

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a steep, rocky slope covered in dry, yellowish-brown grass leads down towards a calm, turquoise lake. The lake is nestled in a valley, with steep, rocky slopes on either side. In the background, majestic mountains rise, their peaks partially covered in snow and shrouded in mist. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The overall scene is one of a high-altitude, rugged natural environment.

4 DAYS & 3 NIGHTS

ANCASCOCHA TREK SHORT 4 DAYS

ALTERNATIVE PERU TREKS | Moderate



DESCRIPTION

ANCASCOCHA TREK SHORT 4 DAYS

The Super Inca Trail to Machu Picchu The Ancascocha Trek to Machu Picchu is one of the least known routes and is far less traveled than many other options. This makes it one of the lesser-crowded of all the tourist circuits around Cusco, so perfect if you love to get off-the-beaten-path and enjoy a bit of peace and quiet on your hikes. Despite getting fewer visitors, the Ancascocha route was declared as one of the 20 dream-walks by National Geographic on the best walks in the world list, and with good reason! You'll be treated to incredible views along the adventurous trail on your way to the amazing Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

CONTENT

- Map
- Highlights
- Itinerary
- Inclusions
- Before You Go
- Packing List

DURATION
4 Days & 3 Nighths

DIFFICULTY
Moderate

DISTANCE
32.3 mi / 52 km

GROUP
Up to 12

FROM
US\$ 695



EXPLORE THE ROUTE

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

FULL ITINERARY

- Hike through the Andes surrounded by very few other trekkers, if any!
- Informative guided tours of Inca archaeological sites along the route.
- Observe extensive cultivation fields where generations of peasants have tilled the land.
- Pass through small Andean communities and see how locals live in these rural parts of the country.
- Be accompanied by astounding scenery and expansive landscapes the whole way.
- Visit the New Wonder of the World, Machu Picchu, and discover its secrets.

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DAY 01

Cusco | Soqma - Perolniyoc - Racaypata - Rayan - Kuychiccasa Pass - Chancachuco

The Excursion Begins with Fantastic Views and an Inca History Lesson

The adventure begins early when we collect you from your accommodation. We'll head to our trek starting point and walk for 3 hours to the Perolniyoc waterfall, where you can freshen up in the water and take some stunning photos. We'll then walk another hour to the Racaypata Inca archaeological site, where you'll learn all about this fascinating place and enjoy some spectacular views.

After, you'll enjoy your first delicious meal cooked by our chefs. After lunch, we'll head uphill for 3 hours to the Kuychiccasa Pass and observe cultivation fields and Andean wildlife, such as alpacas and condors. All the while, snowy mountains will accompany you. Once we reach the top, you can enjoy looking out over the beautiful landscapes before we head down for an hour and forty-five minutes to our campsite in the Chancacuchu Valley. Spend the early evening resting and looking up into the beautiful Andean night sky before dinner and bed.

Day Facts

- MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.
- ACCOMMODATION: Camp
- DIFFICULTY: Challenging
- WALKING DISTANCE: 16 km / 9.9 mi
- WALKING TIME: 9-10 hours
- MINIMUM ELEVATION: 3,000 m / 9,843 ft
- HIGHEST ELEVATION: 4,500 m / 14,764 ft
- ALTITUDE OF THE CAMP: 3,350 m / 11,007 ft

DAY 02

Chancachuco | Ancascocha - Huayanay Pass - Incaracay - Quesqa

Adventure to the Highest Point on the Trek

Wake up early with an excellent breakfast before setting out for an hour to get an incredible view of La Veronica glacier. We'll then head downhill for 3 hours to get to the Ancascocha community. We'll cross a gorgeous valley crossed by a crystal clear stream before we continue for another 1 hour uphill. You'll be rewarded with amazing views at the end of this section and enjoy today's tasty lunch.

After, we'll be making our way to the highest point of the entire trek, the Huayanay Pass. You'll also get to know a section of the original Inca Trail and enjoy some more outstanding scenery. The walk down will be relaxing as we take things slowly on our way to the campsite for the evening in Quesqa Valley. It's time for some dinner and to wind down for the evening to rest up before another day of trekking tomorrow.

Day Facts

- MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.
- ACCOMMODATION: Camp
- DIFFICULTY: Challenging
- WALKING DISTANCE: 15 km / 9.32 mi
- WALKING TIME: 8-9 hours
- MINIMUM ELEVATION: 3,850 m / 12,631 ft
- HIGHEST ELEVATION: 4,650 m / 15,256 ft
- ALTITUDE OF THE CAMP: 3,850 m / 12,631 ft

DAY 03

Quesqa | Paucarcancha - Piscacucho, KM 82 - Ollantaytambo - Aguas Calientes

Travel on the Classic Inca Trail

Wake up early to leave the Quesqa Valley and head to the Paucarcancha Inca site through thickening vegetation. From the site, you'll get a great view over the original Inca Trail and enjoy a tour of the place with your knowledgeable guide from the site. We'll then descend for 5 hours along a part of the Classic Inca Trail to KM 82, where the trail starts for those going on the Inca Trail trek. We'll enjoy lunch at the end of this section.

