



TREK

SALKANTAY AND RAINBOW MOUNTAIN TREK

6 days / 5 nights



DESCRIPTION

The impressive trek to Salkantay and the Rainbow Mountain

After spending some time in Cusco, the capital of the Inca Empire, join us on Salkantay and Rainbow Mountain trek, also known as Rainbow Mountain, Seven Colors Mountain, or Vinicunca.

This is the best route to explore the magical Humantay Lake, the imposing Salkantay Mountain, the majestic Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, and the authentic Rainbow Mountain. The best tourist attractions of Cusco are in this itinerary. You'll also witness the immensity of the highest sacred mountain in the Cusco region, Ausangate (6,372 m / 20,905 ft).

You'll have six impressive and challenging days in the company of the best landscapes in the region. In addition, you'll receive explanations from experienced guides along the way to learn about the history and nature of the Andes.

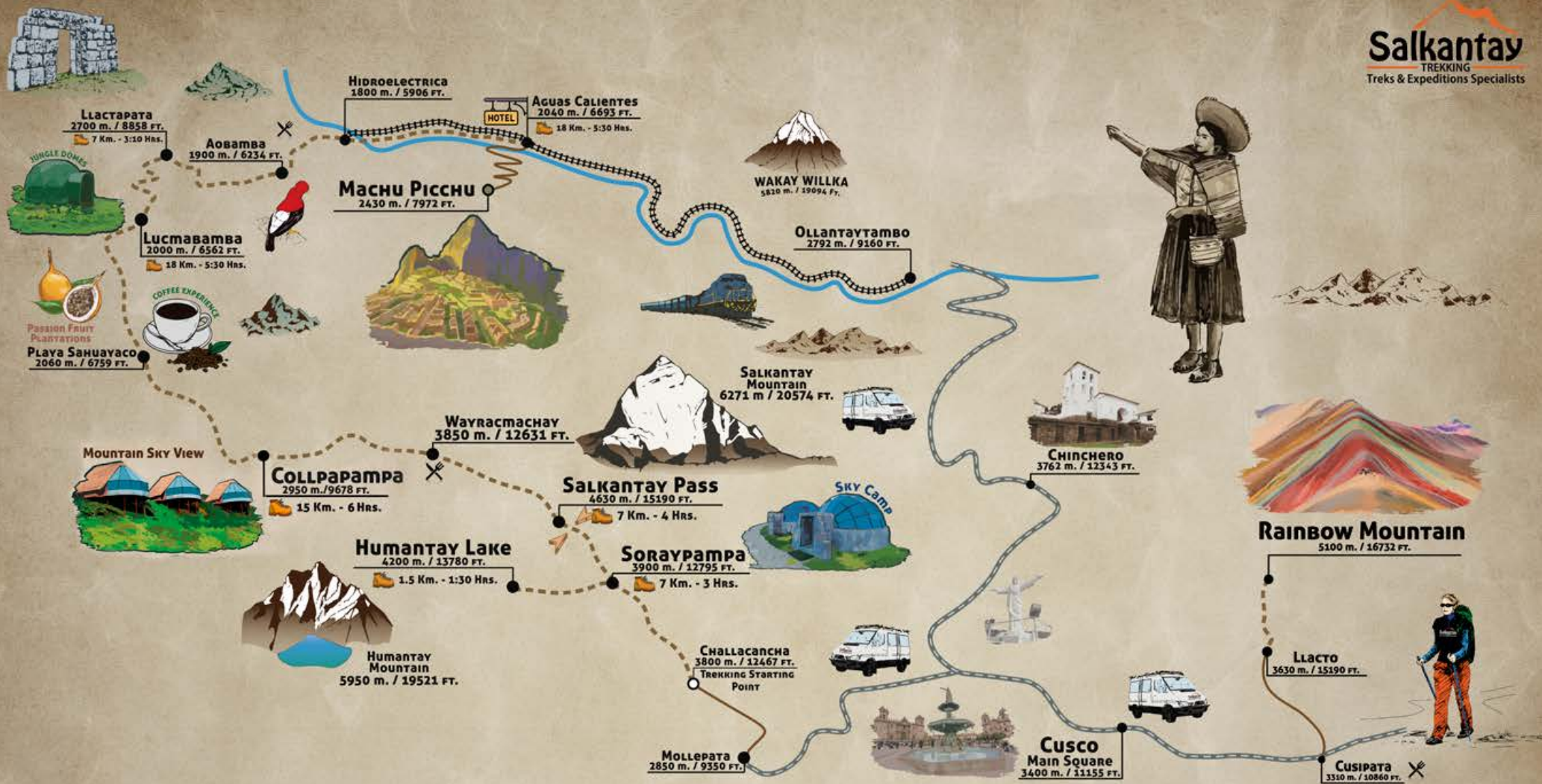
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DAY 03: Collpapampa - La Playa - Lucmabamba (Jungle Domes)
DAY 04: Lucmabamba - Lactapata - Aobamba - Hidroelectrica - Aguas Calientes
DAY 05: Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu - Ollantaytambo - Cusco
DAY 06: Cusco - Quiquijana - Llacto - Rainbow Mountain, Vinicunca

