

TREK

CUSCO HIGHLIGHTS

7 days / 6 nights



DESCRIPTION

An Unmissable Journey through the Best of Cusco

Do you want to explore Cusco's most iconic sites and best hiking adventures? If your answer is yes, this epic 7-day journey combines the best of both worlds. This trip will take you through Cusco's impressive monuments, from its cobblestone streets to the emblematic Sacred Valley and to the legendary City of the Incas, Machu Picchu.

And the real adventure starts when you take the exciting trek to the Humantay Lake, the spectacular Salkantay Mountain, and a stargazing night in our Sky Camp. Finish with a day trip to the famous Rainbow Mountain to round it all. Don't miss out on this unmissable trip.

CONTENT

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- Itinerary
- Inclusions
- Packing List

Cusco HIGHLIGHTS

INTI PATH TOURS
TREKKING PERÚ



Machu Picchu
2,430m / 12,772ft

Aguas Calientes



Ollantaytambo

Urubamba



Maras

MORAY



Chinchero



Tambomachay

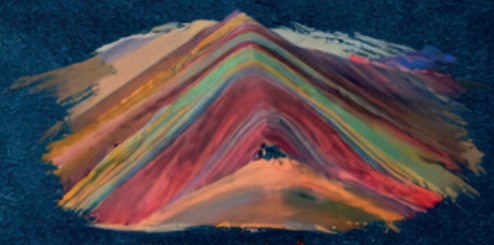


PUKA PUKARA

TAMBOMACHAY

QUENQO





Rainbow Mountain

Salkantay



Hamsapyhuamán
3,650m / 11,997ft

MOLLEPATA

Ausangate

Cusco
3,400m / 10,855ft





Llacto

Cusipata

FULL ITINERARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the most important sites of Cusco in a City Tour: Sacsayhuaman, Tambomachay, Qoricancha, and Qenqo, and its incredible cobblestone streets.
- Go on an outdoor tour in the Sacred Valley and learn about the fascinating Andean culture and the Incas' architecture.
- Travel by train through green farmlands along the Vilcanota River to the majestic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu and explore it with a guide.
- Admire the magical Humantay Lake and Salkantay Mountain on a 2-day challenging trek.
- Spend a night in our exclusive Sky Camp and contemplate the stars and the beautiful mountain scenery.
- Witness Rainbow Mountain's hypnotic colors on the last day of this incredible adventure.

DAY 01

Explore the City of Cusco



1

Touch Down in Cusco City and Explore its Sites

Welcome to the Imperial City of Cusco, also known as the cultural capital of Peru. Upon arrival, you will be taken to your hotel to drop off your luggage and freshen up. This first day is to relax, so you'll have enough time to rest before finding a place to have lunch. After lunch, we will take you on a half-day tour of this impressive city to acclimatize to the altitude (3,400 m.a.s.l.).

An unforgettable experience awaits you as you know the oldest continuously inhabited city in the Americas. People have lived in Cusco since approximately 1,000 BC and consider it the center of the regional culture known as Qosqo. It has played a significant role in all the civilizations that have lived in the area throughout history, starting with the native peoples of Peru, long before the Incas, with whom we usually associate the region today.


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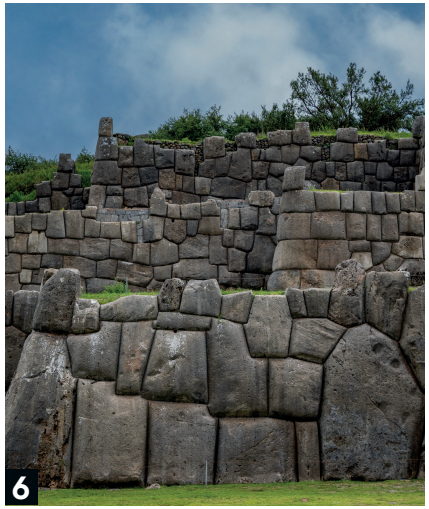
On this half-day city tour, you will learn much more about the history of Cusco and see some of the most important landmarks and archaeological sites.

