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TRIP DETAILS

7 days / 6 nts - Peru

Departures Daily

Trip Ref 2793

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Pick up in Cusco

Salkantay Lodge 2 nts

Wayra Lodge 1 nt

Colpa Lodge 1 nt

Lucma Lodge 1 nt

Aguas Calientes 1 nt

Machu Picchu

Train back to Cusco



PRICES FROM \$2,650

Machu Picchu Lodges Inca Trail

This is the stunning new alternative to the traditional Inca trail using the lesser known Salcantay route, and combining with stays in a chain of very comfortable and small lodges along the route...a challenging high-altitude trek without camping! National Geographic Traveler magazine has selected this as one of the [50 Tours of a Lifetime for 2009!](#)

"A growing number of Machu-Picchu-bound hikers have made the Camino Salcantay their first choice, and not just because it is less crowded. What it lacks in ruins and the legendary paving stones...it makes up for in natural beauty and diversity. In contrast to the Inca Trail, which meanders through the forests with only fleeting views of the surrounding high mountains, the Camino Salcantay offers top-of-the-word vistas along much of the route" (National Geographic Adventure, Nov 2007).

Day 1: Cusco to Salkantay Lodge at Soraypampa (3,800 m/12,500 ft)

After an early breakfast, guests will be picked up starting at 7:00 am at their hotel in Cusco and transferred to the Salkantay Lodge (about 3.5 hours drive). En route we will take a short break to visit the Inca ruins of Tarawasi near the town of Limatambo (approx 1.5 hrs from Cusco). After leaving Limatambo, we pass through the mountain village of Mollepata where we stop for a short coffee break before ascending a winding mountain road to the spectacularly situated valley of Soraypampa.



Optional: Guests have the option of choosing to trek from Mollepata to Soraypampa, on an old route called the "Camino Real" (Royal Path). This is a good opportunity for guests to acclimatize and enjoy a mild & beautiful 3-4 hour trek on their first day.

The Salkantay Lodge takes its name from the majestic peak at the head of the valley – the "Salkantay", the 2nd most sacred peak in Inca mythology and, at 20,600 ft (6,270 m), the highest in the region. After a warm welcome by our friendly staff, the guests will be shown to their rooms and have time to wash-up. The first afternoon is spent at leisure to adjust to the altitude. An evening briefing by the fireplace is followed by aperitifs and dinner. Note.- Lunch on Day 1 is a gourmet box lunch.

Day 2: Soraypampa

This day is spent at leisure for rest or activities, depending upon guests' level of acclimatization. The most popular activity at Soraypampa is a half-day hike to a glacial lake where the more adventurous might take a very short swim! This activity is excellent for acclimatization and a first immersion into high-mountain trekking. In the afternoon, guests may choose to trade the glacial swim for a relaxing soak in our outdoor jacuzzi. In the evening, the guide will brief the trekking party on gear and the itinerary for the next four days. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are taken at the Lodge.

Day 3: Soraypampa to Wayra Lodge at Huayracmachay(3,850m/12,600 ft)

This is the big day: the start of the four-day trek to Machu Picchu. After an early start we will hike up the Rio Blanco valley, circling Humantay Peak across from the Salcantay. The highest point on the trek is a pass at 4,500 m (14,800 ft). At the pass we stop to take in views of snow-capped peaks of the Vilcabamba Range in every direction, the south face of Salcantay towering above us. We will keep our eyes out for Andean condors, often visible in this area. From the pass we continue our descent toward the Wayra Lodge ("Wayra": wind; the place where the wind lives) our destination for the evening. A hot lunch is taken en route. Dinner and overnight at the Lodge (hiking time: 4-6 hours; total excursion time for day 5-7 hours).



Day 4: Huayracmachay to Colpa Lodge at Collpapampa(2,800m/9,200 ft)

Following the long first day we enjoy a leisurely breakfast at Huayracmachay. We then begin our trek by hiking downhill above the Salkantay River, through increasingly verdant scenery. Our arrival at the lodge encounters a "Pachamanca"-style lunch (subject to availability; traditional underground stone cooking). The Collpa Lodge is located in an open promontory at the confluence of three rivers. The outdoor jacuzzi in this lodge has prominent views of lush green mountains and a small far-away local town. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.

Day 5: Collpapampa to Lucma Lodge at Lucmabamba(2,100m/6,900 ft)

After an early breakfast we head down the Santa Teresa River Valley, through more populated rural areas with coffee plantations (said to be one of the best organic coffees in the world!), bananas, granadillas, and orchards. We stop along the river for a hot picnic lunch. A vehicle arrives to the lunch spot to pick us up for a short drive to the beginning of the "Llactapata Inca Trail". From the head of the trail it is a short climb (30 min.) to the Lucma Lodge, set in an avocado orchard. We arrive in time to allow for exploration of the small village of Lucmabamba and possible meeting with members of the local community. (hiking time: 4-6 hours/total excursion time for day 5-7 hours).



Day 6: Lucmabamba to Aguas Calientes (1,900 m/6,200 ft)

After an early start and a hearty breakfast, we tackle the last day of our trek. We head uphill for two hours towards Llactapata pass (2,700 m/8,900 ft), where we come upon a distant but quite special view of Machu Picchu from the southwest, a view few tourists ever glimpse; an added value are the Llactapata Ruins, which have recently been restored. Lunch is provided at the observatory, in view of Machu Picchu. We then begin our final descent to the Riobamba River through lush bamboo forests and more orchards and coffee plantations (2-3 hours descent). Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu are a short (30 minutes), scenic train ride away. (Total hiking time: 4-6 hours). We then arrive in Aguas Calientes to check-in to the hotel. Overnight at hotel.



