

SALKANTAY TREK

to Machu Picchu

4 days / 3 nights



HIKING
TOUR





Cross mountains and forests and reach Machu Picchu.



The 4-Day Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu is a top alternative to the classic Inca Trail, blending adventure, comfort, and culture. Named one of the world's best hikes by National Geographic, this route leads over high mountain passes, beside turquoise lakes, and through lush cloud forests on the way to legendary Machu Picchu.

Each day brings something new: panoramic views, rich culture, and satisfying challenges. You'll stay in our yurt-type Salka Glamp Campsite near Salkantay Mountain, in rustic Andean huts, and in a 3-star hotel in Aguas Calientes. Highlights include Salkantay Pass, a traditional Pachamanca barbecue, a local coffee farm visit, and a panoramic return on the Vistadome train.

If you're craving an adventure that connects you with nature, local culture, and one of the most iconic sites on Earth, this Salkantay trekking experience delivers it all in just four days.

¿Why Salkantay Trek?

- Humantay Lake: Hike to this turquoise alpine lake, surrounded by majestic peaks.
- Stay at the luxurious Salka-Glamp, with cozy tents and breathtaking mountain views.
- Savor a traditional Pachamanca barbecue, visit local coffee farms, and immerse yourself in Andean culture.
- Vistadome Train: Return in style on exclusive panoramic trains after exploring Machu Picchu.





Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu

4 days / 3 nights

Legend

Transportation

- Van Transportation
- Train Transportation
- Hiking
- Walking Tour
- Mountain Pass



Accommodation

- Camping
- Hotel

Meals

- Lunch



Experiences

- Archeological Site



1 Day 1

Cusco – Humantay Lake – Salkantaypampa Campsite

- Duration 7 - 8 hours
- Distance 16 km / 10 mi
- Difficulty Moderate

2 Day 2

Salkantaypampa – Salkantay Pass

- Duration 9 hours
- Distance 18 km / 11.2 mi
- Difficulty Challenging

3 Day 3

Collpapampa – Aguas Calientes

- Duration 6 hours
- Distance 14 km / 8.6 mi
- Difficulty Moderate

4 Day 4

Machu Picchu

- Duration 2 - 3 hours in Machu Picchu
- Difficulty Easy





Tour Details

Start / End **Cusco / Cusco**

Duration **4 days / 3 nights**

Distance **48 km / 30 mi**

Difficulty **Challenging**

Accommodation **Camping, hotel**

Group Size **Up to 12**

Activities **Hiking, Adventure**

Language **English, Spanish**



Full Itinerary

→ Day 01

Cusco – Humantay Lake – Salka-Glamp Campsite

→ Day 02

SalkaGlamp – Wayracmachay – Collpapampa

→ Day 03

Collpapampa – Hidroelectrica – Aguas Calientes

→ Day 04

Machu Picchu



Day 01

Cusco – Humantay Lake – Salka Glamp Campsite

Our adventure begins with an early pickup from your hotel in Cusco at 4:30 a.m. We can collect you from any hotel near the center of Cusco, then drive 2 hours to Mollepata for a hearty breakfast at a local restaurant.

After breakfast, we continue 1 more hour to Challacancha (3,600 meters / 11,811 feet), the trailhead. Our expert tour guides will give you time to get ready, warm up, and begin the epic Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu. The hike starts with a 3-hour walk to the famous Humantay Lake (4,200 m / 13,779 ft). Along the way, watch for Andean geese (the lovebirds) and vizcachas (they look like rabbits).





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At Humantay Lake, take in amazing views of Humantay Mountain and its turquoise waters, and explore the shore at your own pace. Next, descend to Soraypampa, where our trekking chef will serve a freshly prepared picnic lunch made with local products.

After lunch, begin a 2-hour hike to our campsite at Salkantaypampa. Tonight, you'll stay in our unique and exclusive Salka-Glamp Campsite (3,900 m / 12,795 ft), enjoying comfortable glamping tents, breathtaking views of Salkantay, and the quiet of the Andes. Relax with tea time and a delicious dinner, then step outside to admire a sky full of stars—an

Distance

16 km / 10 mi

Duration

7 - 8 hours

Highest Altitude

4,200 m / 13,779 ft

Meals

Breakfast, snacks, lunch, tea time, dinner

Difficulty

Moderate

Humantay Mt. from the Route



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Day 02

Salka Glamp – Collpapampa

The second day of the Salkantay Trekking is the most challenging and one of the most rewarding, offering breathtaking views from the Salkantay Pass. Wake up to a surprise delivery of hot coffee or coca tea right to your tent. Step outside to sweeping plains and snow-capped peaks. After breakfast, begin a 2-hour ascent to the highest point of the trek, the Salkantay Pass (4,630 m / 15,190 ft).

We'll pause at the summit to soak in the majestic landscapes, including a stunning lake at the foot of Salkantay Mountain. From here, continue with a 3-hour downhill hike to our lunch spot in





Wayracmachay (3,800 m / 12,467 ft).