In the afternoon, we'll head to Ollantaytambo by our transport before boarding the train to Aguas Calientes. You'll get some amazing photo opportunities along the railway. Once we get to Aguas Calientes, we'll check into your hostel before having some time to relax. After, we'll have dinner in a top restaurant before making our way to bed early. You'll need to be up before sunrise in the morning.

Day Facts

- MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.
- ACCOMMODATION: Hotel
- DIFFICULTY: Moderate
- WALKING DISTANCE: 18 km / 11.18 mi
- WALKING TIME: 7 hours
- MINIMUM ELEVATION: 2,040 m / 6,693 ft
- HIGHEST ELEVATION: 3,850 m / 12,631 ft
- ACCOMMODATION ALTITUDE: 2,040 m / 6,693 ft

DAY 04

Aguas Calientes | Machu Picchu - Ollantaytambo - Cusco

Explore the Lost City of the Incas - Machu Picchu

The most exciting day has arrived. Wake up early to have a quick breakfast before catching the 5:30 am bus up to Machu Picchu to beat the crowds. When you step inside, you'll feel the most amazing sensation as the magic of the Incas washes over you. You'll enjoy a 2-hour guided tour of the important sections before having time to explore for yourself. You can also hike up one of the extra mountains to get an amazing view of the whole site.

You'll head back down to Aguas Calientes just after midday and have a quick lunch. Then, head to the train station to travel back to Ollantaytambo. From there, our private transport will be waiting to take you back to your accommodation in Cusco to put your feet up and reflect on your incredible trip.

Day Facts

- MEALS: Breakfast
- DIFFICULTY: Easy
- ACTIVITY DURATION: 2-5 hours exploring
- OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Moderate to Challenging (2-4 hours)
- MACHU PICCHU CITADEL ELEVATION: 2,430 m / 7,972 ft
- MACHU PICCHU MOUNTAIN ELEVATION: 3,000 m / 9,843 ft
- HUAYNA PICCHU MOUNTAIN ELEVATION: 2,720 m / 8,924 ft

SERVICES FOR YOUR JOURNEY

INCLUSIONS

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Inclusions

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

Permits & Entrance Tickets

Machu Picchu Circuit 2 offers the most complete and popular route through the citadel, making it the most requested. Although included in this experience, availability is limited, so we strongly recommend booking at least three months in advance.

If Circuit 2 is unavailable, we will arrange Circuit 3-B, which explores the lower area of the citadel, including the urban sector and key ceremonial sites. If this is also sold out, Circuit 1-B will be arranged, covering mainly the upper panoramic area with the iconic postcard viewpoint.

High Quality Service & Safety

Pre-departure Briefing

You'll meet your trekking guide and group in our office for an orientation before your trek. There, we'll provide you with the duffle bags, which our horses will carry. The meeting will be at 5:00 pm the evening before the trip begins.

Experienced Tour Guide

English and Spanish speaking, professionally educated, and official tour guide. Your guide will explain the culture and surroundings along the entire route, including leading your group in ancient ceremonies! He or she will keep you safe, sound, and comfortable on your trek so that you can enjoy your time worry-free!

Private Camping Equipment

You'll have spacious dining and kitchen tents to enjoy your meals worry-free. Additionally, tables, chairs, and cooking supplies (all carried by our horses).

Portable Travel Toilet

Inflatable mattress

One Duffle Bag

On the trek, you can carry your personal belongings up to a maximum weight of 7 kg / 15.4 lb (this weight includes your sleeping bag).

Medical Kit or First AID Kit

All Salkantay Trekking guides have received specialized training in first aid. We hold mandatory training sessions with our guides every February. Your guide will always carry a first aid kit to face basic emergencies (altitude sickness, travelers' diarrhea, cuts, scrapes, etc.) as well as oxygen. If necessary, we'll evacuate you from the path as quickly as possible and ensure that you arrive at a clinic for treatment.

Extras Included in our Service

We believe that attention to small details is what sets us apart from other local companies. You'll receive a small sleeping pillow, inflatable mattress, a cover to protect your backpack on the road.

24/7 Customer Service

We have telephone service available 24 hours/day for ease of communication and preparation with the agency leading up to your trek.

