

Inca Trail Private Journey

TREK TO MACHU PICCHU



WHEN TO GO

March to December

For our Private Journey trips, you choose your own group and your preferred dates—there are no set departure dates. Private Journeys are available to groups as few as two people or as large as you like. While many guests choose to book this tour exactly as is, our Area Specialists can work with you to customize it to your wishes. Contact us for availability, questions, or to book your adventure!



Wilderness Travel

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Inca Trail Private Journey

TREK TO MACHU PICCHU

This Private Journey is one of the great hikes of the world! Join your private guide for an amazing trek on the world-renowned Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, lost city of the Incas. On the trail, you just carry a daypack as you experience this unforgettable journey with our famous Wilderness Travel full-service camping support. Many other treats are in store on the Inca Trail: absolutely spectacular campsites, haunting Inca fortresses tucked among the rugged crags of the Cordillera Vilcabamba, the beauty of walking in a cloud forest of bamboo and orchids, and the mysterious dancing clouds that shroud, then reveal, these steep green mountains. We designed the trek for maximum altitude acclimatization and to get the most out of each trekking day on your incredible five-day hike. Along the way, enjoy the rich experience of hiking to three of the most fantastic Inca ruins on the trail: Runkuracay, Sayacmarca, and Phuyupatamarca (“Town in the Clouds”), then make your much-anticipated hike to Intipunku, the Gate of the Sun, to enter the magical world of Machu Picchu.

ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel’s escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—and enjoy the WT touch on all aspects of the journey.



Wilderness Travel

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Itinerary

Note: You must depart the US the day before Day 1 of this trip, which may require an overnight in Lima. We recommend that you arrive in Cusco a day early so that you can acclimatize to the altitude. We are happy to book additional hotel nights for you.

DAY 1

CUSCO, PERU (VIA LIMA)

Arrive early in the morning at the airport in Lima and connect with a spectacular flight over the Andes to Cusco (11,200'). Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to the hotel. Lunch is on your own. In the afternoon, enjoy a walking tour through central Cusco for a glimpse into the ceremonial heart of the Inca Empire. The walk includes a visit to the Coricancha, a sacred Inca temple whose walls were once covered with sheets of gold, the Plaza de Armas, and the Baroque cathedral, built on the site of an old Inca palace. Dinner this evening is with your Trip Leader...D

Note: We recommend coming to Cusco one day early to acclimatize to Cusco's altitude (it's also a delightful place to explore on your own). An extra day makes a world of difference after the long flight from the US. We are happy to book additional hotel nights for you at the Casa Andina Private Collection or Hotel Monasterio (an "on your own" expense).

Cusco: Inhabited by proto-Incas as early as the 12th century AD, Cusco was completely rebuilt in the early 15th century by Pachacutec, the Inca warrior-king. He is credited with creating the Incas' form of worship, system of government, and the distinctive masonry style we still marvel at today. Cusco was the heart of Tahuantinsuyo, the Land of the Four Quarters, as the Incas called their kingdom. The boundary lines of each quarter of the kingdom originated from the main plaza. An elegant imperial city, Cusco was laid out in the shape of a puma. The great fortress of Saqsayhuaman formed its head, while palaces, temples, squares, and streets formed the puma's body and legs. Cusco's paved avenues were flanked by temples, and there were rock-hewn palaces with gold- and jewel-encrusted doors and villas for the brilliantly clad Inca nobles and their retinues. The capital's opulent inner sanctum was the Coricancha, or House of the Sun, once a glittering temple to the gods, full of golden statues (today it forms the foundation for the colonial Santo Domingo church). Although the Spaniards looted the gold and silver from the elaborate Inca temples, most of Cusco remained undisturbed after Pizarro, the Spanish conqueror, made his triumphant entrance into the city in 1533. But in 1536, Manco II, the rebel Inca, led an attack against the Spanish. His men used slingshots to rain hot coals into the city, setting it ablaze. The Spanish triumphed, but the once-glorious city was left a smoking ruin.

