



# INKA TRAIL CUSCO MACHU PICCHU



9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS / PERÚ - CUSCO

## Day 1.- Arrive in Cusco

Arrive in Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire. Meet your tour guide at the airport and transfer to your hotel near the city's main square. In the early afternoon, meet your Adventure Guide for a walking tour that introduces you to the history of the Inca civilization and its former capital with its ornate cathedrals, adobe walls, carved balconies, hidden courtyards, and cobblestone streets. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local fine-dining restaurant located near the Cusco Main Square and featuring contemporary Peruvian cuisine.

Accommodation: hotel in Cusco  
Activity: 3-hour walking tour of Cusco  
Transportation: 30-minute airport transfer  
Meals: Dinner

## Day 2.- Chinchero and Hike at Moray & Maras

Depart Cusco this morning and head to the Urubamba Valley, known as the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Stop in route for the ultimate foodie experience! Located in Chinchero, half way between Cusco and the Sacred Valley, and in the process produces a rich variety of colors, flavors and textures that are grabbing the attention of the culinary world.

He welcomes you privately for a fascinating presentation about his work, as well as a chance to taste traditional uchucuta sauce, made out of Peruvian hot peppers, and his surprisingly delicious Andean tuber and potato wines. Also learn how traditional Andean textiles are made during a private demonstration, and stroll through Chinchero's lively weekly market. Continue to the ancient site of Moray to see its impressive circular terraces that were used by the Incas as a botanical laboratory. Stop for lunch prepared by top chefs near to Maras, surrounded by a lovely landscape of high mountains and green fields. Visit the salt pans of Maras, where one of the finest salts in the world is extracted.

The patchwork effect of hundreds of salt pans in varying shades of white, pink and beige is wonderfully photogenic. Hike from Maras down to the town of Pichingoto, at the bottom of the Sacred Valley, then drive the short distance to the hotel to check in. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Urubamba-Sacred Valley, Peru  
Activity: 2 hours / 3.4 miles hiking with 86' elevation gain & 500' elevation loss  
Transportation: 3-hour private bus transfer  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



### Day 3.- Hike from Pisac Ruins

Explore the ancient ruins of Pisac, perched on a hill high above the valley, and featuring some of the finest Inca stonework in existence as well as beautiful, sweeping terraces that perfectly highlight the contours of the mountain terrain. Hike down through the ruins and then along a network of stairs, tunnels and walkways down to the town of Pisac.

Enjoy lunch , a gorgeous gem hidden in the lush fields of the Sacred Valley. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon and enjoy the grounds of this contemporary hacienda-style property surrounded by flowers, mountains and trees.

Accommodation: Urubamba-Sacred Valley, Peru

Activity: 3-4 hours/6.3 miles hiking with 939' elevation gain & 1,510' elevation loss

Transportation: 1.5-hour private bus transfer

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



### Day 4.- Cusco - Ollantaytambo - KM 82 - Llactapata - Huayllabamba

Total Walking Distance: 11kms

Total Walking Time: 5h

Minimum Altitude: 2,700m (8,858 ft) / Maximum Altitude: 3000m / (9,842 ft)

Altitude of camp: 3000m (9,842 ft)

Approx. night temperature: 7°C (45°F)

You will be picked up from your Cusco hotel early in the morning in private transport. You should have breakfast in your hotel or bring some snacks. We will stop in Ollantaytambo for last minute purchases, or a quick breakfast if you missed it in Cusco! Then we will continue to Piscacucho (also known as Kilometer 82) where the Classic Inca Trail starts.

On arrival at Kilometer 82, it is necessary to show entrance tickets, original passports and student card (if applicable). Crossing the Urubamba River, we begin our trek through typical dry forest growing prickly pear and other cactus, and the tara tree. We will walk around 3 hours (6kms) to Llactapata the first archaeological site on our journey. From there, another 4 km of gentle uphill through farmland takes us to Huayllabamba and our campsite for the night.

### Day 5.- Explore Machu Picchu

- Total Walking Distance: 7,5kms

- Total Walking Time: 6h

- Minimum Altitude: 3,000m (9,842 ft) / Maximum Altitude: 4,215m (13,828 ft)

- Altitude of Camp: 3,000m (9,842 ft)

- Approx night temperature: 7°C (45°F)

After a good night's rest, we will get started on what is generally considered the most challenging day of the Classic Inca Trail trek. We wake early in order to get a good start, then, leaving pastoral villages and farmland behind, we enter the subtropical forest, stopping for lunch around Llulluchapampa.