Satellite Phone

Our main priority will always be the tranquillity of our clients. All of our guides are prepared for emergencies in the mountains; however, being a phone call away from any doctor, hospital, or friend helps you feel more secure. For this reason, each Salkantay Trekking guide has a satellite phone that can be used anywhere on the mountain to call anywhere in the world.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Inclusions

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

Accommodation

Lodging in Campsites

We have a series of campsites that offer you true comfort. Besides that, just like our ancestors, we have a profound link of affection and respect for our Mother Earth. Because of this, we are insistent that our campsites don't generate any negative environmental impact. Remember that the accommodations are double and shared.

Hotel in Aguas Calientes

The last night of this trek is spent in a hostel in Aguas Calientes with a double or triple room, private bathroom, hot shower, WiFi, breakfast, and luggage storage while you visit Machu Picchu.

Best Camping Tents

Salkantay Trekking uses the best equipment to ensure your safety and comfort. Every 2 people will share Eureka Timberline or Mountain Hard Wear tents with a capacity for 4 people.

Meals

4 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, and 3 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.

Water on the trail

We'll provide you boiled, filtered, and cooled water during your hike, from your first lunch to your last lunch with your hiking team in Piscacucho (KM 82). For this, you need to bring a camel bag or an empty bottle (we recommend a capacity of 2 liters).

Wake up tea

Every morning at the campsite, you'll be woken up with a cup of hot coca tea. Our staff will bring the tea to your tent so that you will be warmed from inside out before you start your day.

Tea Time or Happy Hour

Every afternoon before dinner, the cooks will provide you popcorn, biscuits/cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, teas, 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 to eat!

Snacks on the trail daily

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 per person

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

Hygiene Products

You'll be provided with a small towel and soap before each meal to clean your hands.

Transportation

Private Transport

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Inclusions

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Day 1: You'll be picked up from your hotel in the morning and will travel in our private transportation to Soqma, the trek's starting point.
- Day 3: Private transport from Piscacucho (KM 82) to Ollantaytambo
- Day 4: Private transport from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.

Train Tickets

- Day 3: From Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes.
- Day 4: From Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo.

One-Way Consettur Bus Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu (Day 4)

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.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

Exclusions

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

Extras and important equipment

All our travelers need a sleeping bag to camp. Walking sticks (with rubber tips) are optional but highly recommended. If you do not have them, don't worry, you can rent them with Salkantay Trekking.

- Sleeping bag: US\$ 20.00
- Walking poles (pair): US\$ 20.00

Huayna Picchu Mountain

You can climb the famous mountain you always see in the photos behind the archaeological site of Machu Picchu. It's 45 minutes uphill, and coming back 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, 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 we have time in advance.

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

Lunch in Aguas Calientes and Dinner in Cusco (Day 4)

Personal Hiking Clothing and Gear

Travel Insurance

Tips for our staff

Tipping is the norm 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, act 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.

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 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.

It would be much appreciated if you pay the trek balance in cash US dollars or local currency at our office in Cusco. You can withdraw some money from several ATMs along Avenida Sol (either in US dollars or local Peruvian Soles). You can pay by credit card or PAYPAL online, but you will have to pay an 5% service charge, charged by VISA and PAYPAL. We do not accept bank checks or payment of the balance by traveler's checks.

Duffel Bag or Canvas Case

You'll receive a canvas case or duffel bag during your briefing. Our horses will carry them, and the horsemen will hand them to you when you get to each camp. They measure 60 x 24 x 22 cm (23.6 x 9.45 x 8.66 in). A maximum of 7 kg / 15.4 lb is allowed for each duffel bag, including the weight of your sleeping bag, sleeping mat, clothes, and other personal items.

Can I store my luggage at your office?

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

Any equipment that you won't need on the trek can be stored safely in your hotel. Nearly every hotel will provide this service. Don't leave items of value with your bags; put them in the hotel safe and obtain an itemized receipt (in the unlikely case of theft, many insurance companies require that you have a copy of the receipt itemizing everything). It's best to put items such as credit cards inside a sealed, signed envelope for extra peace of mind.

Pick up of guests

Salkantay Trekking can pick you up from your hotel, as long as it's in the Historical Center of Cusco. Your guide will coordinate the pickup time in the briefing session, but please keep in mind that the time may vary between 30 and 45 minutes due to traffic.

Cusco is an old city, meaning it has many narrow cobbled streets. Some hotels and Airbnbs may be located on streets without access to cars or on long, steep slopes, making it difficult to transport luggage. We strongly recommend that you book accommodation with good access.

Before You Go

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.