Classic Accommodation: Casa Andina Premium Cusco

Optional Upgrade: Hotel Monasterio



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	9 days
Arrive:	Cusco, Peru
Depart:	Cusco, Peru
Lodging:	4 nights beautiful hotels, 4 nights full-service camping
Meals:	All meals included except 2 lunches and 2 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Archaeology, Cultural Adventures, Hiking / Trekking
Trip Level:	1 2 3 4 5 6 5-day trek on moderate to steep trails, 5-6 hours a day, altitudes between 8,000-13,776 feet

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike in the footsteps of the Incas and enter the citadel of Machu Picchu on foot
- Your own private guide and porters, delicious camp cuisine prepared by your personal cook
- Enjoy the comforts of our legendary Inca Trail camping services—the best on the trail!
- Discover Peru's vibrant traditional culture and renowned archaeological treasures
- Deluxe option includes an overnight at the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, with its extraordinary access to the ruins



*“All our guides showed such a passion for their work, the country of Peru, the Peruvian people, and the Inca archaeological sites.”
Gayle G., Silverton, OR*

DAY 2

CUSCO / PISAC / SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS / OLLANTAYTAMBO

Meet your guide for a private morning tour of the important Inca ruins overlooking Cusco, including the stunning imperial baths at Tambomachay and the massive Saqsayhuaman fortress, whose parallel walls of superbly interlocking stone blocks zigzag for nearly 2,000 feet.

Later, head out to the beautiful Urubamba Valley to discover the stupendous ruins of Pisac, a fortress that is still an enigma to archaeologists. It was a classic Inca pucara, a huge defended area into which the entire population of a wide area could retreat during a military threat, but despite its natural defenses, the Incas made no stand here against the Spaniards. Pisac is particularly well known for the Inca-built terracing that sweeps around the mountain spur on which the ruin is perched. The fine Inca terracing of the landscape around Pisac reflects a level of engineering ingenuity unrivaled anywhere else in South America. With your guide, hike past the largest known Inca burial site, explore the temple complex, and visit the village below, which has excellent artisan shops. Continue to the Hotel Pakaritampu in Ollantaytambo for overnight, or upgrade to the Rio Sagrado. Before dinner, you will meet with your Inca Trail guide for an orientation meeting...BL

Classic Accommodation: Hotel Pakaritampu

Optional Upgrade: Rio Sagrado

DAY 3

OLLANTAYTAMBO / BEGIN TREK

This morning, visit the stunning ruins at Ollantaytambo, a major Inca fortress and one of the few places where the conquistadors lost a battle with the Incas. The lower ruins consist of beautifully preserved terraces, while the upper ruins boast some of the finest Inca masonry known today. The village below the ruins is unique in that the foundations have survived exactly as the Incas laid them out hundreds of years ago. The major difference between this and modern-day towns is that each block, known as a cancha, is a self-contained unit with only one entrance onto the street. You'll have the opportunity to stroll through these narrow, quiet streets along with the local inhabitants. In the afternoon, drive to the trailhead and begin your trek with a three-mile hike to Wilderness Travel's beautifully situated permanent campsite set on the banks of the river at 8,900 feet and close to the park entrance. Amenities at this private WT camp include wonderful thatched-roof tent chalets with en-suite bathrooms and hot showers—and even a wood-fired sauna! And there are panoramic views of the snow-capped Cordillera Vilcabamba and dazzling Mt. Veronica (20,275'). This is the staging site of all Wilderness Travel's Inca Trail treks and is a wonderful spot to relax and prepare for the trek ahead. (Note: We cannot guarantee this camp will be private for groups with less than eight



people. You may need to share the camp with other trekkers.)...BLD

Hiking Details: 2-3 hours, 3 miles

Maximum altitude: 8,900 feet / Campsite altitude: 8,900 feet

DAY 4

TREK TO PAUCARCANCHA

One of the fascinating aspects of this trek is the opportunity to explore remote Inca sites that can only be reached on foot. Cross the Urubamba River on a hanging bridge and walk up to the small town of Piscacucho to check into the park. Returning back down to the bridge, you'll head north on a trail that brings you to Willka Raqay, a set of Inca ruins perched high above the ruins of Llactapata. Continue up the Huayllabamba valley, past the village of Huayllabamba to our private WT camp, set in a quiet spot near the archaeological remains of an important check-point, Paucarcancha, on a former Inca crossroads off the main Inca Trail. The Inca Trail, now a part of the National Archaeological Park of Machu Picchu, is part of the "royal highway" found by Hiram Bingham in 1915, four years after his discovery of the hilltop city of Machu Picchu, when he returned to clear vegetation from the site. You may pass some of the trekkers on the classic Inca Trail in the morning, but once you ascend past Huayllabamba toward your camp, you'll have this historic trail largely to yourself, allowing you to be immersed in the history and atmosphere of the Incan realm. Near camp, you can visit the Paucarcancha ruins, which include a small tambo, or resting place, with partially restored Inca houses surrounded by a wall. Our private camp features hot showers and indoor toilets...BLD