FULL ITINERARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- » According to National Geographic Adventure Travel magazine, the Salkantay route is considered one of the 25 best treks in the world.
- » Enjoy one of the best hiking adventures in Peru and South America.
- » Visit unique places: Humantay Lake, Salkantay Mountain, Llactapata, and Rainbow Mountain.
- » Witness incredible landscapes: waterfalls, glaciers, mountains, colorful valleys, cloud forests, unique plants, and wildlife.
- » Hike alongside the magnificent Salkantay and Ausangate mountains.
- » Explore the ancient Inca citadel of Machu Picchu.
- » Reach the top of the beautiful Rainbow Mountain.

DAY 01

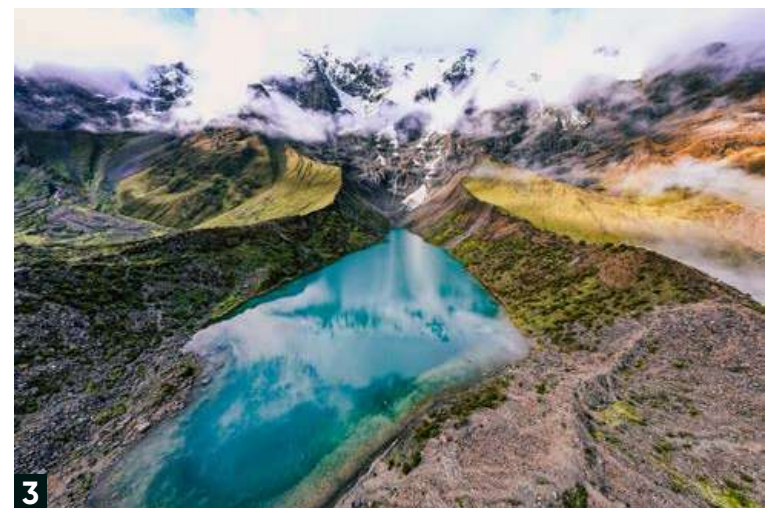
Cusco - Mollepata - Challacancha - Soraypampa - Humantay Lake - Sky Camp

Hike to the Jewel in the Mountains

You'll be up nice and early today to be ready for us to pick you up around 4:00 a.m. You'll travel in our comfy transportation with blankets to enjoy a bit more sleep on the drive. After 2 hours, we'll enjoy a brief stop in Mollepata for breakfast. We'll then continue on to Challacancha, where we'll start our hike.

First, you'll meet the cooks and horsemen, as well as do a last equipment check. Then, we'll be on our way. You'll start with a 3-hour moderate walk to Soraypampa (3,900 m / 12,795 ft), where we'll be spending our first night. The first section is relatively flat with a slight bit of uphill through a deep valley of glaciers. You'll notice that a lot of the trail follows a restored Inca water channel, which local farmers still make use of today. This section is 7 km / 4.35 mi overall.

