



Backcountry Trek to Machu Picchu

Day by day description

Day 1 CUSCO / MOLLEPATA / SORAY / SALKANTAYPAMPA (Sunday)

Drive over Tika-Tika pass with a first view of Mt. Salkantay and Humantay in the horizon. Cross the plateau of Anta (Antapampa), an area 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. We visit the ruins of Tarawasi with its long asymmetric Inca stone wall. Continue down the paved road reaching (7,758 ft). At this point a winding road zig-zags uphill until reaching Mollepata at 2,900m (9,454 ft). We continue on a narrower track for another hour paying Cruzpata, Oncopata and Checchicancha getting our first view of Mt. Humantay close up, with a view of Mt. Yanantay. The last part of the track brings us to 3,900 m (12,815 ft) at Soraypampa where there are small settlements of cattle herders. We camp at the Pampa (esplanade) below Mt. Salcantay, with Mt. Humantay out of sight. (Trekking: 2 hours).

Day 2 SALKANTAYPAMPA / APACHETA / WAYRAHMACHAY/ COLPAPAMPA (Monday)

Leaving our campsite we head towards the terminal moraine, from here the trail begins to ascend the past boulders reaching a scree slope which it traverses to reach Apacheta Pass, a great opportunity to look towards the other pass at Incachiriaska, into a small lake below Mt. Salkantay's ice flute and the huge expanse of the moraine. The trail winds its way through the landscape downhill towards a large pampa called Wayrahmachay. (Trekking: 8 hours, Distance: 12 kms).

Day 3 COLPAPAMPA / WIÑAYPOQO/ LUCMABAMBA (Tuesday)

We begin our descent all the way to the Sta. Teresa River and arrive at the bottom at Colpapampa (2850 m / 9,348 ft) where we camp. A chance to relax and soak in the thermal baths. Down the headwaters of the Santa Teresa Valley. As the trail slowly borders this valley the vegetation changes into cloud forest passing small plots of farmers growing coffee and tropical fruits until reaching the meadow of Wiñay poqo.

Day 4 LUCMABAMBA / PALTALLACTA / HIDROELECTRICA (Wednesday)

We continue our descent along the Sta Teresa Valley, passing by San Ignacio, and the roadhead at Playa. (2,135m/ 7,002.80). We cross the river and reach Lucmabamba where we camp for the night. / (Time 8hrs, Distance: 11 kms). Today we begin our ascent to the pass at Q'elloqasa (2,875m / 9,430ft). Traversing dense cloud forest with a chance to hear bird – calls, we pass a pre inca site, surrounded by an immense avocado tree that gives the area its name. From here we get a magnificent view of Machu Picchu from its northern face. (Distance: 10km, Time: 7 hours). We continue our descent to the Urubamba Valley, with a chance for a refreshing dip in the stream following the path to the hydroelectric plant camping in the vicinity or arriving in the afternoon train to Machu Picchu pueblo where we will spend the night at a local hotel, dinner on your own.

Day 5 MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO (Thursday)

All day spent exploring the famous citadel of the Incas, perched above the Urubamba River gorge in the heart of the Sanctuary, a protected area part of the National Park system of Peru, 65,000 acres in size. A full day guided tour of this extraordinary complex with an optional hike to the sun-



gate (Intipunku) or Waynapicchu, the hill overlooking the saddle where the site is located. Afternoon train ride to Cusco, and overnight in a hotel.

Day 6 CUSCO / LIMA (Friday)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport or train station depending on going destination.

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 during the trek as well as a bilingual guide on the trek, who will handle the first aid kit.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED: Lunch and dinner in the cities and villages, alcoholic beverages, extras, tips, laundry service, additional tours, insurance and airline tickets (where applicable), sleeping bags, hiking boots and other personal gear.