



7 DAYS & 6 NIGHTS

SALKANTAY & RAINBOW MOUNTAIN TREK 7 DAYS

SALKANTAY TREK | Difficulty



DESCRIPTION

SALKANTAY & RAINBOW MOUNTAIN TREK 7 DAYS

The impressive trek to Salkantay and the Rainbow Mountain. After spending some time in Cusco, the capital of the Inca Empire, join us on a trek to Machu Picchu through the Salkantay Trail and then to Peru's Rainbow Mountain, also known as Seven Colors Mountain and Vinicunca. This is the best route to explore the magical Humantay Lake, the imposing Salkantay Mountain, the majestic Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, and the authentic Rainbow Mountain. This itinerary includes the best tourist attractions of Cusco, so you'll have six impressive and challenging days in the company of the best landscapes in the region. In addition, you'll receive explanations from experienced guides along the way to learn about the history and nature of the Andes.

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DURATION

7 Days & 6 Nighths

DIFFICULTY

Difficulty

DISTANCE

53.7 mi / 86.5 Km

GROUP

Up to 12

FROM

US\$ 900



EXPLORE THE ROUTE

FULL ITINERARY.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

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

DAY 05

Aguas Calientes | Machu Picchu - Ollantaytambo - Cusco

Tour of the Incredible Incan Citadel, Machu Picchu

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

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

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

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

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

Day Facts

- MEALS: Breakfast
- DIFFICULTY: Easy
- ACTIVITY DURATION: 2-3 hours exploring Machu Picchu
- MACHU PICCHU CITADEL ELEVATION: 2,430 m / 7,972 ft
- OPTIONAL MOUNTAINS: Moderate to Challenging

- MACHU PICCHU MOUNTAIN ELEVATION: 3,000 m / 9,843 ft (3-4 hours)
- HUAYNA PICCHU MOUNTAIN ELEVATION: 2,720 m / 8,924 ft (2 hours)
- HUCHUY PICCHU MOUNTAIN ELEVATION: 2,497 m / 8,192 ft (1.5 hours)

DAY 06

Cusco - Cusipata - Llacto - Rainbow Mountain, Vinicunca

Walk to the impressive Rainbow Mountain

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

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

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

This remote region is home to many people, and you'll have the opportunity to see them working the land. You'll also be amazed to see the traditional clothing they wear and make, thanks to the artistic textile talents they have inherited from their ancestors.

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

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

Day Facts

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

DAY 07

Cusco - Cusco's Airport (or Bus Station)

Say Goodbye to Imperial Cusco

Today, you'll wake up, have breakfast, and pack your bags, as it's time to say goodbye to the imperial city of Cusco for now. We'll organize a time to collect you and take you to the airport or bus station to continue your vacation or return home.

This isn't a forever farewell, and we're sure you'll long to relive all the special moments, learn more about the ancient city and cultures, and try out more of the excellent restaurants and their delicious cuisine. So, it's not goodbye, but rather, see you soon!

DAY 01

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

Hike to the Jewel in the Mountains

You'll be up nice and early today to be ready for us to pick you up around 5:00 a.m. You'll travel in our comfy transportation with blankets to enjoy a bit more sleep on the drive. After 2 hours, we'll enjoy a brief stop in Mollepata for breakfast. We'll then continue on to Challacancha, where we'll start our hike.

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

Once in Soraypampa, you'll get settled in at our exclusive Sky Camp, where you'll sleep this evening. You'll have a bit of time to rest after enjoying your first lunch in the mountains. Feeling refreshed, it'll be time to start the hike up to the wonderful Humantay Lake (4,200 m / 13,780 ft).

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

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

Our dazzling SKY CAMP is located in front of the impressive mountains Humantay and Salkantay. This campsite creates the perfect union of sky and earth. It allows you to sleep calmly under a clear sky starred with an exceptional view of the constellations. At the same time, you can enjoy all the comforts of a first-class vacation home.

- 32 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: 4 3,900 m / 12,795 ft

DAY 02

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

The Stunning Salkantay Pass and Descent to the Amazon Jungle

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

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

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

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

Like in the times of our ancestors, our commitment is to our Pachamama (Mother Earth) and the Apus (sacred Mountains). Our campsite Mountain Sky View is adapted to the natural environment without generating any audio-visual impact, constructed with elements found in the same area, and located in a place surrounded by tropical mountains and rocky rivers under the shining stars.

