

# HUCHUY QOSQO & SHORT INCA TRAIL

to Machu Picchu

4 days / 3 nights



TreXperience  
INSPIRING TRAVELS

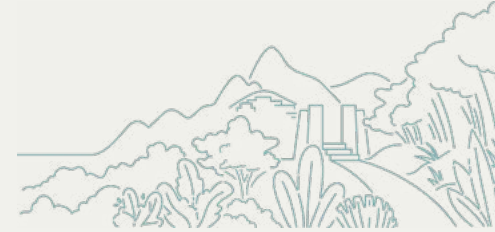
GROUP  
TOUR







# Feel the Andes’ Authenticity on your Way to Machu Picchu



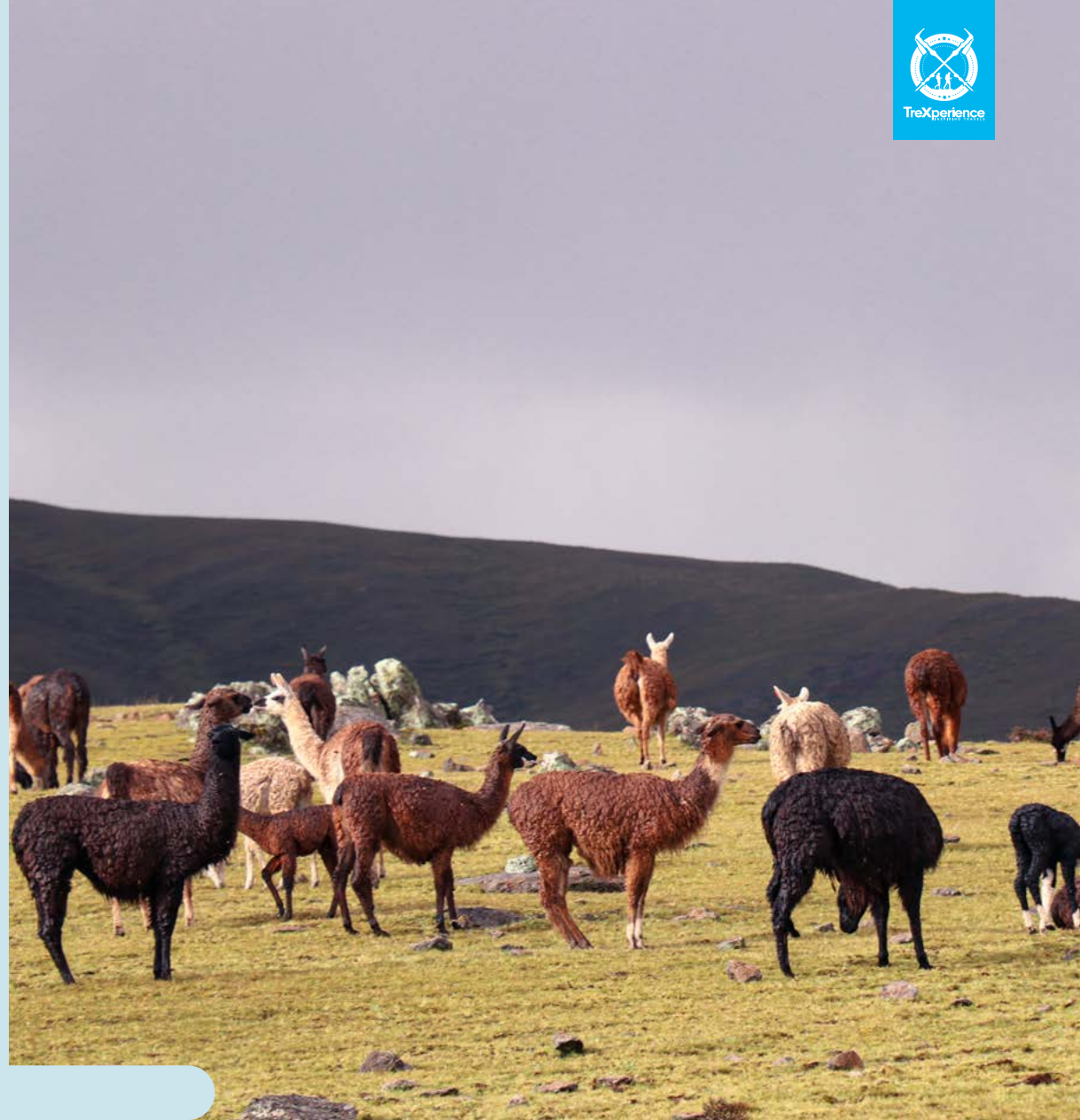
The Huchuy Qosqo + Short Inca Trail, also known as the Alternative Inca Trail, is a 4-day trek to Machu Picchu for travelers seeking a unique, less crowded route. You’ll hike from near Cusco through Andean landscapes, local communities, and the Sacred Valley before joining the Short Inca Trail.

