

A hiker in a dark green jacket and hood, with a backpack and a camera, stands next to a wooden sign that reads "ABRA WARMISAYA". The background shows a high-altitude mountain landscape with snow, rocky terrain, and a cloudy sky.

# The Rainbow Mountain and Warmisaya pass

01 day

## Description



# Adventure in the Rainbow Mountain and Warmisaya

**O**n this hike, you'll be able to enjoy one of the most special places in the Andes, the majestic Rainbow Mountain, also known as Vinicunca or Winicunca (5,100 m / 16,732 ft). On top of that, you'll also visit the Warmisaya Pass where you'll catch a glance of the snowcap of Ausangate in all its glory. You'll understand why this Apu (what the locals call it) is so sacred. Respectfully look upon this beautiful creation, because it has lived more lives than any human being. If you love adventure in the mountains, you can't miss the opportunity to see these dreamy places; they'll leave a lasting impact for the rest of your life.

We'll leave Cusco early to travel to the South Valley in private transportation; after two and a half hours, we'll arrive in the district of Pitumarca and have a relaxing breakfast. From there, we'll

continue our trip for an hour and a half more by car until we get to a place known as Pampachiri - Kayrahuiri where we'll begin our hike. We will start slowly walking uphill surrounded by mountains that seem surreal, enjoying the typical landscapes of the region throughout the day.

After two hours of hiking, we will finally approach the main viewpoint of the famous Rainbow Mountain. You'll be able to appreciate the pristine Ausangate snowcap from a distance. We'll have time to take some incredible pictures and explore the area, and then we'll continue on to our next stop, Warmisaya, an amazing place containing great beauty and scenic landscapes. We'll double back down the same path we came up on to have lunch and return to Cusco in the afternoon.



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. At the bottom, a dark gray silhouette of a mountain range spans the width of the image. Two horizontal teal lines are positioned behind the text: one behind 'Full' and a longer one behind 'Itinerary'.

# Full Itinerary

## Day 01

Cusco > Checacupe > Pitumarca > Pampachiri > Rainbow Mountain >  
Warmisaya Pass (Round trip)



# The scenic Landscapes are the Treasure of the Peak

We'll leave the imperial city of Cusco at 4 AM and, after three hours, have breakfast in the town of Pitumarca (3,570 m / 11,712 ft). Next, we'll continue in private transportation to Pampachiri - Kayrahuiri (4,750 m / 15,583 ft) where we'll begin the hike. It will be a slow and gradual climb on a rocky path. If you need any help, you can rent a horse from locals along the trail.

On the way up, you'll discover that to conquer the mountain, you need perseverance and determination. On the summit of the Rainbow Mountain (5,100 m / 16,732 ft), there will be a 360 degree view. Enjoy the moment, and take your time to appreciate the beauty that the artwork of nature has to offer. Next, we'll go down to the Surincocha lagoon (4,800 m / 15,748 ft), take a breath and get ready to start the second climb up to the

Warmisaya Pass (4,985 m / 16,355 ft). From here, you can see the complete extension of the Ausangate snowcap.

You'll understand the vital importance of the snowcaps on these sacred mountains and their fertilizing role. You'll also understand the reason behind the offerings that, to this day, locals present to these protective mountains for taking care of their people and the flora and fauna of the region. After taking advantage of this revitalizing energy, we'll turn back downhill and have lunch in Pitumarca. Later, we'll return, satisfied, to the navel of the world, Cusco.



## Day Facts

- Meals:  
Breakfast and Lunch
- Level of difficulty:  
Moderate
- Hiking distance:  
8.5 km / 5.28 miles
- Hiking time:  
6 hours
- Starting altitude:  
4,750 meters / 15,583 feet
- Minimum altitude:  
4,750 meters / 15,583 feet
- Maximum altitude:  
5,100 meters / 16,732 feet

01 Trek Adventure

02 Llamas in Ausangate Mountain

03 Rainbow Mountain

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

- **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!
- **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 pair of trekking poles 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.

## Meals

- **Breakfast and Lunch**
- **Snacks and Water**  
For the hike, we'll provide you with a water bottle and snacks of local fruits, cookies, chocolate, 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**  
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?

- ✦ Dinner
- ✦ Personal Hiking Gear
- ✦ Travel Insurance
- ✦ Tips for our staff

Tipping is the standard in any excursion in Peru. Although we pay good salaries to our team, something extra is always welcome.

- ✦ 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 know 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:**

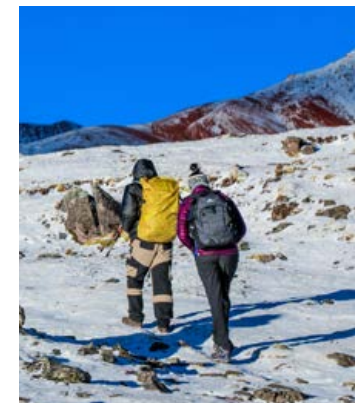
The dreaded blisters! We recommend taking Compeed blister plasters

## ✦ **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.







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