



5 Day Classic Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

The Inca Trail trek to Machu Picchu is a truly amazing, educational, challenging, and must have experience! Our 5-Day Classic Trek covers 33.7 miles over 3 high passes, with the highest at **4,215m/ 13,828 feet**. The trip starts and finishes in Cusco, Peru, which sits at **3,400m/ 11,152 feet** and the highlight of the journey happens when you walk into the magical city of Machu Picchu, which sits at **2,430m/ 7,972 feet**, perched on the edge of the Amazon. The journey to Machu Picchu will leave you inspired with true admiration for the incredible Incan people who ran these trails over 500 years ago.

Our itinerary includes two nights in Cusco, one before the trip and one after the trip on a shared basis. We include a full day trip through the Sacred Valley, exploring more of the Inca culture and buildings they left behind. This also serves as excellent acclimatization. On our 5-Day itinerary, we get to explore more of Sayaqmarka, Intipata and Winya Wayna, three of the great Incan sites on route to Machu Picchu.

We have our own staff on the ground in Cusco, and we are available 5 days a week in support of your training and preparation for the trip. You will have access to our office staff who have all trekked on this incredible trail many times. We have the experience and expertise to help you prepare and fully enjoy your journey on the Inca Trail. Once you confirm the booking with us, we send out our trek dossier with full information and details on this adventure. Join us on this unique itinerary to the lost city of the Incas.

BRIEF ITINERARY

- Day 1: Arrive in Cusco/Free time in Cusco
- Day 2: Sacred Valley Tour to Ollantaytambo
- Day 3: Start of Inca Trail – Wayllabamba
- Day 4: Inca Trail – Pacaymayu
- Day 5: Inca Trail – Phuyupatamarca
- Day 6: Inca Trail – Machu Picchu – Hotel in Aguas Calientes
- Day 7: Machu Picchu tour – Back to Cusco
- Day 8: Transfer to airport for onward journey



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive in Cusco 3,400m/ 11,154 feet

Arrive at Cusco International airport. Our team will pick you up from the airport and bring you to the hotel for your stay in Cusco, which is on a shared basis. Because you are arriving at high altitude, we recommend taking this day to rest, rehydrate and slowly take in the sites of this beautiful and historical city! You will stay the night in the nice, 4 Star hotel of our choice, in a shared accommodation. We will have a briefing this evening, to go over the itinerary, and then you will want to get to bed early as tomorrow will be a long day! Remember, you are arriving at high altitude in Cusco at 3,400m/ 11,152 feet above sea level. If you would like to arrive in early to Cusco to further acclimatize, this is also an option!

Day 2: Sacred Valley Tour to Ollantaytambo 2,800m/ 9,186 feet

Today, you'll enjoy a private, full-day tour through Peru's stunning Sacred Valley, beginning with a visit to Chinchero, a colorful Andean village rich in Inca history, traditional weaving, and vibrant local culture. From there, we head to Mahuaypampa, a lesser-known community near Moray, where you'll take part in interactive workshops on traditional Andean agriculture and weaving. Learn ancient techniques passed down through generations and enjoy a farm-to-table lunch prepared with fresh, organic ingredients by local chefs.

Next, we visit Moray, home to the famous circular terraces used by the Incas as an agricultural laboratory, before continuing to Ollantaytambo, one of the most important and well-preserved Inca sites in the Sacred Valley. You'll explore its impressive stonework, rich history, and narrow cobbled streets before settling in for the night in this historic town. This day offers a perfect mix of culture, history, and acclimatization, helping your body adjust to the altitude. We will stay overnight in a hotel in Ollantaytambo tonight.

Day 3: Start of Inca Trail – Wayllabamba 3,100m/ 10,170 feet

The Inca Trail starts with a pickup from your hotel after breakfast, and we continue to the start of the trail, Piscacucho (AKA km 82) at 2,700m/ 8,858 feet. From here, we will have enough time to organize our backpacks and tour the entrance building, where we will learn more about the flora and fauna on the trail. Then, we will go through the controls where we need to present our passports to enter the trail.