This premium small-group tour combines the peaceful Huchuy Qosqo Trek with the unforgettable arrival to Machu Picchu through the Sun Gate. Along the way, you’ll explore Huchuy Qosqo, Chachabamba, and Wiñay Wayna, and enjoy fresh meals prepared by our trekking chefs.

On the Short Inca Trail, you’ll enjoy picnic meals before reaching Machu Picchu in the late afternoon. TreXperience handles permits, transport, hotels, camping equipment, guides, chefs, porters, and safety support with sustainable practices and fair treatment.

## Why hike Huchuy Qosqo Trek & Short Inca Trail?

- Hike from Cusco to the Sacred Valley following an ancient Andean trail.
- Visit Huchuy Qosqo, one of the most impressive Inca sites above the Sacred Valley.
- Enjoy a premium small-group trekking experience with camping, hotels, expert guides, chefs, and porter support.
- Explore the Short Inca Trail, including Chachabamba, Wiñay Wayna, and the Sun Gate.
- Enjoy fresh picnic breakfast and lunch on the Short Inca Trail, prepared by our expert trekking chefs.
- Arrive at Machu Picchu through the Sun Gate and visit the citadel twice.
- Return on the panoramic Vistadome train.
- Travel with a 100% Peruvian local operator committed to sustainable tourism and fair porter treatment.











## Tour Details

|               |                                                       |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Starts / Ends | <b>Cusco / Cusco</b>                                  |
| Duration      | <b>4 days / 3 nights</b>                              |
| Distance      | <b>37 km / 23 mi</b>                                  |
| Difficulty    | <b>Moderate</b>                                       |
| Accommodation | <b>Camping, hotel</b>                                 |
| Group size    | <b>Around 12 persons</b>                              |
| Activities    | <b>Hiking &amp; Camping,<br/>Archeology, Cultural</b> |
| Languages     | <b>English, Spanish</b>                               |





# Full Itinerary

## → Day 01

Cusco – Tambomachay – Pukamarca

## → Day 02

Pukamarca – Huchuy Qosco – Lamay –  
Ollantaytambo

## → Day 03

Ollantaytambo – Km 104 – Machu Picchu –  
Aguas Calientes

## → Day 04

Explore Machu Picchu – Return to Cusco





# Day 01

Cusco – Tambomachay – Pukamarca

We will depart from your hotel in Cusco at 7:00 a.m. and drive to Tambomachay, just 20 minutes outside the city. Once at the trailhead, we begin hiking slowly toward the high mountain passes above Cusco, surrounded by wide grasslands, peaceful lakes, native plants, birds, and beautiful Andean views.

After about 4 hours of hiking, we'll stop for lunch near Qoricocha Lake at 3,700 m / 12,139 ft. Our trekking chef will prepare a fresh meal using local ingredients, giving you time to rest and enjoy the quiet beauty of the mountains before continuing the route.







