

# Classic Inca Trail 4 Days / 3 Nights (PBT A3)

Destinations at a glance: Inca Trail / Aguas Calientes / Machu Picchu

## TRIP DESCRIPTION

The most popular trail to the most popular destination in Peru, is of course the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. Recently voted one of the 7 new wonders of the world, Machu Picchu features on almost every tourists trip to Peru.

The Inca Trail or Camino del Inca follows the path built by the Inca to the citadel of Machu Picchu. Recently re-discovered in archeological terms by Hiram Bingham in 1911, Machu Picchu is now available to all.

The trail itself cuts through the spectacular mountain scenery of the Andes, giving anyone with a sense of adventure the opportunity to re-discover the ruins for themselves.

The destination itself has been the highlight of any trip to Peru, Machu Picchu is an awe inspiring sight. As you pass the Sun Gate for your first glimpse of the citadel you will feel the magical energy that surrounds the site.

## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Cuzco – Ollantaytambo – Inca Trail

You will be collected from your hotel by our driver and driven on a scenic two-hour drive through the Sacred Valley towards Ollantaytambo. Once in Ollantaytambo, you will collect equipment, food and porters that will accompany you on the trail. From here the trail will take you to the bus to Piskacucho (2700 MASL).

After crossing the Piskacucho bridge over the Urubamba river, the trail will start, with a full day of hiking (Abt. 12 km (7.5 mile)). The start of the trail is a gentle one mostly over flat ground until you arrive at Miskay (2800 MASL). After taking a break at Miskay the real hiking starts as you continue on a steeper path towards a high plateau, from here you will have a spectacular view of the Inca Ruins of Patallacta. Once you arrive at Patallacta your guide will bring you to the site explaining how the Incas used these farming terraces. After hearing about the ruins you will continue to hike for around two hours until you catch up with the advanced party of cooks and porters who will have your lunches already prepared. After lunch you will hike for a further two hours until you will reach the first campsite of Wayllabamba (3000 MASL).

### Day 2: Inca Trail

The second day is the most difficult part of the hike. Starting with an early breakfast you will later climb up 9 km (5.6 miles) of a narrow valley, surrounded by an abundance of vegetation and crystal clear streams until you reach the village of Lulluchapampa

As you leave the village of Lulluchapampa, you will hike the highest mountain pass, the Abra Warmihuaña or "Dead Woman's Pass.", this hike takes around two hours. Once you have arrived at the Dead Woman's Pass (4200 MASL), you will descend a winding 2.5 km (1.6 miles) path of steps that crosses the valley. Here you should keep your eyes open, as here a variety of birds, like sparrows and humming birds, as well as the Andean Bear can be seen. You will have lunch along the route later continuing to the campsite at the Pacaymayo Valley (3600 MASL). Here you will have dinner and set up camp.

### Day 3: Inca Trail

After breakfast you will start a 15 km (9.3 miles) trek this steep hike will lead you to the Runkurakay Pass (3970 MASL). About halfway through the pass, you will come across the ruins of Runkurakay, an Incan *tambo* or watch-house. Continuing on with another steep climb up Incan steps leads to the next pass, which offers amazing views of the mountain ranges Vilcabamba and Pumasillo.

You will continue on to Yanacocha with Sayacmarca (3624 MASL) as your destination goal. Also known as the "Inaccessible Town," the ruins of Sayacmarca are sheltered by huge protective cliffs. Climbing almost one hundred Incan stone steps will allow you to get a spectacular view of the. Once you have descend, you will be able to enter this fortress. Divided into two halves, you will be able to see Sayacmarca's solar observation point.

Leaving amazing site behind, you will trek through the cloud-forest to the third pass, the Abra de Phuyupatamarca (3700 MASL). Once you are here the trail becomes somewhat easier as most of the trail is downhill from here leading to the archeological site of Phuyupatamarca. Also know as the the "Town above the Clouds," the ruin is surrounded by Incan terraces, and consists of a sophisticated irrigation and fountain system. As the sun sets, you will head towards the ruins of Wiñaywayna here you will see the Inca agricultural terraces that make up the site. Here at Wiñaywayna is where you will set up camp for the evening, a small restaurant and hot showers are also available.

#### Day 4: Inca Trail

An early start is needed on you last day, so breakfast will be around 0430am, this is so you can get onto the trail early for your final hike to the Sun Gate or "Inti Punko" the entrance to Machu Picchu. The trek will take around an hour where you will follow the narrow trail through the cloud forest. As you reach the Sun Gate, just before sunrise, the fog will lift and Machu Picchu will appear before you bathed in sunlight. The view is one you will never forget and an amazing reward for the previous days hiking. Here you will probably want to stop and take many photos to look back on and show to friends when you return home. Shortly after you will descend to the citadel for your guided tour which will last around two hours.

Once the guided tour has finished you will have some free time to explore the ruins at your leisure, taking more photos and exploring the citadel in more depth.

Later you will take the bus or walk down to the town of Aguas Calientes, where you will board the train back to Cuzco.

We also offer extra nights at Machu Picchu, where you can overnight in Aguas Calientes, re-entering Machu Picchu for a second day. Giving you the chance to see the sunrise from the citadel itself as well as the opportunity to climb Huayna Picchu the mountain behind Machu Picchu in the classic photo of the site.