- 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 / 14.6 mi
- WALKING TIME: 10-11 hours
- STARTING ELEVATION: 3,900 m / 12,795 ft
- MINIMUM ELEVATION: 2,900 m / 9,514 ft
- HIGHEST ELEVATION: 4,630 m / 15,190 ft
- CAMPSITE ELEVATION: 4 2,950 m / 9,678 ft

- 37 huts

DAY 03

Collpapampa - La Playa - Lucmabamba - Super Jungle Domes

Jungle Adventure and Coffee Experience

Today we'll begin the day at 6:00 a.m. with a hot cup of tea and a nourishing breakfast at camp. We'll then set out on a scenic hike through the Santa Teresa Valley, following a gently descending trail that rewards us with spectacular views of rivers, waterfalls, orchids, and plantations of bananas, coffee, and avocados. Keep your eyes open—if we're lucky, we may spot the iconic Andean cock-of-the-rock, Peru's national bird.

Upon reaching Zona Propiedad, our private vehicle will be waiting to transfer us to La Playa, allowing us to arrive with more energy and time to enjoy an authentic coffee experience. Here we'll explore the coffee fields, take part in the cultivation process, and finally roast, grind, and brew our own cup.

After this enriching activity, we'll continue by private transport to Lucmabamba (2,000 m / 6,562 ft), where we'll enjoy a delicious lunch and settle into our exclusive Super Jungle Domes. In the afternoon, you'll have free time to explore the surroundings or visit the nearby Cocalmayo hot springs if you wish (not included in the package).

In the evening, we'll return to Lucmabamba for a restorative dinner before resting in your lodge surrounded by the sounds of nature. The night ends in the comfort of your lodge, where the gentle murmur of the forest becomes the perfect soundtrack for a deep and peaceful sleep.

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

- 17 domes
- 2 people per dome
- Dining room and kitchen
- Toilets and Shower

- Opcional:
- Wi-Fi

Day Facts

- MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
- ACCOMMODATION: Super Jungle Domes
- DIFFICULTY: Moderate
- WALKING DISTANCE: 10.3 km / 6.4 mi
- WALKING TIME: 4 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

DAY 04

Lucmabamba - Llactapata - Aobamba - Hidroeléctrica - Aguas Calientes

Enjoy Your First Glance of Machu Picchu from Llactapata

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

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

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

Once in Hidroeléctrica, you have a couple of options:

1) If you're tired out after all the trekking, you can opt to board a train to Aguas Calientes (US\$ 37.00 extra).

2) If you want to enjoy the last stretch of the trek, you can enjoy the flat walk along the side of the tracks to Aguas Calientes, which takes around 3 hours. It'll be one more chance to enjoy your warm jungle surroundings as you hike.

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

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

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

DAY 04 - Continued

- HIGHEST ELEVATION: 2,800 m / 9,186 ft
- ACCOMMODATION ELEVATION: 2,040 m / 6,693 ft

SERVICES FOR YOUR JOURNEY

INCLUSIONS

Inclusions

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

Permits & Entrance Tickets

Day 1: Entry Ticket to Humantay Lake & the Salkantay Trek

Day 5: Entry Ticket to Machu Picchu Archaeological Site

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.

Day 6: Entry to the Rainbow Mountain

High Quality Service & Safety

Pre-departure Briefing

The evening before each trip, you'll have an orientation meeting with your guide. For multi-day tours, this meeting usually takes place at 5:00 p.m. at our main office in Cusco. For day tours, you'll receive a detailed WhatsApp call with essential information about what to pack, your pick-up time, and to confirm your hotel address.

Day 0: Transfer from the airport to your hotel

Days 1 to 5: Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu

Day 6: Rainbow Mountain Hike

Day 7: Transfer from your hotel to the airport or bus terminal

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.

Trekking Poles

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

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Inclusions

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

Our attention to detail sets us apart. You'll receive a cover to protect your backpack 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.

Campsite Facilities

Our campsites are designed for your comfort and convenience:

- **Bathrooms:** Shared bathrooms are available at our Sky Camp, while our Mountain Sky View and Super Jungle Domes Campsites offer private bathrooms.
- **Showers:** Enjoy refreshing showers at both the Mountain Sky View and Super Jungle Domes Campsites.
- **Dining & Kitchen Areas:** Each campsite features spacious dining areas and fully equipped kitchens, ensuring you can enjoy your meals comfortably and worryfree. Our mules transport all fresh cooking supplies.

Days 5 & 6: Hotel in Cusco

Day 4: Hotel in Aguas Calientes

Enjoy your final night in a cozy hotel with a double, matrimonial, or triple room, private bathroom, hot shower, WiFi, breakfast, and luggage storage while you explore Machu Picchu.

Meals

Meals on the Salkantay Trek (Firts 5 Days): 4 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, and 4 Dinners Meals on the Rainbow Mountain (6 Day): Breakfast and Lunch at local restaurants Our chef prepares the 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 boiled, warm water during your hike, from your lunch in Soraypampa to your breakfast in Lucmabamba. Make sure to bring an empty water bottle or camel bag for refilling—we recommend a 2-liter capacity.

