



ADVENTURE
INTERNATIONAL



Classic Inca Trail

Adventures for a Lifetime

Classic Inca Trail

Spend 8 days exploring Inca sites in Peru, a fascinating and truly memorable experience. The Inca Trail to the sacred city of Machu Picchu will take us on a journey through Inca history, with the geography and environment providing a spectacular backdrop to this exceptional trek. The ingenuity of the Andean people is demonstrated by each step carved out of the granite rock following the steep geography of the Andes mountains in the Peruvian south-east. Surrounded by Apus or guardian mountains, the Inca Pachakuteq built this magnificent Inca city, which was forgotten upon the arrival of the Spanish, until it was rediscovered by the explorer Hiram Bingham at the beginning of the last century. Today, 100 years after the rediscovery of Machu Picchu, we will follow the Inca Trail to one of the most important cities of the fantastic Inca kingdom. Cusco, Sacred Valley, Inca Trail, and famous Machu Picchu!

In more detail...

Day 1 ~ Cusco

After landing in Jorge Chavez Lima International Airport, you connect with a flight to Cusco airport. Upon arrival you are personally met and transferred to your hotel in Cusco. In the afternoon there are options for a short city tour and visiting some artisan shops. Tonight there is a briefing.

*Overnight Libertador Palacio del Inka (D) **other options available***

Day 2 ~ Adjusting to the Altitude

On the morning of our hike we will pick you up at your hotel and drive 10-15 mins out of the city to our starting point. After making our final preparations we will visit our first archeological sites, the Temple of the Moon and Qusilluchayoc (Monkey Temple) both of which were important ritual centers during the Inca's time. The sites contain rock carvings with figures of snakes and monkeys; spiritually significant symbols for the Inca. We will then continue our hike along a trail used by the Inca and before arriving at our final destination east of Cusco city. The first part of the hike contains moderate hills between 11,500-11,964 ft, before we reach our first Andean community of Yuncaypata at 12,242 ft. From Yuncaypata we will have a panoramic view of Cusco and the Pumamarca (mark of the puma) valley. From here we begin our descent through the corn and potato plantations where locals practice farming methods that have passed from generation to generation and meet friendly sheep herders. After a short visit to the local school we continue to the historic Pumamarca hacienda, a colonial mansion built over an Inca site the Spanish destroyed before giving the surrounding valley to the royal family of Panaca of Pachacutec. From the road close to the hacienda we will meet our transportation and return to the city.

Overnight Libertador Palacio del Inka (B,L)

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Day 3 ~ Huayllabamba

We leave the city of Cusco early in the morning and head into the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We will stop in the town of Ollantaytambo to do some last minute shopping, and then continue onto Piscacucho, where we will register with the SHMP authorities. We will then begin our trek along this beautiful path through the mountains, towards the sacred city of Machu Picchu. The first part of our trail follows the flow of the Wilka Mayo River, also known as the Urubamba or Sacred River of the Incas. From here we will head uphill into the mountains to find the archeological site of Llaqtapta, in a magnificent Inca location. We continue following the Inca trail, appreciating the incredible diversity of local flora we see along the way. We will stop in Tarayoc to enjoy our lunch and to have a short rest. We will resume our walk along a path skirting the mountains through carved granite geology before arriving at our campsite in Huayllabamba, where we will enjoy our dinner and spend the night. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 4 ~ Pacaymayo

After a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast, we begin our walk along the Inca Trail in a dense cloud forest of native Queuña and Unca trees, before arriving to the highest point on our walk today. The mountain pass known as Warmi Wanuska where we will feel close to the Andean sky. We will begin our descent along this magnificent stone path to arrive at our campsite in the Pacamayo Valley. Here we will have dinner and spend the night. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 5 ~ Phuyupatamarca

Early in the morning, after breakfast we will begin our walk towards the archeological site of Runkurakay, nestled among the surrounding steep peaks. We will continue hiking uphill until we reach the Runkurakay Pass, the last high altitude challenge on our trek to Machu Picchu. At this altitude we are in the ecosystem level known as Puna, where the high altitude grass known as Ichu dominates the landscape and surrounds small Andean lakes. Our trail will also bring us to the archeological sites of Sayaqmarca and Conchapata. After visiting these sites, our path takes us by an original stone Inca trail to our third pass, Phuyupatamarca (Above The Clouds) where we will have impressive views of the Vilcabamba and Urubamba mountain ranges, and the valley where the Urubamba River winds around Machu Picchu mountain. After resting we can visit the Phuyupatamarca lookout (just 5 minutes from the campsite) and enjoy the sunset among towering snow-capped peaks, relax over dinner and turn in for a good night's sleep. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 6 ~ Machu Picchu / Aguas Calientes

After breakfast we will begin our hike to visit the archeological site of Phuyupatamarca, with a remarkable view of the back of the Machu Picchu mountain. Continuing along this incredible Inca trail, we find ourselves surrounded by native cloud forest vegetation from the high jungle of the Eastern Andes of Peru. We will arrive at Winay Huayna for a visit and have our lunch before

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continuing with an easy walk to the Sun Gate (Inti Punqu), where we have our first view of Machu Picchu. Here we will have time for photos and to enjoy the place before we descend, approaching the archeological site of Machu Picchu. We will cross Machu Picchu to take our transport down to the town of Aguas Calientes where, after checking into our hotels, we will have a well-deserved rest.
Overnight Inkaterra Machu Pichu Pueblo Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 7 ~ Machu Picchu / Cusco

After breakfast we will take the bus up to the archeological site of Machu Picchu to begin our guided tour of this world renowned historical Inca city. The geographical location of this important site is breathtaking; located high on a mountain side in the cloud forest ecosystem. Exploring the site, we can appreciate the skill developed by the Incas to thrive in this difficult environment. We will be exploring the most important site developed by the Incas, with its observatories, temples, water fountains and sun dials. The amazing stone work stands out in a wide variety of architectural styles. You have options to hike Machu Picchu or Hauyna Picchu (which requires permits so plan accordingly) we will have lunch and then return to Cusco. We will take the train from Aquas Calientes to Ollantaytambo, where our transport will be waiting to take us back to Cusco.
Overnight Libertador Palacio del Inka (B,L,D)

Day 8 ~ Depart

You are transferred to Cusco airport to catch your flight to Lima and then you connect with departures. (B)

END OF SERVICES

*~ This is a sample itinerary that can be adjusted to suit your needs.
For more info about pricing, set departures, custom trips, etc ---
Please call +1 888 664 3865 or email us info@adventure-international.com ~*

