

The image shows two women in traditional Andean attire, including wide-brimmed hats and colorful shawls, working on a large wooden loom. They are in a village setting with traditional thatched-roof buildings and lush vegetation in the background. The woman in the foreground is focused on her weaving, while the woman in the background is also working on the loom. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

TREK

THE ANDEAN EXPLORER

CUSCO, SACRED VALLEY, SALKANTAY TREK, AND RAINBOW MOUNTAIN

9 days / 8 nights

Salkantay
TREKKING
Treks & Expeditions Specialists



DESCRIPTION

The majestic tour through the Andes

Discover the greatest in Cusco's architectural design on our 9-day Salkantay & Rainbow Mountain tour. This journey takes you to Machu Picchu, one of the World's New Seven Wonders, and Peru's Rainbow Mountain, also known as Vinicunca. Before beginning the Salkantay Trek, you'll also have the chance to take a guided tour of Cusco and a one-day journey to the Sacred Valley of the Incas to adapt to the high altitude.

This tour provides the ideal balance of culture and adventure. Join us for an extraordinary journey that highlights the finest examples of Cusco's natural beauty, history, and architecture.

CONTENT



Map



Itinerary



Inclusions



Packing List

The Andean Explorer

Cusco, Sacred Valley,
Salkantay Trek & Rainbow Mountain

The Andean Explorer 09 Days Itinerary

Day 01: Cusco's Cathedral - Goricancha - Saqsayhuaman - Qenqo - 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 - Cusipata - Llacto - Rainbow Mountain - Llacto - Cusco
Day 09: 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
7km 4.35mi	2-3 hrs	5,100m 16,732ft	Moderate
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FULL ITINERARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- » Acclimate your body during the first two days and get ready to live without limits or regrets, one of the best hiking experiences in Peru.
- » Discover the magnificent capital of the Inca Empire by visiting the most important sites in and around Cusco.
- » Immerse yourself in the stunning beauty of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, where you'll marvel at the awe-inspiring Inca architecture.
- » Experience the tranquility of nature by spending nights in our exclusive campsites, surrounded by breathtaking natural scenery that will lull you into a peaceful slumber.
- » Embark on a breathtaking hike to the stunning Humantay Lake, a glittering gem nestled amidst the snow-capped mountains that will leave you spellbound.
- » Witness the grandeur of the imposing Salkantay Mountain and the snow-clad peaks surrounding it.
- » Immerse yourself in the breathtaking Andes, and the Amazon landscapes, where you can spot unique flora and fauna found only in this region.
- » Unravel the secrets of the mystical Machu Picchu, one of the world's most iconic wonders.
- » Marvel at the incredible natural beauty of Rainbow Mountain, a kaleidoscope of colors that will leave you in awe.

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 acclimatize 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 both 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 both the Pisac 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 water sources, 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

» 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

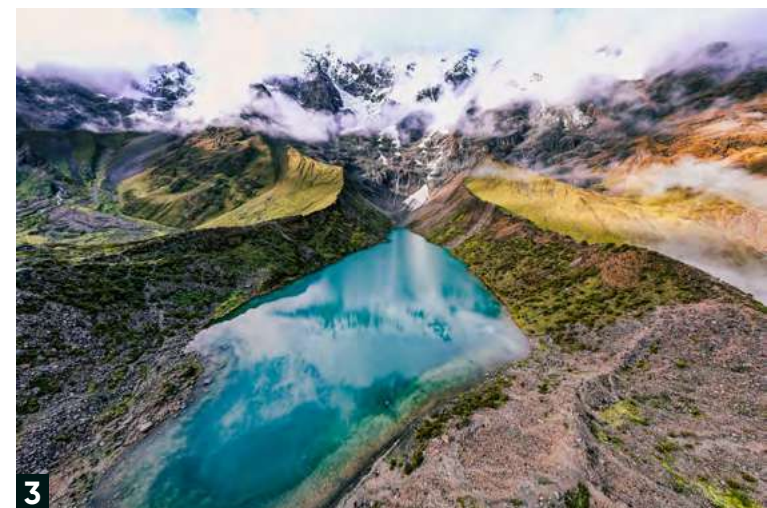
DAY 03

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

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

Get ready for an early start today, as we'll be picking you up around 4:00 a.m. to begin your adventure. Don't worry though, our comfortable transportation comes with blankets so you can catch a bit more sleep during the 2-hour drive. We'll make a quick stop in Mollepata for breakfast before continuing on to Challacancha, where we'll begin our hike.

