



6 DAYS & 5 NIGHTS

SALKANTAY & SHORT INCA TRAIL 6 DAYS

INCA TRAIL | Moderate



DESCRIPTION

SALKANTAY & SHORT INCA TRAIL 6 DAYS

Push the limits! Reach the summit of Salkantay! The Salkantay Trek and Short Inca Trail is one of the best routes that you should do at least once in your life. This program will take you out of the routine, to transport you to wonderful places that only the Peruvian Andes have for you. You will visit several tourist attractions, including the magical turquoise waters of the Humantay Lake and the imposing Salkantay snow-capped mountain. Around the mountains, you will explore the tropical forest and appreciate its diverse flora and fauna. Finally, you will visit Machu Picchu, one of the wonders of the modern world, and learn about the ancient history of the Incas. Without a doubt, this is a complete itinerary to recharge your energy and enjoy it to the fullest.

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DURATION

6 Days & 5 Nights

DIFFICULTY

Moderate

DISTANCE

53.9 mi / 86.8 km

GROUP

Up to 12

FROM

US\$ 1,095



EXPLORE THE ROUTE

FULL ITINERARY.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- This 6-Day trek to Machu Picchu offers tourists the chance to enjoy a combination of both the Salkantay Trek and the Short Inca Trail.
The Salkantay and Inca Trail 6 Days is one of the very best trekking adventures you'll find in Peru and across the whole of South America.
- Trekkers can witness rustic bridges, cascades, streams, glaciers, colorful valleys, waterfalls, wildlife, unique plants, and the intriguing cloud forest.
- Learn all about the ancient culture of the Incas and how they lived up in the mountains hundreds of years ago.
- End your journey with a visit to the world-famous Machu Picchu that'll take your breath away.



INJA EXPEDITIONS

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 4:30 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 an optional breakfast. We'll then continue to Challacancha, where we'll start our hike.

First, you'll meet the cooks and horse riders, as well as do the final 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 you get to 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 incredibly beautiful 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 fair, 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 be able to 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 people 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
- HIGHEST ELEVATION: 4,200 m / 13,780 ft
- CAMPSITE ELEVATION: 3,900 m / 12,795 ft

DAY 02

Soraypampa - Abra Salkantay - Huayracmachay - Collpapampa (Mountain Sky View)

The Stunning Salkantay Pass and Descent to the Amazon Jungle

You'll be woken up today at the first signs of daylight with an energizing cup of coca tea to get you going. Enjoy a nourishing breakfast before we set off on our trek to the route's highest point, the Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft). You'll be walking 7 km / 4.34 mi over 3 hours. It's a difficult ascent up the 'trail of the 7 Snakes' rightly named due to its winding path.

Once you reach the top, you'll appreciate the most magnificent view over the surrounding valleys as well as Salkantay Mountain sitting right next to you (6,271 m / 20,574 ft), which is the second-highest in the Cusco region and one of the Apus (Inca Gods). You can also observe Humantay, Tucarhuay, and Pumasillo mountains. After you've taken in the views and enjoyed a rest, you'll start the 7 km / 4.35 mi walk downhill to the lunch spot in Huayracmachay (3,850 m / 12,631 ft), from where you can enjoy fantastic views.

This section of the trail is rocky and gravelly, and you get some beautiful views down into the valley below. After a re-energizing lunch, you'll be entering the edge of the Amazon jungle, also known as the 'cloud forest.' This part is 9.5 km / 5.9 mi and takes around three and a half hours. Along the way, you get to enjoy a magical tropical forest and witness how quickly and dramatically the landscape changes from the Andes to the Amazon. You'll spot colorful scenery, unique wildlife, and native plants. You'll find the climate becomes much warmer here.

After your longest day of hiking, you'll be pleased to reach our campsite at Collpapampa (2,950 m / 9,678 ft). You'll be served a hearty meal before hitting the hay in your Mountain Sky View for a peaceful night's sleep in the small village. You're sure to sleep well tonight!

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.

