

### **DESCRIPTION**

This shorter alternative to the Salkantay Premium is sure to 'peak' your interest as you walk between the towering peaks of Humantay and Salkantay mountain as you make your way to Machu Picchu. This is truly the experience of a lifetime! Did you know that the Salkantay Trek is listed as one of the 25 best treks in the world by National Geographic Adventure Travel Magazine? Join us, and discover what it means to walk the sacred paths of the Inca.

The Salkantay trek to Machu Picchu is one of the most famous treks in Cusco and it is undoubtedly the best alternative route to experience the original Inca paths. This trek takes you through many different types of landscapes. You will have the best opportunity to see the typical Andean landscape up to the snowcapped mountains, down to the tropical forests and finally even venture into the dense jungle. If you are thinking to do a hiking trip to Machu Picchu and you want to be off the beaten path, close to the Andean communities and appreciate the beautiful and diverse nature of Peru, the Salkantay Trek is highly recommended.



# FULL ITINERARY

### SALKANTAY TREK TO MACHU PICCHU 4 DAYS WITH LUXURY DOMES

### Why Take the Salkantay Trail?

- ✓ The Salkantay Trek is listed as one of the 25 best treks in the world by National Geographic Adventure Travel Magazine.
- ✓ The Salkantay Trek is definitely one of the very best trekking adventures that you will find in Peru and in the continent of South America.
- ✓ After the Inca Trail, the Salkantay Trek is the 2nd most popular trek to Machu Picchu (and a lot less crowded).
- ✓ Hiking alongside the magnificent Apu Salkantay and arriving at the ruins of the majestic Machu Picchu is one of the best experiences known to mankind.
- ✓ Trekkers can see natural bridges, snowcapped mountains, colorful valleys, waterfalls, wildlife, unique plants, and cloud forest.
- ✓ Camping with less people allows you to control your own trip and have the best views of these incredible mountains!

Wake up early to start your adventure. First, you'll make a stop in Mollepata, where you will have a quick breakfast and continue to our starting point, Challacancha. From there, you'll enjoy a 3-hour relatively flat hike to Soraypampa, where our first camp, where you will enjoy a delicious meal and have time to settle into your Sky Camp igloo.

In the afternoon, we will climb up to the glorious Humantay Lake on an approximately three-hour round-trip trek. Once at the top, you will have plenty of time to take in the beautiful views of the mountain jewel and catch your breath. Afterward, we will return to Soraypampa for dinner and head to your igloo to rest while gazing at the stars.

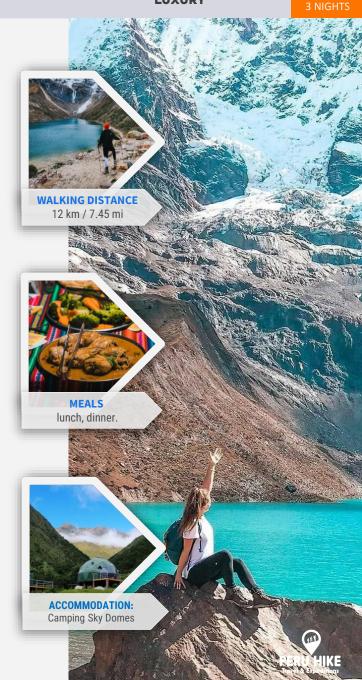
Today you will get an early start on this adventure. We'll pick you up from your accommodation in Cusco at 4:00 a.m. and travel for approximately two hours to have a quick breakfast in Mollepata. Our transportation includes cozy blankets in case you need to sleep for a few more minutes. After feeding and resting a bit, we'll drive for another hour to the starting point of the trek in Challacancha.

Before we start our trek, you will meet the muleteers and cooks who are part of the team and do a final check of your luggage. Then, we will begin our relatively easy three-hour hike to Soraypampa (3,900 m / 12,795 ft), where our first camp is located. Along the way, you will enjoy beautiful glaciers and a deep valley. Also, you will see that an Inca water channel follows us most of the way and is still used by farmers in the area to this day. This stretch has a length of 7 km / 4.35 miles.

Once in Soraypampa, you'll have some time to get settled into your cozy igloo in our Sky Camp and enjoy your first lunch cooked by our talented chefs. There's no doubt you'll be amazed by their talents in the middle of the mountains. Once you're full of energy, we'll begin our afternoon trek up to Humantay Lake (4,200 m / 13,780 ft), often called the jewel or gem in the mountains, and you'll see why once you reach the top.

