

# Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

THE ULTIMATE HIKING ADVENTURE TO THE LEGENDARY LOST CITY



Wilderness Travel





## TRIP DATES

### 2024

June 25-July 3, 2024  
 July 5-13, 2024  
 August 10-18, 2024 Added Departure  
 August 24-September 1, 2024  
 September 14-22, 2024  
 October 4-12, 2024  
 November 15-23, 2024

### 2025

April 4-12, 2025  
 April 25-May 3, 2025  
 May 22-30, 2025  
 June 13-21, 2025  
 June 25-July 3, 2025  
 July 11-19, 2025  
 August 8-16, 2025  
 August 22-30, 2025  
 September 14-22, 2025  
 October 3-11, 2025  
 November 14-24, 2025

## INCA TRAIL PERMITS

To hike the Inca Trail, you must have a permit. We obtain the permits for you from the Peruvian government. The permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis, and sell out months in advance. It is critical you sign up for your preferred dates as early as possible. For summer departures, this would ideally be six or more months in advance.





# WT Difference on the Inca Trail

## DECADES OF EXPERTISE ON THE INCA TRAIL

Who you travel with makes all the difference in your experience of the Inca Trail. We have more than 40 years of expertise on this legendary trail, and you'll see the difference in every detail of your trip. Our itinerary has been honed to perfection, with the very best team of guides, exceptional camps with the finest equipment, and great cuisine.

## OPTIMAL ALTITUDE ACCLIMATIZATION

Our itinerary is designed so you have a full four days at altitude before we begin the ascent toward 13,830-foot Warmiwañusqa Pass. The first two are spent between 9,110'-11,200' exploring Cusco and the Urubamba Valley. Then the first two days of the trek are over moderate rolling countryside, allowing us to continue our acclimatization and get our legs accustomed to the rhythm of trekking while we visit several fascinating Inca sites most hikers miss. We find this makes a vast difference to your experience and ability to fully enjoy the wonders of the Inca Trail.



## EXPERT TRIP LEADERS

Our Trip Leaders are simply the most qualified on the Inca Trail. They are experts in Inca history, with a profound connection to Peru's fascinating traditional culture. Our leaders have the wonderful gift for bringing the history and culture to life. Along with their skilled knowledge of the trail, they have a deep commitment to your well being in this mountain environment, ensuring your safety and comfort each day and taking care of all the details so you can savor the wonder of the Inca Trail.



## EXCEPTIONAL CAMPSITES, WITH TWO NIGHTS IN PRIVATE CAMPS

One of the reasons our itinerary works so well is our selection of campsites, including two private sites, both just outside the park boundary. The second campsite allows you the luxury of exclusivity with an extensive Inca ruin but a short walk away. The first, however, offers much, much more as you'll be provided with comfortable walk-in thatched-roof tent chalets featuring twin or king-size beds and en-suite bathrooms with hot showers. It includes a permanent indoor dining facility as well as a wood-fired sauna. We secure the best spots in the final two camps, both of which are in the national park and offer incredible views of the stunning mountain landscape. We'll enjoy meals inside our dining tent with tables, tablecloths, and chairs with backs—you'll appreciate the difference.



## OVERNIGHT RIGHT AT MACHU PICCHU

The Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge is the only hotel right at the ruins, and we're one of the very few companies to include a stay here at the end of your trek. You'll be right on the doorstep of this magical site, not waiting in line to get on the buses that bring people up from the town below. An overnight here is a spectacular way to truly experience Machu Picchu, as we have access to one of the wonders of the world when most visitors and tourist buses have left for the day.







## Our Route to Machu Picchu

### A WORLD-CLASS PILGRIMAGE

Trekking to the legendary lost city of Machu Picchu is one of the world's most inspiring pilgrimages, an exhilarating journey following in the footsteps of the ancient Incas. Our journey begins in Cusco, the imperial city of the Incas, where we stay at the Hotel Monasterio, one of Cusco's most romantic and prestigious accommodations.