Hiking Details: 6-7 hours, 7.5 miles, 1,435 feet ascent

Maximum Altitude: 10,335 feet / Campsite Altitude: 10,335 feet

DAY 5

TREK TO PACAYMAYO / WARMIWAÑUSQA PASS

Hiking back to the main trail (most hiking groups are now ahead of you), make a long, uphill climb through villages, woods, and alongside a stream, then continue with a slow but steady ascent up the very steep switchbacks of the famous Warmiwañusqa Pass ("Pass of the Dead Woman") at 13,776 feet. At the summit (the highest altitude reached on the trek), you are rewarded by sweeping views of a panorama of snow-covered Andean peaks. Descend to camp at Pacaymayo at 11,480 feet...BLD

Hiking Details: 6-7 hours, 7 miles, 3,996 feet ascent/2,396 feet descent

Maximum altitude: 13,776 feet / Campsite altitude: 11,480 feet

DAY 6

TREK TO PHUYUPATAMARKA

Most trekking groups rush out early on this day, but you'll take your time and avoid other hiking groups. Today's hike brings you to three of the most fantastic ruins on the classic Inca Trail: Runkuraqay, Sayaqmarka, and exquisite Phuyupatamarca. After visiting Runkuraqay in the morning, continue your ascent along the original Inca Trail. Your second pass is the Abra de



"I can't give enough wonderful feedback! Our Trip Leader did a superlative job of helping to balance challenge with wonderment. The rest of the team on the trail were warm, professional, and kind. The food was terrific!"

Faithi B., Potomac, MD



Itinerary (cont'd)

“What a great time we had on the Inca Trail Private Journey! We were very impressed with the quality of the staff and the planning that went into the itinerary.”

Tom H., Raleigh, NC

Runkuraqay at about 12,960 feet, with a steep descent on Inca stone stairs to the pretty ruins at Sayaqmarka. There are Inca baths here and you'll see many varieties of orchids. The landscape becomes more lush as you head closer to Machu Picchu and away from the Urubamba Valley. Heading uphill again, cross a relatively short pass at just over 12,000 feet near wonderful Phuyupatamarca. Our support staff will have gone ahead to secure a high camp spot above the ruins of Phuyupatamarca. From our special camp here, views of Humantay (19,239') and Salcantay (20,574') are breathtaking. You'll feel like you're at the top of the world!

Hiking Details: 6 hours, 6 miles, 1,480 ascent/900 feet descent

Maximum altitude: 12,960 feet / Campsite altitude: 12,033 feet

Runkuraqay: This circular ruin was probably a frontier outpost of the Machu Picchu province. Hiram Bingham named it by asking his local porters what it was called. He heard runku but the porters might have said runcu, which translates as basket or basket-shaped, or rumpu, meaning ball or sphere. Its circular shape is unusual and its outer walls are massive and have no windows, but the eastern quarter of the courtyard has a magnificent view of the Pacaymayo Valley. It might have been a lookout post or a tambo, a place where travelers could stay.



Sayaqmarka: A small, maze-like ruin perched atop a sheer cliff at about 11,800 feet, Sayaqmarka (“Inaccessible Place”) is clearly illustrative of the military aspect of much Inca architecture and city planning. Bingham found this ruin in 1915 and called it Cedrobamba, Plain of Cedars. Since this is not a plain and there are no cedars, Paul Fejos, an archaeologist who visited the area in 1940 while studying Machu Picchu, subsequently gave it the Quechua name of Sayaqmarka. Sayaqmarka and the surrounding land have no significant remains of Inca agricultural terracing, so the site must have been supplied by food from somewhere else. One of its interesting features is a parabola-shaped building with trapezoidal openings on its west side.



Phuyupatamarca: This is the “Town in the Clouds,” aptly named by Hiram Bingham. Set at 11,700 feet, it has a beautiful set of linked stone baths and carved stone channels where mountain water still runs. There are many agricultural terraces around it. From Phuyupatamarca, an Inca-built stone staircase plunges a half-mile down into high jungle vegetation. This section of the original Inca Trail was only uncovered in 1984. Before then, hikers had to skirt around a modern footpath built to connect two original trail sections.

