



HIGHLIGHTS

- Travels through the fabulously fertile Sacred Valley
- Visit authentic villages where time has literally stood still
- See the local people in traditional dress
- Stunning mountain scenery along the whole of the trail
- Tent based expedition

SUMMARY

This trek is an excellent alternative to the classic Inca trail for those who want to get off the ‘beaten track’ and would like to have a chance to visit authentic Andean communities whilst also being surrounded by stunning mountain, lake and valley landscapes. It begins from a small village in the Sacred Valley and crosses two passes over 4000 metres passing through traditional, colourful villages, visiting the relaxing hot springs in Lares and finishes with a visit to Machu Picchu

DAILY ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE CUSCO

The city of Cusco 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 Cusco as your body gets used to the altitude. Optional city tour available.

DAY 3: CUSCO-CALCA – QUISWARANI - CUNCANI

You leave Cusco early in the morning by private bus and travel through the Sacred Valley, stopping in Calca for a break before continuing for 3 more hours to Qiswarani (3700m). There you will meet your arrieros (horsemen) and start your trek, going up gradually to 4200m where you will rest at a nice lagoon. From there you continue to the first pass, Hualcacassa (4425m), where there are great views of snowy peaks and below the 7 lagoons to which you descend for lunch. In the afternoon you head off to the second pass, Qolqecasa



(4200m), and descend down to the village of Cuncani (3800m), where you will camp tonight, and whose inhabitants still speak in the local Quechua language.

DAY 4: CUNCANI – HUACAWASI - MANTANAY

After breakfast, you start today by ascending gradually up to 3900m to follow the undulating trail to reach the Huachahuasi Valley. You then start to climb up to the Auroracassa Pass. At 4600m, the pass is the highest point in your trek. You then descend down to your second campsite at Mantanay (3850m).

DAY 5: MANTANAY – YANUARA – OLLANTAYTAMBO - AGUA CALIENTES

This will be your last day of hiking and the easiest. You descend through a Qeñas bush valley with plantations of potatoes, corn and vegetables before you arrive in Yanuara, where you will have your last camping lunch. Here you will say goodbye to the staff (cook, horsemen) as you now continue by road to Ollantaytambo. Situated in a fertile river valley and sheltered by mammoth mountains, this ancient Inca village is considered one of the most important living museums in the world. You take the train from here to Aguas Calientes and spend the night there in a hotel.

DAY 6: AGUA CALIENTES - MACHU PICCHU - CUSCO

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 Cusco.

DAY 7: CUSCO: TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

A private transfer to the airport for your flight home.