The attractions on the tour include

- The Cusco Cathedral
- Qoricancha Temple and Santo Domingo Convent
- Sacsayhuaman
- Q'enqo
- Puka Pukara
- Tambomachay


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DAY FACTS

» ACTIVITY DURATION:
5 Hours

» CUSCO CITY ELEVATION:
3,400 m / 11,155 ft

» ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel in Cusco

1. Cusco Main Square
2. Cathedral of Cusco
3. Qoricancha
4. Sacsayhuaman
5. Qenqo
6. Tambomachay

DAY 02

Cusco - Chinchero - Moray - Maras Salt Mines - Urubamba - Ollantaytambo - Aguas Calientes


1

Epic day in the Sacred Valley of the Incas

We will pick you up early from your hotel and head to the Sacred Valley. Our first stop is Chinchero, a beautiful place known not only for its breathtaking scenery but also for the quality of its textile art. Here, we will visit a local craft center, where we will learn about the leading textile techniques preserved from generation to generation.

We will continue appreciating diverse cultivated fields, small traditional communities, and substantial snow-capped peaks. We'll arrive in Moray for a visit to its spectacular circular terraces. Studies have proven that Moray functioned as an agricultural laboratory where food from other altitudes and climatic regions was produced. Afterward, we will go to the salt mines of Maras, a place functioning since pre-Inca times. There, you will find more than 3,000 salt pools flooded daily with water coming from the underground.


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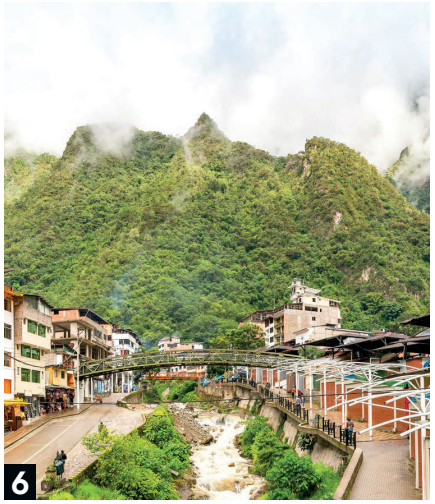

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At noon, we will head to Urubamba for a well-deserved lunch and continue through the Sacred Valley until we reach Ollantaytambo. This picturesque and charming place is considered the last Inca city, with many of its cobblestoned streets still kept intact today.

Once you've finished exploring this town, you will head to Ollantaytambo station and begin your train ride through the mountains and along agricultural fields. It will be an hour and forty-five minutes trip along the mighty Vilcanota River, one of the affluents of the Amazon River. Finally, we will arrive in Aguas Calientes, an intense miniature metropolis, where we will have dinner and spend the night in a comfortable hotel.


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DAY FACTS

» MEALS:
Breakfast, Buffet Lunch, and Dinner

» ACTIVITY DURATION:
11-12 Hours

» ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel in Aguas Calientes

1. Archaeological Site of Moray
2. Chinchero
3. Moray
4. Salt mines of Maras
5. Ollantaytambo Archaeological Site
6. Aguas Calientes

DAY 03

Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu - Ollantaytambo - Cusco


1

Discover the best-kept secrets of Machu Picchu

Today, you will wake up early at 5:00 a.m. for a filling breakfast. This is the only way to board one of the first buses leaving for Machu Picchu, avoid the crowds of tourists, and enjoy the complex peacefully while the sun rises and casts on its enormous stones.

Once at the Inca citadel, it's important to show your passport; it's your ticket to access the Wonder. Before you go on the tour, we will take some time to feel the powerful energy of this fantastic archaeological site. Happiness will flood you as you observe how the golden sunlight gradually covers every corner of Machu Picchu.

The guided tour will take approximately 2 hours walking through the most essential parts, including


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observatories, temples, alleys, and amazing terraces. Our expert guide will explain life in this city hundreds of years ago. It's also a great place to learn about the local flora and fauna, including rarely-seen species like the famous spectacled bear and the vizcacha. Machu Picchu holds the title of one of the Seven Wonders of the World, so it won't fail to impress you all day.

If you have booked tickets for Huayna Picchu Mountain or Machu Picchu Mountain, it's time to go hiking! They'll offer spectacular views only a few can have. Next, you will return to Aguas Calientes by bus.