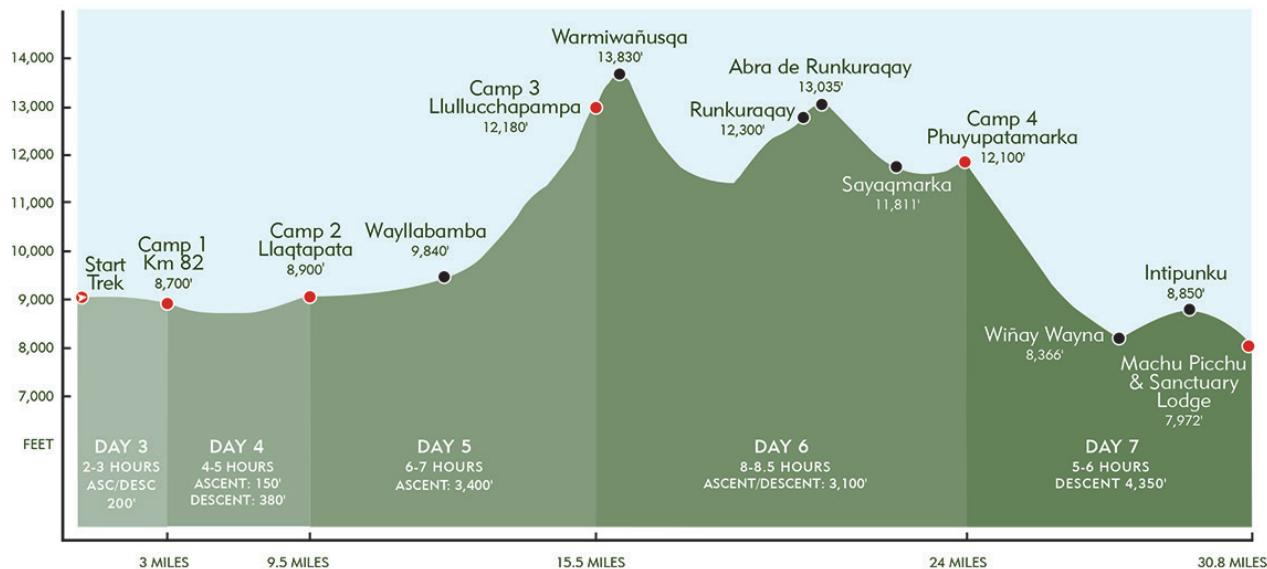
After visiting the sites of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, we set off on the ancient royal highway to Machu Picchu, staying the first two nights at our own private campsites. The first one has full amenities—permanent toilets, showers, and even a sauna! Crossing two high passes, we explore major Inca ruins

along the route—you can't reach them any other way than on foot—and enjoy spectacular, specially chosen campsites with fantastic views. One of our camps just above the ruin of Phuyupatamarca has incredible panoramas of the snow-capped giants of Humantay (19,239') and Salcantay (20,574')—two awesome sentinels of the Inca Trail. The climax of our trek is the hike to Intipunku, Gate of the Sun, on our final day, then we hike down into the captivating ruins of Machu Picchu. The next day we explore the archaeological site with our guide. Our overnight at Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, set right at the ruins, allows us wonderful access to this mystical site.

The next morning, we'll continue our exploration of the extensive and dramatically sited ruins, and those who wish (and were signed up early enough so we can secure the tickets!) can embark on the exciting hike up to the top of Huayna Picchu, the striking peak that forms the photogenic backdrop for Machu Picchu.

### PROPER ACCLIMATIZATION

Our trip itinerary is specifically designed to give you four full days at altitude before crossing the high passes. The overnights are in Cusco (11,200'), Ollantaytambo (9,160'), and we hike between our first two private camps from 8,520'-8,900'.





# Trekking in Style

## CAMP AMENITIES & CUISINE

During the trek, our tents at camps 2, 3, and 4 are roomy, high-quality 4-person mountain tents (used for only 2 people) and 2-person tents (used for singles). We also have our own private, biodegradable chemical toilet.

And the food? You'll be surprised and delighted at the variety and quality of our on-the-trail cuisine, a blend of freshly made American and Peruvian dishes. Each morning, you'll wake up to hot coffee, cocoa, and a choice of teas, brought right to your tent, followed by a freshly prepared breakfast of eggs, pancakes, French toast, or oatmeal, served in our enclosed dining tent, complete with table and chairs. Lunches include delicious pasta salads, soup, casseroles, and other offerings, served at a scenic trailside spot where our staff has set up tables and chairs, and often an open tent for shade. At each lunch stop, we set up our own private, biodegradable chemical toilet for our own group's use. Tea time with snacks are on hand when you arrive at our well-located camp at the end of each day's hike, and dinner begins with a hearty soup followed by an entrée of fish, beef, or chicken (with vegetarian options), along with vegetable dishes, fruit, and a light dessert. Our cooks are well-trained in catering to special diet needs including gluten-free and non-dairy, and camp hygiene is practiced at the highest level.