Once in Soraypampa, you'll get settled in at our exclusive Sky Camp, where you'll sleep this evening. You'll have a bit of time to rest after enjoying your first lunch in the mountains. Feeling refreshed, it'll be time



to start the hike up to the wonderful Humantay Lake (4,200 m /13,780 ft).

This round trip takes about 3 hours and covers 3 km / 1.86 mi. It's not far, but you need to take things slowly at this altitude. You'll have some time once you get to the lake to enjoy the fantastic scenery. There aren't many places in the Andes quite as stunning as the turquoise waters glistening against the Humantay glacier. You'll feel like you're in a fairy tale!

Back at camp, you'll enjoy a delicious and well-deserved dinner with a beautiful sunset as your company. You can't describe the energy here, but you'll feel its peacefulness for yourself once here. Then it'll be time to turn into your Sky Camp igloo. From the glass roof, you'll enjoy a night under the stars, constellations, and comets and wake up to see the Apu Salkantay watching over 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 and cold shower
- » **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 to 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 02

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

The Stunning Salkantay Pass and Descent to the Amazon Jungle

Today you'll wake up with the light of the day's first rays and an energizing coca tea to start the hike. Enjoy a nutritious breakfast before starting the trek to the highest point of the route, Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft). You will walk a distance of 7 km / 4.34 miles for three hours. It is a difficult ascent along the "Trail of the 7 Snakes", so called because of its winding route.

Once at the top, you'll appreciate the most magnificent view over the surrounding valleys and the Salkantay mountain next to you (6,271 m / 20,574 ft), which is the second-highest mountain in the Cusco region, considered Apus (Inca Gods). You'll also be able to observe the mountains: Humantay, Tucaruway, and Pumasillo. After enjoying the views and rest, you'll begin the 7 km / 4.35 mi downhill hike to our lunch point at Huayracmachay (3,850 m / 12,631 ft), from where you can enjoy fantastic views.

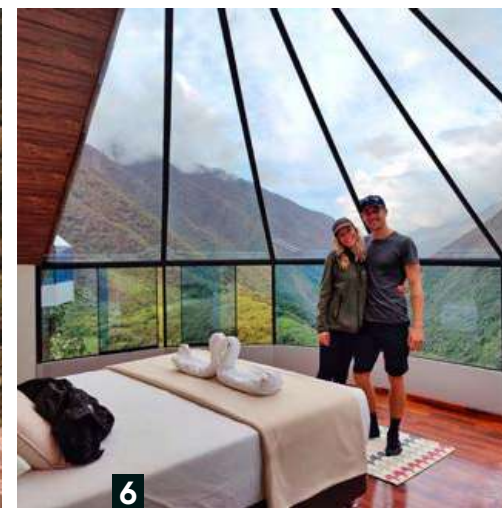


This section of the trail is rocky and steep and provides wonderful views of the valley. After a revitalizing lunch, you will enter the edge of the tropical rainforest, also known as “cloud forest”. This tour has a distance of 9.5 km / 5.9 miles and lasts approximately three and a half hours. Along the way, you will enjoy a magical rainforest and witness the drastic change from the Andes to the Amazon. You will observe colorful landscapes, unique fauna, native plants, and you will feel that the climate will become much warmer.

After a long day of hiking, you will be happy to arrive at our camp in Collpapampa (2,950 m / 9,678 ft). In the evening, we'll serve you dinner before resting in the Mountain Sky View.

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 Cold Shower
- » **Optional:**
 - Wi-Fi
 - Warm shower



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
- » STARTING ELEVATION:
3,900 m / 12,795 ft
- » 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 03

Collpapampa - La Playa - Lucmabamba -
Jungle Domes

Jungle Adventure and Coffee Experience

Today you'll be woken at 6:00 a.m. for your tea and then breakfast before setting off from the campsite. Our first destination will be La Playa, and we'll be walking through the Santa Teresa Valley. You'll enjoy a more leisurely walk today with more downs than ups as you soak in the lush landscape of rivers, waterfalls, orchids, and many plantations, including banana, coffee, and avocado.

