

LARES TREK & SHORT INCA TRAIL

5 Days / 4 nights



TreXperience
INSPIRING TRAVELS
HIKING
TOUR





Five days between living culture and sacred paths.



The Lares Trek and Short Inca Trail blend a naturally and culturally rich hike through remote mountains, home to towering Puyas de Raimondi plants, soothing hot springs, crystal-clear Andean lakes, and traditional villages, with the iconic approach to Machu Picchu on the Short Inca Trail. You'll visit isolated communities and admire high glaciers, turquoise lakes, and cascading waterfalls before starting at KM 104 to pass Chachabamba and Wiñay Wayna.

On the afternoon of Day 4, arrive at Machu Picchu via the Sun Gate for your first quiet look at the Inca citadel. On the final day, return to the world and wonder for sunrise over the citadel and a guided visit you'll never forget.

Why Lares Trek ?

- Visit the Puyas de Raimondi and Lares hot springs
- Hike the iconic Short Inca Trail
- Arrive at Machu Picchu at the perfect moment
- Visit Machu Picchu again the next day
- Vistadome train to return to Cusco





Lares Trek & Short Inca Trail to Machu Picchu

5 days / 4 nights



Legend

Transportation

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

Experiences

- Archeological Site
- Viewpoint
- Hot Springs
- Handcrafts

Accommodation

- Camping
- Hotel

Meals

- Lunch



1 Day 1

Cusco – Lares Hot Springs – Blue Lagoon

- Cusco – Kiswarani
- Pampa Corral – Blue Lagoon

2 Day 2

Blue Lagoon – Condor Pass – Canchacancha

- Blue Lagoon – Canchacancha

3 Day 3

Canchacancha – Maras – Ollantaytambo

- Canchacancha – Huanan
- Huanan – Maras Salt Mines – Ollantaytambo

4 Day 4

Ollantaytambo – Km 104 – Machu Picchu – Aguas Calientes

- Ollantaytambo – Km 104 (1:30 hrs)
- Km 104 – Machu Picchu
- Huanan – Maras Salt Mines – Ollantaytambo
- Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu Round Trip (30 min)

5 Day 5

Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu

- Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu Round Trip (30 min)
- 2 - 3 hrs. exploring Machu Picchu





Tour Details

Starts / Ends **Cusco / Cusco**

Duration **5 days / 4 nights**

Distance **54 km / 34 mi**

Difficulty **Moderate to challenging**

Accommodation **Camping, hotel**

Group size **Up to 12**

Activities **Hiking, Culture, Adventure**

Languages **English, Spanish**



Full Itinerary

→ Day 01

Cusco – Puyas de Raymondi - Lares
Thermal Baths – Blue Lagoon

→ Day 02

Blue Lagoon – Condor Pass –
Canchacancha Community

→ Day 03

Canchacancha – Huanan– Ollantaytambo

→ Day 04

Ollantaytambo – Km 104 – Machu Picchu –
Aguas Calientes

→ Day 05

Machu Picchu



Day 01

Cusco – Puyas de Raimondi – Lares Thermal Baths – Blue Lagoon

We will pick you up from your hotel in Cusco at 4:30 a.m. and drive into the Sacred Valley. Our first stop is Calca, where we'll explore the local market. We then continue to Ancashmarca to wander through its ancient stone structures and enjoy sweeping views. A short drive farther brings us to a field of towering Puyas de Raimondi plants, giant Andean bromeliads found only at high altitude.

After about three hours on the road, we reached the Lares Hot Springs. Here you'll enjoy breakfast and plenty of time to soak in the mineral-rich pools, famed for easing tired muscles and joints. From the springs, it's a 30-minute drive to Pampacorral, the trailhead





where we start hiking.

The first stretch is a gentle two-hour walk to the village of Kiswarani, where our chef will be waiting with a delicious lunch. Re-energized, we continue for another two hours to our campsite beside the Blue Lagoon at 3,900 m / 12,795 ft. The route winds past potato fields, herds of llamas and alpacas, and several waterfalls, typical sights in the Lares region.

On arrival, your tent and a hot cup of tea await. This peaceful spot is perfect for relaxing, stargazing, and hearing stories about Inca astronomy.

Distance

10 km / 6 miles

Duration

7 hours

Max. Altitude

3,900 m / 12,795 ft

Meals

Breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner

Difficulty

Moderate



Ancashmarca Archeological Site



Mauca Pass



Lares Hot Springs



Quiswarani Waterfalls

Lares Trek & Short Inca Trail | 12





Blue Lagoon

Day 02

Blue Lagoon – Condor Pass – Canchacancha Community

We wake you early with hot coffee or coca tea. After breakfast, we tackle a four-hour ascent to Condor Pass at 4,750 m / 15,583 ft—the highest point of the trek. En route, we pass crystal-clear lakes where wallatas (Andean geese) swim and admire the snow-capped peaks of Pitusiray, Sawasiray, and Qolquecruz, all rising above 18,000 ft. At the summit, we serve a well-deserved coca tea while your guide performs a traditional offering to the sacred mountains.

A three-hour descent brings us to our next campsite. Watch for lagoons, vizcachas (rabbit-like rodents), llamas, alpacas, exotic birds, and more wallatas along the way.





Tonight's camp is in Cancha Cancha (3,750 m / 12,303 ft), the only Lares Valley village still completely isolated from modern technology. The locals speak only Quechua, the language of the Incas. You'll have time to meet residents, visit the school, and play games with the children. Donations of food or school supplies are gratefully accepted. In the late afternoon, we'll visit a family home to learn about their traditional lifestyle and sample local dishes before dinner. We'll see how they raise guinea pigs, llamas, and alpacas. Our chef will prepare dinner to enjoy together before a well-earned night's rest.

