



Festival Trek Day by day description

Day 1 CUSCO (July 08)

Transfer from the airport on arrival after a 55 minute flight to Cusco, center of the Inca Empire. Rest of the morning free to relax and slowly acclimatize. In the afternoon, a city and nearby ruins tour will educate you on the history of this astonishing town, while visiting its Inca and colonial monuments, meals on your own and overnight at a hotel.

Day 2 OLLANTAYTAMBO / EPSAYCOCHA LAKE (July 09)

Drive across a big pampa into the Sacred Valley to Ollantaytambo. An early visit to the citadel and fortress departing by vehicle up the Patacancha valley to the roadhead. We leave the valley behind and pass small communities of potato growers to reach the end of the road and a hike today brings us to Epsaycocha Lake where we camp at roughly 4,000m (13,120 ft).

Day 3 KAHUAN / LARES (July 10)

Today we cross our first pass over a well used ancient trail with views of the surrounding hills and snow – capped peaks of the Plateriayoh Cordillera. We pass a small community of colorfully dressed andean people built mostly of stone huts called Huacawasi and camp beyond near the thermal baths of Lares.

Day 4 LARES/ CHOQUEPUCYU (July 11)

We walk a short distance past the village of Lares and across a little used dirt road that penetrates the cloud forest continuing our ascent past another picturesque andean community of Choquecancha where the main square keeps inca stone walls, crossing over a second pass at 3,600m (11,808 ft) to Choquepucyu camp. As we gaze out towards the east, craggy peaks slowly become rolling hills.

Day 5 CHOQUEPUCYU / AMPARAES (July 12)

Descending slowly we cross a small road again and hike uphill slightly past the village of Amparaes, the commercial base between the Urubamba and the Mapacho River, cross the village and the, a small ascent, to our third pass 3800 m (12,464 ft) where we head downstream until arriving to Pitukiska an area of potato growers and herders. The colorful dress and intricate weaving immediately strikes us as the village is getting ready to participate in the yearly festivities. Camp past the village near a small stream, amidst the small fields.

Day 6 PITUKISKA / BOMBON / CHIMOR (July 13)

Today we descend, from the top to the middle of the mountain, on the way to the Mapacho River, until we find the community of Chimor, where excellent weavers will weave for us with their magnify handicraft. Here we will probably find that some villagers have already left for the festival nearby. Camp past the village near some hot springs.



Day 7 PAUCARTAMBO (July 14)

At the end of the trail we will be picked up by a vehicle and taken to the town. As we approach Paucartambo we will hear and witness the festive mood. Bands playing and warming up in the houses where the different dance groups practice and train for the procession on the 16th of July. Camp in the vicinity and early rest.

Day 8 TRES CRUCES / PAUCARTAMBO (July 15)

A midnight departure by bus on the road eastwards brings us to the mountain entrance of the Manu National Park. At Acyanacu, a narrow twisting dirt road brings us to the view-point protected from the cold winds by a small hut where an amazing sunrise of the rainforest below can be witnessed. This balcony into the amazon headwaters is a unique environment of almost spiritual and mythical characteristics where in ancient times the sun was probably worshiped. Return to camp and enjoy the festivity, as it gears for the central day.

Day 9 PAUCARTAMBO /CUSCO (July 16)

The Mamacha Carmen or the Virgen del Carmen is paraded through the village preceded by dance troupes each with a separate band and costumes representing peoples from the day-to-day life and recent history of the Andes. An amazing and unique spectacle. At the end of the day we will board our bus and head back to Cusco, arriving in the late evening. Dinner on your own, overnight at hotel.

SERVICES INCLUDED: hotel with breakfast, tours where included, entrance fees to archaeological sites, transportation, transfers on arrival as well as official guides in the main sites. Two man tents, camp crew, sleeping mats, all meals, pack animals and drivers, all meals and commissary gear as well as a bilingual guide.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED: Meals in the main cities, alcoholic beverages, extras, tips, laundry services, additional tours, insurance and airline tickets.