After lunch, we continue hiking toward Pukamarca at 3,800 m / 12,467 ft. Along the way, you may see herds of llamas and alpacas belonging to local families, wide mountain scenery, and quiet high-Andean landscapes. Tonight, we'll camp in Pukamarca with comfortable equipment, fresh dinner, and the support of our local trekking team.

Distance

**13 km / 8.1 miles**

Duration

**6 – 8 hours**

Max. hightness

**3,800 m / 12,467 ft**

Difficulty

**Moderate**

Accommodation

**Camping**

Meals

**Lunch and dinner**



## Day 02

Pukamarca – Huchuy Qosqo – Lamay –  
Ollantaytambo

Wake up in Pukamarca with a hot cup of coffee or tea and enjoy the first light over the Andes. After breakfast, we begin with a gradual uphill hike toward the high mountains, where you'll enjoy sweeping views of the Sacred Valley and the surrounding peaks.

Then, we descend for about 2 hours toward Huchuy Qosqo, located at 3,600 m / 11,811 ft. This ancient Inca city sits high above the Sacred Valley and offers one of the most impressive viewpoints in the region. Your guide will explain the history of the site, its terraces, buildings, and its importance during Inca times.







After exploring Huchuy Qosqo, we continue downhill toward Lamay for our last picnic lunch in the mountains. Later, we travel by private van through the Sacred Valley to Ollantaytambo, a beautiful living Inca town where you'll check in at your hotel and rest before the Short Inca Trail section.