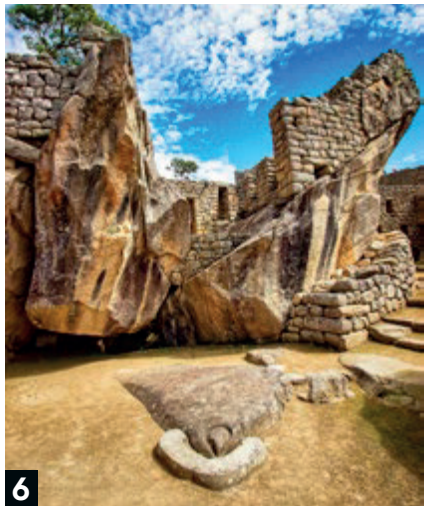
Back at Aguas Calientes, you'll be free for lunch before taking the panoramic Vistadome train to Ollantaytambo. There, our transport will take you to Cusco and drop you off at the door of your accommodation. Your arrival time will depend on the time of your train ticket.



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DAY FACTS

» MEALS:
Breakfast

» DIFFICULTY:
Easy

» ACTIVITY DURATION:
2-3 hours exploring Machu Picchu

» MACHU PICCHU CITADEL ELEVATION:
2,430 m / 7,972 ft

» OPTIONAL MOUNTAINS:
Moderate to Challenging

» MACHU PICCHU MOUNTAIN ELEVATION:
3,000 m / 9,843 ft (3-4 hours)

» HUAYNA PICCHU MOUNTAIN ELEVATION:
2,720 m / 8,924 ft (2 hours)

» HUCHUY PICCHU MOUNTAIN ELEVATION:
2,497 m / 8,192 ft (1.5 hours)

» ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel in Cusco

1. Machu Picchu, Inca wonder
2. Impressive Inca architecture at Machu Picchu complex
3. Temple of the condor
4. Terraces in Machu Picchu
5. Temple of the Sun
6. Detail of the Inca architecture

DAY 04

Cusco - Challacancha - Soraypampa - Humantay Lake - Sky Camp



Hike to the Turquoise Jewel in the Andean Mountains

Early today morning, your exciting 2-day adventure begins with a pick-up and transfer from your accommodation in Cusco. The first stop of the day will be in Mollepata for a nutritious breakfast. Then, we will continue driving until we reach Challacancha, the starting point of the trek.

From here, we will begin the hike to Soraypampa, admiring the unique scenery until we reach our campsite. This first stretch is not very challenging and will help you adapt to the altitude. You will walk along a small Inca canal most of the way, where you can contemplate the beautiful Andes and sheer Mollepata Valley.





DAY 05

Soraypampa - Salkantaypampa -
Salkantay Pass - Soraypampa - Cusco



Beat The Trail of the Seven Snakes

Today is the toughest day as you'll reach the highest point of the trip, the Salkantay Pass. You will encounter beautiful landscapes surrounded by impressive mountains. After breakfast, you'll gradually ascend to Salkantaypampa and traverse the challenging trail known as "The 7 Snakes Trail". You'll reach the impressive Salkantay pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft). around 10 a.m., where you'll spend some time taking memorable photos and enjoying the fantastic scenery.

After contemplating the view of the snow-capped mountains and feeling the force of nature, we will pass through rocky landscapes and begin our descent until we reach our lunch spot in Soraypampa. You'll be treated to a filling lunch prepared by our chef and have a view of the great forest of snow-covered stones in the distance. All your efforts will be greatly rewarded with incredible scenery all around.





Once we arrive at Sky Camp, we will have a break to drink water or eat some snacks before we embark on the final stretch for half an hour to board the transport. Throughout this last part of the trip, you will have plenty of opportunities to take great pictures of valleys, mountains, rivers, and farmland. Finally, we will arrive in Cusco and drop you off at your accommodation for a well-deserved rest.


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DAY FACTS

» MEALS:
Breakfast and lunch

» DIFFICULTY:
Moderate to Challenging

» WALKING DISTANCE:
14 km / 8.7 miles

» WALKING TIME:
7 hours

» SALKANTAY PASS ELEVATION:
4,630 m / 15,190 ft

» ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel in Cusco

1. Salkantay Mountain
2. Soyrococha
3. Ascent to the Salkantay Pass
4. Salkantay Pass
5. Rest at the foot of Salkantay
6. Detail of the Salkantay glacier cover

DAY 06

Cusco - Llacto -
Rainbow Mountain of Vinicunca

Hike to the Rainbow Mountain

Your last adventure begins at 4:00 a.m. We will pick you up in our transportation and drive to Cusco's South Valley for three hours. Despite the early start, you will have the opportunity to sleep a little longer on the way.

