



The

Rainbow Mountain and Quelccaya Glacier

02 days | 01 night

Description



Discover ^{the} Diamond of the Mountains

Are you one of those people who love hiking in the mountains? Do you like to witness the best views of glaciers and lakes? Then, we offer you a two-day mini-program that includes camping in front of a breathtaking view. We will take you through the most spectacular destinations of the southern route of Cusco, surrounded by beautiful landscapes, nature, and lots of adventure. We will visit the Rainbow Mountain or Vinicunca and the beautiful Quelccaya Glacier. Let yourself be captivated by its impressive snow-capped mountains, stone cliffs, and beautiful lakes; undoubtedly, wonderful gifts of nature.

We will start this program by heading south of the city of Cusco to reach the picturesque Rainbow Mountain. After exploring this beautiful place, we will head in our private

transport to the Sibinacocha lake, the second-largest in Cusco. We will camp in the Ruita sector, from where we will be able to appreciate the great Quelccaya glacier.

Afterwards, we will walk to the White lake and enjoy its crystal clear waters. From this point, we will ascend and admire the largest glacier in the world, Quelccaya (5,200 m), also known as Challpa. At the end of the day, we will return to Cusco, taking with us pleasant moments of this beautiful experience.

The background features a light gray map of a region, possibly a coastline or a set of islands, with a teal line extending horizontally across the middle. On the left side, there are detailed topographic contour lines. At the bottom, there is a dark gray, textured area representing a mountain range or rugged terrain, with a jagged silhouette separating it from the rest of the page.

Full Itinerary

Day 01

Cusco > Pitumarca > Cayrahuiri > Rainbow Mountain > Sibinacocha Lake > Phinaya > Ruita Campsite



Sibinacocha in front of the Quelccaya Glacier

Today is the first day of this fabulous program, we will leave Cusco early in the morning to head to the village of Pitumarca, where we will have a delicious breakfast. After gaining energy, we will travel for another hour and a half until we reach the community of Cayrahuiri, considered the starting point of the trek to reach the Rainbow Mountain. We will ascend little by little until we reach the planned objective, the viewpoint of the majestic Rainbow Mountain or Vinicunca (5,100 m / 16,732 ft.).

After enjoying the unique views, we will descend until we reach the transportation that will take us for two hours to the Sibinacocha lake. Here, we will be able to appreciate the diverse fauna typical of the Andean region, alpacas, and vicuñas that walk around the mountains. We will

take a short walk around the lake to appreciate the scenery and learn about the trout, the main fish of the area. We will enjoy our lunch while contemplating the great Quelccaya glacier and the mountains of the Vilcanota range on the horizon.

In the afternoon, our private transportation will take us for an hour and a half to Ruita, passing through the village of Phinaya. Before dinner, we can take a short hike and explore the area with its beautiful scenery. In the evening, we will rest in our camp to regain strength after a wonderful day.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Difficulty:

Moderate

Walking distance:

4 km / 2.49 mi

Walking time:

1.45 hours

Starting elevation:

4,700 m / 15,420 ft

Minimum height:

4,700 m / 15,420 ft

Highest elevation:

5,100 m / 16,732 ft

01 Andean landscapes

02 Rainbow Mountain

03 Trek adventure

Day 02

Ruita Campsite > White Lake > Quelccaya > Cusco



From Sibinacocha Lagoon to Quelccaya Glacier

After warming up with a coca tea and enjoying a refreshing breakfast, we will begin our adventure for the day. We will walk for about 30 minutes to the lake Blanca, also known as Saqracocha. We will enjoy the place to continue with a steep ascent through some stone cliffs that have the appearance of guardians.

As we go up, we will have impressive views of the Quelccaya glacier, also called Challpa. It is worth mentioning that, due to the extension that the glacier occupies, it is located between two regions: Puno and Cusco, has an area of 44 km² and stands out because its ice mass is not located around any of the peaks of the Vilcanota mountain range, but on a plain.

When we reach the top of the trail (5,200 m / 17,060 ft), we will feel

happy to have achieved our goal. In addition, we will discover lakes born from the melting of the glacier. We will return to our campsite and get ready to finish our trip. On the way, we will be able to appreciate parihuas known as flamingos and vizcachas which are part of the typical fauna of the area. Finally, we will arrive in Cusco after this beautiful experience and we will end our program.



Day Facts

Meals:
Breakfast, and Lunch

Difficulty:
Challenging

Walking distance:
7.3 km / 4.54 mi

Walking time:
4.30 hours

Starting elevation:
4,840 m / 15,879 ft

Minimum height:
4,840 m / 15,879 ft

Highest elevation:
5,200 m / 17,060 ft

01 Quelccaya Glacier and Lagoon

02 Panoramic view of Quelccaya Glacier

03 Quelccaya Glacier

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 word 'Packing' 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**
An official English and Spanish-speaking tour guide will accompany you along the route. Your guide will explain the culture and surroundings and keep you safe, sound, and comfortable to enjoy your trip 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
 - Inflatable mattressAll 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.
- **Sleeping Bag**
- **Trekking Poles**
- **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 sleeping pillow, 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 Salkantay Trekking guide carries a satellite phone to call any location worldwide and from anywhere on the mountain.

Accommodation

- **1 Night 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

- **2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, and 1 Dinner**
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 with a cup of hot coca tea! Our staff will bring it to your tent so you can warm up before you start your day.
- **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**
All transportation is included in this tour. We'll pick you up from your hotel and after the end of the trip, we'll drop you back at the door of your hotel in Cusco.

Permits & Entrance Tickets

- **Entry to the Rainbow Mountain**



What is **NOT** Included?

- ✦ Day 2 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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