Distance

**8 km / 5 mi**

Duration

**5 hours**

Max. height

**3,600 m / 11,811 ft**

Difficulty

**Easy to moderate**

Accommodation

**Hotel**

Meals

**Breakfast, lunch  
and dinner**



Huchuy Qosqo



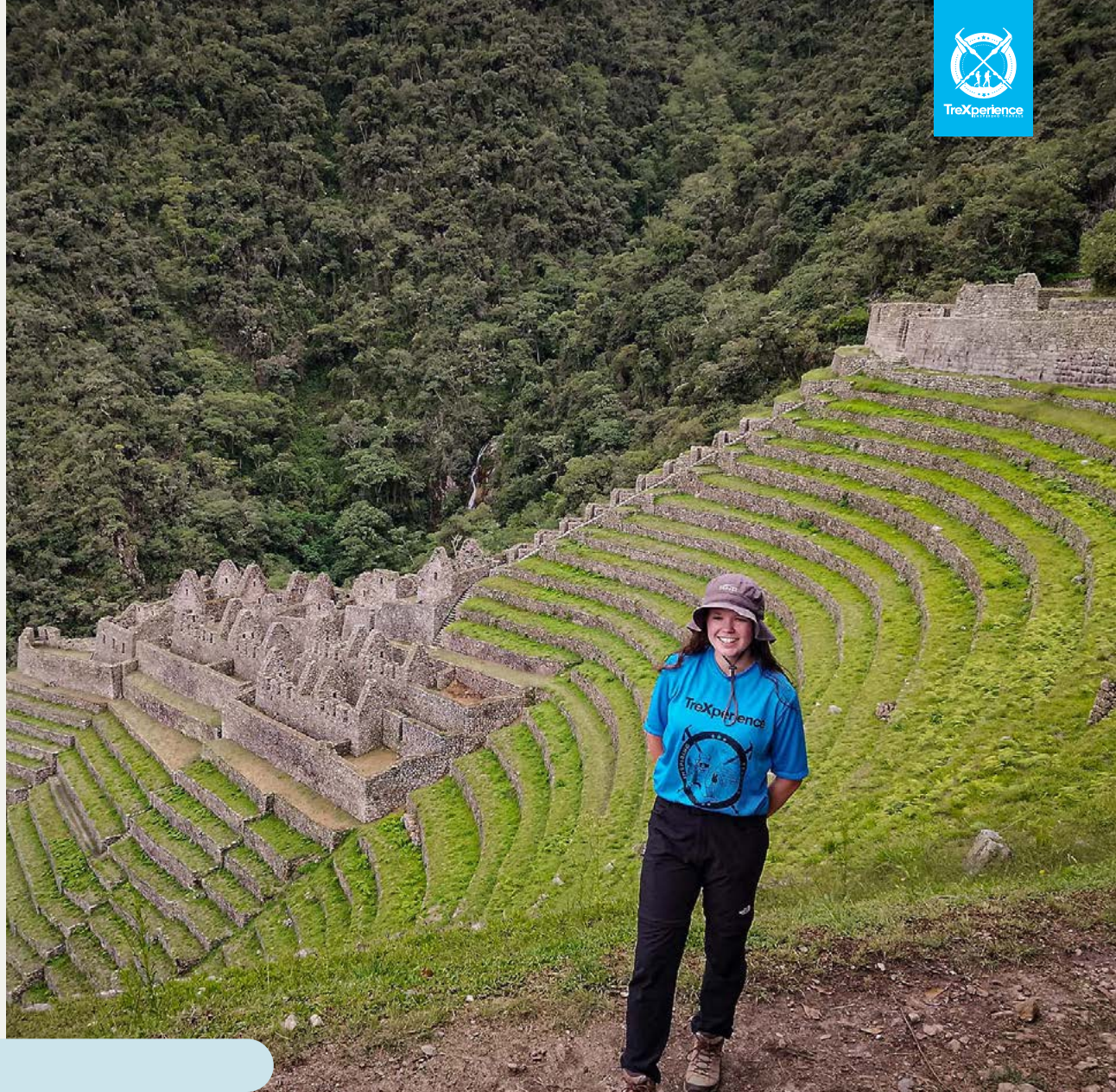
## Day 03

### Ollantaytambo – Km 104 – Machu Picchu Pueblo (Aguas Calientes)

Wake up early at your hotel and take the first train from Ollantaytambo to Km 104, the starting point of the Short Inca Trail. After passing the checkpoint with your original passport, you'll enjoy a fresh picnic breakfast prepared by our expert trekking chefs before starting the hike.

The first site you visit is Chachabamba, a beautiful Inca site located near the Urubamba River. From there, we begin a gradual uphill hike through cloud forest scenery until we reach Wiñay Wayna, one of the most impressive Inca sites on the entire Inca Trail.

Near Wiñay Wayna, our expert trekking chefs will serve a fresh picnic lunch, giving you time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the setting. This is one of the moments that makes this premium small-group experience feel different: fresh food, quiet surroundings, and a dedicated local team taking care of the details.







The final section of the day is an easier 1-hour hike to the Sun Gate (Intipunku), where you'll see Machu Picchu for the first time from above. We usually aim to arrive in the late afternoon, when many visitors have already left, giving you a calmer and more emotional first view of the citadel.

After enjoying your first visit and the panoramic viewpoints of Machu Picchu, you'll take the bus down to Aguas Calientes, check in at your hotel, have dinner at a local restaurant, and rest for your main guided visit the next morning.

Distance

**15 km / 8 miles**

Duration

**6 – 7 Hours**

Max. hightness

**2,700 m / 8,858 ft**

Difficulty

**Moderate**

Accommodation

**Hotel Ferre Machu Picchu or similar**

Meals

**Picnic breakfast and lunch, snacks and dinner**



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



Km 104 (Hiking Starting Point)



Chachabamba





Intipata views





Wiray Wayna Waterfalls



Wiñay Wayna





Machu Picchu view from Inti Punku (Sun gate)



Machu Picchu





Aguas Calientes



## Day 04

Aguas Calientes – Explore Machu Picchu —  
Return to Cusco

On the final day, wake up early at your hotel, enjoy breakfast, and take one of the first buses to Machu Picchu. On a clear morning, the first light over the mountains makes this visit unforgettable.

