

A photograph of trekkers ascending a stone staircase on the Inca Trail. The lead trekker is wearing a large orange backpack and using trekking poles. The trail is surrounded by dense tropical forest and ancient stone walls. Other trekkers are visible further up the path.

TREKKING

SHORT INCA TRAIL

2 days / 1 night



DESCRIPTION

The Express Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

The Inca Trail is the ultimate hike to walk in ancient footsteps to the magical, mystical Machu Picchu. Short on time? No problem! We can work with you and your schedule to ensure an amazing experience in a shorter time frame.

Witness ancient constructions, luscious landscapes, and incredible wildlife on this 2-day adventure through the Andean rainforest. Spend the night in charming Aguas Calientes before waking up early to beat the crowds at the Lost City of the Incas, Machu Picchu. This is an adventure you don't want to miss out on, and you don't have to with our compact, express Inca Trail.

CONTENT



Map



Itinerary

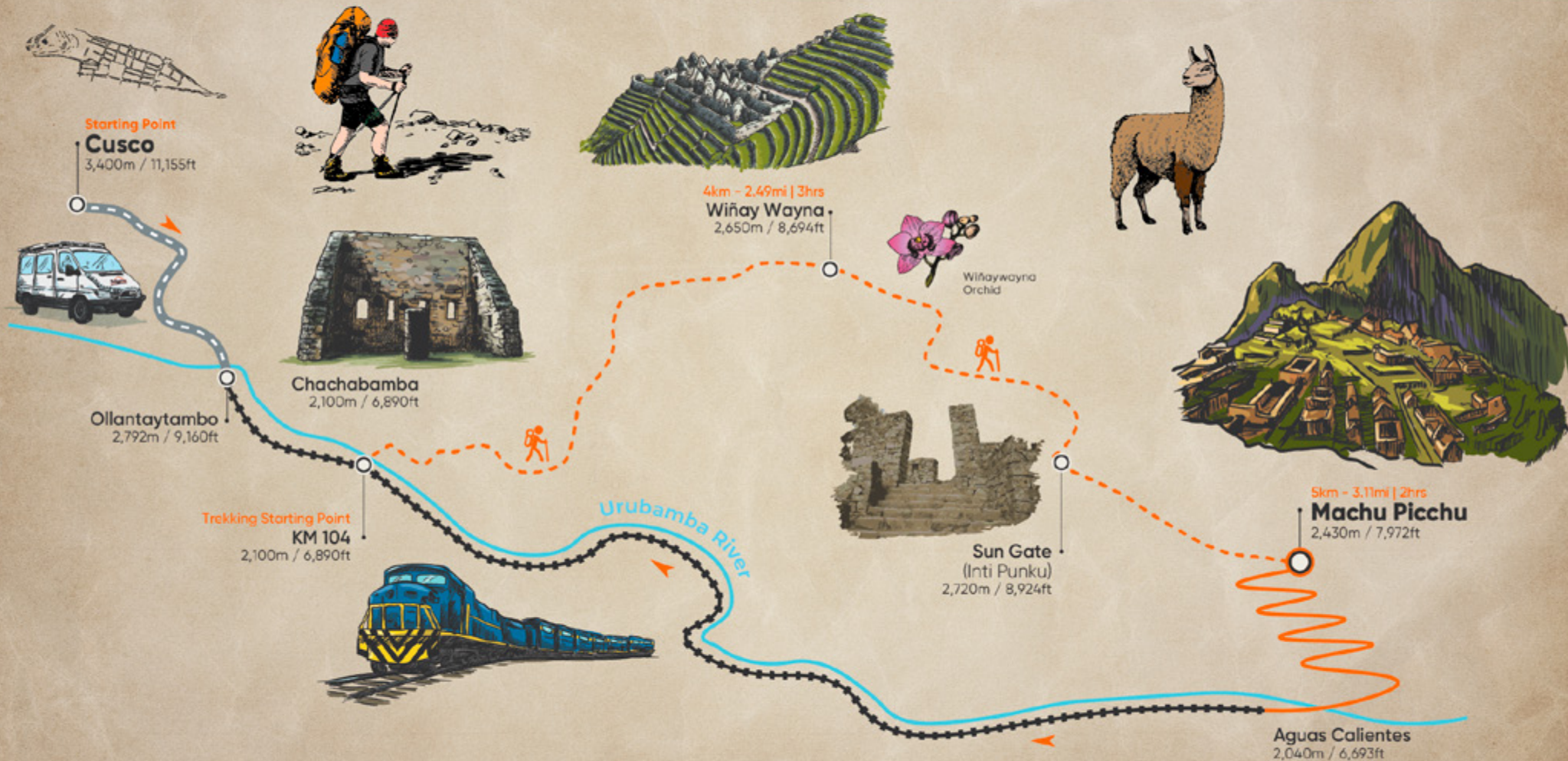
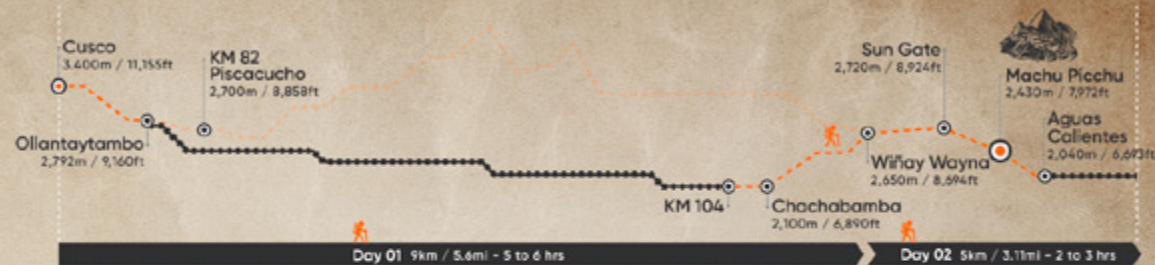