In the first stretch of the hike, we will have beautiful views of the landscape and surrounding peaks, such as Apu Huakay Willka 5,850m/ 19,193 feet, otherwise known as Veronica. We will begin to see the many plants and trees of the region, which our team will explain as we walk. After a few hours on the trail, we will stop in Miskay (2,800m/ 9,184 feet), where we will have the first delicious lunch prepared by our chef. After lunch, we will continue a short distance on the trail until we reach an overlook, where we can see the Inca City of Llactapata at 2,750m/ 9,020 feet. From this point, we have a short descent before moving uphill to the Inca site near Tarayoc. We will explore and visit this archaeological site and then continue to Wayllabamba. Today, the hike will take approximately 7 hours at a slow pace.

Day 4: Inca Trail – Pacaymayu 3,500m/ 11,482 feet

We wake up early, have breakfast and get this hike underway. From Wayllabamba we will have a steep hike up 1,115m/ 3,658 feet. The initial ascent is on a steep trail and higher up turns into steep stairs. Our first stop is passing through the check point, where all porters equipment is weighed and permits checked. We will continue for an hour and 30 minutes to Ayapata for a short break. We will then continue another 2 hours up hill to our lunch spot at Llulluchapampa 3,850m/ 12,589 feet. The landscape will change from sierra to puna (a dry and high area with little vegetation). We will also have the chance to spot domesticated llamas and alpacas grazing on Ichu, one of the few plants that grow at that altitude. We also cross an area of the Cloud Forest, which is inhabited by many kinds of birds like hummingbirds and sparrows as well as the Andean Bear, which is also called the Spectacled Bear (*Tremarctus Ornatus*).

After lunch, we begin another steep ascent, up approximately 365m/ 1,148 feet, reaching the high mountain pass of Abra Warmihuañusca, or the Dead Woman Pass, at 4,215m/ 13,828 feet. This should take us approximately 2 hours to reach the top and we will be rewarded with spectacular views! Immediately after the pass, we will descend the steep steps, 715m/ 2,346 feet, into the Pacaymayo Valley at 3,500m/ 11,483 feet where we will camp for the night. This is a long and challenging day with approximately 8 hours of hiking.

Day 5: Inca Trail – Phuyupatamarca 3,700m/ 12,139 feet

After a very early breakfast, we start to climb up to the second pass, the Abra Runkurakay at 3,970m/ 13,022 feet. Halfway up the pass, we will stop to visit the archaeological complex with the same name. This site, located at 3,800m/



12,464 feet, consists of a small oval structure that is believed to have served the purpose of a watchtower.

After visiting the site, we will continue to the top of the pass. It should take approximately 2 hours to reach the top of the pass from the campground. From there, we descend towards Yanacocha (Black Lagoon) and enter the cloud forest. We will then arrive at the beautiful complex of Sayacmarca at 3,624m/ 11,887 feet, which we will do a tour. After the tour, we will arrive at Chaquicocha, where a beautiful lunch will await! It has been a long morning until we reach the lunch spot, so having an extra snack with you to tide you over will be important today!

After lunch, we will continue the trail towards the third pass, the Abra Phuyupatamarca, at 3,700m/ 12,136 feet, where we spend the night. This section of the trail takes us through lush landscapes, with great views off the trail towards Mount Salkantay and the Amazon Forest. We will go through the first of the Incan Tunnels before reaching our camp site at Abra Phuyupatamarca, which means town over the clouds. Tonight, we are high above Macchu Picchu and will have stunning sunsets and views of the surrounding mountains. Today will have been a very long day, but worth it with the wonderful views and experiences you will have! Approximately 7 hours of hiking today.

Day 6: Inca Trail – Machu Picchu – Hotel in Aguas Calientes

After our delicious final breakfast on the trail, we will have a short walk down to the Phuyupatamarca Ruins, where we will have a tour. From there, we will continue down 900m/ 2,952 feet, to reach Wiñayhuayna, on steep stairs all the way down. On the way to Wiñayhuayna, we will stop in to view the beautiful ruins of Intipata. From there, we will continue the descent for half an hour before visiting one of the most impressive Incan sites, Wiñayhuayna, which is built into the side of the mountain. After this spectacular tour of the ruins, we will hike back the same way, to have our last lunch on the Inca Trail. Here, we will thank our porter team and the cook for the great experience we have had.