Before hitting the trail, you'll have a chance to meet the cooks and horsemen and do a final equipment check. Then, we'll start the 3-hour moderate hike to Soraypampa (3,900 m / 12,795 ft), where we'll spend our first night. The trail starts relatively flat, passing through a deep valley of glaciers and following a restored Inca water channel still used by local farmers. The section is 7 km / 4.35 mi overall.



Upon arriving at Soraypampa, you'll get settled in at our exclusive Sky Camp and enjoy your first lunch in the mountains. After some rest, we'll hike up to the stunning Humantay Lake (4,200 m / 13,780 ft), which takes about 3 hours round trip and covers 3 km / 1.86 mi. Although not far, taking things slowly at this altitude is important. At the lake, you'll be mesmerized by the turquoise waters reflecting the Humantay glacier – a view straight out of a fairy tale!

After returning to camp, you'll have a delicious dinner while watching the sunset. You'll feel the peaceful energy of the surroundings as you settle into your Sky Camp igloo. The glass roof provides a perfect view of the stars, constellations, and comets. And when you wake up, you'll see the majestic 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
- » Dining 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 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. Humantay Lagoon
 3. Humantay Lagoon
 4. Sky Camp
 5. Sky Camp Dining Room
 6. 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

Waking up with the first rays of the sun, we await you with a hot cup of coca tea. Then, we will enjoy one of our nutritious and delicious breakfasts before starting the hike to the highest point of the entire route, the Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft). This part of the hike is a difficult ascent on a winding trail, takes approximately three hours, and has a distance of 7 km / 4.34 miles.

Once you reach the top, you will be able to appreciate the most spectacular view of the valleys surrounding the Salkantay mountain located in front of you (6,271 m / 20,574 ft); it is considered the second highest peak in all of Cusco and is known as one of the Inca gods called Apus. You will also enjoy incredible panoramas of the mountains: Humantay, Tucurhuay, and Pumasillo. After taking in the views and recovering your energy, we will descend on a 6 km / 3.72-mile hike along a rocky trail to our lunch



spot at Wayracmachay (3,850 m / 12,631 ft). While enjoying a delicious lunch prepared by our chef, you will appreciate the beautiful scenery of the area.

Afterward, we will resume our hike to descend into the valley. This section is 9.5 km / 5.9 miles and will take us about three and a half hours to complete. As we go on, you will notice that the climate changes drastically because of the "cloud forest"; from this point, we will say goodbye to the snowy peaks of the mountains, and we will head to the Peruvian Amazon jungle. In this place, you can observe impressive wildlife unique to the area and many colorful landscapes. You will find it amazing that a few hours earlier you were in the middle of snow-capped glaciers, as the weather will also become much warmer here.

Your longest day of hiking ends when you arrive at our exclusive Mountain Sky View campsites at Collpapampa (2,950 m / 9,678 ft). You will enjoy a hearty and well-deserved dinner before going to rest.

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 / 14.60 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

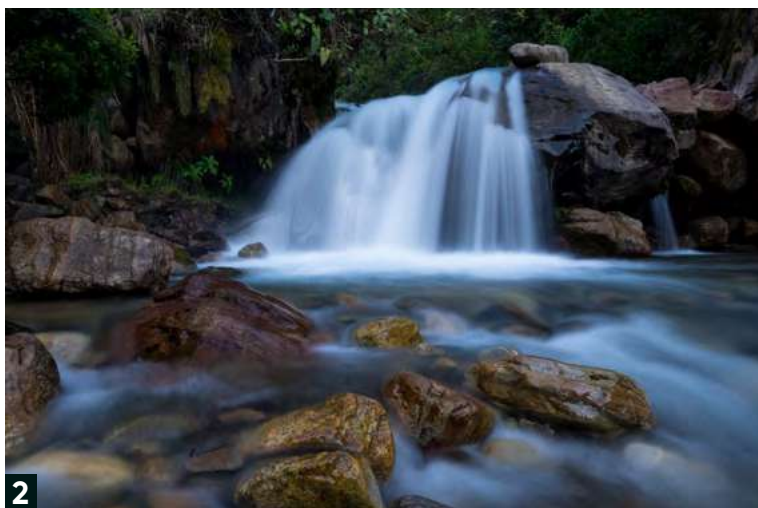
DAY 05

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 will also visit avocado and orange plantations.