The round trip is around 2:30 hours long and covers 3 km / 1.86 miles. The distance may seem short, but you may get tired due to its high altitude. You need to go slowly. When you reach the stunning lagoon, you'll have plenty of time to catch your breath, enjoy the fantastic scenery and contemplate its turquoise waters in contrast to the snowy backdrop. The views here are truly like something out of dreamland.

Once we return to camp, you will have time to enjoy a delicious dinner while watching the sunset behind the mountains. It's hard to describe the energy of this place, but the inner peace is as close as it gets. Then it's time to head back to your Sly Camp for a good night's sleep and contemplate the constellations.



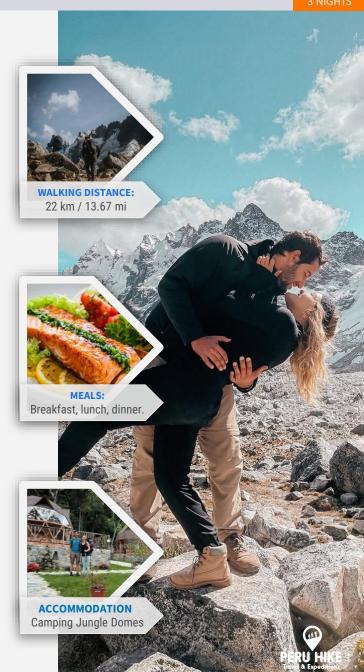
Today is the most challenging, but the reward will be great as you will get fantastic views of wonderful landscapes. After tasting our breakfast, we will hike for approximately three hours to the Salkantay pass, where we will spend time taking pictures of the incredible panorama. Afterward, we will descend through the cloud forest to the lunch spot before continuing to the jungle's edge amidst exotic scenery. Finally, we will arrive at the exclusive Dome Sky View Campsite in Chaullay for the night.

In the morning, you will wake up with the day's first rays and see the Apu Salkantay while enjoying an energizing coca tea. Afterward, you will have a nutritious breakfast before embarking on the 7 km trek for approximately three hours to the highest point of the route, the Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft). It is a difficult ascent along the "path of the 7 snakes" because of its winding path.

Once at the top, you will appreciate the most magnificent view over the surrounding valleys and the Salkantay mountain right in front of you (6,271 m / 20,574 ft). It boasts the second-highest mountain in the Cusco region, and it's considered an Apu (Inca God). You will also be able to observe the mountains: Humantay, Tucarhuay, and Pumasillo. After enjoying the views and rest, you will start descending (7 km / 4.35 mi) to our lunch point at Huayracmachay (3,850 m / 12,631 ft). This section is rocky and steep but has impressive views of the surrounding valley.

After a revitalizing lunch, you will enter the edge of the rainforest, also known as the "cloud forest." This section has a distance of 9.5 km / 5.9 mi and lasts approximately three and a half hours. Along the way, you will enjoy the verdant rainforest and witness how the scenery changes rapidly and drastically from the Andes to the Amazon. You will observe colorful landscapes, unique fauna, and native plants and feel the warmer climate.

After a long day of hiking, you will be glad to arrive at Chaullay for the night. Finally, we will serve you a hearty meal before resting at our exclusive Dome Sky View Campsite.



4 DAYS

In the morning, we will begin our hike to La Playa and contemplate the magnificent jungle landscape surrounding us. Along the way, you will observe flora and fauna unique to the area. Once at La Playa, we will enjoy our last delicious lunch prepared by our chefs and watch a coffee demonstration before heading into our private transportation to the train station in Hidroelectrica.

Afterward, you can take a three-hour hike along the tracks through lush vegetation above the Urubamba River or board a train to Aguas Calientes (not included in the program). Once in Aguas Calientes, we will go to our hotel before exploring the small town and tasting a delicious dinner at a good restaurant. You will have to go to bed early to wake up before sunrise. We'll wake you up at 6:00 am today for a quick breakfast before beginning our hike to La Playa through the stunning Santa Teresa valley. This morning, you can enjoy soaking up the new lush landscape over a 5-hour trek. You'll be able to spot rivers, wild orchids, and lots of plantations, including coffee, banana, and avocado. You'll also get to savor the granadilla and passion fruit on the route.

We will continue our hike and then keep going to the bottom of the mountains to cross to the other side of the valley. In this tropical section, we'll be accompanied by waterfalls, birds, fruit trees, flora, and fauna.

