



PERUVIAN ANDES ADVENTURES SALKANTAY MOUNTAIN TREK TO MACHU PICCHU

5 days Trekking & Machu Picchu Tour
Grade: Hard

For adventurous people we offer this excellent alternative trek to Machu Picchu :-
One of the best non-traditional routes leading to the famous Inca city of Machu Picchu is the trail known as the "Salkantay Machu Picchu Inca Route" or "Alternative Inca Trail". The remote path we take leads us through an amazing array of landscapes and habitats varying from green, rich valleys full of lush forests and blossoming trees of different species to highland fields and glacial moraines flanked by steep rocky and icy peaks of impressive beauty. During our trek we cross a high pass below the spectacular glaciers of the Humantay (5,917m) and Salkantay (6,270m) mountains. The prominent Salkantay (Nevado Salkantay) is the highest peak of the Cordillera Vilcabamba and the 12th highest peak in Peru. From our last camp site, crossing awesome mountain terrain and lush cloud forest landscapes, we trek down to the shores of the Urubamba River and from there by train we will be transported to the small town of Aguas Calientes for a well deserved rest in a comfortable hotel. On the following day we will enjoy a full day tour to visit the amazing "Lost City", of the Incas: the fabulous Machu Picchu.

Enjoy majestic mountain scenery, unique flora & fauna in relative tranquillity, well away from the busy & crowded classic Inca Trail.

The Salkantay Trek offers to visitor beautiful Andean high valleys, many snow-covered peaks and colourful mountain lakes, well preserved landscapes in which the wild fauna and flora have been preserved in natural state. In this adventure we can see original Inca trails lost to the mountains and covered by the passing of time. We often see Condors during this trek and there are plentiful Andean birds and animals such as Andean foxes, deer, and more.

There are long hard days hiking on this trek. It is important to be well acclimatised to the altitude and to have a good fitness level, and have sufficient endurance to be able to hike for long days

Day A: Arrive Cuzco 3400m

Day B & C: Cuzco: Acclimatisation Hikes & Tours

Day 1: Drive Cuzco to Mollepata, Trek to Soraypampa

We will leave Cuzco at 5:00am in our own private bus, and drive to Mollepata. Along the 4½ hour drive, we pass through the town of Limatambo an important point of access to the city of Cuzco during the time of the Inca Empire. We leave Limatambo and drive up a beaten track along the right shore of the Apurimac river to reach the starting point of our trek at Mollepata (2800m) where we will have our breakfast. After breakfast we load our equipment onto the horses and start our trek. We will start with a gradual ascent towards Cruzpata (3100m). During the hike we will appreciate various native plants, native birds, the Apurimac river canyon (which is one of the deepest in Peru), and a community irrigation canal. We have lunch in Cruzpata and then continue in the direction of Soraypampa along a undulating but always climbing trail along which we will see some traditional houses, flora, small wild birds and spectacular views of the Humantay snow peak (5902m). After approximately 4 hours of walking, we will arrive at our campsite in Soraypampa (3900m). From here we can appreciate the majestic peak of Apu Salkantay (6271m). (B+L+D).



Day 2: Soraypampa to Chaullay

After an early breakfast we leave camp approx 7:30 am, continuing our hike through the inspiring Peruvian Highlands. We climb steadily upwards through open grass covered mountain sides for about 3 hours to reach the top of the pass Apacheta 4,650m. From the pass we have spectacular views of the stunning snow capped mountain Salkantay 6,264m and also the mountains Humantay and Huayanay and far below us The White River, small lakes and moraines. We descend down from the pass to our lunch stop at Huayracpunku, and then continue the long descent to our camp at Chaullay 2,920 m. A long but rewarding day - approx 8 hours. .

(B+L+D)



Day 3: Chaullay to La Playa

Another early start, but we wake up to lovely mountain scenery and a hot cup of tea. We will start the trek at 07:00am because we have another long day. We start with an easy 3 hours hike to Uscamayuc, where we will enter a semi tropical region and rain forest called "Ceja de Selva". We can see a fascinating variety of different kind of plants, fruit plantations, banana, passionfruit,

flowers & many species of birds including if we are lucky the famous "Gallito de las Rocas" (Rock Bird) . There is time for a relaxing lunch and to cool off with a shower under a waterfall. We continue hiking along an undulating trail to the village of La Playa 2400m. We hike 8 to 9 hours today including rest & lunch stops.. (B+L+D).



Day 4: La Playa to Aguas Calientes

From La Playa we take local transport for a short 20 minute ride to Lucma (or we will hike if there is no local transport available at the time we arrive) From here we start our climb of about 3 hours to a new discovered Inca Site of Llactapata. Sometimes from here if the skies are clear we can see a glimpse of Machu Picchu in the distance. We then have a downhill hike of 2 ½ hours to the Hydroelectric Station where we hope to arrive by 3:00 pm. We will take the local train with a ride of about 45 minutes to the thermal resort of Aguas Calientes where you can enjoy a long soak in the therapeutic hot mineral baths - a great way to relax after some long days hiking! The baths are open until 09:00pm. In the evening we have dinner at a nice local restaurant. Hotel in Aguas Calientes on a twin share bases. (B+L)



Day 5: Tour Machu Picchu & Return to Cuzco

Early wake up (by 05:30a.m.), have breakfast and after leaving our luggage in safe storage at the hotel, we will take the early tourist bus up to Machu Picchu. The first bus leaves at 06:00am and it is a 35 minute ride. Usually we arrive at Machu Picchu around 6:50am so that we can enjoy the peace, relative solitude and magic of Machu Picchu before the tourist trains arrive from Cuzco. We have a guided tour with an English speaking guide of about 2 ½ hours. The rest of the day you have free to enjoy the atmosphere of this amazing site. You can climb up Huayna Picchu Mountain for spectacular views over the entire Machu Picchu site (about 1 hour 40 mins round trip) or visit the Temple of the Moon or the fabulous Inca Bridge.

NOTE: it is necessary to buy an entrance ticket in Cuzco to hike up Huayna Picchu at the same time that you book your Salkantay trek
Enjoy lunch in Aguas Calientes (included)

We meet in the afternoon back at Aguas Calientes and take the train back to Cuzco & transfer to your hotel. (B,L)

Recommended Train Timetable:

Note: Train timetables are subject to change at any time. We will attempt to book tickets on this train, but if there are timetable changes or trains are fully booked, we may need to book an alternative service (may be subject to additional prices)

Vistadome Train: Depart Aguas Calientes 16:22pm, arrive Cuzco 20:00pm



B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner