



Inca Trails of Cusco Day by day description

Day 1 CUSCO (Saturday)

Arriving in Cusco, the center of the old Inca Empire, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the morning free to acclimatize to the altitude (3,460 m.a.s.l./11,400 ft.). An afternoon tour of the city and nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman, Kenko and Tambomachay will educate you on the history of this astonishing city. Lunch and dinner on your own.

Day 2 - URCOS/ANDAHUAYLILLAS/PIKILLACTA/TIPON/CUSCO(Sunday)

Early morning drive for about an hour to Urcos, a colorful Andean market, where traditional trading of goods takes place. On the return drive, we will visit the colonial church of Andahuaylillas with its renowned frescoes and the pre-Inca Wari site at Pikillacta, the rest of the morning we will explore these ruins. After lunch visit the Inca ruins at Tipon below Mt. Pachatusan with its water - fountains on the terraced hillside, which characterize this important site. Lunch will be provided en route. Late afternoon return to Cusco, dinner on your own.

Day 3 - PIURAY/HUCHUY QOSQO (Monday)

A very early departure to the beginning of our hike either near Chinchero or Ccorao. A slow ascent brings us to the pass at Huchuy Qosqo, with a beautiful view of the peaks of Pituisiray and Sawasiray and the Urubamba Valley below. Descent to Huchuy Qosqo - where one of the few standing three story Inca buildings dominates the complex. Continue downhill until we arrive at the Sacred Valley of the Incas, where a vehicle will pick us up and transfer to our country inn.

Day 4 - MARAS/MORAY/OLLANTAYTAMBO (Tuesday)

Visit Maras and Moray in the morning and walk down past the salt mines to the river valley. Maras is renowned for its colonial doorways having been an important trading town for the open pit salt mines nearby. Moray is an Inca construction shaped like an amphitheater. It is said that the area was used to acclimatize plants and domesticate them. In the afternoon we will visit the fortress at Ollantaytambo and the Inca village of the same name - one of the few vestiges of Inca urban design that can still be appreciated. Lunch and overnight at the same country inn dinner on your own.

Day 5 - OLLANTAYTAMBO/WIÑAY WAYNA/MACHU PICCHU (Wednesday)

We take the train to Machu Picchu, leaving from the valley train station. An ever narrowing gorge brings us to Km. 104 where we begin our guided hike on the famed Inca Trail. Past the Chachabamba ruins, a three hour ascent through highland grasses and a small gulley, brings us to Wiñay Wayna. From here a winding trail through a cloud forest, which cuts across a ridge, brings us finally to the door of the sun, Intipunku with a spectacular view of the citadel of Machu Picchu below. Overnight at a hotel, dinner on your own.

Day 6 - MACHU PICCHU/CUSCO (Thursday)

After a full-day tour of the citadel we will return to Cusco in the afternoon train arriving in the evening. Also, a chance to visit the site early in the morning before the tourist train arrives, permitting to photograph the site without many visitors. Transfer from the train station to your hotel, dinner on your own.



Day 7 - CUSCO/OUT (Friday)

After breakfast transfer to the airport or train station for your ongoing destination.

SERVICES INCLUDED: Transportation, bilingual guides, breakfasts and lunches during full day excursions (hikes or river trips), lodging on double basis in comfortable country inns and entry fees to museums or archaeological sites during journey. Entrance fee to the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Inca Trail (USD\$50.00 per passenger)

NOT INCLUDED: Lunches in the cities, dinners on the trip, alcoholic beverages, extras, taxes, tips, laundry service, additional tours, insurance and airline tickets.