



Ausangate and Sibinacocha Lagoon

07 days | 06 nights

Description



Ausangate^{and} Sibinacocha Lagoon

Awaken all of your senses on this alternative route that's incredibly special and unique. You'll walk on impressive trails alongside the immense, sacred mountain of Ausangate (6,372 masl / 20,900 fasl). You'll also visit authentic Andean towns, hot springs and crystal clear lagoons. This alternative circuit to the classic Ausangate route offers you the most amazing views of this sacred glacier before deviating off toward the amazing Sibinacocha Lagoon, leaving behind the hordes of tourists and entering a practically uninhabited area where you can connect with nature. Our excursion ends in Phinaya, a small, middle-of-nowhere Andean community with horses and bicycles as the only means of transportation. Without a doubt, it's an unforgettable excursion for mountain lovers who are looking for something completely different and far from the traditional

tours crowded with visitors. Join AUSANGATE PERU, and get ready to live an unforgettable adventure.

We will leave Cusco early in the morning and have breakfast in Ccatca after a view of the Huacarpay Lagoon. We'll hike next to glaciers and through Andean farmlands on the way to our campsite where we can enjoy a dip in the hot springs of Pacchanta under the stars. The next day, we'll hike through the mountains and colorful, glacial lakes of Ausangate. We will also take part in an Andean ritual among these sacred peaks at the Ccampa Pass. On day 3, we will see valleys, rivers and waterfalls along the way, as well as llamas, alpacas and vicuñas. You'll get a view of the Rainbow Mountain from a distance and then camp next to a waterfall and have a cozy campfire with wine and sangria.

The next morning, we'll go up to the Condor Pass at 5,400 MASL / 17,716 FASL! Leaving the highest altitude, we'll continue down to the Sibinacocha Lagoon and have lunch next to a gorgeous waterfall before hiking on to our campsite. Next, you'll have the treat of watching the sun rise over the lagoon and spending the morning enjoy the lake and its wildlife. After lunch, we'll go up to Vicuña Mountain, a very windy peak with amazing landscape views. We'll camp that night near the Ccascara Lagoon. The last day of hiking will also include visits to local homes in the heights of the Andes! You can buy artisanal textiles from locals before we begin to hike downhill and enjoy the last glaciers, lakes and waterfalls of the trip. On the very last day of the trip, we'll spend the morning in Phinaya until 11:00 AM when we will begin our return trip to Cusco by bus.

The background features a light gray map of a region with a complex coastline, including a large island at the top and a smaller one below it. On the left side, there are detailed contour lines representing a mountainous area. A dark gray silhouette of a mountain range with several peaks is positioned at the bottom of the image. Two horizontal teal lines are present: one is short and positioned to the left of the word 'Itinerary', and the other is long, extending across the width of the page and positioned above the word 'Itinerary'.

Full Itinerary

Day 01

Cusco > Ocongate > Tinki > Pacchanta



The Star of Something New

We'll start the day today at 5:00 am. We will pick you up from your hotel and head toward the town of Tinki (3,700 masl) by private transportation. Along the way, we'll stop at the Huacarpay Lagoon viewpoint so that you can take some incredible photos of this colorful landscape. We'll continue our journey to Ccatcca where we'll fill our stomachs with a delicious breakfast while we observe, in the distance, the perpetual snows of the sacred mountain of Ausangate. An additional 1-hour drive awaits us to arrive at the starting point of the trek where you'll meet our horsemen and porters. We'll begin the hike in front of the spectacular glaciers of Ccolque Cruz and Caracol. We'll stop along the way for lunch in the company of our team and, perhaps, some local children. We'll continue the route, and, coincidentally, meet some residents

who still dress traditionally in the colorful way of the Andes. You can also see herds of llamas and alpacas. Finally, at approximately 5:00 pm, we'll arrive at our first campsite. Don't worry about a thing, the tents and your luggage will be ready and waiting. Before dinner, we'll visit the famous Pacchanta hot springs where you can relax and enjoy a beautiful view of the night sky that opens up for you without reservations.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner and snacks

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Altitude of the campsite:

3,950 meters / 12,959 feet

Hiking distance:

12 km / 7.4 miles

Climate:

Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight

01 Town of Pacchanta

02 Pacchanta thermal baths

03 Pacchanta thermal baths

Day 02

Pacchanta > Ccampa Pass > Ausangate Camp



A day of Cultural Awareness and Connectivity

After breakfast, we'll start our trek uphill for 4 hours to the place where we'll have lunch. On the way, we'll be able to see amazing glacier landscapes adorned by crystalline lagoons. Among them is Ccomercchocha, which is characterized by its green waters. During the month of August, special rituals are performed and dedicated to the Apu Ausangate and the Pachamama (Mother Earth), where Andean priests ask for their energy to heal the surrounding communities. At approximately 1:00 pm, we'll arrive at a place called Puka Mocco or Red Knee, where we'll have lunch surrounded by immense snowy peaks. Feel the love of the mountains that embrace you from all directions. Once we have all recharged, we'll continue our journey through the heart of the Andes. Open your mind and spirit to nature. Extend your arms to the sky

and release any pain you may have brought here. Finally, we will reach the Ccampa Pass (5,000 m / 16,404 f) where we'll perform an Andean ritual ceremony with coca leaves in honor of these majestic, sacred mountains. Later we'll begin the descent to our campsite located right on the slopes of the Ausangate Mountain.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner and snacks

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Altitude of the campsite:

4,100 meters / 13,451 feet

Hiking distance:

16 km / 9.9 miles

Climate:

Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight

01 Ausangate Lagoon

02 Panoramic view of the Ausangate lake

03 Fauna of the Ausangate Route

Day 03

Ausangate Camp > Wayraqmachay Lagoon > Yanamayo Camp



Take a Walk in Wonderland

After enjoying a nutritious breakfast, we'll say goodbye to the campsite with a spectacular view of the valley, the river and the falls. You'll also be able to feel the imposing presence of the mountains and see small groups of turquoise lakes, as well as local birds: geese, seagulls and different types of ducks. After walking for 5 hours, we'll arrive at the Pampaccawa viewpoint, where an appetizing lunch awaits us accompanied by a tea of Andean herbs that will help you with digestion. Later, we'll have time to fish in a beautiful river and hike through a fantastic valley where we'll observe hundreds of llamas, alpacas and sheep returning from the mountains to their pens. Also, you will be dazzled by the bright colors of the famous Rainbow Mountain in the distance. Finally, we'll arrive at our campsite at approximately 5:00 pm. It is near the

most amazing waterfall on the route, always under the watchful eye of the gigantic glaciers. After dinner, we'll organize a campfire to enjoy some mulled wine and sangria while we contemplate the immensity of the night sky of the Andes.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner and snacks

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Altitude of the campsite:

4,000 meters / 13,123 feet

Hiking distance:

15 km / 9.3 miles

Climate:

Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight

01 Adventure in the Andes

02 Andean person on the Ausangate trail

03 Excursion in the Ausangate

Day 04

Yanamayo Camp > Cóndor Pass > Sibinacocha Lagoon



Shoot for the Sky

Prepare your body and your spirit because today, we'll reach the highest point of our excursion. After breakfast, we will start our walk at 7:30 am with a gentle ascent for 2 hours. At that time, llamas and alpacas will already be grazing. You can approach and touch them if you wish. We will continue our ascent for 1 hour on soft sand and snow. If you're lucky, some wild vicuñas will cross your path! Later, we'll reach the Condor Pass at 5,400 m / 17,716 f. You'll have enough time to enjoy the incredible scenery of the other surrounding mountains. It's a strategic place to get the best photos and awaken your senses! Our team will provide you with a hot tea of coca leaves that will help you withstand the extreme altitude.

Before continuing, we'll thank the mountains with a brief ritual. Some people leave jewelry or clothing

to receive the protection of the mountains and to enjoy an excellent climate. Please participate with respect and affection. During this section, we'll also see herds of llamas, alpacas and vicuñas. We'll have lunch right next to a beautiful waterfall and close to the famous Sibinacocha Lagoon. Here, we'll have time to take a short nap to recover from the day. We'll continue for two more hours until we reach our campsite at 4:30 pm. On the way, we'll see traditional Andean houses and the funny chinchillas, Andean animals similar to squirrels.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner and snacks

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Hiking distance:

15 km / 9.3 miles

Climate:

Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight

01 Ausangate Mountain

02 Hike to the Condor Pass

03 Condor Pass

Day 05

Sibinacocha Lagoon > Ccascacara Lagoon



Cold Hands Warm Heart

We'll wake you up with a delicious hot tea of coca leaves to warm the body and start the day in the best way. Take the opportunity to contemplate the beautiful sunrise over the lake and the glacier from your tent. After a tasty breakfast, we'll start the trek at 8:30 am. We'll walk along the banks of the Sibinacocha Lagoon, which is the most famous and most extensive body of water in the area. We'll make several stops to watch the birds that you'll find around there. You will also have the opportunity to fish with the permission of local people. We'll arrive at a place to have lunch where, after satisfying your stomach, you can take a short rest. We'll continue with a slight ascent for 2 hours to the Vicuña Mountain (5,350 m / 17,552 f). The weather changes dramatically from here. The wind blows very strongly, so it's necessary to take some