When we reach La Playa, it'll be time to enjoy our last lunch prepared by our incredible chefs as we relax and watch a show all about coffee. After we've had some time to rest a little more, we'll board the private transport that'll take us to Hidroelectrica train station. From there, we'll hike alongside the tracks surrounded by lots of vegetation and joined by the Urubamba River. However, if you feel exhausted, you can take the train to Aguas Calientes for an extra US\$ 37.00.

Among the tropical paradise, you'll see more plantations and beautiful plants as well as a huge variety of birds, including the national bird of Peru, the cock of the rocks (El Gallito de las Rocas). After three hours of hiking, we will arrive in Aguas Calientes; from here, we will take you to your hotel to relax in your comfortable room with a private bathroom, hot shower, WiFi, breakfast in the morning, and luggage storage that will allow you to leave your things while you go on a visit to the town's hot springs. In the evening, we will meet for dinner at a prestigious restaurant before returning to the hotel to rest. Tomorrow you will have to get up before sunrise and start our last adventure to the majestic Machu Picchu.



Today's the day you've been longing for since you set foot on the trail. You're going to be visiting one of the New Seven Wonders of the World and UNESCO World Heritage Site, Machu Picchu! We'll wake up while it's still dark out after enjoying a restful night's sleep in our hostel. We like to begin this final day early to beat the large crowds at Machu Picchu and enjoy the soft morning light hitting the massive rocks. The entrance opens at 6:00 am, and we want to be one of the first inside.

From Aguas Calientes, we'll take a bus up to the Inca citadel before entering and gazing in awe at the incredible construction. Once in the complex, you'll enjoy a tour of approximately two hours with your guide and visit the most important parts: houses, temples, terraces, cultivation fields, among others. You'll truly be amazed by the ingenuity of the Incas, which to this day remains a mystery.

The ancient culture didn't have modern tools or even iron or steel to work with. Those who constructed the city were geniuses in organizing this community sustainably and beautifully on the side of a mountain, even bringing water in canals and aqueducts through its streets for the people to use. When a Peruvian guide showed this site to Hiram Bingham, it was almost unrecognizable, covered in thick vegetation and a state of disrepair. It has since been cleaned and restored and is now protected and treasured by the world at large.

After your incredible guided tour of the citadel, you'll have the chance to enjoy one of the additional hikes up Huayna Picchu Mountain (2,720 m / 8,924 ft) or Machu Picchu Mountain (3,000 m / 9,843 ft); these tickets must be booked in advance. You'll be able to contemplate an incredible view over the citadel of Machu Picchu, one of the best panoramas in the world.

You need to ensure you come back down to Aguas Calientes to enjoy some lunch before you catch the train back to Ollantaytambo. Your train time will depend on availability. In Ollantaytambo, our private transport will be awaiting you to transport you back to your accommodation in Cusco. You'll now be able to enjoy a welldeserved rest, although your heart will be soaring high in the Andes like a condor for years to come.





## INCLUSIONS

### **INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED**

At Peru Hike company, we specify the included and non-included services under all the tour ineraries listed on our website. We take care of all the logiscs, but please pay aenon to the details to avoid missing anything. Some items may be different for specific programs, so please read carefully before booking with us.



### **High Quality Service & Safety**

- ✓ Pre-departure briefing
- ✓ Experienced Guide speaks English and Spanish
- ✓ A professional cook only for our group
- ✓ Motorola Talkabout Radio, for communication
- ✓ Medical Kit First Aid Kit
- ✓ One duffle bag per person
- ✓ Customer Service 24/7
- ✓ Extra oxygen

### **Permits & Entrance Tickets**

- ✓ Entrance Ticket to Machu Picchu Circuit (1 or 2)
- ✓ Entrance Ticket to Salkantay trek

### **Transportation**

- ✓ **Day 1:** Private transportation from Cusco at the start of the trek.
- ✓ Horses, and muleteers horses carry your 8-kg / 16-pound personal items.
- ✓ Day 4: your duffle bag will be transported by car and train
- ✓ Day 5: Bus ticket to Machu Picchu round trip.
- ✓ **Day 5:** Train Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo
- ✓ **Day 5:** Private transport from Ollantaytambo train station to your hotel in Cusco.