Day 7: Machu Picchu (2,450m/8,000 ft) to Cusco

We wake up very early to have breakfast at the hotel and then make our way to the bus station for the ride up to Machu Picchu (30 min). A complete guided tour of Machu Picchu will be provided. Guests will have about 4 to 6 hours to tour the ruins (there is a lot to do and see). Afterward, we will return by bus to Aguas Calientes for lunch and to go to the train station for the afternoon departure. The train will arrive in Cusco and you will be dropped off at the hotel of your choice.



[Trekking Salkantay](#)

2009

US\$2,500 per person

2010

US\$2,650 per person

IMPORTANT :

A **special promotion** is being offered during the months of Oct, Nov and Dec 2009, and also for March 1st to April 15th, 2010 where the single supplement fee will **NOT** apply for single travelers. Take advantage of this **great deal**.

Fixed departures:

Based on shared accommodations in a twin, double or triple room. The single room supplement is 50% extra. If a guest is a single "willing to share", best efforts will be made to pair that guest with another single willing to share. If ultimately this guest is not paired up, this will subject to a fee of 25% surcharge on the rate. Pricing is subject to change up until time of booking.

Fixed departures includes: (7d/6n program Cusco - Cusco)

- Fixed departures.
- All services from pick up in Cusco on Day 1 to drop off in Cusco on Day 7
- Transport from Cusco hotel to Soraypampa on Day 1 and from Ollantaytambo back to hotel on Day 7
- 6 nights lodging (5 with Mountain Lodges of Peru, 1 in Aguas Calientes in a 4* hotel or similar. This is normally the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel)
- All meals except breakfast on Day 1 and dinner on Day 7
- All beverages are charged extra. *
- A bilingual guide from Day 1 to Day 7
- Transport of personal belongings on the trek by packhorse/mules and/or porters
- Guided visit of Machu Picchu (includes entrance to the site)

- Trains (Hydro station – Aguas Calientes & Aguas Calientes – Ollantaytambo or Aguas Calientes – Cusco)

* Water stations are available throughout the lodges for free & unlimited refilling. Bottled water and soft drinks are available for US\$ 1.50 per bottle and light-weight, aluminum sport-bottles are available at the lodges at US\$ 20.00 per sport-bottle for use throughout the trek. All profits for the bottled water, soft drinks, and sport-bottles support environmental and community development projects.

Important notes:

- Minimum 2 persons.
- Minimum age is 12 years old.
- Tour **DOES NOT** operate during the months of **JAN** or **FEB** due to climate.
- The INC (National Cultural Institute of Peru—a governmental body) charge an entrance fee to the Salkantay Trail in the town of Mollepata. This fee is being collected at the entrance to Mollepata through a collections booth in the amount of US\$50 per tourist. This is only payable by cash, in person, so please plan on having US\$50 (per person) before you departure Cusco for the trek. There are numerous ATMs available in Cusco to withdraw dollars (or soles), however, once you leave Cusco there are no cash machines until you reach the town of Aguas Calientes (at the end of the trek). Your guide will also remind you of this additional fee at your pre-trek briefing the night before your departure.

Luggage weight limits for Peru Rail and the trek portion:

1 backpack—11 lbs/5kg (per person) and 1 duffel bag—22 lbs/10kg (per person). Anything over this weight limit, Peru Rail (the company that operates the trains from Aguas Calientes / Machu Picchu to Cusco) will charge guests directly US\$0.82 per pound extra or US\$1.80 per kg extra approx. (these rates can change without notice). Most Cusco hotels will allow guests to store extra luggage at the hotel while guests are on the trek. Please inquire directly with your pre-trek hotel. If your hotel does not provide this service please advise us of this.

Please note that your luggage will be on board a separate cargo train from Aguas Calientes/Machu Picchu to Cusco. This means your luggage will not travel with you on this portion of the trip. Therefore, on Day 7 before you depart for Machu Picchu, will be the last time you see your luggage until you return to your Cusco hotel that evening. If you wish to have a change of clothes or anything else you may want with you that day, please pack it in your backpack that morning.

Equipment List:

Here is a basic packing list. These items are essential to ensure adventure travelers' comfort and safety.

- Daypack
- Broken-in comfortable hiking boots
- Rain gear (ponchos or full rain gear)
- Gloves
- Light weight hiking pants or shorts (pants recommended).
- Breathable lightweight top-wear
- Comfortable shoes / flip-flops
- Cold-weather jacket
- Long-sleeve fleece / sweater
- Wool hat
- Sport hat (baseball style or sombrero style outdoor hat)
- Headlight
- Sunglasses
- Comfortable hiking socks (4 pairs at least!)
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Bathing suit
- Casual Mountain wear for evenings
- Photo/video cameras & chargers
- Trekking poles (Our operator will provide quality wooden walking sticks)
- Re-fillable water bottle
- Lightweight, small binoculars

- We appreciate no hard suitcases or carry-ons; soft duffel bags and / or backpacks ("soft" luggage) are recommended.
- Sleeping bags are not required as the lodges provide ample bedding.
- Hotel provides a limited amount of hair-dryers at each lodge, due to limitations in energy supply and environmental concerns.
- At the 1st lodge, all guests are provided with an "Amenity Kit" that includes bath gel, shampoo, conditioner, moisturizing cream and a shower cap. This Amenity Kit will be given to guests at the first lodge and guests should pack the kit in their luggage, as there are no additional kits once you leave the first lodge.
- The trek is rated as moderate to challenging and covers approximately 32 miles on uneven, rocky terrain. Day 3 is the most challenging with an elevation gain of 3,000 feet in a span of 3 miles to reach a maximum altitude of 15,000 feet. Prior hiking experience is recommended as this is not a novice hike.

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