DAY 7

TREK TO MACHU PICCHU

You'll take your time hiking today, exploring the ruins of Phuyupatamarca and Wiñay Wayna, the last major site on the trail before you get to Machu Picchu. After lunch, make the long-anticipated hike up to Intipunku, Gate of the Sun. Here, a magnificent view unfolds before you: the storybook ruins of Machu Picchu, straddling a green ridge high above the Urubamba River. This spot has the absolutely classic view of Machu Picchu, and you will hike down into the ancient city just as the Incas would have done. Overnight at Machu Picchu...

BLD

Hiking Details: 5 hours, 6.8 miles, 4,133 feet descent

Maximum altitude: 12,033 feet / Machu Picchu altitude: 7,972 feet

Classic Accommodation: The Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

Optional Upgrade: The Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge

Wiñay Wayna: Wiñay Wayna (“Forever Young”) is one of the most beautiful small Inca ruins, especially when it is seen from a distance, clinging to the side of a ravine. It's named for an orchid, once abundant in this region, that blooms year-round and hence had the Quechua name of “forever young.” A large round structure commands the site and below it a flight of stairs leads down past ten ritual baths. Ritual baths are a feature of major Inca sites.

Machu Picchu: So well hidden in the jungle-covered ramparts of the Cordillera Vilcabamba that the Spaniards never knew of it, Machu Picchu allows us a glimpse into the Inca world. American historian Hiram Bingham, who had a

“First class service from our moment of arrival until departure. It was very apparent on the trail that Wilderness Travel was a higher level experience than any other agency. We were very pleased with all services.”

Randy F., Laguna Niguel, CA



fascination with Peruvian archaeology, found the site in 1911 while searching for the ruins of Vilcabamba, known to be the last place where the rebel Manco II took refuge. A villager told Bingham about some ruins on a high ridge above the Urubamba River and led him there; thus, Bingham found the ruins not of Vilcabamba, but of a mysterious Inca city now believed to be one of the royal estates of the 9th Inca king, Pachacuti—whose name translates as “Transformer of the World.” Pachacuti was a kind of New World Alexander the Great, whose son and grandson continued and consolidated the expansion of Inca power. Bingham returned in 1912 and 1915 to undertake the difficult task of clearing the thick forest that had engulfed the ruins. Peruvian archaeologist Luis Valcarcel undertook further studies and vegetation clearing in 1934, and in 1940 and 1941, a Peruvian-American expedition led by Paul Fejos did more study. Archaeologists know that Machu Picchu was built, occupied, and then abandoned in the course of 100 years. Discoveries in the 1980s of many other small ruin sites close to Machu Picchu have given weight to the theory that Machu Picchu also served as the administrative center of a huge and populous region. Whatever Machu Picchu’s purpose was, it is certainly one of the most stunning archaeological sites in the world.

DAY 8

MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

Explore the wonders of Machu Picchu with your guide. So well hidden in the jungle-covered ramparts of the Cordillera Vilcabamba that the Spaniards never knew of it, this “lost city” allows a vivid experience of the Inca world. The Palace of Princesses, Temple of the Sun, Temple of the Condor, and the astronomical observatory are only a few of the remarkable restored ruins here. The many beautiful altars, terraces, fountains, and mysterious chambers all display intricate stonework. Transfer to the last afternoon train to return to Cusco around 6 pm. You will be met on arrival in Cusco for transfer to the hotel. Dinner on your own...BL

Classic Accommodation: Casa Andina Premium Cusco

Optional Upgrade: Hotel Monasterio

DAY 9

LIMA / DEPART

Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Lima or join one of our optional extensions...B

Extend Your Adventure!

To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our *Inca Trail Private Journey* webpage and click on "Extend Your Trip": www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/inca-trail-private-guided-trek/

AMAZON RAINFOREST EXTENSION: RESERVA AMAZONICA

Enter the enchanting world of the Amazon rainforest as you listen to the dawn chorus of bird songs, hear the howls of monkeys in the high forest canopy, walk lush rainforest trails, explore by boat along vine-draped waterways, and learn about the ecosystem of a tropical rainforest from knowledgeable local guides. Accommodations are at Reserva Amazonica, set in a 40-square-mile private ecological reserve adjacent to Peru's Tambopata National Reserve.