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 on the Salkantay Trail

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

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Inclusions

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

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

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

Day 0: Welcome to Cusco! Airport Pickup and Hotel Transfer.

Day N: Farewell, Cusco! – Hotel to Airport or Bus Terminal Transfer.

Transportation for Your Group on the Salkantay Trek: Door-to-Door, Hassle-Free Service

- Day 1: You'll be picked up from your hotel in the morning and travel by private transportation to Challacancha, the trek's starting point.
- Day 3: Private transportation from Zona Propiedad to Lucmabamba.
- Day 5: Bus transportation from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu (one way). Private transportation from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.

Transfers

- Day 0: Private transfer from the Airport or Bus Station to the Hotel in Cusco
- Day 1: You'll be picked up from your hotel in the morning and travel in our transportation to Challacancha, the trek's starting point.
- Day 5: One Way Bus Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu
- Day 5: Transport from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.

- Day 6: You'll be picked up from your hotel and travel by private transportation to the trek's starting point. Later, private transportation will be waiting to take you back to your hotel door in Cusco.
- Day 7: Private transfer from your hotel in Cusco to the airport or bus station.

Day 5: One-Way Bus Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu

Day 5: 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

- On days 1,2, and 3, 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, and they'll hand them to you when you get to each camp.
- On day 4, your duffle bag will be transported by van and then by train.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

Exclusions

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!

- Booking: Reserve 2–3 months in advance due to high demand.

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.

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.

- Availability: High season, from May to September.

Meals not indicated

- Lunch in Aguas Calientes and Dinner in Cusco (Day 5)
- Dinner in Cusco (Day 6)

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 4)

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

- US\$ 41.00 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

Landslides, bad weather conditions, itinerary changes for safety reasons, illnesses, pandemics, changes in government policies, political instability, strikes, majeure events, etc.

Before You Go

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

Is it for me?

The Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu is an excellent alternative to the Inca Trail trek and better suited for more adventurous trekkers who can handle higher altitudes and longer distances. Ascending to reach the famous Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft) isn't too strenuous nor very steep since it's at the beginning of the trek. Still, it does require stamina and a little time in Cusco to acclimatize to the altitude before beginning the trek.

How many days do I need to acclimate in Cusco before the Trek?

It's very important to be well acclimated to the altitude before exerting yourself on a trek. We recommend that you arrive in Cusco at least 2 or 3 days before the trek starts to help you adjust and avoid possible problems with altitude sickness while on the trek.

You might have already been in another area of Peru at a high altitude before arriving in Cusco. In that case, we still recommend you have a whole day in Cusco to rest, recover from your travel, and enjoy the sights and sounds of Cusco before departing for the trek. Here some suggestions for activities to do in the Cusco vicinity before starting your adventure trek:

- City tour
- Sacred Valley
- Maras Moray

Briefing or Informative Meeting

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

Tour Balance Payment

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

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

Duffle Bag or Travel Bag

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

The maximum weight allowed is 5 kg / 11 lb, including the weight of your sleeping bag, clothes, and other personal items. They measure 60 x 24 x 22 cm (23.6 x 9.4 x 8.7 in).

Can I store my luggage at your office?

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

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

Pick up of guests

Please note:

Before You Go

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

Return to Cusco

Returning from Machu Picchu requires quite a bit of logistics, but don't worry. Everything is included in your tour!

- In Machu Picchu, you'll board a bus that'll take you for 25 minutes to the small city of Aguas Calientes. The buses are boarded according to arrival.
- In Aguas Calientes, you'll board a train to Ollantaytambo. Your guide will give you the train tickets where the boarding time will be shown. Make sure you're on the platform 30 minutes early. The train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo takes 1:45 hours.
- Once you arrive at the station, our representative, identified with the Salkantay Trekking clothing, will be waiting to transfer you to Cusco or directly to your hotel. The trip from Ollantaytambo to Cusco takes 1:30 hours.
- In Cusco, depending on your hotel's location, we'll take you to a smaller car from our company (Hyundai H1) to transfer you faster to your hotel.

Note: Your tour includes a One-Way Consettur Bus Ticket Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu, so you can choose to use it from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu or from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes. If you want a round-trip bus ticket, you'll need to pay an extra of US\$ 12.00.

Group Tours

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

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

Strikes and Demonstrations

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

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

Lost objects

Please pay attention to where you leave your belongings and remember to take everything once you leave a place or a transport. You're the only one responsible for your objects during the tour.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 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



Packing List - Continued

- Wool hat for the cold
- Neck gaiter or buff
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- 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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