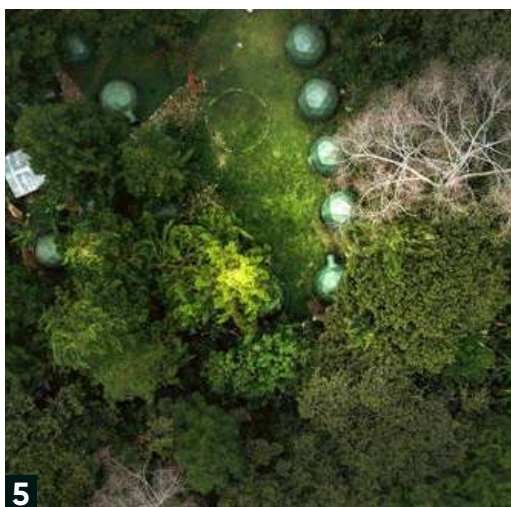
We'll pass through a small village called Collpapampa, and after, descend through a valley where you'll observe waterfalls, birds, hot springs, fruit trees, and plenty of flora and fauna. You might be lucky enough to see the national bird of Peru, the 'Cock of the Rock.'

In La Playa, we'll devour a tasty lunch before we head to Lucmabamba (2,000 m / 6,562 ft), just another



hour away. In the afternoon, you will have free time to explore the tropical surroundings and visit an organic coffee farm, especially perfect for those who are coffee lovers. Even if you are not a fan of a cup of coffee, the smell in the air is delicious. This is the main agricultural industry in the jungle that exports products to the United States, Asia, and all of Europe. You'll also visit avocado and orange plantations.

After dinner, of course, you'll go to bed for the night in one of our exclusive camps, Jungle Domes. While resting, you can listen to the different sounds of nature and feel in harmony with mother earth.



DAY FACTS

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

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 cold shower
- » **Opcionales:**
 - Warm shower
 - Wi-Fi

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 04

Lucmabamba - Llactapata - Aobamba - Hidroeléctrica - Aguas Calientes

Enjoy Your First Glance of Machu Picchu from Llactapata

After a hearty breakfast, you'll be eager to put on your hiking shoes for another day of hiking. This morning you'll be able to walk along a bit of the original, world-famous Inca Trail! After a 2 hour uphill climb and fascinating views over the Santa Teresa Valley, you'll reach Llactapata (2,700 m / 8,858 ft), an Inca archaeological site right in front of Machu Picchu.

Llactapata is the first Inca site you'll see on the trek, and you'll learn all about the mysteries of the ancient culture and the extraordinary site. You even get to have your first exciting glance of Machu Picchu and Huayna Picchu from here. Your guide will fill you in on all the history of the Incas while you take all the photos you want to share your fantastic experiences with friends and family back home.

Afterward, you'll walk downhill for 1:30 hours, where you get another couple of peeks at the Inca citadel, Machu Picchu, along the way - only making your anticipation for tomorrow stronger. We stop for lunch in Aobamba before we continue on, for a half-hour, to Hidroeléctrica (1,800 m / 5,906 ft). One of the most impressive sites in this section is the 250-meter-tall artificial waterfall, which generates electricity for the entire city of Cusco.



1



2



3

Once in Hidroelectrica, you have a couple of options:
 1) If you're tired out after all the trekking, you can opt to board a train to Aguas Calientes (US\$ 37,00 extra).
 2) If you want to enjoy the last stretch of the trek, you can enjoy the flat walk along the side of the tracks to Aguas Calientes, which takes around 3 hours.
 It'll be one more chance to enjoy your warm jungle surroundings as you hike.

Along the way, you'll see Intihuatana, an ancient rock the Incas used as a sundial, which worked together with the sundial stone at Machu Picchu. These were used to measure and read the winter solstice, meaning the beginning of the farming season for the Incas. Next, you'll reach the train tracks that lead to Aguas Calientes. Once in the small town, you'll enjoy dinner at a restaurant and spend the night in a comfortable hotel.

Note: During the rainy season and for safety reasons, the hike up the Llactapata Trail isn't 100% guaranteed. When there's frequent heavy rain, this trail can become very dangerous.



