



Culture Trekking Day by day description

Day 1 CUSCO / URUBAMBA

Leaving Cusco we visit the village of Chinchero and the ruins of the Palace of Inca Sinchi Roca. From here we take a detour to the village of Maras - a colonial village with many stone hewn porticos - important from the colonial salt trading days. We head downhill on a trail to the salt mines - a series of ponds built like small terraces where the salt is produced by evaporation. The trail takes us to the Urubamba valley - lunch by the river-side. A vehicle will pick us up to continue to Ollantaytambo where we will have a chance to visit this living Inca village - its fortress located on a promontory overlooking the valley. Overnight at a local hotel, dinner on your own.

Day 2 OLLANTAYTAMBO / PARPISHU/CHILIPAHUA

Leaving Ollantaytambo we cross the bridge at Pachar and head up the narrow gulley towards the town of Huaracocondo. At 3,100 m we will arrive at a footbridge of Parpishu, starting point of our trek. From here the trail starts ascending slowly, leaving the valley behind us. The trail continues to the pass of Watuq'asa (3,900 m.) where we have lunch and then continue on. We will see an Inca wall and Tambo known as Qosqoq'awarina (the place where we can see Cusco) that surrounds the pass. Views of Mt. Pumahuanca, Chicon and Mt. Veronika. From here the trail descends to the left ending at a small valley with a stream running through it called Anapahua, we continue over to Chilipahua - a small community where we camp.

Day 3 CHILIPAHUA / ANCASCOCHA

We leave our campsite and head north west, slowly ascending past some small houses at Incaraqay - a community of sheep herders on the high puna. From here a one hour hike will bring us over another Pass at Pampaq'asa (4,200 m.) down into the gulley of the Silque river to then reach the Pass at Ancascocha (4,450 m.). Here we are in full view of Mt. Huayanay and the Silque Valley. We camp near a lake.

Day 4 ANCASCOCHA / KESKA

Over the pass of Huayanay at 4,800 m., now the trail descends into the ruins of Inca Raqay - a series of small corrals, until reaching Moyo-Moyo, valley with a small waterfall at 3,800m. We continue down the Keska Valley, past small house holds of farmers working on their patchwork fields. We camp along the valley floor.

Day 5 QESKA / QENTE

We reach recently restored Paucarcancha, an Inca site that was a check point located at the confluence of two valleys - Keska and Pampacchahua. From here the trail follows the Cusichaca valley passing Huayllabamba, a village of corn farmers to finally reach the area of Q'ente, overlooking the Urubamba river - which in Inca times was intensively farmed - evidenced by the many sites found in the area - Cusichaca, Q'entemarca, (formerly known as Patallacta), Machu Q'ente and WaynaQ'ente. Camp in the vicinity of the farm-house.



Day 6 Q'ENTE/WIÑAY WAYNA/ MACHU PICCHU

Visit the area and catch the train in mid-morning to Km 104 at Chachabamba. We cross the bridge and start to hike up to the Chachabamba site, and after a brief visit begin a four hour ascent to the ruins of Wiñay Wayna an important spiritual site. The Inca Trail cuts across the ridge above Machu Picchu to finally reach Intipunku (the door of the sun) from where the trail winds downhill. The classic vista into the lost citadel located right above the Urubamba River will be a unique experience. Overnight at a hostel in Aguas Calientes, dinner on your own.

Day 7 MACHU PICCHU/CUSCO

Next morning, after an early breakfast, a guided visit the citadel and surrounding complexes, optional hike up to the top of Wayna Picchu. Lunch included. Return by train to Cusco (or the Sacred Valley).

SERVICES INCLUDED: Local hotels on double basis, transportation to beginning and from end of trek, entry fees, bilingual guides, all meals and two man tents, pack animals, kitchen crew, and first aid kit.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED: Alcoholic beverages, extras, taxes, tips, laundry service, additional tours and insurance.