



ADVENTURE
INTERNATIONAL



Salkantay Trail

Adventures for a Lifetime

Salkantay Trail

Spend 9 days exploring Inca sites in Peru, a fascinating and truly memorable experience. This trip is a lesser-traveled route in Peru to the lost city Machu Picchu. This trip is a perfect alternative for those who don't book the Inca Trail. The Vilcabamba area was the holdout for the crumbling Inca rebellion. The trail traverses the high Andean plateau, crossing passes as high as 15,585 ft for an up-close view of the sacred Inca peak, Salkantay (20,598ft). The route then descends into the beautiful Aobamba valley with its tropical climate and vegetation. All along the way there are native Andean villages that time seems to have passed by. After a marvelous train ride, arrive at the spectacular citadel of Machu Picchu for a never to be forgotten guided-tour of this architectural marvel. Hidden under the dense foliage of a highland jungle, forgotten by the Incas themselves, Machu Picchu escaped the conquistadors and eluded treasure hunters until Hiram Bingham brought the "Lost City of the Incas" to the world's attention in 1911. The intricate stonework of these enigmatic ruins is one of the finest examples of Inca masonry.

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 ~ Soray

We leave Cusco heading west towards the Anta plateau. This is the spot where the legendary Inca Pachacutec defeated the Chanca tribe thus starting the expansion of the Inca Empire. We continue up to Huillque pass with its panoramic view of the east side of the Vilcabamba range. On our way down towards the warm Limatambo valley we'll stop at the Tarahuasi archeological site for a short visit. After passing through Mollepata (2,850 m / 9,350 ft), a small and very typical Andean community, we begin our trek in Marco Casa (3,200 m / 11,00 ft) approx. 4 hours. Since this is a rich agricultural area, we'll see local villagers at work and possibly interact with them. The route continues towards the highlands with its very interesting and colorful surroundings, until we finally get a glimpse of Mt. Humantay (5,917 m / 19,414 ft). After crisscrossing several streams and passing through some dense bush areas, we reach our campsite on the immense Pampa Soray (3,800 m / 12,468 ft). *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 4 ~ Huayracmachay

We start our day with a hearty breakfast before starting the trek through one of the most impressive areas in the Vilcabamba range. Our hike will go to the base of the south face of Salkantay, one of the Inca's sacred mountains (6,217 m / 20,575 ft). We climb up on the southwest side of the Salkantay moraine to a high pass called Portachuelo (4,750 m / 15,585 ft). On this rocky area we may catch a glimpse of a lively vizcacha, a unique type of gray Andean rabbit and perhaps see a condor, the world's largest flying bird. We will be very close to the huge south face of Salkantay, almost within touching distance. Don't forget to carry a small rock all the way from Mollepata, since, according to Inca tradition; travelers must deposit one on an "apacheta" (a pyramid of rocks) at the pass as an offering to the "apus" (mountain spirits). The route then descends towards the Amazon basin and the Andean valley of Huayracmachay. Just past here we set up camp (4,100 m / 13,45 ft). *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 5 ~ Collpapampa

Today we'll follow the route that the last Incas used to escape the Spanish in this remote region of the Vilcabamba range. The trail continues along the left bank of the Sunchucata River. On the way down toward Rayanpata we'll observe how the landscape changes from arid highlands to tropical jungle. Further down, we see where three streams meet to form the Santa Teresa River. We continue on to the community of Collpapampa (2,900 m / 9,515 ft). A special lunch waits for us, the trail continues along the left bank of the Santa Teresa River. As we lose altitude, the weather warms but remains at a comfortable temperature. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 6 ~ Lucmabamba

The trail crosses several creeks and passes by delightful waterfalls. Vegetation becomes more abundant and we'll see lots of multicolored flowers, butterflies and noisy little green parrots. Our

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lunch break will be on the riverbank before continuing to the campsite near the village of La Playa, also known as Miscabamba (2,200 m / 6,562 ft). The families who live here are socially organized in the same manner as their Inca ancestors; in an “ayni” or cooperative system designed to share construction and farming work. There will be a good chance to play soccer or volleyball with the locals. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 7 ~ Aguas Calientes

We start our last climb, crossing Llactapata pass. There are Inca sites just on the other side of the pass and a spectacular panoramic view of the outline of Machu Picchu. Then we descend into the rich, tropical Aobamba valley with its fields of oranges, paltas (avocados), bananas, granadillas (passion fruit), coffee and sugar cane. After saying good-bye to our camp staff, we board the train for a 30-minute ride to the town of Aguas Calientes that sits just below Machu Picchu.

Overnight Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 8 ~ 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 9 ~ Depart

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

END OF SERVICES

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*~ 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 ~*

