

A group of hikers is ascending a stone staircase on a lush, green mountain trail. The lead hiker in the foreground has a large orange backpack and is using trekking poles. Other hikers are visible further up the path, surrounded by dense tropical vegetation and stone walls.

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



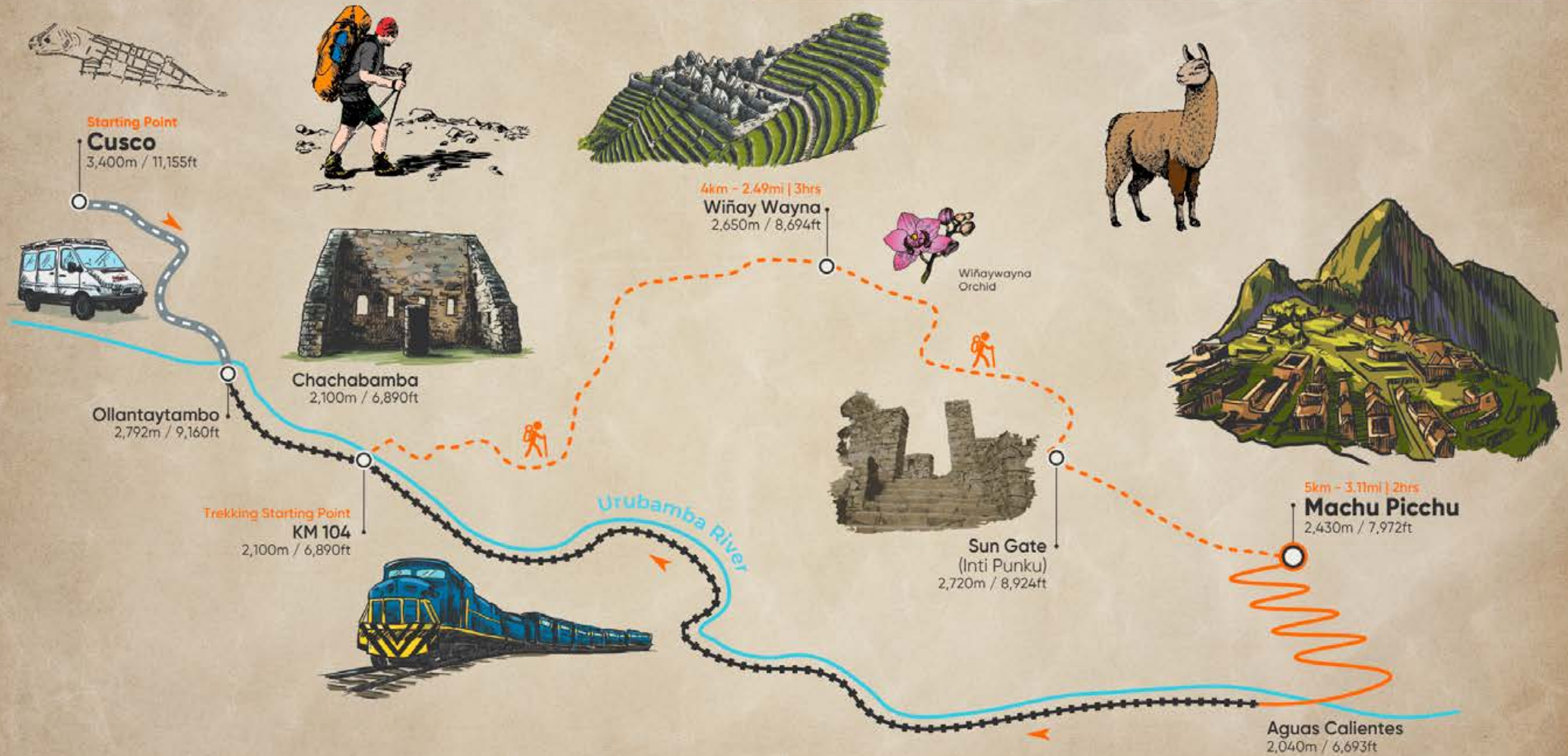
Inclusions



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
Treks & 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 secure all necessary permits once we receive your complete information and reservation deposit. Permits are subject to availability and are issued for a specific date and under your name. They cannot be changed under any circumstances. Changes in passport number are only permitted for renewal reasons. In that case, you must provide both your old and new passports.

- Entry Ticket to Machu Picchu Archaeological Site (Circuit 3)

» High Quality Service & Safety

- Pre-departure Briefing

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

- Experienced Tour Guide

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

- Medical Kit or First AID Kit

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

- 24/7 Customer Service

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

» Accommodation

- Hotel in Aguas Calientes

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 1: Box Lunch and Dinner

- Day 2: Breakfast

- Snacks and Water on the first day

- 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.

» Transportation

- Transfers and bus tickets

- Day 1: Transport from Cusco to Ollantaytambo train station

- Day 1: Bus Ticket from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes

- Day 2: Bus Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu (One-way only)

- 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

If you're up for a challenge, you can climb the famous mountain seen in photos behind the site of Machu Picchu. It's 45 minutes uphill and can be scary if you fear heights, but the top views are totally worth it! You can take this excursion after your guided tour in Machu Picchu, but be sure to plan ahead. Due to high demand, admission must be issued at least two months in advance. Consider there might be changes to protect your integrity, mainly due to weather conditions.

- The ticket for Huayna Picchu Mountain has an extra cost of 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 trails than Huayna Picchu, and it takes 1.5 hours to reach the top. This walk requires an entrance ticket, which we can secure for you if you request it in advance.

- The ticket for Machu Picchu Mountain has an extra cost of US\$ 60.00 per person.

» Day 1: Breakfast

» Day 2: Lunch and Dinner

» Day 2: One-Way Bus Ticket from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes

» Travel Insurance

» Tips for our staff

- Tipping is usual on any excursion to Peru. Although we pay good salaries to our team, something extra is always welcome.



» Additional costs or delays beyond our control

- Landslides, bad weather conditions, itinerary modifications due to a safety concern, illness, pandemic, government policy changes, political instability, strikes, acts of God, etc.

BEFORE YOU GO

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

» The Inca Trail Without Plastics

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

» Briefing or Informative Meeting

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

» Trek Balance Payment (in Cusco)

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

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

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



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



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