

# Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu – 5D/4N

This amazing trek runs beneath the magnificent Salkantay mountain (6,271 m/20,569ft) one of the highest and most stunning in the Andes. The Salkantay Trek was recently named on the National Geographic Ultimate Adventure bucket list – defined as “The 20 most extreme, hair-raising, legendary adventures on the planet.” It is a trek open to everybody, and the most popular alternative to the Inca Trail trek to Machu Picchu, and rich in natural scenery.

This offers 4 days of trekking through various landscapes including highlands, cloud forest, rainforest and dry mountain. Throughout the trek you have amazing views of Apu Salkantay, Pumasillo Mountain and Humantay Mountain, three of the most stunning peaks of the Cordillera Vilcabamba Mountain range.

On the first night you will feel like you can touch the stars while the variety of sites in addition to the beautiful sky include the glaciers of Apu Salkantay and Humantay Mountain, Salkantay lake, and the moraines (natural formations of small hills produced from the pressure of ice falling from the glaciers above).

Our package includes the services of lodging in a very nice hotel on the fourth night of the trek, a very unique coffee plantation tour in the afternoon of day 3, and dinner at a great local restaurant in Aguas calientes. Your ticket to visit Machu Picchu is also included.

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## ITINERARY

We provide a full pre-trek briefing at your hotel in Cusco. This gives you the chance to ask questions about the trek itinerary. Briefings are scheduled for the day before your trek

## **DAY 1:**

### **Cusco – Mollepata – umantay lake - Soyrococha**

We will pick you up from your hotel in the morning and have a beautiful scenic drive of 3 hours duration to Mollepata. At Mollepata we will have breakfast in one of the local houses.

After breakfast we will drive for 1 hour and 45 minutes until Soraypampa, the beginning of the trek. During this portion of the drive we will see our first views of the magnificent Salkantay and Humantay Mountains.

At Soraypampa (3,800 m/12,467 ft) we will meet our support staff, who will pack everything for the trek and load the equipment onto horses. We begin our hike with a visit to the remarkable, high altitude turquoise lake, Humantay. It is below the Humantay glacier.

After the expedition, we returned to the trail and begin the hike to Salkantaypampa, our lunch spot for the day.

After lunch we ascend for two hours to Soyrococha (4,400 m/14,332 ft), our camp for the evening. Humantay Mountain is prominent during this entire segment from Salkantaypampa to Soyrococha.

- Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
- Distance Covered: 8 km/5 miles
- Time: 6-8 hours
- Lowest elevation: 3,800 m/12,467 ft
- Highest elevation: 4,400 m/14,332 ft
- Difficulty: Moderate

## **DAY 2:**

### **Soyrococha – Salkantay pass – Collpapampa**

We will wake you up to begin this challenging day. After breakfast we are going to hike for 1 hour uphill to the highest point of the trek, the Salkantay pass (4,650 m / 15,252 ft). At the top we are going to make an offering to Apu Salkantay and talk about the significance of the mountain in Inca culture and why this spot is venerated.

This is a perfect place to take pictures of Pumasillo mountain, and the Humantay mountain in the distance.

Our next work is a 2 hour downhill hike to Huayracmachay (3,800 m/12,464 ft), where we will have lunch. After lunch we will hike downhill for an additional 4 hours until we reach our camp for the night, Colpapampa (3,100 m/ 10,170 ft). During this section we are going to pass from the highlands to the cloud forest and finally into the rainforest.

- Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
- Distance covered: 16 km / 9.9 miles
- Time: 8-9 hours
- Lowest elevation: 3,100 m/10,170 ft
- Highest elevation: 4,650 m/15,252 ft
- Area: Highlands -> Cloud Forest -> Rainforest
- Difficulty: Challenging

### **DAY 3:**

#### **Collpapampa – La Playa – Lucmabamba**

After working hard on day 2, we are rewarded with a more gentle hike today. We will have a fantastic breakfast and then hike 5 to 6 hours on gentle up and down segments. We will be hiking through the rainforest, following the path of the Santa Teresa river. We will have the opportunity to see multiple coffee plantations, banana plantations, and fields of passion fruit. Along this path you will also see the most beautiful waterfall along the trek.

We will reach Lucmabamba, around noon. Here we will relax and enjoy a delicious lunch!

After lunch, we will do an incredible coffee tour at the plantation. We will learn about the different types of beans, and picking our own beans. There are also several fields of tomatoes and avocados.

After picking our beans, we will roast them and grind them. Finally, we will brew and drink our own coffee! It is a truly unique experience.

And after the coffee experience we will drive to santa teresa town where our camping site is.

- Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
- Distance Covered: 14 km/8.5 miles
- Time: 5 to 6 hours
- Lowest elevation: 2,050 m/6,725 ft
- Highest elevation: 2,800 m/9,184 ft
- Área: Rain Forest
- Difficulty: Easy

## **DAY 4:**

### **santa teresa– Hydroelectric – Aguas Calientes**

We will wake up early and have breakfast. Today's hike starts with a moderate 3 ½ hour through the rain forest until we reach the aguas calientes town. This is the location where you will have your first view of Machu Picchu in the distance.

On arrival at Aguas Calientes you will check into your hotel. Dinner will be at the finest restaurant.

- Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
- Distance Covered: 13 km /8 miles
- Time: 3 to 4 hours
- Lowest elevation: 1,400 m/4,300 ft
- Highest elevation: 2,000 m/6,600 ft
- Area: Cloud Forest
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Sights: Machu Picchu

## **DAY 5:**

### **Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu – Cusco**

You will have breakfast at your hotel before we take an early bus to Machupicchu. Once there you will be given a 3 hour walking tour of the site.

If you have elected to climb Huayna Picchu mountain you will begin the hike at 10 a.m. The ticket price for Huayna Picchu mountain is not included in the price of your trek.

When you arrive in Aguas Calientes you will board the train to either Ollantaytambo or to Poroy. From Ollantaytambo or Poroy you will travel by private van to Cusco and we will drop you off at your hotel. Arrival time in Cusco depends on the time of your train ticket.

- Meals: Breakfast
  - Lowest Elevation: 2,040 m/6,691 ft
  - Highest Elevation: 2,440 m/8,052 ft
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## **INCLUDED**

- Bilingual English speaking tour guide
- Pre-Departure Briefing at your hotel 1 or 2 days before your trek.
- Pick up from your hotel and transportation to Soraypampa on day 1
- Four-person tent for each two persons
- Mattress and pillow
- Kitchen tent
- Dining tent with tables and chairs
- Toilet tent with portable toilet
- Expert chef and assistant chef
- Wranglers and horses to carry all the equipment (food, tents, chairs, table, etc)
- Horse to carry 8 kg of your personal belongings
- Duffle bag to pack your personal belongings
- Five breakfasts, four lunches, and four dinners
- Hot water for washing.
- Daily morning boiled and cold water to fill the water bottles.
- Emergency oxygen bottle and medical kit.
- Return Expedition train ticket from Aguas Calientes to either Ollantaytambo or to Poroy
- Private van transport from Ollantaytambo to Cusco
- Entrance to Machu Picchu
- Round trip bus from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu
- Coffee plantation tour in the afternoon of day 3
- Lodging in Aguas Calientes on night 4 of the trek (double occupancy)
- Dinner in Aguas Calientes on night 4

## **NOT included**

- Sleeping bag (can be rented from us)
- Hiking Poles (can be rented from us)
- Day 5 lunch in Aguas Calientes

- Huayna Picchu Permit (this permit can be purchased for an extra USD \$80 per person)
- Tips for the crew (muleteers, chef and guide)
- Travel Insurance (highly recommended)

#### **Bring with you:**

- Original passport (if you have acquired a new one after you made your booking, bring both)
- Down or synthetic feather sleeping bag (can be rented from us)
- Clothes (trekking boots, warm fleece jacket, a few t-shirts, socks, sun hat, warm underwear, light long pants, gloves, rain jacket)
- Toiletries (toilet paper, wet wipes, personal towel)
- Sunscreen SPF 35+ recommended
- Head lamp
- Sunglasses
- Camera with spare batteries (batteries run down faster at high altitudes)
- Binoculars
- Book to read (you will have some spare time at every camp)
- Trekking poles (recommended especially for the steep descents, can be rented from us)
- Insect repellent

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## **PRICES & ADD-ONS**

**Group: USD \$650 per person**

**Private: USD \$750 per person**

Group versus Private Treks: What's the difference?

- Depending on the number of people in your booking, additional people may join the trek to make a full group.
- If you choose "private", no additional people will be joining your group, no matter the size.
- Minimum booking size is two people.

## Rentals

- Hiking poles – USD \$20 (pair)
- Sleeping bag – USD \$25.00 per person

## Upgrades

- Return Vistadome train – USD \$60 per person
- Return Hiram Bingham train– USD \$400 per person
- Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel (5-star hotel) – USD \$245 Per person per night (double occupancy)
- Tierra viva Machu Picchu (3+ star hotel) – USD \$50 Per person per night (double occupancy)
- Private Tent – USD \$30

## **Salkantay Trek FAQ**

### **Is a permit required to hike the Salkantay trek to Machu Picchu?**

No permits are currently required to hike the Salkantay trek. However, you will need a ticket to enter Machu Picchu at the end of the trek. Also, if you plan on hiking any of the three mountain trails within Machu Picchu, you will also need to buy these tickets in advance too.

Again, be mindful that tickets for Huayna Picchu sell out months in advance, as there is a limit of just 200 people per day. So, you may need to be a little more organized than usual if you plan to hike this trek.