- 37 huts
- 2 people per hut
- Dining room and kitchen
- Toilets and Hot Shower
- Optional:
- Wi-Fi

Day Facts

- MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
- ACCOMMODATION: Mountain Sky View
- DIFFICULTY: Challenging
- WALKING DISTANCE: 23.5 km / 14.6 mi
- WALKING TIME: 10-11 hours
- STARTING ELEVATION: 3,900 m / 12,795 ft
- HIGHEST ELEVATION: 4,630 m / 15,190 ft
- CAMPSITE ELEVATION: 2,950 m / 9,678 ft

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
- HIGHEST ELEVATION: 2,950 m / 9,678 ft
- CAMPSITE ELEVATION: 2,000 m / 6,562 ft

DAY 04

Lucmabamba - Llactapata - Hidroelectrica - Aguas Calientes

Enjoy Your First Glance of Machu Picchu from Llactapata

You'll be eager to put on your hiking boots for your last day of trekking after you've filled up on fuel for breakfast. 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, 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 Hidroelectrica, 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, the hike up the Llactapata Trail isn't 100% guaranteed due to safety concerns. 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
- HIGHEST ELEVATION: 2,800 m / 9,186 ft
- ACCOMMODATION ELEVATION: 2,040 m / 6,693 ft

DAY 05

Aguas Calientes - KM 104 - Chachabamba - Sun Gate / Inti Punku - Machu Picchu - Aguas Calientes

Walk in Ancient Footsteps and Transport Back in Time

Your adventure begins today nice and early as you'll be picked up from your accommodation at 5:00 a.m. approx. You'll then walk for around one and a half hours to KM 104, the starting point of the Inca Trail. You can see the golden sun covering the expansive Andean mountains and the Urubamba River along the railway. We'll provide you with your box lunch and a snack for you to enjoy later on.

The hike starts on the same path as the Classic Inca Trail. You'll be immersed in the stunning landscape as you're surrounded by lush vegetation and towering mountains watching over you. After a short while, we'll reach our first Inca archaeological site on the trek, Chachabamba, and learn a little about it from our guide.

After another 3 hours, we get to one of the fascinating Inca sites, the Wiñay Wayna complex (meaning 'forever young' in Quechua) that sits at 2,650 m / 8,694 ft. Most trekkers who stop here are amazed by the incredible architecture. You'll explore the site and discover a ritual water source, temples dedicated to nature's forces, and beautiful agricultural platforms. Wiñay Wayna is the perfect place to learn a little more about the impressive history of the Incas.

While you're at these sites, take some time to relax, unwind in peace, and connect to Mother Nature through birdsong and the soft whisper of the wind. You'll spot the campsites where those doing the Classic Inca Trail spend the night a little further on. Here, you'll have time to enjoy the tasty lunchbox we've prepared for you, chill out, and recharge your batteries.

Once you're ready to go again, we'll continue the hike to the Sun Gate, from where you get your first outstanding views of Machu Picchu and all its incredible architecture. You'll be astounded at how the Incas were able to build such a site on a mountain. The landscape is very dreamy, and you'll feel the magic and mystery of Machu Picchu that's withstood the test of time amazingly. Use this opportunity to capture some unique photos and honor the Incas as you ponder how they were able to lift such big stones and try to understand their deep connection with nature.

Upon arriving at the archaeological site, we will visit the upper terraces of Machu Picchu, the ideal spot to capture the iconic postcard photo. From there, you will admire the astonishing architecture and the mastery of the Incas, who built this wonder more than five centuries ago.

Afterward, we will take a bus that will bring us to the small town of Aguas Calientes to spend the night in a hotel. Before resting, we will enjoy dinner at one of the best restaurants in town. Make sure to go to bed early, as tomorrow you will wake up before sunrise.

Day Facts

- MEALS: Snacks, Box Lunch, and Dinner
- ACCOMMODATION: Hotel
- DIFFICULTY: Moderate
- WALKING DISTANCE: 16.50 km / 10.25 mi
- WALKING TIME: 6-7 hours
- MINIMUM ELEVATION: 2,040 m / 6,693 ft
- HIGHEST ELEVATION: 2,720 m / 8,924 ft
- ACCOMMODATION ELEVATION: 2,040 m / 6,693 ft

DAY 06

Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu - Ollantaytambo - Cusco

Explore the Astounding Inca City of Machu Picchu

After a well-deserved night's rest, it's the moment you've been waiting for. Today, you'll be wandering the mysterious streets of the majestic historical sanctuary of Machu Picchu! You'll need to be up before sunrise to ensure you beat the crowds. 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 fortress with a gorgeous golden hue.

Next, you will tour the complex on a one-and-a-half-hour guided visit through the lower part of the citadel, where you will discover its magnificent and enigmatic constructions and take incredible photographs of the site. Once the tour is finished, you will have the chance to climb Huayna Picchu Mountain or Machu Picchu Mountain (if you reserved the tickets in advance); these hikes will take you one and a half hours and three hours round trip, respectively.