Your guided tour lasts approximately 2 to 2.5 hours. Your guide will show you the best of Machu Picchu, including terraces, temples, palaces, plazas, and sacred areas, while sharing the history in a clear and meaningful way.







After the guided visit, travelers with pre-booked tickets may hike either Huayna Picchu Mountain or Machu Picchu Mountain. These tickets are limited, not included, and must be booked in advance.

After exploring Machu Picchu, take the bus down to Aguas Calientes for lunch on your own. Later, board the Panoramic Vistadome train to Ollantaytambo, where our team will meet you and drive you back to your hotel in Cusco. Arrival is around 7:30 p.m.

Duration

**2 - 3 Hours**

Machu Picchu Altitude

**2,430 m / 7,972 ft**

Difficulty

**Easy**

Meals

**Breakfast (hotel)**





Machu Picchu



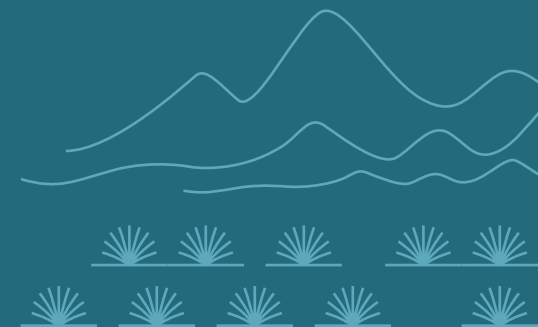
## Included

- Safety briefing the day before the tour
- Hotel pickup and drop-off
- All transportation during the tour
- Expedition train to the Short Inca Trail starting point at Km 104
- Return on the panoramic Vistadome train
- Bus tickets in Machu Picchu
- Entrance ticket to the Short Inca Trail
- Entrance ticket to Machu Picchu
- All camping equipment carried by the porters
- Sleeping bag and foam mattress
- Duffle bag up to 7 kg / 15 lb for your personal items
- Personal porter to carry up to 7 kg / 15 lb
- Professional English-speaking tour guide
- Experienced trekking chefs and porters
- Fresh meals during the trek, including picnic meals on the Short Inca Trail
- 1 night of camping with comfortable equipment
- 1-night hotel stay in Ollantaytambo
- 1 night in a 3-star hotel in Aguas Calientes
- First-aid kit and oxygen supply



## Not included

- First breakfast, Day 2 dinner, and last day lunch
- Huayna Picchu Mountain and Machu Picchu Mountain tickets (optional)
- Travel insurance
- Tips





# Travel Essentials



Original Passport



Peruvian soles cash



Good-quality daypack



Water bottle



Personal Medication



Sunscreen



Lip balm



Hand sanitizer



Insect repellent



Toiletries

This section covers the basics you'll want for a smooth start. Think documentation, personal needs, and simple preparation for the trail. Pack only what truly supports comfort and safety, and avoid adding weight you won't use.



## What to wear

Trekking days can bring sun, wind, rain, and noticeable temperature shifts. That's why dressing in layers and choosing comfortable hiking clothing matters. The goal is to adjust easily as conditions change, staying dry and warm when needed.



High-top  
hiking boots



Hiking crew sock



Comfortable underwear



Thermal  
base layers



Moisture-wicking shirts



Hiking pants/  
trousers



Fleece



Waterproof and  
windproof jacket



## What to put in the Daypack?

Your daypack should hold only what you'll use while hiking. Focus on hydration, weather protection, and personal items you want within reach. Keep it light and easy to access, so you can walk comfortably without stopping to dig for things.



Sun hat or cap with neck cover



Sunglasses



Beanie or chullo



Gloves



Buff or bandana



Snacks



Camera + extra batteries



Power bank



Gaiters (optional)



## What to put in your duffle bag?

Your duffle bag holds your main gear and is carried during the route by our porters. Pack neatly within the stated weight limit and group items by type. This protects your belongings and makes it easier to find what you need at camp.