precautions. It's essential that you don't leave the group. From there, you can see the abundant potato crops of local farmers and strange rock formations. They enjoy a calm and full life in deep connection with nature! At approximately 4:00 pm, we'll arrive at our campsite near the Ccascacara Lagoon (5,000 m / 16,404 f). You can relax after five days of the excursion! Some local people will come to our camp and invite you to fish alongside them. Break down the barriers of your mind, make new friends and enjoy fresh fish for dinner. This is the best camp on the route because you will sleep in front of the lagoon and the glacier. Pure magic in the middle of the Andes!



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner and snacks

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Hiking distance:

12 km / 7.4 miles

Altitude of the campsite:

5,000 meters / 16,404 feet

Climate:

Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight

01 Sibinacocha Lagoon

02 Sibinacocha Lagoon

03 Sibinacocha Lagoon

Day 06

Ccascara Lagoon > Phinaya



Just another Day in Paradise

Today we'll wake up at 7:30 am. We'll have breakfast and visit the home of local families to appreciate and understand their lifestyle at 5,000 meters above sea level: mud and stone walls, guinea pigs in the kitchen and an intimate relationship with nature. Generally, the boys and girls in this area have restricted access to education due to the remoteness of their community. Therefore, it would be a nice gesture to bring them small gifts: colored pencils, markers, paints, toys or any item that can brighten their day. Textiles are one of the main sources of income for local people due to the number of llamas, alpacas and sheep that they own. The fiber they produce is of high quality, and they use natural dyes to obtain beautiful color tones. Take this opportunity to buy beautiful hand-woven garments. In this way, you will not only take away a unique souvenir but also help the community move forward.

Once the visit is finished, we will continue our downhill hike for 3 hours to where we'll have lunch. You'll see the last glaciers, rivers, waterfalls and red and green mountains that were once covered in white. Unfortunately, climate change is to blame for the disappearing of those perpetual snows. Perhaps when you appreciate with your own eyes the terrible impact of global warming, you'll understand the gravity of the matter. Your heart will be filled with gratitude to the Andean people who still practice ancestral rites in honor of the mountains and the Pachamama, or Mother Earth. Finally, at 3:30 pm we will arrive at our last campsite in the small community of Phinaya (4,000 m / 13,123 f) where we will have the rest of the day as free time. We'll organize some activities such as cooking classes with our chef or a visit to the community.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch, tea time, dinner and snacks

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Hiking distance:

9 km / 5.59 miles

Altitude of the campsite:

4,700 meters / 15,419 feet

Climate:

Sunny and windy; Cold and dry overnight

01 Ccascara Lagoon

02 Ccascara Lagoon

Day 07

Phinaya > Santa Barbara > Sicuani > Cusco Hotel



All good things
Come to an
end



Today concludes our exciting excursion through the realms of the Apu Ausangate. In the morning, we'll take an extra hike to a viewpoint from where we can see the town of Phinaya. You can decide to stay there, walk through its streets, make new friends among its residents or visit the school where boys and girls learn in their mother tongue: the ancient Quechua language. Don't forget to bring some gifts for them! At 10:30 am, we will carry out a brief ceremony for you to say goodbye to our horsemen and porters, and you'll share your last lunch with them. At 11:00 am, you'll board a bus that will take you on an unpaved road for 4 hours to the city of Sicuani. You will board another bus heading to Cusco where you will arrive between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Don't worry about a thing, and we'll leave you at the door of your hotel.



Day Facts

Food included:

Breakfast and lunch;
Dinner is not included.

Climate:

Sunny and windy; Cold
and dry overnight

01 Phinaya town

02 Phinaya Town Chapel

03 Lake

The background features a light gray map of a region with a complex coastline and topographic contour lines. A dark gray silhouette of a mountain range is positioned at the bottom of the frame. Two thin teal horizontal lines are placed on either side of the ampersand in the title.

Inclusion & Packing List

What is Included?