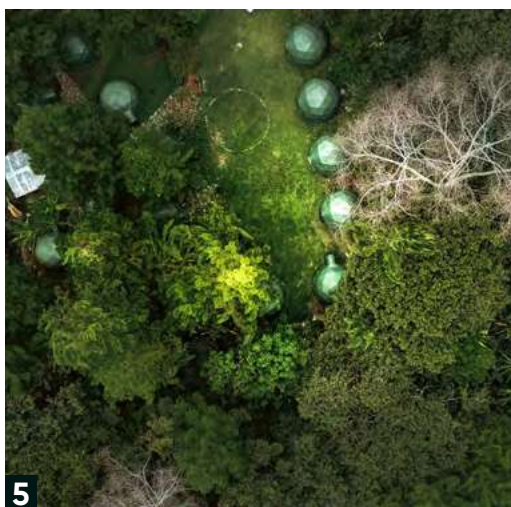
After dinner, of course, you will go to bed for the night in one of our exclusive camps, Jungle Domes. While resting, you can listen to the different sounds of nature and feel in harmony with mother earth.

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



4



5



6

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

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 – Hidroelectrica –
Aguas Calientes

Explore Inca Sites and Catch a Glimpse of Machu Picchu

Like previous mornings, the trek guide will wake you up early with a hot cup of coca tea served in your dome. After enjoying your last breakfast prepared by the talented trek chef, you will get ready for the day's activities. We will start the hike early, allowing you to experience a small part of the famous Inca trail.

After a climb of 3 hours with amazing views of the Santa Teresa valley, we will arrive at the Llactapata Inca site (2,700 m / 8,858 ft) right in front of Machu Picchu. This exceptional location is the perfect place to learn about the land's roots and history. Our guide will take you on a tour of the site, providing insight into how the Incas used and worshipped the land. From this spot, you can see the Inca City of Machu Picchu, as well as Huayna Picchu and Machu Picchu Mountain. You will have plenty of time to take photos and capture memories to share with your loved ones back home.

After exploring Llactapata, we will continue our trek for 1.5 hours downhill to Aobamba for lunch. Then, we will continue our way to our next featured spot in the hike, the Hidroelectrica train station (1,800 m / 5,906 ft). One of the most impressive sites in this area is the 250-meter-tall artificial waterfall, which generates electricity for the entire city of Cusco.

If you feel exhausted, you can take a train from Hidroelectrica to Aguas Calientes (not included,



1



2



3

US\$ 37.00). Otherwise, we will continue our walk from Hidroeléctrica to Aguas Calientes for about three hours along the train track. A few minutes ahead of Hidroeléctrica, we will arrive at Intihuatana, a famous ancient rock used as a ceremonial table in the Inca era. The people used this stone, together with the famous Intihuatana in Machu Picchu, to measure and read the winter solstice, which marked the beginning of the new farming season for the Incas.

Next to the railroad, there is a beautiful path through the warm paradise of the cloud forest, the same trail used by American professor Hiram Bingham who rediscovered Machu Picchu after centuries of it being lost to the outside world. After three hours of walking, we will arrive at Aguas Calientes town, where we will head first to our hotel. Your room will have a private bathroom, hot shower, Wi-Fi, breakfast in the morning, and luggage storage while you visit Machu Picchu. You can rest before dinner or explore this peaceful town. There are no cars in Aguas Calientes, giving it a calm and serene atmosphere.

At 7:00 p.m., we will have dinner at a local restaurant and organize everything for the highlight of our adventure: Machu Picchu!

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

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



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

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 will finally visit Machu Picchu – one of the 7 Wonders of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site! Rise early after a refreshing night at our hostel to enjoy the serenity of Machu Picchu in the soft morning light before the crowds arrive. The Machu Picchu entrance checkpoint opens from 6:00 a.m.

In the morning, we'll board the bus to Machu Picchu and be among the first to enter the royal city of the Incas. Our expert guide will lead us on a fascinating 2-hour tour through this wonderful ancient site, where we'll see temples, terraces, palaces, priests' houses, cultivated fields, and much more. Marvel at the remarkable engineering talent of the Incas, who were so advanced for their time, and whose techniques still leave us in awe today.



Despite lacking modern tools, steel, and iron, the Incas were geniuses in organizing this community sustainably and beautifully on the side of a mountain. They even brought water in canals and aqueducts through its streets for the people to use. When a Peruvian guide showed this site to Hiram Bingham, it was almost unrecognizable, covered in thick vegetation and a state of disrepair. Today, it has been cleaned and restored and is now protected and treasured by the world.

