



Salkantay 5-day trek to Machu Picchu

Day 1: Cusco - Mollepata - Soraypampa

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Cristal domes

Maximum Altitude: 3,850 masl

Minimum Altitude: 2,850 masl

Distance by foot: 14 km

Day 2: Soraypampa - Salkantay Pass - Huayramachay - Chaullay

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: Huts

Maximum Altitude: 4,600 m.a.s.l.

Minimum Altitude: 2850 m.a.s.l.

Distance by foot: 14 km

Day 3: Chaullay - Collpapampa - La Playa - Lucmabamba

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodation: Mountain capsules

Distance by foot: 15 km

Maximum altitude: 2750 m.a.s.l.

Minimum altitude: 1900 m.a.s.l.

Day 4: Lucmabamba - Llactapata - Hidroeléctrica - Aguas Calientes

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel

Distance by foot: 18 km

Maximum altitude: 2450 m.a.s.l.

Minimum altitude: 2000 m.a.s.l.

Day 5: Machu Picchu

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: None

Distance by foot: 10 km

Salkantay 5-day trek to Machu Picchu

As one of the most amazing routes to reach the majestic Machu Picchu citadel, the Salkantay trek is a unique experience. The highest point of the trek, the Salkantay pass, will take you to 4600 meters above sea level. As you descend to Challway, you will quickly observe a change in the landscape, from an arid terrain to one that is green and fertile. Finally, you will arrive at Machu Picchu for a visit to the most important archaeological center of South America.

Day 1

Pick-up around 04:30 to 05:00 from your accommodation to go by bus to Mollepata. After a two hour drive, you will stop to have breakfast (not included), then continue to Challacancha, where you will meet our support staff, who will be in charge of loading all the equipment on the horses. Around 09:30 you will start the trek towards Soraypampa (3,900 m.a.s.l.). It will take approximately 4 hours to reach Soraypampa, where you will spend the night in the "Cristal Domes". After lunch, you will visit the glacial Humantay lake (4200 m.a.s.l.) which is a three-hour round-trip hike from the Sky Domes. A warm and delicious dinner will be waiting for you in the evening.

Day 2

You will have breakfast at 06:00, then begin the hardest day of the Salkantay trek, during which you will be hiking up to the highest point of the trek (4,600 m.a.s.l.). After 6 kilometers uphill through the magnificent scenery of the rocky Andes Mountains and enjoying the view of Salkantay mountain, you will reach Salkantay pass. You will appreciate the spectacular views of the imposing snowy peaks of Salkantay Mountain (6,264 m.a.s.l.) which is the second highest mountain of the Cusco region. After spending 30 minutes at the Salkantay pass, you will start the hike down to Chaullay. Around 13:00 the team will make a stop for lunch, in the area called Huayracmachay, then you will continue the hike to Chaullay. After approximately 3 hours of hiking downhill, you will get to our campsite in Chaullay (2,900 m.a.s.l.). At 19:00 you will have dinner to recover energy for the following days.

Day 3

At 06:00 you will start the trek to the small town called "La Playa", where you will have lunch. The hike will take you all the way down through the Santa Teresa valley. During the hike you will be able to see the Santa Teresa River, waterfalls, wild orchids and coffee, banana, and avocado plantations. After lunch you will hike for 20 minutes to our base camp called "Lucmabamba capsules" at 2,400 m.a.s.l. Here you will be able to explore the tropical forest and make a full visit of an organic coffee farm. If you are a coffee lover, you will enjoy the delicious coffee freshly prepared by the local people. Coffee is the main farming industry in the area. Coffee was discovered in Ethiopia, but it wasn't until the Spanish conquered Cusco that it was brought to this region. You will sleep in the Mountain capsules prepared for you. We also offer you the option to go to the hot springs of Santa Teresa (30 USD extra) Van transportation and entry ticket included.

