



The Other Inca Trail Day by day description

Day 1 CUSCO / Q'ENTE

Take the train from Cusco or Ollantaytambo for a scenic ride as the Sacred Valley narrows to become almost a gorge. We disembark at Qoriwayrachina (KM. 88 on the railroad to Machu Picchu) and visit the site overlooking the Urubamba river and the area known as Q'ente. Crossing the bridge we visit the complex of Q'entemarca and return to the Interpretation Centre for lunch. Afternoon hike to the sites of Machu Q'ente and Wayna Q'ente and its impressive buildings that have not been restored. Return to campsite at Q'ente.

Day 2 Q'ENTE / CHACHABAMBA

Leaving early we follow the course of the Urubamba River for the whole day. From dry andean pastures and interandean vegetation we begin to experience the proximity of the cloud forest as the surrounding vegetation changes. We follow this Inca Trail - restored in places that have weathered over the years. Magnificent views of side-gulleys, a chance to see a variety of bird life and small Inca sites along the way until we reach Chachabamba, a small Inca garrison and checkpoint where we camp.

Day 3 CHACHABAMBA / WIÑAY WAYNA / MACHU PICCHU

Leaving our camp the trail climbs slowly out of the valley floor cutting a clear swath across a grassy hillside until we reach the gully of Winay Wayna and a scenic waterfall - reaching the site from below. This site, moulded into the gully pays tribute to water with twelve water fountains/baths built sequentially through the complex - probably a purification site for visitors. Above it on the same water course lies Phuyupatamarca ruins and below it Choquesuysuy - a recently restored site. After visiting the complex, we have lunch at the Visitor Centre and continue on the new wider trail until reaching Intipunku (the door of the sun) where we get our first and fantastic view of the citadel of Machu Picchu. After a short respite we continue downhill on the Inca Trail, catching the bus to descend to our hotel in town, dinner on your own.

Day 4 MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

The whole day can be dedicated to explore these extraordinary Inca remains, with your guide including an optional visit to Wayna Picchu the hill overlooking the site. The mid-afternoon train takes you back to Cusco, transfer to your hotel, lunch and dinner on your own.

SERVICES INCLUDED: Transportation by vehicle to start and from the end of trek to the city of departure, hotel night at Machu Picchu, two-man tents including sleeping pads, porters, kitchen crew and commissary gear with all meals included. Bilingual guide on the trek, who will handle the first aid kit. Entrance fee to the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Inca Trail (USD\$50.00 per passenger).

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED: Meals in the cities, alcoholic beverages, extras, tips, taxes, laundry service, and hotel night in Cusco, additional tours, insurance and airline tickets (where applicable), sleeping bags, hiking boots and other personal gear.