Inclusions



Packing List

Short Inca Trail to Machu Picchu 02 Days



Short Inca Trail to Machu Picchu 02 Days itinerary

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

Day 02: Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu - Ollantaytambo - Cusco

Distance	Time	Highest Elevation	Difficulty
9km 5.6mi	5-6 hrs.	2,720m 8,924ft	Moderate
--	2-3 hrs.	2,430m 7,972ft	Easy

Salkantay
TREKKING
Trek & Expeditions Specialists

FULL ITINERARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- » Hike through some of the most spectacular Andean landscapes you'll see.
- » Trace ancient footsteps along the original Inca Trail and be transported back in time.
- » Visit Inca archaeological sites and learn all about their culture and history from your knowledgeable guide.
- » Spend the night in comfort in a comfy hotel in Aguas Calientes.
- » Explore the magical Machu Picchu with your guide and understand its secrets.

DAY 01

Cusco | KM 104 - Chachabamba -
Wiñay Wayna - Sun Gate (Inti Punku) -
Machu Picchu - Aguas Calientes

Walk in Ancient Footsteps and Transport Back in Time

Your adventure will begin bright and early, with a pickup from your hotel at 4:00 a.m. We'll head out for a journey of approximately one and a half hours to the charming town of Ollantaytambo. Here, we'll board the first train to KM 104, the starting point of our trek. Along the way, you will be greeted by the stunning Andean mountains, fertile fields, and the Urubamba River, basking in the warm embrace of the morning sun. Before the hike, you'll have a brief orientation with the guide, a box lunch, and some snacks to enjoy later.

You'll start on a similar stretch of the Classic Inca Trail, visiting the first archaeological site nearby: Chachabamba. This was once a strategic guard post and checkpoint for those accessing the Inca Trail. Your guide will stop briefly to share some fascinating first insights about the Inca's history. From here, the actual hike begins for another 3 hours to the Wiñay Wayna Complex. Along the way, you'll be surrounded by lush vegetation and towering mountains, offering breathtaking valley views.

This site's astounds most trekkers for its impressive architecture. You'll explore its features, from a ritualistic water source to temples venerating natural forces and agricultural terraces blending with the



mountains. It'll be a window into the Incan legacy. While there, you'll have enough time to relax, unwind in peace, and connect to Mother Nature through the refreshing breeze. A little further on, you'll arrive at one of the campsites of the Classic Inca Trail. Here, you'll enjoy a tasty lunchbox, chill out, and recharge your energies.

