

A hiker wearing a dark jacket, black pants with a yellow stripe, and a colorful hooded scarf stands on a stone wall. The background features ancient stone ruins, including a large pyramid-like structure, set against a backdrop of steep, forested mountains under a clear blue sky. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm glow and long shadows.

ONE DAY TREK

INCA TRAIL TO MACHU PICCHU

1 day



DESCRIPTION

The 1-Day Short Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

Our One-Day Inca Trail to Machu Picchu is the perfect adventure for those short on time but eager to experience one of the Wonders of the World. This exciting route offers a taste of the legendary Inca Trail, combining stunning archaeological sites, breathtaking mountain landscapes, lush vegetation, and a remarkable range of ecosystems.

Along the way, you'll visit Wiñay Wayna, the most beautiful and significant Inca site on the trail, before entering Machu Picchu through the Sun Gate (Inti Punku) – a truly unforgettable entrance. From there, explore the upper sector of the citadel and capture the classic postcard photo of this mystical site before heading back to Cusco – all in just one day!

CONTENT



Map



Itinerary



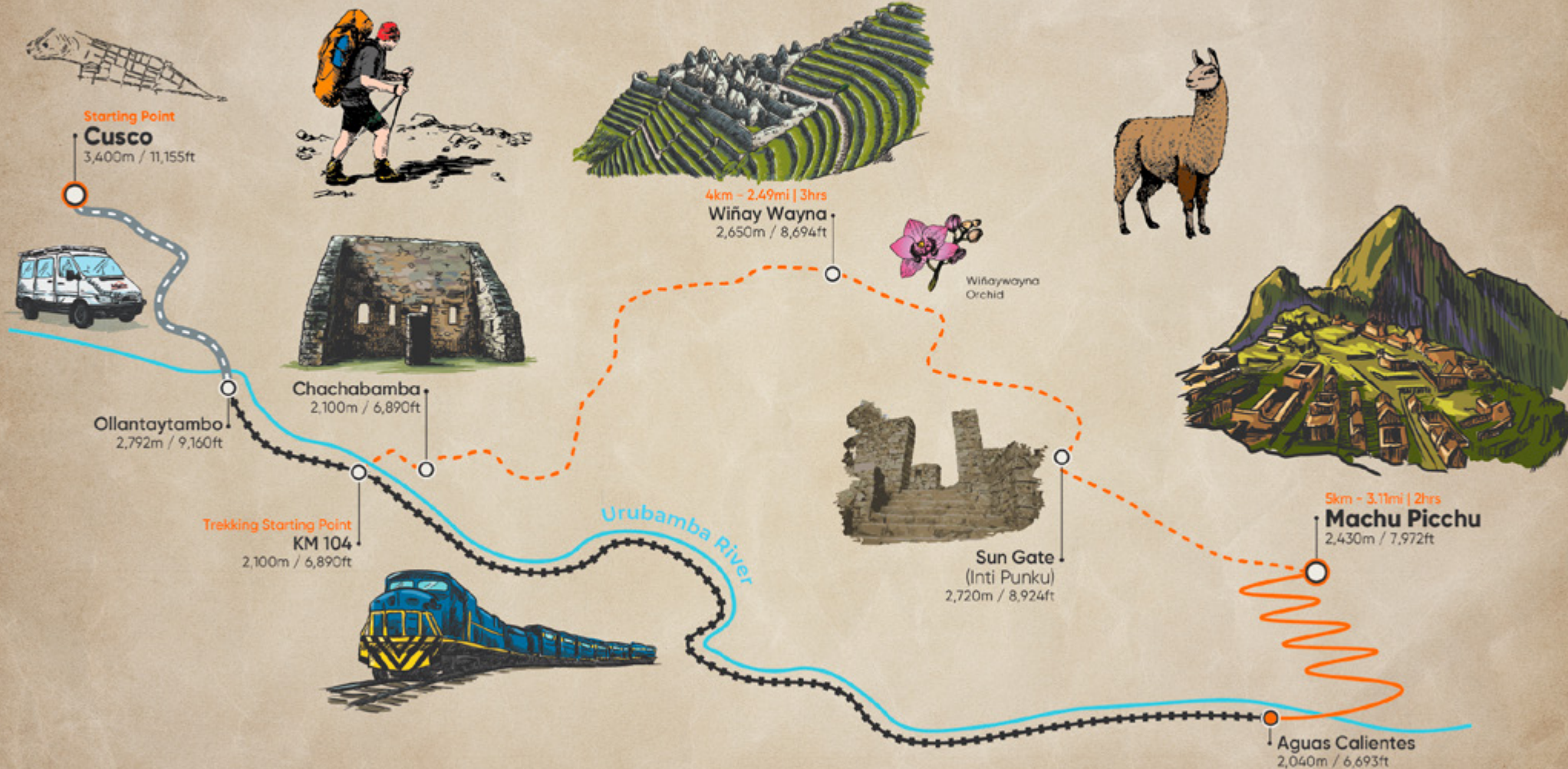
Inclusions



Packing List

Inca Trail

to Machu Picchu One Day Tour



Short Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

02 Days itinerary

Day 01: Cusco - Ollantaytambo - KM 104 - Chachabamba - Wiñay Wayna - Sun Gate (Inti Punku) - Machu Picchu - Aguas Calientes

