

Salcantay Trek to Machu Picchu - 5 Days / 4 Nights (PBTA4)

Destinations at glance: Aguas Calientes / Machu Picchu / Soraypamapa / Challway / Santa Teresa

TRIP DESCRIPTION

This trek is a wonderful alternative to the often expensive and fully booked Inca Trail. This trek takes you through some stunning scenery to the lost and sacred city of the Incas Machu Picchu. The trail will take you through villages to the cloud forest and past the mighty Urubamba river, setting up camp along the way to rest. Your final evening will be at a comfortable hotel in Aguas Calientes before your final day and your visit to Machu Picchu, the highlight of every traveller's journey to Peru.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Cuzco- Mollepata- Soraypampa

You will be picked up at your hotel, early around 5:00 AM, for the 3 hour drive to Mollepata. You will have breakfast in a local restaurant. Starting out at 2,800 meters above sea level, you will start your trek up to Cruzpata, which will take around 3 hours. There, you will have lunch, and then continue on for another 4 hours up steep climbs to the Soraypampa community, where you will make your first campsite and have dinner. Along the way you will enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding valleys.

Day 2: Soraypampa- Challway

After getting up early, you will have breakfast around 6:30 AM, so that at 7:30 you can start this day's portion of the hike. On this physically taxing day, you will climb/ hike for 4 hours up to an altitude of 4,700 meters above sea level, from where you will have stunning views of the Salcantay mountain range. You will have lunch in Huayracpampa, at around 3,600 meters above sea level. After lunch you will continue on to Challway, where you will have dinner and camp for the night.

Day 3: Challway- Playa- Santa Teresa

On the third day you will wake up early for breakfast and will then start the day's relatively easy hike towards the Cloud forest. During the hike most of the walking will be downhill and you will see a wide variety of vegetation ranging from forest to fields of coca. After 3 hours of walking you will have the opportunity to take a 1 hour (each way) "side hike" to visit the hot springs. If you choose to hike to the hot springs you will have lunch there, otherwise you will have lunch in Playa. From Playa you will take a 45 minute open truck ride to Santa Teresa, where you will have dinner and camp.

Day 4: Santa Teresa- La Oroya- Hydroelectric Plant- Aguas Calientes

On the final day of trekking, you will have a 7:00 AM breakfast, followed by a 1 hour hike to La Oroya, where you will cross the spectacular Urubamba River in a cable basket. After crossing the river, you will walk another hour to the Hydroelectric Plant where you will have lunch. You will then have your choice to hike for another 3 hours to Aguas Calientes or to take the train. Arriving in the afternoon to Aguas Calientes, you will have time to settle into your comfortable hostel, explore town and have dinner.

Day 5: Aguas Calientes- Machu Picchu- Cuzco

You will get up and have breakfast very early, around 4 AM, to be ready for the 1 ½ hour walk up to Machu Picchu. Around 6 AM you will enter the breathtaking Inca citadel of Machu Picchu. Once inside Machu Picchu, you will have a 2 hour guided tour of the ruins. After the tour you will have free time to explore the archaeological site on your own; to walk to the Sun Gate, “Inti Punko;” or to take the 45 minute walk to “Waynapicchu,” the mountain next to Machu Picchu that offers amazing views of the ruins. In the afternoon you can walk down the mountain (or pay to take the bus) to the town of Aguas Calientes.

INCLUDED

- 3 camping nights, tents, cooking equipment porters for this equipment included.
- 1 Hotel night.
- 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

Salcantay 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 : Salcatay Trek – 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 , www.travelocity.com or 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 to 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 back, 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 you 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. So it's best to pack for all eventualities if you are planning on visiting other places in Peru too. Winter in the mountains can also be very cold when camping so it's wise to bring some warm clothing if you are taking the trek in winter. 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 also offer 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. Included at all hotels is breakfast, and the camping part of your itinerary includes all your daily meals (See above). You may 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.