High Quality Service & Safety

- **Pre-departure Briefing**
Detailed trek briefing with your Guide the day before the tour. The meeting is at 5:00 pm in our office.
- **Experienced Tour Guide**
Our official tour guides speak fluent English and Spanish, are professionally trained and certified. We choose them for their experience, responsibility, unbridled passion for exploring, and pride in sharing our culture and history. In every experience, they will keep you safe and comfortable so you can enjoy your time worry-free!
- **Private Camping Equipment**
 - A spacious dining tent to enjoy your meals worry-free
 - Tables, chairs, dishware, and cooking equipment
 - A portable travel toilet
All equipment carried by our horses.
- **One Duffle Bag**
For the trek, you'll receive a duffle bag to pack your personal belongings up to a maximum weight of 7 kg / 15.4 lb (this weight includes your sleeping bag). The horses will carry it on the route.
- **Inflatable mattress**
- **Medical Kit or First AID Kit**
All Ausangate Peru guides have

received specialized training in first aid. We hold mandatory training sessions for them every February. Your guide will always have a first aid kit and oxygen to face basic emergencies (altitude sickness, travelers' diarrhea, cuts, scrapes, etc.). If necessary, we'll evacuate you from the path as quickly as possible and ensure that you arrive at a clinic for treatment.

- **Extras Included in our Service**
We believe that attention to small details is what sets us apart from other local companies. You'll receive a cover to protect your backpack on the route and a rain poncho.
- **24/7 Customer Service**
We have telephone service available 24 hours/day for ease of communication with Ausangate Peru leading up to your tour.
- **Satellite Phone**
Your tranquility is our first priority. Although our guides are prepared for emergencies in the mountains, calling a doctor, hospital, or a friend can make you feel more secure. For this reason, each Ausangate Peru guide carries a satellite phone to call any location worldwide and from anywhere on the mountain.

Accommodation

- **6 Nights Accommodation in Tents**
Ausangate Peru uses the best equipment to ensure your safety and comfort. Every 2 people will share a Eureka Timberline or Mountain Hardwear tent with a capacity of 4 people.

Meals

- **7 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, and 6 Dinners**
Our chef prepares the best dishes in the middle of the mountains. We respect all diets (vegetarian, vegan, or special menus are available at no extra cost). Meals include breakfast, lunch, dinner, and complimentary hot drinks and snacks.
- **Water on the trail**
We'll provide you with boiled, filtered, and cooled water during your hike. For this, you need to bring a camel bag or an empty bottle, which you can refill during each meal (we recommend a capacity of 2 liters).
- **Wake up tea**
You'll wake up every morning at the camp with a cup of coca tea! It'll be brought to your tent so you can warm up before you start the day.
- **Tea Time or Happy Hour**
Every afternoon before dinner, the

cooks will provide you popcorn, cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, hot water, etc. After a long day of hiking, you won't have to wait until dinner to relax, warm-up, and enjoy a bite!

- **Daily snacks on the trail**
Every morning we'll give you snacks so you can enjoy them during the walk. The snacks include local fruits, biscuits, chocolates, caramels, etc.
- **One cloth snack bag per person**
To avoid the use of plastic bags that contaminate our environment, we'll give you a cloth bag for your snacks.
- **Hygiene Products**
We'll provide you with a small towel and soap to clean your hands before each meal.

Transportation

- **Private Transport**
 - Day 1: You will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and will travel by private transportation to Tinkui, the starting point of the trek.
 - Day 5: Once you complete the tour, we will take you back to the door of your hotel in Cusco.
- **Cargo Mules**
While trekking, cargo mules will carry all the camping equipment and your baggage allowance (7 kg / 15.4 lb).

Muleteers will be responsible for your duffle bag and personal items.

Permits & Entrance Tickets

- **Entry Ticket for the Ausangate Trek**
- **Entry to Pacchanta Thermal Baths**



What is **NOT** Included?

✦ Sleeping Bag

You can rent one from our company if you don't own one. Our sleeping bags are effective and durable to protect you from temperatures as low as -18°C (0°F). They are mummy-form and include a sleeping liner. The bags are cleaned after every use and have a maximum usage of 30 trips.

- US\$ 30.00 per person

✦ Trekking Poles

Trekking poles are very helpful on rough and uneven terrain. You can rent a set from our company if you'd like.

- US\$ 30.00 per person

✦ Entry to Upis Thermal Baths (Day 1)

✦ Day 7 Dinner

✦ Personal Hiking Gear

✦ Travel Insurance

✦ Tips for our staff

Tipping is usual on any excursion in Peru. Although we pay good salaries to our entire team, something extra is always welcome, especially considering the hard work they do. Typically, group participants collect their tips to hand out to the horsemen and chefs together.

✦ Additional costs or delays beyond our control

Landslides, bad weather conditions, itinerary modifications due to a safety concern, illness, pandemics, government policy changes, political instability, strikes, an act of God, etc.