Distance	Time	Highest Elevation	Difficulty
9km 5.6mi	5-6 hrs.	2,720m 8,924ft	Moderate

FULL ITINERARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- » Explore the iconic Inca Trail and Machu Picchu in just one day.
- » Walk in ancient footsteps through archaeological sites like Chachabamba and Wiñay Wayna.
- » Hike the stunning Andes, rich in unique flora and fauna.
- » Admire breathtaking views on a scenic train ride through the Sacred Valley.
- » Enter Machu Picchu via the Sun Gate (Inti Punku) for a memorable arrival.
- » Capture the classic photo of the Inca Citadel, a UNESCO site and one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World.

DAY 01

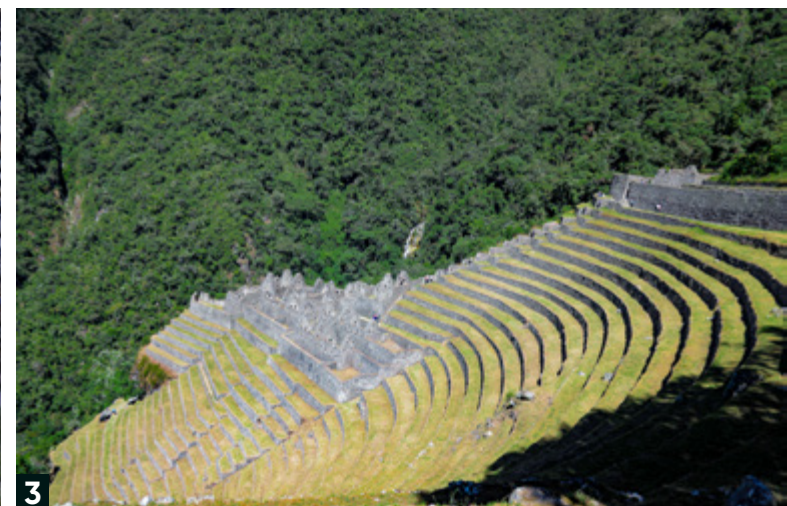
Cusco – KM 104 – Chachabamba –
Wiñay Wayna – Sun Gate – Machu Picchu –
Aguas Calientes

Hike Ancient Trails and Travel Back in Time at Historic Sites

Kickstart this epic day trip with a pickup from your hotel at around 4:00 a.m. We'll drive to the Ollantaytambo Train Station and take the train for an hour-and-a-half trip to the starting point of this one-day Inca Trail, the KM 104.

After passing the checkpoint, we'll go to the first archaeological site, Chachabamba. This was one of the last shelters used by the Inca pilgrims before reaching Machu Picchu. It features several buildings, so this will be the perfect place to hear the guide's first intro to the fascinating Inca history.

Then, the real hike begins with a 3-hour ascent across the stone steps of the original Inca Trail. The ecosystem in this area is truly unique; you'll identify different types of flora and fauna: orchids, flowers, trees, and other local species, and even a waterfall in the middle of the trail. We'll arrive at the Wiñay Wayna archaeological site, the most significant along the Inca Trail. Here's where everyone is amazed by its exquisite architecture!



You'll see its many water sources for rituals, impressive agricultural platforms, and sacred places dedicated to the natural deities like the Rainbow Temple. Take this time to chill out, rest your legs, be silent, and connect with Mother Nature through birdsong or the refreshing breeze. Then is a little further walk to enjoy lunch at one of the Classic Inca Trail campsites. You'll have enough time here to recharge energies while looking down at the edgy valleys below before the next leg.

We'll keep hiking until the famous Inti Punku or Sun Gate, where every Inca Trail hiker accesses Machu Picchu. From here, you'll stare at the breathtaking views and architecture of this majestic Inca City for the first time. This is also where the Incas would get their first sight of their magnificent Citadel. It's hard to describe the impact of watching this ancient, sacred, and world-famous site. You'll feel goosebumps wash over you.

