



Cordillera Vilcabamba and Choquequirao Day by day description

Day 1 CUSCO/MOLLEPATA/PAROBAMBA

Drive over Tika-Tika pass with first view of Mt. Salkantay and Humantay in the horizon. Cross the plateau of Anta (Antapampa) an area that's considered the breadbasket of Cusco. We reach the pass of Limatambo with an amazing view of both mountains and the panorama of the lush agricultural valley below. We visit the ruins of Tarawasi with its long asymmetric Inca stone wall. Continue down the paved road reaching a low of 2,380m (7,758 ft). At this point a winding road zig-zags uphill to Mollepata at 2,900m (9,512 ft). We start hiking at this village for about an hour until we reach our campsite at Parobamba. Overnight at camp at 3,200m (10,496 ft) (Bus: 3 hours/Trekking: 1 hour)

Day 2 PAROBAMBA/CRUZPATA/CHECCHICANCHA/SORAYPAMPA

The trail climbs sharply for about an hour until we reach Cruzpata (3,250m / 10,660ft), where we get the first magnificent view of Mt. Humantay at the end of the valley. We continue past Oncopata to the lunch-spot at Checchicancha located at 3,600 (11,808 ft), a small flat field with a view of Mt. Yanantay and Humantay. The last part of the trail brings us to 3,900 m (12,815 ft) at Soraypampa where there are small settlements of cattle herders. We camp at the pampa (esplanade) below Mt. Salkantay, with a magnificent view of its snow-capped peak. (Trekking: 6-7 hours).

Day 3 SORAYPAMPA/APACHETA/WAYRAHMACHAY

Leaving our campsite we head towards the terminal moraine of Mt. Salkantay to a flat area known as Salkantaypampa. From here the trail begins to ascend past boulders reaching a scree slope which it traverses to reach Apacheta Pass, a great opportunity to look towards the other pass at Incachiriaska, into a small lake below the Mt. Salkantay's ice field and the huge expanse of the moraine full of boulders and magnificent views of Mt. Salkantay and its ice flute. The trail winds its way through the landscape downhill towards a large pampa called Wayrahmachay where we camp at 3,800 m (Trekking – 7 hours)

Day 4 WAYRAHMACHAY/COLPABAMBA/TOTORA/QUISWARPAMPA

We begin our descent all the way to the river and have lunch at the bottom. From here we start our ascent towards Cachora, camping in a small pampa called Cocamasana. (Distance: 6 kms, time 6hrs)

Day 5 QUISWARPAMPA/YANAMA

An ascent to the pass at Quiswar (4,480 m) enables us to view the surrounding peaks of the Cordillera Vilcabamba. To the South Mt. Salkantay and Humantay and to the north Mt. Pumasillo, Quiswar and Panta. A winding trail downhill brings us to a fertile valley of farmers near the village of Yanama - camp in the outskirts. (Trekking: 6 hours)

Day 6 YANAMA/ MINA VICTORIA

Today is a short day to Mina Victoria, we leave at mid - morning with lunch en route, with a beautiful view behind us of Mt. Pumasillo and surrounding landscapes on an old trail used in Inca and colonial times for the extraction of minerals. Camp in the vicinity of Mina Victoria (Trekking: 5 hours)



Day 7 MINA VICTORIA/YURAHMAYO

Leaving Mina Victoria, beautiful views on the one side of the Pumasillo Massif and as we face west and begin our descent into the Yurah-mayo river valley we will see the arid canyon lands and a spectacular landscape that surrounds us. The steep descent past harvested fields and into a gully will bring us to the river, a chance to wash up and continue a short way up to our campsite. (Trekking: 5 hours)

Day 8 YURAHMAYO/CHOQUEKIRAO

A relatively steep ascent up the Yurahmayo valley will bring us to a pass in whose vicinity we will come across some Inca stone structures. From the pass an amazing view of the surrounding and landscape of hills and the Apurimac canyon below.

On the slopes of the mountain where we stand we will see the first structures and groups of buildings we will visit tomorrow. Set up camp below the pass. (Trekking: 4 hours)

Day 9 CHOQUEKIRAO

All day to explore the ruins, hike around the different structures on the hillside and a chance to relax in this amazing location which some visitors classify as spectacular as Machu Picchu.

Day 10 CHOQUEKIRAO/CACHORA

A steep descent, will bring us to the shores of the Apurimac River, cross a bridge and edge along a trail leaving the river behind into a fertile valley. In the vicinity of the village of Cachora we will camp for the night (Trekking: 7 hours)

Day 11 CACHORA/ CUSCO

Leaving early we have a chance to visit the village where our vehicle will meet us. A winding road will bring us to a pass at 3,800m in where we meet the main asphalt road that connects the Panamerican Highway with Cusco. A small detour to visit the Sayhuite Stone, a beautifully carved rock embedded in a patchwork of fields that represent supposedly the Inca Trail network of the Inca Empire. From here a three hour bus-ride will bring us into Cusco where you will be dropped off at your hotel, overnight included (end of services)

SERVICES INCLUDED: Transportation by vehicle to start and from the end of trek to your city of departure, two-man tents including sleeping pads, pack animals, kitchen crew and commissary gear with all meals included as well as a bilingual guide on the trek, who will handle the first aid kit.

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

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

An extra two days option can be arranged on request to make a detour and visit the base camp of Mt. Pumasillo for a longer trek. This option would extend the trip to a 13D/12N program. The extra cost for these additional two days depends on group size.

Day 6 YANAMA/PACCHAQ

A winding steep trail takes us over two passes at about 4,000 m before we reach the hanging valley of Pacchaq. A meadow located below a beautiful waterfall below one of the ice fields of Mt. Pumasillo will be our campsite. Since we arrive in the early afternoon there is a chance to roam sectors of this valley or just relax at camp at 3,800 masl.



Day 7 PACCHAC/QUELCAMACHAY

Early departure leaving this valley, we traverse the crest passing a series of small lakes to reach the meadow of Quelcamachay, below the rock-spires of Choquetacarpo Pass. From the treeless landscape of craggy hill sides above the Apurimac Valley that surround us we enter a small forest towards the end of the day passing meadows to our campsite at 3,800 m (here we can have a rest day, to hike up to the pass of Choquetacarpo and just relax or it can be in Pachaq)

Day 8 QUELCAMACHAY/YANAMA/MINA VICTORIA

Following the stream we head back towards Yanama spending most of the day skirting the wooded valley to reach the valley floor near Yanama - an agricultural community (Here we could have the option to hike up to Mina Victoria in the afternoon to avoid the school - kids and the activity of onlookers). From the village we head west up an old mule trail spectacular views on this narrow stone Inca trail towards Mt. Pumasillo and a chance to view the trail we have done over the last few days - camp near an old mine at Mina Victoria. (Continues on day 6 of original itinerary)