Along the way, we will observe picturesque Andean villages, Inca-era agricultural terraces, fertile valleys, and beautiful mountain gorges. We will stop to appreciate the herds of llamas and alpacas before enjoying a tasty breakfast that will give you the boost to start the trek.

We will continue our journey until we reach the starting point of the trek, Llacto; from there, we will follow a winding path in the middle of the Andean mountains. As we ascend, you will be rewarded with the breathtaking view of Ausangate Mountain (6,372 m / 20,905 ft). This remote region is home to many people, and you will have the opportunity to be amazed to see the traditional clothing they wear and make, thanks to the artistic textile talents inherited from their ancestors.


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DAY 07

Depart Cusco or continue your adventure



Say goodbye to Imperial Cusco

It's time to bid farewell, but keep the best memories of this trip. At the most convenient time, we will take you to the airport or bus station.

Or continue exploring the countless activities Cusco has to offer. There is so much to see, and we are here to plan your perfect vacation. Feel free to consult our specialists for more details.

- **Meals:** Breakfast

INCLUSIONS



WHAT IS INCLUDED?

» Permits & Entrance Tickets

- Cusco Tourist Ticket (Boleto Turístico)

  This ticket is required to access many of the most popular attractions in Cusco and the Sacred Valley, including archaeological sites and museums.

- Day 1: Cusco's Cathedral Entrance Ticket
- Day 1: Qorikancha Entrance Ticket
- Day 2: Entrance Ticket for Maras Salt Mines
- Machu Picchu Circuit 2 offers the most complete and popular route through the citadel, making it the most requested. Although included in this experience, availability is limited, so we strongly recommend booking at least three months in advance.

  If Circuit 2 is unavailable, we will arrange Circuit 3-B, which explores the lower area of the citadel, including the urban sector and key ceremonial sites. If this is also sold out, Circuit 1-B will be arranged, covering mainly the upper panoramic area with the iconic postcard viewpoint.

- Day 4: Entry Ticket to Humantay Lake & the Salkantay Trek
- Day 6: Entry to the Rainbow Mountain
- Day 6: Entrance to the red valley viewpoint

» High Quality Service & Safety

- Pre-departure Briefing

  The evening before each trip, you'll have an orientation meeting with your guide. For multi-day tours, this meeting is typically held at 5:00 p.m. in our office or, depending on the itinerary, at your hotel. For day tours, you will receive a detailed WhatsApp call with important information about what to pack, your pick-up time, and to confirm your hotel address.

- Day 1: City Tour Half Day
- Day 2-3: Moray, Maras Salt Mines & Machu Picchu
- Day 4-5: Humantay Lake & Salkantay Trek 2 Days
- Day 6: Rainbow Mountain trek
- Day 7: Transfer to the Airport

- Experienced Tour Guide

  Our official tour guides speak English and Spanish and are professionally trained and certified in safety and quality service. Chosen for their experience, responsibility, and passion for exploration, they take pride in sharing our culture and history. With their guidance, you'll stay informed, safe, and comfortable, ensuring a worry-free adventure and an unforgettable experience of a lifetime.

- One Duffle Bag

  For the trek, you'll receive a duffle bag to pack your personal belongings up to a maximum weight of 5 kg / 11 lb. The horses will carry it on the route.

- Sleeping Bag (Day 4)

  Our sleeping bags are durable and designed to keep you warm in temperatures as low as -18°C (0°F). They feature a mummy shape and include a sleeping liner for added warmth. Each bag is thoroughly cleaned and carefully maintained after every use.

- Trekking Poles (Day 4, 5 & 6)
- Medical Kit or First AID Kit

  mandatory training sessions every February. Your guide will always carry a first aid kit and oxygen to handle basic emergencies (altitude sickness, diarrhea, cuts, scrapes, etc.). If needed, we will evacuate you from the trail as quickly as possible and ensure you arrive at a clinic for treatment.

- Backpack Cover & Rain Poncho

  Our attention to detail sets us apart. You'll receive a cover to protect your backpack and a poncho for extra comfort and protection along the way.

