



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 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 prior to the trek, as acclimatization to the low levels of oxygen. During the time in Cusco, 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 Sapaqmarka and Winya Wayna, two 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 your 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.

Itinerary

- Day 1: Arrive in Cusco/Free time in Cusco**
- Day 2: Sacred Valley Tour**
- Day 3: Start of Inca Trail – Llactapata 2,750m/ 9020 feet**
- Day 4: Inca Trail – Llulluchapampa 3,850m/ 12,589 feet**
- Day 5: Inca Trail – Phuyapatamarca 3,600m/ 11,772 feet**
- 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 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 into high altitude, we recommend

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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 into high altitude in Cusco at 3,400m/ 11,152 feet above sea level.

Day 2: Full day private Sacred Valley Tour including: PISAQ remains, PISAQ market, local corn beer brewery, Ollantaytambo remains, Ollantaytambo village and return to Cusco. The PISAQ and Ollantaytambo remains are very special experiences in themselves, along with mixing with the culture, this day will live long in the memory. This day also gives your body a chance to acclimatize to the lower levels of oxygen. After a long day of travel, you will return to your hotel in Cusco. The day you will start at 8am and finish at 6pm and will include lunch along the way.

Day 3: The Inca Trail starts with a pickup from your hotel after breakfast, and then drive to the town of Ollantaytambo, where you can pick up any last-minute items you may need. From Ollantaytambo, 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 present our passports in order 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 descend to the ruins of Llactapata, next to which we set our camp. We will spend the afternoon exploring and visiting this archaeological site. Today, the walk will take approximately 5 hours at a slow pace.

Day 4: We wake up early to continue trekking along the valley created by the Kusichaca River, gradually climbing until we reach the farming community of Wayllabamba at 3,100m/ 10,170 feet. Along the way, we will see spectacular views of the Vilcanota Mountain Range, on the opposite side of the Urubamba River. Before lunch, we will stop in to explore the first Incan site of the day,



just off the main trail. After an explanation of the Ruins and a chance to explore them, we will continue to Wayllabamba, where we will stop for lunch.

After lunch, we begin the long ascent, up approximately 750m/ 2,461 feet, to our camp site where we will stop for the night. Llulluchapampa Camp sits at 3,850m/ 12,589 feet, and will spoil us with beautiful sunset views! Along the climb today, 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 different kinds of birds like hummingbirds and sparrows as well as the Andean Bear, which is also called the Spectacled Bear (*Tremarctus Ornatus*). Today is a tough and long day and we will reach a high altitude at 3,850m/ 12,589 feet.

Day 5: After a very early breakfast, we will continue our hike up the highest point in the Inca Trail, reaching the high mountain pass of Abra Warmihuañusca, or the Dead Woman Pass, at 4,215m/ 13,776 feet. This should take us approximately 2 hours to reach the top and we will be rewarded by the spectacular views! Immediately after the pass, we will descend the steep steps, into the Pacaymayo Valley at 3,500m/ 11,483 feet. From here, we then 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. 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 on 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!

Day 6: 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 50 steps, which leads you up to the exciting and stunning views below! With the views of Machu Picchu city below, you will stand in awe of this unique mystical place. After enjoying the famous Sun Gate, we will descend for about an hour until we arrive 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 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: We will wake 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 on 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, for 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: 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.

Included in the Price of the Trip:

- Airport transfers to and from Cusco airport to hotel
- Three 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)
- Day tour of the Sacred Valley (additional acclimatization)
- Lunch on Sacred Valley Tour
- Transfer from Cusco to the start of the Inca Trail
- Entrance ticket to the Inca Trail
- 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 in Aguas Calientes
- Bilingual Guide
- 5 days a week individual assistance to each client prior to trek

Price Does NOT Include:

- Personal trekking equipment
- International flights to/from Cusco, Peru
- Lunch and dinners while in Cusco
- Tips for porters/guides (we recommend \$150-\$200 per client)
- Ticket to climb Huayna Picchu (Optional)
- Personal insurance coverage (Compulsory)

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