Aguas Calientes for leisure time before taking the train to Ollantaytambo. Once here, our private transportation will take you back to your hotel in Cusco. Rest your feet and body now; we assure you your heart will still soar for weeks and years!



## DAY FACTS

- » MEALS:  
**Breakfast**
- » DIFFICULTY:  
**Easy**
- » ACTIVITY DURATION:  
**2-3 hours exploring Machu Picchu**
- » MACHU PICCHU CITADEL  
ELEVATION:  
**2,430 m / 7,972 ft**
- » OPTIONAL MOUNTAINS:  
**Moderate to Challenging**
- » MACHU PICCHU MOUNTAIN  
ELEVATION:  
**3,000 m / 9,843 ft (3-4 hours)**
- » HUAYNA PICCHU MOUNTAIN  
ELEVATION:  
**2,720 m / 8,924 ft (2 hours)**
- » HUCHUY PICCHU MOUNTAIN  
ELEVATION:  
**2,497 m / 8,192 ft (1.5 hours)**

- 
1. Machu Picchu, Inca wonder
  2. Impressive Inca architecture at Machu Picchu complex
  3. Temple of the condor
  4. Terraces in Machu Picchu
  5. Temple of the Sun
  6. Detail of the Inca architecture



# DAY 08

Cusco – Cusco's Airport (or Bus Station)

## Say Goodbye to Imperial Cusco

Today, you'll wake up, have breakfast, and pack your bags, as it's time to say goodbye to the imperial city of Cusco for now. We'll organize a time to collect you and take you to the airport or bus station to continue your vacation or return home.

This isn't a forever farewell, and we're sure you'll be longing to come back to relive all the special moments, learn more about the ancient city and cultures, and try out more of the excellent restaurants and their delicious cuisine. So, it's not goodbye, but rather see you soon!





# INCLUSIONS





# WHAT IS INCLUDED?

## » Permits & Entrance Tickets

- Cusco Tourist Ticket (Boleto Turístico)

This ticket is required to access many of the most popular attractions in Cusco and the Sacred Valley, including archaeological sites and museums.

- Day 1: Cusco's Cathedral Entrance Ticket
- Day 1: Qorikancha Entrance Ticket
- Day 3: Entry Ticket to Humantay Lake & the Salkantay Trek
- Day 5: Entry to Cocalmayo Hot Springs
- Entry Ticket to Machu Picchu Archaeological Site

The "Machu Picchu Circuit 2" ticket offers the most complete tour of the Machu Picchu citadel and is also the most requested. For this reason, we recommend booking it well in advance to secure your entry.

## » High Quality Service & Safety

- Pre-departure Briefing

The evening before your trip, you'll meet with your guide for a briefing to ensure you're fully prepared. For multi-day tours, this takes place at 5:00 p.m. in our office or, depending on your itinerary, at your hotel. For day tours, you'll receive a detailed WhatsApp message or call with packing tips, your pick-up time confirmation, and your hotel address verification. This ensures you're ready for your adventure.

- Day 0-1: Transfer from the airport to your hotel
- Day 1: Half-day Cusco city tour
- Day 2: Full-day Sacred Valley tour
- Day 3 - 7: Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu
- Day 8: Transfer to the airport
- Experienced Tour Guide

Our official tour guides speak English and Spanish and are professionally trained and certified in safety and quality service. Chosen for their experience, responsibility, and passion for exploration, they take pride in sharing our culture and history. With their guidance, you'll stay informed, safe, and comfortable, ensuring a worry-free adventure and an unforgettable experience of a lifetime.

- One Duffel Bag for the Salkantay Trek

For the trek, you'll receive a duffel bag to pack your personal belongings, with a maximum weight limit of 5 kg (11 lb), which will be carried by our staff.

- Sleeping Bag for the Salkantay Trek

Our sleeping bags are durable and designed to keep you warm in temperatures as low as -18°C (0°F). They feature a mummy shape and include a sleeping liner for added warmth. Each bag is thoroughly cleaned and carefully maintained after every use.

- Trekking Poles for the Salkantay Trek

Trekking poles enhance stability on hard terrain while minimizing impact on joints.

- 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.

- Backpack Cover & Rain Poncho

Our attention to detail sets us apart. You'll receive a cover to protect your backpack and a poncho for extra comfort and protection along the way.

- Professional long-range walkie-talkies

Walkie-talkies optimize communication, ensuring quick response and coordination in key situations and locations.

## » Accommodation

- Accommodation in Exclusive Campsites

Like our ancestors, we deeply respect the Pachamama (Mother Earth). That's why our campsites and lodges are thoughtfully designed to blend with the environment and minimize any negative impact.





**Sky Camp**



**Mountain Sky View**



**Jungle Domes**

- Hotel in Cusco (3 nights: 1st, 2nd, and 7th)

2 nights before the trek and 1 night after the trek.

- Hotel in Aguas Calientes (Day 6)

You will spend one night in a comfortable hotel in Aguas Calientes, including luggage storage while you visit Machu Picchu. Accommodation is in double, twin, and triple rooms.

## » Meals

- Day 2: Breakfast at your hotel in Cusco and Buffet Lunch in the Sacred Valley Tour
- Meals on the Salkantay Trek: 5 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, and 4 Dinners

Our chef prepares the most amazing 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.

- Day 8: Breakfast at your hotel in Cusco
- Water on the trail

We'll provide boiled, filtered, and cooled water from your first lunch to your last breakfast on the trail. Please bring a camel bag or an empty bottle (recommended capacity: 2 liters) to refill at each meal.

- Wake up tea

Every morning at the campsites, you'll wake up to a hot cup of coca tea, delivered straight to your bed—perfect for warming up before you start the day.

- Tea Time or Happy Hour

During the trek, every afternoon before dinner, our cooks will serve popcorn, cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, and hot water. After a long day of hiking, you won't have to wait until dinner to unwind, warm up, and enjoy a tasty treat!

- Daily snacks on the trail

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.

- Snacks and a Bottle of Water for the Sacred Valley Tour

We'll provide you with a water bottle and snacks of local fruits, cookies, chocolate, caramels, etc.

- One cloth snack bag per person

We'll provide you with a cloth bag for your snacks—perfect for storing wrappers and keeping the environment clean. Feel free to use it throughout your trek!

## » Transportation

- Transfers

- Day 0–1: A Salkantay Trekking representative will meet you at Cusco Airport and transfer you to your hotel.

- Day 1: Transportation for the City Tour in Cusco (after lunch).

- Day 2: Transportation for the Sacred Valley Tour.

- Day 3: Morning pickup from your hotel to travel to Challacancha, the starting point of the trek.

- Day 5: Transportation Lucmabamba – Cocalmayo thermal baths.

- Day 7: One-way bus ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu.

- Day 7: Transfer from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.

- Day 8: Private transfer from your hotel in Cusco to the Airport.

- Day 7: Train Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo

Expedition Machu Picchu by PeruRail or The Voyager to Machu Picchu by Inca Rail (train options and schedules subject to availability).

- Personal Belongings Transportation

- On days 3,4, and 5, cargo mules will carry all the camping equipment and your baggage allowance (5 kg / 11 lb). Muleteers will be responsible for your duffle bag and personal items.

- On day 6, your duffle bag will be transported by car, then by train.



# WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

## » Huayna Picchu Mountain

Up for a challenge? Climb Huayna Picchu, the iconic mountain behind Machu Picchu. This 45-minute uphill trek rewards you with breathtaking views and a profound sense of achievement. It's not for the faint-hearted, but if you're afraid of heights, push through—the reward is truly worth it!

- **Cost: US\$ 60.00 per person.**
- **Booking:** Reserve 2–3 months in advance due to high demand.
- **Entry Times:** 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. (recommended)

With your 6:00 a.m. Machu Picchu Citadel Circuit 2 entrance, you'll have time to climb Huayna Picchu after your guided tour. This portion is completed independently, following your guide's instructions.