After enjoying the panoramic views and photo opportunities from the Sun Gate, we'll begin our descent toward Machu Picchu, heading specifically to the classic viewpoint for that iconic photo of the citadel. You'll have a bit more time to take in the stunning scenery and the majestic setting in which this ancient city was built. Your guide will provide a brief historical explanation as you soak in the atmosphere of this sacred site. Don't forget to take plenty of memorable photos and allow the energy of the Andes to fill your spirit.

Note: Please be aware that with your current ticket, you will not have access to the lower sector of Machu Picchu.

Later, we'll take the bus down to Aguas Calientes, the town at the base of Machu Picchu. From there, we'll board the 18:20 train (subject to availability) back to Ollantaytambo, where our private transport will be waiting to take you to Cusco and drop you off at your accommodation. Time to relax and reflect on this unforgettable journey.



DAY FACTS

» MEALS:

Box Lunch and snacks

» DIFFICULTY:

Moderate

» WALKING DISTANCE UNTIL MACHU PICCHU:

9 km / 5.6 mi

» WALKING TIME UNTIL MACHU PICCHU:

5 hours

» STARTING ELEVATION:

2,100 m / 6,890 ft

» MINIMUM ELEVATION:

2,040 m / 6,693 ft

» HIGHEST ELEVATION:

2,720 m / 8,924 ft

» MACHU PICCHU ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ELEVATION:

2,430 m / 7,972 ft

1. Machu Picchu from Inti Punku
2. Chachabamba Archaeological Center
3. Wiñay Wayna Archaeological Center
4. Machu Picchu, Inca wonder
5. Impressive Inca architecture in the Machu Picchu complex
6. Temple of the Condor

INCLUSIONS



WHAT IS INCLUDED?

» Permits & Entrance Tickets

- Permits and Ticket for the Inca Trail

We will process all necessary permits once we receive your complete information and reservation deposit. Permits are subject to availability and are issued for a specific date under your name. They cannot be modified under any circumstances. Passport number changes are only allowed for renewal purposes, in which case you must provide both your old and new passports.

- Entry Ticket to Machu Picchu Archaeological Site (Circuit 1)

Your Inca Trail ticket includes access to Circuit 1, which allows you to visit the upper section of the citadel and take the iconic postcard photo of Machu Picchu. After this brief visit, we'll go directly to the main gate to board the bus back to Aguas Calientes.

» High Quality Service & Safety

- Pre-departure Briefing

The day before your excursion, your guide will send you a WhatsApp message or give you a call with key information for your upcoming experience – such as packing suggestions, confirmed pick-up time, and hotel address check – everything you need to be fully prepared for the adventure ahead.

- Experienced Tour Guide

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

- 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.

» Meals

- Box Lunch, Snacks and Water
- 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 journey!

» Transportation

- Transport
 - Pick up from your hotel in the morning and transfer to Ollantaytambo train station.
 - Bus Ticket from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes
 - Transport from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.
- Train Tickets
 - Train from Ollantaytambo to KM 104 (Trek starting point).
 - Train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

» Breakfast & Dinner

» Travel Insurance

» Tips for our staff

- While our team receives fair salaries, tips are always appreciated as a gesture of recognition for their well-done work, dedication, and their passion for sharing cultural knowledge.

» Additional costs or delays beyond our control

- Landslides, bad weather conditions, itinerary modifications due to a safety concern, illness, pandemics, government policy changes, political instability, strikes, act 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.

» The Inca Trail Without Plastics

Join us on this journey towards a plastic-free Inca Trail, where the beauty of the landscape is matched only by our commitment to environmental stewardship. Together, let's pave the way for a more sustainable and responsible adventure through the heart of history.

» 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)

If possible, it would be greatly appreciated if you could settle the remaining balance for the trek/tour in cash, either in US dollars or the local currency, at our office in Cusco. You can withdraw funds from various ATMs located along Avenida Sol, offering both US dollars and Peruvian Soles. Alternatively, you have the option to pay using a credit/debit card or PAYPAL, either online or in person, but please note that a 5% service charge will be applied by our payment gateway (Niubiz) and PAYPAL. We regret to inform you that we are unable to accept bank checks or traveler's checks as forms of payment for the balance.

» 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

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

» 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.

» 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, tents 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
- » Hiking boots or shoes (preferably waterproof)
- » Trekking pants (*)
- » Trekking socks
- » Waterproof gaiter
- » Long sleeve t-shirts
- » Warm jacket
- » Waterproof jacket
- » Raincoat or rain poncho.
- » Sun hat to protect neck and face
- » Neck gaiter or buff
- » Sunglasses with UV protection
- » Trekking poles
- » Medium trekking backpack (15 – 25 liter)
- » Camera and charger
- » Power bank
- » Snacks: Energy bars, chocolate, candies, dried fruits, etc.



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



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