After lunch, we follow a narrow trail that leads us around Machu Picchu Mountain, towards the Sun Gate (Intipunku), which will give us the first views of the city of Machu Picchu. Before reaching the Sun Gate, we will have a very steep section of approximately 30 steps, which leads you to the exciting and stunning views below! With the views of Machu Picchu City below, you will stand in awe of this unique and mystical place. After enjoying the famous Sun Gate, we will descend for about an hour until we arrive at the Guardian's



House, where we will have the opportunity to contemplate Machu Picchu in all its splendor. We will take photographs and enjoy our first visit to Machu Picchu on our itinerary.

After we have spent some time enjoying the views, we will continue down to the checkpoint, where we will take a bus from the Inca city of Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes, or Machu Picchu town. We will spend the night in a 4-star hotel, on a shared basis. After a well-deserved shower, we will head out for a celebratory dinner at the famous Indio Feliz restaurant.

Day 7: Machu Picchu tour – Back to Cusco

We will wake up early this morning and have breakfast in the hotel before we begin the journey back up to Machu Picchu. From town, we will board a bus, which will take us back up to Machu Picchu City. Here, we will have a complete guided tour of the city, which will take approximately two hours. After the tour, you will have some free time to enjoy the views or if you have booked the climb up Huayna Picchu Mountain (which needs to be booked/paid for in advance), then you will continue to do this. Huayna Picchu will give you spectacular views of all of Machu Picchu, the valleys and mountains that surround it.

Once you are finished in Machu Picchu, you will have your bus ticket to get back down to Aguas Calientes. You will have some free time to explore the city of Aguas Calientes before meeting at a designated time and location set out by the guide. From here, we will take the train back to Ollantaytambo, where our private transportation will await the journey back to Cusco. After a long day, we will reach the hotel in Cusco, and you will be free to enjoy the evening in the city for your final night.

Day 8: Transfer to airport for onward journey

You will be picked up from your hotel in Cusco depending on your flight time. We will drive you to the airport for your onward journey. There are options to join tours to the Amazon, Lake Titicaca and other treasures Peru has on offer. If you decide to spend additional nights in Cusco, we are happy to assist with booking extra nights in the hotel for you.

Important Notes:

Every effort will be made to keep to the above itinerary, but as this is adventure travel in a remote mountain region, we cannot guarantee it.

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Weather conditions, road conditions, vehicle breakdowns and the health of participants can all contribute to changes. The trek leader will try to ensure that the trip runs according to plan, but an easy-going nature will be an asset!

Included in the Price of the Trip:

- Airport transfers to and from Cusco airport to hotel
- Two nights hotel in Cusco (4 Star Hotel on shared basis) breakfast included
- One-night hotel in Aguas Calientes (4 Star Hotel on a shared basis)
- One-night hotel in Ollantaytambo (3 Star Hotel on a shared basis)
- Day tour of the Sacred Valley (additional acclimatization)
- Lunch on Sacred Valley Tour
- Transfer from Ollantaytambo to the start of the Inca Trail
- Entrance ticket to the Inca Trail
- Two entrance ticket to Machu Picchu
- Bus ticket from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes (3 in total)
- Train ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo
- Transfer from train station to hotel in Cusco
- 3 meals a day while on the trek
- Mess tent with chairs where you are served your meals
- Porters (carrying personal gear of 10kg/22lbs per person)
- Guided tour of Machu Picchu
- Dinner and lunch in Aguas Calientes
- Bilingual Guide
- 5 days a week office support

Price Does NOT Include:

- Personal trekking equipment
- International flights to/from Cusco, Peru
- Lunch and dinners while in Cusco
- Dinner in Ollantaytambo
- Alcohol and soft drinks
- Tips for porters/guides (we recommend \$250 per client)
- Ticket to climb Huayna Picchu (Optional, additional \$85)
- Personal insurance coverage (Compulsory)