DAY FACTS

- » MEALS:
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
- » ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel
- » DIFFICULTY:
Challenging
- » WALKING DISTANCE:
25 km / 15.53 mi
- » WALKING TIME:
8 - 9 hours
- » STARTING ELEVATION:
2,000 m / 6,562 ft
- » MINIMUM ELEVATION:
1,800 m / 5,906 ft
- » HIGHEST ELEVATION:
2,800 m / 9,186 ft
- » ACCOMMODATION ELEVATION:
2,040 m / 6,693 ft

We offer a selection of well-located hotels in the town with very comfortable and tasteful decorated rooms. You'll find them impeccable with clean rooms and beds as well as adequate toilets and showers. It's a perfect place to rest before the most important day of your trip!

- » Single, Double, Matrimonial, and Triple
- » Dining room and kitchen
- » Toilets and warm showers
- » Wi-Fi

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

DAY 05

Aguas Calientes | Machu Picchu -
Ollantaytambo - Cusco

Tour of the Incredible Incan Citadel, Machu Picchu

Today you'll visit one of the New Seven Wonders of the Modern World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Machu Picchu. You'll have to get up early to avoid the crowds and enjoy the serenity of the site in the morning light.

Once at the Inca citadel, you'll enjoy an approximately two-hour guided tour through the most relevant sectors of this incredible ancient site. You will see houses, temples, terraces, and crop fields. You'll be impressed by the intelligence of the Incas in terms of engineering work, which was way ahead of its time and remains a mystery in many aspects.

The Incas did not have the tools we use today, but they were still able to build and organize their community on the side of a mountain and even create a water system with aqueducts and canals.

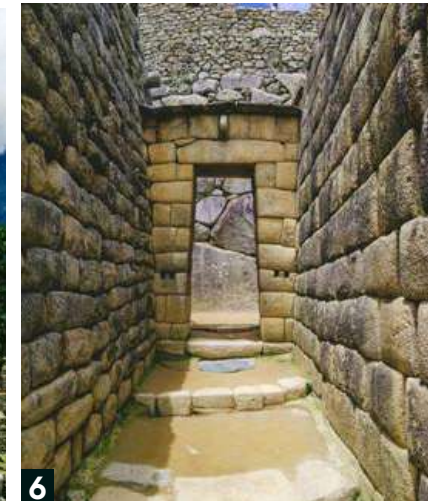
Bonus fact: When a Peruvian guide showed this site to Hiram Bingham, it was almost unrecognizable, covered in thick vegetation and disrepair. Since then, it has been cleaned and restored; today, it is



protected and treasured by people worldwide.

After your tour, you can choose to go to Huayna Picchu Mountain (2,720 m / 8,924 ft) or Machu Picchu Mountain (3,000 m / 9,843 ft); these tours will take you an hour and a half and three hours up and down, respectively (tickets must be booked in advance).

Be sure to return to Aguas Calientes for lunch before boarding the train to Ollantaytambo. Once there, our private transportation will pick you up at the next station and take you back to your hotel in Cusco. It's time to rest and recover your energy; another incredible day awaits you tomorrow.



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 06

Cusco - Cusipata - Llacto - Rainbow Mountain, Vinicunca

Walk to the impressive Rainbow Mountain

Today is the last day of our adventure. We'll start at 4:00 a.m. picking you up at the door of your accommodation in private transport to head for three hours to the South Valley of Cusco. You will have the opportunity to sleep a little longer on the way, thanks to the comfortable transportation and the cozy blankets we will provide you with.

You'll appreciate villages and herds of llamas and alpacas that will entertain you while you enjoy a delicious continental breakfast that will give you the nutritional boost you need to start the trek.

We will continue our journey until we reach the starting point of the trek, Llacto (4,630 m / 15,190 ft); from there, we will follow a beautiful stream and go along a winding path in the middle of the Andean mountains. As we ascend, you will be rewarded with the breathtaking view of Ausangate Mountain (6,372 m / 20,905 ft).

This remote region is home to many people, and you'll have the opportunity to see them working the land.



