



TREK

# AUSANGATE, RAINBOW MOUNTAIN & RED VALLEY

*2 days / 1 night*

  
**Salkantay**  
TREKKING  
Treks & Expeditions Specialists



# DESCRIPTION

## *Hike to the Wonderful Mountain of Colors and Red Mars-like Landscape*

If you're pondering over short trips from Cusco, our 2-Day Rainbow Mountain and Red Valley Tour is designed to discover the incredible scenery of a remote area that seems taken out of a dream. Explore the Andes in the company of our knowledgeable guide and witness unimaginable scenes. See the geological formation of Rainbow Mountain in its pure natural beauty and the Red Valley, which feels like you've stepped foot on Mars.

As you traverse this challenging hike, capture the impressive views of the majestic Apu Ausangate (6,372 m / 20,905 ft), the highest and most powerful mountain in the entire Cusco region. Allow yourself to enjoy a stunning natural setting during this trip and explore the best that the Vilcanota mountain range has to offer.

# CONTENT



Map



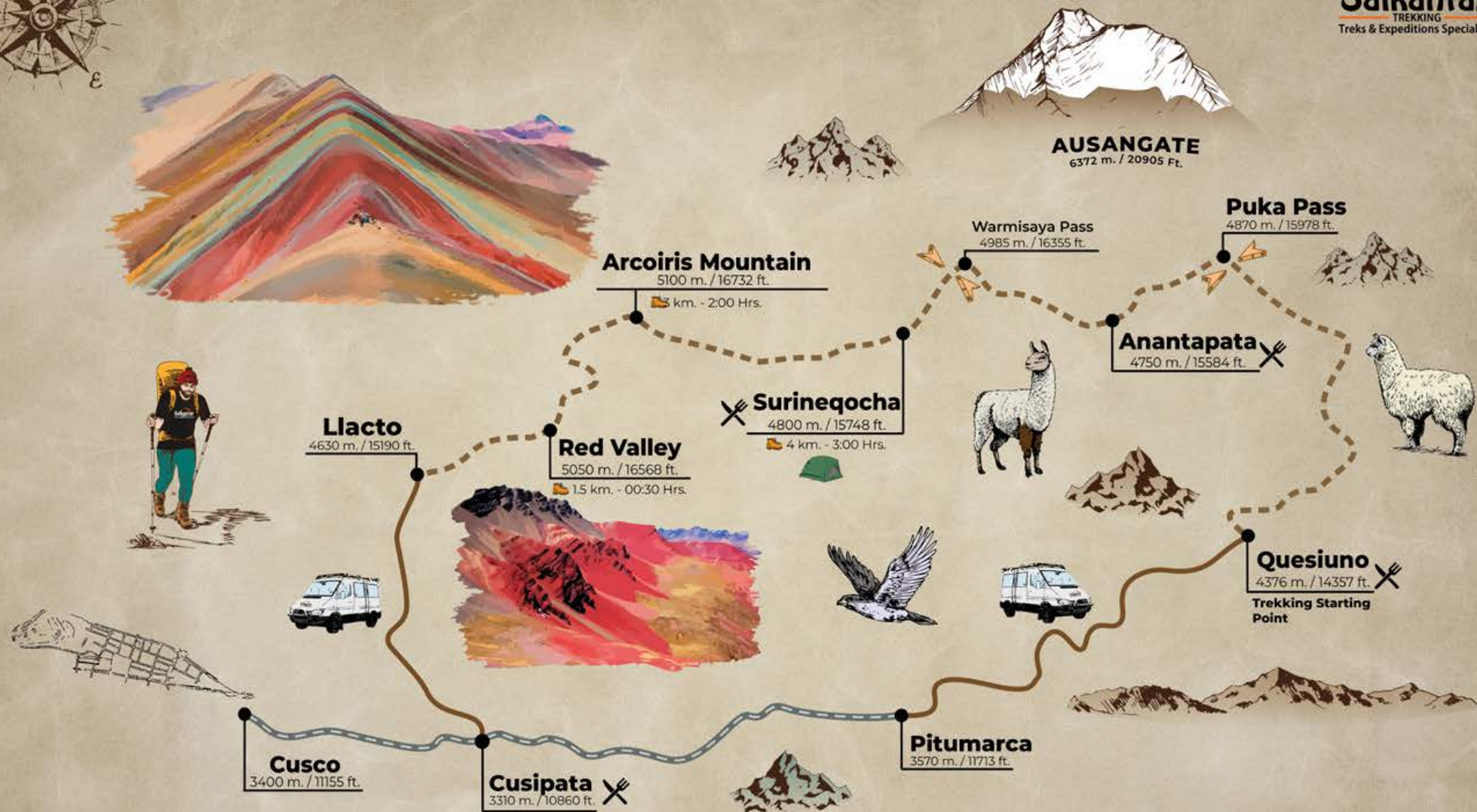
Itinerary



Inclusions



Packing List



DAY 01: Cusco | Pitumarca - Quesiuino - Puka Pass - Anantapata - Warmisaya Pass - Surineqocha