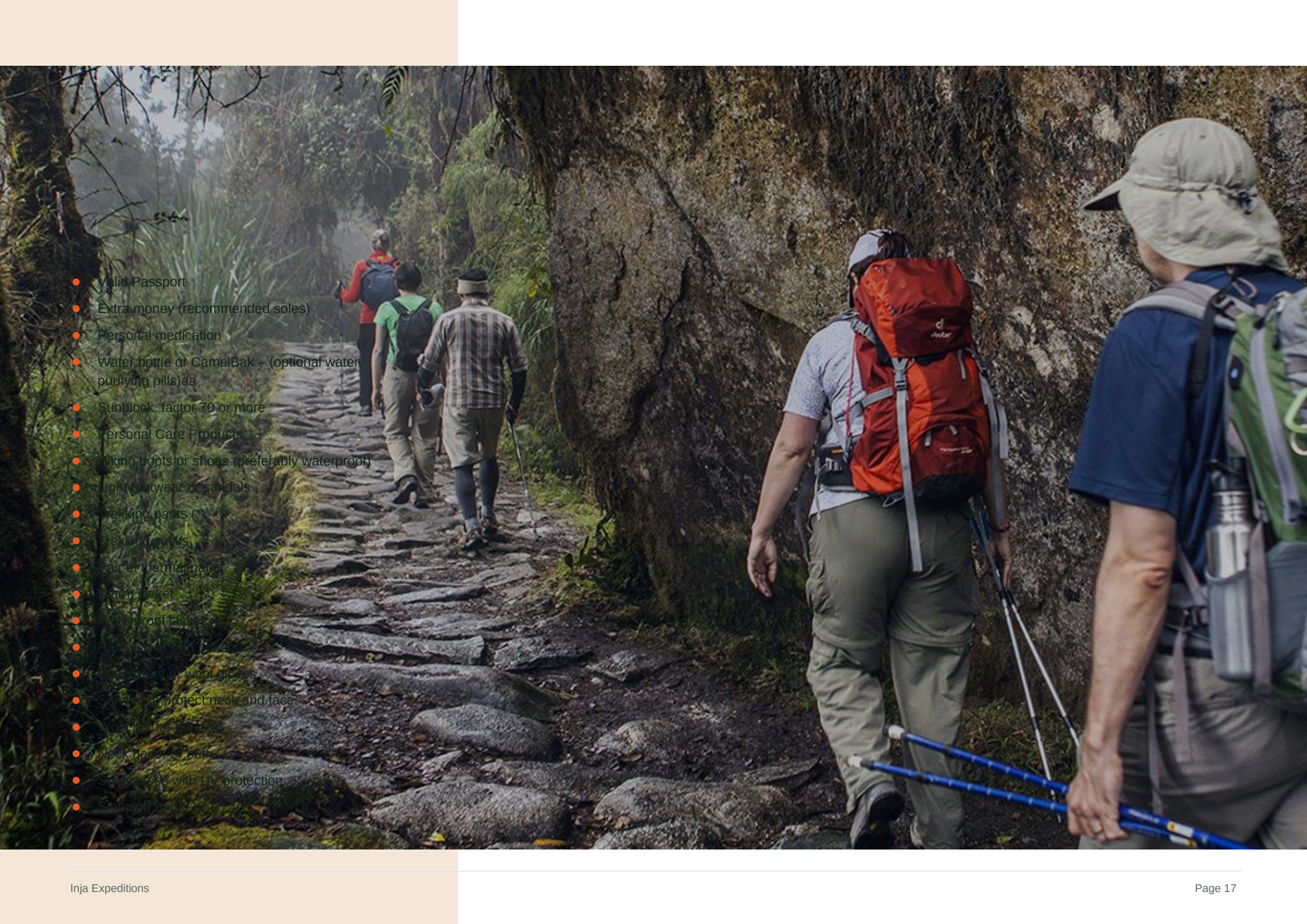
It may be the case that a group wishes to modify the tour; however, the guide will be the one who decides, after consulting with all the participants, if such modifications are possible.

Strikes and demonstrations

Strikes and demonstrations are usually 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.

- 
- Valid Passport
 - Extra money (recommended soles)
 - Personal medication
 - Water bottle or CamelBak – (optional water purifying pills)aa
 - Sunblock: factor 70 or more
 - Personal Care Products
 - Hiking boots or shoes (preferably waterproof)
 - Light footwear or sandals
 - Trekking pants (*)
 - Trekking socks
 - Pair of thermal pants
 - Warm jacket
 - Waterproof poncho
 - Raincoat or poncho liner
 - Warm water or wool gloves
 - Sun hat to protect neck and face
 - Wool hat for the cold
 - Neck gaiter or buff
 - Sun glasses with UV protection
 - Sleeping bag (15°C)

Packing List - Continued

- 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



Plan your next adventure with Inja Expeditions

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