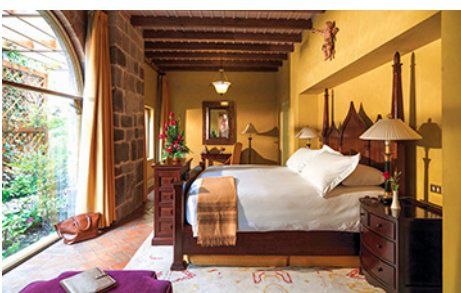
## MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY LODGE

On the final day of the trek, you'll overnight at the legendary Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, with its extraordinary location just steps from the entrance gate to the ruins, a fitting end to a spectacular journey! Most companies use the hotels in Aguas Calientes, the riverside town below Machu Picchu, meaning travelers must wait in line and take a long bus ride up a switchback road to reach the ruins, as well as a long bus ride back. Overnighting at the ruins with WT allows you to explore the site right until closing time. The next morning, you're right in place to take the exciting early morning hike up to the top of Huayna Picchu, the striking peak that forms the photogenic backdrop for Machu Picchu.



"This trip surpassed all our dreams. Everything was superb—the guides, the camping sites, the organization, the porters, the FOOD (better than any restaurant!) Thank you."

*Margot M., Miami Beach, FL*







# Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

## THE ULTIMATE HIKING ADVENTURE TO A LEGENDARY LOST CITY

### 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 1 lunch and 1 dinner (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, 5-8 hours a day, altitudes between 8,000-13,860 feet

Ready for one of the world's “must-do” adventures? Join us on our trek along the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, Peru's glorious city of stone perched high above the Sacred Valley. This fabled lost city, with its evocative stone staircases, altars, temples, and fountains, is the most magical of all the Inca sites, and its exquisite setting makes it utterly spectacular. Our trek follows in the path of the ancient Incas and brings you to fascinating ruins accessible only on foot and through the legendary “Gate of the Sun” right into Machu Picchu itself. We've honed this journey to perfection with spectacular campsites, superb camp amenities, and an extraordinary team of Trip Leaders and trail guides who have a passion for creating an unforgettable journey on this celebrated route. In addition to our peerless camping experience, our hotels are the very best, and include the landmark 5-star Hotel Monasterio in Cusco and the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, the only hotel right at the ruins. If you've ever dreamed of hiking the Inca Trail, this is the way to do it!







## Itinerary

Please Note: We highly 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 Hotel Monasterio (an "on your own" expense).

### DAY 1 TO 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, we are met and transferred to the Belmond Hotel Monasterio, a landmark 16th century monastery beautifully transformed into a luxurious 5-star hotel, close to Cusco's central square. Here we drink a cup of maté de coca (the local herb tea) to help us acclimatize to the high altitude, and take deep breaths! We set out for a walking tour through central Cusco for a glimpse into the ceremonial heart of the Inca Empire. Our 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. We then head up to stunning Saqsayhuaman, a monumental Inca fortress overlooking the city, to marvel at the sheer size of this military and religious

complex, with its zig-zag walls of enormous, perfectly fitted stones. Return to the city and overnight at hotel. A Welcome Lunch or Welcome Dinner is included this day depending on the arrival times of trip members...L or D

**Cusco:** Cusco was the heart of Tahuantinsuyo, the Land of

*"An amazing, never-to-be-forgotten trip. The almost-full moon over our high elevation campsites, with the snow-capped Andes spread out around us, was unbelievably magical. The whole trip was well planned, well paced, and well executed."*

*Sue C., Healdsburg, CA*

the Four Quarters, as the Incas called their empire. 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.