From here we will start a steep ascent towards the highest pass: the Abra de Warmihuañusca, or 'Dead Woman's Pass', coming in at an impressive 4215m (13,828ft). You'll feel an amazing sense of achievement upon reaching the top! After a short rest, we continue downwards 600m (1,968 ft) over 3 kms (1.8 mi) through very humid forest to the evening campsite of Pacaymayo.

#### **Day 6.- Pacaymayo - Sayakmarka - Phuyupatamarca / Wiñaywayna**

- Total Walking Distance: 15km (to Phuyupatamarca); 16km (to Wiñaywayna)
- Total Walking Time: 9h
- Minimum Altitude: 2,670m (8760 ft) / Maximum Altitude: 3,680m (12,073 ft)
- Altitude of Camp: 2,670m (8,760 ft) Wiñaywayna / 3,680m (12,073 ft) Phuyupatamarca
- Approx night temperature: 9°C (48°F)

After another early breakfast, we walk to the beautiful Inca site of Runkurakay, one of the check points and the beginning of the original Royal Inca trail to Machu Picchu, known as Qhapaq Ñan. We continue on to Sayakmarka, one of the most beautiful Inca remains on the Classic Inca trail. After lunch, we enter the cloud forest, trekking through some incredible scenery filled with orchids and hummingbirds.

An hour later we arrive at Phuyupatamarca ('town in the clouds'), the third highest point on the trail (3680m / 12,073ft) where we will have breathtaking views of Salkantay mountain. After feasting our eyes for a moment, we continue downhill through the forest for about 3 hours until we reach Wiñay Wayna ('forever young'), our campsite for the evening.

Steps away from camp is the Inca site of the same name, the most impressive on the trail. No matter how tired you are, talk to your guide and don't miss out on seeing this wonder!

Please note: Campsites are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and we cannot guarantee that Wiñay Wayna will be available. If not, the alternative campsite is located at Phuyupatamarca. Located farther away from Machu Picchu but generally less crowded.



From here we will start a steep ascent towards the highest pass: the Abra de Warmihuañusca, or 'Dead Woman's Pass', coming in at an impressive 4215m (13,828ft). You'll feel an amazing sense of achievement upon reaching the top! After a short rest, we continue downwards 600m (1,968 ft) over 3 kms (1.8 mi) through very humid forest to the evening campsite of Pacaymayo.



### **Day 7.- Wiñay Wayna, Inti Punku, Machu Picchu, Aguas Calientes, Cusco**

- Total Walking Distance: 5.5km
- Total Walking Time: 2h (from Wiñay Wayna); 5h (from Phuyupatamarca)
- Minimum Altitude: 2,670m (8,760 ft) / Maximum
- Altitude: 2730m (8,956 ft)

We will rise very early on this day in order to arrive at Inti Punku (the 'Sun gate') (2730m/8,956ft) in the early morning. This early morning hike is the final part of the famous Inca Trail to Machu Picchu and from the Sun Gate, you have your first view of the enigmatic Machu Picchu. If we're lucky, we may be able to spot the sun rising over Machu Picchu from where we stand!

After some time there, we will walk down the last part of the trail to the spot where you can take the classic shot of this ancient city. From Inti Punku we descend into Machu Picchu through the control point where we register ourselves and leave our backpacks and then we enter this famous city. Finally, we visit Machu Picchu itself! Your guide will give you a 2-3h walking tour of the historic citadel.

### **Day 8.- Journey back to Cusco**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, with time for a short local hike or relaxing at the hotel. Mid-morning, catch the Vistadome train back to Ollantaytambo, arriving around noon. Enjoy a traditional Pachamanca lunch of poultry, potatoes, and vegetables, cooked underground with hot stones according to a technique that has lived on since the Incan Empire. You are in for a unique experience! After lunch, continue back to Cusco and check in to the hotel.

In the evening, explore Cusco before a festive farewell dinner at one of the city's best restaurants.

Accommodation: hotel in Cusco.

Transportation: 1.5 hour train ride, 1.5 hour private van transfer

Meals: Breakfast

Cusco & Fly Home

After breakfast at the hotel and a leisurely morning, depart on homeward-bound flights.

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 9.- Journey back to Cusco**

After breakfast at the hotel and a leisurely morning, depart on homeward-bound flights transfer out.

Meals: Breakfast.