Day 4

You will begin today's hike early in the morning around 06:00 and will have the opportunity to enjoy a small part of the famous Inca trail. After a climb of 2 hours with amazing views of the Santa Teresa valley you will arrive at the Llactapata, an Inca site right in front of Machu Picchu. This will be the first archaeological site you will see on your trip to the mysterious Lost City of the Incas. You will explore this Inca site with the guide, learning about the history of this archaeological site.

After the Llactapata ruins, you will continue the trek with a 2-hour downhill hike. On this part of the trail, you are always able to see Machu Picchu until you arrive at the Hidroelectricas train station to have lunch. You will reach train tracks which lead to the town of Aguas Calientes. Here you will have two options: 1) If you are exhausted, you may take the train to Aguas Calientes (40 USD extra). 2) If you are still eager to hike, we walk from Hidroelectricas to Aguas Calientes for 3 hours along the train track.

Day 5

Today you arrive at the long-awaited finale of the trek, one of the New 7 Wonders of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Machu Picchu. You will wake up early after a refreshing night at the hotel to beat the crowds to the top of Machu Picchu and enjoy its serenity in the soft morning light. The Machu Picchu entrance checkpoint is open from 06:00 until 15:00. You will hike up to Machu Picchu and enter the hidden Royal Citadel of the Incas. Here you will have a 2-hour guided tour through this incredible ancient city to visit temples, terraces, palaces, priest's houses, the sundial, the industrial sector, and the farming fields. Be amazed at the engineering ingenuity of the Incas which was so far ahead of their time and still partially a mystery today. Without having modern tools or even steel and iron to work with, the people who built this city were geniuses in organizing this community in a sustainable and beautiful way on a side of a mountain, even bringing water in canals through its streets for the people to use.

After this tour, you are free to climb up to Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain (Be sure to book in advance with Ritisuyo). Each mountain takes approximately 3 hours to hike up and down. You will be able to stay and enjoy this magical city for 3 hours in total, before hiking back down to Aguas Calientes for the train ride at 16:22 hrs or 6:20 pm (subject to availability) to Ollantaytambo. A group minivan will be waiting for you, and we will drop you back at plaza san francisco in cusco. Rest your feet and your body now, but we can assure you your heart will still be soaring for weeks and years to come.

Summary of what is included in the trip

- An amazing trek, with an experienced English-speaking guide who will accompany you at all times.
- Meals on the trek.
- Transportation from Cusco to the starting point of the trek and from Machu Picchu by train back to Cusco.
- All entrance fees to archaeological sites and natural parks.
- All necessary camping equipment, including sleeping bags and mats.
- A hotel in Machu Picchu village for the last night of the trek.
- Horses to carry the camping equipment and your personal belongings.

Summary of what the trip does NOT include

- Flights.
- Tips and souvenirs.
- Not mentioned food.

What to bring

Here is a list of 20 things you should take with you on a trek:

1. Trekking backpack
2. Sturdy and comfortable trekking boots
3. Waterproof jacket for rain and wind
4. Comfortable and resistant trekking pants
5. Thermal gloves
6. Hat or cap to protect from the sun
7. Sunglasses with UV protection
8. High protection sunscreen
9. Insect repellent
10. Reusable water bottle or hydration bag
11. Snacks and energy food
12. Personalized first aid kit
13. Trekking poles for better support
14. Headlamp with extra batteries
15. Extra warm clothing (e.g. fleece)
16. Plastic bags to keep clothes dry and organized
17. Camera or smartphone to take pictures and videos of the landscape.
18. Handkerchief or small towel
19. Notebook and pencil for taking notes or drawing.
20. A compass for the trek

Remember that the weight of your backpack is important, so it is best to carry only what is essential and necessary to make the trek comfortably. In addition, it is advisable to take into account the time of year and weather conditions to choose the right clothing and equipment. This trip will take you through the spectacular scenery of the Peruvian Andes region, from snow-capped mountains to Andean valleys, passing through charming villages and culminating in the famous Inca citadel of Machu Picchu. We assure you that it will be an unforgettable experience that you will remember for a lifetime.