Next, we'll continue hiking to the Sun Gate, getting your first panoramic view of the awe-inspiring Machu Picchu. It'll be a truly jaw-dropping experience! You'll marvel at the ingenuity of the Incas in constructing such a marvel. The enchanting landscape invites introspection into their connection with nature. You won't enter the citadel immediately. The departing tourists grant you the chance to bask in the golden hues of sunset, embracing the massive stone walls and offering a moment of tranquility.

For now, we'll head to the exit to take a bus to Aguas Calientes. Your hotel stay awaits, but first, you'll enjoy a delectable dinner at one of the town's top restaurants. Make sure to rest early, as you'll be waking up at dawn for your next adventure.



DAY FACTS

- » MEALS:
Snacks, Box Lunch, and Dinner
- » ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel
- » DIFFICULTY:
Moderate
- » WALKING DISTANCE:
9 km / 5.6 miles
- » WALKING TIME:
5 to 6 hours
- » STARTING ELEVATION:
2,100 m / 6,890 ft
- » MINIMUM ELEVATION:
2,040 m / 6,693 ft
- » HIGHEST ELEVATION:
2,720 m / 8,924 ft
- » ACCOMMODATION ELEVATION:
2,040 m / 6,693 ft

1. Wiñay Wayna Archeological Site
2. Chachabamba Archeological Site
3. Machu Picchu View from Intipunku
4. Intipunku Archeological Site
5. Aguas Calientes

DAY 02

Aguas Calientes | Machu Picchu –
Ollantaytambo – Cusco

Explore the Astounding Inca City of Machu Picchu

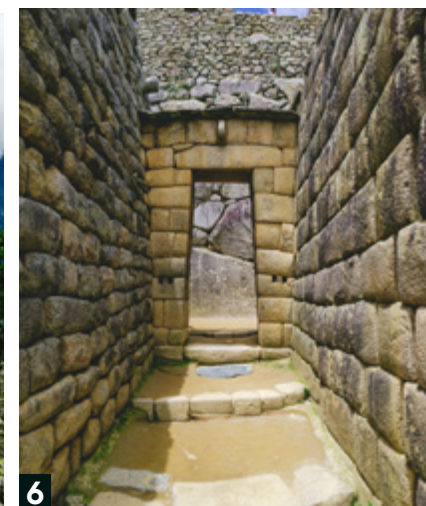
After a well-deserved night's rest, it'll be time to be up before sunrise to ensure you beat the crowds. You'll be wandering the mysterious streets of the majestic historical sanctuary of Machu Picchu! You'll take a short walk from your hotel to catch a bus that'll take you on a 25-minute drive to the entrance of the Inca citadel. You'll enter just before the sun comes up and paints the Wonder with a gorgeous golden hue.

After soaking it all in and taking your first few photographs, your guide will take you on a two-hour tour of the site. You'll visit some of the most essential parts of Machu Picchu and learn all about its construction and history from your local expert. Once the tour is up, you can climb Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain (pre-booked tickets required), each of which takes 2 and 3 hours to hike up and down, respectively. You'll experience more stunning views of the whole Inca city from any of these places.



When you're ready to leave, it'll be time to head back down to Aguas Calientes. You'll have time to select a restaurant of your choice for a bite to eat before catching a train, which usually departs at 2:55 p.m. (subject to availability). You'll arrive in Ollantaytambo by train, and then private transport will be there to pick you up and take you back to your accommodation in Cusco at around 6:00 pm.

Now it's time to enjoy a thoroughly deserved rest and put your feet up. Your trip might be over, but we assure you your heart will be thumping for many years as you look back fondly on your incredible adventure.



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
2. Inca Architecture in Machu Picchu
3. Condor Temple in Machu Picchu
4. Terraces in Machu Picchu
5. Sun Temple in Machu Picchu
6. Inca Architecture in Machu Picchu

INCLUSIONS



WHAT IS INCLUDED?

» Permits & Entrance Tickets

- Permits and Ticket for the Inca Trail

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

Entry Ticket to Machu Picchu Archaeological Site (Circuit 2 or Circuit 3 subject to availability)

» High Quality Service & Safety

- Pre-departure Briefing

The day before your trip, you'll meet your guide at 5:00 p.m. at our main office in Cusco. During this briefing, you'll receive the final details about your departure, get to know the other members of your group, and receive your duffle bag. This meeting ensures you're fully prepared for your adventure.

