



HIGHLIGHTS

- Follow in the footsteps of the classic Inca Trail to Machu Picchu arriving at the Sun Gate
- A fascinating archaeological trip following the pilgrimage route of the Incas to their most important temple for Sun worship
- Trek through the Andes going up to 4250m walking through a diverse range of vegetation zones from high altitude moorland to dense cloud forest
- Visit Cuzco the capital of the Incan empire

SUMMARY

This is the original pilgrimage route for the Inca to their most sacred temple and is by far the most popular route. This beautiful trail starts at the kilometre 82 gate (so called because it is 82 km along the railroad from Cuzco) and takes in many of the Inca ruins including Runcuracay, Sayacmarca, Phuyupatamarca, Wiñaywayna and of course Machu Picchu.

The route we recommend takes you all the way to Machu Picchu on day 3 with an overnight stop in Agua Calientes. This has the advantage of avoiding the crazy early morning stampede to the Sun Gate and also allows you to shower and clean up before touring the ruins.

DAILY ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE CUZCO

The city of Cuzco sits at an altitude of 3500m and is a great place to acclimatise before you start your Inca Trail trek. You'll have plenty of time to explore this charming city and soak up the local atmosphere.

DAY 2: ACCLIMATISATION DAY

A day free to explore Cuzco as your body gets used to the altitude. Optional city tour available.

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DAY 3: CUZCO - KM 82 – WAYLLABAMBA – YUNCACHIMPA

You will leave Cuzco (3350m) at 5:00 am by a private bus heading to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. You will make a short break in Ollantaytambo for breakfast. The official beginning of the Inca Trail is called km 82. Here you will meet your crew and register for your trek.

After crossing the Rio Urubamba (2600m) you start the legendary Inca Trail. The first day of the trail is relatively easy and a good warm up for the following days. On the way you will pass beautiful archaeological site called Llacapata before you reach Tarayoc where you will have lunch at a small river bank. After that, you will continue your hike to Wayllabamba (3000m) and ascend to Yuncachimpa (3300m), the camping site you will spend the night.

DAY 4: AYAPATA – CHAQUICCOCHA

Early in the morning the trail first leads through the Valley of Lulluchapampa (3750m). The first 3km are steep for approximately 2 hours. From Lulluchapampa the path continues less steeply for another 2 hours until you reach the highest point of this section, the Warmihuañusca Pass (Dead Woman Pass) (4200m). This climb is the most difficult part of the Inca Trail. After a short break at the summit, you continue your hike down with a long and steep descent to the river Pacaymayo where you will have lunch. After lunch you continue towards the Runkurakay pass (3900m) from where you will descend until you reach your camping site called Chaquicocha (3600m). Here you can relax while enjoying an amazing view over the mountains.

DAY 5: CHAQUICCOCHA –MACHU PICCHU (VIA THE SUN GATE)

Today you will hike for 2 hours before entering the “cloud forest”. You will then climb up to Phuyupatamarca, an Inca ruin named “The Town in the Clouds” from where there are great views of the Urubamba river. From Phuyupatamarca you continue to descend, visiting the site of Intipata (Terraces of the sun). In the afternoon you continue on the Inca Trail to finally reach the Sun Gate, the entrance to Machu Picchu. You will not tour the ruins today but will have plenty of time to soak up the view before catching the bus down to Aguas Calientes for the overnight stay.

DAY 6: MACHU PICCHU

Today, you will be given a guided tour of the Lost City of the Incas and then have time to explore the ancient ruins for yourself. There is an option to climb Huayna Picchu, the famous mountain behind the ruins. In the afternoon, you will catch the train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo, where you will be met by our driver who will transfer you to your hotel in Cuzco.

DAY 7: CUZCO: TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

A private transfer to the airport for your flight home.