## DAY 2 PISAC / SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS

This morning after breakfast we transfer to the beautiful “Sacred Valley of the Incas” and Pisac (9,751'), a colonial and modern village above which lies a majestic Inca fortress overlooking the valley. We explore its towering fortress-ruin (11,100'), which has some of the finest examples of Inca terracing in existence, still in use by local inhabitants, then descend to the colonial Pisac village. After lunch here, we'll have some time to visit the local Pisac market. Overnight at a lovely hotel in the valley...BLD

Hiking Details: approximately 2.5-3 hours, 1,349' descent

**Pisac and the Urubamba Valley:** The Urubamba Valley was sacred to the Incas for many reasons, a key one being that it has a moderate climate and fertile plains, a rare combination in the high Andes. It is also the route to the jungle, from which the Incas liked to bring tropical fruits and plants. In the

Urubamba Valley is the picturesque Andean village of Pisac and a major Inca ruin of the same name. The ruin at Pisac was the largest fortress-city complex of the Incas, yet is another enigma to archaeologists. It was a classic Inca pucara, a huge defended area where 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.

*“The Inca Trail was better than I could have imagined. The trip was organized flawlessly and was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. My first big trek and I loved every minute of it.”*

*Brynna P., Washington, DC*

Pisac is particularly well known for the Inca-built terracing. These are the best preserved and most extensive Inca terraces in Peru and were used during Inca times for growing maize, a prestige crop that needed irrigation in the dry highlands. Another interesting feature of the site is its many cliff tombs, found especially in the steep walls to the west of the ruins. Huaqueros (grave robbers) reached them before the archaeologists

and today all that is left is a honeycomb of empty tombs in the nearby cliffs.

## DAY 3 OLLANTAYTAMBO / BEGIN TREK

We visit the stunning ruins at Ollantaytambo (9,160'), a major Inca fortress-temple 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. We have the opportunity to stroll through these narrow, quiet streets along with the local inhabitants. In the late morning, we drive to our trailhead and begin our trek with a three-mile hike to a beautifully situated permanent campsite set on the banks of the river at 8,700 feet and close to the park entrance. The amenities at this camp include wonderful walk-in tented chalets with en-suite bathrooms and hot showers—and even a wood-fired sauna! We also enjoy panoramic views of the snow-capped Cordillera Urubamba and dazzling Mt. Veronica (18,700'). This is the staging site of all our Inca Trail treks and is a wonderful spot to relax and prepare for the trek ahead...BLD

Hiking Details: approximately 3 miles, 1.5-2 hours, 560' descent

Maximum Elevation: 9,251' / Campsite Elevation: 8,700'

#### DAY 4 TREK TO LLAQTAPATA

One of the fascinating aspects of this trek is the opportunity to explore remote Inca sites that can only be reached on foot. We cross the Urubamba River on a hanging bridge and walk up

to the small town of Piskachucho to check into the park. We begin hiking, following the right bank of the Urubamba River, until we reach the well-preserved archaeological complex of Salapunku, an ancient settlement. An age-old geoglyph on a granite wall marks our way, and an interesting stone channel bringing water for agriculture from the Veronica glacier will make you admire Inca engineering as we visit the small site of Q'anabamba. We reach Qoriwayrachina, "the place where Incas panned for gold," and walk down a stone stairway to reach a hanging bridge built upon solid Inca foundations to cross to the other side of the Urubamba River. A short hike brings us to our campsite, set right across a stream from the impressive Inca citadel of Llaqtapata. After settling in, we can explore the extensive remains of Llaqtapata. Overnight at private camp...BLD

Hiking Details: approximately 5.7 miles, 4-5 hours, 165' ascent/330' descent

Maximum Elevation: 8,900' / Campsite Elevation: 8,900'

#### DAY 5 TREK TO LLULLUCCHAPAMPA

We get an early start and begin hiking toward our highest campsite at Llullucchapampa. Our hike brings us to the Huayllabamba valley, and we pass by the village of the same name, where the last of the farms are located and allowed in the Machu Picchu Park protected area. After enjoying a picnic







lunch with breathtaking views of the Andes, we continue farther until we reach a forest of endangered polylepis trees, endemic to the mid- and high-elevation regions of the Andes. Their intricate shapes and density of the forest plus the winding trail makes this a unique and special place on the Inca Trail. Once past the forest, we emerge above the tree line, and camp for the night at Llulluchapampa. This is normally our coldest night of the trek and temperatures can go below 32°F...BLD