» Accommodation

- Accommodation in our exclusive Sky Camp (Day 4)

  You will spend 1 night at our Sky Camp located in front of the impressive Humantay and Salkantay mountains. From your glass-toped igloo, you will be able to sleep calmly under a deep and clear sky with exceptional views of the constellations.

  - **Sky Camp**

- Hotel in Cusco (Day 1, 3, 5, and 6)

4 Nights in a hotel in Cusco.

- Hotel in Aguas Calientes (Day 2)

  1 night in a comfortable hotel in Aguas Calientes that includes luggage storage while you visit Machu Picchu.

» Meals

- 6 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, and 2 Dinners
  - Day 2: Breakfast at the hotel in Cusco, Buffet Lunch in the Sacred Valley, and Dinner in Aguas Calientes.
  - Day 3: Breakfast at the hotel in Aguas Calientes.
  - Day 4: Breakfast in Mollepata. At our Sky Camp, you'll enjoy lunch and dinner, in addition to hot drinks and snacks, served on the spot by our expert cooks and staff. (Vegetarian and vegan options are available at no cost.)
  - Day 5: Breakfast and Lunch at our Sky Camp
  - Day 6: Breakfast and Lunch in the Rainbow Mountain Trek
  - Day 7: Breakfast at your hotel in Cusco
- Water (Days 4,5,6)
  - A good supply of boiled, filtered, and cooled water. Please bring a camel bag or an empty bottle (2 liters recommended) which you can refill during each meal.
  - For Rainbow Mountain: A water bottle
- Wake up tea (Day 5)

  You'll wake up at the Sky Camp with a cup of hot coca tea! It'll be brought to your igloo so you can warm up before you start the day.

- Snacks (Day 4,5,6)

  For the hikes, we'll provide you with snacks of local fruits, cookies, chocolate, caramels, etc., to enjoy during the walk. To avoid the use of plastic bags that contaminate our environment, you'll receive a cloth bag.



» Transportation

- Transfers
  - Day 1: A representative will be waiting for you at the Cusco Airport to take you to your hotel.
  - Day 7: Private transfer from your hotel in Cusco to the Airport or Bus Station.
- Train Tickets
  - Day 2: From Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes (Expedition Train)
  - Day 3: From Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo (Vistadome Train)

    The PeruRail Vistadome Train Service offers a unique and different way to travel to Machu Picchu. Each one of its cars features panoramic windows, enabling you to feel part of the surroundings. The Vistadome approaches you to the amazing landscapes and nature on the route, creating a real connection.
- Round-Trip Bus Transport Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu (Day 3)

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

Huayna Picchu Mountain

Up for a challenge? Climb Huayna Picchu, the iconic mountain behind Machu Picchu. This 45-minute uphill trek rewards you with breathtaking views and a profound sense of achievement. It's not for the faint-hearted, but if you're afraid of heights, push through—the reward is truly worth it!

- **Booking:** Reserve 2–3 months in advance due to high demand.

Machu Picchu Mountain

Machu Picchu Mountain is one of the breathtaking peaks that surround the archaeological site. Its trails are less steep, wider, and less intimidating than those of Huayna Picchu, making it an excellent option for those seeking a more relaxed climb. Reaching the summit takes approximately 1.5 hours and offers unforgettable panoramic views. This hike requires an entrance ticket, which we can secure for you in advance upon request.

Huchuy Picchu Mountain

Huchuy Picchu is a small mountain just above the Machu Picchu citadel, offering a short, scenic, and less crowded alternative to the more demanding Huayna Picchu. Its gentle, well-maintained trail is perfect for travelers seeking a light yet rewarding hike, with sweeping views of the citadel and the surrounding Andes. While Huayna Picchu involves a steep and strenuous climb, Huchuy Picchu delivers a more relaxed and accessible experience—without giving up the stunning scenery.

- **Availability:** High season, from May to September.

Meals and Drinks not Indicated

Personal Hiking Clothes and Gear

Travel Insurance

Tips for our staff

While our team receives fair salaries, any additional gesture is always appreciated in recognition of their hard work and dedication. Participants often choose to pool their tips and present them directly to the hiking team or through their guide.

Additional costs or delays beyond our control

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

BEFORE YOU GO

We want to make your trip to Peru as memorable and carefree as possible. In this section, you'll find the answers to all your questions about traveling
Please read the following information carefully – it will also help you with any questions about our services.