4 days. From \$850.

AREQUIPA AND COLCA CANYON EXTENSION

Take in the colonial splendor of Arequipa, set on the edge of the Andes and surrounded by spectacular mountains, including snow-capped El Misti, a 19,000-foot volcano that makes a striking backdrop for the city. Explore the city's harmonious and beautifully preserved colonial center of white stone architecture, recently listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, then head out into the countryside to enjoy the grandeur of massive Colca Canyon, one of the deepest in the world, flanked by glaciers and volcanoes. The canyon's walls preserve some of the finest Inca terracing in Peru and shelter traditional Indian villages. Here you may spot Andean condors circling up from the canyon depths.

5 days. From \$1,895.



Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through December 15, 2025

\$5,795 (6-15 members)

\$6,195 (4-5 members)

\$6,595 (3 members)

Single supplement: \$595

Inca Trail Permit: \$110

Note: We need a minimum of 3 trip members to run the trip.

Hotel upgrade options available in each location. Call for details.

Peak season rates are quoted separately: December 13, 2025-January 5, 2026.

Prices are based on double occupancy and not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Make it Your Trip!

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, offer hotel upgrades (see below for sample costs), or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Accommodations in hotels, based on double occupancy, as described, and in top quality tents on trek
- All meals included except 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- Land transportation as noted
- Entrance fee to Machu Picchu and Huayna Picchu
- Airport transfers
- Private Guide on trek and all tours

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, internal flights, meals specified as “on your own,” airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, cost of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Latin America Manager or email us at latinamerica@wildernesstravel.com with any questions that you may have about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation	\$1,000
90 days prior to departure	Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee (including Inca Trail permit fee): \$1,000 per person

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

Accommodations

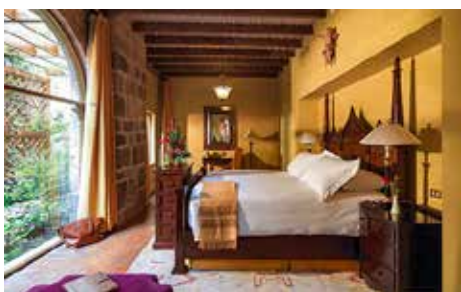
DAY 1 (1 NIGHT), DAY 8 (1 NIGHT): CUSCO, PERU

In Cusco, we stay at one of the following properties:



CASA ANDINA PREMIUM CUSCO

Just three blocks from the Plaza de Armas in the heart of old Cusco, this charming hotel is a renovated colonial manor house. It features a series of interior garden courtyards and a small sitting room and bar with a wonderful stone fireplace—a great place to relax after a day of exploring the city. The hotel's entire staff is most helpful, and the restaurant is known for its selection of Novo Andino dishes.



HOTEL MONASTERIO (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

A 16th century monastery that is now an elegant hotel, the Monasterio has a stunning historic ambiance, with several inner courtyards, a chapel, wonderful furnishings, and antique paintings and carpets. The grand lobby bar, warmed by a fireplace, is a great place to sit and unwind at the end of a busy day. The hotel also has a great location just steps from the Plaza de Armas. As with any historic building, the guest rooms vary in size and configuration, but all are well appointed. This hotel even offers to pump oxygen into guest rooms to help acclimatization to Cusco's high altitude! The Monasterio is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World.

DAY 2 (1 NIGHT): OLLANTAYTAMBO, PERU

In the Sacred Valley of the Incas, we stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:



HOTEL PAKARITAMPU

A cozy hotel with a countryside feeling, the Pakaritampu is just a few blocks from the main plaza in the traditional village of Ollantaytambo. There is a lodge-style lounge with a large fireplace, a library, and games—perfect for relaxing after a day exploring Ollantaytambo. Guest rooms are simple and comfortable, and Wi-Fi is available throughout the property. The service is friendly, the food is tasty, and there are lushly landscaped grounds for birdwatching and great mountain views.



HOTEL RIO SAGRADO (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

Nestled into a steep hillside above the roaring Urubamba River, this superb Belmond property is a tranquil retreat with a prime location and 21 spacious suites with private garden decks and stunning views out over the Urubamba Valley. Hot-stone massages are among the treatment options at the on-site spa. The restaurant serves seasonal Andean cuisine; ingredients are locally sourced and many items even picked from the kitchen garden. The hotel has extensive landscaped gardens with endemic plants—and baby alpacas roam around the grounds!