DAY 02: Surineqocha | Rainbow Mountain - Red Valley - Llacto - Cusco

# FULL ITINERARY

## HIGHLIGHTS

- » Enjoy a two-day adventure away from the city and the big tourist crowds.
- » Hike through the absolutely stunning Andean mountain range and see snow-capped peaks, herds of alpacas, and pristine beauty everywhere you look.
- » Visit the incredible Rainbow Mountain of Vinicunca early in the morning to enjoy the site with little to no other tourists.
- » Sleeping relatively close to Rainbow Mountain in a comfortable tent avoids the need for an early departure time pre-sunrise from Cusco.
- » Venture to the less-visited Red Valley and marvel at its Mars-like terrain.
- » Take in the incredible views of Ausangate Mountain, the highest peak in the Cusco region.
- » Spend the night under the Andean sky and observe the constellations unique to this side of the world.

# DAY 01

Cusco | Pitumarca – Quesiuno – Puka Pass – Anantapata – Warmisaya Pass – Surineqocha

## Begin your Adventure Through Stunning Andean Landscapes

Our exciting adventure kicks off early in the morning. We'll pick you up from your hotel at 4:00 a.m. and drive for two hours to Pitumarca and for another hour and a half to Quesiuno, the starting point of the hike.

While we make our final preparations, our chef will whip up a tasty and nutritious breakfast that'll give you the energy you need for the challenge that lies ahead. Before we get on our way, you'll need to pay close attention to your guide, who'll share the details of today's itinerary, and safety tips that'll come in handy the next two days.

We'll start this impressive hike through a green valley appreciating the majestic Ausangate glacier in the distance—the highest peak in the Cusco region. Along the way, you'll observe several rural communities and discover the deep connection with nature that defines the Andean culture. Hundreds of alpacas and llamas will also watch you every step of the way!

We'll then continue to the first pass, known as Puka Pass (4,870 m / 15,978 ft), which offers a truly stunning panorama. You'll spot the crystal clear waters of the Pukaqocha Lagoon and the gigantic Ausangate glacier right in front of you—you're bound to be impressed! You'll see the lagoon waters flow from the



snow of this sacred glacier. This spectacle is true to awaken your senses, and you'll feel profound energy deep inside. Don't forget to bring your camera as there are many spectacular photo opportunities along the way.

After a short break, we'll keep hiking downhill for another hour and a half to Anantapata, where we'll have lunch. Once filled up, we'll ascend for two more hours until we reach the highest point of the route, the Warmisaya Pass (4,985 m / 16,355 ft). From there, you'll get to see, for the first time and in the distance, the spectacular colors and dreamlike image of Rainbow Mountain, known as Vinicunca.

Finally, we'll descend for 45 minutes until we reach our camp next to the Surineqocha Lagoon. We'll welcome you with our happy hour of snacks and hot drinks to curb your hunger. At night, you'll enjoy a delicious dinner before a well-deserved night of rest.



## DAY FACTS

» MEALS:  
**Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner**

» ACCOMMODATION:  
**Camp**

» DIFFICULTY LEVEL:  
**Moderate**

» WALKING TIME:  
**6 to 7 hours**

» WALKING DISTANCE:  
**11 km / 6.84 mi**

» STARTING ELEVATION:  
**4,376 m / 14,357 ft**

» MINIMUM ELEVATION:  
**4,376 m / 14,357 ft**

» HIGHEST ELEVATION:  
**4,985 m / 16,355 ft**

» CAMPSITE ELEVATION:  
**4,800 m / 15,748 ft**

- 
1. Puka Pass
  2. Warmisaya Pass
  3. Surenicocha
  4. Snow-capped peaks along the route.
  5. Snow-capped peaks along the route.
  6. Campsite at the foot of mountains

# DAY 02

Surineqocha | Rainbow Mountain, Vinicunca –  
Red Valley – Llacto – Cusco

## Visit the Incredible Rainbow Mountain and Otherworldly Red Valley

We'll wake you up very early this morning, at 4:00 a.m., to be precise, with a hot coca-leaf tea in your tent. This will give you the energy boost to get you going and warm up in the middle of the mountains. Then, you'll enjoy a nourishing breakfast prepared by our chef. Get ready because you'll soon discover Rainbow Mountain and the spectacular Red Valley!

It'll take just 2 hours to ascend the viewpoint of Rainbow Mountain 5,100 m / 16,732 ft and we'll arrive early enough before the crowds. You'll have time to explore on your own and witness mind-blowing views not only of Rainbow Mountain itself but also of the mighty Ausangate Glacier and the surrounding snowy peaks. The 360° from here is fantastic, and you'll enjoy it before the other groups. Open your heart to the mountains. They'll know how to reward you for all your efforts.