#### INCLUDED

- 3 camping nights, tents, cooking equipment porters for this equipment included.
- All meals whilst camping.
- All the tours stated in the itinerary.
- All transfers and entrance fees.
- Accredited tour guides.
- Personalized assistance by Peru Best Tours during your whole stay.

#### NOT INCLUDED

Domestic Transportation

Lunches and dinners, other than those mentioned above  
Porters for personal equipment and baggage US\$ 80 (Up to 2 Bags Total weight not more than 25kgs)  
Travel insurance  
Tips  
Airport taxes

## HIGHLIGHTS

Inca Trail Trek (Regular group tour)  
Machu Picchu Tour (Regular group tour)

## STYLE

Adventure  
History / Culture  
Nature

## PHYSICAL DIFFICULTY

Medium: Cuzco – Some travellers may be affected by the high altitude.  
Hard : Inca Trail – A good level average of physical fitness is required as you will be hiking the trail.

## CUSTOM MADE TRIPS

At Peru Best Tours, we do our best to meet your travel needs rather than you adjusting your trip to fit a company's schedule, It means: A more personalized service, greater flexibility of travel options, and better over all value giving you more for your money.

We can make you and your group any itinerary you wish from 1 day to 1 year! From budget to luxury 5 star. We can make anything you wish from something as simple as an amendment or addition to one of our standard packages, or something custom made from scratch. Just let us know what you want, we are at your service!

## DOMESTIC TRANSPORT

We always strive to give our customers the lowest prices on all domestic transport. Due to the number of bookings for flight, trains and buses we make each year, we are often able to give the cheapest prices on the market to customers booking packages with us.

You may also if you wish make your own transportation arrangements for your trip, just that most clients find it easier and less hassle to let us do the work for them.

Luggage for LAN Peru flights. The maximum weight limit for flights within Peru is 23 kgs of hold luggage (Max. 2 Bags). Hand luggage is limited to 8 kgs and one personal item such as a purse or, laptop. We recommend checking the website of the airline before traveling to check for the latest baggage and security information.

## INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

Following our desire to pass on savings to the customer, we suggest booking your international flight via one of the large internet based providers such as [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com) ,

[www.travelocity.com](http://www.travelocity.com) or [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com) as these companies are some of the market leaders in international discount airfares. Please note we do not work with any of the above companies, nor do we receive a commission for recommending them.

## HOTELS

We only work with the best hotels in each rating category. We constantly review our choices and listen to feedback from clients when we make reviews of the hotels we use. Before booking we will give you a list of our recommended hotels for you to select from. If you wish to stay in a hotel that's not listed, say one you read a review about on TripAdvisor for example just let us know the name and we will be happy to book it for you.

## WHAT TO BRING?

### Luggage

All types of luggage are fine to bring with you to Peru, although we do recommend something like a backpack or a rucksack. As they are often easier to handle in places such as Cuzco where cobble stone roads make suitcases with wheels for example a little cumbersome.

Also recommended is a day bag, something light weight but big enough for your daily needs. Such as a bottle of water, your camera, tickets and other travel documents etc.

As this is a trek at altitude we recommend packing light and using a rucksack if you plan to carry your own baggage. We really recommend that you just bring a small rucksack for the journey and leave the bulk of your things in safe storage back at your hotel in Cuzco.

### Clothing

This will depend on the season you are travelling but generally winter on the coast is summer in the mountains and vice versa. The rainforests are exactly as you would expect and you can expect rain at any given moment irrespective of the season. So it's best to pack for all eventualities, take a look below at the recommended packing list.

- Trousers / Jeans / Shorts / Jogging Pants
- T-Shirts / Shirts
- Waterproof Jacket / Trousers
- Sturdy shoes or Hiking boots
- Sleeping bag (We can arrange sleeping bag hire if you do not have your own)

### Other things to pack

- Camera / Extra Memory or Films / Batteries / Charger
- Binoculars
- Sunglasses & Sun Cream (It can often feel cool at altitude but burns are still possible)
- Small First Aid Kit
- Medication – Remember if you are taking medication to bring enough with you to complete your journey.

### Documents

- Passport + copies (We advise you leave your passport in the hotel and carry copies with you when outside)
- Andean Immigration Card – You will be given this card at the airport do not lose it as you have to hand it back in on your departure.
- All Peru Best Tours vouchers and coupons.

- Entry Visa (Should you require one.)
- Travel Insurance + copies.

## TRAVEL MONEY

How much will I need for my trip? This will of course depend on your personal choices and preferences. All daily meals are included whilst camping, lunch and dinner are not included on the last day (See above). You will also need some money for souvenirs, and personal items.

Meals in a budget café or restaurant start at around \$4.00 per person, and dining at a top class restaurant can be upwards \$30-60 per person. So there really is something to fit every budget and taste.

Souvenirs start from as little as \$1.00 for a post card to \$100+ for such things as the fine alpaca woolen knitwear items that you will see for sale at many of the tourist shops and markets.

Airport Taxes are also a consideration as they have to be paid at the airport by the traveler. They have to be paid in cash in either US\$ or local currency. Domestic departure tax is \$6.25 per person and international departure tax is \$30.25 per person.