After the guided tour, 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 an hour and a half and three hours between ascent and descent, respectively. Make sure you reserve your tickets in advance.

After basking in the magic of this citadel, we'll return to the town of Aguas Calientes to take the train to Ollantaytambo. Our private transportation will then take you back to your hotel in Cusco, where you can rest your feet and body.



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 ACTIVITIES:
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 | Quiquijana - Llacto - Peru's Rainbow Mountain, Vinicunca - Cusco

Hike to the Mountain of Seven Colors: Vinicunca

Our final day of adventure begins at 4:00 am. We'll pick you up from your hotel and head towards the Southern Valley for a three-hour journey in our private transport. Remember, our walk starts at 4,630m / 15,190 ft, but you should now be accustomed to the altitude. Along the way, we will observe picturesque Andean towns, agricultural platforms from the Inca period, fertile valleys, and beautiful rolling mountains. Even at this early hour, herds of llamas and alpacas will entertain you while you enjoy a delicious continental breakfast to give you the energy you need to get started.



We will continue our journey until we reach the hike's starting point. From there, we will head down a meandering path in the Andean mountains, following a pretty stream. As you ascend, you will be rewarded with an impressive view of the Ausangate glacier (6,372m / 20,905 ft), the tallest in the Cusco region. Take a few minutes to understand why this mountain is so important to the Andean people. This whole region is home to many people and small communities, and you will have the opportunity to see them working the land. You will be amazed to see the traditional clothing they use that they make themselves, thanks to the practice of textile art that they have inherited from their ancestors. The colorful patterns on their garments are similar to those of Vinicunca mountain.

By keeping these traditions alive, ancient culture is preserved. Your guide will teach you about the meaning of some clothes and, if you want, you can ask him to teach you some words in Quechua—the language of the Incas and local communities to this day. After walking an hour and a half, we will reach the amazing Rainbow Mountain of Cusco (5,100m / 16,732 ft).



DAY FACTS

- » MEALS:
Breakfast and Lunch
- » ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel
- » DIFFICULTY:
Moderate
- » WALKING DISTANCE:
7 km / 4.35 mi
- » WALKING TIME:
2 - 3 hours
- » HIGHEST ELEVATION:
5,100 m / 16,732 ft
- » ACCOMMODATION
ELEVATION:
3,400 m / 11,155 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

DAY 09

Cusco – Cusco's Airport (or Bus Station)

Say Goodbye to Imperial Cusco

Today, you'll get up, eat breakfast, and pack your belongings, as it's time to bid farewell to the imperial city of Cusco for the time being. We'll arrange a time to pick you up and transport you to the airport or bus station so you can continue your holiday or return home.

This isn't a permanent goodbye, and we're sure you'll want to return to relive all of the great experiences, learn more about the ancient city and cultures, and sample more of the excellent restaurants and their delectable cuisine. So it's not farewell, 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 (Circuit 2)**

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.

- **Day 8: Entry to the Rainbow Mountain**

» 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: 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: Rainbow Mountain Peru Hike**
- **Day 9: 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.

- **Sleeping Bag (Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu & Rainbow Mountain Hike)**

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 (Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu & Rainbow Mountain Hike)**

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 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 (4 nights: 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th)
- 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 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.

- Day 8: Breakfast and Lunch at local restaurants on the Rainbow Mountain Hike
- Day 9: 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 & Rainbow Mountain Hike

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 directly to your hotel.
- Day 1: Transportation will be provided for the City Tour in Cusco (after lunch).
- Day 2: Transportation will be provided for the Sacred Valley Tour.
- Day 3: Morning pickup from your hotel to travel to Challacancha, the starting point of the trek.
- Day 7: One-way bus ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu.
- Day 7: Transportation from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.
- Day 8: Morning pickup from your hotel to travel to the trek's starting point. Later, transportation will take you back to your hotel in Cusco.
- Day 9: 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

- During the Salkantay trek, 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**
- **Day 8: 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

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!

» Is it for me?

The Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu is an excellent alternative for 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) is not too strenuous nor very steep since it is 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.

» 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

The evening before you start your trek, we will provide you with a duffel bag to pack your clothes for the 6 days. Your weight allowance is up to 7 kg / 15.4 lb. Our horses

will carry your duffel 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 duffel 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, 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
- » 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

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