Hiking Details: approximately 6.5 miles, 6-7 hours, 3,325' ascent

Maximum Elevation: 12,180' / Campsite Elevation: 12,180'

## DAY 6 WARMIWAÑUSQA PASS / TREK TO PHUYUPATAMARKA

Today begins our longest but very rewarding day as we make a slow but steady ascent up the very steep trail of the famous Warmiwañusqa Pass ("Pass of the Dead Woman") at 13,830'. At the summit (the highest altitude we reach on our trek), we are rewarded by sweeping views of a panorama of snow-covered Andean peaks and deep valleys. We'll take time to enjoy the view and take the classic group photo before we begin our steep descent to the Pacaymayu valley. We then have another steep ascent to the second pass, stopping halfway at the Inca remains of Runkuraqay, where we join the original (unrestored) cobblestone Inca trail. We continue on this trail to our second pass at 12,992', which offers spectacular views of the Vilcabamba Range. From here we descend on the original Inca trail that leads us to the site of Sayaqmarka with

its "organic architecture" dramatically built on an impressive rock promontory overlooking the Aobamba Valley. Next we walk through a small bamboo forest to arrive at the large dry lake of Chaquicocha, and then around the ridge on fairly level Inca road to reach our last and most beautiful campsite above the ruins of Phuyupatamarca. From this special camp, 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: approximately 8.4 miles, 8-8.5 hours, 3,091' total ascent/3,100' total descent

Maximum Elevation: 13,830' / Campsite Elevation: 12,100'

**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 12,204 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 nearly 12,100 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 / MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY LODGE

We depart our camp early this morning to explore the ruins of Phuyupatamarca, Inipata, and Wiñay Wayna, the last major site on the trail before we get to Machu Picchu. After lunch, we make our long-anticipated hike up to Intipunku, Gate of the Sun. Here, a magnificent view unfolds before us: 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 we will hike down into the ancient city just as the Incas would have done. Our overnight is at Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, the only hotel right at

the entrance to the archaeological site, allowing unparalleled access (it's just 50 feet away!) and sunset views over the Urubamba Valley. We gather for our Farewell Dinner this evening at the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge...BLD

Hiking Details: approximately 6.8 miles, 5–6 hours, 230' ascent/4,350' descent

Maximum Elevation: 12,100' / Machu Picchu Elevation: 8,005'

**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:** American historian Hiram Bingham, who had a 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.” 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. 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. 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

Today we will continue our exploration of this extensive and dramatically sited ruin. Those that wish to climb Huayna Picchu (and signed up early enough so we can secure you the necessary tickets) will set out at 7:00 am up the steep yet rewarding mountain trail to its summit. The view here

is stunning, with sweeping vistas of Machu Picchu in the morning's soft light. We will continue to explore Machu Picchu until early afternoon, at which point we will descend to Aguas Calientes and board a train bound for Cusco at around 3:00 pm, arriving in Cusco in the early evening, with dinner on your own. Overnight at the Hotel Monasterio... BL

#### DAY 9 LIMA / DEPART

Fly to Lima and depart on homeward-bound flights...B





# Trip Details

## PRICING INFORMATION

### TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2024**

\$5995 (10-15 members)

\$6595 (7-9 members)

\$6995 (4-6 members)

Single supplement: \$1445

Inca Trail permit: \$110 (subject to change)

*2025 Trip Costs: Please call for details*

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

### TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- All accommodations in hotels, including the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, and top quality tents on trek
- All meals included except 1 lunch and 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Camp staff
- Group camping and cooking equipment
- Loan of sleeping bag, liner, pad, and duffel bag on trek

### TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International or internal airfare, transfers for independent arrival or departure, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, 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, expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), emergency medical evacuation insurance (required), or passports and visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

### CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee (Inca Trail permit fee): \$110 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.

### CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

### MANDATORY EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSURANCE

Please note: Insurance for emergency medical evacuation is required for this trip. Wilderness Travel offers a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan through Travelex Insurance that meets this requirement. For more details, visit our website: [www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance).

Alternatively, you can purchase a different policy on your own, as long as it includes emergency medical evacuation coverage of at least \$250,000 per person. You can compare various options at [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com).



