



The

Rainbow Mountain Classic Inca Trail

06 days | 05 nights

Description



The Colors of Nature Tour

We want to propose a new travel option. It's a combination of nature, culture, history and landscapes from glaciers to valleys and the cloud forest. We'll visit these three most impactful settings of the Cusco region. The first came up a few years ago: Vinicunca, a breathtaking valley of mountains where the Rainbow Mountain is located. The others need no introduction: the Sacred Valley of the Incas, which is considered one of the most important destinations in Cusco, and the Inca Trail with its archeological sites, one of which is Machu Picchu. If you love adventure and are fascinated by history, this is the best travel opportunity for you!

full of history in which you'll have the opportunity to consider the magical colors of Rainbow Mountain and explore the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We also invite you to hike with us for 4 days in search of the most priceless sunrise at the door of the World Wonder of Machu Picchu. Grab your camera, get your backpack ready and discover the amazing landscapes that Cusco has to offer.

Can you imagine being able to traverse the wonders of Cusco in just one tour? With us, it's possible! We present to you a magical journey

The background features a light gray map of a region with a complex coastline. On the left side, there are detailed topographic contour lines. A solid teal horizontal line spans across the middle of the image, partially obscured by the text. At the bottom, there is a dark gray, textured area representing a mountain range, with a jagged black silhouette of peaks overlaid on it.

Full Itinerary

Day 01

Cusco > Quesiuño > Puca Pass > Anantapata > Warmisaya Pass > Surinecocha



Let's start The **Magical** Adventure

Today, a day full of adventure awaits us. We'll start by picking you up from your hotel at 4:00 AM. We'll then travel three hours from Cusco by car to arrive at the community of Quesiuño (4,376 m / 14,357 f), a place characterized by its herds of South American camelids, like the llama and the alpaca. Here, we'll have our breakfast.

We'll start the hike going uphill gradually for about three hours until we arrive at the Puca Pass (4,870 m / 15,977 f) where we can appreciate views of the immense valley with lagoons colored turquoise and the majestic glacier of Ausangate. We'll then go down an hour and a half to have lunch in Anantapata (4,750 m / 11,614 f). We'll rest here before going back uphill for two hours to the Warmisaya Pass (4,985 m / 16,355 f). Along the way, we'll see a colorful

landscape among the valleys.

After taking in the magic of the surrounding nature, we'll hike downhill for 45 minutes to our campsite in Surinecocha. Here, we'll recharge for our day tomorrow.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Lodging:

Campsite

Hiking distance:

11 km / 6.8 miles

Hiking time:

7 hours

Starting altitude:

4,376 meters / 14,357 feet

Minimum altitude:

4,376 meters / 14,357 feet

Maximum altitude:

4,985 meters / 16,355 feet

01 Llama in the Ausangate Mountain

02 Puka Pass

03 Mountain Adventure

Day 02

Surinecocha > Rainbow Mountain > Llacto > Taray Viewpoint > Urco Archeological Center > Pinkuylluna Mountain



The Fabulous Rainbow Mountain

Today, the Rainbow Mountain and the never-ending Red Valley await us. We'll have our breakfast very early before beginning our gradual, uphill hike for two hours to the viewpoint of the Rainbow Mountain (5,100 m / 16,732 f), the highest point on our trek. From this point, you'll be able to see the sunrise over the peculiar colors of the Rainbow Mountain. Without a doubt, this is the perfect manifestation of Mother Nature, and we'll enjoy it before other visitors arrive.

After this wonderful visit, we'll start descending for an hour and a half to Llacto (4,630 m / 15,190 f) where our private transportation will be waiting to take us two hours away for lunch at the Taray Viewpoint (3,150 m / 10,334 f). Continuing the adventure, we'll go to the archeological center of Urco (2,900 m / 9,514 f).

Finally, in Ollantaytambo (2,792 m / 9,160 f), we'll explore the town and enjoy a hike to the Inca Qolqas (2,950 m / 9,678 f) in the mountain of Pinkuylluna. From there, you'll have an amazing view of the archeological complex of Ollantaytambo. We'll have dinner in a traditional restaurant in town and spend the night at a comfortable hotel.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Lodging:

Campsite

Hiking distance:

7.5 km / 4.66 miles

Hiking time:

4 hours

Starting altitude:

4,800 meters / 15,748 feet

Minimum altitude:

2,792 meters / 9,160 feet

Maximum altitude:

5,100 meters / 16,732 feet

01 Taray Viewpoint

02 Urco Archeological Mountain

03 Rainbow Mountain

Day 03

Ollantaytambo > Piscacucho (Km 82) > Tarayoc > Wayllabamba



Initiate an Adventure Traveling Through Time

Very early, we'll go, by private transportation, to the starting point of our hike on the Inca Trail at Piscacucho (2,700 m / 8,858 f), a community located in the Urubamba Valley at kilometer 82 of the train track from Cusco to Machu Picchu.