After enjoying this gem, we'll hike towards the Red Valley (5,050 m / 16,568 ft). This fascinating place feels like you've stepped foot on another planet and very few tourists visit that. You'll be surprised not only by its amazing beauty but also by the immense tranquility that surrounds you. It only takes 30 minutes of walking to reach the observatory. From here, you'll get the best views of the valley all around.

Finally, we'll embark on a 1-hour descent, passing through some Andean communities and alongside and if lucky come across some alpacas, a beautiful non-domesticated animal that's coexisted with the inhabitants of Peru since pre-Inca times. After a final lunch, our private transport will wait for you and take you back to the door of your accommodation in Cusco.



## DAY FACTS

- » MEALS:  
**Breakfast and Lunch**
- » DIFFICULTY:  
**Moderate**
- » WALKING DISTANCE:  
**7 km / 4.35 mi**
- » WALKING TIME:  
**4-5 hours**
- » RAINBOW MOUNTAIN  
ELEVATION:  
**5,100 m / 16,732 ft**
- » MINIMUM ELEVATION:  
**4,630 m / 15,190 ft**
- » HIGHEST ELEVATION:  
**5,100 m / 16,732 ft**

- 
1. Vinicunca
  2. Rainbow mountain
  3. Vinicunca Rainbow mountain
  4. Surineqocha
  5. Red Valley
  6. Llacto

# INCLUSIONS



# WHAT IS INCLUDED?

## » Permits & Entrance Tickets

- Entrance for the Ausangate Trek
- Entrance for Rainbow Mountain Peru
- Entrance for Red Valley

## » 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!

- Private Camping Equipment

- Tents: Spacious dining tents to enjoy your meals worry-free.
- Tables, chairs, and cooking equipment
- A Portable Travel Toilet
- Sleeping Pad

All equipment will be carried by our horses.

- One Duffle Bag

For the trek, you'll receive a duffle bag to pack your personal belongings up to a maximum weight of 7 kg / 15.4 lb (this weight includes your sleeping bag). The horses will carry it on the route.

- Sleeping Bag

Our sleeping bags are effective and durable to protect you from temperatures as low as -18°C (0°F). They are mummy-form and include a sleeping liner. The bags are cleaned after every use and have a maximum usage of 30 trips.

- Trekking Poles
- 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.

- 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 small sleeping pillow, a cover to protect your backpack on the trail, and a rain poncho.

- 24/7 Customer Service

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

- Satellite Phone

Your tranquility is our first priority. Although our guides are prepared for emergencies in the mountains, calling a doctor, hospital, or a friend can make you feel more secure. For that reason, each Salkantay Trekking guide carries a satellite phone to call any location worldwide and from anywhere on the mountain.

## » Accommodation

- 1 Night Accommodation in Tents

Salkantay Trekking uses the best camping tents to ensure your safety and comfort (e.g., Eureka Timberline or Mountain Hard Wear tents).

## » Meals

- 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, and 1 Dinner

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 boiled, filtered, and cooled water during your hike. For this, you need to bring a camel bag or an empty bottle, which you can refill during each meal (we recommend a capacity of 2 liters).

- **Wake up tea**

You'll wake up with a cup of hot coca tea! It'll be brought to your tent so you can warm up before you start the day.

- **Tea Time or Happy Hour**

The first afternoon before dinner, the cooks will provide you with popcorn, cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, 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!

- **Daily snacks on the trail**

Every morning we'll give you snacks so you can enjoy them during the walk. The snacks include local fruits, biscuits, chocolates, caramels, etc.

- **One cloth snack bag**

To avoid the use of plastic bags that contaminate our environment, we'll give you a cloth bag for your snacks.

- **Hygiene Products**

We'll provide you with a small towel and soap to clean your hands before each meal.

## » **Transportation**

- **All transportation is included in this tour. We'll pick you up from your hotel and after the end of the trip, we'll drop you back at the door of your hotel in Cusco.**

- **Personal Belongings Transportation**

Cargo mules will carry all the camping equipment and your baggage allowance (7 kg / 15.4 lb). Muleteers will be responsible for your duffle bag and personal items.

# WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

## » **Day 2 Dinner**

## » **Personal Hiking Gear**

## » **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.

Have another question that we haven't answered here? Drop us a line and we will get back to you asap!

## » How many days do I need to acclimate in Cusco before the Trek?

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

Suppose you 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



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 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.

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.

## » 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.

## » 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)aa
- » Sunblock: factor 70 or more
- » Personal Care Products
- » Hiking boots or shoes (preferably waterproof)
- » Light footwear or sandals
- » Trekking pants (\*)
- » Trekking socks
- » Pair of thermal pants
- » 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.
- » Flashlight



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



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