# Accommodations



## HOTEL MONASTERIO

*Cusco, Peru Day 1 (1 night) Day 8 (1 night)*

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.



## HOTEL PAKARITAMPU

*Ollantaytambo, Peru Day 2 (1 night)*

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.



## PRIVATE CAMP AT KILOMETER 82

*Chilca, Peru Day 3 (1 night)*

We have exclusive use of the private walk-in 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.





## INCA TRAIL TREK CAMPS

*Inca Trail, Peru Days 4 to 6 (3 nights)*

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. 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.



## MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY LODGE

*Machu Picchu Ruins, Peru Day 7 (1 night)*

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 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!



# Our Guides

## MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/peru-inca-trail-machu-picchu-hiking-tour/](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/peru-inca-trail-machu-picchu-hiking-tour/)

### JHON ELGUERA

Jhon Elguera was born in 1980 near the ancient Inca stronghold of Machu Picchu in the Santa Teresa Valley. After graduating from high school in Cusco, he undertook computer studies, then later attended guide school, receiving a diploma in cultural tourism. Jhon has been guiding tours in Peru since 2002. An outdoor enthusiast, he has completed several first aid and mountain rescue courses.

### MIGUEL PACSI

Miguel Pacsi was born in the highlands southeast of Cusco, not far from snow-capped Ausangate, the most sacred mountain to the Inca people. Born into the WT family, with his father being one of our original camp managers, Miguel is now a second-generation member of our Peru team! He has hiked the famous Inca Trail more than 500 times and holds a teaching degree in history and geography from the University of San Ignacio de Loyola in Lima as well as a guides' degree from the University in Cusco. He is fluent in his native Quechua as well as Spanish and English and loves sharing his vast knowledge of Peru's local traditions as well as its cultural and natural history. Miguel is a favorite among our trip members and receives rave reviews.

### HOLLY WISSLER

Holly Wissler, a musician and ethnomusicologist, is one of our most experienced and gifted Trip Leaders, drawing upon her many years of trekking and living in Peru and Nepal. Holly is deeply passionate about Andean culture and music, the topic of her PhD in ethnomusicology and the focus of two documentaries she has produced, “Qoyllur Rit'i: A Woman's Journey,” on Peru's largest Andean pilgrimage festival, and “From Grief and Joy We Sing,” illuminating the musical traditions of the remote Quechua community of Q'eros, Peru. A key leader for our Peru team since 1982, Holly feels at home with the people of the Andes, especially since she adopted her godson, Dante, from the Q'eros community. She is often called “chaka warmi” (bridge woman) because of her extraordinary ability to facilitate meaningful (and fun!) exchanges between travelers and locals. “People have said that I bring passion and love to my trips and that I laugh a lot—which I do!” During the academic year, Holly is professor of World Music Cultures and Music History at Texas State University. A great storyteller too, Holly speaks Spanish, Quechua, and ASL.

## 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 to Machu Picchu* webpage and click on “Extend Your Trip”: [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/peru-inca-trail-machu-picchu-hiking-tour/](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/peru-inca-trail-machu-picchu-hiking-tour/)

### AMAZON RAINFOREST EXTENSION: RESERVA AMAZONICA

Exploring Waterways and Nature Trails  
*4 days. From \$850.*

### AREQUIPA AND COLCA CANYON EXTENSION

Mystical Birthplace of the Incas  
*4 days. From \$1450.*



# 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.

**Please Note: We highly 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 Hotel Monasterio (an "on your own" expense).

## DEPARTURE

Cusco, Peru

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

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 9, anytime

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 LATAM Airlines, 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 Exitó Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exitó's website at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Note: It is necessary to depart from the US at least one day prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary.

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.



# What to Expect

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 5, Strenuous. Most hiking is between 8,000 and 13,000 feet. The maximum elevation we reach is 13,830 feet, and the highest place we camp is 12,180 feet. The total mileage hiked is about 30. Trails can be rugged, not the well-maintained trails you may be accustomed to in the United States. There are several long ascents and descents of Days 5-7, and large, uneven stone stairs and walkways to navigate. For the most part, you can hike at your own speed. Our group will spread out along the trail during about six to seven hours of hiking each day (shorter on some days and slightly longer on one). On the trail, you will just carry your own daypack for the items that you want with you on the trail, such as a water bottle and a jacket. Our team of Inca Trail porters carries all your other gear from camp to camp. Altitude is always a factor, but our experience is that you should be sufficiently acclimatized and that a slow but steady pace is the key to success on the ascents.