Our hike will start after we register at the entrance and cross the bridge over the Urubamba River. We'll follow a flat path until we get to Miskay (2,690 m / 8,825 f), a favorable place to take a break. We'll continue on to the viewpoint of Willkarakay (2,750 m / 7,922 f) to look out over the impressive view of the archeological center of Llactapata (2,600 m / 8,530 f).

We'll then gradually ascend through the Kusichaca Valley to the place where we'll have lunch, Tarayoc. After a relaxing rest, we'll continue upwards for two more hours to the community of Wayllabamba (3,000 m / 9,840 f)

where we'll set up our first campsite and spend the night. Along the path, we'll enjoy spectacular views of the Urubamba mountain range.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Lodging:

Campsite

Hiking distance:

12 km / 7.47 miles

Hiking time:

6 hours

Starting altitude:

2,700 meters / 8,858 feet

Minimum altitude:

2,700 meters / 8,858 feet

Maximum altitude:

3,000 meters / 9,840 feet

01 Hike to Wayllabamba

02 Huilca Raccay

03 Llactapata

Day 04

Wayllabamba > Warmi Huañusca Pass > Pacaymayo



Connect with the Sacred Mountain!

We'll get up early to get ready to conquer the highest peak on the trail. After breakfast, we'll start on a steep uphill path between the mountains toward the Warmi Huañusca Pass, or passage of the dead woman (4,215 m / 13,829 f). On the way, we'll feel the change of the high Andean plateau, a humid place with quite a lot of vegetation, to a dry area, the perfect place to spot a variety of birds and the Andean bear.

Our inspiration to continue the hike will be to enjoy the impressive views of the valley and the mountains. Immediately after taking in this landscape from the pass, we'll descend for two hours to the Valley of Pacaymayo (3,600 m / 11,811 f) where we'll rest after this excellent day.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Hiking distance:

11 km / 6.84 miles

Hiking time:

7 hours

Starting altitude:

3,600 meters / 11,811 feet

Minimum altitude:

3,600 meters / 11,811 feet

Maximum altitude:

4,200 meters / 13,776 feet

01 Warmi Huañusca Pass

02 Warmi Huañusca Pass

03 Llulluchapampa

Day 05

Pacaymayo > Runcuracay > Phuyu Patamarca > Wiñay Wayna

A Day Full of Mysteries



We'll start early today with a good breakfast. From Pacaymayo, we'll go up to our second-highest point at the Runcuracay Pass (3,950 m / 12,959 f). On the path, we'll stop to visit the archeological site of the same name, a small, oval structure that was used to control the quantity of people who used this trail. Later, we'll go down to Yanacocha, or black lagoon, and then enter in Sayacmarca (3,650 m / 11,975 f), a beautiful complex consisting in various semi-circular constructions, multi-leveled enclosures and liturgical fountains with spiritual purposes.

We'll continue on the path until Chaquicocha (3,600 m / 11,811 f) to enjoy a delicious lunch. After that, we'll go through an Inca tunnel, hike up to the Phuyu Patamarca Pass (3,650 m / 11,975 f) and then down to its archeological site. This is one of the

most complete and best preserved archeological complexes on the Inca Trail. Curiously enough, Phuyu Patamarca means "town over the clouds." We'll follow a steep, downhill path along stone steps that will take us to Wiñay Wayna (2,650 m / 8,694 f), the place where we'll spend our last night of camping.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Lodging:

Campsite

Hiking distance:

16 km / 9.94 miles

Hiking time:

8 hours

Starting altitude:

3,600 meters / 11,811 feet

Minimum altitude:

2,650 meters / 8,692 feet

Maximum altitude:

3,950 meters / 12,959 feet

01 Phuyu Patamarca

02 Wiñay Wayna

03 Phuyu Patamarca

Day 06

Wiñay Wayna > Inti Punku > Machu Picchu > Aguas Calientes > Cusco

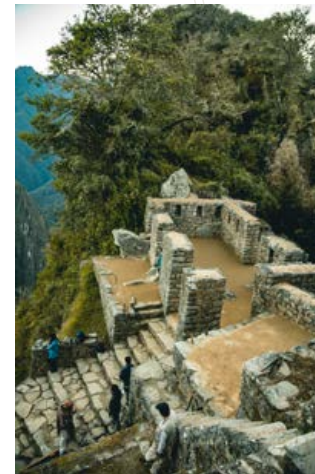


Huayna Picchu and Machu Picchu Sacred Mountain

Today is the day we've all been waiting for! We'll get up at 4:00 AM to leave Wiñay Wayna and walk calmly on a trail to Inti Punku, or the Sun Gate (2,720 m / 8,923 f). We'll hike downward for 45 minutes to Machu Picchu (2,430 m / 7,972 f), register at the entrance, leave our backpacks and go back in to start our complete guided tour of the Inca citadel. You'll have free time to look around a little more in this Historical Sanctuary. You can also climb Huayna Picchu and visit the Moon Temple, among other things.

Our grand journey has come to an end. After recharging our energy in this magnificent place, we'll take a bus to the town of Aguas Calientes and have lunch. In the afternoon, the train will take us to Ollantaytambo, and our private transportation will be waiting to take us back to Cusco,

taking the best memories with us of this incredible trip.



Day Facts

Meals:

Breakfast and lunch

Level of difficulty:

Moderate

Hiking distance:

4 km / 2.49 miles

Hiking time:

2 hours

Starting altitude:

2,650 meters / 8,692 feet

Minimum altitude:

2,650 meters / 8,692 feet

Maximum altitude:

2,720 meters / 8,923 feet

01 Inti Punku

02 Inti Punku

03 Machu Picchu

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 horizontal teal 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**
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
 - Inflatable mattress
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.
- **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.

Accommodation

- **4 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.
- **Hotel in Ollantaytambo (1 Night)**

Meals

- **6 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, and 5 Dinners**
- **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).
- **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.

Transportation

- **Private Transport**
 - Day 1: You will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and will travel in our private transportation to Quesiuno, the starting point of the Rainbow Mountain Trek.
 - Day 2: Private transport from the end point of the Rainbow Mountain Trek to Ollantaytambo.
 - Day 3: Private transport from Ollantaytambo to KM 82, the starting

point of the Inca Trail.

- Day 6: Once you complete the Inca Trail, we will take you from Ollantaytambo station back to your hotel in Cusco.
- **Train Ticket from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo (Day 6)**
- **Bus Ticket from Machu Picchu to Aguas Calientes (Day 6)**
- **Cargo Mules (Ausangate Trek)**
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.
- **Personal Belongings Transportation by Porters (Inca Trail)**
Our porters carry all camping equipment, the supplies for the trek and your luggage allowance. An exclusive porter will be responsible for your duffle bag and personal items.

Permits & Entrance Tickets

- **Entry Ticket for the Ausangate Trek**
- **Entry to the Rainbow Mountain and the Red Valley**
- **Admission to the Inca Trail**
- **Entry Ticket to Machu Picchu Archaeological Site**



What is NOT Included?

✦ Extras and important equipment

You will need a sleeping bag to camp. Walking sticks are optional but highly recommended. If you don't have them, don't worry, you can rent them with Ausangate Peru.

- Sleeping bag: US\$ 30.00
- Walking poles (pair): US\$ 30.00

✦ Huayna Picchu Mountain

You can climb the famous mountain always seen in the photos behind the site of Machu Picchu. It's 45 minutes uphill, and coming down can be scary if you fear heights. You can take this excursion after concluding your guided tour in Machu Picchu. Due to high demand, permission must be issued at least one month in advance. Consider that there could be changes to protect your integrity, mainly due to weather conditions.

- The Huayna Picchu Mountain ticket has an extra cost of US\$ 60.00 per person.

✦ Machu Picchu Mountain

Machu Picchu Mountain is another of the mountains that surround the archaeological site of Machu Picchu. It offers less steep, wider, and visually less frightening trails than Huayna Picchu, and it takes 1.5 hours to reach the top. This walk

requires an entrance ticket which we can secure for you if requested in advance.

- The Machu Picchu Mountain ticket has an extra cost of US\$ 60.00 per person.

✦ Meals not indicated

- Day 6: 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, porters 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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