Next, descend another 3 hours, leaving the highlands behind as we enter the cloud forest and feel the quick change in weather and temperature. We'll arrive at Collpapampa (2,770 m / 9,087 ft), a small village surrounded by greenery and soft river sounds. Here, you'll spend the night in comfortable Andean huts, enjoying a warm, authentic experience and a peaceful evening in the cloud forest.

Distance

18 km / 11.2 mi

Duration

9 hours

Highest Altitude

4,630 m / 15,190 ft

Meals

Breakfast, snacks, lunch, tea time, dinner

Difficulty

Challenging



Salkantaypampa



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Day 03

Collpapampa – Hidroeléctrica – Aguas Calientes

This is arguably the most beautiful day of your Salkantay TreXperience! After a hearty breakfast, we hike about 3 hours to Lucmabamba (2,000 m / 6,561 ft) to prepare a traditional Pachamanca barbecue. This time-honored Peruvian feast is cooked with hot stones, burying vegetables, fruits, and different meats. You'll take part in every step. After lunch, visit an organic coffee farm to learn the harvesting process and even grind and pull your own espresso from fresh beans.

Later, we drive one hour to Hidroeléctrica and hike 3 more hours to Aguas Calientes—the final stretch of the day! By 5:00 p.m., you'll arrive in Aguas





Calientes, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant, and settle into a comfortable hotel, resting up for your grand finale at Machu Picchu tomorrow.

Distance

14 km / 8.6 mi

Duration

6 hours

Highest Altitude

2,770 m / 9,087 ft

Meals

**Breakfast, lunch,
dinner**

Difficulty

Moderate



Road from Collpapampa to Lucmabamba





Coffee Experience in Lucmabamba



Pachamanca in Lucmabamba

Day 04

Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas!

Today we wake up bright and early for the highlight of the Salkantay Trek—Machu Picchu. Around 5:30 a.m., we'll head to the bus line to catch one of the first rides up to the citadel. As dawn breaks, we'll reach the entrance and walk to the upper terraces, where breathtaking views of the ancient city await. If skies are clear, you might even catch the sunrise.

Once inside, your guide will lead a 2 to 3-hour exploration through the main areas of Machu Picchu, sharing insights into its history and significance. After the tour, and if booked in advance, you can hike Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain for extraordinary panoramic views.





In Machu Picchu, we include Circuit 2 by default as it's the most complete; if it's sold out, we'll secure the best option available, which may be Circuit 3 or Circuit 1. We strongly suggest booking your Machu Picchu trip as early as possible, as tickets are first-come, first-served and the best circuits and schedules sell out first.

When you're ready, return to Aguas Calientes on your own for lunch (not included) and then board the panoramic Vistadome train and bus back to Cusco. On arrival, the TreXperience Team will be waiting at the station to transfer you to your hotel.

Duration

**2–3 hours in
Machu Picchu**

Highest Altitude

2,430 m / 7,972 ft

Meals

Breakfast (hotel)

Difficulty

Easy



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Included

- Pre-departure briefing.
- Hotel pick-up and drop-off.
- All transportation during the tour.
- Professional tour guide.
- Return on the panoramic Vistadome Train or 360°.
- Entry tickets to the Salkantay Trek and Machu Picchu.
- Cargo mules to carry all the camping equipment.
- Experienced chef to prepare meals.
- 1 night at Salka Glamp Campsite for a luxurious experience under the stars (Day 1).
- 1 night at Andean huts in Collpapampa (Day 2).

- 1 night in a 3-star hotel in Aguas Calientes.
- All meals on the trail, except last-day lunch (all dietary needs covered).
- Water and daily snacks.
- Pachamanca barbecue, cooking class, coffee experience.
- Duffle bag for up to 8 kg (17 lb) of personal items.
- First-aid kit, satellite phones, oxygen supply.
- Pillow, sleeping pad, rain poncho, hand towels.

Not included

- Sleeping bag, air mattress, trekking poles.
- Last-day lunch in Aguas Calientes.
- Huayna Picchu Mountain or Machu Picchu Montaña.



Essential Gear

When preparing for the Salkantay Trek, it's important to pack properly for the altitude, cold weather, and rugged terrain. Here are some essential items you should bring:



Backpack (25- 40L)

Durable backpack for essentials and hydration.



Upper warm clothes

Warm layers: thermals, fleece, hat, gloves, scarf.



Gloves

Warm gloves against wind, moisture, and cold.



Waterproof jacket

Protection against rain and snow.



Insulated or fleece jacket

Insulated jacket for colder mountain nights.



Trekking pants (2 pairs)

Lightweight convertible pants for all weather.



Sandals or lightweight shoes

Comfortable, lightweight shoes to rest at camp.



Trekking socks (4-5 pairs)

Thermal socks, wool or synthetic.



Hiking boots

Hiking boots that fit, with strong, grippy soles.