Distance

16 km / 10 miles

Duration

7 hours

Max. hightness

4,700 m / 15,354 ft

Meals

**Breakfast, snacks,
lunch, dinner**

Difficulty

Moderate





Lakes in the Lares Trek



Canchacancha

Day 03

Canchacancha – Maras Salt Mines – Ollantaytambo

Enjoy mountain views and a hearty breakfast, then begin our final descent into the Sacred Valley. We say goodbye to the villagers and walk through changing ecosystems, from potato fields in the highlands to corn terraces in the valley below. The hike ends in Huaran (2,700 m / 8,856 ft).





A private bus takes us to the Salineras de Maras, spectacular salt pans still harvested by local families, and then on to Ollantaytambo, the “Last Living Inca City.” We stroll its ancient streets and water channels before dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight, I stayed in a comfortable 2-star hotel.

Distance

12 km / 7.4 miles

Duration

4 hours

Max. hightness

3,650 m / 11,972 ft

Meals

**Breakfast, snacks,
lunch, dinner**

Difficulty

Moderate



Huanan (Sacred Valley)



Maras Salt Mines



Ollantaytambo Streets

Day 04

Explore Machu Picchu - Cusco

We board one of the first trains to the Inca Trail, traveling from Ollantaytambo to KM 104 at Chachabamba in the cloud forest. At the checkpoint, you'll need your original passport

After a delicious breakfast prepared by our trekking chef, we explore the Inca site of Chachabamba and begin our hike on a section of trail abandoned in the 16th century.

A gradual four-hour climb brings us to Wiñay Wayna ("Forever Young"). We tour the site and enjoy a freshly prepared picnic





lunch before continuing to the Sun Gate, your first panoramic view of Machu Picchu, a truly unforgettable sight.

From the Sun Gate, it's a one-hour descent to the citadel. We enter via Circuit 1, arriving late in the afternoon when most visitors have gone, ideal for photos. Afterward, we bus down to Aguas Calientes, have dinner, and spend the night in a 3-star hotel.

Distance

16 km / 10 miles

Duration

7 hours

Max. hightness

2,700 m / 8,858 ft

Meals

**Lunch, snacks,
dinner**

Difficulty

Moderate

 MINISTERIO DE CULTURA
BIENVENIDOS - WELCOME
KM.104 CHACHABAMBA
CAMINO SAGRADO



Km 104 (Hikings Starting Point)



Chachabamba Archeological Site



Intipata Views



Wiñay Wayna Waterfalls

Wiñay Wayna Archeological Site



Machu Picchu



Aguas Calientes

Day 05

Explore Machu Picchu - Cusco

We rise early and join the first bus queue at 5:30 a.m. to reach Machu Picchu at dawn. On clear mornings, you'll witness a breathtaking sunrise over the citadel. Your guide leads a 2–3 hour tour, then gives you free time to explore or climb Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain (advance tickets required on your own). We follow Circuit 3, the Royal Circuit, visiting temples, palaces, fountains, and the citadel's finest architecture.





After exploring it, we bus back to Aguas Calientes for lunch (not included), then board the Vistadome train and a private van to Cusco, arriving around 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy every step of this unforgettable journey from the remote Lares Valley to the majestic Lost City of the Incas!

Duration

3 - 4 hours

Meals

Breakfast (hotel)

Difficulty

Easy

Machu Picchu

Included

- Safety briefing the day before the tour
- Pick up from your hotel for the tour
- Complimentary luggage storage
- Professional tour guide
- Door-to-door service (hotel to hotel)
- All bus tickets to Machu Picchu
- Entrance ticket to the Inca Trail
- Entrance ticket to Machu Picchu - Circuit 3
- 2 nights of camping in the Mountains
- 1 night 2-star hotel in Ollantaytambo
- 1 night 3-star hotel in Aguas Calientes
- Comfortable tents for camping
- Foam sleeping mat
- Duffel bag for your stuff up to 7 kilos

- Chef, Porters, horse riders.
- Cargo mules to carry food and equipment
- First-aid kit, satellite phones, oxygen tank
- Rain Ponchos, pillows, dining tent, chairs, tables
- Vistadome return train to Cusco

Not included

- Sleeping Bag, Air Mattress, Trekking Poles (Can be rented)
- Huayna Picchu Mountain tickets
- Machu Picchu Mountain tickets
- Lunch on the last day in Aguas Calientes
- Travel Insurance



Essential Gear

When preparing for the Lares 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 transportation and accommodation, plus a panoramic train ride back so you can enjoy every moment of the journey.



Transportation and lodging

Travel is by private van, and includes a 3-star hotel stay in Aguas Calientes for your comfort.

Return to Cusco on a Panoramic Train

After completing your Ausangate trek, you'll return to Cusco aboard the Vistadome train by PeruRail, which offer large panoramic windows so you can enjoy spectacular views of the Sacred Valley throughout the journey.





Vistadome Train from Aguas Calientes to Cusco

Meals in the route

The trekking experience is not only about the landscapes, but also the flavors. Each meal along the route is an opportunity to connect with Peruvian tradition and recharge your energy.



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

- Quinoa in soups and salads
- Peruvian ceviche
- Lomo Saltado
- Ají de Gallina
- Alpaca meat and Guinea pig in different preparations
- Chicken broth
- Chicha Morada
- Coca tea

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





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



Travellers'
Choice
2025
Best of the Best



TreXperience

INSPIRING TRAVELS



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

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