### Challenge Day

- Day 6: 8.4 miles, 8-8.5 hours, 3,091 feet ascent/ 3,100 feet descent

## GETTING IN SHAPE

The Inca Trail is mostly stone-paved (Inca stones!) and it undulates up and down across green mountains while crossing two high-altitude passes. Any fit, experienced hiker will enjoy this hike, but we recommend you make an extra effort to prepare by engaging in regular exercise well beyond your normal routine. To accelerate your conditioning, try walking faster than 1.5 miles per hour, walking on steeper inclines, using your gym's stair-climbing machines, or going on long hikes (also a good way to break in your boots). Please be aware that there are a few sections of long, steep stone "staircases," so we do suggest hiking poles to protect your knees. The trek takes place at altitudes between 8,700 feet and 13,830 feet.

## A TYPICAL TREKKING DAY

Hiking distances on trek are traditionally measured in hours, not miles, since distance at altitude feels quite different to the miles you might do at home. 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, you'll wake up to hot coffee, cocoa, and a choice of teas, brought right to your tent. This is followed by a freshly prepared breakfast of eggs, pancakes, French toast, oatmeal, and local breakfasts like quinoa and maca. We set off on the trail while the crew strikes camp and the porters shoulder their loads. There is always a guide in the lead, usually the Trip Leader or the camp manager, who supervises the crew, and someone who hikes behind the slowest hiker. On most days our hikers tend to spread out over the trail, taking photos, stopping to rest, and enjoying the scenery. We typically walk for three or four hours in the morning, depending on the day, then stop for a leisurely lunch at a scenic spot. After lunch, we walk for another three hours or so until we reach our next night's camp. The porters and crew pass us in mid-afternoon and set up our next camp. We do ask that on Day 6—the Challenge Day of this trek—that everyone make a point to not dally too long at points of interest along the trail, as we need to be assured everyone gets into camp well before dark.

Lunches consist of a wide variety of dishes, including delicious pasta salads, soup, casseroles, and other offerings. When we arrive at camp in the afternoon, snacks are available, including popcorn, cookies, crackers, and hot or cold drinks. Dinner begins with hearty soup followed by an entrée of fish, beef, or chicken (with vegetarian options), along with vegetable dishes, fruit, and a light dessert.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lima	79/68	80/69	80/69	76/66	72/63	69/61	67/60	66/60	67/59	69/61	72/63	76/66
Cusco	64/45	64/46	65/46	66/43	67/39	66/35	66/34	66/37	67/41	68/44	67/45	66/45
Rainfall - Inches												
Lima	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Cusco	5.9	4.5	3.8	1.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.9	1.9	2.7	4.3



## WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO GO?

The Inca Trail can be hiked all year except in late January and February, the rainiest months, when the trail is closed for repairs. High season begins in May and extends through September, as these are the driest months. October through December are considered shoulder season, when occasional rain is possible, but keep in mind that the highlands of Peru are a temperate desert and it is not uncommon for it not to rain for weeks at a time even in the height of the rainy season. This is also the time with the fewest hikers on the trail, more flowers in bloom, and fewer tourists at Machu Picchu as well as in Cusco. Temperatures in the Cusco-Machu Picchu region range from the high 60s in the daytime to the low 40s at night, with some variation depending on the time of year you go.

## WHY DO YOU NEED TO BOOK SO EARLY?

To protect the Inca Trail's monuments and environment, Peruvian authorities only issue 200 permits each day for hikers (plus an additional 300 permits for the licensed porters and staff who carry the gear and work on the trips). Permits sell out extremely fast! We must obtain your permit for you when you sign up, so we urge you to book your trip at least six months in advance, especially if you are considering going between April and September.

## WEATHER

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 65°F and 70°F, 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 Niño 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.

## 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](mailto:latinamerica@wildernesstravel.com).

## 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.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://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.

## TOUCAN CLUB

We're proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business! The Wilderness Travel Toucan Club was established to reward our travelers for their loyalty. For details, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club).





## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Condé 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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