You'll also be amazed to see the traditional clothing they wear and make, thanks to the artistic textile talents they have inherited from their ancestors.

After an hour and a half hike, we will arrive at the incredible Rainbow Mountain (5,100 m / 16,732 ft). Take the time to admire the astonishing beauty of this impressive natural formation and feel the thrill of witnessing a unique natural site. Take this opportunity to take some fantastic pictures while your guide gives you a personalized site explanation. We will spend about 30 minutes to an hour at the top, depending on how fast you have walked and the weather conditions.

It will take us another hour to reach the hike's starting point; from there, we will board the transportation that will take us to a restaurant in Cusipata to enjoy a buffet lunch. Then, we will board our transportation again to return to Cusco. We will leave you at the door of your accommodation to rest after six special days around the Peruvian Andes.



DAY FACTS

- » MEALS:
Breakfast, and Lunch
- » DIFFICULTY:
Moderate
- » WALKING DISTANCE:
7 km / 4.35 mi
- » WALKING TIME:
2 - 3 hours
- » STARTING ELEVATION:
4,630 m / 15,190 ft
- » HIGHEST ELEVATION:
5,100 m / 16,732 ft

-
1. Rainbow Mountain
 2. Rainbow Mountain
 3. Alpacas in Rainbow Mountain
 4. Snow-capped mountains on the descent route
 5. Snow-capped mountains on the descent route
 6. Descent to Llacto

INCLUSIONS



WHAT IS INCLUDED?

» Permits & Entrance Tickets

- Entry Ticket to the Salkantay Trek
- Entry to the Rainbow Mountain
- Entrance Ticket to Machu Picchu Archaeological Site (Circuit 2)

» 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

We have spacious dining rooms and kitchens at each campsite so you can enjoy your meals comfortably and worry-free. Our horses will carry all equipment like tables, chairs, and cooking supplies.

- 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 (for Salkantay Trek)

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 with rubber tips

- 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 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 phones

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

- Accommodation in Private Campsites

Like our ancestors, we're very considerate of the Pachamama (Mother Earth). For this reason, our campsites and lodges are adapted to the environment to avoid generating negative impacts.



Sky Camp



Mountain Sky View



Jungle Domes

- Hotel in Cusco (1 Night)
- Hotel in Aguas Calientes (1 Night)

You will spend the last night of the trek in a comfortable hotel at Aguas Calientes, including luggage storage, while you visit Machu Picchu.

*Accommodation is in double, twin, and triple rooms.

» Meals

- Meals on the Salkantay Trek (First 5 Days): 4 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, and 4 Dinners
Meals on the Rainbow Mountain (6 Day): Breakfast and Lunch at local restaurants

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.

- Water on the trail

For the first 5 days, we will provide you with boiled, filtered and refrigerated water during your trek, from your lunch in Soraypampa to your breakfast in Lucmabamba. For this, it is necessary to carry an empty water bottle or camel bag (backpack litera), we recommend a capacity of 2 liters.

On the last day we will provide you with a bottle of water.

- Wake up tea

You'll wake up every morning at the camp 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

Every 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

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.

- 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

- Transport

- Day 0: Private transfer from the Airport or Bus Station to the Hotel in Cusco



- Day 1: You'll be picked up from your hotel in the morning and travel in our transportation to Challacancha, the trek's starting point.
- Day 5: One Way Bus Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu
- Day 5: Transport from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.
- Day 6: In the morning, we'll pick you up at your hotel, and you'll travel in our transportation to the starting point of the trek. Later, the transportation will be waiting for you to take you back to the door of your hotel in Cusco.
- Train Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo (Day 5)
- Personal Belongings Transportation
 - On days 1,2, and 3, 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.
 - On day 4, your duffle bag will be transported by car, then by train.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

» Huayna Picchu Mountain

You can climb the famous mountain always seen in the photos behind the archaeological site of Machu Picchu. It's 45 minutes uphill. Going down can be scary if you fear heights. You can take this excursion once your guided tour to Machu Picchu ends. The permit must be issued at least one month in advance due to high demand. Consider that there could be changes to protect your integrity, this, mainly due to weather conditions.