DAY 3 (1 NIGHT): INCA TRAIL, PERU



PRIVATE CAMP AT KILOMETER 82

We have exclusive use of the private tented chalet camp at legendary Kilometer 82, right by the start of the classic Inca Trail. This “only-with WT” feature gives us wonderful privacy for our groups, incredible views of the Veronica snow peak, and great access to the Inca Trail. The thatched-roof chalets feature twin or king-size beds, electricity, full bathrooms with hot and cold running water, tiled solar-heated showers, and flush toilets. Each tent has its own veranda where you can savor views of the surrounding mountains. Stone pathways connect the tents through landscaped gardens to a cozy lounge area with a fireplace and an enclosed dining room where our delightful meals are served, featuring a wonderful mix of Peruvian and North American dishes. The comfort factor is high here, yet your environmental footprint is small—solid waste is managed with bio-digesters and power is supplied by a hydro-electrical source. The camp also has an on-site sauna, so be sure to bring your suit! This is a unique, exclusive experience, and promises to be a highlight of your Inca Trail hike.

DAYS 4 TO 6 (3 NIGHTS): INCA TRAIL, PERU



INCA TRAIL TREK CAMPS

We make hiking and camping in the Andes as comfortable as it can get! On the trail, you are accompanied by our experienced team of trail guides, and all your gear is carried for you, leaving you free to hike with just a light daypack to hold your camera, water bottle, jacket, etc. Our camp amenities include a dining tent with a dining table, chairs with backs, camp meals prepared by our highly trained staff, and, at two of our camps, indoor toilets and hot showers (toilet tents with chemical toilets at our other camps). We provide sleeping bags, sleeping bag liners, and sleeping pads while on trek. Our camp crew takes care of all camp chores, including bringing tea or coffee to your tent each morning and providing beautiful picnic lunches each day at a scenic spot along the trail. Accommodations are in sturdy mountain-style tents. Our camps are operated to the highest environmental standards.

Lodging (cont'd)

DAY 7 (1 NIGHT): MACHU PICCHU RUINS, PERU

At the Machu Picchu Ruins, we stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:



MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL

Located in Aguas Calientes below the Machu Picchu ruins, this hotel is spread over 12 acres of lush cloud forest. The rooms are comfortable bungalows with fireplaces and private terraces for admiring the tropical foliage and watching birds. Not having TVs in the rooms adds to the “away from it all” feeling, and you can take guided early morning bird walks or stroll one of the most extensive orchid gardens in the world. Meals are exceptionally good, and check out the hotel’s traditional-style Andean sauna. It’s easy to get to and from Machu Picchu by bus (a 30-minute ride). People love this hotel’s peaceful natural setting, and you can walk across a bridge into Aguas Calientes town for a visit to the extensive local handicraft market.



MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY LODGE (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

You can’t get closer to the Machu Picchu ruins than this! With only 31 rooms, this property is famously set right at the gate of Machu Picchu. Not only does this save you from having to make the 30-minute bus trip to get up to or back from the ruins each day, but it also allows you the luxury of popping back to the hotel for a rest or a bite to eat whenever you like throughout the day. The hotel features a garden with a view of Huayna Picchu, two restaurants, and the food and service are wonderful. While the rooms are small and few offer views of the ruins, the Sanctuary remains the absolute top choice of travelers who decide that if they are only going to do it once, they might as well do it right!

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Inca Trail Private Journey* webpage and click on “Accommodations.”

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents required for your trip.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Cusco, Peru

Suggested Airport: Cusco, Peru (CUZ), via Lima (LIM)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, before noon

Meeting Place: Upon arrival, you will be met by your WT representative outside the arrivals hall at the Cusco airport.*

*Please leave a 3-hour connection time in Lima before flying on to Cusco.

DEPARTURE

Cusco, Peru

Suggested Airport: Cusco, Peru (CUZ), with an onward connection in Lima (LIM)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 9, depart Cusco any time this day

At the end of the trip (Day 9), we will transfer you to the Cusco airport for your departing flight.*

*Be sure to leave a 3-hour connection time in Lima before your international flight home.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Peru. Airlines with the most convenient schedules for this trip include American Airlines, United Airlines, and Delta.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Note: It is necessary to depart from the US at least one day prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. We also encourage you to arrive in Cusco a day earlier to help adjust to the altitude.