When you're ready to leave, it'll be time to head back down to Aguas Calientes. You'll have a bit of time to select a restaurant of your choice for a bite to eat before catching a train. You'll arrive in Ollantaytambo by train, and then a private bus will be there to pick you up and take you back to your accommodation in Cusco.

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 to come 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)

SERVICES FOR YOUR JOURNEY

INCLUSIONS

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Inclusions

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

Permits & Entrance Tickets

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

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.

Day 5: Entry Ticket to Machu Picchu (Circuit 1)

Your Inca Trail ticket grants access to Circuit 1, leading you to the upper viewpoint of Machu Picchu — the ideal location to capture the iconic postcard photo with a breathtaking panoramic view of the entire citadel.

Day 6: Entry to Machu Picchu Archaeological Site (Circuit 3)

The following day, after your first magical encounter with Machu Picchu's sweeping views, you'll explore Circuit 3, which takes you through the lower section of the ancient Inca city. This route lets you discover hidden corners, architectural marvels, and deeper historical insights to complete your experience.

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!

One Duffle Bag

For the trek, you'll receive a duffel bag to pack your personal belongings, with a maximum weight limit of 7 kg (15.4 lb), which will be carried by our staff.

Sleeping Bag

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.

Backpack Cover

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

Professional long-range walkie-talkie

Walkie-talkies optimize communication, ensuring quick response and coordination in key situations and locations.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Inclusions

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

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

Personal Accommodation in Private Campsites

Like our ancestors, we are very considerate of the Pachamama (Mother Earth). Therefore, our campsites and lodges are adapted to the environment to avoid generating negative impacts.

Campsite Facilities

- **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 a cozy dining area and a fully equipped kitchen, so you can enjoy your meals comfortably and without worry. All fresh ingredients are carefully transported by our team of mules to maintain quality and freshness throughout your journey.

Day 4 & 5: Hotel in Aguas Calientes

Enjoy two cozy nights 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

6 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, and 5 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

During the trek, we'll provide warm, previously boiled water at every mealtime while our Andean chefs are with the group. Make sure to bring an empty water bottle or a CamelBak for refills — we recommend a capacity of at least 2 liters.

Wake up tea

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

Tea Time or Happy Hour

Every afternoon before dinner, the cooks will provide you with popcorn, cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, 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!

Snacks on the trail daily

Every morning we'll give you snacks so you can enjoy them during the walk. Your tour leader will provide you a cloth bag with local fruits, biscuits, chocolate, caramels, etc., at the beginning of each day.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Inclusions

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

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: 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 6: Round-Trip Bus Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu.
- Day 6: Private transportation from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.

Day 6: 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 (7 kg / 15.4 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

Optional Horse or Mule Ride Assistance from Soraypampa to Humantay Lake (Day 1)

Optional Horse or Mule Ride Assistance from Soraypampa to Salkantay Pass (Day 2)

Train from Hidroelectrica to Aguas Calientes (Day 4)

If you feel tired or unwell after the previous trekking adventure, you have the option to take the train to Aguas Calientes from Hidroelectrica train station instead of walking.

- US\$ 41.00 per person.

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

Travel Insurance

Personal Hiking Clothing and Gear

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.

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.

Briefing or Informative Meeting

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

Trek Balance Payment (in Cusco)

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

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

Duffel Bag or Canvas Case

The evening before you start your trek, we'll provide you with a duffel bag to pack your clothes for the 6-day Salkantay & Inca Trail trek. Your weight allowance is up to 7 kg / 15.4 lb. Our horses will carry them the first three days of our hike, and then our porters will take them for the following days and 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).

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.

Before You Go

- 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 (or Poroy). 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.

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, camps, tents or restaurants. You're the only one responsible for your objects during the tour.

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- A high-altitude mountain landscape. In the foreground, a white tent with red trim is pitched on a rocky, mossy slope. The background features a massive, rugged mountain peak covered in snow and ice, with a glacier visible on its face. The sky is overcast and misty.
- 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
 - Hiking pants (*)
 - Hiking socks
 - Pair of thermal pants
 - Shorts
 - Long sleeve shirt
 - Warm jacket
 - Waterproof jacket
 - Rain gear or rain poncho
 - Waterproof or wool gloves
 - Sun hat to protect head and face
 - Wool hat for the cold

Packing List - Continued

- 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
- Flashlight



Plan your next adventure with Inja Expeditions

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