What Should you Bring

Essential packing list

- ☐ Duffle Bag
- ☐ Daypack

Documents

- ☐ Original Passport

Clothing

- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Base Layer
- ☐ Trekking Shirts
- ☐ Hard Shell Jacket and Rain Gear
- ☐ Insulated Jacket
- ☐ Fleece Jacket
- ☐ Trekking Shorts and Trousers

Headgear

- ☐ Hat for Sun Protection
- ☐ Head Band or Beanie
- ☐ Neck Gaiter or Balaclava

Hands

- ☐ Inner Gloves
- ☐ Outer Gloves

Footwear

- ☐ Hiking Boots
- ☐ Trainers (Trekking shoes / sandals)
- ☐ Hiking Socks
- ☐ Thermal Socks
- ☐ Gaiters

Important Accessories

- ☐ Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Trekking Poles
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Headlamp
- ☐ Water Bottle or Hydration Bladder
- ☐ Camera / Videocamera
- ☐ Notebook / Journal and Pen



Personal Gear and Medications



✦ **Trekking Towel:**

A small to medium sized hiking towel can come in great use. LifeVentures or Discovery provide good, quick-drying trekking towels.

✦ **Small Locks:**

To protect your belongings in your rucksack or duffle bag

✦ **Waterproof Ziplock Bags:**

These come in handy for storing important / valuable items like your money, a passport and electrical equipment

✦ **Isotonic Powder:**

Can be used to flavour your water nicely and helps replace electrolytes, improving energy levels and aiding water absorption. Here are some good Isotonic powdered drinks

✦ **Diamox:**

Also known as acetazolamide, is a medication that can be used as a prophylactic (preventative) solution for altitude sickness. It does not cure altitude sickness and should never therefore be used as a method to continue ascending to high altitudes. It can however help prevent the onset of altitude sickness and is commonly used by high altitude climbers and trekkers.

✦ **General Medications:**

We recommend taking paracetamol or aspirin for headaches (a common altitude sickness symptom on the Salkantay Trek) and Imodium for diarrhoea (another common problem as food preparation can be a little unhygienic)

✦ **Basic First Aid Kit:**

If you are joining an organised trek, your guide will most likely be carrying a first aid kit. If you are hiking unsupported or independently then a first aid kit is a must. Here are some compact and good outdoor first aid kits: Outdoor First Aid Kits

✦ **Suncream / Lip balm:**

No one wants burnt skin or cracked lips! Be sure to bring 1 x suncream (SPF 30) and 1 x lip balm

✦ **Baby wipes:**

For quick and easy wet washes when no showers are in sight! bring 1 x baby wipes

✦ **Blister Plasters:**

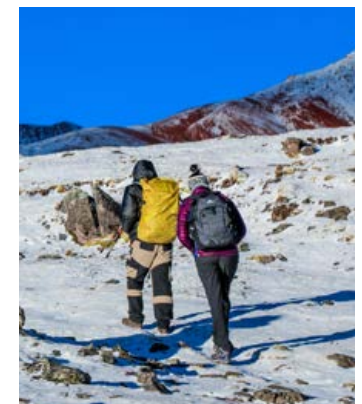
The dreaded blisters! We recommend taking Compeed blister plasters

✦ **Hand Sanitizer:**

Great for disinfecting hands before and after eating, or when they get dirty during the hike

Our Hiking Team **Our** Tour Guides

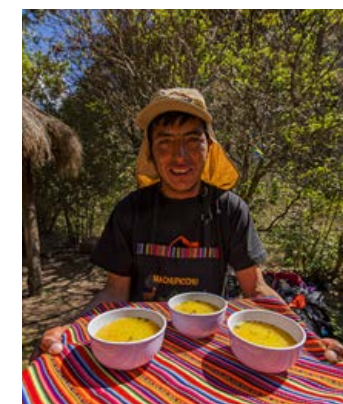
Your tour will be led by a trained and highly experienced professional with a very solid guiding background, years of hiking and wilderness experience, medical certifications, and a passion for leading people into unforgettable adventures.



Our Hiking Team

Our Cook

After a challenging trek we know how important a good hot meal can be to prepare your body and warm you up. That's why on every trek with Salkantay Trekking we employ chefs with years of experience cooking on the trails so that they provide filling.



Our Hiking Team **Meals** What to Expect

All of our hiking tours include a diversity of tasty meals packed full of critical carbohydrates, proteins and fats. We carry foods that travel well in the backcountry – rice, pastas, lentils, beans, couscous, packaged meats, nuts, breads, oatmeal, granola.



Our Hiking Team

Our Horseman & Horses

Our Horseman and his horses are in charge of all our gear and will always await us within the safe and comfortable camp sites.





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