Wool hat or Beanie

Warm hat to protect head and ears from cold wind.

What TreXperience provides?

During the trek, we take care of your comfort: You'll have a duffle bag carried by our team. We also include a rain poncho, backpack rain cover, company t-shirt, and a foam mat for your rest.



Rain Poncho

Protects you from unexpected rain.



Backpack Cover

Keeps your backpack dry in the rain.



Duffle Bag

Carried by our team, up to 8 kg.



TreXperience T-shirt

A comfortable souvenir of your trek.



Foam Sleeping Pad

Extra comfort for your rest at camp.

Gear you can rent from us

If you prefer, you can rent additional gear with us to make your experience more comfortable: trekking poles for better support, a sleeping bag for your camping nights, and an inflatable mat for a restorative rest.



Trekking Poles (1 pair)

Extra support and balance on the trail.



Sleeping Bag

Warmth and comfort on cold mountain nights.



Inflatable Sleeping Pad

Extra cushioning for a restorative sleep.

About our camping equipment

On every trek, we never compromise on quality or safety: spacious and durable sleeping tents, a dining tent, and a restroom tent from certified brands. We also carry oxygen and satellite phones for your peace of mind at all times.



Private Sleeping Tents

Warmth and comfort on cold mountain nights.



Dining Tent

Comfortable space to share meals.



Oxygen Tank

Extra safety in high-altitude areas.



Private Toilet Tents

Clean and practical during the route.



Satellite Phones

Reliable communication in remote areas.

Our service

Our service combines comfort, organization, and unique details that make the difference. We include carefully selected private transportation and a panoramic train ride back so you can enjoy every moment of the journey.



Transportation

The journey between Cusco and the starting point of the hike is done in our comfortable private vans. The return from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo is aboard PeruRail's exclusive Vistadome train.

Camping Equipment and Hotel in Aguas Calientes

Our high-quality camping equipment includes spacious two-person tents, a cozy dining tent to share your meals, and clean portable toilet tents.

On your third night, you'll stay in Aguas Calientes at a 3-star hotel with comfortable rooms, a private bathroom, and everything you need to recharge before visiting Machu Picchu.





Vistadome Train from Aguas Calientes to Cusco

Meals in the route

The trekking experience is not only about the landscapes, but also about the flavors. Every meal on the route brings you closer to Peruvian tradition and helps you recharge your energy.



During the hike, you'll enjoy Peruvian cuisine, a blend of tradition and diverse influences. Some of the dishes and drinks you might try include:

- Quinoa in soups and salads
- Peruvian ceviche
- Lomo Saltado
- Ají de Gallina
- Alpaca and guinea pig prepared in different ways
- Chicken broth
- Chicha Morada
- Coca tea

Meals on the trek combine Peruvian and international dishes, designed to keep your energy up and adapt to different tastes and diets.

Pachamanca

In Lucmabamba, [we'll prepare a traditional Pachamanca \(Andean-style barbecue\) together.](#)







Pachamanca (Andean Barbecue)

Pachamanca (Andean Barbecue)



Our team

At TreXperience, our porters, chefs, and guides are the heart of every journey. All of them come from Andean communities or are local experts who carry the passion for their culture in their veins.



Our Tour Guides

Our guides are professionals from Cusco deeply passionate about their cultural heritage. With academic training and genuine warmth, they are not only experts in history and nature but also storytellers of Andean culture, traditions, and daily life. Thanks to their knowledge, dedication, and kindness, every step of your journey will become a unique, meaningful, and enriching experience.



Our Porters

They are the silent strength behind every journey. Coming from Andean communities, they carry the necessary equipment with dedication and a smile. Beyond their physical effort, it's their spirit of solidarity that inspires—always ready to help, motivate, and keep the trek's energy alive. Thanks to them, every step feels lighter and the experience more human.

Our chefs

Our chefs turn every meal into a special moment. With creativity and passion, they prepare delicious dishes in the heart of the mountains, blending Peruvian tradition with the unique touch of Andean cuisine. Their flavors comfort, surprise, and become an essential part of the memories you'll take from the journey.

Our drivers

They are the ones who welcome you at the start of the adventure and accompany you on every transfer with safety and punctuality. With experience on Andean roads and total commitment, our drivers ensure your trip begins and ends with peace of mind and confidence.



Our Awards

Our agency has been honored with prestigious international awards that highlight the quality of our service, our commitment to sustainability, and our dedication to providing authentic experiences.



El Inka Dorado
Award
2023



Lux Life Travel
& Tourism
2022



Premio Miradas
2022



Empresa Peruana
del año
2022



Luxury Travel Guide
Global Awards
2023



Internacional
Travel Awards
2022



Travel & Hospitality
Awards
2022



Bes of the Best
Tripadvisor
2022



TreXperience

INSPIRING TRAVELS



*“Your journey is more than a trek
it’s a cultural connection that
stays with you forever”*

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