If you're unable to attend, please let us know in advance so we can arrange an alternative time, location, or a detailed WhatsApp call.

- Experienced Tour Guide

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

- Medical Kit or First AID Kit

All Salkantay Trekking guides have specialized first aid training and attend mandatory training sessions every February. Your guide will always carry a first aid kit and oxygen to handle basic emergencies (altitude sickness, diarrhea, cuts, scrapes, etc.). If needed, we will evacuate you from the trail as quickly as possible and ensure you arrive at a clinic for treatment.

» Accommodation

- Hotel in Aguas Calientes

Enjoy a cozy night in Aguas Calientes at a hotel offering twin, double, or triple rooms—each with a private bathroom, hot shower, WiFi, and breakfast included. Luggage storage is also provided while you explore Machu Picchu.

» Meals

- Day 1: Box Lunch and Dinner
- Day 2: Breakfast
- Snacks and Water on the first day
- One cloth snack bag per person

We'll provide you with a cloth bag for your snacks—perfect for storing wrappers and keeping the environment clean. Feel free to use it throughout your journey!

» Transportation

- Transfers and bus tickets
- Day 1: Transport from Cusco to Ollantaytambo train station
- Day 2: Round-Trip Bus Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu
- Day 2: Transport from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco
- Train Tickets
- Day 1: From Ollantaytambo to KM 104 (Starting point of the trek)
- Day 2: From Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo

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 per person
- Booking: Reserve 2–3 months in advance due to high demand.
- Entry Times:
 - 7:00 a.m
 - 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 per person
- Entry Times:
 - 6:00 a.m
 - 8:00 a.m. (recommended)

Since your Machu Picchu Citadel Circuit 2 entrance is at 6:00 a.m., you can choose to add a Machu Picchu Mountain ticket for 8:00 a.m., 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 per person
- Availability: High season, from May to September
- Entry Times:
 - 9:00 a.m (recommended)
 - 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.

» **Return Bus Ticket from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes (Day 1)**

» **Meals Not Included**

- Breakfast on Day 1
- Lunch and dinner on Day 2

» **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**

- Landslides, adverse weather conditions, itinerary modifications due to safety concerns, illness, pandemics, government policy changes, political instability, strikes, acts of God, etc..



BEFORE YOU GO

We want to make your trip to Peru as memorable and as carefree as possible. In this section, you'll find the answers to all the questions you have about traveling with Salkantay Trekking in one place. Please read the following information carefully – it will help you with any questions about our services.

» The Inca Trail Without Plastics

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

» Briefing or Informative Meeting

All information meetings and briefings are held in our main office in Cusco (or your hotel) at 5:00 pm, one night before the tour begins. These meetings last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. If you're unable to attend, you must coordinate another time by email, by phone or at the Salkantay Trekking office.

» Trek Balance Payment (in Cusco)

If you still have a pending balance, you must pay it 2 days before your hike/tour. Otherwise, your trip reservation will not be confirmed.

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

» Can I store my luggage at your office?

Of course! During the trip, your main luggage can be stored at our office (you can organize it with us on the briefing day or by email) or at your hotel, both free of charge.

Any equipment that you won't need on the trek can be stored safely in your hotel. Nearly every hotel will provide this service. Don't leave items of value with your bags;

put them in the hotel safe and obtain an itemized receipt (in the unlikely case of theft, many insurance companies require that you have a copy of the receipt itemizing everything). It's best to put items such as credit cards inside a sealed, signed envelope for extra peace of mind.

» Pick up of guests

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

» Return from Machu Picchu 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
- » Shorts
- » Long sleeve t-shirts
- » Warm jacket
- » Waterproof jacket
- » Raincoat or rain poncho.
- » Sun hat to protect neck and face
- » Neck gaiter or buff
- » Sunglasses with UV protection
- » Trekking poles
- » Medium trekking backpack (15 – 25 liter)
- » Camera and charger
- » Power bank
- » Snacks: Energy bars, chocolate, candies, dried fruits, etc.
- » Bathing suit
- » Towel



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



www.salkantaytrekking.com



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Triunfo Street 392, Office 212 (2nd Floor)
Arte Inka Handicraft Center - Cusco's Main Square



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