



Peaks of Southern Peru: Mt. Salkantay and Mt. Ausangate 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) that's considered the breadbasket of Cusco, important for grains and cattle. We reach the pass of Limatambo with an amazing view of both mountains and the panorama of the lush agricultural valley below. Visit the ruins of Tarawasi with its long asymmetric Inca stone wall. Continue down the paved road reaching a low of 2,380m (7,806 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) (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 (12,792 ft) at Soraypampa where there are small settlements of cattle herders. We camp at the Pampa (esplanade) below Mt. Salkantay, with Mt. Humantay out of view. (Trekking: 6-7 hours).

Day 3 SORAYPAMPA / INCACHIRIASKA / SISAYPAMPA

An early departure starting with a slow uphill climb will bring us to Salkantaypampa below the terminal moraine of Mt. Salkantay. This beautiful mountain 6,040m (19,811ft) tall will dominate the views of the whole day. We start a steep ascent slowly reaching a pampa below the pass at 4,650 (15,252 ft) at a dry lake to make the last push to the Incachiriaska pass at 4,850m (15,908 ft), with a beautiful view of the two glacial lakes below the ice flutes of Mt. Salkantay. Leaving the watershed view behind, a steep descent at first brings us to a flat pampa below the eastern glacier of Mt. Salkantay. From here the trail levels off downhill, until we reach our campsite at Sisaypampa at 4,200m (13,776 ft) with a dominating view of the eastern face of the mountain. (Trekking: 7-9 hours)

Day 4 SISAYPAMPA / PAMPACCAHUA / PAUCARCANCHA / Q'ENTE

The trail continues to the end of the valley, turns north and enters a wider valley called Pampacahua with an Inca canal running through the middle of it and small settlements of farmers along its edges. At the end of the Pampa the trail begins to get steeper as we pass the tree line, continuing to our campsite at Paucarcancha, our first Inca site and the confluence of the Pampacahua and Keska valleys. Continue down the main trail, past the village of Huayllabamba reaching the railway station on the Urubamba River at Q'oriwayrachina. Here we wait for the afternoon train to take us to Ollantaytambo where we overnight at a local hostel.

Day 5 MACHU PICCHU / OLLANTAYTAMBO

Leaving Q'ente by train we take a full day tour to Machu Picchu the famed citadel of the Incas returning in the afternoon train to Ollantaytambo, lunch included.



Day 6 OLLANTAYTAMBO / TINKI

Leaving early by vehicle we will travel along the Sacred Valley passing the villages of Urubamba, Calca, Pisac to finally reach Huambutío. From here the road winds slowly uphill with great views of the surrounding landscape until reaching Huancarane, where a narrow dust road will bring us over a Pass to Ccatca as we get our first views of the Cordillera Vilcanota. We finally arrive at Tinki passing small communities of farmers and herders with a short visit to the town of Ocongate.

Day 6 TINKI / UPIS

Start the day visiting a local family and their way of life at the community of Q'oñamuro and then continue across the wide open places above the tree line past small settlements of herders and weavers - their crafts will be on sale. As we slowly approach the northern face of Mt. Ausangate we will run into herds of alpacas. A crew of packhorses and llamas will accompany us along the way. Camp at Upis, with snow capped mountains around us at 4,400m. (14,432 ft) (Trekking: 5 - 6 hours).

Day 7 UPIS / NINAPARAYOC

Crossing a high crest which brings us closer to Mt. Ausangate we continue across a marshy plain, along small lakes that are important ritual sites for the local communities and then head over another pass to Lake Ninaparayoc where we camp with views of the Jampa peaks and Mt. Callangate with its immense ice-field.

Day 8 NINAPARAYOC / PACHASPATA / QOMERCOCHA / PACCHANTA

A trail from our campsite will bring us to the edge of Mt. Callangate ice-field and views of the Jampa pass. At Pachaspata the trail veers to the left and we begin our descent past two lakes, Qomercocha and Hamarcocha, to reach Pacchanta, a community of herders and potato growers with a magnificent view of the highland savannah. A chance to dip in the hotspings and relax at our last campsite.

Day 9 PACCHANTA / TINKI / CUSCO

A few hours traversing the high pampas brings us to Tinki, the roadhead. From here a five hour ride in a vehicle will bring us back to Cusco. (Overnight at hotel not included).

Note:

- a) Two days of acclimatization in the highlands of Cusco are mandatory to undertake this trip.**
- b) Day 5 is optional if you don't want to visit Machu Picchu we will deduct cost from final price and you can relax that day in Q'ente or travel early to Ollantaytambo.**

SERVICES INCLUDED: Transportation by vehicle to start and from the end of trek to your city of departure, hotel night at the beginning and end. Two-man tents including sleeping pads, pack animals or porters, 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: 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.