

A hiker wearing a dark jacket, black pants with a yellow stripe, and a colorful beanie stands on a stone wall. In the background, there are stone ruins, including a large pyramid-like structure, and 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 most exciting way to see one of the Wonders of the World for those who don't have the time to hike the entire Inca Trail. The appeal of this world-famous trek is the stunning cultural display of Inca archaeological sites, exotic mountain views, primitive lush vegetation, and extraordinary ecological varieties.

The trail goes through Wiñay Wayna, a beautiful Inca citadel and the most significant construction along the entire traditional Inca Trail. You'll also enter the World Wonder, Machu Picchu, through the Sun Gate and be astounded by unforgettable views of the imposing, mystical site. You'll tour the most important parts of Machu Picchu before heading back to Cusco – all in one day!

CONTENT



Map



Itinerary



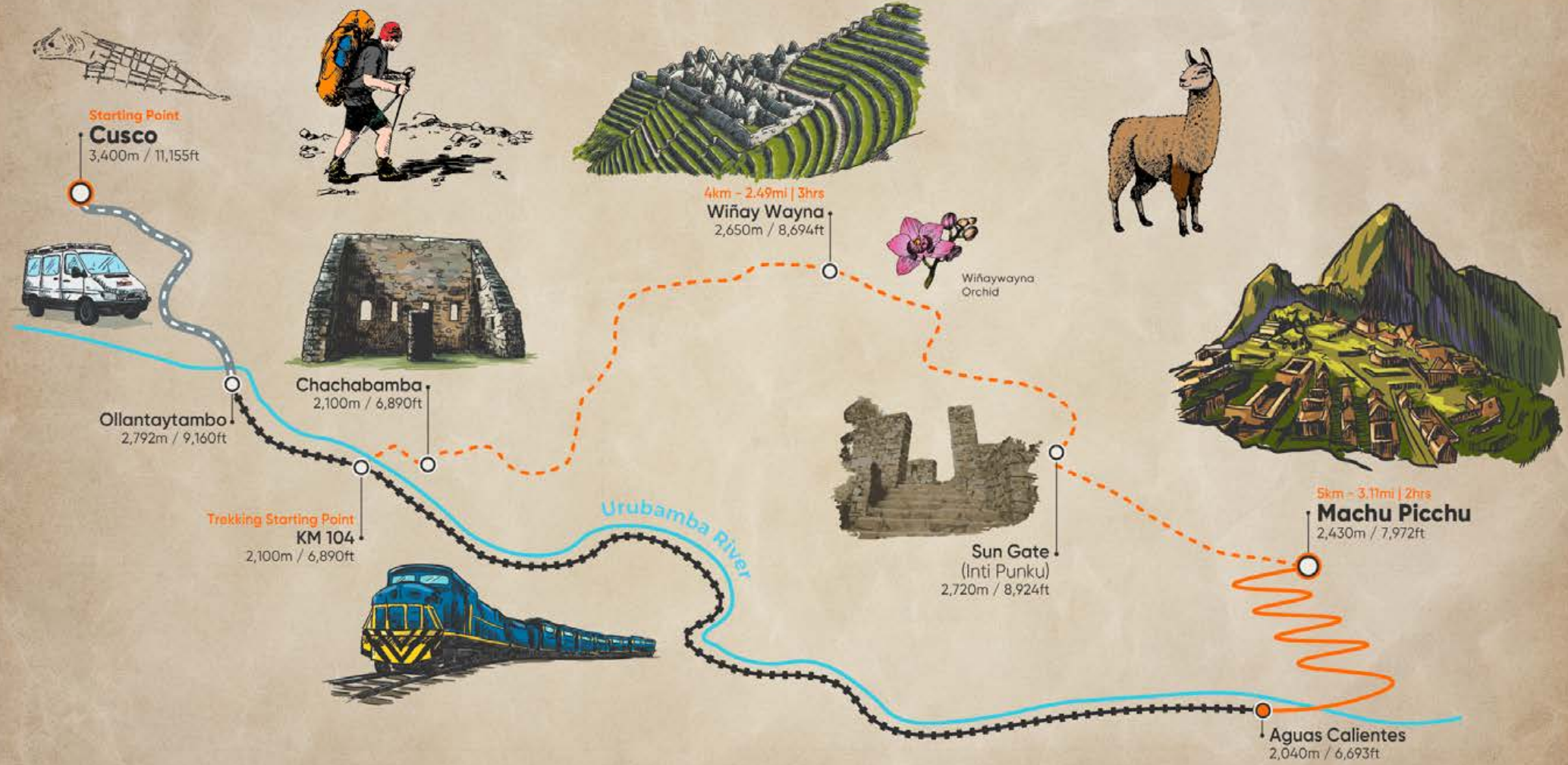
Inclusions



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 impressive Inca Trail and magical Machu Picchu in one day.
- » Retrace ancient steps along this historical route and visit some fascinating archaeological sites.
- » Hike through the stunning Andes and enjoy the unique flora and fauna.
- » Admire the extraordinary surrounding views on a train ride amid the mountains.
- » Visit the mythical Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, one of the World's Seven Wonders and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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!



1



2



3

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 the views and photo opportunities, we'll go on the last stretch to Machu Picchu. You will have a little more time to contemplate the site and the surrounding landscape in which the city is built while listening to a brief historical explanation from your guide. Take many memorable photos and let your spirit be filled with the energy of this magnificent, sacred place.

Later, it'll be time to walk down to the Machu Picchu main entrance. You'll take the bus down to Aguas Calientes, the small town at the base of Machu Picchu. We'll catch the train there at 18:20 (subject to availability) back to Ollantaytambo. Our transport will be waiting to take you to Cusco and drop you off at your accommodation for a well-deserved rest after 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 secure all necessary permits once we receive your complete information and reservation deposit. Permits are subject to availability and are issued for a specific date and under your name. They cannot be changed under any circumstances. Changes in passport number are only permitted for renewal reasons. In that case, you must provide both your old and new passports.

» High Quality Service & Safety

- Pre-departure Briefing

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

- Experienced Tour Guide

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

- 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.

- 24/7 Customer Service

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

» 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 trek!

» 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

» Travel Insurance

» Tips for our staff

- Tipping is usual on any excursion to Peru. Although we pay good salaries to our 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, 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.

» 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 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.

» 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.

» 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 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
- » 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.
- » Bathing suit
- » Towel



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



www.salkantaytrekking.com



info@salkantaytrekking.com



+51 958 191 179



Triunfo Street 346
Main Square Cusco



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