» Briefing or Informative Meeting

On the first day, who will provide a detailed
briefing on your itinerary. During this time, we will also answer any last questions you may have before your adventure.

» Tour Balance Payment

The tour has to be paid in full at most 2 days before your departure. Otherwise, your reservation will not be confirmed.

It would be greatly appreciated if you pay the tour balance (US dollars or Peruvian soles) at our office in Cusco. You can withdraw money from several ATMs located in the historical center. We also accept payments by CARD or PAYPAL online, but please note this is subject to a 5% fee (charged by Niubiz and PayPal). We do not accept bank checks or traveler's checks as payment methods.

» Can I store my luggage at your office?

Of course! During the trip, you can store your main luggage for free at our office (arrange it with us on the briefing day or by email).

You can also safely keep any equipment you won't need for the tour in your hotel. Almost every hotel offers this service. Please do not leave valuable items in your bags; put them in the hotel safe and ask for an itemized receipt (in the unlikely case of theft, many insurance companies require that you have a copy of the receipt). For extra peace of mind, place items like credit cards inside a sealed and signed envelope.

» Pick up of guests

Please note:

- All pickups are within Cusco City, but we recommend booking a hotel in the historic center for its convenient location.
- Our guide or staff will confirm the pickup time the day before the tour.
- Due to traffic conditions, the pickup time may vary between 30 and 45 minutes.
- Cusco is an old city and has many narrow cobbled streets. Some hotels and Airbnbs are located on streets without car access or on long, steep slopes, making it difficult to transport luggage. For such reasons, we strongly advise you to book accommodation with good access."

» Return to Cusco from Machu Picchu

Returning from Machu Picchu requires quite a bit of logistics, but don't worry. Everything is included in your tour!

- In Machu Picchu, you'll board a bus that'll take you for 25 minutes to the small city of Aguas Calientes. The buses are boarded according to arrival.
- In Aguas Calientes, you'll board a train to Ollantaytambo. Your guide will give you the train tickets where the boarding time will be shown. Make sure you're on the platform 30 minutes early. The train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo takes 1:45 hours.
- Once you arrive at the station, our representative, identified with the will be waiting to transfer you to Cusco or directly to your hotel.
  The trip from Ollantaytambo to Cusco takes 1:30 hours.
- In Cusco, depending on your hotel's location, we'll take you to a smaller car from our company (Hyundai H1) to transfer you faster to your hotel.

» Group tours

Group tours are made up of different people with varying physical conditions and ages. By agreeing to be part of a group tour, you acknowledge that some people may be faster or slower than you. Therefore, each person can go at their own pace on the route.

In some cases, a group may want to modify the tour; however, the guide will be the one who decides, after consulting with all participants, whether such changes are possible.

» Strikes and Demonstrations

Strikes and demonstrations are usually common in Peru, which may interrupt some of our tours. Roads and train tracks can be blocked or taken over. However, we will try

to keep your trip as originally planned, even if it means leaving the night before the scheduled date.

In case of changes or cancellations, our operations department will coordinate everything with you. Your safety is our highest priority, and we will make our decisions to protect it.

» Lost objects

Please pay attention to where you leave your belongings and remember to take everything once you leave a place or a transport. You're the only one responsible for your objects during the tour.



WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING?

- » Valid Passport
- » Extra money (recommended soles)
- » Personal medication
- » Water bottle or CamelBak - (optional water purifying pills)aa
- » Sunblock: factor 70 or more
- » Insect repellent
- » Personal Care Products
- » Hiking boots or shoes (preferably waterproof)
- » Light footwear or sandals
- » Trekking pants (*)
- » Trekking socks
- » Pair of thermal pants
- » Shorts
- » Waterproof gaiter
- » Long sleeve t-shirts
- » Warm jacket
- » Waterproof jacket
- » Raincoat or rain poncho.
- » Waterproof or wool gloves
- » Sun hat to protect neck and face
- » Wool hat for the cold
- » Neck gaiter or buff
- » Sunglasses with UV protection
- » Sleeping bag (-15°C)
- » Trekking poles
- » Medium trekking backpack (15 - 25 liter)
- » Camera and charger
- » Power bank
- » Snacks: Energy bars, chocolate, candies, dried fruits, etc.
- » Bathing suit
- » Towel
- » Flashlight



*It is advisable to wear waterproof pants during the rainy season (September to March).