## » Machu Picchu Mountain

Machu Picchu Mountain is one of the breathtaking peaks that surround the archaeological site. Its trails are less steep, wider, and less intimidating than those of Huayna Picchu, making it an excellent option for those seeking a more relaxed climb. Reaching the summit takes approximately 1.5 hours and offers unforgettable panoramic views. This hike requires an entrance ticket, which we can secure for you in advance upon request.

- **Cost: US\$ 60.00 per person.**
- **Entry Times:** 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Your included entrance to Machu Picchu Citadel Circuit 2 is scheduled for 6:00 a.m. If you wish to hike Machu Picchu Mountain, you can select the 8:00 a.m. entry time. However, this will require pausing your guided tour of the citadel to complete the hike independently, following your guide's recommendations.

## » Huchuy Picchu Mountain

Huchuy Picchu is a small mountain just above the Machu Picchu citadel, offering a short, scenic, and less crowded alternative to the more demanding Huayna Picchu. Its gentle, well-maintained trail is perfect for travelers seeking a light yet rewarding hike, with sweeping views of the citadel and the surrounding Andes. While Huayna Picchu involves a steep and strenuous climb, Huchuy Picchu delivers a more relaxed and accessible

experience—without giving up the stunning scenery.

- **Cost: US\$ 50.00 per person.**
- **Availability:** High season, from May to September.
- **Entry Times:** 9:00 a.m. (recommended) and 11:00 a.m.

With your 6:00 a.m. Machu Picchu Citadel Circuit 2 entrance, you'll have time to climb Huchuy Picchu after your guided tour. This portion is completed independently, following your guide's instructions.

## » Meals not specified

- **Day 1: Breakfast, lunch and dinner**
- **Day 2: Dinner**
- **Day 3: Breakfast**
- **Day 7: Lunch and dinner**

## » Optional Horseback Ride from Soraypampa to Humantay Lake (Day 1)

## » Optional Horseback Ride from Soraypampa to Salkantay Pass (Day 2)

## » Train from Hidroelectrica to Aguas Calientes (Day 6)

If you feel exhausted or unwell after the hike from Lucmabamba to Hidroelectrica, you have the option to take the train from Hidroelectrica to Aguas Calientes

- **US\$ 40.00 per person**

## » Personal Hiking Clothes and Gear

## » Travel Insurance

## » Tips for our staff

While our team receives fair salaries, any additional gesture is always appreciated in recognition of their hard work and dedication. Participants often choose to pool their tips and present them directly to the hiking team or through their guide.

## » 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 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.

## » Is it for me?

The Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu is an excellent alternative to the Inca Trail trek and better suited for more adventurous trekkers who can handle higher altitudes and longer distances. Ascending to reach the famous Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft) isn't too strenuous nor very steep since it's at the beginning of the trek. Still, it does require stamina and a little time in Cusco to acclimatize to the altitude before beginning the trek.

## » 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



Valle Sagrado



Maras Moray

## » Briefing or Informative Meeting

All information meetings and briefings are held in our main office in Cusco (or your hotel) at 5:00 p.m., 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)

If you still have a pending balance, you must pay it 2 days before your hike/tour. Otherwise, your trip reservation will not be confirmed.

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.

## » Duffle Bag for Salkantay Imperial Trek 8 Days

The evening before you start your trek (during your briefing), we will provide you with a duffle bag to pack your clothes for the 5 days of your Salkantay Trek. Your weight allowance is up to 7 kg / 15.4 lb. Our horses will carry your duffle bag for you together with the food and camping gear. It is important to be aware that you will not have access to your items in the duffle bag until the end of each day, as the horsemen and horses will always be ahead of the group.

During the trip, you need a day backpack big enough to carry your personal belongings such as a warm jacket, raincoat, camera, sunscreen, snacks, water, etc. Usually, a 30 to 50-liter backpack is sufficient.

## » 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. 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 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, camps, or restaurants. 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.
- » Bathing suit
- » Towel
- » Flashlight



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





  
**Salkantay**  
TREKKING  
Trek & Expeditions Specialists

[www.salkantaytrekking.com](http://www.salkantaytrekking.com)



[info@salkantaytrekking.com](mailto:info@salkantaytrekking.com)



+51 958 191 179



Triunfo Street 346  
Main Square Cusco



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