The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once tickets have been purchased, please forward a copy of your email confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS

We are happy to arrange additional hotel nights for you in Cusco or Lima. Please contact our office to book these reservations.

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 5, Moderate to Strenuous. Most hiking is between 8,000 and 12,000 feet, the maximum elevation reached is 13,800 feet, and the total miles hiked is about 25. Trails can be rough, not the well-maintained switchbacks you may be accustomed to in the United States, and the altitudes are high. In addition, the Inca Trail has quite a few long portions of steep “staircases.” For the most part, you can hike at your own speed. The group will spread out along the trail to cover about 6 to 8 miles per day (6-7 hours of hiking each day). Trail conditions can be primitive, and there is a good bit of up-and-down (often 2,000 to 3,000 feet of elevation gain and subsequent loss per day). Everyone should be prepared for five days of hardy outdoor living. We expect each participant to be in excellent health and physical condition. We recommend you make a special effort to get in top physical condition for the trip.

Getting in Shape

You must make a concerted effort to get in top physical condition for the trip by engaging in regular exercise well beyond your normal routine. We recommend you do aerobic exercise that causes you to break a sweat for at least 30 minutes, at least three times a week, over the course of a couple of months prior to the trip.

To accelerate your conditioning, try walking faster than 1.5 miles per hour, walking on steeper inclines, and using your gym's stair-climbing machines. As you progress, practice these walks with your loaded daypack (full water bottle, camera gear, jacket). Walks are also a great way to break

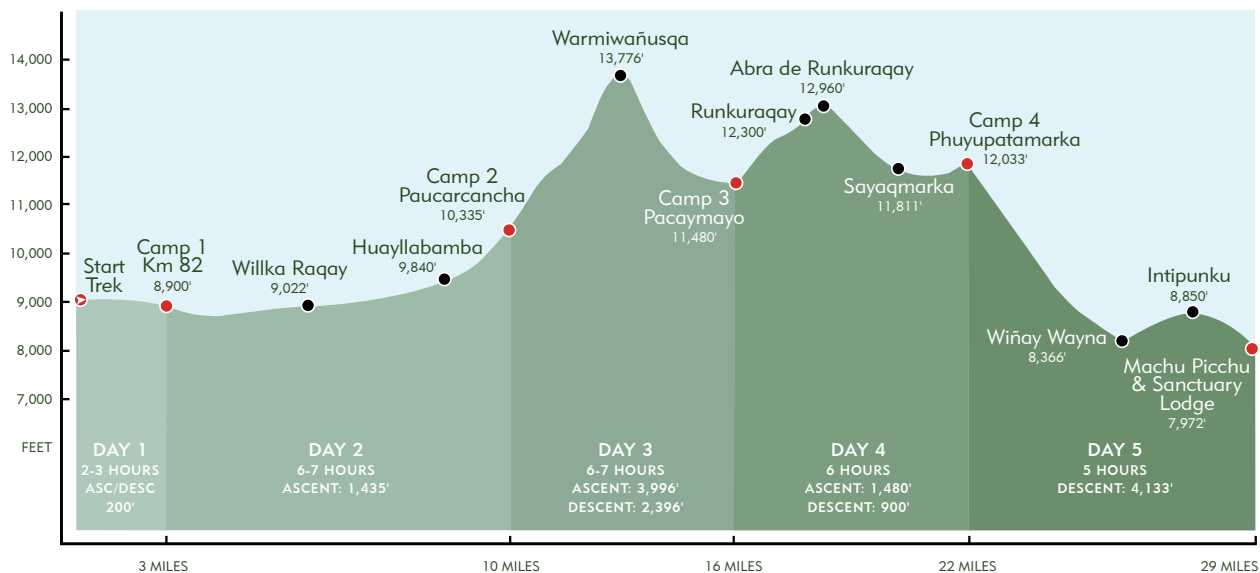
in your hiking boots. The object is to improve your overall level of fitness and aerobic capacity and get your legs and lungs in shape for the Andes.

A Typical Trekking Day With Wilderness Travel

Hiking distances on trek are normally measured in hours, not miles, since maps aren't really accurate enough to assess how far we walk up and down winding mountain trails. An average day's walk is seven or eight hours. With rest stops and photo stops, few people walk faster than one mile an hour in a mountainous region. Some hiking days are shorter than others, and some days are more difficult than others due to altitude gain and loss.

