



## HIGHLIGHTS

- A tough hike taking you deep into the Cordillera mountains
- Remote and quiet route with exceptional mountain views
- Fascinating variety of plant and animal life
- Finishes with a full tour of Machu Picchu
- Tent based expedition

## SUMMARY

This week long walk covering 60 mountainous miles is not for the faint of heart or weak of legs. Starting at the town of Cachora, a two-day hike crosses the mile-deep Apurimac River canyon to the remote ruins of Choquequirao (the name means "Cradle of Gold" in Quechua), which have become famous in recent years for their similarity to Machu Picchu. The route then continues through the sparsely populated Cordillera Vilcabamba, which looks much the same as when Hiram Bingham first explored here a century ago. The route traverses a mountain range, crosses rivers and valleys, and cuts through several of Peru's diverse biozones: dry scrub, lush cloud forest, and puna, a high-altitude grassland. The trek ends a short walk or train ride from Machu Picchu.

### DAY 1: ARRIVE CUSCO

Private airport transfer to your hotel. Free afternoon with time to rest from the journey and explore Cusco.

### DAY 2: CUSCO

Free time in Cusco.

### DAY 3: CUSCO - ABRA DE MALAGA – HUANCACALLE

You leave Cusco at 4 am this morning to transfer to your trek start point passing through the scenic Sacred Valley. You start your climb just after the village of Ollaytaytambo, ascending up a steep windy road to reach the pass at Abra Malaga (4315 metres). You descend down to Chaullay (1890 metres) where you will trek through Quillabamba before heading towards Huancacalle. From here you pass through Lucuma (the

main village of Vilcabamba) before reaching the archaeological sites of Vitcos-Rosaspata and the Ñustahispana (or White Rock).

#### **DAY 4: HUANCACALLE - ASUNTINA PASS – RACACHACA.**

After an early breakfast you begin your climb up to the Azotina/Asuntina Pass (3915 metres) after which you descend quickly along well preserved Inca Roads to Pillaukasa (3860 metres). From here you have wonderful views of the surrounding snow-capped peaks of Lasoma as we leave the high jungle and arrive in the Andes.

#### **DAY 5: RACACHACA - HATUN PAMPA - YANOCOCHA PASS – MUTUYPATA**

Today is a demanding trekking day with many changes in altitude as you traverse three high Andean passes. You start climbing up to Hatun Pampa (3860 metres). From here you continue ascending to reach the first pass of the day, Yanococha (4420 metres). You then begin a steep descent down to Yanacocha Lake, only to start climbing back up to the second pass, Tullu Tacanca (4500 metres) and then onto the well-known, and final, third pass, Abra Mujun (3340m). From Abra Mujun, you travel through the villages of S'aqra Cocha and descend to LacoCocho and then on to Mutuypata.

#### **DAY 6: MUTUYPATA - YANATILE - HYDROELECTRIC STATION - AGUAS CALIENTES**

After breakfast, you start your descent, entering once again into the high jungle. Your route today will take you through deep canyons and coffee, fruit and granadilla plantations, before arriving at the village of Yanatile. From here, you will transfer by vehicle to the Hydro-Electric station, where you will have lunch, after which you begin the final section of your route following the railway tracks all the way to Aguas Calientes.

#### **DAY 7: AGUAS CALIENTES - MACHU PICCHU – CUSCO**

After an early breakfast, you will take the bus up the steep, winding road to the ruins of Machu Picchu. You will then take a guided tour around the Lost City of Machu Picchu together with some free time to wander around and marvel at the Incan ingenuity. Permits are available to climb Huayna Picchu if you are feeling energetic. You then take the train back to Ollantaytambo, where you will be met by our driver who will transfer you back to your hotel in Cusco.

#### **DAY 8: DEPART CUSCO**

Private transfer to airport for your return flight.