FAQs

What kind of equipment do we use ?

At Ritisuyo, we care about offering our travelers the best possible experience and therefore, we make sure to use high quality equipment to guarantee the comfort and safety of our clients during the trek.

For accommodation, we use resistant and good quality mountain tents, which provide protection against wind and rain. In addition, we use insulating mattresses to provide good support and a good night's sleep.

As for food, our cooking equipment is specially designed to prepare nutritious and tasty meals in the middle of nature. We use portable cooking equipment that allows us to cook anywhere and in any weather. In addition, our chefs have extensive experience and prepare balanced and delicious meals for our travelers.

In short, we make sure to use high quality equipment on each of our trips so that our travelers can enjoy the trek in comfort and safety.

What is the physical condition that we recommend for a trek ?

At Ritisuyo, we offer treks for travelers who enjoy adventure and contact with nature. However, it is also important to keep in mind that trekking is an activity that requires a good physical condition.

We recommend travelers interested in trekking to prepare themselves physically in advance, doing cardiovascular and resistance exercises, to guarantee a pleasant and safe experience. It is important to keep in mind that the trek involves walking on uneven terrain and at altitudes above 3000 meters above sea level. Therefore, it is necessary to have a good lung capacity and be prepared to walk for several hours a day.

Although a trek is a physical challenge, the reward of reaching the summit and contemplating the landscapes of the Andes is unparalleled. For this reason, we recommend that travelers prepare themselves physically so they can enjoy this experience to the fullest.

How is the trek structured?

At Ritisuyo, we offer trek in groups, which we highly recommend. Our groups are led by expert and trained guides who know the route and can provide valuable information about the area.

On our group trips, we make sure to keep the number of people small, which allows for more interaction between hikers and makes the guide's job easier. In addition, our guide determines the pace of the trip according to the group's capabilities and adapts to the needs of the participants.

The groups we organize foster a dynamic of companionship and collaboration in which participants help each other to overcome the challenges of trekking. In addition, our group trips are an excellent opportunity to make new friends and share unforgettable moments in the majestic Andes Mountains.

What is the best time to explore and enjoy the wonder of Machu Picchu?

The best time is between the months of April and October. During these months, the dry season provides more stable and pleasant conditions for hiking and camping in the area, with daytime temperatures usually in the 15°C to 20°C range. In addition, there is less rain and less likelihood of transportation disruptions or flight cancellations. In the months of November through March, the rainy season and weather conditions are less favorable for hiking and camping in the area, making the trek more difficult and potentially dangerous due to slippery trail conditions and flooding.

What clothing should I bring for a trek?

For the trek, it is important to bring adequate clothing that will keep you comfortable, dry and protected from the sun and cold. It is recommended to wear layered clothing, with undergarments that absorb moisture and keep your skin dry, mid layers to keep you warm and a waterproof and windproof jacket as an outer layer to protect you from rain and wind.

It is also important to wear comfortable walking clothes, including quick-drying pants and T-shirts, hiking socks and sturdy, comfortable hiking boots that have been previously worn and are well adapted to your feet. It is also recommended to bring a hat or cap for protection from the sun and a small backpack to carry personal items and essentials such as water, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.

Appropriate clothing for a trek should be comfortable, quick-drying, layered and designed to protect you from the changing weather conditions in the mountains. It is important to remember that the weather in the Cusco region can be unpredictable, so it is best to be prepared for any eventuality.

What is the food like during the trek?

During the trek, food is provided to hikers at camp stops, which means you don't have to worry about bringing your own food. Meals include nutritious food to ensure that hikers have the energy they need to walk long distances and cope with changing weather conditions.

The menu usually includes local Peruvian dishes. In addition, food during the trek can be adapted to special dietary needs, such as vegetarians and vegans, as long as they are informed in advance. Drinking water is also provided and trekkers are encouraged to bring their own bottle to refill and reduce the amount of waste generated during the trek.