On a typical trek day, wake-up is around 7 am, when a cup of hot tea or coffee and a basin of warm washing water are brought to your tent by one of the camp crew. After packing up our duffels and having breakfast (often pancakes, oatmeal, eggs, or something similar), we set off on the trail while the crew strikes camp and the porters shoulder their loads. The crew passes us by midmorning to get ahead and prepare our lunch.

Most groups tend to spread out over the trail, taking photos, stopping to rest, and enjoying the scenery. We ask you not to hike ahead of the leader because trails are often not well-marked. If you feel breathless during a long ascent or wobbly during a long descent, by all means stop until you feel restored.



You will typically hike for three or four hours in the morning, then stop for a leisurely lunch of an hour or more at a scenic spot on the trail. Lunch is a picnic, perhaps chicken salad, potato salad, guacamole salad, or macaroni salad, along with fruit, cheese, bread, and chocolate bars for extra energy. After lunch, you will hike for another three hours or so until you reach the next night's camp. The porters and crew pass you in mid-afternoon and usually have camp set up by the time we arrive. At camp, there is late afternoon tea (or coffee or cocoa) and a snack such as popcorn, cookies, or crackers, which hit the spot after a long day on the trail. Before dinner, there's free time to read or relax. Temperatures drop quickly as the sun drops behind the peaks, and it's easy to get chilled after exerting yourself for several hours, so have a few extra layers of clothing ready. It gets dark fairly early (around 6:30 pm). Dinner, served in a dining tent with table and chairs, is delicious hot soup followed by a substantial main course and a dessert. After dinner, you can chat away the evening in the dining tent or read by flashlight until bedtime.

When is the Best Time to Go?

The Inca Trail can be hiked all year except from late January to February, the rainy months, when the trail is closed for repairs. The high season for the Inca Trail begins in May and extends through September, Peru's winter and the dry season. The shoulder season is March and April, and again from October and November to December. The rains begin in earnest in late December, but this is also the time with fewer hikers on the trail. The rain does not usually affect the trail itself since it is mostly stone-paved.

Why Do You Need to Book So Early?

To protect the Inca Trail's monuments and environment, Peruvian authorities issue a very limited number of permits for hikers on the Inca Trail. Only 500 permits are issued for each day, with 200 permits going to hikers and 300 permits going to the licensed porters who carry your gear on the trail. As you can imagine, permits sell out extremely fast! We strongly recommend you book your trip at least six months in advance, especially if you are considering going between May and September. When you sign up, please be prepared to give us your passport number and your name as it appears on your passport so that we can request a permit for you.

WEATHER

This journey can best be enjoyed from March through December. Being so close to the equator, Peru has only two climate seasons: a dry season from April to October, and a wet season from December to March. Altitude is the main factor controlling the climate. In the mountains, you'll encounter sunny days with daytime temperatures ranging between 65F and 70F degrees, dropping to the 40s and lower at night. The sun is very strong at high altitude and it can often be warm enough to hike in shorts and a t-shirt. However, it can also get extremely cold; if you're familiar with mountain weather, you know how suddenly it can get cold even in the daytime if the sun slips behind a cloud. Nighttime temperatures can drop to below freezing. Rain should not be a problem on our treks, but always keep in mind that mountain weather is unpredictable and sudden storms can occur, especially on high mountain passes.

Lima lies in a coastal desert where rainfall is rare and temperatures are usually warm (70s and 80s). Days are overcast most of the year due to the Humboldt current that comes up from Antarctica and meets the warm, tropical El Nino current from the north to create the garua, or coastal fog/mist.

The climate in the Amazon Basin is generally warm and humid throughout the year but can also be unexpectedly cool (usually 60s) due to the breezes that blow down from the Andes.

CHILDREN

The recommended minimum age is 10. Triple rooms (subject to availability) can be requested.

PRIVATE JOURNEY GUIDED SERVICES

You will have a private guide throughout the trip.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Latin America Manager or email us at latinamerica@wildernesstravel.com.

Trip Details (cont'd)

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—and enjoy the WT touch on all aspects of the journey.

TOUCAN CLUB

Please note that Toucan Club discounts do not apply for our Private Journeys. However, your participation on these trips will count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular expeditions.

For more information regarding our Toucan Club bonus program, please visit our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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