Light footwear  
or sandals



Quick-dry towel



Warm down jacket



Sport pants



Shorts



Sleeping bag



Sleeping Foam pad



## What TreXperience provide you

Our tour includes an agency T-shirt, a backpack cover, and a rain poncho. In addition, our hiking programs include a duffel bag (up to 7 kg), carried by our porters. Check here to see if your itinerary includes it.



Duffel Bag 7kg / 15lb



Trexperience T-shirt



Plastic Rain Coat



Backpack Rain cover



Foam mattresses



Sleeping Bag



## Equipment for Rent

We offer rental equipment to make your hiking experience more comfortable, including a inflatable sleeping pad, and trekking poles. You can add these items based on your needs to enjoy a more comfortable rest and a better-prepared trek.



**Air Sleeping Pad**



**Hiking poles**



## About our camping equipment

Our camping equipment is selected with your comfort and safety in mind. It includes sleeping tents and dining tents, portable toilets, plus support equipment such as oxygen tanks and satellite phones, depending on the route and itinerary.



Private Sleeping Tents



Private Dining Tents



Private Toilet Tents



Oxygen Tank



Satellite Phones



## Our service

Our service is designed to make your journey smooth, comfortable, and well organized from start to finish. From quality transportation and carefully arranged accommodation to reliable camping equipment, every element is selected to give you a higher level of comfort and peace of mind along the way.



## Transportation

We manage your transfers in comfortable private vans, and your return journey includes a train ride back to Ollantaytambo. It's a smooth mix of comfort and scenery, with everything arranged to keep travel simple and stress-free.

## The best equipment and accommodation

Our tour combines high-quality camping equipment on the trail—tents for sleeping, a dining tent, portable toilet tents, tables, chairs, and key comfort essentials—with a comfortable hotel stay. You'll enjoy better camp conditions outdoors, then recharge in quality lodging with comfortable rooms, clean bathrooms, hot showers, and Wi-Fi.







Vistadome Train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo



## 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
- 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

Our on-trail team helps make your journey safe, comfortable, enriching, and unforgettable. They're highly trained local professionals, committed to delivering attentive service and a smooth experience from start to finish.



## Our Tour Guides

Our guides are local professionals from Cusco who take great pride in their cultural heritage. University-trained and fluent in English, they bring deep knowledge of Andean history, culture, geography, and nature—and share it in a clear, engaging way through stories, traditions, and everyday life. Responsible, approachable, and always ready to help, they focus on your safety and comfort while giving their best at every step. With ongoing training and a strong service mindset, they turn each day on the trail into a meaningful, enriching experience.





## Our Porters

They are the quiet strength behind every trek. From Andean communities, they carry essential equipment with care, stamina, and a warm smile. Always ready to help and encourage the group, their teamwork keeps the trail moving—making every day feel lighter and more human.



## Our Trail Chefs

Our cooks are local professionals who bring Peru's culinary traditions to the mountains. They use fresh, organic ingredients sourced locally, combining Andean and Peruvian dishes with select international options, while following high hygiene standards. With care and flexibility, they adapt meals to dietary requirements and keep you fueled on the trek.



## Our Drivers

Our drivers are the first to welcome you and make every transfer smooth, safe, and on time. With deep experience on Andean roads and a service-first mindset, they drive with care so you can travel with confidence. Our vehicles are modern, comfortable, and well maintained, meeting high safety standards so your journey starts and ends with peace of mind.





## 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 to 2026



**Best of the Best**  
**Tripadvisor**  
2022 to 2026



**Peru Quality Award**  
2023 to 2026



**Empresa Peruana del año**  
2026



**Premios LuxLife**  
2025



**LTG Global Awards**  
2025



**Travel & Hospitality Awards**  
2025



**Internacional Travel Awards**  
2025







# TreXperience

INSPIRING TRAVELS



*"Your journey is more than a trek  
it's a cultural connection that  
stays with you forever"*

## Information

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