



The Cordillera Vilcanota Trek Day by day description

Day 1 - CUSCO/OCONGATE/TINKI (Sunday)

Pick-up at your hotel in Cusco. Leaving by vehicle southwards we arrive at Huambutio and start our winding ascent to the village of Huancarane. From here we continue over a rolling landscape and at the pass we view the Cordillera Vilcanota on the horizon for the first time. Descend past the village of Ccatca and outlying communities to finally reach Ocongate and a chance for last minute purchases. Continue to Tinki where we set our first camp at 3,800 m. (12,464ft.)

Day 2 - TINKI/UPIS (Monday)

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 4,400 m. (14,432 ft.)(Trekking: 5-6 hours, Distance: 9kms).

Day 3 - UPIS/PUKACOCHA (Tuesday)

Our campsite is left below us as we slowly ascend up Upispampa, getting closer to the north face of Ausangate. An ascent up the Inkapampa valley brings us to the Arapa Pass at 4,670 m. (15,318 ft.). We border and traverse the arid rolling landscape to then slowly descend to the small lakes past the valley of Samacancha to arrive at Lake Pucacocha below one of the Ausangate glaciers - a beautiful campsite at 4,575 m. (15,006 ft.). If we are lucky, we will hear and see ice falling. Above the campsite the rock spire Mt. Sorimana will stand guard. (Time: 7 hours, Distance: 8Kms)

Day 4 PUKACOCHA/AUSANGATECOCHA/PALOMANI/WANU WANU (Wednesday)

Leaving camp, a slow ascent will bring us to the Alcatani pass at 4,650 m. (15,252 ft.). Here we begin our descent to Ausangatecocha - a beautiful blue lake formed by the melting glacier with a view of the southern face covered with glacial formations. From Ausangatecocha we start a steep ascent to the Palomani pass at 5,050 m. (16,564 ft.). As we cross into the valley of Machuraqay we will see beautiful views of Mt. Mariposa with its cone peak. We descend to Chillcaphinaya at 4,400 m. (14,432 ft.), a valley filled with grazing Alpacas. The surrounding ridges of the Cordillera Vilcanota have varying hues of rock, sand and reddish earth - a unique Andean panorama. We ascend to the large pampa of Wanu Wanu where we camp at 4,450 m. (14,596 ft.)

Day 5 - WANU WANU/NINAPARAYOC/PACCHANTA (Thursday)

Walking to the headwaters of Waru Waru, with Mt. Acero looming above us (also known as Huamantilla) we reach the run off from the glacier. As we begin our ascent to the pass of Jampa, Mt. Callangate, with its jagged spires covered in ice, dominates our trek as we edge our way over the pass at 4,950m. (16,236 ft) with its retreating glacier and ice-fields beckoning us closer. We have lunch at Pachapata. The ridge above offers a view of the Lake Qomercocha and Hamacocha. We traverse the ridge and enter the waterhead of Mt. Ninaparayoc with its lake below. A nice walk down this valley with Mt. Ausangate behind us - we have now completed almost a full circle around the mountain. Rolling hills now extend below us as we hike into Pacchantata for a chance to visit the hot springs, camp and overnight.



Day 6 - PACCHANTA/TINKI/CUSCO (Friday)

Leaving our community camp-site with a chance to buy local textiles, we head down to Tinki crossing the vast hills and fields that are occupied by local peasants, until we reach Tinki at midday. After lunch we get in our vehicle returning to Cusco the way we came.

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: Meals in the cities last hotel night (Day 6), alcoholic beverages, extras, tips, laundry service, additional tours, insurance and airline tickets (where applicable), sleeping bags, hiking boots and other personal gear.