- **The ticket for Huayna Picchu Mountain costs US\$ 60.00 per person.**

» Machu Picchu Mountain

Machu Picchu Mountain is another of the mountains that surround the archaeological site of Machu Picchu. It offers less steep, wider, and visually less frightening roads than Huayna Picchu, and it takes 1.5 hours to reach the top. This walk requires an entrance ticket which we can assure you if we have time in advance.

- **The ticket for Machu Picchu Mountain costs US\$ 60.00 per person.**

» Meals not indicated

- **Day 1:** Breakfast
- **Day 5:** Lunch in Aguas Calientes
- **Day 5:** Dinner in Cusco
- **Day 6:** Dinner in Cusco

» Train from Hidroelectrica to Aguas Calientes (Day 4)

In case you feel exhausted or in bad condition after the trek from Lucmabamba to Hidroelectrica, you can opt to take the train from Hidroelectrica to Aguas Calientes.

- **US\$ 37.00 per person.**

» Personal Hiking Gear

» Travel Insurance

» Tips for our staff

Tipping is usual on any excursion to Machu Picchu. Although we pay good salaries to our entire team, something extra is always welcome, especially considering the hard work they do. Typically, group participants collect their tips to hand out to the horsemen and chefs together.

» 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 carefree as possible. In this section, you'll find the answers to all your questions about traveling with Salkantay Trekking. Please read the following information carefully – it will also 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



Sacred Valley



Maras Moray

» Briefing or Informative Meeting

All briefing meetings are held at 5:00 p.m. in our main office in Cusco (or your hotel) the day before the tour. The meeting lasts between 30 to 45 minutes. If you're unable to attend, you'll need to arrange a different time by email, phone, or by visiting the Salkantay Trekking office.

» Tour Balance Payment

The tour has to be paid in full at most 2 days before your departure. Otherwise, your reservation will not be confirmed.

It would be greatly appreciated if you pay the tour balance (US dollars or Peruvian soles) at our office in Cusco. You can withdraw money from several ATMs located in the historical center. We also accept payments by CARD or PAYPAL online, but please note this is subject to a 5% fee (charged by Niubiz and PayPal). We do not accept bank checks or traveler's checks as payment methods.

» Duffle Bag or Travel Bag

The evening before the trek, we'll provide you with a duffle bag to pack your clothes and personal gear needed for the trip. Our horsemen will carry it on the route and hand it to you once you get to each camp. Please note that you will not have access to your items in the bag until the end of each day.

The maximum weight allowed is 7 kg / 15.4 lb, including the weight of your sleeping bag, clothes, and other personal items. They measure 60 x 24 x 22 cm (23.6 x 9.4 x 8.7 in).

» Can I store my luggage at your office?

Of course! During the trip, you can store your main luggage for free at our office (arrange it with us on the briefing day or by email).

You can also safely keep any equipment you won't need for the tour in your hotel. Almost every hotel offers this service. Please do not leave valuable items in your bags; put them in the hotel safe and ask for an itemized receipt (in the unlikely case of theft, many insurance companies require that you have a copy of the receipt). For extra peace of mind, place items like credit cards inside a sealed and signed envelope.

» 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.

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 people with varying physical conditions and ages. By agreeing to be part of a group tour, you acknowledge that some people may be faster or slower than you. Therefore, each person can go at their own pace on the route.

In some cases, a group may want to modify the tour; however, the guide will be the one who decides, after consulting with all participants, whether such changes are possible.



» Strikes and Demonstrations

Strikes and demonstrations are usually common in Peru, which may interrupt some of our tours. Roads and train tracks can be blocked or taken over. However, we will try to keep your trip as originally planned, even if it means leaving the night before the scheduled date.

In case of changes or cancellations, our operations department will coordinate everything with you. Your safety is our highest priority, and we will make our decisions to protect it.

» Lost objects

Please pay attention to where you leave your belongings and remember to take everything once you leave a place or a transport. 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
Treks & Expeditions Specialists

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