#### Meals

- ✓ Meals: 4 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, and 3 Dinners
- ✓ Water to drink on the trail every day
- ✓ Wake up tea, every morning
- ✓ Tea Time or Happy Hour, every afternoon
- ✓ Snacks on the trail daily
- ✓ Products for hygiene

### Accommodation

- ✓ Personal Accommodation in Private Campsites
- ✓ 2 Nights in luxury domes and 1 night in a hotel
- ✓ Hotel in Aguas Calientes

### **Additional Included**

✓ Trekking stick



### WHICH IS NOT INCLUDED?

### What Is Not Included?

- Travel Insurance
- Tips for our staff
- Additional costs or delays out of control of the management





## BEFORE YOU GO

### Is it for me?

We want to make your trip to Peru as memorable and as carefree as possible. In this secon, you'll find the answers to all the quesons you have about traveling with Peru Hike Company in one place. Please read the following informaon carefully – it will help you with any quesons about our services.

### How many days do I need to acclimate in Cusco before the Trek?

It's very important to be well acclimated to the altude before exerng yourself on a trek. We recommend that you arrive in Cusco at least 2 or 3 days before the trek starts to help you adjust and avoid possible problems with altude sickness while on the trek. You might have already been in another area of Peru at a high altude before arriving in Cusco. In that case, we sll recommend you have a whole day in Cusco to rest, recover from your travel, and enjoy the sights and sounds of Cusco before deparng for the trek. Here some suggesons for acvies to do in the Cusco vicinity before starng your adventure trek:

City Tour and Sacred Valley







**Sacred Valley** 



### **Briefing or Informave Meeng**

All informaon meengs and briefings are held in our main office in Cusco (or your hotel) at 5:00 pm, one night before the tour begins. These meengs last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. If you're unable to aend, you must coordinate another me by email, by phone or at the Peru Hike Company office.



### Trek Balance Payment (in Cusco)

The trek has to be paid for in full at most 6.30 pm one day before your departure (generally aer the briefing). It would be much appreciated if you pay the trek balance in cash US dollars or local currency at our office in Cusco. You can withdraw some money from several ATMs along Avenida Sol (either in US dollars or local Peruvian Soles). You can pay by credit card or PAYPAL online, but you will have to pay an charge, charged by VISA and PAYPAL. We do not accept bank checks or payment of the balance by traveler's checks.



#### Group tours

Group tours are made up of different types of people, then physical condions and ages can vary. By agreeing to be part of a group tour, you also accept that some people may be faster or slower than you. Therefore, each person can go at their own pace on the route. It may be the case that a group wishes to modify the tour; however, the guide will be the one who decides, aer consulng with all the parcipants, if such modificaons are possible.



### **Duffel Bag or Canvas Case**

You'll receive a canvas case or duffel bag during your briefing. Our horses will carry them, and the horsemen will hand them to you when you get to each camp. They measure 60 x 24 x 22 cm (23.6 x 9.45 x 8.66 in). A maximum of 8 kg / 17 lb is allowed for each duffel bag, including the weight of your sleeping bag, sleeping mat, clothes, and other personal items.



#### Strikes and demonstraons

Strikes and demonstraons are usually common in Peru, and this may interrupt some of our tours. Roads can be blocked, and train tracks can be taken over. However, we will try to keep your trip as originally planned, even if it means leaving the night before the scheduled date. Under these circumstances, tours may also be canceled. In case of changes or cancellaons, everything will be coordinated with you by our operaons department. Your safety is our highest priority, and our decisions will be made to protect it.



#### Can I store my luggage at your office?

Of course! During the trip, your main luggage can be stored at our office (you can organize it with us on the briefing day or by email) or at your hotel, both free of charge. Any equipment that you won't need on the trek can be stored safely in your hotel. Nearly every hotel will provide this service. Don't leave items of value with your bags; put them in the hotel safe and obtain an itemized receipt (in the unlikely case of the, many insurance companies require that you have a copy of the receipt itemizing everything). It's best to put items such as credit cards inside a sealed, signed envelope for extra peace of mind.



#### **Lost Objects**

Please pay aenon to where you leave your things and remember to take everything once you leave our transport, tents, or restaurants. You're the only one responsible for your objects during the tour



### Pick up of guests

Peru Hike Companycan pick you up from your hotel, as long as it's in the Historical Center of Cusco. Your guide will coordinate the pickup me in the briefing session, but please keep in mind that the me may vary between 30 and 45 minutes due to traffic. Cusco is an old city, meaning it has many narrow cobbled streets. Some hotels and Airbnbs may be located on streets without access to cars or on long, steep slopes, making it difficult to transport luggage. We strongly recommend that you book accommodaon with good access.

# THANHS!

### **DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?**



24 HRS. EMERGENCY CALL: +51 917815987 [Opening hours – 7:30 am to 19:30 pm]



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Location: Cusco, Peru Click here







